

Freshwater vs Saltwater Fly Fishing

Please join us for our September meeting where we will talk about the differences between fresh and salt water fly fishing. We will focus on the different rods, leaders and techniques. We often talk about salt water fishing here in Tampa, but fresh water opportunities abound. We will go over some of the opportunities to fly fish in fresh water in our area. We would also like to hear the views of some of our club members who have made the transition from salt to fresh or vice versa. //Walt



**Next meeting 6:30 - 8:30 PM
1 September 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 using our Big Gun V Fish.**



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](#)

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

I hope you enjoyed our last meeting where Matt talked to us about how he fly fishes from a paddleboard. Matt offered a detailed and informative description of his equipment and techniques. You could tell he is a real expert on a paddleboard based upon his many hours on the water. He is also one of our most successful anglers.

I will bring our Big Gun V Fish for casting practice before our meeting, starting at 5:30 PM. Please bring a fly rod or we will have one available. This is a fun event in our annual Big Gun and is good practice for beginners or expert casters. Please note our Big Gun is scheduled for 15 November at Picnic Island in South Tampa.

We are seeking new members for our board of directors. The same folks have carried the load for many years and some new perspective is welcome and healthy. It 's not a hard job and we meet about once a month in the winter at a restaurant to discuss things. We also exchange ideas via email. Please let me know if you might be interested. Meanwhile, take care and tight lines.

//Walt Durkin 

Fly Fishing Quotes

"The charm of fishing is that it is the pursuit of what is elusive but attainable, a perpetual series of occasions for hope."— John Buchan

"Fishing is not an escape from life, but often a deeper immersion into it..." — Harry Middleton

"The best fishermen I know try not to make the same mistakes over and over again; instead they strive to make new and interesting mistakes and to remember what they learned from them. " — John Gierach

OFFICERS AND DIRECTORS

President: Walt Durkin

Walt.durkin@aol.com

cell **813-853-5870**

VP: Ted Hagaman

813-455-4016

Patty Anderson

813-787-2556

Denise Bruner

813-748-5065

Bryon Chamberlin

813-361-8801

Pat Damico

727-504-8649

Ginny Fischer

813-504-7859

Bruce Anderson

813-786-3902

Jim Dye

941-730-3647

Keaton Anderson

404-313-7820

August Meeting Photos

We had a good turn out for Matt's talk and I think everyone learned something. We thank Matt again for the work he put into it and the value he brings to our club.



TBFFC NEWS & NOTES

In October we have a fly fishing guide, Cory Palmer, for our presenter. We will also give away one half-day trip to a lucky drawing winner.

In November we have a retired Tampa Bay tug boat captain, David Besser, who also collects antique fly gear. He will bring some of his tackle and will also recount a few stories of his many days on the water. Please bring any old gear you have for display.

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

We will host our annual Big Gun casting competition on 15 November at Picnic Island. We offer lunch, drinks, raffle items and prizes for contestants and winners. Please join us for this family friendly event, where you can also measure your casting ability.

Rick Warfel let us know Florida Fly Fishing EXPO that had been scheduled for November of 2026 at the Plantation Resort on Crystal River will have to be rescheduled to a new location. Rick is searching for a new venue and one possibility is Camp Weed in North Florida. Please let us know if you have any other recommendations. We would like to be able to reschedule by the first half of 2027 or fall at the latest.

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. One of Ted's big cuts from our Idaho camping trip shown below.



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.

Bonefish Trip to Two Boy's Inn 17-24 Oct

We have one opening for this trip to the Bahamas. Two Boy's Inn is located on Andros, one of the best locations in the world for big bonefish. After many trips to this lodge I can attest that our host Malinda runs a tight ship with good food, accommodations and six days of guided fishing. We fly to Nassau and then a hop to Andros for a week of super fishing with friends. Cost is only \$3000 for the week, one of the best deals in the Bahamas. Please see me at our meeting or send me an email.
//Walt



What is the 80/20 rule in fishing?

AI Overview

The 80/20 rule in fishing states that 80% of the fish are in 20% of the water. Instead of casting randomly everywhere, successful anglers focus 80% of their effort and time on the top 20% of high-potential spots like structure, drop-offs, weed lines, or current breaks.

Location: Roughly 80% of fish congregate in a small fraction of a lake, river, or pond where food and cover are best.

Tackle: About 80% of your fish are caught on fewer than 20% of the lures or flies in your tackle box.

Anglers: Roughly 20% of fishermen use their knowledge and skills to catch 80% of the total fish.

Find the zone: Look for changes in depth, rocks, fallen trees, or weed edges rather than empty open water.

Slow down: Once you find the right 20% zone, work your fly slowly and thoroughly to trigger a strike.

Simplify gear: Stick to the few trusted flies you know work best instead of constantly changing lures

Note: I found this information using AI and I find it surprisingly accurate; and, it holds true for fresh and salt water fishing. For example, bait seek the shelter of structure, thus game fish are there looking for food. Things to look for in saltwater include, potholes, ledges, grass, channels, mangroves and oyster bars. Tides will also influence how fish react to and approach structure, so try to learn what tides work and where. Things to look for in a pond include grass, deeper holes, ledges, logs/trees, and, of course Lilly pads. Trout streams also hold lots of structure influenced by rocks, trees, ledges, grass and changing water levels.

I know this rules works because I have seen my fishing buddy Ted apply it and out-fish me three to one on every trout stream. One piece of advice he gave me is to try and think where would I be if I were a fish in a particular piece of water. This does take experience, which you will learn over time. Thankfully, our sport is a lifetime of learning. //Walt

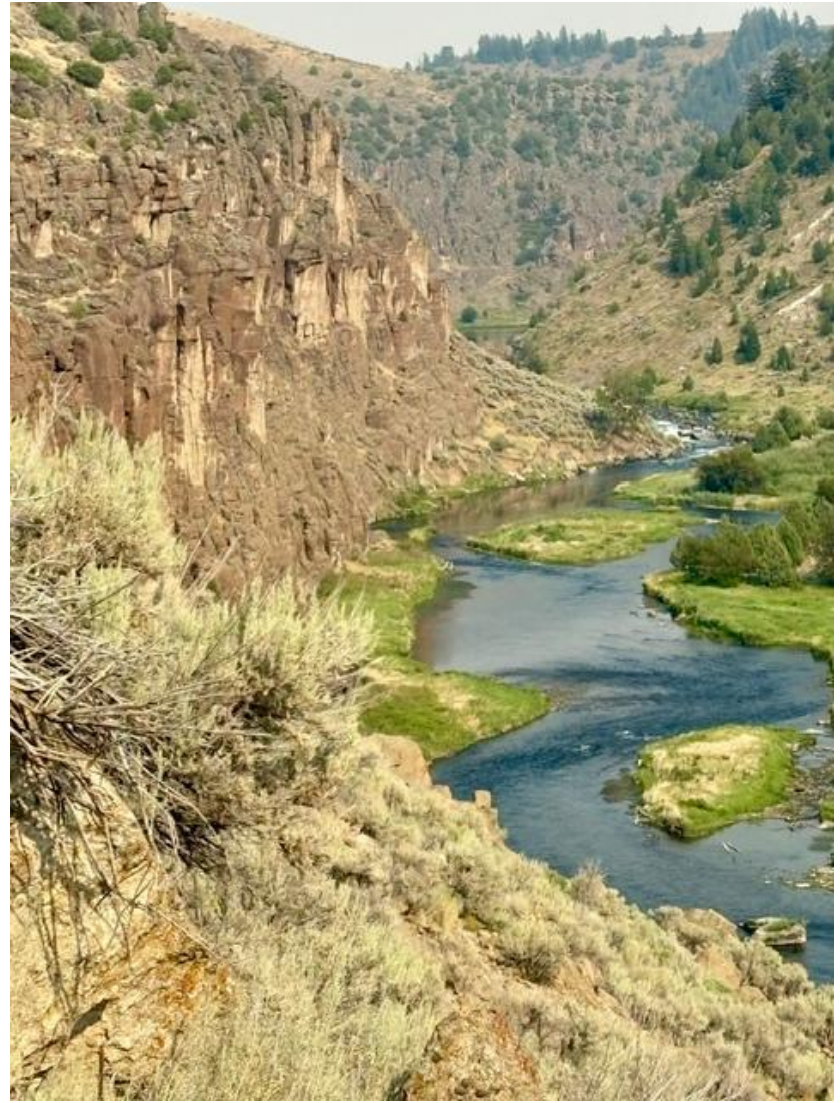
Robert Fischer CCA Memorial

Tim Elms from the Suncoast Club sent me this link to the Coastal Conservation Association (CCA). This is a great environmental organization and our dear friend Robert Fischer was a founding member in Florida. If you click on this link you can make a donation in his honor. //Walt

<https://ccaflorida.org/product/memorial-donations/>



Club member Denise Bruner fished 5 guided days on South Fork of the Snake and Teton Rivers in Idaho the second week of August for Brookies, Browns, Rainbows and Yellowstone Cutthroat. She fished with a group of women from all over the country and a couple from Canada. "We had to work for them as it is a tough time of year due to low water flows due to drought conditions. Weather was cool in the mornings so water temps were good, caught many everyday mostly on droppers rigged below the Hoppers and the Cutthroat loved the dry fly you had to wait on the hook set for those. I streamer fished on the last stretch of the last day and caught a brown. It was a great trip, stayed at the Teton Valley Lodge on the backside of the Tetons. Saw Moose everywhere!" Teton River Narrows pictured from our take out



Red Feather Lakes, CO

Four of us drove up to the Red Feathers Lake for fishing and a late afternoon picnic. We found cool temps, calm water and a beautiful rainbow. What we did not find were rainbow trout!



Optimistic fisherman heading out in a 12 foot kayak with a dog and two fly rods. They made it back okay as far as I know. Double rainbow on the bottom right at Red Feather.



Ted and I drove from Colorado to Idaho to camp and fish for 10 days. We caught Westslope cutthroat and rainbow trout in the Clearwater River, Kelly Creek and St. Joe River. We enjoyed another great adventure in a truly wild setting with all wild trout. Idaho was one of the first states to embrace catch and release fishing for naturally reproducing trout.



Beautiful cutthroat rose to a big Chubby right behind our camp on Kelly Creek.



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. **Bruce bought one recently and I was impressed with its light weight and crisp action.** //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!”

Proper Knots

How many times have you had a good fish on your line only to have the line go limp and the leader return to you without the fly or with part of the leader also missing? Especially in saltwater, this should rarely occur. If you got tangled around an obstruction such as barnacle-encrusted pilings or bridge abutments, this is understandable. I always encourage clients to bring their own gear with them so I can see how they are rigged. I will check how the leader is attached to the fly line, the knots connecting each section of the leader, and how the fly is tied on. Leader to the line could be a nail knot, or loop to loop, with a perfection or double surgeon's loop on the butt section of the leader. Leader to leader can be a blood knot or a double or triple surgeon's knot. Since we use straight-eye hooks for most saltwater flies, a good loop knot should connect the tippet to the fly. If a simple overhand, or "wind," knot is present in the leader, it tells me that clients have casting issues that are causing tailing loops. A simple overhead knot will weaken the leader by 50%. Do an internet search for each of these knots and practice them at home with good lighting and some old fly line or leader of different colors. Knots usually fail from slipping. This can be avoided by having a tube of lip balm to lubricate the knots as you pull them tight for complete closure.

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

There are lots of options this month, but the key is usually to fish early for the best chance at success. An early start for snook or tarpon around lighted docks or bridges and then on to the flats for reds, trout and more is a good plan. There should also be good action in the coastal gulf for a variety of species. I usually tarpon fish as long as I can, wherever I find them! Our natural resources are under constant pressure from red tides fueled by residential, agricultural and industrial runoff, toxic spills and discharges, freezes, increasing fishing pressure and habitat loss and degradation, please limit your kill, don't kill your limit!

Reds are usually in large schools in September. You may find them in shallow water when the tide is high or along the edges of flats when the tide is low. Look for wakes, some as big as boat wakes, or "pushes" to locate them. If it is calm, a school of reds may look like a nervous patch of water or if there's a ripple on the surface, the school may appear as a slick patch of water. Once you've located them, try to get in front of them and work around the edges of the school to avoid spooking the whole school. Fly anglers should score with fly poppers, Gurglers and wide profile baitfish fly patterns. I like to be as quiet as possible in shallow water, using a push pole to move my boat. It is great to find a big school of reds but remember, if you spook one fish you may spook the whole school. I sometimes also find big jacks and blues mixed with schools of big reds in shallow water. Not a bad problem!

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 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

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

 JAFFE TILCHIN WEALTH MANAGEMENT	RICHARD HAPPLE, CFP® Investment Advisor Representative
Investment Management Trust & Estate Services Retirement Planning Corporate Benefits Insurance Services Auto, Home & Business	15350 N. Florida Ave. Tampa, FL 33613 Direct 813.964.4217 Cell 813.732.5190 Fax 866.804.2637 rhapple@jaffetilchin.com www.jaffetilchin.com

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

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

Fly Casting Coaches

South Tampa

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

North Tampa

Jonas Magnusson.....361 903 2846

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