



**Speaker: Capt. C. A. Richardson**

Capt. C.A. Richardson is a full time fishing guide, television show host, and fishing instructor based in the Tampa Bay area of Florida. He specializes in light tackle, artificial lures, fly, and shallow water fishing for some of Florida’s most sought after game fish such as snook, trout, redfish and tarpon.

Capt. C.A. also enjoys fishing for many other types of gamefish as he travels the coastal waters of the Gulf of Mexico and the Atlantic Ocean filming his award winning TV show, FlatsClass TV. He targets everything from Peacock Bass to Bonefish outside of his local waters to bring his audience the best “instructional” entertainment. Flats Class Charters focuses on more than just catching fish. Capt. C.A.’s charters are focused on teaching you the “how to’s” of fishing so that you can take what you’ve learned on your charter and apply it to your future success as you pursue the game fish of your choice.

**Tyer: Capt. Pat Damico**

Pat will tie “The Burner” by Holger Lachmann. It's a super versatile baitfish streamer. You can use it for all kinds of predatory fish in fresh and saltwater.



**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 2018 and our winter fishing opportunities. Fish the low tides in January to sight fish for our favorite game fish.

I hope you all enjoyed our holiday party and thanks to all who participated and brought tasty food. Special thanks to **Robert, Lance and his son** for cooking our Grits and Grunts. Thanks to **Denise and Patty** for decorating the tables for us. The gift exchange was fun and interesting as always.

### **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 2018. Please give us your input on what you would like to see.

**Mark your calendars for our 18 March banquet at Hunter's green.**

// Walt Durkin 

## EVENTS

- **20 Jan – Annual Shad Outing** on the St John's river. See page 6 for details. This is a fun event which has been shortened this year due to wet conditions at our usual camp site. P.S. We will try to schedule a weekend outing for the club in Feb or Mar to fish for shad and stripped bass on the St John's.

### OFFICERS AND DIRECTORS

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Bruce Anderson 813-960-8523

Rick O'Hara 813-238-6763

# Annual Club Banquet 18 March



**Annual Club Banquet 18 March.** We will host our banquet again this year at Hunter's Green Country Club in New Tampa on Sunday, 18 March, at 3 pm. Tickets are \$50 for one and \$90 for two. Please sign up and pay at a meeting or RSVP to me ([walt.durkin@aol.com](mailto:walt.durkin@aol.com)) and pay at the door. We will have appetizers at 3pm and a buffet at 04:30pm. Look forward to our silent auction with a good selection of over 100 items you may not need but can't resist. We will have drawings for some free stuff. This is a club fund raiser so please Join us for good food, fun and friends.

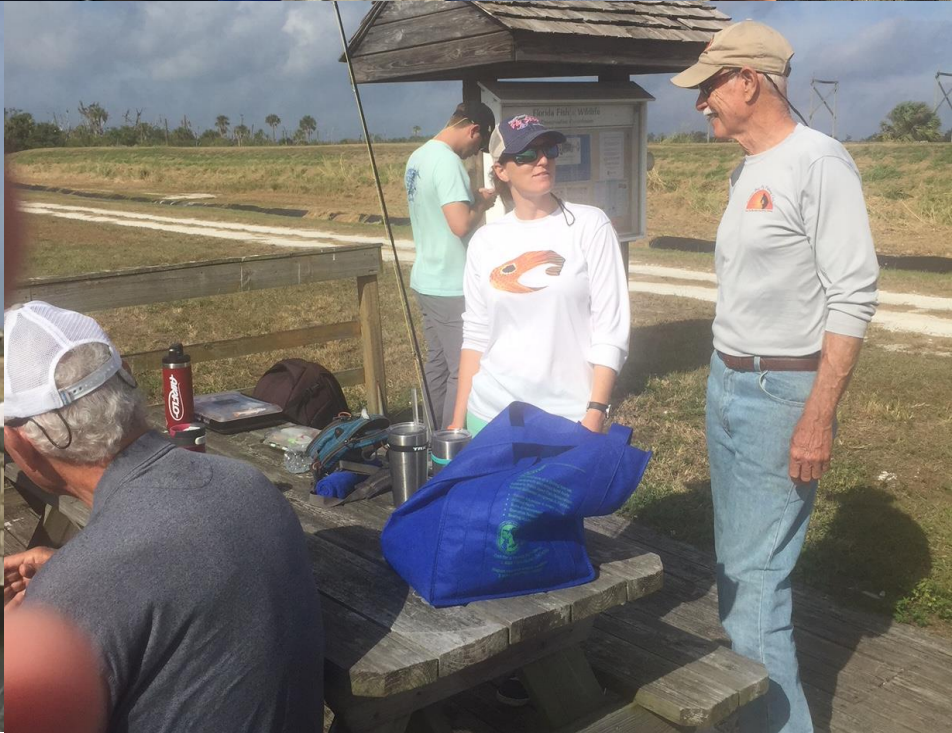
## TBFFC NEWS & NOTES

**FFI Florida Council Expo Update.** The Fly Fisherman International (FFI) is exclusively dedicated to fly fishing. The FFI and the Florida Council work to promote our sport through conservation and education. Our club is an affiliate member of the Florida Council and I encourage you to consider joining the FFI. Please check out their web site at <http://www.ffi-florida.org/>. Senior membership is \$25 a year. Meanwhile, the date for the **next Expo is 9-10 February 18** at Plantation in Crystal River. That is a Friday/Saturday and the Expo will have exhibits, classes and numerous vendors. It makes a nice day trip or spend the night and attend the banquet. Plantation is a beautiful 50-year-old, 232 acre eco-friendly resort offering comfortable accommodations, a full service spa, and is surrounded by the natural springs of Kings Bay. Special room price for FFI attendees. We will have more info at the next meeting.



**Hatchery Outing Report:** Thanks to **Gina Russo** for hosting our annual trip to the hatchery. While a cool and windy morning kept the snook and tarpon hunkered down, we did get a few fish to bite. **Ted Hagaman** hosted for the club and provided a great hot lunch. Gina also fed the big breeder reds and they put on a show bombing the cut fish. Pictures on the next page are from club member Ed Fisher. Next year we will try to get **Gina Russo** to give her presentation on the work of the hatchery. Indoor tours are now limited due to concerns of letting bacteria into the facility.





## Annual Shad Outing

High water from hurricane Irma has flooded our annual camp site on the St. Johns River. The water is finally receding but will not dry out sufficiently to permit camping on the property, so we will not be able to hold the weekend long shad outing this year at our usual location.

What we are planning is having a day of Shad Fishing on Saturday January 20, 2018. We are meeting at the CS Lee Park, 4600 East SR 46, Geneva, FL

> <<https://maps.google.com/?q=4600+East+SR+46,+Geneva,+FL&entry=gmail&source=g>>

> at 11:00 AM where lunch will be served. Fishing will commence after lunch on the St. Johns.

>

> Plan to meet after fishing at the Jolly Gator Fish Camp

> <[https://bfaorlando.us15.list-](https://bfaorlando.us15.list-manage.com/track/click?u=7507e3d03b433e54dca67899d&id=acc4a6ea70&e=5181360724)

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> located adjacent to the park on the St. Johns River for refreshments and fish tales.



## Tips for TBFFC

I like to use a fairly vertical and short casting stroke for most of my fishing. I pick up the line normally and stop my back cast at 2 PM on the clock. As the line straightens behind me, I bring my line (left) hand to the reel and let my reel hand drift back a little. I start the forward cast by leading with the reel and moving my casting hand/arm forward on the “shelf” keeping a firm wrist. This motion will load the rod and keep a tight loop since your rod tip is moving in a straight line. Finish with a short haul and by finally letting your wrist push forward. Be sure to stop your rod at 10 AM on the clock, aiming high to send the line out above your target. Your fly will settle to the water nicely. This efficient motion will cast the line 40-60 feet using the power of the rod. //Walt 🌅

## RANDOM THOUGHTS FROM THE TYING BENCH

By C.W. “Don” Coleman

MULLET – If you want to try catching mullet on a fly, just use a small green fly. Nothing fancy, just a simple dubbed nymph pattern on a #10 freshwater hook. Tie them in several hues of green. Capt. Gene Zamba says, “If the mullet are spooky, as they are most of the time, try chumming with breadcrumbs or small bits of white bread.” He claims you cannot tell the difference between a 4 pound mullet and a 4 pound bonefish in the Keys. If game fish are not around, try for some of these “English Bonefish.”

# Fly of the Month

I started fishing this small crab/shrimp fly in December. On four trips the first week I caught 13 fish: 4 reds, 4 trout, 4 snook and 1 sheepshead. I really tied it with sheepshead in mind and that was the first fish I caught as it tailed first thing in the morning,

Hook: Gamakatsu B10S Stinger, size 6 or Mustad Tarpon 2XH/2XS, size 4. Use bead chain eyes on the stinger hook for a light fly and small lead eyes on the Mustad hook for a little heavier fly.

I have been tying mostly with clear mono thread. On the light hook, tie in the bead chain and add a little lead wire behind and over the eyes. Next, tie in a bit of orange rabbit for a small tail to represent an egg sack. Next cut two small pieces of thin zonkers and tie one on each side of the tail in the back. Use crystal flash to complete the body. I also add one strand of hard Mason (20 lb) for a weed guard. Tie the fly in tan or brown to fish over sand and black or green to fish over grass. You can also use Puglici tarantula for the body. However, the Crystal flash works fine and is a little brighter. I'll tie a few of these at the next meeting. This simple fly is a winner as it hops along the bottom with lively legs.





**Casting Clinic December 16, 2017.** This year the casting clinic was hosted by the Suncoast Fly Fishers (SFF) at Egan Park in St. Pete Beach. The casting clinics was initiated by **Pat Damico** in 2006 and **Dayle Mazzarella** setup the program and course for the last 5 years. Several excellent instructors included **Dayle Mazzarella, Pat Damico, Leigh West, Steve Parker, Chris O'Byrne, Ken Zadoyko, Louis Bruno, and Tom Gadacz.** The casting clinic is primarily staffed by FFI Certified Master Casting Instructors and Certified Casting Instructors. The casting clinics are free to all FFI members and \$35 for others which includes a FFI membership. We had 23 attendees, including 3 new members. Members from the SFF, TBFFC, and the Mangrove Coast Fly Fishers attended the clinic. It was a great session and provided FFI members an opportunity to improve their casting skills as a benefit of their FFI membership. **Tom Gadacz**





Foggy morning on the MacDill flat yields a nice red and a drum. Note the drum ate an orange Mop Fly.

New club members **Chris and Heaven Tripoli** score on the MacDill Flat. Heaven with her first red on the fly and Chris with a hard-to-catch sheepshead. Good job!





**Rick O'Hara** with a big jack. **Capt. Pat Damico** guided **Janet Schmitt** to a sheephead on the fly. **Ted Hagaman** wading on the Waccassasa Outing.



**Capt. Rick Grassette** guided his clinics to Little Tunny and tripletail. Club members **Rick and Nanette O'Hara** above. Former club member **Lynn Skipper** caught the tripletail on a white gurgler.

## Fishing Report and Forecast

### “What a great time to go fishing!”

**Capt Pat Damico provides this report from his Captain’s Corner:** Good time for shallow water flats fishing:

Shallow-water flats fishing can be very exciting this time of year. Trout and redfish are available in good numbers, and the opportunities to catch some gator trout have made recent trips very rewarding. Some of the largest trout have been in very skinny water, which allows them to be sight fished. Cold, early morning water temperatures will climb as the sun in protected shallow areas creates a warm, friendly environment for southern fish. As the tide comes in, large trout will appear frequently residing in sand holes, lighter appearing openings in the grass, where they await unsuspecting baitfish. Water in sand holes is a little deeper than the adjacent grassy area, offering them a better sense of security. Prop scars are often used by large fish to more easily enter the shallows undetected. We have found that artificial lures and flies must be worked slowly on the bottom to be effective. Several casts to sand holes revealed large fish that blew out as our boat approached their lair. Approaching carefully on foot and making long casts that are accurate will increase chances for success. Fly designs that have the hook pointed upward in chartreuse and white as well as chartreuse and pink produced most hookups, especially in clear water. Discolored water often favors brown over orange or black over purple. Large sheepshead will be there and prefer small flies that replicate sand fleas, one of their favorite foods.

Pat Damico charts lower Tampa Bay and can be reached at [captpatdamico.com](http://captpatdamico.com) or (727) 504-8649.

**Capt Rick Grassett** suggests with the water temperature in the low 70’s, action with Spanish mackerel, albies, tripletail and cobia in the coastal gulf should continue. There should also be good action with trout and more on deep grass flats of Sarasota Bay. Shallow water action for snook, trout and reds is improving due to cooler water. Fishing lighted docks and bridges in the ICW for snook with flies and DOA Lures should also be a good option.

**Kayak guide, Neil Taylor,** reports generally we have good action, but we have not yet hit the peak of the wintertime bite. Big trout became easier to catch the past two weeks. Redfish action is good if you are in the exact right spots. Bluefish for sure have been a big story. Seven pound bluefish on fly is something you are unlikely to ever forget. Pompano action is probably over until spring but don't be surprised if they are accidental catches this time of year.

**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. The **MacDill flat** is also fishing well with reds, sheepshead and black drum. Fish the lowest negative tides during the New Year.

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**.



## 2018 CALENDAR OF EVENTS

- Jan 20 Shad Outing St John's River
- Feb 9-10 FFI Enclave
- Mar 18 Annual Banquet – Hunters Green
- ??? Fly Film Tour in Tampa
- Apr 12 CCA Banquet
- June Beginners Clinic
- July Lake Calm Freshwater Outing
- Oct Florida Sportsman Show
- Oct 27 – Nov 3 Mexico: Costa de Cocas trip
- Oct 18 Carl Hanson Outing, Hillsborough River
- Nov ? Big Gun, Picnic Island
- Dec 5 Members Year End Party
- Dec 7 Play Hooky at the Hatchery
- Dec 21 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
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Tampa Bay Fly Fishing Club

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

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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

Annual Dues: \$25.00 Individual Membership

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