



Next Meeting: June 4, 2014

Speaker

Nick Colantonio

Following a tour of duty in the Navy and a 35-year career in chemical engineering, Nick retired to pursue redfish, snook and trout in Tampa Bay. Fish populations are safe. Nick is known as THE Comatose Angler in Florida, Alaska and Ireland. The moniker was bestowed on him by fellow fly club member Nanette O'Hara in recognition of his notoriously slow hook set. A guide in Clare County, Ireland commented "Nick, your reaction times are brutal." An award at Alaska's Goodnews River Lodge is presented in *honor of the Comatose Angler*.

In December, 2013, he participated in the inaugural IRL Paddle Adventure – paddling his 17-foot Grumman canoe the length of the Indian River Lagoon, from New Smyrna Beach to Jupiter – a distance of over 150 miles. The trip was organized as a fund-raiser for the Marine Resources Council to highlight the beauty of the lagoon system and the problems that threaten its viability.

Nick will discuss the 19-day adventure and the lessons he learned on his first ever canoe camping trip. Lacking any fast twitch muscle fiber, he has ridden drag on cattle drives in North Dakota: "I thought I would paddle the sweep canoe. Turns out I was not the *Sweeper*, but the *Sweep*."

When not casting and retrieving, Nick devotes his time to the study of the Great Highland Pipes of Scotland and visiting hospitals and senior centers with his registered therapy dog, Sadie.

Fly Tyer

Bryon Chamberlin

A longtime TBFFC member, Bryon plans to tie something tarpon related, which is fitting because tarpon season has now arrived in earnest. Bryon is a USF graduate and has been guiding fly fishermen for more than 10 years as the owner of Barbed Steel Charters. He recently won the long-cast competition at the Big Gun Shootout with a toss of 129.5 feet at Picnic Island Park, nearly two years after winning the 2012 Salty Fly.

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.

JUNE 2014 PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Hello Flyfishers: Welcome to June. We can no longer deny summer weather is here so get out early or late and avoid the afternoon storms. However, we will have strong tides in June, which offer good fishing conditions. Last week I found a bunch of reds up on a flat in mid-bay as the tide was peaking. Good sight fishing and I got one.

You can also wade at night for shrimp in June. Fort DeSoto is a great area, and you just need a headlamp and net. Try Googling "shrimping in Tampa Bay" for details and regulations.

Much thanks to Steve Gibson for his presentation on beach snook fishing. I hope you all get a chance to try it this summer. We are lucky to have this fishing available in our area, and it is great fun for an early morning trip.

We will vote on our Board of Directors for the club and welcome your input. We are also open to new board members if you would like to help guide the club. Regardless, please give any board member your ideas on how to better support TBFFC and our sport.

All for now and look forward to seeing you at the next meeting. Until then, tight loops and lines.
Walt Durkin 🐟

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	Alligator Bob Young	813-986-3008

The next TBFFC Board of Directors meeting will be at 6 p.m., Wednesday, June 11, at Season's 52.

NOT GETTING THE NEWSLETTER? Please contact 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 June 4. The next one is scheduled for July 2.

Please watch this space for any changes.

JUNE OUTING

John Millns has invited our club to have an outing on Saturday, June 7 at his summer retreat on Lake Calm. Those who have attended in the past have enjoyed a special event. **Bob Gaulin** will again cook up a hearty lunch. Sign up at our June meeting.

When: Saturday, June 7, 2014, early morning until 2 p.m.

What: Come and try a bit of freshwater fishing on a private lake.

How to get there: Maps will be available to those who sign up at the June club meeting.

What else: Lunch will be served.

This will be a rare opportunity to fish on private waters with very low fishing pressure and naïve fish. Our last outing to John's camp was a rousing success, so plan to attend, and chase away the dog days of summer!

P.S. Jeff Janecek may have a few of his best freshwater bass flies to pass out to lucky club members.

Dick Miekka 🌞

HEALING WATERS NEWS

The Bradenton Healing Waters event, by all accounts, went fairly well. From Deb Brooks:

“Thank you for your attendance at the Bradenton Yacht Club May 17th, Event. Team Tampa, had the most veterans present for this event. Congratulations to Michael Plemens for **winning First Place in the Rod Building Contest** sponsored by TFO and

PHWFF!!!!!!. I can't wait to find out where the trip he won will be!”

Among the TBFFCers in attendance were **Bryon Chamberlin, Steve Parker, Frank Rhodes and Nick Angelo**.

BOOK ANNOUNCEMENT

As some of you know, I recently finished a book --- *On the Fly in the Bay: A Beginner's Guide to fly-fishing Tampa Bay*.

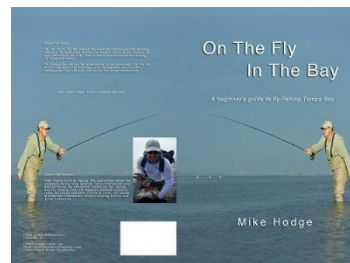
It's out on Amazon--- \$8.99 on Kindle, \$14.99 in print. I can get it cheaper and had planned selling it at a discount locally, but I found out there's this little thing called sales tax and the IRS.

Unless I figure out a way to circumvent the paperwork, you'll probably have to go through Amazon for copies. Most of the club members have fished this area long enough that they already know much of the content. However, newcomers to the area and the sport will benefit a lot. I know it would have save me a lot of aimless sloshing around after first moved to Tampa.

Several club members were instrumental in the publishing process. **Walt Durkin, Ted Hagaman and Leigh West** proofed several drafts. The cover photo came from **Bryon Chamberlin** and the TBFFC archives.

I'm working on second book and a revision to the current one. A third book may follow. Stay tuned.

Below is a link to Amazon and a copy of the cover.
http://www.amazon.com/On-The-Fly-Bay-beginners-ebook/dp/B00K0TQ118/ref=pd_rhf_pe_p_dnr_1



Mike Hodge 🌞

EVENTS CALENDAR

- **Freshwater Outing at John Millns, June 7**
- **TBFFC Monthly Meeting, July 2**

Tips for TBFFC: No. 71

Casting Tip: No. 54

Crank Up the Line Speed

Our casts become more horizontal, often necessary to cast under objects like docks, trees and other obstructions, must we change our technique? Yes, line speed must increase to compensate for gravity otherwise we will have collisions with earth or water. Experiment when practicing on your lawn. As you increase the distance of your horizontal false casting, apply more speed to the cast in small increments. You should notice that the line will better follow the straight line path of the rod tip. Increasing the rod's arc and a well-executed double haul will also help. Another reason to practice.

Pat Damico, MCI 🍷

More Tips:

Practice Makes Perfect

Ever try to tie a few fly and the first one is less than perfect? It usually takes me at least one run of trial and error on a pattern before I get the proportions just right. I used to throw all of the initial efforts in the trash. Not anymore.

I was embarrassed at my initial lack of skill. If I didn't like it, why would a fish? Now I save each effort at the vise. Each fly, no matter, how dreadful, goes in a plastic bag for safe keeping. No trash bag needed.

The reason for the change of heart is two-fold: One, I can really study where I made the mistake and adjust accordingly. Two, I can measure my tying progress. This sport is hard enough to master. Every bit of motivation helps. Seeing the actual improvement ignites that.

Below are a couple of EP baitfish patterns. I hate trimming flies, but as you can see I've gotten better. The one on the left is the first try.



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

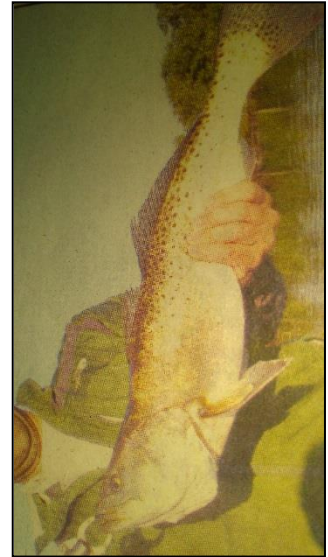
\$95 Corporate Single Membership (includes one membership and Ad Space)

\$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, May/June



Top: Deb Brooks' photos from the Healing Waters event in Bradenton. **Middle:** Andy Constantinou with a barracuda and a bonefish from his trip to Mexico. **Below:** Steve Gibson shows how to tie a D.T. Variation, a beach snook favorite, at the May TBFFC meeting. Brian Stauffer with a Homosassa-area trout.



Fishing Report and Forecast *“What a great time to go fishing!”*

June 2014

It's Tarpon Time

What's hot: Get out at daybreak with an easterly wind and calm water to take advantage of great tarpon action. They haven't been beat up by hordes of fishermen yet and are in pre-spawn mode, making them more likely to grab a well-presented fly. Position your boat close to shore with the sun at your back. Good polarized glasses will allow you to see their flash as they lazily roll on the surface close to shore, occasionally inside swim markers.

Technique: Eleven-weight fly rods with a floating or sink tip line are required. Have your fly at the fish's depth. A 40- to 60-weight



Pat Damico

fluorocarbon shock tippet tied to a 1/0 to 2/0 Keys type or toad pattern in dark colors has been successful. Minimize boat movement by using a push pole in shallow water. The ideal cast is having the fish come straight to you then placing the offering in its path.

Tips: Figure out the movement pattern and set up so they come to you. If you haven't been using heavier rods, practice before getting on the water. Use your body, not your arms, to fight the fish. If anchored, a floating marker buoy with a quick disconnect allows you to chase hooked fish then return to your spot.

Members' reports/catches: After the last cold front passed in mid May, it appears summer is here to stay, which means beach snook should be consistently catchable. For reds, fish the evening negative lows. ... On the late-night full moon, tailers are available.

Pat Damico/Mike Hodge/Bob Gaulin 🌅

Fly of the Month

Gibby's D.T. Variation

As tied by Steve Gibson/Mike Hodge

Materials: Mustad 34007 No. 1 to No. 4, white and red flat-waxed Denier, four white neck hackle (two on each side) facing (not splayed), pearl krystal flash, white neck hackle, 3D prism stick-on, Devcon 2-Ton epoxy.

Instructions

1. Mash the barb down on a standard size 2 hook. Attach thread at the rear of the hook shank just ahead of the bend with a half hitch.
2. Select four white neck hackles and make two pairs with the curve facing inward. Measure the feathers against the hook shank. Secure with tight wraps.
4. Select two or three strands of pearl krystal flash. Secure them to the hook shank in front of the feathers equally on both sides.
5. Tie in a white neck hackle. Palmer with five, six wraps. Try to get the fibers to lay back.
6. Build a head. Tie off. Attach the 3D prism eyes.
7. Re-attach red thread and wrap a band of thread about 1/8th of an inch to create the tip of the head.
8. Coat the head, eyes and red band with Devcon 2-ton.

Plans Underway for Fly Fishing Expo

Crystal River---Organizers for the fifth annual Florida Fly Fishing Expo have selected world renowned fly-fishing experts Bob Clouser of Pennsylvania and Wanda Taylor of Georgia as special guest instructors at the Oct. 10-11, 2014 Expo at The Plantation on Crystal River.

Clouser and Taylor bring different insights and fly-fishing strengths to their programs.

Clouser, an internationally respected fly fishing instructor and author, created the *Clouser Deep Minnow*, perhaps the most-used and recognized fly in the world. He is renowned for his broad knowledge and experience in all areas of fly casting.

Taylor is the first ever woman certified as a master fly casting instructor by the International Federation of Fly Fishers (IFFF). Her programs include just-for-women workshops and clinics. She is known for her skills as an instructor and her fly-fishing and fly-casting skills. Taylor is also co-founder of *Casting for Confidence*, a retreat for breast cancer survivors.

“Women and teens are increasingly attracted to fly fishing, so this year the Florida Fly Fishing Expo offers even more women’s and kids’ fly fishing clinics, programs, and classes,” IFFF-Florida Council President Tom Gadacz said. “Bob Clouser and Wanda Taylor will demonstrate and teach their fly-fishing skills. In addition a team of some of the most knowledgeable and respected fly tiers, fly casters, and fly-fishing guides in the Southeast and the entire country will provide excellent programs and clinics.”

Special Expo programs will include IFFF-certified fly casting instructors and fly tiers teaching their skills. Hands-on clinics, demonstrations and workshops include instruction for beginning through advanced fly casters, outdoor photography classes, fly fishing techniques, building first-aid kits for boat and trail, tying effective new fly patterns, fly casting accuracy and distance and much more. The Florida Fly Fishing Expo also offers resource-awareness exhibits and indoor and outdoor and displays of the newest fly rods, reels, lines, clothing, kayaks, and other gear.

Admission to the family-friendly expo is \$10, which includes both days. Admission is free to kids 16 and younger when accompanied by an adult.

Visit the IFFF-FL website www.fff-florida.org for more information and to pre-register online.

Editor's note: Former Keys guide Phil Thompson spoke to the TBFFC in January of 2013

Sharks Feast in Key West

By Phil Thompson

Be it geography, demographics or a narrow gene pool, Key West is known for unusual occurrences. Spring 2014 is no exception.

Around the island, the migrations of many aquatic species are in full swing, and none more eagerly awaited than the million member march of tarpon moving north, up from the Caribbean.

Two distinct species--Atlantic and Gulf--stimulated by rising water temperatures and the call to procreate, cross the straits of Florida in football-field-size schools. These silver-sided beasts, some in excess of two hundred pounds, are historically greeted by large, hungry sharks.

The traveling tarpon's first port of call are the channels, harbors and grass flats of the Florida Keys. From Key Largo to the Marquesas, world-class anglers also await the fish's arrival armed with thousand-dollar fly rods alongside shrimp-tinted tourists on the fishing trip of their dreams.

Tarpon have no food value---an entrepreneur tried making pet food from them in the 1940s, but the dogs and cats refused it---are highly prized for their leaping jumps and strong battles.

As one Key West captain said, "There is more money spent catching tarpon than any other non-edible fish in the world."

This year an inordinate number of large sharks---mainly bulls and tigers---have shown up in advance of the tarpon and have feasted with an aggression that has the fishermen on edge.

Ralph Delph, an elder statesman of Keys captains, who has more than 100 world records, weighed in on the issue.

"I've never seen bulls this big in the harbor," he said. "Some of these beasts are six and seven hundred pounds." Meanwhile, a collective concern among the guides appears to be growing.

"We're having tarpon eaten in spots where we've never had a problem with sharks before," Peter Heydon said over a beer at Dante's bar.

Heydon is a flats guide and poles in pursuit of the monster tarpon across skinny-water grass flats and shallow-snaking channels.

"We were anchored in Calda channel the other day and the baits we had out behind the boat were only being eaten by sharks," Heydon said. "We were jumping tarpon on plugs casts along the channel edges. The fish were creeping right next to the banks, trying to sneak past the sharks waiting in the deeper water."

Both bulls and tigers are flat-bellied sharks able to suck in their gullets and pursue prey into inches of water, pinning them against a bank or bar. These highly visible chases across the shallows often end in exploding cascades of water and sand, whipped by thrashing tails as the shark devours the tarpon, leaving only blood, scales and a lifeless head staring up from the eel-grass bottom.

The big bull sharks in many instances are jumping clear of the water---not an unheard of event but unusual and scary due to their size.

"I grabbed my son Santiago and held him close," Capt. Pepe Gonzalez said. "The shark cleared the water and all I could think of was what if it lands in the boat?"

"It was a really big one." added Capt. Paul D'Antoni, who happened to be anchored close by. "I'm guessing six-hundred pounds."

Not only are these giant, leaping bull sharks being more aggressive, but they're also fearless, showing up before the fishing boat has anchored or put out the first chum. Attracted by the idling motors, the sharks have learned to stake out the most popular spots and wait for the action. According to some estimates, one out of every three tarpon hooked in the harbor is being eaten.

No one is more familiar with the underwater topography of the Key West harbor than Lee Starling or "Lobster Lee." For more than 30 years, Starling has made a living harvesting lobster from the honey holes, ledges, wrecks and discarded debris from Fleming Key to Fort Zachary Taylor at the harbor's entrance.

Starling is used to fighting strong tidal currents, poor visibility and yachts speeding overhead while gleaning the Caribbean crawfish from hidden holes along the channel's dredged banks.

"I've never seen anything like it," Starling said. "On one wreck I dive where the tarpon hang out, the bottom is carpeted with scales. I've seen scattered scales before, but never anything like this."

Tarpon are lined with silver dollar size heavy armored detachable scales that give way to shark bites, allowing them to escape, leaving a few scales as a reminder of the encounter. But, when they coat the bottom in numbers Starling describes, it translates to fish being eaten.

"I'm not diving Fort Zack right now," Starling said. "I dove for a lost anchor the other day and the bull sharks were on me as soon as I hit the water. No chum, no spearfishing---two things that attract sharks---they were just on me."

Starling blames the gathering on "power chumming," and doesn't single out the harbor fishermen who use shrimp trash – the by-catch from shrimping---to attract the tarpon.

"Even the guys on the reef yellow-tailing are responsible," Starling said. "Their scent trail can bring fish in from the Gulf Stream."

Illustrating his point, a 600-pound bluefin tuna was hooked and fought for six hours last week before escaping, an unheard of feat in Key West. The giants are known to migrate far offshore this time of year, but this fish was hooked close in, in only 150 feet of water just outside the reef.

Tim Ott, veteran tuna harvester and star of the popular Television series "Wicked Tuna," owns a home on the island and spends much of the winter fishing from Dry Tortuga to Cay Sal Bank.

"The tuna are following the bluefish up into the Gulf of Mexico to their spawning grounds," Ott said. "Something caused the bluefish to travel more inshore of their normal migration route and the tuna followed."

Around the same, time a Great White shark was spotted repeatedly over a four-day period at the Toppino buoy, a popular dive site only 17 feet deep, lying within sight of shore. Are these two unusual encounters a product of power chumming? Or as some suggest a reflection of climate change.

Capt. Mike Weinhofer believes the rising overall local shark population explains the increases in the harbor and on the reef.

"With the elimination of long-liners, finning, and finally the closure of a loophole that allowed commercial fisherman to sell sharks as incidental catch, we have seen an increase in all sharks, but especially the inshore species," he said.

Capt. Tony Murphy owner of The Salt Water Angler fly shop, has won the ESPN shark challenge three times: "I've seen large hammerheads, twelve to fourteen feet, just outside the swim buoys at Fort Zack. Evidently the sharks aren't after people. In many cases they are just yards apart."

Reports from along the Keys trail indicate this problem is not Key West's alone. Rumor has it a frustrated charter captain killed a big bull shark---most everyone releases sharks---and hung it from the Bahia Honda Bridge in hopes the scent of their dead brethren would keep the other bull sharks at bay. It reportedly worked until after three days, the fragrance faded and the sharks returned.

Outdoors writer and author Phil Thompson is a retired Key West flats guide. He has authored several books set in Key West and Cuba. www.captphilthompson.com

For Sale (from Dusty Sprague)

Friends: I'm selling my little 16 foot bass boat set up for fly fishing. See the photos. Please pass to others who may be interested.

Bass Tracker Panfish 16' (1990) completely refurbished in 2011 to include new flooring, insulation, wiring, carpeting, seats, bilge pump and safety equipment. Johnson 25 hp engine (1990) with electric start and stick steering - new carburetor kit in 2011. 2006 Minn Kota Riptide 70 pound thrust hand-controlled trolling motor with quick release and 24 volt battery system. Minn Kota Model MK210 onboard battery charger. Two new DEKA deep-cycle batteries April 2014. Bass Tracker tilt trailer (1990). Trailer was sandblasted and repainted, new wiring, lights, wheel bearings, wheels and tires in 2011. New tires and hubs April 2014. Spare tire and cover. New boat cover in 2013. Humminbird 550 Fishfinder. Wind-in anchor. Custom horizontal rod holders for 4 rods to 9 feet in length. Clean, well maintained, boat, motor and trailer. \$1800 or best offer. North Port, Florida. dsprague01@comcast.net or 941-468-1467.

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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
- Fly Fishing Outings
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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

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: _____

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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 Membership

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

Five Year Dues: \$100.00 Individual Membership

\$140.00 Family Membership

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