



Next Meeting: Feb. 5, 2014

CHECK YOUR CALENDAR

Here's the deal: There is NO TBFFC meeting for January 2014. Originally, it was scheduled for Jan. 8, but the location for the regular meeting was not available, so we will take the month off and resume Feb. 5. Same time. Same place. Enjoy an extra Wednesday night off.

What You Need to Know: Even though there is no January meeting, TBFFC has chugged along through the holidays while planning various events. There's the annual Shad Outing in late January/early February that Walt Durkin tells me is a must-do weekend. Also on the agenda: the Pana Vista and Jensen Beach trips. See below for more info.

The Banquet: We're working on scheduling club the banquet with a target date of late March (possibly the 29th). Still undecided is the venue and whether we're going to have a speaker.

The Budget, Etc.: With the close of the fiscal year days away, our 2013 budget is done. Anyone who wants a copy can get one from Rick Valeri, our treasurer. ... Also John Hand has a fly-tying setup for sale, an old postmaster's desk (\$1,200).

--- Mike Hodge

It is time to pay your 2014 dues. For your convenience, an application form is printed on page 5, below.

Directions to Our Meetings: **From I-75**---Take Bruce B. Downs exit from I-75; go west 2 miles to traffic light, turn left onto Tampa Palms Blvd., then left on Compton Drive, and right at Compton Park. **From I-275**---Take Bearss East to Bruce. B. Downs; then Bruce B. Downs east/north to Tampa Palms Blvd. Rt. on Tampa Palms, then left on Compton Drive and right at Compton Park

JANUARY 2014 PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Hello fellow fly-fishers, I hope Santa was good to you and dropped a lot of fly fishing goodies down your chimney. Thanks to everybody who brought food and swap gifts to our December meeting. Special thanks to Robert Fischer, Alligator Bob, and Jack Hexter for the 'grits and grunts' fish fry.

I was personally overwhelmed by the surprise gift from the club of a beautiful engraved clock/trophy and a bottle of JW Blue to help see the clock (and time passing) in proper perspective. I am sure that Mike Hodge, who has taken over as newsletter editor will exceed my efforts.

Those who attended the recent "Play hooky" outing had a great time, even though the catch rate was considerably lower than in 2012. Gina Russo's lecture and Alligator Bob's food were top notch, as always.

Be sure to note the club events coming up in January, and remember that **there will be no club meeting in January.**

Hope to see you at the February meeting

Tight lines

Dick 

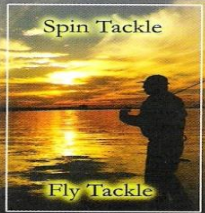
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	Alligator Bob Young	813-986-3008

The next meeting of the TBFFC Board of Directors will be at 6 p.m. Wednesday, Jan. 8 at Cooper's Hawk.

NOT GETTING THE NEWSLETTER? Please call Mike Hodge, Editor, at 352-672-2975 or mhodge7021@aol.com



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TBFFC EVENTS

2014 TBFFC MEETING DATES

If you haven't noticed, 2013 has passed us by. There's no January meeting. The first meeting of the New Year is Feb. 5.

Please watch this space for any changes.

PORT MANATEE HATCHERY RECAP

If you missed the club's visit to the Port Manatee Hatchery, you missed out on an informative morning and a fun afternoon. The first half the day we toured the hatchery with our FWC host, Gina Russo, who provided mountains of information about the gamefish we love to pursue.

Much of the discussion focused on the redfish that live in the hatchery. We've all spent a lot of time looking for that elusive spotted tail on the Tampa Bay flats, and a wealth of helpful insight flowed out of the Dec. 12 trip, including:

- Redfish can live 25-35 years.
- The Florida hook-and-line record for redfish is 52 pounds, 5 ounces.
- The Florida state record for a red on fly is 43 pounds and was taken from the Banana River.
- Reds were banned from commercial harvest in Florida in 1989. Approximately 2.1 million were harvested in the mid '80s, but that number dropped to nearly 250,000 in 1993.
- On average, redfish grow to 40 inches, 40 pounds in the Gulf of Mexico and 45 inches to 52 pounds in the Atlantic.
- Reds can vary in coloration. In general, muddy water produces bright red fish. Sandy bottoms and clear water yield a lighter colored fish.

Special thanks to Gina and the rest of the FWC hatchery staff for the informative morning and relaxing afternoon fishing the nearby ponds for snook, redfish and baby tarpon. Also a pat on the back goes to Alligator Bob for lunch.

BETTER LOOSEN UP THOSE FINGERS

We are going to devote most of our February meeting to tying flies. Some club vises are available, but members are encouraged to bring fly-tying equipment.

Lloyd Bull, one of our active members who passed, supported the notion that our members should learn --- or improve --- their fly tying skills to really derive full enjoyment from our club and their time in the outdoors fly fishing. The selected fly patterns are simple and effective.

Tiers will provide hooks and materials. We will proceed one step at a time to allow everyone to be on the same

page. You can tie one pattern with one tier and then move to another table to do another one.

All levels of experience are encouraged to participate. Advanced tiers can help those who may need assistance. You will bring home your creations that will not only catch fish, but also will serve as a guide as you tie more at your home.

Guest tiers and their patterns:

Layne (Smitty) Smith, simple effective shrimp patterns

Jeff Janecek, fresh and saltwater Clousers

Greg Peterson, Kwan and Redfish Bitter

Pat Damico, simple ant and beetle patterns

--- Pat

HEALING WATERS REMINDER

MacDill AFB has agreed to a Project Healing Waters starting this winter. We will meet there once-a-month to start fly tying. Walt Durkin is looking for fly casting/tying volunteers on Jan. 7, Jan. 28, Feb. 4, Feb. 25, March 4 and March 25.

Sessions will go from 7:30-9 p.m.

Meanwhile, Deb Brooks reports that American Legion Post #5 in Tampa is donating its facility to the Tampa Project Healing Waters. On Jan. 8, Danny White, a MacDill AFB active duty Navy volunteer, will head up the first fly-tying class. Also Dayle Mazzarella, a local certified casting instructor, will coach Tampa volunteers the last week of January on how to teach casting to PHWFF participants. Rod building classes are on the agenda, once PHWFF finds a good location. For info, go to www.projecthealingwaterstampa.org

-- Walt/Deb

A REASON TO GO CAMPING

What: Annual Shad Outing

When: Weekend of January 31-Feb 2 (arrival after 1 p.m. on Friday, depart by 1 p.m. on Sunday).

Where: St. Johns River with camping on private property by RSVP/club members only. This is an annual multi-day event, attended by members of several fishing clubs. For info, contact Leigh West (813-971-8697).

EVENTS CALENDAR

- **Lake Pana Vista Outing**, Jan. 10-11
- **Jensen Beach**, Feb. 28-March 1
- **Shad Outing**, Jan. 31-Feb. 2, St. John's River
- **TBFFC Tie-A-Thon**, Feb. 5, at TBFFC meeting.

Tips for TBFFC: No. 66

Casting Tip: No. 49

These casting tips originate in newsletters from Tampa Bay Fly Fishing Club and Suncoast Fly Fishers Club, so in a way I may be preaching to the choir. However, I often get comments from many others that read them, usually online. Recently TBFFC had a fly-fishing outing on a large saltwater retention pond containing snook, redfish and baby tarpon. About 15 eager fly casters lined the shore to cast flies under rather windy conditions. My biggest thrill for the day was to watch our fellow members all making long casts with tight loops, double hauling and showing very professional line handling techniques. Many accumulated this knowledge by taking advantage of casting clinics given by club members as well as outside instructors frequently invited by our club. There are 19 International Federation of Fly Fishers Clubs in Florida easily located on their website. Join one near you to add to your enjoyment of this great sport.

Pat Damico, MCI 🌅
St. Pete Beach

More Assorted Tips

Cleaning your line

When I fished freshwater in Virginia, I cleaned my line when I felt like it or when I sensed one of my buddies might notice the buildup of grime and grit if they happened to take a practice cast with my rod. When I moved to Florida, I had to change. Saltwater can ruin a reel and cost you casting distance when you need it the most --- on those windy days of winter when the redfish tails finally start to show. Here's my method. It's not the only way, but it works for me.

1. Find two sinks, preferably side by side. Strip your line off the reel into the sink. Soak the line in warm water with a bit of mild detergent.
2. Wait at least an hour. Strip the line through a paper towel and into the other sink.
3. By now, your line should be dry, relatively clean and tangle free.
4. Grab a clean paper towel or cloth and some Aerospace Protectant, spray the paper towel or cloth. Strip your line through the cloth, and you're done. Joe Welbourn (Carbon Marine) sells Aerospace Protectant. It's worth the money.

Mike Hodge 🌅





Membership Application (New or Renewal) Tampa Bay Fly Fishing Club

Your Name: _____ Date: _____

Mailing address: _____

City: _____ State: ____ Zip: _____

Phones Hm: _____ Wk: _____ Cell: _____

Email address: _____

Type of Membership: (Ind., Fam., Corp.) _____

Please Check: One Year Five Year

Please list names you wish to include in family membership

Name: _____ Relationship: _____

Name: _____ Relationship: _____

Name: _____ Relationship: _____

Amount Enclosed \$ _____.

Annual Dues: \$25.00 Individual Membership

\$35.00 Family Membership

\$95.00 Corporate Single Membership (includes one membership and Ad Space)

\$120.00 Corporate Double/Family Membership

5 Year Dues: \$100.00 (Individual Membership) \$140.00 (Family Membership)

Please make check payable to mail to (or pay at meeting): **Tampa Bay Fly Fishing Club C/o Rick Valeri, 1404 Oxfordshire Ct. Brandon, FL**

January Member Pics



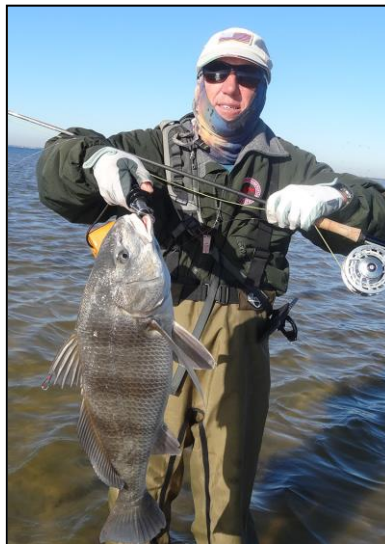
Top: Frank Rhodes sports a couple nice fish. Tom, a TBFFC guest, snags a snook at Port Manatee. Middle: Melissa lectures and Gina feeds the fish at Port Manatee. Bottom: Reds and trout take it easy indoors. The snook and baby tarpon pond.

Member Pics, continued



Top: A reminder of our trip to Port Manatee. An aquarium we would all like to have at home. *Middle:* Gina Russo lectures with gusto. A little guy is preserved for science. *Bottom:* About two dozen TBFFCers showed up that Friday morning. A breeder red surfaces in anticipation of the afternoon feed.

Member Pics, continued



Top: Picnic Island flats on a strong negative winter low. **Ted Hagaman** tries his luck in the creek. *Middle:* **Walt Durkin** with a red and a black drum from MacDill, both in the same morning. *Bottom:* **Steve Parker** casts at the Big Gun. A nice view of the Bay and two competitors. Yes, TBFFC does have a handful of working members.

FLY OF THE MONTH



Another EP Crab

As tied by Mike Hodge

Materials

Hook: Size 4, standard 34007

Eyes: Mono (medium or large)

Tail: Marabou plume (brown, tan or green)

Body: EP Fiber (sticks of tan or green). EP Tarantula brush (green/brown)

Weedguard: 30-pound hard mason

Thread: Flat waxed nylon (chartreuse or red)

Instructions

Use color combinations at your discretion. I prefer chartreuse thread with a tan body; and a dark green body with red thread. The above photo uses chartreuse and tan.

1) Insert hook into vice. Start thread near the eye about where you prefer to tie in the eyes. Wrap thread back to beyond the bend.

2) Grab two clumps of marabou. Strip the fluff. Tie in the tail along the bend to form the claw.

3) Take approximately two inches of EP tarantula brush and tie in over where you tied in the marabou, palmer forward three, four wraps. This part of the fly serves as the transition from the tail to the body. You can use regular hackle. I like the EP brush because of its fishy texture.

4) Tie in mono eyes near the eye, but make sure you leave plenty of room to tie in a good, durable weedguard.

4) Take a strip of EP fiber from the clump. This can be tricky. Work from the outside in. Grab half the diameter of a pencil. Cut this section into 2-inch sticks.

5) Tie in each stick with cross wraps, as you would with lead or mono eyes. Place each stick as close to the previous one as you can before you tighten. IntheRiffle.com has a good video on this. Continue toward the eyes.

6) When you get to the eyes, tie a half-hitch. Cut your thread.

7) Comb the EP fibers to straighten and blend. Trim along the mono eyes in a traditional toad style. I like the squarish toad shape, because it's easier (at least for me) than a circular/angular Kwan. Longer scissors seem to work better and give straighter, cleaner cuts.

8) Re-attach the thread in front of the mono eyes. Tie in your weedguard. I use Puglisi's style. There's a good video of this method on YouTube. I like it because it's durable once you get the concept of thread pressure.

Fishing Report and Forecast

"What a great time to go fishing!"

JANUARY 2014

Finally, the stars have aligned. We've got low winter tides, cooler water temperatures and clear water on the Tampa Bay flats. The harmony of these elements have combined to yield quality sight-fishing opportunities on the fly.

The best bet is to fish the full and new moon tides --- the last of the outgoing, first of the incoming. The earlier the better.

Of course, a number of factors can influence your timing. Early in the morning winter winds tend to be brisk until the air temperature rises. But once the wind calms, the sun is up and the fish generally become skittish. It's all give and take. There's rarely a perfect scenario.

The best strategy is to find knee-deep water with good tidal flow. If you don't find the fish at first, keep moving until you do --- and if it's a little slow, take advantage of the exposed topography to scout the holding spots and highways on your favorite flat.

Tight lines

Mike Hodge 

Capt. Frank Rhodes.....863-967-4258

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, plus enriching experiences.

- Monthly Meetings with Famous Speakers
- Fly Fishing Outings
- 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
- 80 Page Beginner’s Basic Skills Instruction Manual
- Annual Banquet with International Speakers

These boat Captains can take you to the best fishing spots
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- Capt. Wade Osborne (813) 286-3474
- Capt. Frank Rhodes (863) 967-4258
- Capt. Greg Peterson (423) 432-1973
- Capt. Russ Shirley (727) 343-1957
- Capt. Keiland Smith (863) 944-7475

Fly Casting Coaches

Novice or advanced caster, one of the following coaches can assist you with your casting. Contact one convenient to your location to arrange a casting session.

- Dade City,**
Jeff Janecek.....352-588-3866
- South Tampa**
Steve Parker.....813-287-5583
- Brandon**
Neil Sperling.....813-655-5627
- North Tampa**
Jeff Abeles813-961-0097
Robert Fischer.....813-962-0185
Dan Lagace.....813-929-6605
Bill Murdoch813-971-4764
Leigh West.813-971-8697
- St. Petersburg**
Capt. Pat Damico.....727-360-6466
- Polk County**

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- REDFISH LANDING GUIDE SERVICE Capt. John Hand www.RedfishLandingGuideService.com (239) 842-7778
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- SWANN’S FLY FISHING SHOP, Jim Swann, 13650 South 98 Bypass, Dade City, FL 33525, (352) 567-6029
- WALLACE B. ANDERSON, Jr. ATTORNEY AT LAW, 220 N. West Shore Blvd, Suite 220, Tampa.(813) 639-4255 wbataxlawyer@aol.com

2014 member application
Tampa Bay Fly Fishing Club

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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

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 \$95.00 Corporate Single Membership
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 \$120.00 Corporate Double Membership
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