

Beach Snook Fishing

Please join us for our June meeting where we will discuss fly fishing for snook on the beach. Our snook move from canals and bays to the beach to spawn in the summer. They offer good sight fishing opportunities, if you find the right beach under the right conditions. I will present slides with pictures and tips on how I have learned to beach snook fish. We will welcome comments from club members on how and what they do. At meeting's end you should have enough information to give it a try yourself. //Walt



**Next meeting 6:30 - 8:30 PM
2 June 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.**

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 last meeting where we recounted our month-long trip to New Zealand. Thanks to Patty Anderson for her great part of the presentation. Special thanks to Brenda for bringing her computer and technical knowledge. New Zealand is a wonderful travel destination with or without fishing and I recommend you add it to your bucket list if possible.

Thanks to Mike Franz for bringing casting targets for our practice last month. Free casting help is one of our club's benefits, so please take advantage of it.

Some of our members belong to both clubs; Tampa and the Suncoast in St Pete for double the fun. Something to think about as each club offers different opportunities. For example, the Suncoast hosts an outing each month for lots of fishing experience. Check out their website for more details on how to join and what they offer. If that is not enough, the Mangrove Coast fly club is over in Sarasota. We are fortunate to have all three clubs so close as more stuff competes for our time. Make the best use of these resources to enhance your enjoyment of fly fishing.

//Walt Durkin



Fly Fishing Quotes

“Fly-fishing encourages us to dream – of rose-tinted sunsets and lazy spring days when swallows swoop and the hedgerows are blossomed in brilliant white.” Fennel Hudson

“Shorten your line, focus your casts, and slow things down. Enjoy the magic of local fishing.” Fennel Hudson

“With a fly rod, anglers are not casting to a fish; rather to a circle of dreams: ripples that spread into every aspect of their lives.” Fennel Hudson

OFFICERS AND DIRECTORS

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May Meeting Photo

We had a pretty good turnout for our meeting as our group was eager to hear all about New Zealand.



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.

Lake Calm Outing in 30 May. We will open the gate at 6:30 am and fish until about 11:00. The property we use is off Bonnie Cove Ln in Odessa off Gunn Hwy. You can find it on Google maps. Drive down Bonnie Cove and through the open gate. Bring a kayak, canoe or belly boat if you have one. 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. William Klaus shown with a smallmouth bass in New York.



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.

To Barb or Not to Barb?

At our last club meeting one of our members gave us a fishing report on a big snook he hooked on the southwest side of the Cypress flat. After a few jumps the snook threw the fly much to his dismay. Based on this he thought he might not de-barb his snook flies from now on. He suggested perhaps his de-barbed fly was the reason for the loss.

Despite this story, I continue to believe in pinching the barb down on all my hooks and suggest you do the same. De-barbing is good for both the fish and at times the angler. Even tiny trout flies can be hard to extract for a quick and clean release.

I remember fishing from my boat with my buddy Ted on the Picnic Island flat. We were poling around looking for fish and not seeing much, but finally saw jacks chasing bait far away. Grabbing my spinning rod for a long cast, I quickly hooked up and soon had the fish to the boat. Ted went to land the fish for me and ended up with a treble hook in his finger. I let him know they were new hooks and I had carefully pinched all the barbs. We were able to easily unhook him, dress the wound, and continue fishing.

For another example, Bruce hooked his hand on a small trout fly while we were in New Zealand. Unfortunately, this one fly had not been pinched. Despite the small size of the fly Bruce could not get it out by himself and it hurt! I grabbed some 15 lb mono and looped it in the hook bend. While Bruce pressed down slightly on the fly, I gave a sharp tug and his was free. We used my first aid kit for disinfectant and a band aid.

I also believe a hook with a pinched barb will hold your fish fine 99% of the time **if you keep a tight line**. And for those other times, well the fish gets to win sometimes. Anyway, ninety percent of the fun for me is in the hunt and the satisfaction of a hookup. And, for the next time I hook myself or my fishing partner, I will be grateful for a hook with no sharp barb. Another safety tip is to always wear glasses while fly fishing as those flies often are whizzing too close to our heads. A hat and buff will offer additional protection.

Hope this helps you stay safe out there. All the best, //Walt

A Little More on New Zealand

Here are a few things I forgot to mention at last month's talk. I brought new 12-foot leaders down to 5x, which I used successfully. That was a good length for me to present the fly and not spook the fish. I noticed when our guides tied on a fly they used a regular clinch knot with about 9 turns and they held up just fine. Tony also mentioned he was fishing some 3x tippet, opting for the extra strength. 3x sure would be nice if you hooked a 10 pounder!

Here is what I found on why the NZ trout are so big. (P.S. I would bring some big streamers if I went again.)

New Zealand trout grow to massive sizes because of a unique combination of mild, year-round water temperatures, abundant high-protein food sources (such as native fish, mice, and freshwater snails), and low competition for food and space due to naturally sparse fish populations. The primary factors creating these river monsters include:

Ideal Bioenergetics: New Zealand's waters rarely freeze, but they remain consistently cool and oxygen-rich year-round. This allows trout to digest food continuously and conserve energy, resulting in sustained growth.

Abundant Nutrient-Rich Forage: Unlike trout in many other parts of the world that feed solely on insects, NZ trout become highly piscivorous (fish-eating). They gorge on native galaxiids, freshwater koura (crayfish), large cicadas, and—during the autumn months—falling mice in forested areas.

Low Fish Density: Severe seasonal floods and unpredictable flows limit the number of juvenile fish that survive to adulthood. This means fewer fish fighting for the prime feeding lanes and sheltering spots, allowing the surviving trout to grow into giants.

Selective Cannibalism: Because smaller trout are out-competed and sometimes eaten by the larger fish, the remaining trout have a massive monopoly on the river's resources

Colorado Fishing Report

We traveled to Colorado for a couple of weeks in early May to check on our house and try a little fishing. The Poudre River was running low for a few days, but picked up after some rain and snow in the mountains. We hooked a few trout at Gateway Park, but did not land any. A few days later we tried Rocky Mountain National Park where we hiked Bear and Sprague Lakes. We saw moose and elk in the mountains and stopped to fish the Big Thompson on the way back to Ft Collins. I was happy to catch one little brown trout that surprisingly hit my hopper instead of the dropper. We saw lots of fish there below the damn, but they are very spooky and hard to fool. Anyway, fun to see them and watch as they ignored or refused our flies.



Club member Matt Santilli sent us this report: "Down in marathon key, offshore fishing is pretty hot. Blackfin tuna are prevalent over the offshore humps and ledges. Smaller wahoo can be found in similar areas and in the consistent large weed mats seen offshore. Mahi are around but they're smaller in size, though easy to get on fly when schooled around the boat. By next month, larger ones should be common. Closer in, bottom fishing on reefs and wrecks in the 80-120ft range is supposedly good but we didn't try for that, rather we went after large schools of big permit higher above the reefs. We landed 3 total at 24, 26, and 26 inches to the fork as well as a Jack at 35" to the fork. Lots of sailfish sightings in this area as well spanning from directly over reefs to tail-walkers in open water. Inshore, lots of large mangrove snapper can be found around any structure with plenty at 20+ inches. Tarpon were hot, seen feeding along beaches, jetties, bridges, and canals, hard to get but not impossible! Last picture is a manatee observing our tarpon release!"



Club member Jim Adams sent us this sad tale: “Caught a nice snook on a fly, which ran deep into the backing jumped two or three times. It was all just perfect in 2 ft of water or so until a shark coming in towards the boat got him. I never saw the shark until right at the boat. Sadly, he was certainly of keeper size; maybe more. I sure hate waste like that. Broke my heart! Biggest snook I have ever caught on a fly. Off Chaz point. (And my GPS went dead!) I had experienced such shark action on a guided trip out in the Gulf in 100 ft of water. And, I heard or read the stories in Boca Grande. But I do not remember seeing such a large shark (maybe 4 ft long) in such shallow waste.” Jim



Snowbird Jerry Kells is back home in the Northeast and catching striped bass off of Watch Hill, RI. All on sand eels in 30-50' of water. Those are beautiful stripers. Good job Jerry!



Jim Schaeffer's Trip report- Cape Cod Striped Bass

"I wade-fished Cape Cod during the first week of May for Striped Bass. Fishing and fishing conditions were impossible and I was skunked. But I have rarely learned so much about a fishery and the last day of the trip showed me what it can be.

We were too early in the season. Striped Bass migrate north during spring, and a cold spell kept them further south of the Cape. They were simply not there in any appreciable numbers. Few anglers were fishing, and none had reported success on any tackle. The 25 to 40 mph winds during most of the week did not help.

Wade fishing access on the Cape is straightforward. The Salty Cape website has detailed information and maps of shore access sites all over the Cape. There are more spots available than one could possibly fish in week-long trip. That Salty Cape list is also not complete because the individual town websites list many additional public access sites. Again, more than you could visit in a week.

The fly fishing for stripers is straightforward and not complicated. An eight-weight outfit, intermediate line, and a stripping basket will be perfect. Fly selection is not critical: clousers, deceivers, surf candies, and any sand eel imitation will work. A few crab and shrimp patterns should be included as well. Most flies are the length of your pinky finger or smaller. Late in the year the boaters fish giant Menhaden imitations but that is a late summer thing. Blind cast to deep channels, and any structure you see. But how you fish is critical and your safety depends on it because Cape Cod has tides up to 9 feet or higher and you can get into real trouble. We booked a flats fishing class with Cynthia Harkness of Fearless Fly Fishing and it was a great investment. We fished the famous Brewster Flats. She started us about an hour before a low tide, and we waded out about a mile as the water dropped and the entire flat de-watered to damp sand. She taught us to turn back frequently and note our exit point and the path we had followed. At dead low, we began fishing the edges and channels but watched time carefully. As soon as the tide turned we began working back to shore and followed channels and

holes that were filling. A rule of thumb is to move when the water hits your ankles, and you absolutely must move when it gets knee deep. If the fish are in, they will push into extremely shallow water such that you can sight cast. But you must watch the tide. If you wait longer, the tide comes up faster than you can move and you could find yourself in real trouble. There were no fish present on the flat that day, but we had booked the trip as a learning experience. Money well spent and I learned a lot.”

One key logistic issue with wade fishing on the Cape is that the fishing progresses during the spring and summer, but that is also a time of heavy tourism. You will encounter traffic jams, and the towns regulate beach access parking and require a permit after Memorial Day. We had the Cape to ourselves and parked anywhere but this becomes an issue later in the season. My solution would be to just take an Uber or Lyft to the beach and be dropped off. Later in the season you will also encounter Bluefish and they bring their own joys and sorrows. There are also opportunities for False Albacore, but we never got to that point.

So, terrible fishing in cold and wind, completely skunked, and hours of fruitless blind casting until you were exhausted. I am so going back. //Jeff

Club member William Klaus is smallmouth bass fishing. “I spent a week up near Buffalo , NY last week , first pic was on a 7wt 10-foot fly rod , The other pic was on a spinning rod on the Upper Niagara River using a jig.”

Good Job William. Those are big bass and they really fight hard!



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](#)

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Fishing Report and Forecast

“What a great time to go fishing!”

Calm Conditions

Starting your fly fishing day with calm conditions can change quickly this time of year. Wind can be a help or hindrance. Perfect calm makes it easier to see fish, but they are very spooky, making long casts necessary. A little ripple on the surface, from the wind, hinders our ability to see fish, but they are more relaxed, meaning we can get closer. A nine-foot fly rod, the ideal length for most of our fishing should keep the fly, and hook, at least that far away from you. If the wind is blowing into your non-casting side, there is only a problem with casting accuracy. Wind into your casting side can be a problem easily corrected by casting horizontally and close to the water, giving the wind little chance to affect it. A very tight loop in your line created by having the rod tip travel in a straight line path will be almost unaffected by the wind. A large loop will be a disaster especially if thrown high. Strong wind into your casting side can be problematic, easily corrected by casting on your line-hand side using either a cast with your arm across your body, or tilting your body away from the wind and, "Brushing your hair," with your casting hand as you have the rod tip travel on your leeward side. Learning to cast with either hand is ideal.

Fly fisherman and casting instructor Pat Damico wrote these tips for the Tampa Times and he lets us publish them for our club members. Thanks Pat!

Fishing Report

Tarpon fishing should be good during June as schools of fish increase in size and numbers. They will head off shore to spawn, close to new and full moons. I've done well with Lefty's Deceiver and my Grasset Flats Bunny fly patterns fished on floating fly lines. Stake out or anchor in travel lanes to get shots at them. Tarpon are creatures of habit and will travel on the same edges and depth contours. The shallower the water, the easier it is to get you fly in front of a tarpon when fly fishing. Since fish may be moving both north and south, setting up within several hundred yards of another angler may negatively affect their fishing. Fly fishing for tarpon is very dependent on conditions and there are a lot of variables that need to come together to be successful.

You should find snook in the surf, in passes and around docks and bridges in the ICW near passes. You can walk the beach and sight fish them in the surf with fly tackle. Small baitfish fly patterns, like Gibby's DT Special or my Grasset Snook Minnow, should work well. Many of the same flies that work in the surf will also work well at night. Snook will congregate in passes around the new and full moons to spawn, so docks and bridges close to passes will usually hold more fish this time of year.

Fishing for reds should also be good in June. Look for them over shallow grass, along mangrove shorelines or around oyster bars when the tide is high. You'll find them in potholes or edges of flats when the tide is low. Fly anglers should score with baitfish fly patterns like my Grasset Flats Minnow or Gurglers

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 30 Lake Calm Freshwater Outing
- Oct 17 Carl Hanson, Hillsborough River
Rotary Park and Trout Creek
- 7-13 Nov Chattooga Trip for trout
- Nov 15 Big Gun, Picnic Island
- Dec ? Kayaking Suncoast Youth Center
- Dec 19 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
- SNOOK FIN-ADDICT GUIDE SERVICE, Capt. Rick Grasset, (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
- Annual Banquet

Fly Fishing Guides

- Capt. Nick Angelo (813) 230-8473
- Capt. David Grassett (941) 923-7799
- Capt. John Hand (239) 842-7778
- Capt. Greg Peterson (423) 432-1973

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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