TBFFC-11-2026

Capt. David Dresser

Captain Dave Dresser is a retired pilot boat captain for the Tampa Bay area. He also collects antique fly fishing gear; e.g. bamboo rods and old reels. Please join us to meet Capt. Dave as he tells stories of his days in the water. You may also bring any antique gear you may have for discussion and display. I have a 6 and ½ foot bamboo rod called the Flea I will bring. //Walt



Tampa Bay Fly Fishing Club

Enjoy The Beautiful Art Of Fly Fishing

Next meeting 6:30 - 8:30 PM
3 November 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

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

I hope you enjoyed our last meeting where Capt. Cory Palmer talked to us about his experiences as a guide. Club member Brooks Ferrante won our free raffle for a half-day trip with Capt. Cory. We hope he has a great time and sends us photos of his experience.

Please remember that our 1 December meeting is located at the Original Carrollwood Recreation Center, 3515 McFarland Road, Carrollwood, 33618 and will be our holiday party. Our club will provide a ham, another meat protein, a non-alcoholic holiday punch, and dessert. We ask that members bring an appetizer, side dish or salad. Spouses or significant others are welcome to attend and you may bring alcohol. We will also have a $15 gift exchange.

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 art of fly fishing is a tale told in dreams and shadows of rivers." – Oliver Grant

"Every cast is an opportunity for a new adventure, a new memory waiting to happen." – Ethan Parker

"Time spent on the water is never a waste; it's an investment in peace." – Benjamin Cook

"Good fishing is often about understanding the environment and making the right choices." – Jacob Alton

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

TBFFC NEWS & NOTES

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 1st 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 next year.

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 relayed to me that 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. One of John Foster's first-ever bonefish on our Bahamas trip. Good job John!



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.

Tampa Fishing Outfitters

Tampa Fishing Outfitters is our club's main sponsor and I encourage you to visit them for all your fishing needs. Tell them you are a club member for a 10% discount. Ask for Keaton Anderson in the fly division for expert advice and help.

Established in the year 2005, Tampa Fishing Outfitters has been the go-to destination for fishing enthusiasts. Our sprawling retail outlet, covering a massive 5500 square feet, is nothing short of a haven for those passionate about fishing. We have meticulously stocked our store with thousands of pieces of tackle and gear specifically designed for Tampa Bay and Florida fishing.

But we're not just about the products, we deeply value sharing knowledge and guidance. Our expert team is composed of licensed captains and tournament champions who have had years of experience in the field. They are always available, ready to provide advice, share their wisdom, or equip you with the right tools for your next fishing adventure. We pride ourselves on having everything you could possibly need for your fishing trip. If we don't have it, you don't need it!

Contact Them:
Phone: 813-870-1234
Email: info@tampafishingoutfitters.com
Address: 3916 W Osborne Ave, Tampa, Florida

Carl Hanson Outing 17 Oct 26

Bill AuCoin reports Suncoast Fly Club member Mark Hays caught a 7" bluegill, which was 2 inches longer than Mike Nolan's bluegill so he won both the longest fish and the most panfish categories at the Carl Hanson Outing on the Hillsborough River at Trout Creek Conservation Park. It was a rainy day with high water levels and current. (Yeah, fishing was slow.) Fried chicken was delicious!

Ted Hagaman, last year's winner, is shown presenting the trophy to Mark. Ted is also shown fishing from his red canoe on the rainy day.

Good job guys!





We got this selfie from Jerry Kells and he says: “Here is the last Striper Bass of the 2026 season. A 32” fish caught in 6 ft of water in Ninigret Pond. RI. Caught on a sand eel pattern.”



Two Boys Inn, Andros, Island Trip

Six club members traveled to the Bahamas to fish for bonefish 17-24 Oct. Our group of merry anglers included myself, John Lookabill, David Boeckle, David Redd, Tony Piazza and first-time bone fisherman John Foster. We shared three guides Frankie, TJ and Calvin. We all fished with each guide twice and with each other once. They were fine guides with good boats and all had their own personalities. Frankie was easy-going and laid back, Calvin (super-guide) was vocal and full of himself and TJ was in the middle. We enjoyed their company and had good days with them all. Calvin gave us all lessons after an impressive casting performance on the dock. He could cast long and straight and switch hands in mid-cast!

We struggled with the weather as a cold front came and stalled over the island. Despite the rain, wind and clouds we made the best of it and our guides put us on fish each day. We stayed pretty close to the lodge for some days due to the weather, but also made some back country trips. Calvin went over to the west side on the last day to find calm water with sunshine and schools of bone fish. First timer, John Foster, caught at least one fish each day and David B and Tony caught 16 the last day with Frankie.

On the third day David B and I fished with Calvin in the back country. Calvin set us up facing a cut, which drained a back bay. The bonefish were coming down the cut toward us and also coming from our left and in back of us making for interesting casting. To make things harder, we had mangroves right in front of the boat and a good wind coming right at us from the back bay. Finally, if you could make the cast into the wind, over the mangrove and hook a fish then we had three or four black tip sharks circling the area.

David and I both struggled and here is how it went for me. I did catch the first bonefish, which came from the left and was an easy cast. Then, I managed to hook one in the cut with a short cast into the wind. However, two sharks quickly trapped the fish and ate it. A while later, I had my fly in a good group of bonefish and got hit, which turned out to be a little barracuda. Calvin is hollering at us to get the fly back in the water while David fights to free my fly. Finally, I flick the fly back in the water and the leader just breaks off with cuts from the cuda. So, I rig up again and hook another bonefish, which again is promptly eaten by sharks. So that was my morning, four fish: one bone, one cuda and provided lunch for two sharks. Exciting, but also frustrating and we had to move away from those sharks. We contended with sharks in other spots all week and could usually get the fish in okay.

On the fourth day with TJ he took us over behind Big Wood Cay to a good wade fishing spot. John Foster and I got out and walked two beautiful hard sand flats. We saw numerous bonefish and caught five. TJ took us to the east side of Big Wood after lunch and found some big bonefish and caught a few from the boat. This was one of my best days as I always enjoy wading in the water.

The guides often stopped on a flat near the lodge at the end of the day. A couple of days we had a little flotilla of boats competing for the fish pretty close to one another. We always found fish there though, so it was a good spot. We were also the first group after the summer break, so they were fishing the water close to the lodge first to check it out.

This trip was in memory of our dear friend, Robert Fischer, who arranged it and had traveled there many times. We fished some of Robert's flies, provided by Ginny, and they all caught fish. Everyone remembered Robert including our charter flight folks on LeAir. Robert is shown below in 2023 with a fine fish on a pristine day.










BELIKIN







Our boat convention at the end of the day and Frankie with John and myself on a cloudy day.





Bonefish Trip Notes:

We fished mostly standard bonefish flies; the Crazy Charlie, Gotcha and Veverka Shrimp weighted from light to heavy. I bend down the barbs on all my flies; safer for me and the fish.

Rods were 8 or 9 weight with 9-foot leaders down 15 or 20 lb test.

Our weather was poor for October; November through February are better months for weather and bigger fish.

We had new moon tides, which were just fine. It's always good to have moving tides. Some people avoid the full moon.

Lodge, guides and boats were good and about what you expect for a budget operation. Food was quite good with fish, chicken and lobster.

Andros is definitely the big bonefish capitol of the World. Check it out!

P.S. These flies will also work on redfish. //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. **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!"

Mangrove Snapper

While drifting the flats for other species, mangrove snapper are often encountered this time of year as they school in preparation for spawning later. When using a typical 8 or 9-weight fly rod with size 1 or 1/0 baitfish imitating flies searching for trout, reds, and larger fish, a snapper will occasionally be hooked. Probing deeper areas in grassy flats, rock piles, and docks are often key locations. If one is found, many more are there. Use your anchoring system and change to a setup that will greatly increase your chances for success while adding to the fun. A lighter 4 or 5-weight fly rod equipped with a clear sink tip line and a 9 ft leader tapered to 8-pound test fluorocarbon is needed especially if water is clear. Select a small weighted size 8 fly that imitates a crab, minnow, or shrimp. To fish close to the bottom where they are located, use a countdown method. After the cast, count until the line goes slack indicating the fly is on the bottom. On your next cast, begin the retrieve sooner. Keeping the fly close to the bottom, or structure, will give you constant action. A great experience for new fly fishers and children, the light fly tackle will give these strong small fish a chance to really pull, and their bait-stealing reputation will be foiled by constant hookups with the smaller flies.

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

You'll find snook staging around docks and bridges in the ICW, along sand bars and in potholes on shallow flats. They may be along mangrove shorelines when the tide is high. Small white flies, like my Grassett Snook Minnow, should work well around dock and bridge fender lights. Wider profile flies like Lefty's Deceiver, EP flies or my Grassett Flats Minnow fly should be good choices for snook in shallow water. Fish the strongest tides for the best action. I like the ICW between Sarasota and Venice at night for snook in November.

Reds will spread out on shallow grass flats in November. You should find them along bars, in potholes or around docks. Look for them along mangrove shorelines when the tide is high, but they are just as likely to be roaming with mullet schools in shallow water. Fly anglers may score with lightly weighted flies, such as a Clouser or my Grassett Flats Minnow fly, fished on a 12' leader with a floating fly line. You may also find big trout along with reds in shallow water this month. The same flies that you use for snook and reds in shallow water will also work for trout in shallow water. In my opinion it's important to protect large trout, which are usually female breeders. You may find flounder on a mixture of grass and sand, particularly on the edges of bars or in potholes Full regulations and details on all species can be viewed at https://myfwc.com/. SNOOK FIN-ADDICT GUIDE SERVICE, Capt. Rick Grassett, (941) 923-7799, www.snookfin-addict. 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 1 — Holiday Party at Carrollwood
- 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





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 West 813-971-8697
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
$150.00Corporate 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