



## **The Tampa Bay Fly Fishing Club**

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

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

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

### **Invited Speaker**

**Rick Roberts**

Snook Foundation Executive Director, Rick is an angler and an optimist, whose life theme has been conservation. Rick first went fishing in the Florida of the late 1950's. He studied at Melbourne High School, Polk Community College and FSU between bass, surf, trout and snook fishing trips. A Viet Nam Vet, he credits his memories of Florida and the joy of fishing for sustaining his sanity during two tours in that conflict.

Rick worked with the Florida Game and Freshwater Fish Commission and helped establish the Sunshine Bass. He believes that while the world continues to change, dedicated individuals who take action can keep alive the joy that God intended for us all to have in nature. Rick is gratified to lend a hand in fostering opportunities for many to preserve a natural heritage for the future. His view is that sport fishing does not adversely affect fish populations as long as well informed anglers exercise conservation.

Rick will speak on the subject of the shared nursery habitat common to snook, tarpon, redfish, seatrout, 280 other species of game and forage fishes blue crabs and pink shrimp.

### **Featured Fly Tyer**

**Bryon Chamberlin**

Capt. Bryon Chamberlin was introduced to the fishing world at the ripe old age of two by his father, whose military career and various tours of duty gave Bryon the opportunity to fish in many parts of the United States and in West Germany. The fishing bug struck home during Bryon's middle and high school years while living in Fort Walton Beach in Florida's panhandle.

Bryon attended college at the University of South Florida and also received his on the water education in Tampa Bay at the same time. Bryon graduated college with a B.A. in Zoology and a B.S. in Interdisciplinary Natural Science/Chemistry.

After college, Bryon landed a job conducting habitat restoration in Tampa Bay. After two years, and with a little helpful encouragement from his wife, he decided to follow his dream of being a full time professional charter fishing captain specializing in saltwater fly fishing.

Bryon will be tying a night snook fly using only Enrico Puglisi materials.

***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

**MARCH 2009 PRESIDENT’S MESSAGE**

Hello to all TBFFC members,

WOW -- it's March already. Incredible how fast the time flies!

PLEASE, PLEASE remember to get your tickets for our TBFFC Banquet. This is ONLY once a year, and this is the club's main way to raise money for the 2009/2010 year. The club needs your support, Please sign up and join us for this fun fund raiser at Alligator Bobs on Saturday, March 14. Use the notice on page 5 to process your ticket requests and to pay 2009 dues if you have not done so already.

I want to give a BIG THANKS to our February speakers **Dan Legace, Jim Seegraves, and Leigh West**. They told us some great stories and gave us a lot of good tips. Thank you guys very much !!!!!

I also want to THANK the members that helped out at the Outdoors show at the State Fairgrounds. Thank you for all your help in passing on the Art of Fly Fishing.

If you have anything you would like to donate to the club for our banquet, please bring it to the meeting.

I look forward to seeing you at the meeting.

Tight Lines// Neil Sperling 


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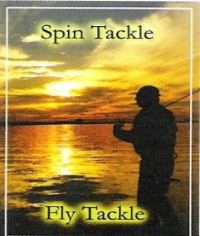
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|                                    | <b>Alligator Bob Young</b>      | <b>813-986-3008</b> |


The next meeting of the TBFFC Board of Directors will be at 6:00 P.M. on Wednesday, March 11, 2009, at Alligator Bob’s house.

**NOT GETTING THE NEWSLETTER?** Please call Dick Miekka, Editor, at 727-866-8682 or e-mail to [dmiikka@cs.com](mailto:dmiikka@cs.com)



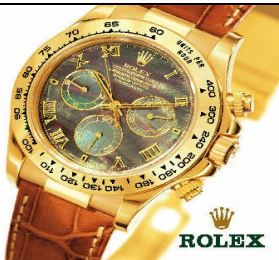
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## TBFFC CALENDAR OF EVENTS

### 2009 TBFFC MEETING DATES

Here are the meeting dates for all of 2009: 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.**

### VOLUNTEERS STILL NEEDED AT 2009 FRANK SARGEANT SHOW

**Feb. 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. **We still need volunteers, so call Neil Sperling at 813-655-5627**, then help us out and 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.

### OUR ANNUAL BANQUET IS MARCH 14

Be sure to sign up for our banquet. A special form with all the details is printed on page 5, There will be wonderful bargains on gear and must-have items at our silent auction, a great door prize, Alligator Bob's home cooked gourmet food and, of course, another great opportunity to schmooze with fellow club members and their spouses in a beautiful outdoor setting. Plus, it's cheap!

### AN APRIL OUTING AT FORT DESOTO PARK

**When:** Saturday, April 4, 8:00 am until after lunch.  
**Where:** Fort DeSoto Park, St. Pete; meet at the small picnic area adjacent to the main boat launch.  
**Lunch** will be served at the Arrowhead picnic area opposite North Beach.  
 This is an outing designed to acquaint newcomers to the many fishing areas in the park. When we first meet, we will pair up park fishing veterans with members who are new to that location. Fishing can be by wading or by watercraft (boat, kayak, etc.). We may even have a few prizes to hand out. Sign up at our April meeting or

contact **Dick Miekka** at 727-866-8682 or [dmiekka@cs.com](mailto:dmiekka@cs.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](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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## TIPS FOR TBFFC – No. 9

### A Trio of Tips

#### A: Leader construction tips

If your fly line doesn't have a built-in loop, make a small loop and do two nail knots with 10 or 15 pound test monofilament next to each other to secure the loop. A loop in the butt section of your leader will make a loop-to-loop connection allowing quick changes when needed.

How do you determine what size, diameter or pound test, for your leaders butt section? Energy from the fly line should be transferred to the leader efficiently. Hot glue the end of the line to the leader and see if they bend equally when creating a "U," holding line in one hand and leader in the other. If they do, you have selected the perfect butt section. For most inshore saltwater applications, try 40 pound test. Different manufactures will have a wide variety of stiffness.

--Pat Damico 🌞

#### B: Things to remember while fly fishing

When fishing, remember to keep your rod tip down near the water or even under water and inch or so. This will promote stripe strikes and keep slack from the line when starting your next back cast.

When I get tired and my casts start to show it, I have found that shortening my cast stroke and letting the rod do the work helps. I focus on casting with the tip of the rod with a more concise arm movement. As Mel Krieger taught us, just bend the rod and stop the rod for a good cast.

-- Walt Durkin 🌞

#### C: Lost Leaders

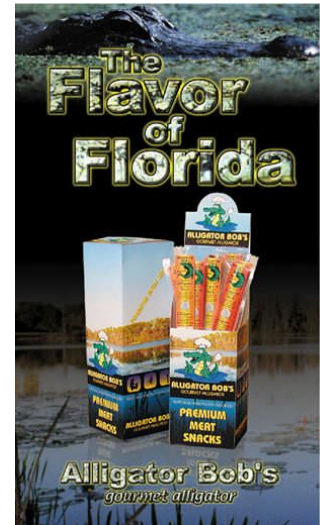
Leaders are easy to make and customize. Years ago, I bought 1/4 pound spools of Ande 50, 40, 30, 25, 20, 15, 12 and 10 pound test monofilament. The spools are stored in foam drink coozies for 12 ounce cans (they are usually free at boat shows and advertise something). The spools are placed in the coozies with the label upward so the test strength of the line is easily read. The coozies keep the line from unraveling. All the coozies are kept in a drawer which keeps leader materials together. The exception to the coozies and the drawer of leader supplies is my flats pack. A couple 1/4 pound spools of line will quickly fill a small flats pack. An alternative is to purchase small Ziploc bags (I bought a wide variety of sizes at one of the flea markets years ago). I peel off 10 yards or so of each weight and keep them in the small Ziploc bags. The test of the line can be marked on each bag with a permanent marker. The small Ziploc bags can be kept in the next larger size bag just to keep everything neat and organized.

I use a blood knot which is easy to tie and streamlined for casting.

Building your own leaders allows the angler flexibility in the length and test of the leaders as well as the ability to do on-the-water repairs. The leaders can use a perfection loop or non-slip loop knot if a loop to loop system is used. I tie the leader with a modified nail knot directly to the fly line for most of my flats applications and then rebuild as required.

Leader recipes are the subject for an entire article. In an effort to be concise, I will add that on most of my flats leaders, the bite tippet is fluorocarbon.

--Steve Parker 🌞



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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, March 2009



**Redfish Roundups:** Bryon Chamberlin took these pictures, and also caught one of his own, but forgot to hand over the camera to capture his on film. Clockwise from top left, the successful anglers were **Wes Sobczak**, **Frank Rhodes**, **Walter Hamm** (of Sarasota), **Pat Damico**, and **Greg Peterson**. Moral of the story: go Redfishing! 🐟

## *Kayak? I'll take a Canoe!*

Reprinted from capmel.com Website



Kayaks are everywhere! What happened to the canoes that were popular before kayaks took over the paddle fishing world? Have they gone the way of the horse and buggy?

Growing up in the Pocono Mountains of Pennsylvania, where lakes, streams and rivers dotted the hilly landscape, the romance of adventure into inaccessible areas was a strong attraction. When I graduated from eighth grade, my father gave me a gift of a used fifteen foot Grumman, Aluminum canoe. I owned this vessel for over fifty years.

Before my sixteenth birthday, when a driver's license was legal, my canoe sat next to a small lake that had a decent population of Largemouth Bass and Panfish. Fishing at night with deer hair bugs that cast like feather dusters would be interrupted by a large splash followed by a struggle that often drug the light craft around before a Lunger Bucket mouth was lip locked. Several other small lakes were close enough so that two of us would carry the silver beauty to another lake. The stream that was formed by the main lakes overflow began as a mysterious tree covered wonderland that contained trout that worked their way upstream in the spring. I pursued these fish constantly, alone, or with my boyhood fishing friends. The adventures of Ted Trueblood, A. J. McClane, and Joe Brooks that I read voraciously in fishing magazines stimulated my interest in the mysteries of catching fish with home tied flies. My trusty canoe carried my old hand me down fly rod that was broken more than once when I ran into some obstacle, usually a tree, while using my other primary means of transportation, an old purple colored bicycle that my buddies and I painted, easily identifying us as we rode thru the neighborhood to our next fishing destination. We didn't have TV to distract us from a world waiting for us to discover.

A driver's license, and roof rack, was our ticket to larger streams and rivers where Trout and Smallmouth Bass were waiting for our carefully concocted offerings. Many

hours were spent drifting and paddling our way into the unknown.

During our college days, two of my fishing companions and I would put that canoe on the roof of one of our father's cars and head to Maine to camp and fish for Brook Trout and Landlock Salmon the week preceding our summer jobs. Our trusty canoe transported an assortment of gear, to our place of adventure. Yes, we caught fish, on flies that we carefully tied during the winter, gingerly placing them in a Perrine aluminum fly box especially for our Maine trip. During the winter, as we tied each fly, the thought of a giant jaw inhaling our feathery offering, made our destination at the end of a fourteen hour trip seem like it would never arrive.

When alone, I sat in the front facing the rear seat which usually had a stone placed under it to balance the craft. Sitting in the stern seat and paddling resulted in a severe dunking because of the lack of stability with the bow off the water. Kneeling on a flotation seat on the floor lowered my center of gravity further increasing stability and relieving stiff muscles. Laying the paddle across the gunnels freed both hands for casting. The floor served as my stripping basket where the fly line could remain untangled ready for the next cast. When two of us fished, we could both cast simultaneously and tease one another about missed fish.

I do now have a kayak and I understand its many advantages. A Kevlar kayak solo canoe, which I recently purchased used, is another great craft, but it will never replace the memories of days spent on the water with my old Grumman. The day I helped the new owner load it on the roof of his SUV was both sad and happy. He was going to start taking his children fishing in it, and I felt I was passing on something that would continue to give someone else a lot of pleasure and wonderful memories.

Capt Pat Damico  
St. Pete Beach, FL  
[www.captpat.com](http://www.captpat.com)  
727-360-6466

## *Project Healing Waters*

*By Jeff Janeczek*

Ted Hagaman and I had the pleasure to tie with veterans "Big Al", "Tigger", and "Dr Fox." This was the first time we had more vets than volunteers. The veterans are getting anxious to try out their boxes of flies. Hopefully, the weather will cooperate next session to at least allow some casting. As always, we got a grateful "Thank you ..see ya next time." 🌅



## FLY OF THE MONTH

### Lefty's Bug

As Tied by Pat Damico



This past year, I had the privilege of guiding Tom Schmuecker, owner of Wapsi Products. Tom's knowledge of fly fishing, especially fly tying was incredible. During our discussions he revealed his love of freshwater bass fishing, especially on the surface. Tom said Lefty's Bug was by far one of the best poppers he ever used. A week after he returned home, he sent me several flies that he tied including Lefty's Bug. I tied some and used them this past summer for Pennsylvania large and smallmouth bass with great success. The fly is very simple and is most productive in this original version.

#### Materials list:

**Hooks:** Mustad 9672, or similar hook, size 2-8

**Thread:** Black or yellow 4/0

**Tail:** Squirrel tail, gray or red

**Body:** Small corks, available at craft, and hardware stores

**Paint:** Yellow Testors model paint, clear Sally Hansen Hard as

**Special Tools:** Nails, Hacksaw blade and 5 minute epoxy

#### Tying Instructions:

1. Crimp barb, cover entire straight part of hook shank with thread
2. I like to sand a flat area of the cork selected to sit on the water, pick the part with most defects if present
3. With a hacksaw blade cut a groove for the hook in the center of the flat area from front to back. Try thread covered hook for fit, making sure it is recessed adequately and that point of hook is not too close to cork body
4. Coat the groove with 5 minute epoxy, place hook in groove, smooth flat area with applicator. Make sure hook is properly centered and straight
5. When epoxy is thoroughly dry, paint entire cork with yellow Testors. When dry, color looks more like mustard
6. Coat painted cork with a thin layer of clear Sally Hansens
7. Place hook in vise, and tie thread behind cork. Select a bunch of squirrel tail to match your hook size, overall length of hair will be about as long as hook shank. Secure hair and whip finish. Head cement applied to thread will complete fly. 🌞

## Fishing Report and Forecast

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

The month of February has had its ups and downs. The winds and cold has the fish doing a lock jaw routine. But the few that ventured out were rewarded with fair catches of red fish, trout, snook and tarpon.

**Capt Byron Chamberlin** found and caught redfish in upper Tampa Bay and up in the Chassahowitzka. He was sight casting black redfish toad flies. **Capt Pat Damico** fishing with Bryon using a dark crab pattern caught 3 nice reds with one break off.

Member **Greg Peterson** has been venturing south of Naple to the canals. He reports catching five tarpons in the last 3 weeks on 1/0 tarpon bunny black and pink and red and white flies.

**Capt Rick Grasset** reports his clients had good luck with trout, blues, pompano and big Spanish mackerel on ultra hair clousers fished on intermediate sink tip fly line.

New member **Dave Belanger** and I were out of cockroach bay early this month and after fighting high winds, Dave hooked and landed a nice 17" trout his first ever.

I'm told that the month of March should be better with the opening of snook season. Cobia and Tripletail should be additional species that we should look to target

Tight Lines, Bob 🌞

[Rjgaulin@yahoo.com](mailto:Rjgaulin@yahoo.com) 813-782-8605



### 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
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- Capt. Russ Shirley (727) 343-1957
- 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 Abeles .....813-961-0097

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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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: \_\_\_\_\_



Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Rel: \_\_\_\_\_

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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