



The Tampa Bay Fly Fishing Club

www.tbffc.org

Next Meeting: Wednesday, February 6 2008, 6:00 p.m.

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

Guest Speaker

Frank Sargeant

Frank Sargeant has been outdoors editor of the Tampa Tribune for more than 20 years, and is also editor at large for Florida Sportsman Magazine. He is founder of the Tampa Tribune Outdoors Expo, now in its 17th year as Florida's largest outdoors show. He is author of 11 books on fishing and boating, and is former president of the Florida Outdoor Writers Association. His writing and photos have won more than 60 national awards.

Frank is asking our members bring their fishing questions and comments on all topics, fresh and salt, and have a "fishing conversation" like the ones Captain Mel does on occasion.

Featured Fly Tyer

Ken Hofmeister

Ken is the president of Suncoast Fly Fishers and has won the Carl Hanson Memorial trophy for 2006 and 2007 using his "bodacious spider" fly. In 2006 he fished from the kayak that he won at the Suncoast Fly Fishers Pig Roast raffle. How loyal can you get? In addition to the bodacious spider, his featured fly of the evening will be the Ada-potata. This fly is crafted from materials donated by his granddaughter Ada who wanted to see what her grandfather could do with one of her toys. Naturally, it will be field tested before you see it. Come see how to tie these flies before they become world-famous!

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

FEBRUARY 2008 PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Dear Fellow Fly Fishers:

Welcome to February where we have one extra day to fish on this leap year! Expect to see you all on the water on Friday, Feb 29th.

Thanks to **Pat Damico** for telling us about trout fishing in Argentina as last month's speaker. Pat is a great guide and friend of the club. Check page 3 for future trips Pat is arranging to this great location.

It was my pleasure to demonstrate how to tie my special permit-bonefish fly that incorporates a double hook instead of the usual single hook in order to increase the hookup rate on these elusive suck-it-in-then-spit-it-out-predators. Instructions for tying the fly can be found on page 7 below.

Please note that our new fishing report editor, **Bob Gaulin** has joined the TBFFC board of directors. We urge you to help him (and the club) by sending your fishing results to him via e-mail or phone.

Please read page 3 carefully for upcoming events including Tamiami Trail outing hosted by **Nick Angelo**, the annual 2-3 day shad outing on the St Johns River spearheaded by **Leigh West**, the **Frank Sargeant/Tampa Tribune** outdoor show, and our Big Gun Shootout. All of the events are great fun and we hope to see new members or first-timers there.

I am assembling several beginner tying kits from donated materials for those who would like to try this aspect of the sport. Please let me know if you are interested.

All for now and tight lines. //Walt 

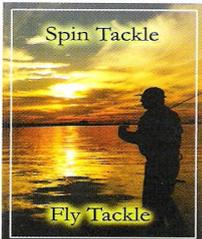
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The next meeting of the TBFFC Board of Directors will be at 6:00 P.M. on Wednesday, February 13, 2008 at LaTeresita.

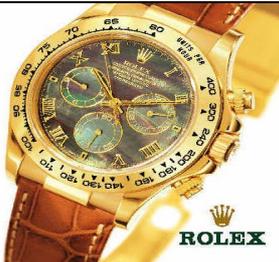
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TBFFC CALENDAR OF EVENTS

2008 TBFFC MEETING DATES

Here are the meeting dates for the all of 2008: February 6, March 5, April 2, May 7, June 4, July 2, August 6, September 3, October 1, November 5, December 3 . **Please watch this space for any changes.**

TAMIAMI TRAIL EVERGLADES OUTING

Saturday, February 9th, will be the club's 2nd outing to fish the Tamiami Trail near Everglades City. Last year fly anglers caught many small snook, cichlids, and even jumped a few tarpon. The dredge canal running along this portion of the trail is a great fishery for baby tarpon, snook, bass, cichlids, & gar just to name a few. Most of the fishing is done by walking along the banks of the brackish water canals. Fly fishing greats such as, Joe Brooks, Lefty Kreh, Flip Pallot, and Bill Curtis have all walked the banks of the Tamiami Trail.

My plan is to make the 2 hour, 40 minute drive from Tampa Saturday morning, and arrive in Everglades City around **7am**. I Plan to meet at the Shell gas station where highway 29 and US 41 (Tamiami Tail) intersect. There we will discuss our fishing plans for the day. There are a few accommodations for anyone wanted to stay the night. Call me for info. I also encourage anyone who wants to bring a canoe or Kayak. I would like to limit the shore fishing to 8-10 people if a can.

As for your tackle, 4wt- 8wt. rods (bring both) will do I like to tie small minnow like patterns such as, a muddler-Clouser- or Puglisi-style fly. Any floating line will do. I also would suggest bringing some sort of a stripping basket or line tamer. If anyone has questions they can email me @ fishonthefly25@aol.com or call me at 813-230-8473 thanks Captain Nick Angelo

ANNUAL SHAD OUTING WITH CAMPING

When: Weekend of February 22 (arrival after 3p.m.)

Where: St John River for fishing, with camping on private property.

This is an annual multi-day event, attended by members of several fishing clubs. Almost everyone who has attended in the past has become addicted! You may attend on just one day if you choose. There will be overnight camping, which is always fun, with great fellowship, "fishmanship", and food. Sign up at the February meeting or call Leigh West at 813-971-8697.

See more information on page 6

FRANK SARGEANT SHOW NEEDS YOU!

February 29-March 2 at the Florida Fairgrounds:

TBFFC will have a table there to tell the public about our club and to recruit new members. **Sign up at the March meeting for 2-3 hours at our table**, then see the show for free!

FLY FISH ARGENTINA, MAR. 14-22 & 23-31, 2009

Capt. Pat Damico is arranging trips similar to the one he discussed as featured speaker at our January 2008 meeting. Contact Pat for details at (727) 504-8649

Note: early commitment is necessary if you want to be included.

PREVIEW OF COMING EVENTS:

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

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

MANGROVE COAST FLY FISHERS

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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RANDOM THOUGHTS FROM THE TYING BENCH - 35

By C.W. "Don" Coleman

THE IMPORTANCE OF STRUCTURE – All fish, in freshwater or salt, orient themselves with structure. I have seen research photographs showing a large bowl containing a pod of 3 pound smallmouth bass. The inside of the bowl was painted white. With no structure in the bowl the fish were scattered all over. When a board was placed across the bowl, the fish congregated under the board. When the board was removed, and a pile of rocks were placed in the bowl, the fish all hovered over the rock pile. With both the rocks and the board removed, a black line was painted up the wall of the bowl and the fish all collected around the black line. Look for structure, preferably in a good current flow, to find fish.

SMALLMOUTH BASS – Southern fly fishers going north during the summer make a mistake thinking only of freshwater trout fishing with ultra-light rods and tiny flies. Size for size a smallmouth bass will make a trout look like a weak sister. And any freestone river or stream in the North—where there are "two stones for every dirt"—will be home to smallmouth bass. And you can wade for them using the same 8 weight fly rod and flies that you use on the saltwater flats. Think smallmouths and avoid the crowded trout streams and put-and-take fishing which is only at its best during the spring. Smallmouth fishing is at its best during the summer and fall. You will, however, need felt soles on your wading boots to avoid slipping on slippery rocks.

Season in and season out, baitfish are the primary source of food for adult bass (those over 9 inches long). Smallmouths are not usually selective unless specific species are unusually abundant and available. Studies have shown that given a choice smallmouth bass prefer to eat baitfish that are 3 ¼ inches long. Think Clousers, Sea Ducers (Red and White is Lefty's favorite), and Wooly Buggers. Many smallmouth guides in the Susquehanna River system prefer all-white Wooly Buggers instead of the commonly recommended black.

During mid-summer, when only young-of-the-year baitfish is readily available, smallmouths may become selective and feed on crayfish—particularly "soft shells" averaging 1 ¼ inches long. They tend to ignore larger and more belligerent crayfish. Crayfish of this size molt frequently so soft shells are usually plentiful—check the shallow tributary streams and watch them scurry under rocks. Smallmouths are reluctant to eat whole crayfish. They like them best with claws and legs removed leaving a simple cylinder like a plastic grub. Will Ryan's White or Chartreuse Sparkle Grub is a perfect imitation, as is an all-white Wooly Buzzer of appropriate size. Evenings, when the shadows lengthen, is usually the best time for fly fishing. Popping bugs fished early in the morning are also effective.

You must learn to read the water, mend your line, and drift your flies along the current seams and edges over structure, and do a wet fly swing. A strip retrieve is most effective in quiet, flat water. Fishing deep in quiet pools is not very effective. Bass are ambush feeders. An excellent video showing how to fish for smallmouths is *Bass Lessons* with Bob Clouser and Lefty Kreh.

SPARKLE GRUB – Attach lead eyes on top of a #2-3xl hook. Mustad's 34011 hook is fine. Add a Marabou tail at the bend and wind a body of Estaz up the hook shank and around the lead eyes and tie off. Make sure to make tight wraps, sweeping back previous turns. Ryan prefers All-Chartreuse for smallmouths. All-White is becoming popular in saltwater, particularly under the lights. Other fly tyers have used different names for the Sparkle Grub.

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Member Photos, February 2008



Denise Bruner (left) and **Nanette O'Hara** caught nearly identical 25-inch redfish during their recent "Girls Fishing Weekend" in Everglades City. After a hard day of fishing with Capt. Kevin Mihailoff, who only had to tell them to "stop talking and fish" a few times, they retired to the O'Hara cabin to drink wine and watch fashion and interior design shows on TV.



Although excluded from the family's Everglades cabin during the "Girls Fishing Weekend" (see above) **Rick O'Hara** fished in Tampa Bay and caught this nice sea trout in the Cockroach Bay area on the old reliable chartreuse and white Clouser. He did **not** watch any fashion or interior design shows on TV.



Three Amigos (**Lance, Robert, and Alligator**) cooked up a great feed -- which included fish by Fischer and Alligator-- for attendees at the annual Fun-A-Ment fishing contest between TBFFC and MCFF at DeSoto Park on January 26. At right, **Walt Durkin** presents the biggest fish trophy to **Bryon Chamberlain**, who caught a 19-inch sea trout.

Flies for Shad

Over the years, friends and acquaintances I've met at the Backcountry Flyfishing Association of Orlando's Annual Shad Outing have given me some interesting flies, which I've since used successfully for shad fishing on the St. John's River. I've included some images of these (but no specific tying instructions, since most shad flies are simple to tie) and suggestions for fishing them, below. They can be tied on saltwater or freshwater hooks (conventional or long-shank, usually size 2-6), and are usually fished on ~4-7 weight rods.

Weighted patterns: Sparse, weighted flies are good for fishing deep ("dredging") in strong current, like the often deeper (~8-12 ft. depth) river bends or narrower stretches of water in the "Shad Alley" river section. These are used primarily with sink-tip or sinking fly lines, or with weighted shooting heads. They can also be used in shallower or slower water - just use a floating line with a longer leader (9-12 ft.). Generally, materials which do not float or create too much drag are best. Flies can be tied weighted with bead chain or lead dumbbell eyes, brass or tungsten bullet heads/beads, or hook shanks wrapped with lead wire. These patterns are functionally identical to Shad Dart jigs/lures and Clouser minnow flies. Because of the heavier fly weight, a heavier weight fly line and rod may be necessary to throw them with any distance (e.g., 6-7 weight).

Streamers: Others patterns, like flashy streamers, are more useful in times of drought, and/or when the shad have migrated to the headwaters of the river (Hatbill Park and Puzzle Lake areas, e.g.), where the shad may congregate and behave like spawning salmon. Sometimes, the water depth may be only one to three feet, so the flies are fished with a floating line. There are also those times when the shad will be active near the surface even in deeper water, and these flashy patterns can be fished quite effectively on floating, sink-tip or slow-sinking fly lines in the usually dark, tannic waters of the river.

Colors: As far as my choice of colors, I prefer flies with red, pink, chartreuse and purple colors, with pearl or silver versus gold flash. I've tried yellow, black and orange, and flies with gold flash, but with less success. It would also be appropriate to have some more subdued patterns (with little or no flash) in case the shad seem to be repelled by flashy flies.

Fishing the flies: The key to consistently catching shad is having a variety of tackle and using it properly. As shad migrate, the water conditions they encounter vary due to the dimensions and contours of the land surrounding and under the river. These conditions are altered by daily and seasonal fluctuations in rainfall, which can affect water level, color, turbidity and current strength at a given location. Therefore, a variety of fly lines and flies, used in various combinations, will allow an angler to effectively fish any location where shad may congregate/concentrate. In deep water, casting techniques (for example, using the S- or wiggle cast; aerial mend) can be used to introduce slack into the line, allowing the fly to sink faster. Line mending techniques (feeding line out; mending the line in a down-current direction) may reduce drag, allowing a fly to sink faster or drift more naturally. Getting the fly deeper may increase hookups on the "swing" as well as during fly retrieval against the current. Upstream casting may be necessary in shallow and narrow sections of the river. This requires skills in casting, mending and retrieving the fly in order to impart fly action, to get the fly to the proper depth and to detect strikes.



Shad Flies (Figure legend)

A) Red chenille head, lead eyes, pearl mylar body, pearl Krystal Flash skirt. *By Charlie Chapman, Backcountry Flyfishing Association, Orlando.*

B) Black chenille body over lead-wrapped hook shank. Tail is orange marabou and gold flash, body has gold mylar tubing overwrap, wing is gold Flashabou. Tied with black thread. *From Charlie Chapman.*

C) Same as A, but with hot pink ice chenille (or Estaz or cactus chenille).

D) Purple marabou tail, silver tinsel rib, purple chenille over chrome-plated lead eyes, black thread. *Tied by Capt. Dick Martin, Melbourne, FL.*

E) Hot pink antron (or similar) tail, fine blue and fuschia Flashabou (or similar) - mixed and wrapped to make body (not weighted), fuschia Flashabou wing. *Tied by David Olson, Manager, The Fly Fisherman (store), Orlando, FL.*

F) Orange marabou tail, pearl mylar tubing over hook, black thread (unweighted). *From Charlie Chapman.*

FLY OF THE MONTH

Crystal Chenille Crab Permit Fly DH (double hook)
As tied by Walt Durkin



Crab patterns are best suited for sight fishing. You should cast close enough to fish for them to see it, but not to spook them. Let the crab fall to the bottom and move it slightly if the fish is looking for it.

MATERIALS:

Hook: Eagle Claw 274 in bronze. For small crabs use a size 4 or 6 double hook. I found the hooks on Janns Netcraft;

Tail: Saddle hackle tips

Body: Small to medium Crystal chenille in dark colors; black, green, brown for darker bottoms. You can use lighter colors for lighter bottoms.

Body: One 3-4 inch saddle hackle that will give you a body of about one quarter inch when palmered; dark brown.

Eyes: small lead eyes of a dark color

Weed guard: double weed guard of 20# Mason hard mono

TYING STEPS:

Step one. Pinch the barbs down on both hooks and bend the hooks upwards slightly to give a little wider gap to increase hook-up chances on permit.

Step two: Place one hook in vice so that the fly is level with gap pointing down. Tie in the eyes leaving about 1/8 inch for the mono weed guards at the front.

Step three: Take your thread to the back of the hook to the bend and tie two one-inch hackle tips splayed at about 45 degrees.

Step four: Tie in the 3-4 inch saddle hackle to palmer the body.

Step five: Tie in your crystal chenille also at the bend of the hook and bring your thread forward. Wrap the chenille forward forming a tight chenille body and tie off behind the eyes.

Step six: Palmer your hackle forward and tie off behind the eyes.

Step seven: Turn the fly over and add the mono eyes. Cut about one inch of the mono and bend in two. Burn the ends to form small eyes at each end. Place the mono around the hook in front of the eyes at about 45 degrees and catch the bottom of the mono with 4 or 5 wraps of thread. Bend the mono back away from the hooks and wrap in front of the mono. Then wrap around each piece of mono 4-5 times to set it in place to line up with the hooks. Tips of the weed guard should extend slightly beyond the hood points. Mono weed guards also serve as additional crab eyes. Finally, blacken the tips of the mono with a black marker to make them stand out a little better and finish with head cement. I use Sally Hansens "Hard as Nails".

Fishing Report and Forecast

"What a great time to go fishing!"

January tides and weather left this fisherman with near empty creels. But there were some of our members that enjoyed the usual Florida fishing.

Rick O'Hara fishing in Cockroach Bay caught a 24" trout while fishing with wife Nanette. Nanette and Rick celebrated their one-year wedding anniversary in December fishing the marshes of southern Louisiana with Capt Danny Ayo. They caught several reds over 20 pounds. Rick hooked and fought a redfish estimated at 35 pounds nearly all the way to the boat when the fish finally straightened the hook and escaped. Nanette recorded her first "Coonass Slam" of a red drum, black drum and sheepshead on fly in a single day. Congratulations you two.

A full-page of TBFFC Board member **Capt. Bryon Chamberlin** was featured in the January issue of American Angler magazine, in an article about winter fishing for redfish in Tampa Bay. Way to go Bryon.

Our January outing at Ft DeSoto was as usual a great event attended by our membership and the Mangrove Coast Fly Fishers. Mangrove members **Will Hallett** caught an 11" flounder and **Joe Desimone** caught a 10" flounder both using clousers. TBFFC members **Pat Damico** caught a lade fish and 5 trout, **Denise Bruner** caught a small flounder, and **Lloyd Bull** caught two small fishes. A few other fish were caught and several fishermen were skunked including yours truly. The outing was a great success nevertheless, ending with a great meal of fish, gator, hushpuppies and grits prepared by **Gator Bob Young, Robert Fisher and Lance Pocock**, cookies and brownies prepared by **Denise and Nanette**, thanks guys and gals.

Hopefully the month of February will be better for catching than fishing. Get out there and catch. **When you do, please call be with the report at 813-782-8605 or email me at rjgaulin@yahoo.com.**

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Casting Tips for TBFFC: 96

How Long the Haul? ©2008

In an article I had written for this column in August 2000, "**Why The Haul "Works."**" I explained that the haul works because the fly line outside the tip of the fly rod, the fly rod and the haul hand comprise a basic pulley system, with the line outside the end of the fly rod being the load to be moved, the fly rod serving as the pulley and the line hand acting as the anchor. I offered the following explanation of Why the Haul Works.

"Without The Haul, (One-To-One Ratio)

- A.) Without your fly rod, drape your fly line over the first finger of your right hand, (the pulley), with the end hanging over the back of your right hand and touching the floor
- B.) At the same time hold the standing portion of the fly line in your left hand.
- C.) With your left hand, pull one foot of fly line over your right hand. Note that the end of the fly line rises exactly the same distance from the floor over your right hand as you pull with your left hand.

With The Stationary Haul, (Two-to-One Ratio)

- A.) Begin again as before, except this time:
- B.)..raise your right hand one foot from the floor while holding your left hand stationary. Note that the fly line will have been elevated two feet from the floor."

Since speed equals distance divided by time, if the end of the fly line moves twice as far in the same amount of time (2 feet versus 1 foot), its velocity will have been doubled.

One might conclude that adding a tug with the line hand, (anchor), contributes even more velocity than the 2-to-1 advantage gained from the stationary haul. In fact; it does. Hauling with the line hand allows the line to separate from the rod, (pulley), even faster than the 2-to-1 ratio realized with the stationary haul, increasing the mechanical advantage.

The question becomes: "Does a long haul create more line speed than a short haul?" The short answer is "YES" if the caster waits longer to begin the haul. Here's why. The limiting factor is the acceleration of the rod. If, for a given length of line, the caster can accelerate the rod hand through the complete casting stroke in no less than one second, then any haul, lasting one second or less, and ending at the same moment the casting stroke ends, will add acceleration to the line, ultimately resulting in greater line velocity. Any haul lasting more than one second will cause all mechanical advantage ascribed to the pulley system to be lost, because without movement of the rod hand, the only contributor to acceleration will be the movement of the haul hand, which reverts to the 1-to-1 ratio.

The crux of the matter is; knowing that the stroke of the rod hand and the haul of the line hand must stop at the same time, hauls that are begun later in the casting stroke can be accelerated at a higher rate than can hauls that begin sooner in the casting stroke, since, to be most effective, the haul must stop when the casting stroke stops. The net result is that when the rod hand achieves maximum acceleration at the end of the casting stroke, the line hand achieves maximum acceleration as well.

That's the technical explanation. Now consider this as a practical matter. If you start the haul at the same time as the casting stroke begins, the haul hand cannot accelerate any faster than does the casting hand. If so, the haul will end before the casting stroke and its contribution to added line speed will be lost because the rod will begin to unload.

On the other hand, if you wait, say, until the rod hand is half way through its casting stroke and then begin to haul, the you can accelerate the line hand at twice the rate during the same time period, doubling the contribution of haul-hand-acceleration to the cast for a tremendous increase in line velocity.

Try it. It works.

Dan Lagace
Tampa Bay Fly Fishing Club 



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 Famous 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 with International Speakers

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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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Brandon

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

North Tampa

Jeff Abeles813-961-0097

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

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

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Saint Petersburg

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