

Fly Tying Meeting

Please join us for our July meeting where members will demonstrate fly tying while tying some of their favorite flies. Tying is another aspect of our sport, which is fun and rewarding. Catching a game fish on a fly you tied adds to the satisfaction. We will give away all the flies we tie that night!



**Next meeting 6:30 - 8:30 PM
7 July 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.
[15510 Hooting Owls Pl, Tampa, FL 33624](https://www.google.com/maps/place/15510+Hooting+Owls+Pl,+Tampa,+FL+33624)

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

I hope you enjoyed our last meeting where we talked about beach snook fishing. Thanks to Leigh and Brenda for their technical support and to members who contributed to our presentation.

I picked up Tom McQuane's book the *Longest Silence* one night when I was having trouble trying to go back to sleep, a reoccurring event nowadays. One of the stories is about fly tying, the subject of our next meeting. I found his take on fly tying very interesting and, his story on permit fishing is a classic. I highly recommend this book, in which, McGuane recounts his fishing life with his great writing style. McGuane, now in his eighties, is one of a group of artists, writers and fisherman who helped pioneer fly fishing for tarpon in the keys.

As the dog days of summer settle in try to fish early or late. Local canals or ponds can provide a good opportunity for a couple of hours fishing. It's also always good to practice your casting over water for the best results. Try small top water bugs such as a gurgler for good action on top.

//Walt Durkin 

Fly Fishing Quotes

"When you are on the river, ocean or in the woods, you are the closest to the truth you'll ever get." - Jack Leonard

"Look at where Jesus went to pick people. He didn't go to the colleges... he got guys off the fishing docks." - Bible

"I don't really know how to tie a fly until I've tied a hundred dozen of them." Unknown

"Good friends are like fish. You need to have patience to catch a good one." – Achirman Roy

OFFICERS AND DIRECTORS

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Robert Fischer

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Ginny Fischer

813-495-5685

Bruce Anderson

813-786-3902

Jim Dye

941-730-3647

Keaton Anderson

404-313-7820

June Meeting Photo

A good group showed up to get tips on snook fishing. We welcome back old friend Rick Valeri and his brother.



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.

Our August meeting will feature one of our younger anglers, Matt Santilli. Matt catches loads of fish from his paddle board using a variety of methods to include spin, casting reel and, of course, fly fishing. He will bring his gear and give us tips on his success. I met Matt on the Cypress flat a few years ago and introduced myself after seeing him catch several of those pesky red fish. Maybe we can even talk Matt into sharing a couple of secret spots!

In September, Capt. Bryon Chamberlin will present a slide show of his trip to St. Brandon's Atoll. A remote archipelago widely considered one of the premier saltwater fly fishing destinations on Earth, famous for its world-class, 100% wade-fishing flats. Anglers flock here for trophy-sized bonefish, Indo-Pacific permit, and massive Giant Trevally.

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. Patty Anderson with a brook trout from the Little Laramie River, CO.



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.

Lake Calm Outing 30 May

We hosted our annual outing to Lake Calm on a fine Saturday and had a great time. We caught numerous bass and bream on top water bugs and streamers. The crystal clear lake was low, but still very fishable and a calm morning made for easy fishing. Will and Brooks were two new members who came for their first time joining Walt, Ted, Denise, Robert, Ginny, Matt and Ed. Special thanks to Ginny and Denise for helping with lunch and dessert. //Walt

Will and Matt pictured on the hunt.



Denise with a nice bass near the dock and Robert in his kayak



Our merry band of anglers: Matt, Walt, Denise,
John Millns (our host), Robert, Ed and Will
Photo by Ginny Fischer



Snook Fishing on Gasparilla Island

My wife Lou and I rented a Sea Breeze Condo on Gasparilla Island for a week of relaxing and fishing for snook off the beach. I was confident of a successful week after just giving a talk on snook fishing at our club meeting. However, the fishing gods had other ideas as we struggled to catch only about one snook a day. My go-to fly, a Puglici style minnow pattern in chartreuse and white was largely ignored. And, the DT Special, which I had tied at our meeting was also a bust. In the end, I caught most of my snook on a small brown and white Closure minnow, perhaps because it fished deep near the bottom. The snook were holding in a little deeper water this year with the beach terrain and tide cycle. We were in between the good tides that week also. Bait was present, but the snook seemed most interested in following the big females then eating. Finally, four young teenage fisherman were down at the point every morning, our best spot. They were catching all the snook on Rapala-style jerk baits, darn them! Meanwhile, I ended the week with just excuses and only a few snook.

Additionally, Ted and Kathy joined us for three nights and even Ted struggled to get those snook to eat a fly. However, as we walked the beach the first night to watch the sunset Ted did catch a big 34 inch snook. As a NW wind made the surf choppy we just brought our spinning rods. About half way down the beach we spotted the big snook in the surf as the waves washed over her tail and back. Ted made a couple of quick casts with a soft jig and hooked up. He landed the fish after a spirited fight and we made a clean release. Ted's big fish was the highlight of the trip even if he caught it on a spinning rod!

All in all, the beach, water and weather were great. We collected seashells, sharks teeth and good memories while watching spectacular sunsets. Finally, I was happy to see those teenagers off their phones and enjoying the outdoors even if they caught all my snook. //Walt

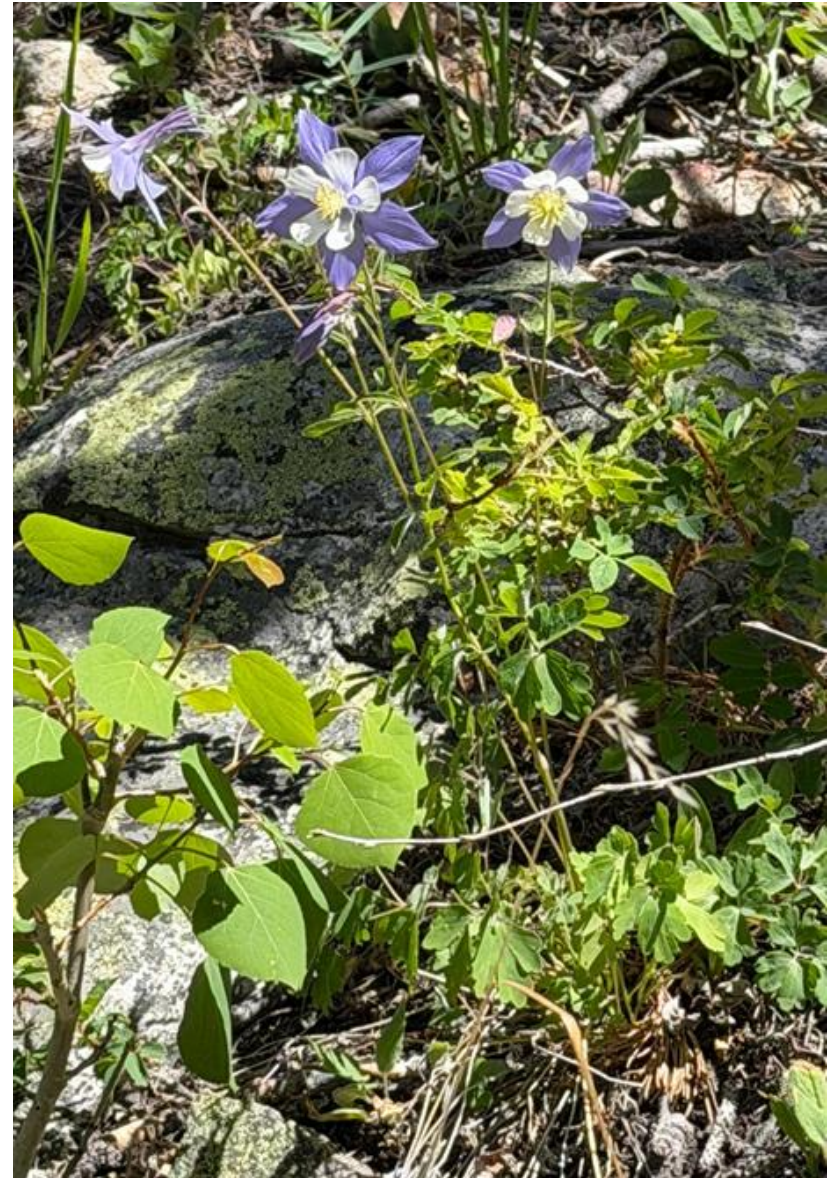
Ted's 34 inch and me with a slightly smaller snook



Blue Lining during the Colorado Spring Runoff

Bruce and Patty Anderson

It is mid-June in Northern Colorado and it is run-off season from the high mountain snow melt. The main rivers are still running with high volume levels, fast water and a bit muddy. The white water rafters and kayakers are populating the rivers in large numbers and paddling over our favorite fishing holes. So, where can you go to fish in these conditions? We decided to try our luck on a high mountain tailwater stream. Our target destination was a small high mountain reservoir at 9000ft elevation. Leaving Ft Collins, we drove for about an hour up the Poudre Canyon and veered away from the primary road that follows the main river. We then drove another hour on back country mountain gravel and dirt roads until we found the trailhead that would lead us to the tailwater stream. We then hiked 1.5 miles down a shallow valley that was covered in wild flowers and forest trees with mountain peaks hovering over us. At the bottom of the valley, the terrain flattened out and the trail began to follow along the stream. Here, we found good access to the water in many areas located close to the trail. The stream flow was perfect with the water looking gin clear. This was a perfect dry fly fishing opportunity! We started casting and were excited to have very eager brook trout attack our caddis and stimulator flies on almost every cast. We fished our way upstream for a couple hours and we each caught trout numbering in the double digits. We did not encounter anyone else on the river while we were there. The beauty that surrounded us and the solitude of the valley made for a perfect day and worth the effort of going to a remote place.





Club member Denise is out fishing in Wyoming on the New Fork where she caught lots of quality fish on Gray Drakes and Chubbys! Great weather and great guides booked through Two Rivers. Saw three moose today on the river.

Good job Denise, great brown trout!



Club member Abby sent us this report: "I went on a guided fly fishing trip in the Kenai Peninsula (Alaska) at the end of May. King salmon weren't running yet (the season forecast wasn't looking great either), and far too early for anything else, so we went after some rainbow trout in one of the lakes. We had the lake nearly to ourselves, except for a couple loons, and the trout were going crazy after a little white wooly bugger. No giant trophy sizes, but consistent hits all morning. We lost count early on, but estimate at least 50 rainbows caught in just under 4 hrs."





Capt Bryon sent us this: "I did my St. Brandon atoll trip. Bonefishing was good with most fish averaging 6-6.5lbs. I caught 2 indo pacific permit and hooked a 70ish pound GT that I eventually lost to a coral head. The trip was an adventure to say the least." Bryon will present a talk this September on the highlights of his trip. Also, please note the quality of these photos and how Bryon holds the fish for the best display.





Club member Jonas sent us photos of big brown trout he caught with friends on a trip back to Iceland. He notes the browns are landlocked but belong to the ice age variety, which spawn every other year and grow the other! Jonas is one of our certified casting instructors.

Good job guys!



Club member Ben Schultz reports: I was able to get some good fishing in over in South East Florida about 3 weeks ago. It doesn't seem like this winters cold bothered too many of the exotic invasive species. On live bait, lots of peacock bass, all at the 2+lb range. I was able to catch a Jaguar Guapote on fly, I haven't seen to many caught. I was unable to get a measurement on the fish but best guess is over 2 pounds. Lastly I was able to catch the rarest in my opinion Midas Cichlid



Jeff Abeles is fishing the North Platte River in Casper, Wyoming. "The trout are fat and strong especially when they get out into the fast currents!" Nice fish Jeff and not bad for an old guy!



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!”

Pond Fishing

Saltwater gets all our attention, but when driving to or from work, or visiting a friend in a development, keep an eye out for a pond that looks fishy. There are many very productive ponds that have bass and panfish, some even have snook and baby tarpon since both species can adapt well to fresh water. You're okay on public land, but if privately owned seek permission. Keep a rod rigged in the vehicle. An SUV can accommodate a fully rigged fly rod, or have it in sections in a protective case in the trunk. Park your car in a safe place and observe the pond's surface for activity. A small pair of binoculars is helpful. Most fish will be around structures: trees, floating plants, docks, bridges, or an aerator. On a sunny day, shade is the key. In the absence of structure, cast close to shore where most food sources like hoppers, crickets, ants, beetles, and baitfish are plentiful. Splashes will give away feeding activity. A 5 or 6-weight fly rod with a floating weight forward line using a 7-foot leader tapered to 10-pound test will handle easily and allow you to find out if any fish are present. Use flies that imitate small baitfish and terrestrials or use a white or yellow popper in sizes 6 to 8 and cover water quickly. If you find fish that are small or too large for your equipment, adjust your gear to be better prepared on your return visit. Be careful where you step, this is Florida!

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

Catch and release snook fishing will be a good option this month. With very warm water this time of year, it is important to use tackle heavy enough to land them quickly. Fly anglers should do well with clear intermediate sink tip lines and wider profile flies, such as Lefty's Deceiver or EP flies, since larger baitfish may be more predominant. Docks and bridges close to passes should be the best ones. You'll also find snook in the surf, where you can walk along the beach and sight cast to them in shallow water. The same flies that work at night usually also work in the surf, although be observant of the size baits that are present in the area you are fishing so you can "match the hatch". Gibby's DT Variation (pictured below) is a "go to" fly for many snook surf anglers.

Reds should be very active in shallow water this month. With plentiful baitfish and higher tides, they should spend more time feeding over shallow grass flats. Look for them along the edges of bars or in potholes when the tide is low or along mangrove shorelines and around oyster bars when the tide is high. You'll also find big trout in many of the same areas where you find reds, but the bite for big trout is usually best early or late in the day. I tie my Grassetts Flats Minnow in a larger size this time of year to match the size and profile of pilchards or pinfish that are plentiful. Fly poppers and Gurglers may draw some big explosions! In my opinion it's important to protect larger trout, which are usually female breeders.

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 11 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 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
- 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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Ted Hagaman.....813-920-7863

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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