



**Next meeting 3 Feb 2016
0600 PM to 0900 PM**

Captain Rick Grasset



Rick, owner of Snook Fin-Addict Guide Service, Inc., is a full time fishing guide and outdoor writer based in Sarasota. He has been guiding since 1990 and is an Orvis-Endorsed fly fishing guide at CB's Saltwater Outfitters on Siesta Key in Sarasota. He is also a Federation of Fly Fishers certified instructor and an instructor at the Orvis-Endorsed Fly Fishing School at CB's Saltwater Outfitters. Specializing in fishing with flies and lures on light spinning tackle, he fishes the bays, back country and coastal gulf waters of Sarasota Bay, lower Tampa Bay and Charlotte Harbor in his 17' Action Craft flats skiff. Rick is a good friend of our club, so please join us for an interesting and informative presentation from one of the best. Rick will speak on winter fly fishing tactics and options; and, tie winter flies including, Grasset's Flats Minnow, Snook Minnow and Flats Bunny.



Annual Club Banquet 6 March. We will host our banquet again this year at Hunter's Green Country Club in New Tampa on Sunday, 6 Mar, 3pm. Tickets are \$40 for one and \$75 for two. Please sign up and pay at the next meeting or RSVP to me (walt.durkin@aol.com) and pay at the door. We will have appetizers at 3 and a buffet at 04:30. The buffet will include London Broil and sautéed chicken with prosciutto and Asiago cheese, roasted red potatoes and vegetables. Chocolate cake and key lime pie for desert along with coffee and tea. We will have a silent auction with a good selection of items that you may not need, but can't resist. We will also have drawings for some free stuff. This is a club fund raiser, so please join us for good food, fun and friends.

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 February and cooler waters in the bay and Gulf. I hope you have enjoyed sight fishing our low winter tides.

Thanks to all who participated in our annual shad outing to the St John's river. We did not find many shad but had a great time camping out with good friends to swap stories around the fire.

I have seen few or no mullet on my favorite flats in Dec/Jan and consequently less game fish. A few mullet showed up last week and we did have one good day with about a dozen reds. Watch for more mullet to turn up after their spawn and you should find reds and other fish with them.

We are collecting annual club dues in Jan/Feb, so please bring cash or your check book to the next meeting.

Please note my new email: walt.durkin@aol.com
// Walt Durkin



EVENTS

- Christmas Island trip, Feb 8-16
- Casting Clinic, 5 Mar, Maximo Park
- Club Banquet, 6 Mar, 3 PM
- Suncoast Fly Club Banquet, 2 Apr

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2016 TBFFC MEETING DATES

This month's meeting is 3 February from 6 to 9 PM.

TBFFC NEWS & NOTES

St Johns River Shad Outing Report: 8-10 Jan.

We had a good turn out this year with about 15 folks from our club and about 40 others from clubs around the state. We fished Friday afternoon and Saturday with good weather. Rain came Saturday night, but we stayed dry under a nice shelter provided by Bryon and Erin. Robert brought his portable fire pit, which we used each morning to take off the chill. Robert cooked a seafood gumbo on Friday and Nick provide his seafood cioppino on Saturday. We ate and drank well. Shad fishing was a little slow, but the St Johns offered other species to fill in such as crappie, bass, bream and stripers. This is really a super fishery and reminiscent of old Florida. Ed Fisher had the catch of the trip with a 7 lb (big for the St Johns) stripped bass. We were a little early for peak shad fishing, so another weekend visit might be in order this spring. Thanks to Scott for hosting all the clubs on his beautiful 50 acres on the river.

Bighorn Rive Float trip 15-19 June. Jack Hexter is looking for two people to join him on a trip to the Bighorn River (Ft Smith, Montana). The web site for this lodge is <http://bighornfly.com/> This is for four nights of lodging, three days of guided float trips with all meals included. If anyone needs rental rods, reels or waders that is included as well. He and his wife are traveling by camper and will arrive in Ft Smith on June 15, 2016. Obviously, there is one extra person already paid for by Jack, but to upgrade this to four people, which the lodge encourages, the additional charge is \$1295. He wants someone who will pay the upgrade as another couple or even just come out and fish on his dime with him. His current itinerary calls for arrival in Ft Smith on June 15, departing on June 19. Anyone interested can contact Jack via e-mail, j.hexter@verizon.net or 813-235-3358.

Casting Clinic 5 Mar at Maximo Park. Hosted by FFF certified master casting instructors. Free to FFF members or join FFF for the clinic.



TBFFC Cookbook Project

As the new year is off to a great start, so is a project that the fly fishing club has decided to take on. We are in the process of creating a club cookbook!

Now we all know first hand from the club's outings, camping trips, and the holiday parties that the club has plenty of great cooks, chefs, master of the grills and coleman stoves! How wonderful it would be to share all our best recipes with each other in our own signature book. We have enough members that if everyone participated we would have a great volume of culinary wealth.

We are asking members who enjoy a good meal to mail, email, or bring to the meeting up to 5 of your best recipes.

We will include your name on the recipe so make sure you provide it. If hand written, please write legibly so we will not make mistakes in deciphering the ingredients, leading to a kitchen disaster! Also be sure to include exact directions, including cooking times, oven temps and specific amounts of the ingredients. Recipes may be for appetizers, outdoor/camp grilling, salads, soups, main courses, deserts, or even drinks!

Depending on the response, we may not be able to include every recipe submitted, and we may not have time to test each of the recipes, so be sure all information to create the special dish is included.

If you have any great pictures of fish or club outings using your recipes, or a favorite fly fishing quote feel free to pass them along as well, to embellish the book.

We would like these sent within the next month, so we can get this project underway, so don't delay and forget or we will be missing out on your culinary finesse!

Send recipes to:

email: andersonmailbox@gmail.com

mail: Patty Anderson

11726 Lipsey Road

Tampa, FL 33618



Tips for TBFFC

Eliminating slack is one of the five essentials of good fly casting. Whether on the grass with a practice fly or fishing, slack will ruin every cast. Slack must first be recognized before correcting or eliminating it. Starting a back cast with the rod too high, or back too far; not having a straight line from the rod tip to the fly; having the rod unload, or straighten, before changing direction during a cast; not having a straight line from your line hand to the stripping guide, especially when hauling; having the line fall before changing rod direction, and large rather than small loops are just some of the culprits. The best way to see these is on the grass, standing with your casting side foot back a little, and false casting with a short line, carefully observing your cast in both directions. Let out a foot of line at a time making small adjustments to keep things in harmony. Once slack appears, back up to your sweet spot and make necessary corrections. Mark your practice line with a 2 inch black marker as a reference for your next practice session and repeat in the future.

Random Thoughts from the Tying Bench

By C.W. “Don” Coleman

ASSEMBLING A FLY ROD – The best way to assemble a fly rod is to first connect the tip of the rod to the next section and the butt section last. You should twist each one quarter turn while pushing the sections together. Of course to disassemble the sections twist in the opposite direction. As wear occurs, tiny grooves will form like a screw thread and keep the sections from separating in use. Assembling the sections by pushing them together forms straight grooves and often results in loose connections during use. If a connection does become loose, wiping the male end of the connection with candle wax—not canning wax—will provide a temporary solution.

I have watched fly casters go through ridiculous—and often dangerous—motions trying to assemble a multi-piece fly rod while seated in a canoe or small boat. The best way is to lay all the loose sections in front of you and first put the reel on the reel seat. Then pull off about 20 feet of loose line and lay it on the floor. Thread the line through the guides on the butt section and through the guides on the next section in succession and assemble the two, and continuing until all the sections are connected.



Sight fishing for redfish in the cool, clear waters of Tampa Bay!



Shad Outing: Ed with his 7 lb striper; Walt with a nice bunch of crappie; Ted with a Hickory shad; Walt with an American shad





Good day at the shad outing for Reid Martin above and Bryon Chamberlin and Greg Peterson in Bryon's boat



Scenes from the
St John's river
under an
overcast sky and
calm conditions

Rosette spoonbills enjoying the day on the St John's





Capt. Rick Grasset's clients with mixed bag

Fishing Report and Forecast

“What a great time to go fishing!”

Capt Pat Damico provides this report from his Captain’s Corner: As winter approaches, water starts to cool and baitfish are more scarce. Open-water temperatures drop faster, but some small baitfish, especially glass minnows, will be in canals and well-protected deeper areas, especially where the sun can warm the darker bottom. Seawalls, wooden structure such as docks, and boats with large hulls absorb heat, inviting fish to stay close. Our low tides are midday so bankers' hours might be in order for snook, reds and trout. As the tide comes in, feeding activity should increase. A water thermometer is a necessity. A few degrees makes a difference. Seek the warmest places. On the shallow grass flats, fish will be in sand holes, improving sight-fishing opportunities. Probe these with well-placed casts. A smooth surface with no wind might help fly casting, but larger fish will spook easier. A ripple on the surface will get you closer to fish. Fish on the windward side rather than in the lee because wind pushes plankton close to shore and available baitfish will be there feeding.

Captain Rick Grasset reports: You may find reds and big trout concentrated in potholes of Sarasota Bay in January. Action with trout, blues, Spanish mackerel, pompano and more on deep grass flats can be good depending on conditions. There should also be good catch and release snook action in rivers, creeks and canals this month, although fishing docks for snook and other species is also a good option. It may be worth checking the coastal gulf for tripletail, false albacore (little tunny) and more if it’s warm.

Fishing Report and Forecast, cont.

Capt Rick cont: Reds should be a good option in Jan/Feb. You'll find them concentrated in potholes of north Sarasota Bay when the tide is low. Fly anglers should score with lightly weighted flies fished on a 10'-12' leader with a floating fly line. Reds feed on crustaceans this time of the year, so crab and shrimp fly patterns should work well. They may tail on shallow grass flats of Gasparilla Sound, north Sarasota Bay and lower Tampa Bay when the tide is low. You'll need flies with weed guards when targeting tailing reds since they are usually in thick turtle grass.

You may also find reds around docks, along with snook, sheepshead, flounder and more. Little Sarasota Bay has numerous oyster bars and docks that often hold reds, snook and sheepshead in January. Use floating fly lines and lightly weighted flies to fish around oyster bars and sink tip fly lines to fish docks. You're likely to find big trout in many of the same areas that you find reds. The same flies and techniques that are used for reds will also work for big trout.

2016 CALENDAR OF EVENTS

- Jan 8-10 Annual Shad Outing, St Johns river
- Jan 13 FWC Snook Symposium
- Feb 8-14 Christmas Island one week trip
- Mar 5 Casting Clinic at Maximo Park
- Mar 6 Annual Banquet
- Jun Lake Calm Outing
- Oct 29-Nov 4 Xcalac Mexico Trip
- Dec Play Hooky at the Hatchery

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

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- Capt. Bryon Chamberlin (813) 361-8801
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Please Check: One Year _____ Five Year _____

Please list names you wish to include in family membership

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