



Next Meeting: Wednesday, January 2, 2013, 6:00 p.m.

Invited Speaker

Capt. Phil Thompson

Phil Thompson is a fourth generation Floridian, the great-grandson of homesteaders. Growing up on the shores of the Alafia River and Tampa Bay, fishing was more a requirement than family tradition.... spreading a cast-net, a rite of passage for a young man.

After he settled in Key West, Phil piloted fish and dive boats on expeditions to the pristine waters of the Marquesas and Dry Tortugas. He became a seasoned marlin angler, and has competed in some of the richest tournaments throughout the Bahamas, Gulf of Mexico and Caribbean.

Living in Key West provided the opportunity to cross the Florida Straits and explore the bountiful waters of Cuba. Phil fished in numerous Hemingway Marlin Tournaments and traveled the island extensively seeking out the best salt, fresh and brackish water fishing holes and premier dive sites.

In 2008 Phil set down the pole and picked up the pen. Finding seclusion on San Salvador Island, Bahamas, over the next seven months he wrote a first book and waded for bonefish. "97 Miles South" Phil's debut novel was released in late spring of 2012. Phil's fishing reports, articles, and short histories appear in Florida Sportsman, Gaff, and Coastal Angler magazines. His next book "With Money....the Monkey Dances" a collection of Caribbean stories is due for release in 2013.

Phil divides time between Ruskin and Key West Florida and Cuba.

Featured Fly Tier

Leigh West

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. Tonight he will be tying the famous Lefty's Deceiver.

IT'S TIME TO PAY 2013 DUES—USE FORM ON WEBSITE OR PG 10

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

JANUARY 2013 PRESIDENT’S MESSAGE

Hello and Happy New Year to all TBFFC members,

I hope you and yours are enjoying a wonderful holiday season, with at least an occasional chance to unlimber the long rod – maybe even a new one.


Our December TBFFC meeting was a great success, thanks to many who brought their favorite appetizers, casseroles, or desserts to add to the fish fry delights. Special thanks to **Robert Fischer** and **Lance Pocock** for the fish fry, and to **Alex Bordas**, the junior angler who helped catch the fish. Thanks also to those who participated in our gift swap, each of whom got a raffle ticket for our rod and reel drawings.

The December meeting was also enhanced by the fly tying demonstrations of both **Jeff Janecek** and **Layne “Smitty” Smith**. These two have consistently made themselves available to our membership as “in-house” professional tyers at most meetings. Instructions for tying Smitty’s deadly Redfish Merlot are given below on page 8.

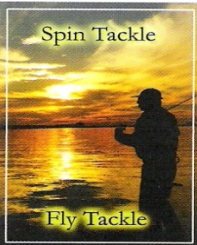
Our Play Hooky outing was well attended and all caught fish, mostly small tarpon. Several members achieved a slam by catching tarpon, redfish and snook out of the manmade pond at the fish hatchery. Thanks to **Alligator Bob** for making lunch for the participants and to **Gina Russo** for the tutorial on the hatchery.

Beginning this month you will probably notice changes in this publication. The revamping of the newsletter format has been possible because we will no longer send out “snail mail” copies, which has restricted the content to 10 pages, the largest size before we had to use two stamps for mailing. **Please send me more articles, photos, etc.**

Dick 



The Fly Guy
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 Email: flyguy@captpat.com





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The next meeting of the TBFFC Board of Directors will be at 6:00 P.M. on Wednesday, January 9 at Seasons 52.

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

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TBFFC EVENTS

2012-2013 TBFFC MEETING DATES

Here are the meeting dates for 2013; January 2, February 6, March 6, April 3, May 1, June 6, July 3, August 7, September 4, October 2, November 6, December 4, **Please watch this space for any changes.**

ANNUAL SHAD OUTING WITH CAMPING

When: Weekend of February 1-3 (arrival after 3p.m. on the 1st)

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.

TBFFC ANNUAL BANQUET

This is a summary of the status of the banquet plans being worked on by your Board of Directors.

We have reserved a space at the Columbia Restaurant in Tampa for Saturday, March 16. The meal price has not changed appreciably from last year, but the restaurant is requiring that we pay for a minimum of 50 meals. Since we had fewer than 50 paid attendees last year, the requirement could lead to a rather high price per meal if attendance is low again. We are looking for alternative locations that do not require the 50 minimum meals. Possibilities include rental of a hall plus hiring of a caterer for the food, or an alternate restaurant. The date may end up being different from March 16. **We would appreciate suggestions from the members.**

In the meantime, please set aside March 16 for the tentative banquet date so that you don't end up with another commitment.

SOUTHEASTERN FLY FISHING FESTIVAL

Bill Kalbas, TBFFC member who has moved to the Carolinas has invited TBFFC to the festival

DATES: Friday & Saturday, May 17 - 18, 2013

WHERE: Ramsey Center
Western Carolina University
Cullowhee, North Carolina
Presented by the SEC-FFF

Our headliners will be Ian and Charity Rutter, two-handed guru Al Buhr and Jim Casada. We will show the Fly Fishing Film Tour on Friday night and there will be a one-fly fishing contest on the Tuck. There is information about room blocks on the website at www.southeastfff.org. If you are interested in house rental information, just let me know and I can send that to you as well.

Plenty of good trout water, and lots of fun. Look forward to seeing my TBFFC friends there.
Many thanks and Tight lines
Bill Kalbas

FUTURE EVENTS

- TBFFC annual banquet and silent auction, **March**
- Casting Clinic, **Time to be determined.**

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.

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TIPS FOR TBFFC – No. 54

Casting Tip for TBFFC: 37

How fast do I retrieve?

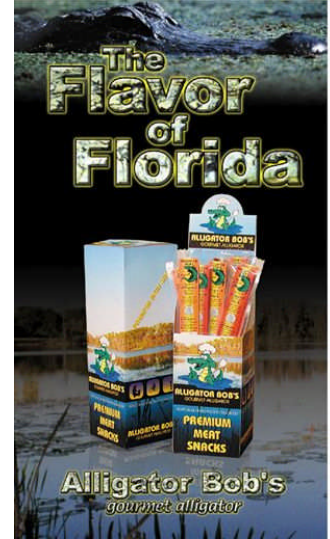
This is a common question especially when using a sinking fly that can't be seen on a very long cast, or in deep or cloudy water. Fast or slow means different things to each flyfisher. When drifting the flats long casts covering large areas will help locate fish and produce. If drifting with the wind behind you moving the boat forward, and the tide coming toward you, stripping action can result in almost zero movement of the fly. When I tell someone that their 50 foot cast resulted in a movement of the fly of only a couple feet when they have a pile of line on the deck they look astonished. Use the end of the fly line or the junction of where the clear tip meets the colored running line to give you a good idea of what your fly is doing. If still having a problem, use a 1 or 2 foot section of bright colored Amnesia leader as your leaders butt section. You will easily see this.

Pat Damico, MCI 🌅

Do You do the Twist While Fly Casting?

A common casting error that I see from clients on my boat while out on charters is rod tip tracking. I see this most when longer casts are required because the caster feels they need to throw "harder". What I see in the fly line is a helix or twist, especially on the backcast. This is a problem I see more in men than women casters. I feel this is due to many guys having played sports, especially baseball. Many elements of throwing a ball involve arcs. When trying to throw a baseball hard, the natural tendency in the wind-up is to rotate the wrist and forearm so that the back of the hand faces the back of your head. It works great for a baseball throw, but not so much when casting a fly rod. Now substitute the ball for a fly rod. If you rotate your wrist and forearm on the backcast the same way as a baseball throw, you have created an arc in the rod tip in the sideways plane as it tracks back and forth during the casting stroke. This arc gives a telltale twist or helix in the line as the loop unfurls behind you. The fly casting stroke is most efficient if the rod tip travels in a straight line, both front to back and side to side. To correct this lateral problem, watch the position of the thumb during the backcast. If you turn your head to watch, the nail of your thumb should not be visible once it goes behind your shoulder. The natural tendency is for the wrist and forearm to want to rotate and open up. By keeping the wrist and forearm from rotating (it feels weird), it forces the thumbnail not be visible. This takes out the side to side arc and causes the rod tip to track on a straight line resulting in longer casts with less effort.

Capt. Bryon Chamberlin 🌅



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The smiles show that everyone had a wonderful time at the PHW event. In the middle bottom photo, **Mike Reeves** accepts a certificate of appreciation from **Pat Damico** on behalf of the Bradenton yacht Club. (Photos by Tom Gadacz)

Bradenton Yacht Club Hosts Project Healing Waters Fly Fishing Saltwater Event Nov. 17, 2012

Flats boats with guides, PHWFF participants and volunteers eased their boats into the bountiful waters of the Manatee River and the mouth of Tampa Bay early Saturday morning to take part in a unique event that took months of careful preparation. It all began early last winter when Mike Reeves of Bradenton Yacht Club was approached by local PHWFF volunteers to use their outstanding facility to host the event. The Yacht's BOD immediately not only gave their approval, but also contacted generous members for financial support allowing our participants to have their motel rooms, Friday evening BarBQ, Saturday morning continental breakfast and Saturday lunch provided without PHWFF incurring any expenses. Yacht Club personnel insured that all needs were met proactively.

PHWFF's mission is to assist in the physical and emotional rehabilitation of disabled military service personnel and veterans through fly fishing, fly tying, fly casting, rod building and outings. We have over 130 active programs at military bases and VA facilities where volunteers from Trout Unlimited, International Federation of Fly Fishers and some independent fly fishing clubs meet regularly with our military personnel teaching these subjects.

A chilly northeast wind and overcast skies when boats departed soon was replaced with sunshine and calmer conditions allowing all participants to catch fish under the watchful guidance of their guides and club volunteers. After four hours on the water, our returning vets approached the dock with beaming smiles and thumbs up signals that were soon followed by multiple fish stories and fellowship. Some of the conversation indicated that the guides and volunteers had as much or more fun than the fishermen. A wonderful lunch was followed by presentation of awards which included two complete fly fishing outfits and also fly tying vises for largest and most fish caught during the morning.

Without our local guides who donated their time to this event it would not have been possible. BYC personnel want to do this again and fly club volunteers, some traveling as far as Orlando, Daytona and Jacksonville are already planning similar events on the east coast. Hells Bay Boat works had three of their guides from Titusville as well as a number of local guides using their excellent boats. Renzetti vises, Mosquito Creek Outdoors, Travel Country Outdoors, Orlando Outfitters and local Flint Creek Outfitters all contributed to making this a very successful event. Mike Reeves summed it up nicely, "There are good days and great days, Saturday was a tremendous day!"

TBFFC members offering their guide services: Capt's: Bryon Chamberlain, Nick Angelo, Frank Rhodes, Steve Parker, and John Hand.

Visit www.projecthealingwaters.org for more information about this very worthwhile organization.

Submitted by Pat Damico, PHWFF

Member Photos, January 2013

At left below is a photo of a trout (>4 lbs on Boga Grip) **Leigh West** caught recently while fishing with **Rick Happle**.

At right is an 11" sheephead that ate a Golden Eye Shrimp fly at the Don Coleman outing on December 15 at Ft. Desoto Park. **Robert Fischer** was wade fishing at the Arrowhead Picnic Area and also caught about a dozen small trout.



FISHING REPORT FOR JANUARY, 2013

It's been a while since my last report. Machine was broke so got a new one.

We start with **Leigh West** fishing with **Rick Happle** in a secret place where Leigh caught a 4 lb trout. Leigh reports that there seems to be more anglers than fish and it's difficult to get a bite due to pressure making the fish wary.

There was a great turnout for the Don Coleman outing. Quite a lot from the Sarasota club only a few from TBFFC. We had a very low tide there for the only fish caught were caught by wade fly fishers. Robert Fischer told me he caught 6 or so trout and one nice sheephead. New member Kevin and I caught nothing: Not a good way to introduce a new member to salt water fly fishing. (Oh Well)

Tight Lines

Bob Gaulin

Member Photos, Continued



Leigh West brought these memories back from a fishing expedition to Mexico in October. The Jaguar in lower left was photographed by (who else?) **Frank Rhodes**.

FLY OF THE MONTH

Redfish Merlot

As Tied by Layne "Smitty" Smith



Materials:

Hook: Owner Flyliner #1/0 (deep) Mosquito or Gamakatsu SC15 #1/0 (shallow)
Thread: Black Flat Waxed Nylon
Eyes: Large Black Bead-chain
Tail: Marabou Blood Quills in Olive (or Orange)
Flash: Krystal Flash in Pearl
Sides: Black Saddle Hackle (or Ginger Variant)
Side Flash: Gold Holographic Flashabou (or Silver)
Collar: Cross-cut Rabbit Fur in Rust (or Chinchilla)
Head: Black Flat Waxed Nylon

Tying Sequence:

Step 1: Place hook in vise and tie a thread saddle just behind hook eye and attach bead chain eyes with figure-eight wraps and cinching down.

Step 2: Wrap thread to bend of hook. Measure Marabou Blood (1 hook length) cut and tie in at hook bend.

Step 3: Take 2 strands of Krystal Flash and fold double, then fold around bobbin and grasp for "V" tie in. Slide flash to top of hook shank and tie in (with half on either side of marabou). Trim to 1/4 in. past marabou.

Step 4: Select 4 saddle hackles; measure and cut (2 hook lengths). Tie in 2 feathers on either side of marabou.

Step 5: Take 1 strand of holographic Flashabou, fold double and attach in just like Krystal Flash. Trim to 1/2 in. short of hackle feathers.

Step 6: Select a strip of x-cut rabbit and tie in (make sure it is the proper end). Run thread forward to from of bead chain eyes, then palmer rabbit strip forward in touching

wraps (be sure to stroke fur back after each wrap) up to behind bead chain eyes. Tie down FIRMLY; back wrapping about 3/32 in. Trim excess rabbit "close" to hook shank.

Step 7: Wrap thread forward and figure-eight eyes to cover any visible rabbit strip. Whip finish in front of bead chain eyes.

Step 8: Use black marker to cover any overlooked rabbit strip. Apply SHHAN to cover thread wraps and gloss eyes.

Early Fly Fishing in Florida

In 1774 William Bartram explored the St. Johns River from its mouth up to Lake Harney. He provides the following description of Native Americans fishing for "trout" (largemouth bass) in Lake George.

On my return, I found some of my companions fishing for trout about the edges of the floating nymphaea, and not unsuccessfully, having then caught more than sufficient for us all. As the method of taking these fish is curious and singular, I shall just mention it.

They are taken with a hook and line, but without any bait. Two people in a little canoe, one sitting in the stern to steer, and the other near the bow, having a rod ten or twelve feet in length, to one end of which is tied a strong line about twenty inches in length, to which is fastened three large hooks, back to back. These are fixed very securely, and covered with the white hair of a deer's tail, shreds of a red garter, and some particolored feathers, all of which form a tuft, or tassel, nearly as large as one's fist, and entirely cover and conceal the hooks; this is called a bob. The steersman paddles slowly along the shore, keeping the boat parallel to it, at a distance just sufficient to admit the fisherman to reach the edge of the floating weeds along shore; he now ingeniously swings the bob backwards and forwards, just above the surface, and sometimes tips the water with it; when the unfortunate cheated trout instantly springs from under the weeds, and seizes the supposed prey. Thus he is caught without a possibility of escape, unless he breaks the hooks, line, or rod, which he, however, sometimes does by dint of strength; but, to prevent this, the fisherman used to the sport is careful not to raise the rod suddenly up, but jerks it instantly backwards, then steadily drags the sturdy reluctant fish to the side of the canoe, and with a sudden upright jerk brings him into it.

Excerpt from *the Travels of William Bartram*
 Two hundred and thirty nine years later club members pursue our 'curious and singular' sport with spun deer hair bugs, trolling motors and slip strikes.

From Nick Colantonio

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

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

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Jeff Abeles813-961-0097

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

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

Bill Murdich813-971-4764

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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2013 member application

Tampa Bay Fly Fishing Club

Your Name: _____ Date: _____

Mailing address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____

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: _____

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Annual Dues: **\$25.00 Individual Membership**

\$35.00 Family Membership

\$95.00 Corporate Single Membership

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\$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

Please make check payable to: Tampa Bay Fly Fishing Club

C/o Rick Valeri, 1404 Oxfordshire Ct. Brandon, FL 33510

Here is a reminder that many members have not yet paid their 2013 Dues. If in doubt, just pay using the form below. If you have already paid, we will give credit for your 2014 membership. Neat, huh?

Membership Application Tampa Bay Fly Fishing Club

Your Name: _____ Date: _____

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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: _____ Relationship: _____

Name: _____ Relationship: _____

Name: _____ Relationship: _____

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