



**Next meeting 2 December  
0600 PM to 0900 PM**

### **Annual Holiday Party**

- Enjoy Grits, grunts and hush puppies prepared by Robert and Lance
- Member pot luck: appetizer, salad, desert or ?
- Free raffle for a one half day guided fishing trip
- Silent auction for a fly rod
- Gift exchange (\$10-\$15 wrapped items)
- Swap table for fishing items



**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 December and our annual Holiday party. Please join us for holiday cheer and camaraderie. Bring a wrapped gift if you wish to participate in the gift exchange. You can also bring any tackle you want to sell or trade.

Thanks to Neil Taylor for speaking last month and his great tips on how and where to fish. Thanks to Jeff, Smitty and Dale for tying great flies as usual.

We will have nice negative low tides in the morning in December and January. Go out an hour or so before the low and watch the edges of sand bars for schools of mullet, which will also have reds, sheepshead, snook and trout mixed in. This is the best sight fishing of the year. Reds will also tail over and around grass beds. Don't be afraid to fish during strong N/NE winds as they will make for super lows.

Please note my new email: [walt.durkin@aol.com](mailto:walt.durkin@aol.com)  
// Walt Durkin



## EVENTS

- Club Holiday Party: 2 Dec
- Renzetti Fishing Seminar: 4 Dec
- Play Hooky at the Hatchery : 11 Dec
- Don Coleman Outing: 19 Dec
- Annual Shad Outing: 8-10 January

## OFFICERS AND DIRECTORS

President: Walt Durkin	813-476-7128
walt.durkin@aol.com	
Vice President: Ted Hagaman	813-920-7863
Treasurer: Rick Valeri	813-681-9143
Secretary: Dick Miekka	727-866-8682
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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

## 2015 TBFFC MEETING DATES

This month's meeting is 4 Nov from 6 to 9 PM.

## TBFFC NEWS & NOTES

**Renzetti Fishing Fair: 4-5 Dec.** Fly fishing's legendary anglers come to Titusville, FL, Saturday, Dec 4-5, for Renzetti's 5th Fly Fishing and Rod Building Fair. Lefty Kreh, Bob Clouser, Jon Cave, Bob Popovics, Nick Curcione, Flip Pallot and many others will give programs on and teach all aspects of the sport, including fly tying and fly casting. Rodsmiths John Stumpe, Curtis Baker will teach some technique in custom rod building and exhibit their work.

The 5th Fly Fishing and Rod Building Fair will be held at Renzetti's manufacturing facility, 8800 Grissom Pkwy, Titusville, FL on Friday, Dec 4, from 12 p.m to 4 p.m. and Saturday Dec 5, from 9 a.m to 3:30 p.m. The cost for this two-day event is \$25.00 advanced purchase. Children under 15 are free. Other events such as a 2 day ladies fly fishing school is scheduled Dec. 4-5 and a 1 day fly fishing school with Bob Clouser and Jon Cave on Dec 4th. Limited seating for this classes and reservation is required by Nov 25th. Visit [www.renzetti.com](http://www.renzetti.com) the website for more information.

**11 Dec- Play Hooky at the Hatchery.** Gina Russo will host us again this year. Arrive at 0800 hours to fish the retention pond for snook, reds and baby tarpon. We will provide lunch and drinks. Gina will offer a lecture on the facility as usual. Please join us for this annual, fun event.



**Chattooga River Trip:** Six club members drove north about 9 hours to trout fish. We stayed in two cabins in the Oconee State Park in South Carolina. A 14-day S Carolina license was \$14. We fished the delayed harvest section for three days by Highway 28 and fished up river for one day. Weather was great with cool mornings in the 30's and nice afternoons. We caught rainbows, browns and exceptionally beautiful brook trout. A two-fly rig worked well with a nymph tied about a foot behind a Woolly Bugger or other larger fly. The Chattooga is a National wild and scenic river and lives up to its name. The medium sized river with tricky footing on slippery rocks made for careful wading; a wading staff helped greatly. You can fish the Chattooga all winter and it will be great on mild days between fronts. Ted caught a trophy wild rainbow on the last day of about 18 inches. Thanks to Ted for organizing the trip and showing us how and where to fish.

**St Johns River Shad Outing: 8-10 Jan.** This is an annual trip for club members. We will camp out on a beautiful private site near Sanford, FL and fish Friday through Sunday. We will provide sign-up and details at our next two meetings. This is a unique and very enjoyable club event you should not miss.



## Tips for TBFFC

JAWOROWSKI ON CASTING – “I am never impressed on how far a person can cast. I am more concerned with how hard (or how easily) they work to achieve it. Long casting is not necessarily good casting.” And, “Line speed is the heart and soul of fly casting.” And, “Don’t think in terms of casting harder or giving more power. It’s all a matter of efficiency.” P.S. I bought Jaworowski’s book on casting and will bring it to the next meeting for someone to borrow.

## Random Thoughts from the Tying Bench

By C.W. “Don” Coleman

WATCH THE BIRDS – Birds are predators. Have you ever watched herons or large egrets stalking baitfish? That’s the way to be successful when you are fishing shallow, saltwater flats. Don’t splash around or wave you rod overhead and scare off every fish on the flat. Make long casts when searching the flats under clear, calm conditions. I have been told, but cannot prove, that when the Pelicans are sitting on the surface and feeding by dipping in the water they are on Glass Minnows. When they a flying up and diving back immediately they are on Scaled Sardines. And when they make those high, deep dives they are on Herrings. In any case, the birds will tell you where schools of baitfish are. Whether or not game fish are also on the bait is the question. At any rate, You can learn a lot about where the bait are by watching the birds. And you should be fishing where the bait is. Why are those birds just sitting on the water instead of sunning themselves on the beach? Could they be expecting a school of bait to come up near the top of the water column?

# 2015 Big Gun

We had a record turn out (14 teams of three) for our annual Big Gun casting competition at Picnic Island despite a gloomy weather forecast. The weather held out with overcast skies and calm conditions in the morning with increased winds after noon. The calm, heavy air hampered our long casters this year and only six people qualified with casts over 100 feet. Chris Dakin was the longest qualifier with a great throw of 120 feet. Nonetheless, Cas Summers, one of the Orlando crew, brought home the long cast honors with a final throw of 111 feet in tough wind conditions. Captain Nick Angelo won the overall individual competition as he has done before. His team along with Captains Bryon Chamberlin and Pat Damico were the team champs. Congratulations to the winners and to everyone who showed up and tested their skills. We happily hosted several women contestants and one teenager. Several folks also came to watch and we hope they will compete next year.

Many thanks to those who helped out this year. Rick O'Hara planned everything and signed up volunteers. Nanette O'Hara featured the event on our Facebook page. Thanks to those who came early for setup including Andy, Bruce, Patty, Denise, Bryon, Jack and Robert among others. Thanks to those who kept score for us including Denise, Rick, Kelly, Wes, Patty, Ted and Robert. Special thanks to Denise who came early and brought coffee and bagels; also, to Ted for bringing a great lunch of Cuban sandwiches. Thanks to Leigh West who took photos during the day. And, many thanks to Dick Miekka who signed up all the participants and registered the final scores despite having computer problems. Finally, please note Joe Welbourn from Carbon Marine and Dave Chouinard from Simms donated many raffle items for us to give away. Thanks to all.

We welcome feedback on our Big Gun and want to make it as fun and fair as we can. Please email me or mention your ideas at a club meeting. We look forward to hosting another enjoyable event next year in November.



Walt drawing raffle tickets with two assistants, our renowned scorekeeper Dick Miekka signing folks up and our raffle items donated by Joe Welbourn of Carbon Marine and Dave Chouinard our Simms rep.



Cas Summers happily won the long cast and Nick Angelo was individual champ. Club President Walt Durkin awarding mementoes; photos, Leigh West



Our six long cast finalists: Mark Benson, Dave Chouinard, Zack Judd, Chris Dakin, Ted Haas, Cas Summers

Team champs Nick, Bryon, Pat

Cas showing his long cast form.



Dale Garcia with a nice jack from our Mexico trip; Rich Gordon and Jim Adams with bone fish from a DIY and guided trip to North Andros, Bahamas

Ted fishing the Chattooga on a sunny afternoon.



Ted's 18" wild rainbow on the upper Chattooga



Robert Fischer working a fly down stream



Rick Fender wading and fishing with his walking stick



Rick Fender with a brook trout





Anglers had good fishing with **Capt Rick Grassette** catching a variety of fish in November



Five pound redfish on a low morning Tide. Nine pound black drum ate an Avalon shrimp while tailing in grass on a low incoming tide.



## Fishing Report and Forecast

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

#### **Capt Pat Damico provides this report from his Captain’s Corner:**

I was asked a great question recently: "There are tons of baitfish everywhere; where will they take my fly?" A good answer this time of year is to find concentrations of fish actively feeding. Lighted docks and bridges provide the answer. Take advantage of strong outgoing tides and hit the lighted areas before daylight. When you see snook, reds, trout and occasionally baby tarpon chasing baitfish, cast your white-baitfish pattern up-tide of the activity and eliminate any slack line as soon as it touches the surface. Long casts are an advantage to avoid spooking fish. Keep the rod tip close to the water. Use a strip set to hook the fish only when you feel the strike. If you react to the fish's movement, you often will pull the fly away. If this happens and you haven't lifted the rod, the fly is still in the strike zone and will entice another attempt by the missed fish or one of its buddies. Use 25-pound test shock tippet on an 8-weight rod to prevent broken leaders from snook and tarpon. As daylight approaches, lengthen or change your leader and use a 15-pound fluorocarbon tippet. Attach a crab pattern or Gurgler-style floater and look for tailing redfish as the water thins on your favorite redfish flat. Orient the fish's position and place the fly in front of its nose.

**Capt Rick Grassett** reports action with tripletail, false albacore and Spanish mackerel should be a good option now in the coastal gulf when conditions allow it. Snook fishing around lighted docks and bridges with flies and DOA Lures should also be a good option. Look for reds, snook and big trout mixed with mullet schools on shallow flats and edges of bars in backcountry areas of Charlotte Harbor and lower Tampa Bay.

## Fishing Report and Forecast, cont.

**Kayak guide Neil Taylor** suggests the cooler weather will dictate where the best fishing will be this time of year, so success comes to those who pay attention to the changing weather conditions. If conditions are mild and consistent for a few days in a row, the fish may be roaming their normal locations. When the water temperature plummets, savvy anglers adjust to the conditions. Among the most crucial adjustments is selecting the fishing location. Water on the open flats can get cold, so the canals, rivers, creeks or the out flows near power plants become better target locations. Hope for a mild December but be ready to "go where the fish are" if things start to really change.

**Club member Dave Eddy** has this to say: I can't report anything noteworthy in the fishing dept, but have hit my goal of actually fooling a saltwater fish to take my fly. My thanks to you and Steve Parker for patiently encouraging me, gracefully ignoring my incompetence and showing me the ropes. My rod/reel would likely be gathering dust without you two

I've been wading off Picnic Island Park and working the incoming tide just off the stone jetty. I had my first hit here and it was a jolt - but such a surprise I gave the fish all day to spit out the fly: half a minute later, he did. At Indian Shores beach I've been working the tides and can report fish have been active, particularly on the outgoing tide. Two weeks ago it was like fishing in Louisiana - you could see the birds working just inside the sand bar. When fortune smiled and they moved closer, the bait could be seen boiling the water and I had my first opportunity to cast with a specific landing zone in mind. Finally a lady fish agreed to christen my rod - nothing for the newsletter but great fun for a newbie.

**Walt and Ted** found a few tailing reds and black drum on the low incoming tide at McDill last week. The fish were cruising the flat around grass beds and poking around for crabs and shrimp. The reds and drum ate an Avalon shrimp fly and Ted got a snook on a spoon fly. The three reds were about 5 pounds and the two drum about 9 pounds. Seek out flats you can fish with N/NE winds this winter on low new and full moon tides for good sight fishing.

# 2015/16 CALENDAR OF EVENTS

- Nov 22 Big Gun, Picnic Island
- Dec 2 Members Year-End Party
- Dec 4,5 Renzetti Fly Fishing Fair
- Dec 11 Play Hooky Outing at the Hatchery
- Dec 19 Don Coleman Outing, Ft Desoto
- Jan 8-10 Annual Shad Outing, St Johns river

## 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

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

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

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

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

### St. Petersburg

Capt. Pat Damico.....727-504-8649

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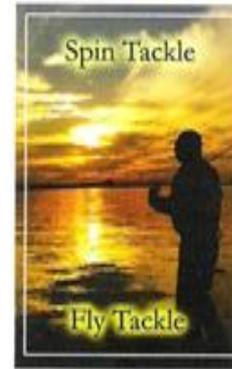
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Please Check: One Year \_\_\_\_\_ Five Year \_\_\_\_\_

Please list names you wish to include in family membership

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\$120.00 Corporate Double Membership

(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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