



**Next meeting 4 January
0600 PM to 0900 PM**

**Speaker: Walt Durkin, Frank Rhodes
Amazon Peacock's**

Please join us as we venture deep into the Amazon rain forest in pursuit of the mighty peacock bass. **Capt. Frank Rhodes, Buddy Stokes** and myself spent nine days in the jungle on a mother boat towing four aluminum john boats. We were joined by three other folks from the Gainesville area and our two hosts rounded out the fishing party at eight. Frank and I were the only fly fisherman. The water was a little high, spreading out the fish, but we still caught our share and had a great time overall. I would rate the peacock as pound-for-pound one of the strongest fish I have caught and their strikes are explosive. They have to be tough to survive in that environment among toothy critters such as piranha's. I have some interesting pictures and can provide details and useful information on the trip. I would recommend it for your fly fishing bucket list.

Tyer: Capt Bryon Chamberlin

Bryon is a long time club member and one of our premier guides. Please join him while he ties a sure fire crab fly, the Hamburglar Tarpon Fly. It's a floating pass crab imitation that tarpon just can't resist when the naturals are floating by.

Directions to Our Meetings (0600pm): From I-75---Take Bruce B. Downs exit from I-75; go west 2 miles to traffic light, turn left on to 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 PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Welcome to 2017 and our winter fishing opportunities. Fish the low tides in January for sight fishing conditions.

I hope you all enjoyed our holiday party and thanks to all who participated and brought tasty food. Special thanks to Robert, Lance and Bob for cooking our Grits and Grunts.

We will start to collect our annual dues in January. Please see our treasurer, Rick to pay at the meeting or you may mail in your payment. The last page of the newsletter has our application.

We are seeking interesting speakers for the new year and also building our outing schedule for 2017. Please give us your input on what you would like to see.

// Walt Durkin 

EVENTS

- 13 Jan – Annual Shad Outing on the St John's river. See page 4 for details. This is a fun event and you can camp out (best) or stay in a motel (boring). Come join us for good food, friends and fishing in a bit of old Florida.

OFFICERS AND DIRECTORS

President: Walt Durkin 813-476-7128

Walt.durkin@aol.com

Vice President: Ted Hagaman 813-920-8473

Treasurer: Rick Valeri 813-681-9143

Secretary: Dick Miekka 727-866-8682

Directors

Patty Anderson 813-960-8523

Denise Bruner 813-989-2909

Bryon Chamberlin 813-361-8801

Pat Damico 727-504-8649

Robert Fischer 813-962-0185

Bruce Anderson 813-960-8523

Rick O'Hara 813-238-6763

TBFFC NEWS & NOTES

Club Flag Project: **Patty Anderson** has completed our club flag project and we have six flags ready to travel the world on your fly fishing adventures. You can check out a flag at any meeting for your travels. Just promise to take a picture showing your location and a great catch on the fly if possible. Our flag traveled to the Rio Negro River in the Amazon with myself, **Buddy Stokes**, and **Capt. Frank Rhodes**. Frank is pictured below deep in the jungle with a peacock.



Andros island, Bahamas fishing trip, 25 March to 1 April. Six of us are booked with the Two Boys Lodge on Andros for six days of guided fishing primarily for bone fish. We have room for two more anglers. Cost is about \$3k for the week including air fare from Tampa. Go online to the lodge for details and talk to Walt at the meeting for additional info.

Hatchery Outing Report: Thanks to **Gina Russo** for hosting our annual trip to the hatchery. Gina dazed us with her presentation on the great work they do at the hatchery. While a cool and windy morning kept the snook and tarpon hunkered down, we did get about a dozen red fish to eat our flies. Thanks to **Alligator Bob** for providing a great lunch as usual. New members Bryce and Wes came for the first time and enjoyed the day. Look at page 6 for pictures.

Annual Shad Outing

The Orlando Backcountry Fly Fishing Association and Scott Green will host the BFA 2017 Shad fishing and camping weekend January 13-15. Activity headquarters is on Scott Green's property overlooking the St John's River at 932 Indian Hammock Drive, Osteen Florida. The event starts Friday, January 13 with campers arriving to set up campsites after 12:00 noon. Fishing begins on Saturday. Boat Ramps are located at 907 Lemon Bluff Road, Osteen FL and at Mullet Lake Park, 2368 Mullet Lake Park Drive, Geneva FL. This is a great weekend to pursue Shad and catch up with fellow anglers. Last year we had over 60 anglers, many traveled from as far away as Tampa and Jacksonville. **This event is open to TBFFC members;** sign up at the January meeting or email Walt.Durkin@aol.com.



Tips for TBFFC

Want to catch more fish, keep your fly in the water longer!

Go out on the grass and with a practice fly see how little line you need outside the rod tip to make a forward cast, shooting some line, with only one backcast. Next, see how much line you can pick up, make a good backcast and shoot line forward, again, with only one backcast. Make a one inch wide mark on your line near the reel at each of these locations. You now know your range of casting within those two marks with this setup. With practice, you can make this range even larger. Fishing on water with floating lines, sink tips, heavier flies will cause some variables. When you work a fly, don't bring it closer than your range, because false casting in the air, where there aren't any fish, is a waste of time.

Pat Damico, MCI 

RANDOM THOUGHTS FROM THE TYING BENCH

By C.W. "Don" Coleman

Has the magic gone out of your fly tying? Try something different and experiment with blended colors in your flies. Manually mix hairs from dyed bucktails in the wings of your saltwater flies, bend-backs for example, to give the impression of other colors, or to simply modify any solid color. You can tint or shade any color, or create texture within a solid color to create a vibrancy and the impression of life and movement in the wing

Don't overdress the fly. Space within the wing will allow water to move individual hairs and allow light to penetrate the wing. Depending on how the light hits individual hairs, they can each exhibit a different hue. Notice that although all the leaves on a tree may be the same color, individual leaves will have a different hue depending on how they are lighted (directly, backlighted, shaded, or by reflected colors.) Also notice how much more mobile are the leaves of some trees (such as Aspen and Maples) than are those of dense conifers because there is space around the individual leaves that allows the wind to move them. You want to give the impression of life within a fly, and mixing colors is another way to create that illusion.

Hatchery outing: Gina Russo's presentation, feeding breeder reds, new member Bryce with a red, lunch



Our casting clinic at Picnic Island was a success on 3 December thanks to Capt Pat Damico, Dayle Mazzarella and many others from our club and the Suncoast Fly club. Watch for a repeat in 2017.





Leigh and Ted with two nice reds caught during our low winter tides while sight fishing!
This could be you; get out there and give it a try.



Photos from Little Abaco on his DIY Bonefish Trip in December; **Capt. Bryon Chamberlin**





Capt. Rick Grassetto guided his clinics to a variety of fish in December.

Fishing Report and Forecast

“What a great time to go fishing!”

Capt Pat Damico provides this report from his Captain’s Corner: Falling water temperature is causing snook and baby tarpon to head upriver to their winter haunts, where both species can adapt to freshwater. Many fish that have been around river mouths, bridges and near beaches are migrating upriver and making frequent feeding stops. Structure is key as any diversion from a smooth bank often holds baitfish. Points, sand holes, channels, fallen trees, undercut banks and small mangrove islands must all be explored. Don't spend a lot of time in one spot. Cast accurately with baitfish patterns the size and color of what you see in the water. A cast that lands 3 feet from structure will not produce as well as one within inches or under fish holding obstacles. Watch your temperature gauge. Warmer water in small shallow bays can be a hot spot. Fish will often be in groups, so when one or two are caught, continue fishing the area. Keep the boat parallel to shore with an electric motor where two experienced fly casters can work an area using different setups. An outgoing tide will drain small creeks of baitfish and large predators will be in the closest deep hole waiting for an easy meal.

Capt Rick Grasset suggests trout, blues and more on deep grass flats and snook, reds and larger trout in skinny water should be good options. Catch and release night snook fishing around lighted docks and bridges in the ICW with flies and DOA Lures should also be a good option. With water temperature still close to 70 degrees, there still may be some action in the coastal gulf with false albacore (little tunny). Tripletail should also be a good option depending on conditions.

Reds should be a good option this month. You’ll find them concentrated in potholes of north Sarasota Bay when the tide is low. Fly anglers should score with lightly weighted flies fished on a 10’-12’ leader with a floating fly line. Reds feed on crustaceans this time of the year, so crab and shrimp fly patterns should work well. They may tail on shallow grass flats of Gasparilla Sound, north Sarasota Bay and lower Tampa Bay when the tide is low. You’ll need flies with weed guards when targeting tailing reds since they are usually in thick turtle grass. You may also find reds around docks, along with snook, sheepshead, flounder and more. Little Sarasota Bay has numerous oyster bars and docks that often hold reds, snook and sheepshead in January. Use floating fly lines and lightly weighted flies to fish around oyster bars and sink tip fly lines to fish docks. You’re likely to find big trout in many of the same areas that you find reds. The same flies and techniques that are used for reds will also work for big trout.

The Cypress Park flat continues to hold schools of redfish. They hang on the outside bar on the lowest tides and come up on the flat as the tide comes in. New and full moon tides are best with the lowest lows and good moving water. Fish small shrimp or crab flies on long leaders down to 12 lb and cast will ahead of spooky fish.

Kayak guide **Neil Taylor** reports the action has been outstanding starting the second half of December. More cold fronts should sustain this action. Redfish are a great target and the trout of winter are here. We have caught fish to 27 inches. We did not catch many over 21 inches since April. Pompano remain a good opportunity but any time now we should get enough cold air to push them south out of Tampa Bay. Trout and redfish are best bets for sure.

Our new traveling club flags are on the move! **Bruce and Patty Anderson** took one to Colorado and **Walt and Frank** took one to the Amazon. Lower right with our trout gear in **Oconee St Park, S. Carolina**.



2017 CALENDAR OF EVENTS

- 13-15 Jan Shad Outing St John's River
- Annual Banquet – Hunters Green
- Fly Film Tour in Tampa
- CCA Banquet
- June Beginners Clinic
- July Lake Calm Freshwater Outing
- Oct 7-8 Florida Sportsman Show
- FFF Enclave
- Oct 28 – Nov 4 Mexico: Costa de Cocas trip
- Oct 21 Carl Hanson Outing, Hillsborough River
- Nov Big Gun, Picnic Island
- Dec 6 Members Year End Party
- Dec 8 Play Hooky at the Hatchery
- Dec 16 Don Coleman Outing, Ft Desoto

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.

- Monthly Meetings with informative speakers
- 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

Fly Fishing Guides

- Capt. Nick Angelo (813) 230-8473
- Capt. Pat Damico (727) 504-8649
- Capt. Bryon Chamberlin (813) 361-8801
- Capt. Rick Grassett (941) 923-7799
- Capt. John Hand (239) 842-7778
- Capt. Frank Rhodes (863) 967-4258
- Capt. Greg Peterson (423) 432-1973
- Capt. Russ Shirley (727) 343-1957
- Capt. Keiland Smith (863) 944-7475

Fly Casting Coaches

Dade City

Jeff Janecek.....352-588-3866

South Tampa

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

North Tampa

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

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

Leigh West813-971-8697

St. Petersburg

Capt. Pat Damico.....727-504-8649

Polk County

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

Corporate Sponsors

These companies sponsored the Tampa Bay Fly Fishing Club. Some are members of the club. We urge you to patronize them.

- 3-WAY CONSTRUCTION, Robert Fischer PO Box 342774, Tampa, 33694, (813) 495-5685.
- ALLIGATOR BOB'S Gourmet Alligator Meat Snacks, (813) 986-3008, WWW.GATORBOB.COM
- BARBED STEEL CHARTERS, Capt. Bryon Chamberlin, (813) 361-8801, captbryon@yahoo.com..
- REDFISH LANDING GUIDE SERVICE, Capt. John Hand www.RedfishLandingGuideService.com, (239) 842-7778
- THE FLY GUY, Capt. Pat Damico, (727) 504-8649 www.captpat.com, pat4jaws@hotmail.com
- SNOOK FIN-ADDICT GUIDE SERVICE, Capt. Rick Grasset, (941) 923-7799, www.snookfin-addict.com
- SWANN'S FLY FISHING SHOP, Jim Swann, 13650 South 98 Bypass, Dade City, 33525, (352) 567-6029

alligator bob's
PREMIUM MEAT SNACKS



Robert "Alligator Bob" Young

P. O. Box 522 Thonotosasso, FL 33592-0522

Ph: (813) 986-3008

Email: gatorbob@gatorbob.com

Order online!

gatorbob.com



SaltFllys

Custom Built Saltwater Flies

CRAIG SMOTHERS

5526 SHADY BROOK TR.

SARASOTA, FL 34243

PHONE: (941) 266-5209

EMAIL: SALTFLYS@GMAIL.COM

WEBSITE: WWW.SALTFLYS.COM



Spin Tackle

Fly Tackle

The Fly Guy

Capt. Pat Damico

2981 E. Vina del Mar Blvd.

St. Pete Beach, FL 33706

Tel. 727-504-8649

Hppt://captpat.com

pat4jaws@hotmail.com

3WAY
CONSTRUCTION CO.
OF TAMPA INC.

License Number
CGC037643

Robert Fischer

813-495-5685

P.O. Box 342774 Tampa, FL 33694

Barbed Steel Charters, Inc.

Specializing In Fly Fishing Along Florida's West Central Gulf Coast



Capt. Bryon Chamberlin

(813) 361-8801

captbryon@yahoo.com

www.barbedsteel.com



JIM SWANN'S



Complete Fly Fishing Shop
Rods - Reels - Hand Tied Flies - Materials
Guide Service

Classes in Flying Tying and Casting

352-567-6029

13650 So. 98 By Pass
Dade City, FL 33525



CAPT. JOHN HAND

U.S.C.G. License # 0000000000



FLY FISHING & LIGHT TACKLE CHARTERS

FLY CASTING INSTRUCTION

SOUTH TAMPA BAY, FLORIDA

REDFISH • SNOOK • SHARK • TARPON

239-842-7778

www.redfishsnooksharktarpon.com

2014 Member Application
Tampa Bay Fly Fishing Club

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

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

Please make check payable to: Tampa Bay Fly Fishing Club C/o Rick Valeri, 1404
Oxfordshire Ct. Brandon, 33510