



## The Tampa Bay Fly Fishing Club

[www.tbffc.org](http://www.tbffc.org)

**Next Meeting: Wednesday, December 5, 2007, 6:00 p.m.**

**Location: Compton Park Recreation Center, Tampa Palms (See below for Directions)**

### **Fly Tying, Holiday Social and Skills Workshop**

**Tie-A-Thon** Just bring your vise, scissors and thread. All other materials will be provided. Three tiers will walk you through their patterns. You can change tables after each pattern is completed. This venue has been very popular, and will give you an opportunity to tie your fly as each pattern is demonstrated. It will proceed one step at a time so we all are on the same page. The tiers and their patterns are as follows:

**Jeff Janeczek:** Chernobyl Ant and Grasshopper

**Neil Sperling:** Simple Glass Minnow, and Neil's Simple Shrimp

**Robert Fischer:** Monster Gotcha

**Food and Fun** Pizza and soft drinks will be supplied, but **a favorite casserole or dessert would be appreciated.** Engage in friendly conversation, improve your skills and meet more of your fellow members!

**Slides and Photos** Bring any pictures that would be of interest to the club. We'll have projectors for slides and computer files. This is a popular event. If you have 5-10 minutes worth of fishing or travel pictures, please bring them and share them with the membership.

**Fly Fishing Flea Market** Bring all of those fishing items that you no longer use to the meeting. We will set up an area for those interested buyers, sellers, and traders to get together. Bring rods, reels, fly tying materials, anything but old bait!

**Knots and Rigging** Learn how to tie knots, construct tapered leaders, and rig tackle. Bring your tackle to be rigged. One of the club's friendly and knowledgeable members will be glad to assist you.

***It's Time to Pay Dues Again--\$25 for single, \$35 for family, extra savings for 5-year membership***

**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

## DECEMBER 2007 PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Hello fellow fly fishers.

The holiday season is upon us, and it often seems that there isn't much time to get out and wet a fly. Well, you can fix all of that by Playing Hooky for the Holidays at our December 7<sup>th</sup> outing. Also, after all the shopping is done, Suncoast Fly Fishers have invited TBFFC to join them at DeSoto Park on the 22<sup>nd</sup>. Please see pg. 3 for more details, and sign up at our December meeting for either or both of these events.


Thanks to **Mike Gorton** for his presentation on Alaska fishing, and for tying his "secret" shrimp fly. It won't be described as fly-of-the-month, because he doesn't want detailed instructions to be published. If you would like to produce this fly on your own, perhaps one of the attendees can tell you how he did it.

**Thanks to all who helped our banquet –see Pg. 8.**

Many and sincere thanks are also owed to **Floyd Holder**, who has published his last fishing report on page 8. After many years as our fishing editor/reporter, Floyd's very difficult work schedule prevents him from continuing. We hope somebody will step forward to take his place.

Incidentally, this issue marks the completion of my 10<sup>th</sup> full year as editor/publisher of this newsletter, and it sure would be nice to get a little help. Anybody interested??

This month we will have our traditional December members' night. Bring your vise, tools and thread. Materials will be supplied for you to tie along with our three featured members. Also, bring along your pictures (slides or files) and show them to the members in informal presentations.

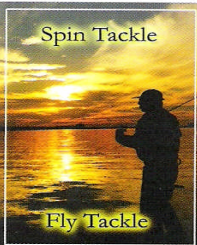
Tight lines, Dick 

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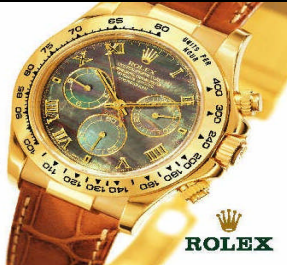
The next meeting of the TBFFC Board of Directors will be at 6:00 P.M. on Wednesday, December 12, 2007 location TBD.



**The Fly Guy**

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## TBFFC CALENDAR OF EVENTS

### 2007 TBFFC MEETING DATES

Here are the meeting dates for the rest of 2007: December 5. **Please watch this space for any changes.**

### EDITORS NEEDED!

The current incumbents have been producing this newsletter for a long time, and need some help, if not some rest. We are looking for **an assistant newsletter editor**, a **fishing report editor**, and (pretty soon), a **casting editor/guru**. Please contact Dick Miekka ([dmiikka@cs.com](mailto:dmiikka@cs.com), 727-866-8682) if you can help.

### PLAY HOOKY ON DECEMBER 7

**When:** Friday, December 7, 9 a.m.-2 p.m.

**Where:** State Fish Hatchery at Port Manatee

This has become a favorite outing for many of our members. The working hatchery has moved to another location, so there will be no tour this year. However, take a day off, leave the holiday stress behind and join us at the former state fish hatchery for fabulous fishing in the man-made stormwater ponds followed by a delicious lunch. In the past, members caught numerous types of fish, including several "baby" tarpon

Sign up at the December club meeting.

### DON COLEMAN OUTING DEC. 22

The Suncoast Flyfishers have again invited TBFFC to join them at DeSoto Park for a holiday outing in honor of the late Don Coleman.

**When:** Saturday, Dec. 22, 2007 (choose your start in a.m.)

**Where:** DeSoto Park; fish anywhere in the park

**Lunch:** At Arrowhead Picnic Ground, meet at noon.

**Sign up** at the December club meeting

### JOINT OUTING WITH THE MANGROVE CLUB

Due to scheduling problems, this outing has been postponed until January 19 or 26. Watch the newsletter for the exact date and time.

### BIG GUN SHOOTOUT MOVED TO MARCH

In order to avoid conflict with our banquet, the Buccaneer games, and the holidays, we have decided to move our Big Gun Shootout event to March of 2008. Watch this newsletter for details.

### PREVIEW OF COMING EVENTS:

**January:** Joint outing with the Mangrove Club

**February:** Canal fishing at Tamiami

**March:** Big Gun Shootout.

### BILL JACKSON'S EVENTS OF INTEREST

Call (727) 576-4169 for all items listed below.

Fly casting clinics each Saturday at 10 AM

Fly Tying Clinics; 6:30 PM every Monday for beginners and every Wednesday for advanced tiers.

### SUNCOAST FLY FISHERS

[www.suncoastflyfishers.com](http://www.suncoastflyfishers.com)

Regular Meetings: 6:30pm on the Third Thursday of each month, **except December**, at Walter Fuller Recreation Center, 7883 26<sup>th</sup> Ave. N., St. Pete.

### MANGROVE COAST FLY FISHERS

[www.mangrovecoastflyfishers.com](http://www.mangrovecoastflyfishers.com)

NOTE: Newer Location for MCFE Club meetings - **Twin Lakes Park**. The entrance to Twin Lakes Park in Sarasota is located on Clark Road, just 1/2 mile east of I-75, on the south (right) side of the road. Contact website above for details and directions.



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## Does Cooler Weather Mean Fly Fishing is Over Until Spring?

As I look outside today, a brisk northeast wind is blowing and cold rain is pelting the ground. A good day to stay inside! Water temperature has been declining steadily. Should I clean my fly lines and rods and lube reels to put them away for the winter, or is there hope for a few outings with the long rod before spring?

I know some flyroders that think winter is the best time in the Tampa Bay area to catch fish. Does this really apply only to here, or are there other areas of Florida that offer some respite from the winter doldrums? Why should this time of year offer any opportunities to catch fish with our feathered offerings? \

Fishing with Capt. Mel last week on a day when we saw only one other boat. Mel said to me, "you live in a great area for winter fishing." The day was overcast and windy with thick intermittent fog. A wise decision as we headed out from the Marina was to stay close to home and concentrate on flats that were nearby. We were going to fish in the afternoon, when the water temperature is usually warmer, but the forecast was for deteriorating weather conditions later in the day. The tide was just starting to come in. Our first stop had us catching a few trout, and sneaking up on five or six spooky tailing redfish. One red took a swipe at Mel's surface offering and quickly sent the others scurrying for deeper water. As the tidal flow increased, the fishing improved. In the four hours we fished we caught and released over fifty trout, many ladyfish and a half dozen three to four pound bluefish. Using light spinning tackle, we were able to cover a large area during a controlled drift in three to five feet of water. Several times when the fish were more concentrated, I slipped a small mushroom anchor over the side making it easier to stay where the fish were foraging on small greenbacks. Baitfish, usually sparse this time of the year, was the key to our best fishing. My eight weight fly rod was used to ply the productive water, resulting in numerous hookups. A lot of the "short strikes" that we were missing on jigs with long tails were guaranteed hookups with flies that were the same size, color, and shape of the greenbacks at our feet.

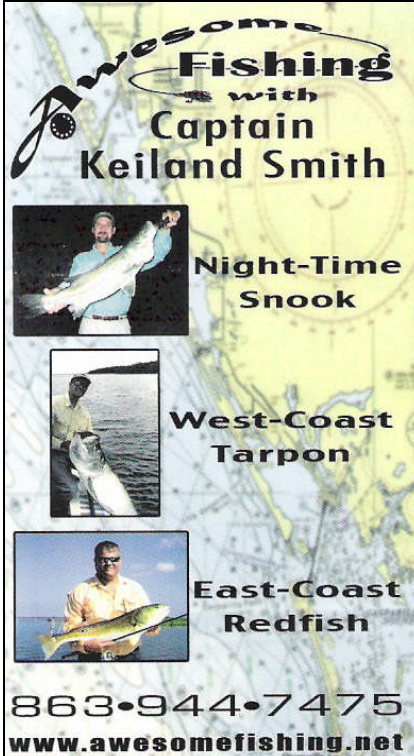
Game fish are more concentrated in the winter because of shallower water conditions, localized warmer water, smaller bait pods, and wind. Leaving the boat is frequently necessary to improve sustained success. Wading shoes and lightweight waders are constant companions and allow a stealthier approach to keep shallow water fish from spooking.

As long as forage fish still remain in shallow water, flies like Clouser Minnows, Deceivers, and Bendbacks in baitfish colors will work. White, chartreuse/white, and brown/white are staples. Crab and shrimp colors will be more effective as water cools. Earth colors are generally more productive than flies that stand out against the winter bottom background. A little orange mixed with brown is an excellent cold water color. Fish your presentation slower and deeper to increase hookups. Trout will often follow and strike as you lift the rod to cast, thinking their easy prey is going to escape. Reds hit with a hard thump.

Sinking tip fly lines, designed for saltwater conditions, have increased my cold water hookups dramatically. Cortland and Rio products, with clear tips, that I am more familiar with, are used almost exclusively when in water more than two feet deep. A short fluorocarbon leader five feet in length between the fly and clear sinking tip weight forward line is an asset in winter's clean water. Smaller flies can also be used.

Sand holes can hold some large fish and any grassy flat that has a marled appearance will be more productive after the sun has had a chance to increase water temperature. Cast your fly in these areas and, after sinking, slowly creep your offering along the bottom. Strikes will often occur as soon as movement is imparted. Especially with trout, you may think you are stuck on bottom. A strip strike will reward you with a thumping on the end of your line.

Shallow water fly fishing this time of year can very well turn out to be your favorite. Take your time and pay attention to your surroundings. "Hunt" for concentrations of your quarry. The lower water will give you an opportunity to observe things that are covered with higher tidal flows. Fly fisherman who seek a quality experience will not be disappointed.



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Our Banquet, November 10, 2007

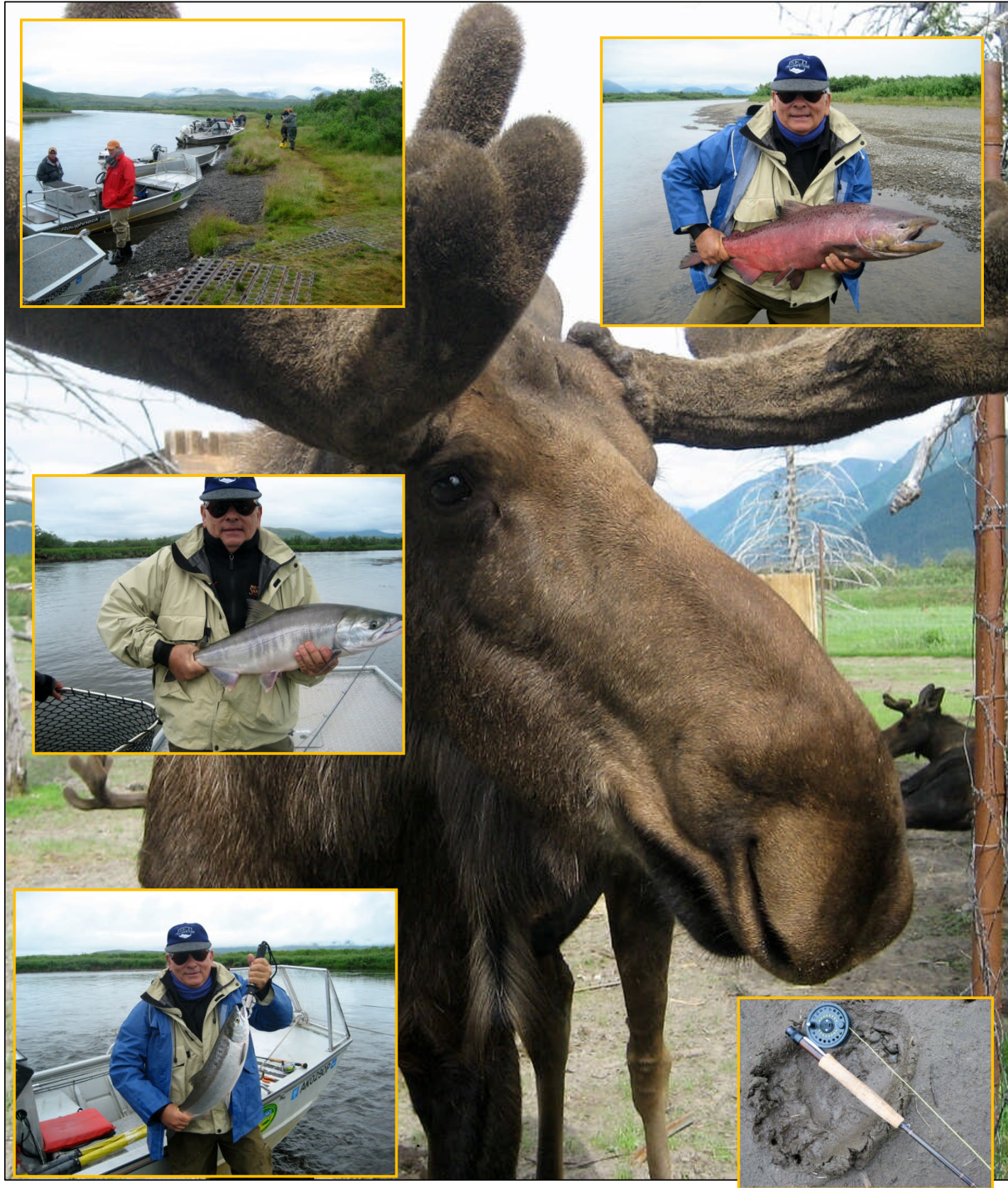


In the Morning **Tim Borski** tied his famous flies, and **Nick Anglelo** prepared a gourmet lunch.



In the evening, we had a bountiful silent auction and dinner, then **Borski** answered questions and **Walt Durkin** presented a smiling **Bryon Chamberlin** with a well-deserved club service award.





Nick Colantonio fished Alaska’s Goodnews River in early July and caught king, sockeye, and chum salmon. He informs us that the Goodnews River Lodge, owned by our November speaker, **Michael Gorton**, is a true wilderness experience (with electricity, propane heat and good food). Areas under tidal influence are all nut sedge and gravel bars. Above the tide line, everything seems to be sphagnum moss, berry bushes, and willows, with alders on the higher ground. Throw in the occasional 9-inch wide bear track and “This isn’t Kansas any more, Dorothy.”

## ***FLY OF THE MONTH***

### **Borski Slider**

As tied by Tim Borski



#### **MATERIALS:**

**Hook :** Mustad 34007 # 4 - 1/0

**Thread :** Uni-Thread 6/0 White

**Tail :** Craft Fur Tan Krystal Flash Pearl

**Hackle :** Wide Grizzly Hackle Natural

**Eyes :** Painted Lead Eyes Yellow

**Head :** Mule Deer Hair Natural

#### **TYING SEQUENCE:**

- 1) Tie on thread near hook eye.
- 2) Tie on craft fur and wrap a smooth body back to hook bend.
- 3) Optional and not in fly above: Tie on 4-6 strands of crystal flash.
- 4) Tie in grizzly hackle at base of tail and wrap smooth body back to hook eye.
- 5) Tie on lead eyes 1/3 hook shank length from hook eye.
- 6) Palmer the hackle over the thread body, open turns, for 1/2 the hook shank. Stroke the hackle tips toward the rear as you wind.
- 7) Clip the hackle on top of the fly.
- 8) Tie a collar of deer hair pointing toward the hook point.
- 9) Spin a muddler type head opposite the eyes with deer hair. Trim as shown in photo above.
- 10) Finish with a drop of super glue on the head of the fly to keep the deer hair from twisting. 🧴

## ***Casting Tips for TBFFC: 94*** **Clocks and Arcs in Fly Casting** ©2007

Generally, there are no arcs in fly casting, only straight lines. Many of us were taught to cast by moving the fly rod in an arc according to the hands of a clock: from 10:00 o'clock to 2:00 o'clock. Unfortunately, our instructors and we students were missing the point. The most efficient cast is that wherein the fly line moves in a straight line. The rod tip must move in a straight line during the cast for this to occur. This is possible due to the deepening bend of the fly rod as it is loaded during the casting stroke and straightening of the fly rod as it unloads at the end of the casting stroke. It is similar to sliding the tip of a fly rod against a ceiling while performing a casting stroke. The handle of the fly rod may move through an arc from the beginning to the end of the casting stroke. At the same time, however, the tip of the rod inscribes a straight line against the ceiling as it bends and unbends. Applying the basics of this concept to everyday fly casting has many benefits, not the least of which are the elimination of tailing loops and longer casts with greater ease.

Dan Lagace

Member, Tampa Bay Fly Fishing Club 🧴

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

Orvis fishing manager, **Rich Merlino**, of the Royal Oak, MI store, his brother-in-law, Steve and Steve’s dad, Wayne, joined **Capt. Russ Shirley** for a trip in Charlotte Harbor on Monday, November 12<sup>th</sup>. They caught and released snook, reds and trout on the Flats Minnow and Clouser flies. Fly anglers, **Harry Davis** from Dalton, GA, and **Fen Sartorius**, from NM, fished Gasparilla Sound in Charlotte Harbor with Russ on Saturday, November 17<sup>th</sup>. They had a couple of takes by reds on the captain’s Flats Minnow fly. One fish ate a black Flats Minnow fly in Bull Bay and the other, a tailer, ate a white one. The trio had shots at about a dozen tailing reds in Gasparilla Sound at the bottom of the tide. This is the time of the year when reds will tail on shallow grass flats of Gasparilla and Pine Island Sounds when conditions are right.

Club member and Fly shop owner **Jim Swann** reports the river in the Silver Lake area is navigable and very productive. Stump knockers, bluegill and bass have been taken on the in good numbers. Jim recommends the sponge spider and the Mylar minnow. He fishes them with little or no motion on the surface. Lake Pasadena, also in Pasco county, is still low but fishable. Look for schooling bass on the East end of the lake.

The staff at Bill Jackson’s advises that mackerel are plentiful and taking flies in the bay and on the beaches. A white fly with plenty of flash tied on a long shank hook is the lure of choice. 12 lb “American Wire”, which is knot-able is also recommended for these fish.

The Rocky Creek area of Tampa Bay had large populations of reds, trout and snook during the Thanksgiving Day week-end. Fish with a white minnow imitator in the ebb around points during the last half of the falling tide.

I hope Santa brings all of us plenty of new fly tackle.

Tight lines

Fishing Floyd 

## ***THANKS TO OUR BANQUET SPONSORS***

**TBFFC** is grateful to everyone who attended our banquet, and especially to those who contributed auction items, table favors, or just plain elbow grease to help make the banquet a success. A list of contributors is printed below, and it is hoped that no one was omitted.

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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, plus enriching experiences.*

- Monthly Meetings with Famous Speakers
- Fly Fishing Outings
- Fishing Trips Sponsored by Members and the Club
- Group Clinics and Workshops
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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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### Brandon

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

### North Tampa

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

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

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- **SWANN'S FLY FISHING SHOP,** Jim Swann, 13650 South 98 Bypass, Dade City, FL 33525, (352) 567-6029

### 2006 member application Tampa Bay Fly Fishing Club

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Type of Membership: \_\_\_\_\_

Please Check:  One Year  Five Year

Please list names you wish to include in family membership

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