



**Next meeting 1 February  
0600 PM to 0900 PM**

**Speaker: Sam Root  
Drone Photo's and Video**

Based out of Tampa, Sam Root specializes in creating media for the marine and sport fishing industry. Since 2008 images created by Sam have been enjoyed by many including domestic/international publications, television shows, and many internet media. His work can also be seen in advertisements for marine, boating and fishing products. Sam is a member of the Florida Outdoor Writer's Association since 2009. His work has been published internationally and has been showcased at the IGFA. Sam created and runs the Salty Fly tournament, the largest saltwater fishing tournament in existence 6 years in a row. Extending his skills to the video world, Sam is also a producer and has directed national TV outdoor shows. Starting January 2017, he is the new marketing manager for Mustad Americas, the world's oldest and largest hook manufacturer. Please join us to meet Sam and see how he uses his cool drones to film fishing adventures.

**Tyer: Capt Pat Damico**

Pat is a retired dentist, local guide and a good friend of our club. As a certified FFF casting instructor, he helps out with several casting clinics with both TBFFC and our sister club, the Suncoast Flyfishers. Come watch and join Pat as he ties a Backwater Muddler, using maribou and coyote fur. Great river fly for snook and baby tarpon.

**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 February as our winter fishing continues. Get out there and enjoy our cool, clear water for great redfish and trout action. Check out our fishing report for the latest spots and techniques.

Thanks to Capt. Bryon Chamberlin for tying his floating crab fly last month; it should be interesting and productive to fish.

We started to collect our annual dues in January. Please see our treasurer, Rick to pay at the next 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

- Annual banquet - 19 March
- Fish MacDill AFB - 01 April

## OFFICERS AND DIRECTORS

President: Walt Durkin 813-476-7128

[Walt.durkin@aol.com](mailto:Walt.durkin@aol.com)

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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 Flags Ready to Deploy.** Patty Anderson has completed our club flag project and we have six flags ready to travel the world on your next fly fishing adventure. Take pictures showing our flag, your location and a great catch on the fly. Request a flag at any meeting to borrow for your next trip.

**Fish MacDill AFB by Boat.** The base will open their flat from the Marina to the Runway on **1 April** to the general public. All anglers must be registered. You can register and get full details by calling the outdoor recreation office at 813-828-4982. Registration will go quickly and opens on **1 March**. I suggest you call that day to get your spot. You can launch from off base and they will give you a flag to display on your boat. This event is a lot of fun and limited, so sign up and get out there early for the best fishing on a restricted flat.



**New Member Drive for 2017.** We are seeking to expand club membership this year and are encouraging members to bring in new folks. As incentive, you will receive a raffle ticket for each new member you sign up. We will draw for a guided trip at our September meeting for those who have tickets.

**Shad Outing Report:** About a dozen club members enjoyed another outing on the St John River fishing for shad. Fine weather apparently did not turn on the fish and we only found a few shad. We did get a little action from crappie, bass and bream, so the all was not lost. And, we ate and drank well as usual. Thanks to **Leigh West** for cooking pasta on Friday night with a chicken and vegetable sauce. And to **Nick Colantonio** for cooking his famous seafood pasta dish. Leigh also brought strawberries courtesy of **Capt. Frank Rhodes**, which we all enjoyed. Good campfire both nights to catchup with other club members.



## Tips for TBFFC

A casting client that I spent some time with a couple years ago called me recently to help a friend of his prepare for an upcoming trip to New Zealand. He kept saying he had his flats boat ready to launch so we could go out on the water. I told him we would go on the grass first. He said there wasn't any at his place. When I arrived, I handed his friend one of my practice rods with an orange line and we walked over to the private road going to his house. I usually use this outfit on the street in front of my house. We spent the whole session with him doing a pick-up and lay down cast, and false casting trying to maintain narrow loops. His assignment before the next casting session was to improve with some written suggestions. He was able to concentrate on the fundamentals necessary, watch his back casts and cast to targets, and make necessary corrections without any distractions. Three of us going out on a flats boat would have been a waste of time.

Pat Damico, MCI 

## RANDOM THOUGHTS FROM THE TYING BENCH

By C.W. "Don" Coleman

There is more to fly fishing than just throwing a fly out there and stripping it back--copying spin fishers. A fly rod is much more versatile. If fish are feeding on the drift, a Dead Drift, a Wet Fly Swing, or a "Greased Line" Swing--which Ken Abrames says "transcends fly fishing as a sport and moves it into the realm of art"--should be considered. The strip retrieve is at its best when fish are not feeding on the "drift" in a current line or when there is little or no current. The only retrieve you can use with intermediate, sinking tip or sinking fly lines is the strip retrieve. Only floating lines allow you to mend your line in current and surf and take advantage of the versatility of a fly rod and traditional fly fishing techniques.

Additional note: Sight fishing in the winter is one area where fly fishing comes into its own and can be more effective. Fly fishing allows you to deliver small scrimp and crab flies to spooky fish in a stealthy manner.





**Capt Greg Peterson** guided **Robert Fischer** to great redfish action on a calm Tampa Bay. Get with one of our club guides to make your fishing memories.







Heading out on the MacDill flat on a low winter morning tide resulted in four redfish. Small crab and shrimp flies worked.





**Capt Rick Grasset** guided his clients to great catches in January

## Fishing Report and Forecast

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

**Capt Pat Damico provides this report from his Captain’s Corner:** The largest trout are available now. The key is to find warmer, shallow water containing small baitfish. Current tides are perfect for this. A high incoming tide late in the afternoon will flood shallows that have absorbed the sun's rays. A favorite place is a long sandbar that has adjacent healthy grass. Some of these were created when shorelines were dredged years ago to provide deeper water for docks. Leave your boat or kayak and wade right on the bar as this will be firm and easygoing. Get out maps and charts and look for these locations. Using good sunglasses, a hat with a dark underbrim and the sun at your back, stalk prospective locations like a fish-eating bird. Even large trout can be hard to see. Move slowly and look for fleeing baitfish, nervous water or the fish's shadow on the bottom. You will spook some fish, but remember where the lunkers are for future reference and to help develop a pattern for finding more. A 7- or 8-weight fly rod with a 12-foot leader tapered to 15-pound test fluorocarbon helps make a stealthy presentation of your favorite baitfish pattern to the fish's strike zone. Use a floating line and white fly patterns without weight.

**Capt Rick Grasset** reports rout, blues, Spanish mackerel and more should continue to be a good option on deep grass flats of Sarasota Bay. Catch and release night snook fishing around lighted docks and bridges in the ICW with flies and DOA Lures should also be good. Also look for snook in shallow water along with larger trout and reds when conditions are good. There may be some action in the coastal gulf with false albacore (little tunny) and tripletail depending on sea conditions.

**Kayak guide Neil Taylor** reports the action has been the best it's been all winter. We have had basically the easiest fishing you can imagine. The fish are willing to eat just about anything that you put in front of them. It doesn't matter what time of day but try to pick a decent tide. The trout action has been basically as easy as it gets. Redfish have been very good and with opportunities like blue fish and giant ladyfish, the clients are having excellent outings.

**Fishing at MacDill AFB** remains fairly slow this winter with a lack of redfish. Some trout, sheepshead and a few snook are around, but the reds and black drum are largely absent. I don’t know why as MacDill is usually very good in the winter. The Cypress flat continues to hold fish on the low tide inside the bar over the grass.



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
- 23 Feb – 3 Mar Brazil Peacock Bass trip
- 19 Mar (tentative date) Annual Banquet – Hunters Green
- 25 Mar – 1 Apr Two Boys Inn, Andros Island, Bahamas
- 1 Apr Suncoast Fly Club banquet
- TBD Fly Film Tour in Tampa
- 13 April CCA Banquet
- June Beginners Clinic
- July Lake Calm Freshwater Outing
- Oct 7-8 Florida Sportsman Show
- TBD FFF Enclave
- Oct 21 – 28 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 West .....813-971-8697

### St. Petersburg

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

### Polk County

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



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- THE FLY GUY, Capt. Pat Damico, (727) 504-8649 [www.captpat.com](http://www.captpat.com), pat4jaws@hotmail.com
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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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\$120.00 Corporate Double Membership

(includes two memberships or family membership and

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Five-year dues: \$100.00 Individual Membership

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