

Next Meeting: Feb. 5, 2014

CHECK YOUR CALENDAR (again)

Here's the deal: We took January off. TBFFC resumes its regularly scheduled meetings on Feb. 5. Same time. Same place.

What You Need to Know: Preparations for The Shad Trip, a TBFFC tradition, were in the making as this newsletter was published Also on the agenda is the Club Tie-a-Thon (Feb. 5) and a rod-repair seminar (Jack Hexter) for March. 5.

The Banquet: We're working on scheduling the club banquet with a target date of early May, possibly at Hunter's Green. Still undecided is whether we're going to have a speaker or go without one. Stay tuned.

The Newsletter, Etc.: Dusty Sprague has a 2004 Dolphin Super Skiff Pro for sale (\$17,500) and can be reached at dsprague01@comcast.net ... Frank Rhodes was incorrectly identified in two newsletter photos last month. It John Cornacchia. Please clearly state who, what, when and where in each submitted photo to help ensure accuracy. Also, email submissions to me instead of Dick M. to streamline the process.

//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

FEBRUARY 2014 PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Hello Fly Fishers and welcome to February. I hope you are finding sight-fishing opportunities in the cool, clear bay waters. Our low winter tides have provided good conditions for spotting fish. North winds after a front are good for super low tides with new or full moons.

We hosted two veterans for our first Project Healing Waters at MacDill AFB and need to build that program. Our next session is in late January and we hope for more veterans. Several club members are helping, and I will let you know if more help is needed.

If you are seeking outdoor-related volunteer ideas, contact Gina Russo, who hosts our visits to the hatchery. See if you can add you to her email list and you will get all kinds of cool FWC info and calls for help on various projects. Email Gina at Gina.Russo@MyFWC.com.

Tight lines.

//Walt 🗪







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OFFICERS AND DIRECTORS			
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	Alligator Bob Young	813-986-3008	

The next TBFFC Board of Directors meeting will be at 6 p.m., Wednesday, Feb. 12 at Season's 52.

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





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CLUB EVENTS

2014 TBFFC MEETING DATES

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

Please watch this space for any changes.



IRL PADDLE VENTURE

Editor's Note: TBFFC member Nick Colantonio completed the Indian River Lagoon Paddle Adventure. The club donated \$200 to the IRLPV since Nick finished the trip, a three-week run from New Smyrna to Jupiter. Amazing. Here's an excerpt from John Kumiski's blog about the last day. For more info, visit http://www.spottedtail.com/blog/

We got to the River Center on the Loxahatchee River at Burt Reynolds Park. It was kind of a weird feeling. We were done paddling! What an anticlimax! Jim, Mim's friend, showed up with some sparkling cider and champagne for us and we all had a toast. We took a few photos. Rodney and I had a presentation to give at the River Center, so we headed off to do that.

When we were done, our friends were still waiting for us, so everyone could say goodbye. I don't know if there were any tears, but there were plenty of hugs. Then we all loaded our gear into vehicles and got in. That was that.

That wasn't that, though. I have the most wonderful new friends, new brothers as Bones would say. I had been blown away all along the lagoon by the kindness and generosity of strangers. I have new hope that the people who had been so kind, so generous, so concerned, can all get organized and fight to preserve, to restore this fabulous place we call the Indian River Lagoon.

It would be a tragedy to do anything less. <u>Demand Clean</u> Water Now!

My most sincere thanks to everyone who paddled with us, especially the core paddlers ---- Nick, Mike, Bones, and Rodney.



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

The late Lloyd Bull, one of our active members, 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 NEWS

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

Sessions will go from 7:30-8:30 p.m.

Meanwhile, Deb Brooks reports American Legion Post #5 in Tampa is donating its facility to the Tampa Project Healing Waters. Danny White, a MacDill AFB active duty Navy volunteer, headed up the first of several fly-tying classes. Also Dayle Mazzarella, a local certified casting instructor, will coach up Tampa volunteers on how to teach casting to PHWFF participants. Casting is set for Feb. 12, with a fishing trip set for Feb. 15 at Legion flats. Rod building classes are on the agenda, once PHWFF finds a good location. For additional information, please 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

- TBFFC Tie-A-Thon, Feb. 5
- Jensen Beach Outing, Feb. 28-March 1
- TBFFC Rod repair, March 5

Tips for TBFFC: No. 67

Casting Tip: No. 50

Check your line

When meeting one of my students for a casting lesson, I always ask them to bring their own equipment. Many times the problem they are having is related to a line that does not match their rod, or their style of casting. I have laid out lines from the same manufacture marked identically that we checked with a micrometer every 5 feet and found gross errors. Lines can also be improperly labeled with weight and taper errors. I have seen more than a few weight forward lines on a reel backwards. If interested in a new rod, ask the dealer to let you cast it with a couple different shop reels and lines, or bring your own before finalizing the deal.

Pat Damico, MCI A. St. Pete Beach

More Assorted Tips

Wader Care

I guess I've been pretty fortunate. I've fished in Virginia, North Carolina, Georgia, Arkansas, Wyoming and Montana --- and I've never had a set of waders go bad.

I fish a season or two in Florida, the land of sunshine and warmth, and my waders spring a leak. I used to tough it out and would only break out the waders when it was really, really cold. Last year, I got away without them; this year, I have to wear them.

One, I'm fishing more. Two, it's colder.

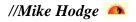
I've never had to find a leak before. So where to start? I went the traditional route, filled the legs with air, stuck each stocking foot in a bucket of water and looked for bubbles. None surfaced. No leak.

On to Plan B, which involved shoving a hose down each pant leg and filling each with water past the knee. I hoped for a leak. Didn't see one.

Frustration started to set in. Fortunately we were in between tide cycles. That helped alleviate stress. I broke out the Clear Cure Goo and dabbed a bit on possible pinholes in the feet. Didn't work. Soggy socks prevailed.

Back to the fly shop, where I got some UV Loon Wader repair. It's similar to the CCG. I swabbed around the seams where the neoprene socks meet the wader material near the shins. My guess is that I stretched micro holes in the seams when I shed the waders after a few recent trips. At times, I get in a hurry and yank my foot out of the stocking, which is NOT good for the seams.

I'm not sure whether the latest repair will work or not. It's been too cold and windy to get out. I think the Loon stuff may work. We'll see. The moral of the story: Don't take your waders for granted.





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

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\$95.00 Cornerate Single Membership (includes one members

\$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

February Pics

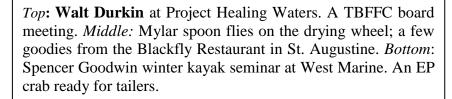














Member Pics, continued







Top: A bruiser red from a local flat on a morning incoming tide. Sam Root loosens up before the TBFFC Big Gun, but will be hard at work next month for the Salty Fly tourney. Middle: A full moon tide is in the making. Here's hoping the fish will feed during the day. Bottom: Participants from the Indian River Lagoon Paddle Adventure celebrate completion of the trip in Jupiter. A pat on the back goes to John Kumiski for the photo.











Top: Turtle soup, anyone? Dayle Mazzarella looks on during his casting class in Crystal River at the Florida Fly Fishing Expo last October. *Middle*: You can always count on Pat Damico to step up and volunteer his time. Flip Pallot and Chico Fernandez pal around at the Hell's Bay booth while taking a break from their seminars. *Bottom*: Young and old can benefit from instruction.



FLY OF THE MONTH



Kirk's Spoonfly

As tied by Mike Hodge

Materials: Size 2 or 4 hook. Large gold, silver or copper mylar tubing (XLarge, approximately half an inch wide from Cascades Crest), 5-minute and 30-minute Devcon epoxy, red Flymaster thread, 0.15 lead wire.

Instructions

- 1) Start the thread a bit behind the eye. Attach the lead wire, make five wraps, secure, tie off.
- 2) Wrap the thread back, advancing a third of the way into the bend. Use a half hitch to keep the thread in place.
- 3) Cut a piece of mylar approximately the length of the hook. Remove the stuffing. Take the mylar and flatten it out. You do this by ironing over the length of it just as you would a long sleeve shirt. After you're done, the mylar should look like a stick of gum.
- 4) Slide the mylar over the eye and along the shank. Take the thread and work it into the center of the mylar. Take two loose wraps and cinch the mylar down to the shank. The mylar will naturally want to spin, so hold it in place with your thumb and index finger while pulling the thread straight toward you. This takes a fair amount of pressure. Too much and you break the thread. Too little and your mylar body will not be secure.
- 5) With the mylar under control and in place, take five or six wraps down the bend. Whip finish. Tie off.
- 6) Congrats. You've got the tubing attached to the hook. That's not easy. Mix your five-minute epoxy with a toothpick. When you're done, use the toothpick to swab the inside of the mylar with three

- or four dabs of epoxy. For size 2 and above, I use four dabs. It's messy, but the epoxy fills out the body.
- 7) Push the mylar back with one hand, and re-attach your thread near the eye, make a couple wraps back toward the bend and work the thread into the top of the mylar. Make two soft wraps. Hold the mylar between your thumb and index finger and pull the thread straight toward you to secure. Make two or three wraps, half hitch and tie off.
- 8) The basic shape of your spoon is almost finished. Now you have to refine it by mashing the body and edges into a cupped shape as the epoxy cures. Drying time is about an hour.
- 9) You can color the fly with a permanent marker, or skip that step and coat the body with 30-minute epoxy. Make sure you mix thoroughly, at least 90 seconds, before applying. Let cure on a drying wheel overnight before applying a second coat. You can tie in a weedguard before the first coat or in between coats. Prepare to struggle with tying this fly. Timing is everything. Kirk Dietrich, who tied the original, has a series of videos on You Tube, if you need more help.

Fishing Report and Forecast

"What a great time to go fishing!"

FEBRUARY 2014

Jeff Janecek and I fished freshwater, December 30th and caught several small bass and 5 nice bluegill. Jeff had a pound-and-a half bass for the big fish of the day.

Neil Taylor, the kayak guide, led Joe Mirrione to a 26-inch trout using a slider fly.

Capt. Rick Grassett has guided clients to catches of trout, redfish, mackerel, jacks and blues on a variety of flies. Fishing the Bay has been inconsistent of late. Winter means lower tides and clearer water, but cold fronts can bring nasty winds.

My rule of thumb is to hope for a north or east wind. Both can keep the tides lower than predicted and concentrate the fish. A south/west wind, by contrast, pushes water into the Bay. Higher than expected tides spread out the fish. Knee-deep water suddenly becomes thigh deep and visibility becomes more difficult.

Look at your weather forecast as far as you can and start planning. In a perfect world, the forecast doesn't change, but at least you can pinpoint a stretch of fishable days.

Tight lines,
Bob Gaulin/Mike Hodge

A Slice of Old Florida Fly Fishing

By Robert Fischer

We arrived Friday afternoon with the great expectations fishing a new place brings, giant fish on every cast and 100-fish days. Pana Vista Lodge is a slice of old Florida and probably hasn't changed much in the last 50 years.

Oak trees draped with Spanish moss, palms, lots of birds, even an old dog wandering around when he wasn't sleeping in the shade. There were new and old boats resting in the slips and on trailers. There's even an antique tackle store on site, but the stuff inside is for sale. Lots of snowbirds in their campers and motor homes, too.

We had perfect, clear, warm weather as we launched the boats and headed out into the lake about 200 yards away. The lake was full of hydrilla and we learned that our jet boat would go about 100 feet before getting totally choked up with weeds. After fighting it for an hour, we gave up and went back into the canal and fished the docks. Lance and I got about 5 small brim and called it a day.

The cabin was a surprise. They had put in new drywall ceilings, new paint, new bathrooms and new floor tile since Jim Swann and I visited last October. Later, when we met up with Frank Rhodes, Mike Perez, Jim and Alligator Bob, we didn't feel so bad about our puny catch. Mike caught a



A nice view of the lake.

few bass, but everyone else got squat. Swann didn't even get a hit.

After some showers and adult beverages, the group headed off to the Panasofkee Ritz-Carlton on the lakefront for the roast beef and seafood buffet (not really the Ritz-Carlton, but the fanciest place in town). It was great and cheap. With overfull bellies, we returned to the big screen porch at the cabin and more adult beverages. Between us all, we managed to resolve the national economy, solve the world's political problems and answer most of the timeless philosophical issues facing mankind. Unfortunately, we all forgot them by the next day.

Saturday and the anticipation was up again because of an approaching cold front, which should make the fish bite as it approached. It would <u>have</u> to be better than yesterday! From calm winds in the morning to 25 mph wind at noon, we worked hard for about 6 brim, or should I say, small imitations of real brim, and one bass. Frank and Mike caught a couple of bass, Swann and Alligator got squat again.

After lunch, Frank headed home and we were inspired by the arrival of brim and bass master, Jeff Janecek. He proceeded to catch 2 brim at the dock before he even got into the boat.

The wind continued to blow hard so we gave up around 4 and returned to the cabin to clean up. Branches were falling out of trees, tin roofs were flapping, and anything not tied down was blown away. Perfect fly fishing weather. The group reorganized and went to Catfish Larry's for dinner. This place you gotta go to. The cracker platter was delicious, the catfish were great, the beer was cold, and even the waitresses were cute. That kind of made up for the 'lackacatchin.'



Thankfully. the shutout was avoided.

Sunday we fished for a few hours because the weather was absolutely beautiful again, clear skies, cool temperature, low wind, and mist rising off the canal. We saw some ospreys, otters and turtles and some beautiful homes on the river, but had about the same results. We caught 4 brim, Jeff and Mike caught 3 bass and Swann and Alligator got squat. All in all, it was a good trip with low body counts, excellent food, beautiful locations and great fellowship. All this while up north they were bathed in 3 feet of snow.





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 informative 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

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•	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.

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Steve Parker	813-287-5583
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- SNOOK FIN-ADDICT GUIDE SERVICE, Capt. Rick Grassett, (941) 923-7799, www.snookfin-addict.com
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- WALLACE B. ANDERSON, Jr. ATTORNEY AT LAW, 220 North Westshore Boulevard, Suite 220, Tampa, Florida, (813) 639-4255 wbataxlawyer@aol.com

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