



**Next meeting 5 April  
0600 PM to 0900 PM**

**Speaker: Dr. Liz Wallace  
Florida Tarpon**

Dr. Liz Wallace is a marine biologist specializing in sportfish genetics. This information can play a critical role in developing effective conservation and management strategies for recreational fisheries. Currently, Liz is working for the Fish and Wildlife Research Institute in St. Petersburg (which is the research arm of FWC). She has been studying bonefishes and their relatives for over 10 years. In her spare time, Liz enjoys the many water related activities the Tampa Bay area has to offer including diving, sailing, paddle boarding, and fly fishing.

Liz will discuss the results from her recently completed study on tarpon exploring population connectivity between geographic locations. Are Florida tarpon populations self-supporting? Or are Florida's tarpon shared with more distant locations? The answers to these questions will guide management and conservation by identifying the scale we need to focus these efforts- local and/ or regional.

**Tyer: Layne "Smitty" Smith**

This month we have a true artist tying for us. Smitty will tie a tarpon fly for us to celebrate the beginning of our tarpon season off our beaches. Smitty is a good friend to the club and is generous with his skills and expertise. Come and watch a master at work.

**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.

## April President's message

Welcome to April and warmer weather and water. Check out our fishing report for the latest spots and techniques.

Thanks to Jim Swann for an interesting and informative talk on fresh water fishing. Take the time for a day trip to Jim's unique shop in Dade City. This small Florida town has many interesting shops and restaurants.

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 must validate our Board of Directors this month. We welcome new board members if you would like to join. Meanwhile, we will have a hand vote on retaining the current board at the next meeting.

// Walt Durkin 

## EVENTS

- Cypress Park Outing – 8 April
- Annual banquet – 7 May
- Lake Calm Outing - 10 June

## OFFICERS AND DIRECTORS

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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](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 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.

**Brazil Peacock Bass report:** Frank, Buddy and I enjoyed another super week in Brazil on the Rio Negro river chasing peacock bass. The weather was overcast and we had a little rain, which kept things cooler. Frank and I caught the most fish on the fly and the plug casters got the bigger ones up to 14 lbs. Nine anglers all enjoyed the trip and the boat, food and guides were all excellent. And, we had a good supply of cold beer to ease our tired bones each night. Manaus is an easy five hour flight from Miami, but you do need to get a Brazil visa in advance.


**Cypress Park Outing:** We will offer an outing to this great flat on **8 April** for wade fishing. We will provide lunch. Meet at 0700 AM. Sign up at the next meeting or email me.




**Sarasota CCA Photo All-Release Challenge:** Tournament dates are **April 28th (angler meeting) and April 29th (fishing day)**. The tournament will again be held at Mote Marine. **Rick Grasset** is seeking flies: 24 identical flies for the tournament? He'll need them by April 15th if possible. Please let him know if you are able to donate and what pattern you are thinking of. Flies should be mailed to Rick or dropped off to Doug Forde at **CB's Saltwater Outfitters**. This is really appreciated and your support helps make the fly division of this tournament successful. We've got some new tournament committee members from Mangrove Coast Fly Fishers and we're hoping to build the fly division up. Thanks very much.

**Rick Grasset**, 2447 Waneta Drive  
Sarasota, FL 34231

**Fly Fishing Film Tour.** No Tampa event yet, but 13 May in Clearwater at Empire Oyster?



## Tips for TBFFC

If you are a dedicated fly fisherman I encourage you to learn and practice casting with both hands. I started a couple of years ago and now switch hands without hesitation. With a helping wind you can cast just about as far with the opposite hand. And, on a breezy day with the wind off your right shoulder the left handed cast works well. I still stick to my right hand for long casts into the wind, but my left hand cast is pretty reliable. While fishing in Brazil from a small boat I used my left hand a lot so Frank and I could both fish at once. Additionally, we were often casting so it also gave one arm a rest. One way to learn is to practice casting with a rod in each hand. It will feel very awkward at first, but hang in there and you will improve with patience. This effort will enhance your casting skills and pay fishing, catching dividends. Walt 

## RANDOM THOUGHTS FROM THE TYING BENCH

By C.W. “Don” Coleman

MYSTERIES – I would not like to live in a world without mysteries. Nor would I like to think that there is nothing else for me to learn beyond what I have personally experienced.

MAXIMS: Keep your mind on the fly you are fishing, not in your fly box.

Size and the illusion of life are more important than fly pattern.

The core of fly fishing is line handling.

Read the morning paper for the “Truth,” then go fishing to get the taste of it out of your mouth. – Ed Zern

Don’t bring bananas on a guide’s boat. They get upset.



Buddy Stokes, Capt Frank and myself enjoyed our week on the Reo Negro in the Amazon chasing peacock bass. Above left is an Arawana; looks like a slinky tarpon. Our hosts set up a practice camp one night on sand bar. This sand is quite like our beach sand; white and very fine.



One of four snook Ted caught on a low tide morning on the Cypress flat. We found the snook laid up on the inside of the sand bar at the start of the incoming tide. You could sight fish them and a Puglici minnow did the trick.

## JIM SWANN'S GRASS SHRIMP

### Materials

Hook - #8 Aberdeen

Head - Red plastic bead

Body - Chartreuse chenille

Legs - Chartreuse Sililegs

Collar - Chartreuse neck hackle

Thread - Chartreuse flat waxed nylon

### Tying Instructions

Put bead on hook and tie in thread to keep bead in place.

Tie in Sililegs near hook eye and stretch them as you tie them on top of the hook. Cut the legs about 1/2 inch past the bend of the hook.

Tie body with chenille, starting at the bend of the hook and going back to the front and tie off.

Palmer the hackle around the front of the fly and tie off.





**Capt Rick Grasset** guided his clients to great catches in this spring.



## Fishing Report and Forecast

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

**Capt Pat Damico provides this report from his Captain’s Corner:** Conditions are perfect for family fun. Small freshwater lakes and ponds are everywhere, and all have panfish and bass. Developments and golf courses are a good example. Summer weeds to foul hooks are absent, and fish are always hungry. Your freshwater trout equipment sitting in the garage will be perfect. A 3-5 weight fly rod with floating weight-forward line and a simple 6-foot leader tapered to 6-pound test will launch small flies, size 6-10, that imitate ants, beetles, crickets and minnows. White, black and chartreuse are all good colors. Pick an area free of trees and people to prevent problems with backcasts. Docks, bridges, lily pads, weed beds, overhanging trees and stumps offer structure that harbor food for these scrappy gamefish. Cast around these fish magnets and work both floating and submerged offerings. Flies should be worked slowly, and any hesitation felt should be met with a hook set.

**Capt Rick Grasset** reports anglers fishing with him, out of CB's Saltwater Outfitters on Siesta Key, caught and released trout in Sarasota Bay on flies, CAL jigs with shad tails and DOA shrimp during the past week. Trout, blues, Spanish mackerel, pompano and more should be a good option on deep grass flats and passes of Sarasota Bay. You should also find larger trout in shallow water along with snook and reds when conditions are good. Look for action in the coastal gulf to take off with king and Spanish mackerel, cobia and tripletail. Fishing lighted docks and bridges in the ICW for snook with flies and DOA Lures continues to be a good option.

**Kayak guide Neil Taylor** reports it is always this way with fishing. It is great one day, then not so great the next. That is happening right now. But overall there are more good days than bad. Opportunities are always there: Will you catch four really big fish or will you catch 40 pretty good fish? You will have a mix of both. Trout, a standard, are easy IF you go to the right place. You can catch a lot of them one place but are they big trout? Redfish, still not the best they could be, you can catch them IF you go to the right spot AT the right time. It is spring: Pompano and mackerel are good and getting better every day that goes by.

**Fishing at MacDill AFB** remains fairly slow this winter with a lack of redfish. However, as the weather warms I expect fishing to pick up. One report indicated good numbers of tailing black drum on the flat. Snook will be on the flat soon and trout remain available in the creeks. Snook are coming out on the Cypress flat also. Look for them on the incoming tide and fish Puglici minnows on a 25 lb tippet.

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
- 25 Mar – 1 Apr Two Boys Inn, Andros Island, Bahamas
- 1 Apr Suncoast Fly Club banquet
- 8 Apr Cypress Park outing
- 13 April CCA Banquet
- 7 May Club Banquet, Hunter's Green
- 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

## Fly Casting Coaches

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

### South Tampa

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

Walt Durkin.....813-476-7128

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

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

Leigh West .....813-971-8697

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2014 Member Application  
Tampa Bay Fly Fishing Club

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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

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(includes one membership and Ad Space)

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(includes two memberships or family membership and

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Five-year dues: \$100.00 Individual Membership

\$140.00 Family Membership

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