



Next Meeting: Wednesday, May 2, 2012, 5:30 p.m.

Invited Speaker
Jim Seegraves

When Jim was a teenager in Michigan he caught a sauger (relative of a Walleye) that weighed just over 5 pounds. After enjoying a fine dinner of the fish, Jim found out that the Michigan record sauger at that time weighed less than 4 pounds, and he had just eaten a record fish! That undoubtedly spurred his desire to bag more record-sized fish and game, and in the intervening years has more than made up for eating that prize, both as a big game hunter and as a fisherman.

Jim has been an Alaska resident going on 43 yrs. He was the first president and founding member, Alaska Chapter, Safari Club International, and hunter of the year, Alaska Chapter, in 1989. Jim has held numerous IGFA Fly rod World Records, including the 6# and 8# redfish fly rod world records. He has hunted and fished North and South America, Europe, Asia and Africa for over 35 years. In recent years his son, Cody, has joined him in the forays and now holds several junior world records. Join us to learn how Jim plans and executes his successful quests for world records!

Featured Fly Tier,
Jim Seegraves

Jim will bring samples of several flies that he has tied and used to catch some of his IGFA world record fish. Although he may not actually tie these flies at the meeting, he will explain the advantages of the specific sizes, designs, and colors of these flies in selectively attracting the largest fish.

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

MAY 2012 PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Hello TBFFC Members,

May is now upon us and the weather is very nice and the fishing should be even better.

The club would like to thank **Denise Bruner** for her wonderful talk on her fishing trip to Patagonia, replete with music, photos, video, and highlights.

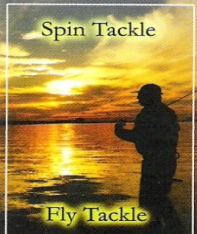
We also want to thank **Pat Damico** for demonstrating several weed guards to attach during or after fly tying. TBFFC is very fortunate to have so many good members to pass on their tying and/or casting skills to our new members.

If any of our members would like to write something for our newsletter, please feel free to email **Dick Miekka** and he will place it in the newsletter.

I hope that everyone had a great time at our banquet. We had some very nice items in the silent auction and four wonderful door prizes.

Looking forward to seeing you at our next meeting.

Tight Lines,
Neil Sperling 🦟



The Fly Guy

Capt. Pat Damico

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<i>In This Issue:</i>	<i>Page</i>
Monthly Meeting	1
President's Message.....	2
TBFFC calendar of events.....	3
Tips for TBFFC, No. 47.....	4
Member Photos.....	5,6
Deadly Sins on the Flats.....	7
Fly of the Month.....	8
Catching Report.....	8
Snook Petition.....	8
Membership Application, Guides, Casting Coaches, etc.	9

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The next meeting of the TBFFC Board of Directors will be at 6:00 P.M. on Wednesday, May 9, at the Laughing Cat in Ibor City

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

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TBFFC EVENTS

2012 TBFFC MEETING DATES

Here are the meeting dates for 2012; May 2, June 6, July 4?, August 1, September 5, October 3, November 7, December 5. **Please watch this space for any changes.**

CROSTWAIT MEMORIAL FISHING TOURNAMENT, MAY 19-20

Crosthwait Rules apply to fly fishing except where noted below

For clarification Contact; Mike Reeves > 813-340-5510 > mike@mikesdock.com

Open to all age groups > separate Amateur & Guide/Am Fly Divisions

Fly fishing equipment only > Open line/tippet class > kayaks & canoes welcome

Captains Meeting 7:30pm Friday May 18th Bradenton Yacht Club

Tournament bag, Measuring Board & angler number provided at Captains meeting

Fly Fishing Division fishing time **7am Saturday May 19th to Sunday May 20th 11am**

Awards ceremony, raffles, live auction and BBQ Sunday afternoon may 20th

Fly Fishing Entry Fee \$75 pp (100% payback in gifts, awards, prizes and cash)

Please see www.crosthwaitfishing.com for **Fly Division entry form, details & rules**

Amateur Division

1st, 2nd and 3rd based on total points

Guide / Amateur Division (Trophy only – No cash or prizes awarded in this division)

This division includes any combination of pros and amateurs fishing together.

Score = Total points of pros & amateurs divided by the total number of pros & amateurs.

Example; 1 pro & 2 amateur anglers is > (total combined points / 3 = score)

Top Club

Total combined points of all members of a recognized fly fishing club. (Must register affiliation on entry form)

Top Slam (any combination of three species listed below)

Total points 1 each; redfish, snook, trout and tarpon

1st place Amateur Division

1st place Guide / Amateur Division

Fly Division rule Exceptions:

Boat, kayaks, canoes & anglers must remain in sight at all times when wading.

Must be in weigh-in line by 11am on Sunday, may arrive via boat or land

Shotgun start optional, leave from boat ramp of your choice. Fishing areas from Lee to Hernando Counties.

No scent, chum, bait or other attractant allowed.

Only fly rods and traditional fly fishing equipment to be used

Species Allowed: Redfish, Snook, Trout, Tarpon;, Bluefish, Cobia, Flounder, Pompano, Sheephead, Snapper, Permit,

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. 47

Casting Tip for TBFFC: 30

Reach cast

Several of our tips dealt with how to keep one of our casting Essentials, slack, to a minimum. Are there times when we want to introduce slack in a cast? Yes! One of the most useful casts when fishing a floating fly, especially in freshwater, is a reach cast. Finicky trout will shun a fly that is not drifting naturally. For instance, to increase the length of your drag free drift after you have made the cast, stopping the rod, move your rod in an upstream sweep as you slip line. When the fly lands on the water, your rod is pointed upstream. As the fly drifts toward the rising trout, move the rod in a downstream direction following the fly. A drag free drift will dramatically increase your catching success rate.

.Pat Damico, MCI 

Novel Emergency Lighting for Power Outages

Idea from the Internet---

I have a friend who used her solar lights inside at night when her current was off during the hurricane. She stuck them in a jar or bottle and said they gave off plenty of 'free light'. She put one in each room and would put them back outside in the daytime and bring them in at night as long as the current was off. They are safe to use and cheaper than batteries. Bring in a solar light one night and test it.

Due to a thunderstorm, we lost power for about 5 hours. We were scrambling around in the darkness, looking for matches, candles, flashlights, etc. We looked outside, and noticed our solar lights shining brightly all around our patio, stairs, dock, etc. They were beautiful. My wife walked outside, and brought several of the solar lights inside. We stuck the solar light pipes into plastic drink bottles containers and they made the nicest, brightest, safest, lighting you could ever imagine.

We put one in the bathroom, the kitchen, the living room, etc. There was plenty of light. There are all types of solar lights available. We bought ours at Harbor Freight. We put them all around our yard. They look nice and they do not attract flying bugs like the outdoor lights around our doorway.

The lights we have fit into the small (20 oz) water bottles and they also fit into most of the larger liter bottles. If you need a weight in the plastic bottle to keep them from tipping over, you can put a few of the pretty colorful "flat marbles" that they put in aquariums, and vases. (you can also use sand, aquarium gravel, etc., whatever you have available).

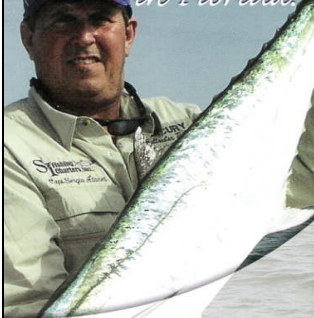
The lights we have were perfect inside our home. They burn all night long if you need them.

The next day, you just take your solar lights back outside and they will instantly recharge and be ready for you to use again any time you need them.

Jack Hexter 



There's something **reelfishy** in Florida!




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Member Photos, May 2012



Greg Peterson (above) has abandoned his electronic fish finder in favor of the new dual-alerting extra loud alarm system he recently installed in the bow of his boat. He claims it works better than the old system, but the equipment needs a lot of maintenance.

Jeff Janecek sent in this late-arrival photo from the shad outing. Looks like it might have been the biggest entry.



Member Photos, Cont'd



If you can't find yourself in at least one of the photos above, you either hid from the photographer (unlikely) or you missed a great TBFFC banquet and silent auction!

Deadly Sins on the Flats

A SPECIAL REPORT by Captain John Kumiski ©2010
 Reproduced with permission from the website www.spottedtail.com

When it works properly, flats fishing is one of the most rewarding forms of flyfishing. When it doesn't, few things are more frustrating. Read on to learn about a compendium of sins to use when you wish to scare off every fish on any flat you find yourself working, and of course the antidote for such foolish behavior, too. Let's start with what I call the stalking sins

Clothing

If you can see them, you should assume they can see you, too. Flats fish can see bright clothing, especially brightly colored shirts or hats, more easily than more subdued shades. My friend Barry Kent was disgusted with himself one day while we were fishing together, saying his white hat had spooked several fish. White, bright red, and bright yellow are definitely colors to avoid when chasing skinny water fish. Wear subdued earth tones to avoid becoming a neon DANGER sign to your quarry. For the ultimate in flats camouflage, Aqua Designs (888) 603-4303 makes a line of technical clothing printed with computer enhanced images taken from underwater photographs looking through the water's surface. If you make it harder for the fish to sense your presence you ought to get more good shots at fish.

Noise

Fish in shallow water respond negatively to noise, even the human voice. The following two examples illustrate this. One recent morning three of us were stalking a school of about 200 redbfish from my boat when my angler moved the Fly Line Tamer, trying to get it into a better position for casting. The Tamer's base bumped the lip that goes around the edge of my casting deck. The school, almost in casting range at that point, immediately stampeded and never slowed down as long as they remained in sight, pushing a receding wake for at least a quarter of a mile. A golden opportunity was lost because of one small bump.

Now for the all-too-common casting sins. These happen all the time, even to accomplished anglers.

The Slow Delivery

The fisherman makes five or six false casts to deliver a fly 35 feet. The fish sees all the motion and flees. Once again, assume that if you can see the fish, the fish can also see you. One of the things that attracts a fisherman's eye to the fish is its movement. It works both ways, since the fish are keyed to look for movement, too. A waving rod, a fly line passing overhead, a fisherman's arms flailing wildly, all these things are guaranteed to spook skinny water fish.

Body English

I often have casters aboard my boat who are struggling, trying for a little more distance. They rock the boat when using body English for that extra little push. When the boat rocks, waves move out from it to the fish. The fish are very sensitive to changes in pressure and feel these waves, which immediately make them suspicious. I tell my anglers NOT to rock the boat when casting, or hookups will be rare occurrences.

Presentation Flaws

If you make a cast that is too short the fish will never see your fly. If you make a cast that's too long several results can happen, none of which lead to a hookup. In extreme cases, the fish sees your fly line. This won't bother fish that don't see many fishermen, but pressured fish won't wait around for an explanation. A cast made slightly too long causes the fly to approach the fish. Again, in lightly fished waters this may work. In heavily fished waters you'll get a good view of the fish's tail waving goodbye. Fish don't expect to see a minnow, shrimp, crab, or whatever attacking them. They don't like it when it happens.

If you cast too far into a school of fish, you will line the fish on the school's edge, spooking them. One spooked fish in a school usually leads to a spooked school. When casting to a school, work the edges. There are some clear floating fly lines available now that may solve this particular problem somewhat. Monic makes a completely clear line, and AirFlo makes a conventional line that has a 10 foot long clear tip. There's nothing like a good, accurate cast, though. Another casting flaw I call the splashdown. This is a cast that's just a little too accurate. You hit the fish on the head (or other body part) with your fly. In lightly fished areas or in deeper water this actually works sometimes, but with heavily pressured fish in the shallow stuff you have blown opportunity.

Now for a discussion of some presentation sins.

Using the Rod to Manipulate the Fly

This one is especially heartbreaking. You've stalked the fish successfully. You've made a good cast. Now the fish has seen and taken the fly, but you cannot hook him because your rod is out of position and you have slack in your line. When you manipulate the fly, the rod tip should be on or under the surface of the water, the rod should be pointing directly at the fly, and with only one major exception (the two hand retrieve popular with striper, bluefish, and barracuda fishermen) all fly manipulation should be done with the line hand.

Setting the Hook Before You Feel the Fish

You see the fish take the fly (or even worse, you strike just before the fish takes the fly!) and in your excitement you strike. The fly invariably pops out of the fish's mouth.

Using the Rod to Set the Hook

This is another technique that breaks hearts. You've done everything right. The fish sees and takes the fly. The angler responds by lifting the rod tip. Although this sometimes works, usually the fly is pulled from the fish and it noisily flies out of the water, scaring the bejabbers out of the fish. If the hook does stick the fish, too little force is applied to cause it to penetrate any appreciable distance, and the fish shakes it a short way into the fight. When a fish takes the fly, wait until you feel pressure, then strike by tugging sharply with the line hand (the left hand for a right handed fisherman). Unless you're fishing for tarpon usually this will be sufficient to set the hook. If the fly pops out of the fish's mouth, it's only a few inches away from the fish. The fish can (and often will) move to the fly and take it again. Once the fish is hooked, then and only then should you raise the rod and try to clear the line to the reel.

FLY OF THE MONTH

Weed Guards

As Tied by Pat Damico



We demonstrated a variety of weed guards suitable for use with different flies. Each has advantages as well as disadvantages. Several years ago while watching Lefty Kreh tie saltwater flies he was asked about weed guards. He showed a very simple one that utilized plastic coated 30-pound test wire. I use this most of the time because it is simple and very effective. One brand I use is Steelon available in most tackle stores.

1. After fly is completed and before head is finished, select a length of wire that when attached to the head will extend a little past the hook point
2. I usually hold spool in my hand positioning wire and cut only what is needed with a wire cutting pliers
3. Taking small needle nose pliers, grasp one end and create a flat surface leaving a small bump on the end. Still holding wire, bend it about 60 degrees
4. Position wire in head area and check angle
5. Secure with a few wraps of thread and examine position. Continue covering flat area with thread and make several wraps behind wire to keep proper angle in relation to hook point
6. When wire is covered, whip finish and cut thread
7. Final position of wire is adjusted and excess is trimmed with cutter leaving a little past hook point. Flexament is now applied to head to complete process.

After doing a few, it will take very little time.

If weed guard is not needed when fishing, pull it off.

Pat Damico 🍷

Fishing Report and Forecast

“What a great time to go fishing!”

MAY 2012

The winds of April have kept many of our club members off the waters. The few that ventured out reported the following catches:

Capt Pat Damico, fishing with **Capt John Hand** caught a real nice trout on the flats at Port Manatee. Pat is now in Pennsylvania for the summer.

Leigh West and **Robert Fischer** went canoe fishing and saw several reds, a nice large trout, a large black drum and a very large snook. They ended the day catching two 20" trout a few smaller trout plus an upper slot red fish with three spots on either side.

Members **John and Joan Willis** are back on the road fishing Trackrock Lake. They had nice catches of blue gills using sponge spiders.

The kayak guy reports his fly fishing clients had better luck than his lure fishers. Ladyfish, trout and some reds were caught on olive/white and red/white flies.

Capt Rick Grasset's fly fishing clients did catch trout, red fish and snook during the past few weeks. One nice flounder was also caught on his Grasset's flats minnow.

I would like to get more reports from member captains.

Bob Gaulin 🍷

Waspfly32@gmail.com

I have endorsed this petition.

Capt. John Hand

There is a petition that I would like for you to consider signing. The petition is asking the Florida Wildlife Commission to not open the snook season in Sept. 2012 but instead keep it closed until Sept. 2013 so the snook can more fully recover. It is just a couple of paragraphs and will take a minute to read. If you agree, please sign and send this information to anyone else that may have an interest. If you care to add a comment, please do, and try to emphasize economic benefits of this action. An example might be that you are considering a trip to fly fish in Florida but you are waiting for the snook fishing to improve. You could also point out the benefits of special regulations like catch and release in your state or country.

<https://www.change.org/petitions/florida-fish-and-wildlife-commission-stop-the-reopening-of-west-coast-fl-snook-harvesting-in-september-2012#>

Thanks,
Andy Moreno

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
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- Shirts and Hats with club logo
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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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