



Next meeting 4 April

0600 PM to 0900 PM

Speaker: Capt. Bryon Chamberlin
"DIY Bonefishing"

Please join us as Capt. Bryon presents slides and tips on do-it-yourself bonefishing in the Florida Keys and the Bahamas. DIY is fun, challenging and a little less expensive. Combined with hiring a guide for a day or two, DIY can be a productive adventure testing your skills in finding and catching fish. You may catch fewer fish, but the experience is more rewarding as you rely on your own wiles.

Fly Tyer
Bryce Etter

Bryce ties professionally and will tie at our club for the first time. Please come meet him; and, get some tips from a real expert as he ties a go-to salt water pattern.

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.

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Welcome to April and our spring-like conditions.

I hope you all enjoyed **Capt. Rick Grasstt's** presentation on shallow water fly fishing in Tampa Bay. Rick is one of our best local guides and will take you out for a great day of fishing.

As we enter April, look for tarpon close to our beaches. You can sight fish for 50 to 100 pound silver kings on-the-fly. Get out early on a calm day and watch for schools of tarpon to roll or come by. Patience is key.

We are seeking help in a fly fishing seminar at the **East Lake Woodlands** golf club on 20 May from 1-3 PM. We need two instructors and two fly tiers. This is a good opportunity for the club to introduce our sport to interested people in the area.

I encourage new members to go to our website (**TBFFC.org**), click on "articles", click on **Wade Fishing Guide** for tips on where and how to fish Tampa Bay.

// Walt Durkin 

EVENTS

- 18 March - Annual banquet
- 20 May - East Lake Woodlands seminar
- 9 June – Freshwater outing, Lake Calm, Odessa

OFFICERS AND DIRECTORS

President: Walt Durkin 813-476-7128
Walt.durkin@aol.com cell 813-853-5870

Vice President: Ted Hagaman 813-920-7863
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

Annual Club Banquet 18 March



Our club held a successful banquet again this year at Hunter's Green Country Club. Thanks to all our members who attended and I hope you had a great time. Thanks to our board members who donated the raffle items and set up the silent auction. Thanks to the four guides who generously donated fishing trips; please support them: Rick Grasset, Nick Angelo , Greg Peterson and Christopher Hargiss. Hunters Green provided a beautiful venue and good food and service as always. We also owe thanks to local shops; On the Fly and Tampa Fishing Outfitters for their support; Orvis gave us a super gift as they do each year. We welcome ideas on how to spend club funds on supporting fly fishing or conservation. //Walt

Patty, Ginny and Lou looking at our silent auction; Ted with raffle items; two gate crashers



TBFFC NEWS & NOTES

Project Healing Waters helps disabled veterans through fly fishing activities. Our club sponsors PHW efforts in Tampa Bay. Club member, Joe Perez, has volunteered to lead the program in association with our club. Please support his efforts in this great cause. Joe needs one casting instructor for 5 April.

5 April - casting class from 5:00 to 7:00 at the Bobby Hicks Park at the corner of Manhattan and Mango in S. Tampa

18 April - at 6:00 to 8:00 pm rod building and fly tying at Bass Pro Shop in Brandon.



Costa de Cocas Trip, 27 Oct to 3 Nov
Capt. Frank Rhodes is starting to collect a \$500 deposit for our annual trip to Mexico for a week's fishing for bonefish, tarpon and permit. Call Frank for details and to reserve your spot: 863-604-6505. This trip is a great value and loads of fun. I go every year and would not miss it.

Fly Fishing Resolutions of the Month

- Stop making excuses for not going fishing
- Be observant on the flats and appreciate our beautiful environment
- Practice good catch and release techniques

Tips for TBFFC

Work on Your Arm Position. When I see someone with their casting arm outstretched vertically, straight from the shoulder, I know they are in trouble. I ask them to put down the rod and holding their hand high and outstretched push forward against my hand while creating some resistance as you would in actual casting. Not only does it feel uncomfortable for them, it shows how little pressure they are putting on the rod grip with their original technique. I then have them put their elbow and arm close to their body and with the hand elevated again push against my hand with pressure. They instantly get the message, realizing how much more comfortable and easier it is working from that position. Capt. Pat 

Water Temperatures Make a Difference. Having a fantastic river trip one day where we caught a lot of snook in shallow water on a fly and going back to the same location three days later and not finding any cooperative fish can be very puzzling. What happened? Recent warm weather was replaced by continuous cold fronts. My water temperature gauge read 74 the same time on the first day and 66 the second day. Fish that love tropical temperatures that were hitting baitfish patterns as well as poppers with enthusiasm had now vacated the shallows. We continued to ply sunny shorelines, structure and docks that previously produced, but to no avail. Baitfish were totally absent where previously the fly hitting the water would spook them. I moved to the closest deep water, which happened to be a large 15-foot hole, and began to see baitfish on my depth finder. Switching from a floating line to a full-sinking or sinking tip line with a weighted baitfish pattern started to produce fish. Deeper structure such as large trees that had fallen into the water gave us some sight-fishing opportunities as some lethargic snook were starting to appear from the depths and water continued to warm later in the day. The diminished tide allowed the slow-moving water to absorb more heat making it more friendly to baitfish and predators. A sudden water temperature change always requires some adjustments.

Fly fisherman Pat Damico runs charters in lower Tampa Bay and can be reached at captpatdamico.com or (727) 504-8649

Fly of the Month By Smitty

Materials

Hook:	Owner Aki 1/0
Thread :	Flat waxed nylon – orange
Tail:	Craft fur – cream
Under-wing:	Ostrich Herl – hot orange
Over-wing:	Craft fur – cream
Legs:	Sililegs – Hot Orange (2)
Flash:	Krystal Flash – rootbeer
Collar:	Polar Dub – hot orange
Head:	Tapered thread
Marker:	Sharpie – orange



Tying Sequence

1. Put the hook in the vise and attach thread at the hook point and wrap back to the bend.
2. Cut a healthy pinch of craft fur, preen out all the long and short pieces, tie in at the hook point and wrap back to the barb.
3. Tie in the ostrich herl at the hook point to match the length of the fur.
4. Repeat Step 2 at the same tie in point. Do 6 post wraps (wraps around the fur and herl where they attach to the hook) to keep the tail from fouling.

P.S. Look for tarpon off our shores in April and May. Smitty is recovering and we hope to welcome him back our club soon!



Club members Rich Gorden and Frank Rhodes score on bass and peacocks. Rich shows his winning flies. Rich was fishing north of Tampa and Frank was in Ft. Lauderdale.



Club members Patty and Bruce Anderson returned from a trip to New Zealand recently. Patty below with her guide and a rainbow trout. Bruce tries his luck on the right. This is mostly all sight fishing for big, spooky fish.





Capt. Rick Grasset's clients score on trout, reds and mackerel in March. Rick was our guest speaker last month and he is ready to show you a great day on the water.
Capt. Rick Grasset (941) 923-7799



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 on the Avalon II in Cuba.



Fishing Report and Forecast

“What a great time to go fishing!”

Capt Pat Damico provides this report from his Captain’s Corner. A recent warming trend had been a boost to shallow water fly fishing. Since most inshore water species are in schools, many fish can be caught in a short period of time. Even if a few fish are going to be kept, having the ability to safely and quickly release a fish requires careful technique. I often see serious fishermen who want to preserve their sport for the future do the wrong things. Handling the fish with a dry towel, holding large fish vertically and keeping them out of the water too long can be fatal. Most flies have a single hook that can be crimped or debarbed ahead of time. It will penetrate the fish’s mouth more easily and simplify removal. Do barbless hooks make it easier to loosen fish? If constant tension is applied, no. Get the fish in quickly, especially in warmer water. Grab the leader close to the fish and with your other hand engage the hook bend with a simple wire hook degorger sold in all tackle shops, similar to the ones used to remove live baitfish from a Sabiki rig. Lift vertically with the degorger while holding the leader below the fish’s mouth, and the hook point will disengage, allowing it to slip back into the water. All this without handling the fish. *Pat Damico runs charters in lower Tampa Bay and can be reached at captpatdamico.com and (727) 504-8649.*

Capt Rick Grassett suggests April is a great month for snook on shallow flats or around lighted docks and bridges at night. Reds and trout will also be more active as the water warms and baitfish become more plentiful. You might find Spanish mackerel, blues and pompano in passes or on deep grass flats of Sarasota Bay. You should also find Spanish mackerel along with false albacore (little tunny), cobia and tripletail, in the coastal gulf this month. Tarpon should also make an appearance in bay or back country areas or along beaches by later in the month.

Kayak guide, Neil Taylor, reports our spring pattern has arrived a full month early. He’s found easy action almost every day and still catching a dozen fish on tough days. Trout are the easiest choice and nothing beats Spanish mackerel on the fly. They eat anything they see, but bright and flashy is best. Pompano are coming up fast and may be an easy, fun target through October. In a word: Go. If you haven't been fishing in a while, it's time to get in on what’s going on.

The **Cypress flat** continues to fish well for snook and reds. Fish to the north on the low tides and to the south on the higher tides. Look for snook in the little channel just to the north of the marker at the end of the beach. A good incoming tide will have snook waiting in the channel for bait or your fly to swing their way.

2018 CALENDAR OF EVENTS

- Jan 20 Shad Outing St John's River
- Feb 9-10 FFI Enclave
- Mar 18 Annual Banquet – Hunters Green
- Apr 12 CCA Banquet
- May 20 East Lake Woodlands fly fishing seminar
- June Beginners Clinic
- 9 June Lake Calm Freshwater Outing
- Oct Florida Sportsman Show
- Oct 27 – Nov 3 Mexico: Costa de Cocas trip
- Oct 18 Carl Hanson Outing, Hillsborough River
- Early Nov Chattooga Trip for trout
- Nov 18 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
- 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 ,w ww.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
- Carbon Marine, 3916 W. Osborne Ave. Tampa Fl, 33614, 813-870-1234
- Tampa Fishing Outfitters, 3916 W. Osborne Ave, Tampa, FL; 813-870-1234, tampafishingoutfitters.com
- Dave Chouinard, Simms Fishing, 732-610-9700, Fax: 727-953-6296 ; Dave@ChouinardOutdoor.com

Tampa Fishing Outfitters

Largest tackle shop on the West coast of FL – great fly fishing gear

3916 W. Osborne Ave. Tampa Fl, 33614

Phone: 813-870-1234

Website: tampafishingoutfitters.com

Carbon Marine

Inshore fishing boat accessories, push poles and repair

Joe Welbourn

(813) 928-9887

jwelbourn@carbonmarine.com



alligator bob's
PREMIUM MEAT SNACKS

Robert "Alligator Bob" Young

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

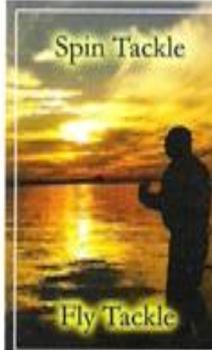
Ph: (813) 986-3008 Order online!
Email: gatorbob@gatorbob.com gatorbob.com



Salt Flies

Custom Built Saltwater Flies

CRAIG SMOTHERS PHONE: (941) 266-5209
5526 SHADY BROOK TR. EMAIL: SALTFLYS@GMAIL.COM
SARASOTA, FL. 34243 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



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 Bypass
Dade City, Fl. 33525

Chouinard Outdoor Associates, Inc

Southeast representative for **Simms** fishing products

Phone: 732-610-9700
Fax: 727-953-6296
Dave@ChouinardOutdoor.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