



**Next meeting 2 Mar 2016
0600 PM to 0900 PM**

Guest Speaker: Cameron Jaggard

Cameron is a Senior Associate at The Pew Charitable Trusts and is based in North Palm Beach, Florida. He works with Pew's U.S. Oceans, Southeast team in support of efforts to conserve forage fish, protect special places where fish spawn, and otherwise advance science-based fishery management. Before joining the Southeast team, Cameron worked for more than four years on a federal initiative to reduce unwanted catch of marine life in the U.S. pelagic longline fishery. Cameron will speak on the importance of our oceans, the challenges they face, and efforts to transition to a big picture approach to fisheries management that will help ensure healthy marine ecosystems and fisheries into the future.

Captain Pat Damico is our guest tyer and will tie his Simple Shrimp pattern. Pat says this is a good winter fly and a good dock-light fly.





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 March , 3 pm. 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. 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.

Late breaking news: Mark Emory will be our guest speaker for the evening. Mark lives in Florida and guides in Alaska. He is an award-winning film maker, musician and photographer. He most recently directed "Seasons of the Salmon" for National Geographic television.



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

Thanks to Captain **Rick Grassette** for speaking and tying at our last meeting. Rick presented a super slide show on tactics for winter fly fishing. Rick is a good friend of the club and a great guide. His talk was interesting and informative and we look forward to having him return.

We welcome your input on speakers for the club and on outings. We try to have quality speakers, so keep you eyes open for good prospects. The same goes for outings we can enjoy as a club.

Don't forget to check out our Facebook page and you can even try to post your own photo if you so dare!

We are collecting annual club dues now, so please bring cash or check to the next meeting.

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

// Walt Durkin 

EVENTS

- Casting Clinic, 5 Mar, Maximo Park
- Club Banquet, 6 Mar, 3 PM
- Suncoast Fly Club Banquet, 2 Apr
- Everglades trip, 22-23 Apr
- Captain Mel Classic, 7 May

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2016 TBFFC MEETING DATES

This month's meeting is 2 March from 6 to 9 PM.

TBFFC NEWS & NOTES

Christmas Island trip report: Frank and Bryon just got back from an adventurous trip. After missing their once-a-week return flight to Hawaii they flew home days later thru Fiji narrowly missing a cyclone there. Frank said they caught fish despite very windy weather. More details to come in a future club presentation.

Casting Clinic 5 Mar at Maximo Park. Hosted by FFF certified master casting instructors. Registration is at 8:00 am. The course starts promptly at 8:30 am and continues until 3 pm. It's free to IFFF members. Others can join IFFF at this event for just \$35, regular, \$25 seniors, or \$15 juniors and then the clinic is free. Location: Maximo Park, next to O'Neill's Marina in St. Petersburg, just off exit 16 on Interstate 275. What: We will have some equipment for those need it. A 6-wt. to 8- wt. rod with a 7-8 ft. leader is recommended. We will have leader material, yarn, name tags, etc. Participants will be familiarized with the format, layout, schedule, etc.

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.

Everglades Trip 22-23 April. Several club members with experience in the Everglades will fish the weekend. If interested sign up at the next meeting. The River Wilderness camp ground is one good place to stay.



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

At the Somerset, NJ, show recently while participating in the EDP, Examiner Development Program, on snow covered ground, two members of the IFFF Casting Board Of Governors, were watching me cast. After what we all felt was a satisfactory completion of a task, Mac Lord, also a BOG, who gave us a great Video Casting Clinic last year at Picnic Island, was observing from a distance and walked over and said, "Do that again, Pat, without creep on your last cast." Creep is defined as, "Allowing the rod to move forward on a backcast (without power) before the unrolling back loop has straightened." When the rod stops on a backcast at the proper position, it should not move forward prematurely. Even when this is a small amount, it will affect the cast in many ways. Once noticed by watching your backcast, some casters can make an immediate correction. If having difficulty, there is one thing that you can do that always prevents creep. Drift the rod. Drift is defined as: "The repositioning of the rod (without power) that comes after the completion of the backcast." This is usually a backward movement of the rod occurring as the back loop straightens. This is much more visible when standing further from a caster. It is always better to be a drifter instead of a creep. **Pat Damico, MCI**

Random Thoughts from the Tying Bench

By C.W. "Don" Coleman

THE BENDBACK CLOUSER – A Clouser is one of the most important, if not the most important, fly in any saltwater fly box. It is simple to tie with basic materials, and as long as the eyes are light is easy to cast and can be retrieved to imitate the actions of baitfish or crustaceans. Perhaps you don't know that Bob Clouser also ties an equally simple Bendback Clouser. Simply use a #2 Mustad 34011 (long-shank, stainless hook) and bend the hook to form a bendback (remember to hold the front of the hook with pliers and bend the shank with your thumb inside the bend to avoid creating a stress point). Then tie on the metal eyes at the point where the hook is bent. Invert the hook in the vise and tie on the entire bucktail wing between the metal eyes and the hook eye—on the point side of the hook. Because of the long shank, very little bend is needed to shield the hook point. Tie in the top part of the wing while holding the bucktail up at an angle and the hook point will slide over most obstructions.



A couple of nice redfish and an 8 lb black drum ready for release on the MacDill flat.



James Janesek with a Jack and Bryon and Frank with bonefish on Christmas Island trip, the subject of a future club presentation.



Capt. Rick Grasset's clients with several nice winter trout

The FWC held a snook symposium on January 13, 2016, at the Caribe Royale in Orlando, FL. The symposium presented updated snook research and solicited input from Floridians. Jessica McCawley, Division Director Marine Fisheries Management, welcomed everyone. Speakers giving the research update included Philip Stevens, Joy Young, Robert Muller, Alexis Trotter, and Melissa Recks.

Snook are protandric hermaphrodites and hatch as males and transform to females when they are older. Apparently this process is influenced within a group of snook. Snook can live more than 20 years and reach 50 inches. Average snook on the east coast weigh 9.4 pounds and on the Gulf coast 7.2 pounds.

They live in estuary and intermediate offshore waters as well as fresh water rivers and canals. They usually return to the same waters to spawn but may spawn offshore and will usually return to the offshore site. The usual spawning time ranges from April to October. The juveniles seek the safety of estuaries. Males reach sexual maturity in 2 to 3 years and females in 3 to 4 years. Researchers tag snook to follow migration and spawning patterns and various types of tags are used including ones that emit radio waves.

There seems to be a higher natural mortality rate for west coast snook than east coast snook and some of the factors include cold kills and red tide. West coast snook mature faster than east coast ones and in general are doing better than the east coast snook. Determination of the size of the fish that can be kept has varied and is influenced by the estimate of breeding females and the upcoming male population that will transform into females.

The spawning potential ratio (SPR) is defined as the ratio of mature fish in the population compared to an unfished state and the management goal of 40% is used to provide buffer against episodic environmental events such as a cold weather kill or red tide. Stocks are now rebuilding and snook stamp funds have generated money for more robust stock assessment.

A stakeholder survey was conducted and additional discussions are scheduled for the rest of 2016. More information can be found at <http://myfwc.com/fishing/saltwater/recreational/snook/symposium/>

Tom Gadacz, President, IFFF Florida Council



Fishing Report and Forecast

“What a great time to go fishing!”

Capt Pat Damico provides this report from his Captain's Corner: As guides, we're often limited to a particular day and time when a client can fish. Are there ways to improve our odds on these less-than-perfect days? Slow-moving water is often answered by anglers by staying home. This means good fishing areas that are often crowded will be barren of boats and anglers. That presents an opportunity to visit some of your best spots. Boat and jet ski traffic that scares and chases fish out of the shallows will be absent, so expect more relaxed fish to occupy those areas. Wind can really slow or accelerate a tide, and an understanding of that will help you find more active fish. On a large bay, wide, deep water will not be affected as much as areas where water is shallow and in narrows. Passes and constrictions between islands will have improved flow. Points are always worth investigating, especially those that start shallow and drop off into deeper water. Oyster bars, especially near mangroves, deserve attention. With water moving slow, it will stay in one place for a longer time and the sun will have an opportunity to make it warmer, always a winter attraction for southern fish. Fish areas exposed to the sun the longest. Pick an afternoon with a decent tide. Don't spend too much time in one place if unsuccessful. Head to your next spot. Cold-water fish like a deep, slow presentation. Having two fly rods rigged, one with a floating line with a crab or shrimp pattern and another with a sink tip line and a weighted small size baitfish fly. Darker colors or those that match the bottom are a good place to start.

Fishing Report and Forecast, cont.

Capt Rick Grassette reports snook season re-opens on the west coast of Florida on Mar 1, although many snook will be under the 28"-33" slot so handle them gently and release them quickly. Full regulations can be viewed at www.myfwc.com. You may find trout, blues, pompano or flounder in channels, troughs, basins or edges of flats, particularly when the tide is low. Look for reds and big trout mixed with mullet schools on shallow flats and edges of bars. Afternoons may fish better than mornings when water is cooler.

Kayak Guide Neil Taylor reports he has been busy and fishing clients. In general, we are in a winter type situation and the fishing is a mixed bag. We have great trips once a week. Another few days of decent action and at least one day will be really bad. It is unpredictable and we don't know when the worst days are going to happen. I believe that we are within two weeks of hitting a Spring pattern and much more consistent action.

Walt Durkin notes sight fishing was good on the low morning tides in February especially with the NE winds. The MacDill flat fished well with one day of over 20 reds and several days in double digits. Black drum also showed up in good numbers and both they the reds tailed a little. The fish were bottom-oriented and poking around in the sand for what they could find. We fished mostly a small crab fly or an Avalon shrimp for these spooky fish. Long leaders (14 feet) help keep your fly line out of sight of the fish in the clear water. I've been fishing 15 lb Maxima leader tippet in light green and I like the way it performs. Lefty says the light green colour is the most invisible. I also found reds tailing at the Cypress flat just at daybreak outside the sand bar with a low tide. As the tide comes in the fish will move inside the bar to feed and tail over sparse grass.

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
- Apr 22-23 Everglades Weekend Trip
- 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

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