



The Tampa Bay Fly Fishing Club

www.tbffc.org

Next Meeting: Wednesday, February 4, 2009, 6:00 p.m.

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

Invited Speakers

Dan Lagace, Jim Seegraves, and Leigh West

Our trio of speakers this month constitutes a veritable Who's Who of TBFFC fly fishers.

Dan, nationally recognized as a fly casting instructor, was taught to fly fish by his Uncle Del Dubreuil some fifty years ago. His fly casting workshops focus on integrating effective casting techniques into the unique casting style of each participant. Dan's fly casting articles have appeared in the *Flyfisher* and *Fly Fisherman* magazines. In addition, he has contributed over 100 casting tips to the Tampa Bay Fly Fishing Club newsletter.

Jim has been an Alaska resident going on 38 yrs. He was the first president and founding member Alaska Chapter Safari Club International, and its hunter of the year in 1989. According to IGFA, Jim holds more records than Wurlizer. He has hunted and fished North and South America, Europe, Asia and Africa for over 30 years.

Leigh is noted for his fly fishing expertise. He is a superb fly caster who for some half-dozen years, consistently placed first in distance-casting competitions throughout Florida. He has taught numerous fly fishing courses for Bay Winds and conducted many fly fishing presentations and seminars for the FFF. Leigh is a past-president of the Tampa Bay Fly Fishing Club and has been a regular contributor to its newsletter with insightful articles about fly fishing.

Their presentation will cover all facets of fly fishing, both fresh and saltwater and will be formatted as a brief overview followed by an extensive question and answer session.

Featured Fly Tyer

Pat Damico

Capt. Pat Damico is one of our favorite fly fishing guides. His formal education includes a B.S. in Biology from Villanova University and D.D.S. from Temple University. Pat began fly fishing and tying at age ten in the Pocono Mountains of PA and has been an avid fly fisher ever since. His numerous fly fishing articles have appeared in many magazines and websites. In 2005 he became a FFF Certified Fly Casting Instructor.

Lefty's Bug, a very effective freshwater popper, will be tied as well as some very simple durable foam poppers designed for saltwater

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 2009 PRESIDENT’S MESSAGE

Brrrrr! After a cool January (by Florida Standards) we look forward to warming air, warming water, and better fly fishing.

Thanks to **Capt. Randy DuMars** for informing us about where we can fish for Australian Barramundi right here in Florida. Thanks also to innovative tyer **Jeff Janecek** for demonstrating how to tie a special Clouser for freshwater fishing. Jeff hones his teaching skills while heading up our Project Healing Waters efforts, teaching disabled veterans how to tie flies twice monthly. Instructions for tying the freshwater Clouser can be found on page 8, along with his brief synopsis of a recent session of Project Healing Waters.

Don't forget to dust off your checkbook and send in your reservation for our March 14 banquet. The event will be held at Alligator Bob's this year, and you can sign up by filling out the form on page 5, below. In keeping with the times, we have reduced the banquet price to just \$25 per person this year. Conveniently, you can also pay 2009 dues using the same form.

The annual shad outing will be a bit more informal this year, with tenting moved to a nearby KOA campground, necessitating that you make your own overnight reservations. All the other benefits of this popular event will remain, including shots at the sometimes elusive shad.

Tight Lines//Dick 🐟


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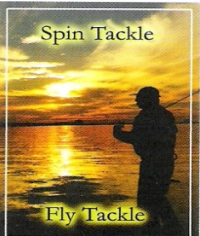
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	Alligator Bob Young	813-986-3008

The next meeting of the TBFFC Board of Directors will be at 6:00 P.M. on Wednesday, February 11, 2009, Location is to be determined.

NOT GETTING THE NEWSLETTER? Please call Dick Miekka, Editor, at 727-866-8682 or e-mail to dmiekka@cs.com




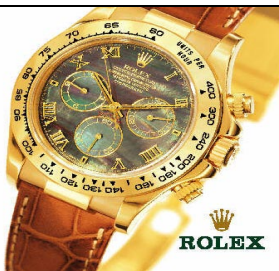
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Capt. Pat Damico

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TBFFC CALENDAR OF EVENTS

2009 TBFFC MEETING DATES

Here are the meeting dates for all of 2009: February 4, March 4, April 1, May 6, June 3, July 1, August 5, September 2, October 7, November 4, December 2 (2009)
Please watch this space for any changes.

TBFFC AT 2009 FRANK SARGEANT SHOW

February 27-March 1 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!

The 18th annual Tampa Tribune Outdoors Expo and Boat Show, hosted by Frank Sargeant, is Florida's largest outdoors family event featuring the latest in fishing and hunting gear, boats, and a variety of outdoor products and services held in the Expo Hall and Sweetbay Entertainment Hall. Along with a kid's fishing derby, there will be numerous demonstrations and seminars each day. Show hours are Friday 1 p.m. to 8 p.m., Saturday 10 a.m. to 7 p.m. and Sunday 11 a.m. to 5 p.m.

ANNUAL SHAD OUTING FEBRUARY 20-22

There will be a signup sheet at our February meeting. Members will need to coordinate with each other regarding arrival and departure times, and boat access.

The following notice is from Jay Wright of Orlando BFA:

The Orlando Backcountry Fly Fishing club will be having their annual outing February 20th, 21st, and 22nd. The base camp will be the Titusville/Kennedy Space Center KOA camp grounds at 4513 West Main Street in Mims Florida (32754). The website address for camp site is: <http://www.koa.com/where/fl/09285>, and the telephone number 321-269-7361. They have a variety of campsites available from basic dry sites at \$26 a night to lodges with bathrooms, showers, and kitchenettes that sleep 6 for \$129 a night.

The shad are already in, with good catches being reported around the Marina Isle area. The lower water levels should give us a great opportunity to intercept them as they continue on their spawning journey.

If you plan on going, I would make reservations early for the best selection and availability. The club is not holding or reserving any campsites for this event so that needs to be done on an individual basis.

OUR ANNUAL BANQUET IS MARCH 14

Be sure to sign up for our banquet. A special form with all of the details is printed on page 5, below.

DAMICO SEEKS YET ANOTHER FLY ROD

Wanted: Used 7 wt. Sage RPLXI

If you have one, or know somebody who does, please call Pat Damico at 727-504-8649

FISH ANDROS ISLAND, MAY 2-9

Capt. Rick Grasset will be hosting a group of fly anglers at Andros South bonefish lodge from May 2-9, 2009. This will be his 4th trip to Andros South.

Cost is \$3650 for the week, plus \$400 airfare. A 50% deposit (\$1825) will hold your spot and the balance is due 30 days out. Details on the lodge are at www.androsouth.com. If interested, contact Rick at snookfin@aol.com. Or (941) 923-7799 His website is www.snookfin-addict.com

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 MCFF 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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TIPS FOR TBFFC – No. 8

Tips Shared at Beginner's Clinics

By: Steve Parker

At the last Beginner's Clinic, I shared a number of tips and techniques which I have learned from various sources, including other members. These tips and techniques are provided not to endorse any product or to claim that it is the only way that something can be done. The spirit in which this information is presented is to assist all in maximizing their enjoyment of the wonderful art of fly fishing. Here are the first two of numerous tips:

Tip 1- "Don't make a spectacle of yourself"

I am very picky about the sunglasses I use. I have found one pair that I wear most of the time for fishing during normal light conditions. I typically carry an extra pair that I wear when the boat is in motion. As soon as the boat stops, I change back to the main glasses. I use a brown lens in the morning and late in the day. I use a blue off shore lens during the day.

Glasses inevitably get covered in sunscreen and sweat. I wash mine with diluted dishwashing soap and then dry them with a soft towel. Most optical stores and even the big box discount stores sell packaged moistened lens cloths. They are inexpensive, convenient and allow one to easily clean lenses during the day. I bought a bulk pack at Sam's several years ago and still using them.

Tip 2- Gasoline issues

We all have them (especially Frank). Many of you have traveled and fished with me in the Keys and locally. Since E10 has been added to our fuel, the problems that I have experienced have been expensive and frustrating. I have learned a few things and spent a small fortune on repairs. There is nothing more disappointing that getting up before daylight and then towing a boat a long distance only to find that it does not start. This happened to me twice. In both cases, the carburetors were clogged, caused by ethanol (E10) and required removal and rebuilding. Workarounds include:

1. Keep your fuel tank full- when I leave the ramp, I stop by the gas station on the way home to top off my fuel tank. A full tank does not have the volume for water to condense.
2. E10 fuel is everywhere. I only know of one station - the Shell station across from Westshore Mall - that sells non-E10 fuel (they still have fiberglass tanks).
3. If you have an engine that has carburetors, it is recommended that the engine be run every two weeks. Injected motors can sit a little bit longer.
4. External fuel filters are highly recommended. I use a Racor with a clear bowl. Even if the bowl does not have water, the filter element should be changed every 6 months.
5. Fuel additives designed to sort out the E10 issues help. Use according to manufacturers recommendations. The additives are available at most marine stores. Although they are expensive, one bottle will treat multiple tanks of fuel (at least on a small skiff like mine). 🌅



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TBFFC Annual Banquet and Auction

Date and time: Saturday, March 14, 2009 at Alligator Bob's, Alligator Bob Lane, Plant City

Menu: Alligator's Barbeque Ribs and Chicken with sides, dessert and soft drinks/iced tea.

Program: 3:00 – 5:00 PM Silent Auction, Hors D'oeuvres and drinks (BYOB); 5:00 PM Dinner

Prize Drawing -- Resort Weekend for Two!

Directions to Alligator Bob's from Tampa:

1. Take I-4 east to MacIntosh Road.
2. Go north on MacIntosh about 3 miles to Knights Griffin Road.
3. Turn right onto Knights Griffin Road and go about 2.8 miles until you reach Alligator Bob Lane, which is the long driveway to Bob's house.
4. Turn right onto the lane and follow it back to the house.

Bob's Phone Number: 813-986-3008

A. Order Form for Annual Banquet

Where: Alligator Bob's Home, Alligator Bob Lane, Plant City

When: March 14, 2009 @ 3:00 PM (Dinner 5:00 PM)

(Please print)

Name _____ Phone _____ (Evenings)

Number of Guests (including yourself) _____ (\$25.00 single, \$40.00 per couple) \$ _____ Total

Tickets to be picked up at the event

B. Pay your 2009 Club Dues

Your Name: _____ Date: _____

Street address: _____ City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____

Hm. Phone: _____ Wk. Phone: _____ Cell Phone: _____ E-Mail _____

Type of Membership*: _____ Please Check: One Year Five Year Total Paid _____

**Single \$25 for one year, \$100 for 5 years; Family \$35 for one year, \$140 for 5 years; Corporate \$95 per year (includes ad in newsletter)*

Please list names (in addition to your own) that you wish to include in family membership

Name: _____ Name: _____ Name: _____

C. Total Paid From A and B. above = \$ _____.

Please write your Check to "Tampa Bay Fly Fishing Club" and pay at the meeting or mail to:

Tampa Bay Fly Fishing Club, c/o Rick Valeri, Treasurer, 1404 Oxfordshire Court, Brandon, FL 33510

Note: If you are a Guide or a Vendor donating a trip or merchandise to the Club, do not send any money at this time. Instead, fill in the number of tickets requested and check here (). Thank You

Member Photos, February 2009



Nighttime Pastimes: Jeff Janecek garnered a lot of interest while tying a freshwater Clouser Minnow at our January meeting, but **Capt. Bryon Chamberlin** preferred to spend the late night hours casting his flies around the local docks. He caught this 8.5 lb. Snook while fishing with **Capt. Pat Damico** on a recent sleepless night. The water was cold, but this snook warmed itself by exercising at the end of a hook!



Bryon also sent along these photos of a couple of above-the-slot redfish caught by member **Rick Happle** on a recent foray onto the flats. Rick caught a total of five redfish while sight fishing in the north end of Tampa Bay. These two fish are twins and taped out at 29 inches each. There were two different pods of about 30 to 40 fish. One of the pods was composed of little guys (20 to 24 inchers) and the other pod has nothing but slabs in it (all over the slot). The fly of choice was a black toad with bead chain eyes. 🐸

FLY OF THE MONTH Freshwater Clouser Minnow

As Tied by Jeff Janecek



Material List

Hook: Mustad 3366, size 8

Thread: Brown

Eyes: Small lead eyes, yellow with black pupils

Flash: Angel Flash, pearl

Body: medium orange chenille

Wing: orange, pink, and brown marabou

Tying Directions

1. Start with hook point down, bend in vice.
2. Tye on size small lead eyes, a little less than ¼ inch from hook eye.
3. Tye on a small (1/16" thick) bundle of 2" long of flash. Stop thread at bend of hook.
4. Attach chenille, make three wraps, and secure behind eyes.
5. Flip fly over (hook point up), wet 1/8 thick of orange marabou, hold over fly and cut so overall length of fly is around 2 ¼". Tye behind and in front of eye. Repeat with pink marabou.
6. Wet a little flash (I like angel flash), lay on top of marabou, and tye in front and also behind eyes.
7. Layer brown marabou over the others and tye in front of eyes.
8. Whip finish, wet fly, and trim to desired length.

Hints:

- I use chartreuse on white and tan on white as well as the orange-pink-brown combination.
- Apply glue after any new wraps during the tying process. I also whip finish several times for toothy fish like Mangrove Snapper.
- Try this with a #6 intermediate clear line and a fluorocarbon leader when the fish stop hitting poppers. You will be catching more fish than ever. This fly has caught many species, including shad. 🌟

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Project Healing Waters

By Jeff Janecek

Recently, Chernobyl ants and clousers were tied by "Tiger" and "Ace", two of our regular veterans. These guys overcome many obstacles to tie flies. They don't quit even though it often takes many attempts to finish one fly. I am very proud of my new friends. After every session hands are shaken and thank yous are given.

With a lot of enthusiasm, they say "see you in two weeks, right?"

We smile and reply "you bet."

Many thanks to all the volunteers that participate in this great program, and special thanks to the O'Hara's for donating more tying materials. 🌟

Fishing Report and Forecast "What a great time to go fishing!"

On January 2nd **Robert Fischer** and **Lance Pocock** fished Cockroach Bay and Robert was rewarded with a catch of 10 trout to 17". Lance caught a 22" red, a 12" red, and several trout to 18". Trout were caught on a green and white clouser. All fish were released.

Rick Happle, fishing with **Capt Bryon Chamberlin** landed one snook and five redfish up to 29 inches (see pictures on page 6). They were fishing at the north end of Tampa Bay.

Capt Pat Damico and **Capt Bryon Chamberlin** fished South St. Pete early one morning. Bryon caught the large snook pictured on page 6.

Capt Rick Grassett reports that fly fishers from out of state did well in the deep grass flats out of Charlotte Harbor. Trout to better than 20 inches, Reds, Blues and Pompano were the species caught. The fly of the day was the Ultra Hair Clouser.

With the weather warming the last few days, fishing should improve so get out there and catch and report to me for next month.

Tight Lines, Bob 🌟
Rjgaulin@yahoo.com
813-782-8605

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Short thoughts and stories about trout stuff

Not all my happy thoughts and stories about trout fishing turn out to be full length novels. More often, a brief fifteen minute pass through a promising pool, run or riffle, provides more to be treasured than that one, really outstanding multi fish morning etched in our memories. My thoughts turn to a frosty opening day; the place the West branch of the Beerkill in Sullivan County, New York just outside the village of Ellenville; the year 1962, five years after our family move from The Bronx, NY to our new home in Middletown NY.

April 1st was the traditional opening day of trout season in our county, and often times ideal fishing weather was still weeks away. This was to be no exception as mini snow banks reached half way up my boot top along many of the better runs and pools making always slick footing on the rounded rocks, even a little more hazardous. At least the temperatures reached a livable 45 degrees by mid morning, but overall, the bite remained slow.

I had not yet become a full time fly fisherman so the outfit of choice was an ultra lite spinning rod with either a tiny spinner or a small garden worm as the attractor. Careful wading and slow progress over the now icy banks had me re-thinking my decision to fish that day, but it was OPENING DAY and if you were a trout fisherman, you fished. By mid morning, the lure of a steaming mug of coffee from the thermos on the front seat of the car, overcame all reason and I trudged back to the waiting car and the steaming cup.

I was fishless, a little warmer now as I headed down Rt. 209 on the way home, but unwilling to accept the fact that I'd been shut out on my favorite stream. Nearing the village of Spring Glen, and an abandoned section of the D and H Canal, I remembered the little trickle of water still flowing through this old water course, and its narrow locks, (perhaps fifteen feet wide), and the fact that I'd taken some small trout from it the previous summer.

Allow me a word of explanation here for those unacquainted with the history of the aforementioned canal. Our forefathers realized that a water link between the Delaware River at Port Jervis and the mighty Hudson River would be boon to all the communities along the proposed

route. The D and H Canal was dug, and where it was necessary to change elevations due to the topography, locks constructed of massive blocks of granite solved the problem. After years of disuse and no upkeep, the massive stone blocks tumbled into the stream forming deep, fish holding pools.

Finding a spot left cleared of snow by the plows, I parked and decided to give it one more try. Walking through ten inch deep snow to reach the edge of the stream was enough to work up a sweat, and I was glad to drop down the last foot or two to the easier-to-wade flow. Turning upstream, I was immediately struck by the scope of the work done on these locks. The granite blocks started at water level on each side of the stream and rose to a height of fifteen feet, extending at least two hundred feet upstream. There, on the upstream end, the sight of a plunge pool formed by debris wrapped around the barely visible boulder fallen from the century-old lock wall, made me quicken my normally snail-like pace. With the minimal flow in the rest of stream, brought on by the freeze of the past two nights, any deepening of the stream would likely present a fish holding opportunity and I was anxious to tap this new water.

The tight confines of the lock made any attempt at casting an adventure, so I picked my way cautiously to a flat rock platform only ten feet from where the foam-crested whirlpool created by the mini waterfall swirled endlessly. In the next moment the cold, the snow, the slippery footing were erased with the first flip into this great looking water. With no way of gauging the water's depth due to the fast moving flow, I free floated the bait near the edge of the foam and was instantly rewarded with an immovable snag on a hidden, long dead tree limb. Breaking off without disturbing the pool was the best solution and in moments I was ready to try again.

Time dims memories, so I can't be sure if it was the second or third cast whose downstream travel through the pool was interrupted by a solid strike, but forever lodged in my mind's eye is the vision of the golden brown, red spotted side of the fifteen inch Brown Trout as he rolled to the surface trying to dislodge the nagging pain in his upper jaw. Now that I was aware of the danger of the pool's hidden underwater structure, I put as much pressure as I dared on this hard fighting fish and soon led him over the waiting

embrace of my old wooden landing net. Since this was the good old days of 'catch and eat', it was only moments 'till this fine trophy (consider the size of the stream) was gutted and resting on a bed of ferns in my canvas creel.

With all the tension of the long winter months awaiting this opening day now swept away by this one fine fish, my actions slowed, the chill of the shadowy Canal Lock became easier to bear, and I decided to look for a twin to my first catch.

Seeking to avoid the earlier snag, I cast a little more toward the center of the pool, and this time the strike of my second fish was seen before I felt the jolt of a fine Rainbow, (who could mistake the fiery red striped side?) close in size to the earlier Brown. Using the same netting approach as before it wasn't long before this fine fish joined its earlier pool mate in the creel.

Surely, it was now time to end this trip, but Boy!! Wouldn't it be great to cap the morning (the noon whistle was blowing in the nearby town hall), with just one more? As if the thought gave birth to the action, the next short toss, near where the first fish was hooked, was met with, not a strike, not a swirling rush but rather a solid tug. A quick snap-of-the-wrist strike set the single hook firmly into the tough corner of the mouth bone of an eleven inch Brook Trout. The beautifully marked sides, with red spots haloed by a distinctive pale blue liberally interspersed with larger yellow ones, gave way to the olive colored back with its darker, kidney shaped markings. God could have stopped trying to paint this masterpiece right here, but continued with the black and strikingly-white edged orange fins firmly attached to the bright hued orange underside.

A short, spirited battle brought the beautiful battler to net and moments later, he, too, joined the others among the dampened ferns. The noon whistle ended its clamor and peace returned to the stream. It could not have occurred to me at the time, but I'd accomplished something that I've never since duplicated, the capture of all three species of stream bred Trout in one day. Forty six years of Trout chasing have gone by since then, SO YES, I GUESS THAT'S QUITE A STORY. PS That's the last time I fished in knee high snow.

Ed Bang 🍷

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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- Capt. Paul Hawkins (727) 526-2438
- Capt. Wade Osborne (813) 286-3474
- Capt. Frank Rhodes (863) 967-4258
- 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.

South Tampa

Steve Parker.....813- 287-5583

Brandon

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

North Tampa

Jeff Abeles813-961-0097

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

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

Bill Murdoch 813-971-4764

Leigh West. 813-971-8697

Saint Petersburg

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

Polk County

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

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