



**Next Meeting: July 2, 2014**

## **Speaker**

### **Brandon Shuler**

Captain Brandon D. Shuler is a seventh-generation Texan and a third-generation fishing guide. He has guided the Lower Laguna Madre in South Texas from his family's lodge, Getaway Adventures Lodge, for the past 10 years. He earned his PhD in Literature from Texas Tech University where he focused on the American Experience in the Outdoors, specifically the Sportsmen's Experience. A book historian by trade, Shuler looks for lost or seldom published outdoors texts that highlight America's outdoor heritage and culture. From his archival work, he discovered the lost manuscript of Hart Stilwell's *Glory of the Silver King: The Golden Age of Tarpon Fishing*. Shuler's other writing can be found in *Outdoor Life*, *Saltwater Sportsman*, *Sportsfishing Magazine*, and he is field editor for *Fly & Light Tackle Angler*.

Shuler recently moved to St. Petersburg's Historical Roser Park Neighborhood with his wife, three kids, two fish tanks, two labs, and a wily cat. He is an Outreach Specialist with the Ocean Conservancy, where he works with anglers to find ways to get them better access to the water and fish while protecting the resource. He was the 2007 Federation of Fly Fishers Conservationist of the Year, and he served on the Federation's National Conservation Board for three years before heading off to earn his PhD.

## **Fly Tyer**

### **Logan Valeri**

Logan, a Tampa Prep senior, promises he will tie something beach-snook related. The longtime TBFFC member and Brandon resident honed his freshwater fly-fishing skills in the Arkansas Ozarks, but has transitioned nicely to the Florida salt. During the summer, you can find him on the water almost daily.



**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.

## JULY 2014 PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Hello fly fishers, and welcome to July. Hope you are getting out to pursue tarpon and snook as we officially begin summer.

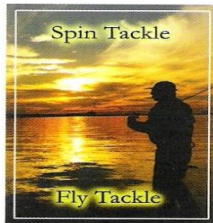
I have found lots of tarpon off Fort DeSoto beaches, but they have been picky. I am tying new flies to feed these selective fish. Andy Mill's book, *Passion for Tarpon* (which I recommend), has provided a wealth of data I'm trying to put to good use. Time will tell and regardless, happy, daisy-chaining tarpon are a beautiful sight and will elevate your heart rate. Try to get out at least once this summer to pursue these great fish. Do-it-yourself or hire one of our super guides.

Feedback from one first-time visitor suggested we could be more welcoming to newcomers. Let's keep that in mind and try to introduce ourselves to new faces as we try to grow our club.

Our new board member, Patty Anderson, suggested an outing to Buchan's Lodge near Englewood, which we scheduled for 1-3 August. See below for details. We will have a sign-up sheet at the next meeting.

See their website for details ([Buchans.com](http://Buchans.com)) and make your own reservations. Dates are August 1-3 and you can fish one or multiple days

Walt Durkin 



### The Fly Guy

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## OFFICERS AND DIRECTORS

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<b>Denise Bruner</b>	<b>813-989-2909</b>
<b>Bryon Chamberlin</b>	<b>813-361-8801</b>
<b>Pat Damico</b>	<b>727-360-6466</b>
<b>Robert Fischer</b>	<b>813-962-0185</b>
<b>Mike Hodge</b>	<b>352-672-2975</b>
<b>John Nelson</b>	<b>813-805-0202</b>
<b>Rick O'Hara</b>	<b>813-238-6763</b>

The next TBFFC Board of Directors meeting will be at 6 p.m., Wednesday, July 9. Location: TBA

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**NOT GETTING THE NEWSLETTER?** Please call Mike Hodge, Editor, at 352-672-2975 or [mhodge7021@aol.com](mailto:mhodge7021@aol.com)

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## CLUB EVENTS

### 2014 TBFFC MEETING DATES

This month's meeting is July 2. The next one is scheduled for August 6.

Please watch this space for any changes.

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### NEW OFFICERS/OUTING

The TBFFC recently elected its board members and officers at the June meeting. Here's a rundown: President, Walt Durkin; vice president, Ted Hagaman; treasurer Rick Valeri; and secretary, Dick Miekka.

The following members were selected to the club's board of directors: Patty Anderson, Deb Brooks, Denise Bruner, Bryon Chamberlin, Pat Damico, Robert Fischer, Mike Hodge, John Nelson and Rick O'Hara.

Our next outing will be at Buchan's Landing Resort, located in the Village of Olde Englewood. Buchan's Landing was where the old sailing ships docked, bringing goods and supplies from Tampa to Englewood. Located on the shores of Lemon Bay, Buchan's Landing Resort is in the midst of one of eight aquatic preserves in Southwest Florida. The ambiance of the area is laid back and quiet.

See their website for details ([Buchans.com](http://Buchans.com)) and make your own reservations. Dates are August 1-3 and you can fish one or multiple days. It's about 100 miles south for easy access from Tampa. Come and visit a bit of dwindling old Florida for modestly priced waterfront accommodations with good fishing.

Mike Hodge 🌈

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### HEALING WATERS NEWS

From Deb Brooks:

Please join me in congratulating Michael Plemens, Desert Storm Veteran, as the first-place winner in the 2014 Rod Building Contest Project Healing Waters

Fly Fishing sponsored and judged along with The Hook and Hackle.

Michael honors our program and our Veterans with precision, artistic design, and talented hands, (for a guy with giant fingers). Michael is dedicated to PHWFF Tampa and inspires us to be better.

Michael is instructing our current Rod Building class, and I can tell you it ain't easy; but Michael has the patience of a saint.

Congratulations again Michael. For more info go to: <https://www.projecthealingwaters.org/NewsMedia/Announcements/tabid/147/post/2014-rod-building-contest-winners/Default.aspx>

### BIG FISH, SMALL BOAT

*Editor's Note: Got this from Suncoast member Walt Ruda:*

Well, I got lucky and am blessed to catch such a beautiful fish on a gorgeous morning. We were seeing fish roll here and there so I let myself drift as I blind casted to get more comfortable. Then about a 150 feet from me, 3-4 poons roll and are heading straight for me. I am thinking if they stay on course, I might have a chance. Still casting, they surface again about 75 feet out and still on course. I have a cast out



Walt with his tarpon.

there and retrieving when I think – do I pull in and cast again or hope I am in the zone. I chose to be patient and leave the cast out there and strip slower. I had about half the line stripped in and my fly was probably about 10-12 feet down with my sinking tip. Then it happened – STRIP, STRIP, STRIP – BAM!!! GAME ON. ...

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### EVENTS

- Club Outing, Aug. 1-3, Buchan's Landing
- Club Meeting, Aug. 6

## Tips for TBFFC: No. 72

### Casting Tip: No. 55

## High-Stick Nymphing

Many new fly-fishing enthusiasts have had their first success trout fishing with a floating strike indicator and a weighted nymph or 2 on the end of their tippet. If in a drift boat, they can lower the "rig" into the water and watch the "bobber" for some hesitation indicating a take. The guide will maneuver the boat allowing the offering to be in the most fishy locations and often will call out, "Lift or strike," and the sport will raise the rod tip and yell, "Fish on!" True, this is a very effective form of fly fishing not even requiring a cast for success.

If wading, a cast is made upstream with a very short line. This is more of a lob to position the rig so that the offerings drift without drag close to the bottom. After the "cast" the rod is held almost vertically keeping the fly line off the water to assist in eliminating drag, following the indicator downstream, referred to as, "high sticking." If this has been your introduction to fly fishing, it will not prepare you for 98 percent of what fly fishing is all about. Time for lessons!

Pat Damico, MCI 🍷

### More Tips:

## EP Baitfish Blues

The EP Baitfish is a great pattern, but it's tough as hell to tie well. You can tie to a certain level of mediocrity, but that only goes so far because the fly won't float properly if the proportions are off or you don't trim it right.

It took me a few tries — actually about a dozen — to truly get locked in on how to use EP. A couple thoughts:

It's important to know how to tie in the EP. Most videos show a stacking method, which is one strand on top of another. This works fine, but a better approach is to angle the EP in a V shape, so that you can either pull the material straight back to create a wider profile or straight down to create a thinner, bladed look. I go for the bladed look toward the back and front and a wider profile in the middle.

Once you tie in everything correctly, it's time to trim and that's not easy. In fact, it took me a while to become confident with the shaping. Pinfish tend to be circular and wider; mullet and assorted whitebait are longer, more streamlined.

At first, I cut at an angle too aggressively too early. The best thing to do is to leave your fly longer, as a rectangle if you will and then round the corners at the end. If you want a shorter stouter fly, go for a squarish shape before trimming the corners. BUT don't trim too sharp too early. Go for the longer, slender look like this:



Mike Hodge 🍷



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

Your Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Mailing address: \_\_\_\_\_

City: \_\_\_\_\_ State: \_\_\_\_ Zip: \_\_\_\_\_

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Email address: \_\_\_\_\_

Type of Membership: (Ind., Fam., Corp.) \_\_\_\_\_

Please Check:  One Year  Five Year

Please list names you wish to include in family membership

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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, June/July*



**Top:** Capt. Bryon Chamberlin goes tarpon fishing. **Middle:** Project Healing Waters rod building. Brian Stauffer with a nice snook on a fly from his own vice. **Bottom:** Jeff Janecek slays the bass at the last club outing. A photo from Dick Miekka via Smitty. More Smitty photos to come in August.

## **Fishing Report and Forecast**

*"What a great time to go fishing!"*

**July 2014**

### **Rise and Shine for Snook**

**What's Hot:** If you are an early riser and love to fly fish, this time of year is perfect for you. Pods of snook are within a few feet of the sand in the trough along most beaches. Although the season is closed, catch-and-release opportunities have never been

better. A large female with a group of smaller males will do their courting in these locations, especially if there is good current flow. Locations with some structure are the



**Pat Damico**

best.

**Technique:** A good pair of Polaroid glasses will reveal very large fish. Stay on the bank and out of the water. The rising sun behind you will reveal fish. You will see some baitfish present. Duplicate their size with white flies. Crimp all hooks, making easy penetration possible with a quick release as the fish is still in the water. Hold your cast until the fish is facing you. Then cast to the fishes' side. The fly, with a 30-pound shock tippet, is then retrieved, duplicating an escaping baitfish. It should trigger a violent strike.

**Members' catches:** Jeff Janecek tore up the bass at the last TBFFC outing. Rick and Logan Valeri had a good day of tarpon fishing in Boca Grande. The Boca Grande trip was preceded by a trip to Fort DeSoto where stamina and fitness were tested to the brink on a sweltering summer evening ... The snook are on the beaches. The key is the wind direction. West winds are not welcome; east winds are your friend. Unfortunately, we've had a run of west winds

*Pat Damico/Mike Hodge*



### ***Fly of the Month***

#### **Tarantula Tarpon Bunny**

*As tied by Capt. Bryon Chamberlin*

##### **What you need/materials**

**Hook:** Gamakatsu SL12s 1/0

**Thread:** Tan flat waxed nylon

**Tail:** 1/4" rabbit zonker

**Body:** Medium hackle feather

**Head:** 1/2" EP tarantula brush

**Foul guard:** 16-pound mason

##### **Instructions**

- 1) Attach thread near bend of the hook and tie in about 2 inches of 16-pound mason facing rear.
- 2) Tie in zonker strip leather side down on top of the mason. Trim the zonker to about 2 inches
- 3) Using either the hook point or bodkin, punch a hole through the leather of the zonker about 1/3 of its length, thread the mason through the hole, bend the mason forward forming a loop and tie down on top of the zonker. Trim excess mason line.
- 4) Tie in a hackle feather by its base and palmer forward. Tie down and trim excess.
- 5) Tie on tarantula brush and palmer toward the hook eye. Secure with thread and trim excess with side cutter or fingernail clippers. Form a head with the tread, whip finish and apply head cement.

## 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
- 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. 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 Abeles .....813-961-0097

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

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

Bill Murdich .....813-971-4764

Leigh West.....813-971-8697

### St. Petersburg

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

## Polk County

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

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