



Next Meeting: May 7, 2014

Speaker

Steve Gibson

Steve Gibson, owner of Southern Drawl Kayak Fishing, is one of the most experienced anglers in southwest Florida. The former outdoors editor of the Sarasota *Herald-Tribune* has been fishing for 45 years, nearly 35 in Florida.

He received his B.A. in Journalism from Marshall University in Huntington, W.Va. in 1971. Following graduation, Gibson enlisted in the Air Force and served four years. He was an information specialist for the Consolidated Tactical Air Command Office of Information at Eglin Air Force Base near Valparaiso. He spent his last two years as the historian of the 33rd Tactical Fighter Wing at Eglin.

A professional outdoor writer and photographer, Gibson's writing and photographs have appeared in several publications, including *Florida Sportsman*, *Gulf Coast Angler*, *Fly Fishing in Salt Waters*, *Saltwater Fly Fishing*, *The Fisherman*, *Cabella's Outdoor Magazine*, *Paddle World Magazine*, *Blood Knot Magazine* and *Florida Fishing Weekly*.

Steve's presentation is on beach snook, one of his passions now that spring has finally arrived.

Fly Tyer

Steve Gibson

Steve will pull double duty and tie a D.T. Special, a pattern he invented and uses for beach snook quite often.

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 on to 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.

MAY 2014 PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Hello Fly Fishers:

Welcome to May and warmer weather. I hope you can get out and chase the snook as they move toward our beaches. Thanks to Chris Hargiss for a great talk and beautiful photographs. Lots of good tips on sight fishing, which we all enjoy. Thanks to Craig Smothers for tying, entertaining and being professional as always.

We are seeking new board members for those interested in throwing your name in the hat. The work is minimal and consists of helping at meetings, outings and going out to a nice dinner once a month. The vice president's job is vacant as well as general board members. Whether on the board or not, we welcome your ideas on how the club can best support our sport and members.

We made about \$800 at our banquet and it's not too early to plan for next year. Please offer your ideas on format or venue. We may also try a guest speaker next year if we can find someone interesting and not too costly.

Walt Durkin 

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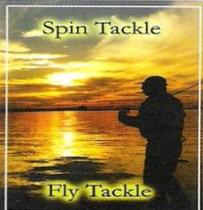
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OFFICERS AND DIRECTORS

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Vice President	Walt Durkin	813-476-7128
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	Bryon Chamberlin	813-361-8801
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	Bob Gaulin	813-782-8605
	Ted Hagaman	813-920-7863
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	John Nelson	813-805-0202
	Rick O'Hara	813-238-6763
	Neil Sperling	813-655-5627
	Alligator Bob Young	813-986-3008

The next TBFFC Board of Directors meeting will be at 6 p.m., Wednesday, May 14, at Miguel's.

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

This month's meeting is May 7. The next one is scheduled for June 4.

Please watch this space for any changes.

BANQUET RECAP

The 2014 TBFFC banquet is now in the books. It's been a month since we all gathered at Hunter's Green Country Club for an afternoon of food and fellowship. The food, by all accounts, was good, and I know I had a good time. I assume everyone else did as well. We actually made a few dollars, which is always comforting.

The silent auction was a hit. I picked up a nice pair of boat shoes, something I'll definitely need if I get out for tarpon season or if I walk the beach for snook. If the East winds will crank up, I'll be in good shape.

No banquet can come together unless a lot of folks pitch in. The 2014 version was no exception. Among those who helped out: Dick Miekka, Walt Durkin, Denise Bruner, Rick Valeri, John Nelson, Frank Rhodes, Bryon Chamberlin, Pat Damico, Robert Fischer and Ted Hagaman.

Special thanks to Walt for hosting a special board of directors' meeting/dinner to get everything organized. Denise showed extraordinary patience tagging all the merchandise. My handwriting is not nearly legible enough to handle such a task!

It's already spring. Soon summer will be here and we'll start planning for 2015.

Mike Hodge 🍷

HEALING WATERS NEWS

Dear Captains:

As some of you already know, Project Healing Waters Fly Fishing, Inc. is dedicated to the physical and emotional rehabilitation of disabled active military personnel and veterans through fly fishing, fly tying, rod building, fly casting, education and outings. We have over 170 active programs at VA facilities, some of which are in Florida. Trout Unlimited and International Federation of Fly Fishers clubs provide volunteers to assist in this worthwhile endeavor. Most emphasis has been on freshwater salmonoids, leaving a vast untapped area of saltwater that we are only now beginning to pursue. Many of our facilities, especially in the Sunshine state, are close

to saltwater. In my position during the past 6 years as Regional Coordinator for the Deep South I have wanted to introduce our deserving veterans to the wonders and joys of fly fishing in the salt. We have been able to do this in a small way and have watched the joy and satisfaction that has accompanied all involved in these trips.

We are again in need of Captains and boat operators who are responsible and interested in giving their time to help those that have given so much for our freedom. This event at Bradenton Yacht Club, Armed Forces Day, Saturday, May 17, will be our third from that facility. Much of our previous success has been due to our generous volunteer boat Captains. Our day will begin with a short meeting of Captains and volunteers before embarking on a 9-1 p.m. fishing trip in the bountiful waters close to the Club. A fly club volunteer will accompany each veteran on a boat allowing the captain to concentrate on his or her ability to get to areas where flies can be presented to fish.

The Bradenton Yacht Club has proven an ideal location on the Manatee River. A private launch and adequate parking are located on club property. After fishing we will have lunch. A program will follow and pay tribute to our veterans.

Hell's Bay Boats has been very supportive of PHWFF by providing some of their local Captains and boats, but more are needed. We would like to have about 30 boats. Please consider helping. A definitive schedule of the program will follow. Feel free to contact either Larry Lurie, Deep South Area Coordinator PHWFF, or Capt. Pat Damico with questions or concerns. Healing those who serve.

Capt. Pat Damico, St. Pete Beach, 727-504-8649, pat4jaws@hotmail.com

Larry Lurie, 407-774-8414, laurencelurie@gmail.com

Mike Reeves, Bradenton Yacht Club, 813-340-5510

In other news, the TBFFC finished up its PHWFF session at MacDill this winter with a bass fishing trip. The Tampa chapter also enjoyed a recent bass outing. We'll look to perhaps organize another PHWFF stint soon.

A nice story about the Tampa chapter:

<http://ht.ly/w5pJO>

Pat Damico/Mike Hodge 🍷

EVENTS CALENDAR

- **TBFFC Club Meeting**, May 7
- **TBFFC Board Meeting**, May 14
- **Southeast Fly Fishing Festival**, May 16-17
- **Healing Waters/Bradenton**, May 17

Tips for TBFFC: No. 70

Casting Tip: No. 53

Yes, the Back Cast Is Important

A discussion with TBFFC editor, Mike Hodge, a very good caster, precipitated this question: When trying to achieve maximum distance and avoid ticking the ground or water on your back cast, a good forward cast must be preceded by a good back cast. I always think of Joan Wulff's excellent illustration in her book which shows how the trajectory of both the forward and back cast must be elevated to compensate for the drop caused by gravity's effect on a very long line. This is assuming that all other casting essentials are in place. Once again, watch your back cast until this becomes second nature.

Pat Damico, MCI 🇺🇸

More Tips:

Here's One Way to Beat Heel Pain

If you're age 40 or younger, disregard this. You need not read further. Once you pass the big 4-0, all sorts of aches and pains plague us. Stiff back, bum knee, sore shoulder, there's always something that hobbles us as soon as we get out of bed in the morning.

My malady is plantar fasciitis. Wading kills me. Not so much when I'm in the water, but afterwards, I'm hobbled. The problem is you can't fit orthotics in flats booties. That footwear simply isn't made for any sort of inserts. That's something that I have to live with. That said, I made the condition worse. I wore old flats boots. They weren't awful, but the support was waning. When that happens, my arch screams for help. I realized this issue this spring, so I went out and got new flats boots. Same brand --- Orvis --- but newer. Big, big difference in support and how my feet felt afterwards. Pictured below are both sets of boots. The green ones, as you see, now flop at the ankles. The tan ones don't. They're newer and stiffer. Moral of the story: When in doubt, buy a new pair of flats boots. Fifty doesn't get any easier.



The tan boots are newer and the way to go. The green ones are done.

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 Individual Membership

\$35 Family Membership

\$95 Corporate Single Membership (includes one membership and Ad Space)

\$120 Corporate Double/Family Membership

5 Year Dues: \$100 (Individual Membership) \$140 (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, 33510***

Member Photos, April/May



Top: Frank Rhodes and Steve Parker fish the Miami canals. As an aside, congrats to Frank and Wes Sobczak for their performance in the 2014 CCA Sarasota All Release Challenge. Frank took top honors in the trout division; Wes prevailed in the redfish category. **Below:** Walt Durkin and Frank in the Acklins, a trip that Walt says tested everyone's fitness, perseverance and fishing skills. My apologies for the lack of banquet photos. A virus seized my iphone/computer and assorted photos. The lighting at Hunter's Green was less than perfect, so trust me, you're not missing much. I'm going to remember to bring my trusty Sony next year.

Fishing Report and Forecast

“What a great time to go fishing!”

May 2014

No Need to Get Up Early

What's hot: Fishing lighted areas at night, especially during the recent strong tides, will be a blast. Hungry predators will shake off the winter by feeding very actively where food is plentiful and easy to catch. Redfish, trout and snook will lazily inhale plankton-feeding baitfish as the tide sweeps them into gaping mouths.

Technique: Fish lighted docks and bridge fenders that are familiar during the day so you can plan your approach.



Pat Damico

A bow-mounted electric is preferred rather than anchoring because larger fish head for barnacle-encrusted structures that ruin fly lines and leaders. An electric motor helps get you away when fighting larger fish. Keep your fly rod tip close to the water and avoid high-sticking, which can break long rods. Rig two 8 or 9-weight rods, one with a floating line and the second with a clear sinking tip. Twenty-five pound fluorocarbon tippets and loop knots tied to size 2-4 white baitfish imitations will produce, especially when cast up tide of the fish. Match available baitfish size.

Members' catches: Ted Hagaman, Walt Durkin, Frank Rhodes and Bryon Chamberlin had a good DIY bonefishing trip to the Acklins. It was a week of long walks and a lot of wading in so-so conditions, but they totaled in the neighborhood of 80 fish, more than a few other groups caught. ... The bass are starting to get active in the local South Tampa ponds. ... Bryon and Lance Pocock reported nice catches of trout... Neil Taylor says he's done well on trout (low tide) and reds (high tide).

Pat Damico/Mike Hodge/Bob Gaulin 🌅



Fly of the Month

EP SE Mullet

As tied by Craig Smothers

What you need/materials

1. VMC 7106BN or Owner AKI #1/0
2. Polar Bear White SE EP fiber
3. Mullet SE EP fiber
4. Red silky EP
5. White Flymaster 6/0
6. Pearl Olive/Pearl Green EP flash
7. 3D eyes/Fletch-Tite glue

Instructions

1. Tie in a strand of White Polar Bear fiber on top.
2. Tie in Enrico flash on top with a bit on each side.
3. Flip the hook to tie in red silky fiber for the gill. Trim at approximately the hook point.
4. Move the thread toward the hook eye. Tie in a strand of the white EP.
5. Tie on pearl green flash on the outside, then use the Mullet EP and tie in a strand on top.
6. Tie on pearl olive flash on top. Build the head of the fly. Whip finish. Comb the EP fibers to blend and straighten.
8. Trim with longer scissors into a baitfish shape. See: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=kNbaIdBIu6I>
9. Glue 3D eyes with Fletch-Tite.

Ready for Sarasota Tarpon?

SARASOTA— The Sarasota Tarpon Tournament returns to the shores of Sarasota for its 84th year. Open to the public, the tournament offers participants a chance to join in the living history of the oldest tarpon tournament in the world.

“The 84 years of history is what makes this tournament so exciting,” Mason Tush, chairman of the Sarasota Tarpon Tournament, said. “To think your name could be on a trophy that dates back to 1930 and is on display in the Historical Center is really quite spectacular.”

The entry fee is just \$125 for adults and \$50 for junior anglers ages 15 and under. Anglers compete in an overall, fly, junior, ladies, and his-and-her division and a most-releases category. The tournament kicks off 7 p.m. May 7 with a banquet at Sarasota Hyatt Regency. Fishing starts May 10 and ends June 15.

Overall weekly winners will get to compete along with the anglers winning the other categories in a fish-off June 21 to determine the overall winner whose name will be inscribed in the tournament’s historic trophy. Cash prizes pay out to the top seven contestants. The winners will be recognized at the closing banquet July 19.

“The fish-off format really adds a fun ending to a great-five week tournament. It gives the seven qualifying anglers a playoff-type feel. Even with bad weather in 2013, Tom Goshorn was able to secure his name on a piece of history,” Tush said.

This year’s tournament proceeds will go to Suncoast Charities for Children. To date, the Sarasota Tarpon Tournament has donated more than \$20,000 to the charity in the past three years.

Sign up information, including new tournament rules, prize details, registration and report stations are online www.sarasotatarpontournament.com.

For more information, visit www.sarasotatarpontournament.com and contact Mason Tush at 941-356-8470.

The Captain Mel Classic in Review

Time flies. We are two days closer to the 2015 Captain Mel Classic. I went right back to work and have been laboring to finalize the 2014 tournament results, payouts, charity money and other things. But I am currently working on that plus the sponsor thank-you letter, where you will have the opportunity to get your own feedback and thank the generous sponsors of the Classic.

We will have a revised list of the winners in the Overall \$10 buy-in competition. Next year I will have changes to the check-in cards where we will process that right on site. I will take the blame for that not being done accurately at the awards party, but we think we have the solution that will make it easy for our check-in volunteers to process it much easier.

I would like to thank everyone who participated, assisted, donated or otherwise. I was more than happy to do the tasks for the event for the fourth year, and there is no doubt this event will continue to happen every year.

Fly Division results

Trout: 1.Walt Ruda 18.25 2.Garrett Taylor 17 3.Phil Still 15. **Redfish:** 1.Phil Still 26.1. 2.Walt Ruda 17.25. **Combined Inches:** 1.Phil Still 41.1. 2.Walt Ruda 36

Sincerely,

Neil Taylor

Owner and guide: www.strikethreekayakfishing.com

(Cell) 727-692-6345 LivelyBaits@aol.com

Owner and site administrator: www.capmel.com

Co-host: Outdoor Fishing Adventures, 8 to 9AM Sundays on 1040 "The Team" Radio

Editor's Note: I got this from Neil Taylor. Interesting.

Hitting the Jackpot or Fishing under Feds' Proposed Plan

Local community seeks support to stop plan for Biscayne National Park

By David Ritz

Ocean Reef Community Association

Florida's unique geography, abundance of fresh and saltwater habitats, climate and tourism opportunities make it the No. 1 destination for anglers and the *Fishing Capital of the World*. Of its more than 2 million saltwater fishermen, more than half reside in the state. Hundreds of thousands travel from other states and countries to fish in Florida's pristine waters. The federal government, however, wants to limit some of Florida's premier reef fishing through a lottery-style permit program. The problem? Similar to your chances of winning the Florida Lotto, getting your hands on the permit may be slim.

Biscayne National Park, located off Florida's southeast coast near Miami and the Florida Keys, is a popular area for many saltwater anglers. The 270-square-mile, marine park boasts a half million visitors each year. While state law largely governs fishing in the park, the National Park Service manages it.

Late last year, the federal agency proposed a supplemental draft to its General Management Plan, which guides park operations. The draft included two solutions to address reef and fish conservation concerns. The park service's preferred solution, Alternative #6, strikes through the heart of what makes Florida a premier destination for fishing.

What does Alternative #6 propose?

Alternative #6 proposes creating a Special Recreation Zone, 2/3 the size of Manhattan Island, where fishing is limited to no more than 500 special permits (430 private anglers and 70 guides). The park service proposes issuing the permits through a lottery system. One problem with proposal is the math.

$500 \text{ permits} \div 500,000 \text{ visitors} = 1 \text{ permit per } 1,000 \text{ visitors}$

Those who hit the jackpot and obtain a permit likely will be ecstatic until they see the list of everything you must comply with in the zone – no grouper harvest, no lobstering, no spearfishing, no commercial fishing except for permitted lampara nets, and hook-and-line fishing only (with a few exceptions). It would be like discovering a pot of gold at the end of a rainbow and when you open the lid, you find a box of Lucky Charms.

In addition to unreasonable access to reef fishing, Alternative #6 falls short in other ways. For one, limiting fishing in the park will create excessive fishing pressures on other waters in the vicinity. The National Marine Sanctuary nearby already has a Special Preservation Area closed to fishing. Limiting fishing in the proposed Special Recreation Zone would put additional pressure on the small area in between the two areas, which seems to be incompatible with the park service's goals.

Let's Hit the Road



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Brandon

Neil Sperling.....813-655-5627

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Robert Fischer.....813-962-0185

Dan Lagace.....813-929-6605

Bill Murdich813-971-4764

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Capt. Pat Damico.....727-360-6466

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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

2014 Member Application Tampa Bay Fly Fishing Club

Your 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

Name: _____ Rel: _____

Name: _____ Rel: _____

Name: _____ Rel: _____

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\$35.00 Family Membership

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(includes one membership and Ad Space)

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(includes two memberships or family membership and Ad Space in Newsletter)

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\$140.00 Family Membership

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