

Capt. Cory Palmer

(727) 412-1983

Come and meet Capt. Cory and enjoy his talk to our club. We will also give away a one half day trip with him to a lucky winner!

Capt. Cory Palmer was born into a family with a long history in the commercial and recreational fishing industry. As a young man Cory worked with his father on a sponge diving boat and was a deck hand on charter boats in the world famous Boca Grande FL. He worked with Capt. Gunner Gause learning how to catch tarpon, snook, redfish, trout, cobia, permit, and many more game fish all across the west coast of Florida. After 6 years working and learning from some of the best guides in the business, he bought his first guide boat and never looked back. He has become a well respected guide in the Tarpon Springs area as well as Boca Grande. With multiple tournament wins and his never ending love for the water, Cory has continued to grow in the industry. He takes clients under his wing showing and teaching them all aspects, to make every trip a unforgettable experience.



Next meeting 6:30 - 8:30 PM
6 October 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 some of the differences between fresh and salt water fly fishing. Thanks to the club members who offered good insights from their experiences.

We are now transitioning from summer to fall and winter fishing here in Tampa Bay. We look forward to cooler, clear water and more sight fishing opportunities. Please take a look at our Wade Fishing Guide on our website (TBFFC.org) for useful tips. We will also schedule an outing at the Cypress flat this fall for new folks. I have already received reports of good red fishing on the Cypress flat this fall. This should bode well for our winter fishing.

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

"I love fishing. You put that line in the water and you don't know what's on the other end. Your imagination is under there. " – Robert Altman

"The climax in the poem of troutling, is the spring of the split bamboo." – Lewis France, 1884

The water you touch in a river is the last of that which has passed, and the first of that which is coming; thus, it is with time. - Leonardo Da Vince

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

September Meeting Photos



We are seeking donations to top off our raffle table, so please bring items to our next meeting.



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 retired Tampa Bay Harbor Boat Pilot, 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. December is our holiday party at the Carrollwood Rec Center on our regular meeting day. Capt. Bryon will speak in January. Please let us know if you have good prospects for club speakers.

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.

Ginny let me know our raffle table is running a little low on items. Please bring anything you would like to donate to the next meeting.

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 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. Here's a photo from the Suncoast Lady Fly Fishing Tournament where Abby caught a 16" seatrout, kayaking just off the Skyway Bridge. "Not a lot of bites that day, but very excited to get this one...my second saltwater catch!" Abby Gambrel



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.**



CASTING GAMES

Saturday, Oct 24th  Meadowlawn Park

The background is a photograph of a golf course on a sunny day. A group of people are standing in a line on the grass. Several hula hoops are scattered on the grass: a purple one on the left, a yellow one below it, a blue one in the center, a white one to the right, and a large orange one at the bottom. The text "Second Annual" is written in a cursive font, and "St. Pete Open" is in a large, bold, white sans-serif font.

Second Annual
St. Pete Open

Bring your favorite rod and reel (8wt. suggested)
Fly, leader and lunch are provided.

Meadowlawn Park
7501 14th st. N
Saint Petersburg, Fl

8 am to noon

If you plan to attend, RSVP to:
tim@timelmsflycasting.com
or: joe@joemahler.com

A large orange hula hoop is positioned at the bottom of the page, with a green arrow pointing towards the text.

Pro and Amateur divisions
8wt Game, Upright Hoop and Distance

I found this fly on Trident (www.tridentflyfishing.com) and they suggest it is a good shrimp imitation for redfish. It looks pretty easy to tie with a craft fur tail, fur collar, Puglici brush head and four silly legs. I will tie some up for our winter fishing. Also has bead chain eyes and a mono weed guard. Check it out! //Walt



RUMP SHAKER

Carl Hanson Outing 17 Oct 26

The Suncoast Fly Fishers will serve the Hillsborough River Carl Hanson outing picnic at Trout Creek Conservation Preserve. It's a club-versus-club contest. The member catching the longest bass is awarded the Carl Hanson drawing to keep until the next Hillsborough River outing. The club member catching the most bluegills gets their name engraved on the trophy. Last year the winners were TBFFC's Ted Hagaman who caught a 16-inch bass and SFF's Brian Henderson who caught 39 bluegills.

This joint outing with the Suncoast remembers Carl Hanson. Carl (1914–1998) was a legendary St. Petersburg/Tampa Bay fly fisher, fly tier, and teacher, remembered for his **glass minnow** pattern. He fished the saltwater flats near Tampa Bay, often using a simple 7-foot cane rod and a vintage reel, wading knee-deep and casting back to shore to present his fly naturally.

Please join us to fish from the bank or from a canoe or kayak. We will provide lunch and drinks and tell a few stories about Carl. //Walt

Fishing Report

Matt Santilli provided us this end of summer fishing update: “First light and post sunrise fishing is the time to go to beat the heat. If you can catch the tide right where it slacks low between 6-8am, the shallow grass flats from Desoto to the intercostal holds reds. Use the large schools of mullet to find your areas, I have seen a schools of reds tailing around these in groups over a dozen. They are extremely spooky but if you can lead them, they eat! Have caught 4, biggest at 33” and lost bigger. Lots of trout around too, mostly small but the deep pockets at low tide have been holding trout over 20”. Drop offs into deep channels are where snook are sitting, particularly closer to inlets and passes. They are hard to get to eat but plenty around. Many big flounder are on the drop offs too. Easier to target them with slow moving soft plastics. And finally, large sheepshead have been tailing in the extreme shallows and school in the dozens in the same pockets the trout hide in at low tide. Most are small but there’s plenty of large ones in the schools if you can pick them out. Fun and good eating!” //Matt

I have also had numerous reports of anglers catching redfish on the Cypress Flat. You can fish to the north or south of the main beach area and find tailing reds on the low tides. We will have some great winter lows as we work through the fall. Check tide charts for the best mornings to fish. I like saltwatertides.com because you can print the chart for 14 days. Mark these days on your calendar to schedule your best fishing opportunities! //Walt

Abby sent us this: "A couple successful fishing days on the Yakima River in Washington! I caught my first cutthroat, which was also the first fish caught on a fly I tied (elk hair caddis). The next day I caught a trout grand slam with a rainbow, cutthroat, and eastern brook trout. Trout were not showing interest in nymphs or streamers, but would go after dries and terrestrials on the top water."
Good photos Abby!



Jerry Kells reports this to us: “Walt my first trout out west Snake River just outside of Jackson behind the Snake River RV park. A Cutthroat on a perdigon below a purple haze nymph. Also, a false Albacore on a size 4 surf candy Charlestown RI.” Jerry will soon join us for some winter fishing for reds on the Cypress flat.



Club member Kevin Welsh sent us this: “The Tarpon were not playing this past Saturday, but managed to land my first red and snook from a skiff. I was out with my friend and Captain Matt Giles. I highly suggest him for a day of fly fishing for Tarpon, Reds, and Snook.” You can reach Matt at (813) 516-8603 and we will try to book him as a speaker.

Good job Kevin on those big fish!



Club member Jim Adams
scored a snook on the fly.
Jim said he got three
jumps out of him. Good
job, my friend!

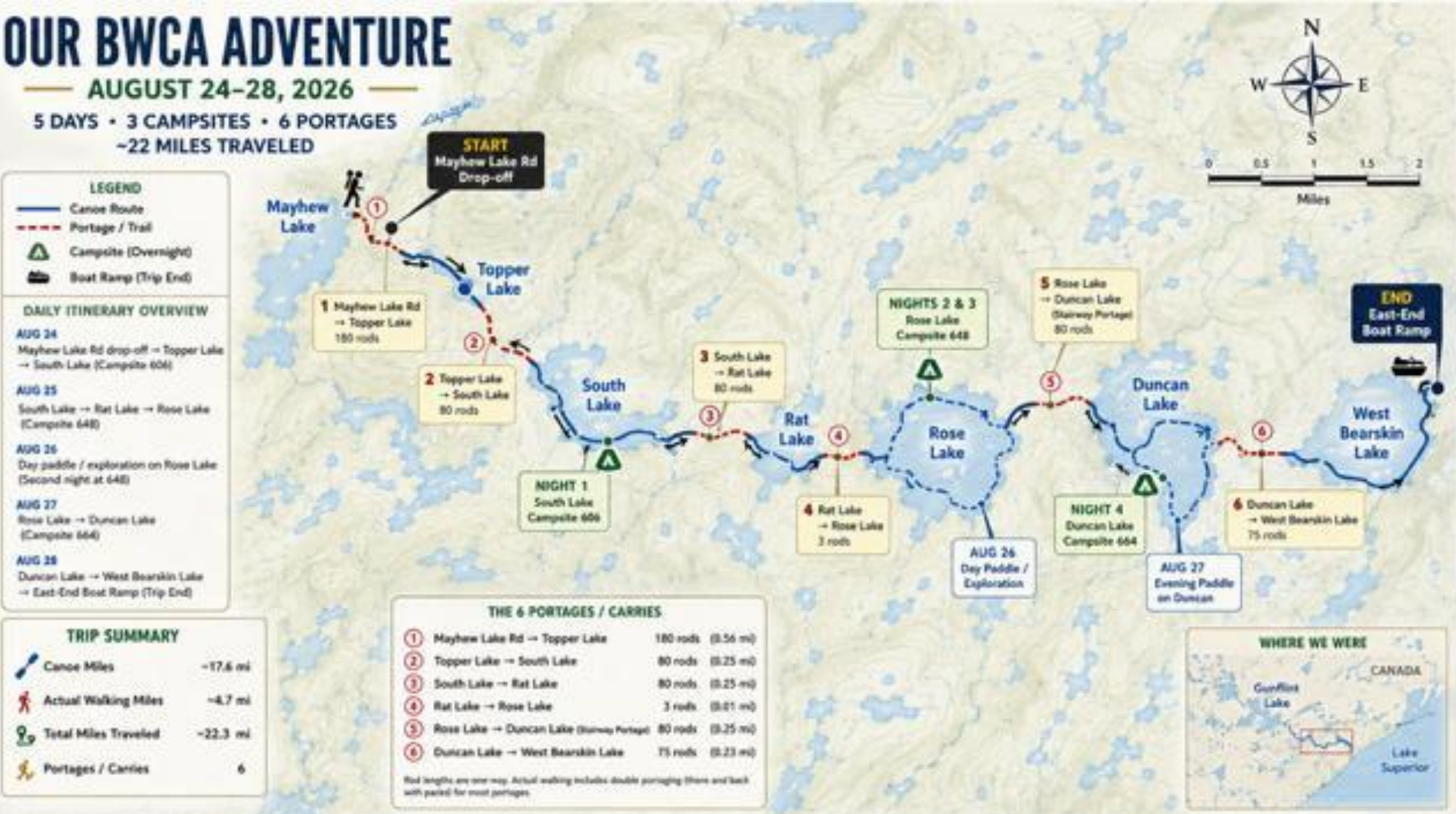


Capt. CA Richardson invited Capt. Bryon to be a guest angler on Flats Class last month. “We fished out of Venice, Louisiana and were targeting redfish on fly. Fishing conditions were challenging with pop up storms and cloud glare, but when we could see the fish, magic happened. I caught a big redfish that was 40.25” in the bottom of the 9th to wrap up the show. I believe the show will air in early April (Season 21, episode 1). There are still lots of big redfish to be had out there in Louisiana and lots of good guides to put you on them, if a big redfish is on your bucket list. “

Note: Look for Flats Class episodes on YouTube.



Wes and Kelly Sobczak traveled to the Boundary Waters Canoe Area (BWCA) in Minnesota in late August. They used Clearwater Outfitters on the east side of the BWCA as recommended by Ted and other club members. “The outfitter provided canoes and bear containers, and shuttles to/from the entry/exit points. It was definitely a strenuous trip, with six portages and six lakes to paddle across. The smallmouth bass ate both top water and streamer patterns throughout the week. It was peaceful, and they didn’t see another person until the last day and a half of the trip.”



Kelly portaging their canoe and Wes with a nice smallmouth bass



Note: Lou and I made the same trip with Ted and Kathy about 10 years ago and it was a hoot. The **Boundary Waters**, also called the **Quetico-Superior Country**, is a region of wilderness straddling the Canada–United States border between Ontario and Minnesota, in the area just west of Lake Superior. I recommend it for a super wilderness camping experience.



Patty and Bruce found this rattle snake while fishing the Poudre River this fall.

That sure is a good size rattler and you would not want to get on his wrong side. Yikes!



Fishing the Arkansas River in South Park, CO

South Park is a grassland flat within the basin formed by the Rocky Mountains' Mosquito and Rampart Mountain Ranges within central Colorado. This high valley ranges in elevation from 9,000 to 10,000 feet and encompasses 1,000 square miles around the headwaters of the South Platte River to southwest of Denver.

Every fall we travel to Salida in the southern part of South Park to fish the Arkansas River. The Arkansas stretches over 150 miles from Leadville through Buena Vista, Salida, and the Royal Gorge, providing a mix of alpine, canyon, and plains environments ideal for trout fishing. It is designated as Gold Medal water for 102 miles, supporting one of Colorado's most productive wild brown trout populations.

We traveled with the usual suspects, Patty and Bruce Anderson, and stayed in a beautiful house located just north of Salida. We were treated to spectacular views with Colorado's 14,000 foot peaks on both sides of the house. Conflicting schedules left us with only two days to fish, but we made the best of it. We fished the Big Bend Wildlife Area near Salida with good luck on mostly brown trout. Bruce caught 5, Lou 3 and Walt and Patty 1 each. While I only caught one trout, it was a big rainbow of about three pounds. I had been fishing a dry/dropper rig with no strikes. Everyone else was fishing the good old Woolly Bugger. I tied on a white Bugger and moved up to the faster water where Bruce had caught a couple. After a few casts upstream, the rainbow nailed my fly soon after it hit the water. Lou came down and netted the fish after a five minute fight on my three weight. My picture of the fish, as you will see, is not great as I wanted to release it quickly after a hard fight. This is my personal best rainbow while fishing unguided.

Patty and Bruce had to leave the next day, so Lou and I fished on our own. Rain had come overnight and we awoke to a cold, overcast rainy day. Nonetheless, we struck out, suited up and fished in the rain. You know you married the right woman when she joins you on a day like that. We fished a canyon section south of Buena Vista with high, fast water and no luck. In the afternoon we found some nice browns in a slower stretch south of Salida. The Arkansas is a wonderful trout river and I only wish we had more time on this trip. We had a good dinner at a waterfront restaurant to end our trip. The ride home to Ft Collins was beautiful with the golden aspens shining against the green background of the pines. //Walt

Patty and Lou with brown trout



Bruce with one of 5 brown trout



My personal best rainbow trout
Arkansas River near Salida, CO



Our last rainy and cold day on the Arkansas River



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!”

Casting Accuracy

An increase in baitfish has finally lured redfish, trout, and snook into the shallows where they can be caught a little more easily. When fly fishermen exchange information, the definitive question always seems to be, “What fly were you using?” When conditions are favorable for a good bite, several successful anglers will usually be using different fly patterns. Have you ever had a savvy fly fisherman pick up your rod after you have not caught anything and begin to catch fish immediately? I’ve even exchanged rods with someone having a bad day and caught fish with their setup while they continued to struggle with the rod I was using with success. The fly is usually the least important part of the equation. On several recent river trips, snook were hanging very close to or under shoreline structure, such as docks, mangroves, fallen trees, oyster bars, and points. If the fly was not presented within inches of the structure, fish weren’t caught. If a cast close to a fish’s lair landed with a disturbing splash or was picked up too suddenly with a surface rip, the fish ignored the fly and raced to deeper water. Casting accuracy, proper presentation, and minimal disruption will vastly improve your success with the long rod.

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

Big schools of reds that are more common in August and September will begin to break up into smaller schools, singles and doubles later this month. As water cools and baitfish school up, reds will feed in shallow water. I like to pole my flats skiff vs trolling motor to hunt for reds in shallow water. Focus on baitfish or mullet schools to find them. If the tide is very low, weed guards are important on your flies to fish thick turtle grass. Once I've located fish, wading is often a good way to approach them. I like a long leader (12') on a floating fly line with a lightly weighted fly, like my Grassett Flats Minnow. When you have good sunlight, you may be able to sight fish them on light colored bottom, like sandbars or potholes.

CB's Saltwater Outfitters Orvis-Endorsed Fly Fishing School-Oct 24, 2026

CB's Saltwater Outfitters, 1249 Stickney Point Rd, Sarasota, FL will hold an Orvis-Endorsed fly fishing school on Sat, Oct 24, 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 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

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Phone: 813-870-1234

Website: 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 |

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