



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

**Speaker: Jim Swann
Fresh Water Fishing in Florida**

Jim is a good friend of our club and the owner of Swann's Fly Fishing Outfitters located in historic Dade City, Fl. It's worth the short drive from Tampa to check out this old fashioned shop loaded with flies, gear and assorted interesting objects. Jim ties hundreds of bugs a week and can set you up with all the flies you need to attack Florida's many ponds, lakes and canals. Jim Swann knows the local waters like the back of his hand and will share valuable tips. Please join us for an interesting and informative talk on fly fishing. Jim can answer all your questions and guide you to some easy and productive fly fishing in your neighborhood or around Dade City.

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.

MARCH PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Welcome to March 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 Sam Root for his super presentation on the Salty Fly, Mustad Hooks and drone photography. We look forward to supporting and fishing the next Salty Fly in October. And, Thanks to Capt. Pat Damico for tying his Backwater Muddler. See page 6 for details .

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.

Please note we have re-scheduled our banquet to 7 May. Please signup and pay at the next two meetings. Sorry for the later date, but we had trouble getting the venue.

// Walt Durkin 

EVENTS

- Brazil Trip – 23 Feb
- Two Boys Inn, Bahamas trip – 25 Mar
- Fish MacDill AFB - 01 April
- CCA Banquet and auction – 13 April
- Club Annual banquet – 7 May

OFFICERS AND DIRECTORS

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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



Annual Club Banquet 7 May. We will host our banquet again this year at Hunter's Green Country Club in New Tampa on Sunday, 7 May, 3 pm. Tickets are \$40 for one and \$75 for two. Please sign up and pay at the next two meetings or RSVP to me (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 items you may not need but can't resist. We will have drawing for some free stuff. This is a club fund raiser so please Join us for good food, fun and friends. As a special treat this year, Bruce and Patty Anderson will provide us a slide show on their trip to Antarctica a couple of years ago.




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.



Take Action to Restore the Everglades: Bonefish & Tarpon Trust fully supports these bills and encourages our anglers and all who care about our recreational fisheries to join the cause. This is a pivotal moment in Everglades restoration, and your voice is needed! Please visit BTT.org/FixOurWater to send a message to your elected representatives in support of Senate Bill 10 and House Bill 761.

Florida FFF Chapter Seeks Help: We have had a Council Expo almost every year and we need your assistance. Over the past four years the attendance has been decreasing even with high quality programs. We need volunteers to take responsibility for: finding a venue, planning the program, obtaining raffle items, assisting with booths, registering attendees using RegOnline, and publicity. We have had very dedicated members volunteer to perform these many functions but need new volunteers. **We need more participation from all clubs and better attendance from all clubs at the Expo. If we are to have a successful Expo for 2017 we need volunteers identified as soon as possible.** Please call or e-mail me (706-726-7899) or Tom Logan (850-212-5396). Greatly appreciate your help!

Tom Gadacz



Tips for TBFFC

For sight fishing in the winter use longer and lighter leaders to cast small shrimp, crab and minnow patterns. A popular formula according to Chico Fernandez in his new book *Fly Fishing for Redfish* is 50%/30%/20%. Thus, for a light winter leader, I will use six feet of 30, four feet of 20 and three feet of 12 pound test. This gives a 13 foot leader that will turn over small flies just fine and should be stealthy enough. I also like to fish a clear tip line in the winter as an extra precaution. Winter fish in our clear bay waters will be extra cautious and will spook when they see your line or leader. Make careful casts with long leaders and light flies for your best chance to catch a big redfish in skinny water.

RANDOM THOUGHTS FROM THE TYING BENCH

By C.W. "Don" Coleman

Maxims: "Fly fishing in the surf is practiced in the current created by the breaking waves, not the tide. Fish as nearly parallel to the waves as possible and allow the fly to be carried into the wash." – Ken Abrames

The art of fly tying is in your choice of materials and tying methods so that your fly will appear alive, whether at rest or being retrieved.

Flies that do not have that essential spark of life are usually effective only with a strip retrieve, which is seldom productive when fish are feeding on the "drift".

Learn to take pride in your fly casting and your fly tying. If you can't, practice until you can.

PAT DAMICO'S BACKWATER MUDDLER

Materials

Hook - Mustad Signature C70S D
Tail - White marabou
Legs - Yellow Sili-legs
Body - EP shrimp dub brush (tan)
Eyes - Bead chain or lead
Thread - Flat waxed nylon



Tying Instructions

Tie one marabou feather at the rear of the hook, creating 1 1/2 - 2 inch tail.
Tie one leg on either side of the tail ahead of the tail.
Tie in eyes about 1/8 inch back from the hook eye.
Palmer the shrimp dub brush from the front of the area where the tail is tied in to behind the eyes.
Use a brush to comb it toward the tail. Add a weed guard as needed.
Use for snook and baby tarpon.

Robert Fischer's Great Day: Last January I set up a trip with fly fishing guide Greg Peterson (601-4605). After our 48 hour winter season this year the weather turned perfect. It was one of those days I've seen on TV but never happens whenever I go fishing. The wind was dead calm, temperatures from 55 to 75, no clouds and good incoming tides. The full moon was a problem; I avoid fishing during the full moon, but Greg said it would probably be all right. We left the boat ramp in Greg's Maverick Mirage and flew across the bay. It was like running in melted butter, velvety smooth and dry with the 4 stroke Yamaha quietly purring along.



Our first stop was barren so we moved to another flat about 5 miles away. The sun rose a little and the visibility started to improve. Now if you've fished Tampa Bay redfish you know how spooky they can be, worse than any Bahamas bonefish. And if you've fished on dead calm waters you know how much worse that can make it. But I was using a 7 weight rod with a 12' leader and a Puglisi pancake fly that landed without any splash at all so I knew we had a chance. We began seeing fish and after a few well placed casts we got several refusals. Greg suggested a different colored fly that would sink faster. A nice fish showed up at about 60' and my lucky, long cast landed perfectly. Two strips and the fish pounced on the fly. The fight was on. The 7 weight bent into the cork and into the backing she went. Big smiles all around as the big fat red girl ran and wallowed in the mirrored water. After 10 minutes, she came to hand, we took some photos, retrieved the fly from deep in her crushers and revived her a bit before sending her on her way. 32 to 34 inches of golden beauty. Wow that was perfect textbook red-fishing, the way it should be.

Robert Fischer's Great Day continued:

Moving to another flat we had several shots but some were that impossible 10' to 15' cast when the fish would appear out of nowhere and any movement would spook them. That's great for your adrenalin rush but not good for hooking up. Getting a little shallower revealed some tailing fish that allowed us to get set up and ready before getting too close. One fish, 50' away let me make 5 casts but all were too far away from the spot he was grubbing in. After getting in to 30', a cast landed 2' away and the fight was on again. Lots of line had to be cleared as this fish took off like a scalded dog and got well into the backing also. Another good bulldog like fight and we had our second redfish over 30". Holy cow, this never happens to me but I'm sure glad it did today.

A short lunch break and on to the next flat. A high sun with no clouds or wind made the visibility spectacular. We saw lots of fish and got several good and some not so good shots; tough redfishing for sure. A little deeper water (maybe 20") and Greg suggested a different shrimpy, crabby pattern he ties that would hug the bottom. The next shot was a long one, about 70'. Two fish coming right at us, but a good cast and Greg's coaching on when to strip led to our 3rd hookup in classic fashion. Of course, the smaller of the two fish got the fly but still she went into the backing. Another good long stubborn fight. This beauty was only 28".

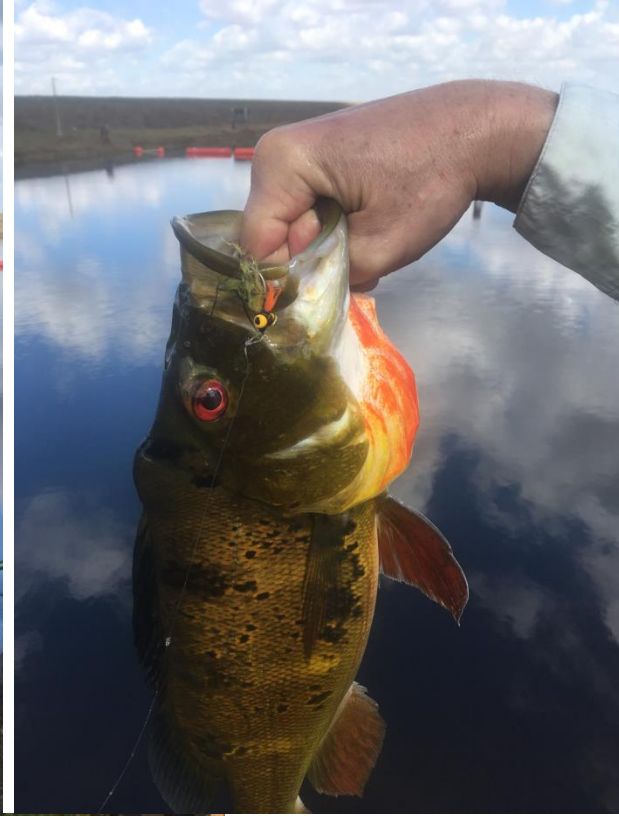
We got a few more shots but were snubbed. No matter, with three fish caught and a total of over 90" on a perfect winter day, I had no complaints. I've done a lot of fly fishing for reds and this was my best day ever. Greg is a great captain and very enjoyable to fish with. He has a beautiful high performance boat and he has flies that work. If you want to catch redfish, call **Greg at 601-4605**.



I guided Ted to a nice winter snook in the upper bay (Allen Creek); Ted caught these two reds wading and sight fishing.



Cypress Park flat continues to hold redfish: Capt. Bryon, Walt Durkin and Logan Valeri sight fishing.



Frank Rhodes and Steve Parker caught nice peacock bass and a blue tilapia in the Miami area.



Capt Rick Grassette guided his clients to great catches this winter.

Fishing Report and Forecast

“What a great time to go fishing!”

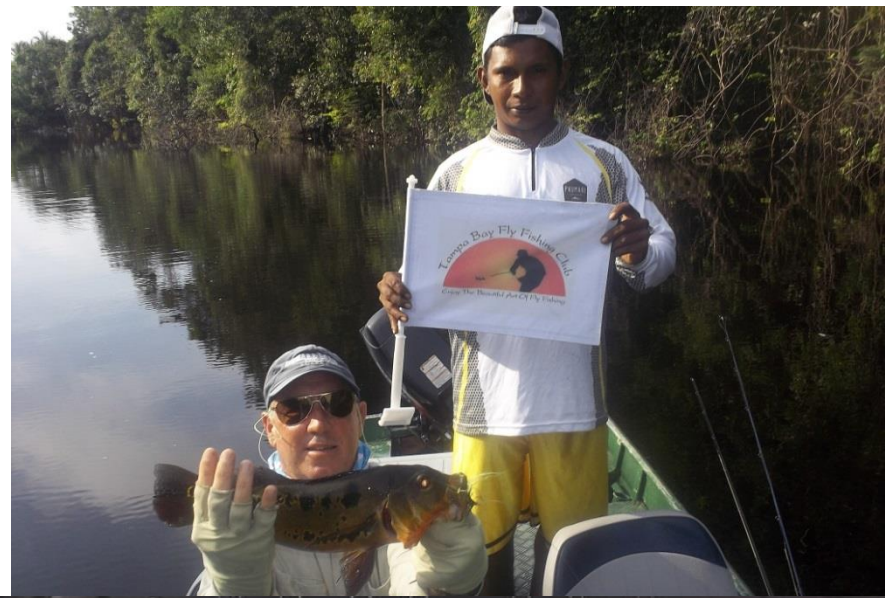
Capt Pat Damico provides this report from his Captain’s Corner: Water temperatures in the 70s were a pleasant surprise during recent fly fishing river trips. Redfish, ladyfish, trout, snook, largemouth bass and a few baby tarpon were our reward for slow, deep presentations of baitfish patterns. Deep water with wood structure harbored the most quality fish. Arriving at the end of the outgoing tide allowed us to see trees and wood that would later be covered with a fast incoming tide. Full sinking fly lines matched with an 8 weight fly rod were used with a short 4-foot, 20-pound leader and a 30-pound hard monofilament shock tippet. Weighted synthetic baitfish patterns with a 30-pound hard monofilament weed or wood guard in sizes 1 and 2 can probe depths and not hang up.

Capt Rick Grasset reports fish in shallow water have been very spooky due to clear water and calm conditions making them tough to catch, although you should find snook, larger trout and reds there when conditions are good. Wading with a fly rod or making long casts with spinning tackle are good tactics for fishing shallow water. 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. Trout, blues, Spanish mackerel, pompano and more should be good options on deep grass flats of Sarasota Bay.

Kayak guide Neil Taylor reports action has been fantastic in a year where we really have not had a winter. Trout are big and in good numbers. Redfish are cooperative most of the time. It is a great time of year to get on great action. The afternoons have been better than the mornings generally. That trend should reverse as spring arrives.

Fishing at MacDill AFB remains fairly slow this winter with a lack of redfish. Some trout, sheephead 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. The fish are very spooky and require long (12-14 ft) leaders and small flies. Cast to tailing fish when their tails are in the air when possible.

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
- 7 May 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

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Please Check: One Year _____ Five Year _____

Please list names you wish to include in family membership

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Ad Space in Newsletter)

Five-year dues: \$100.00 Individual Membership

\$140.00 Family Membership

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