

# The Tampa Bay Fly Fishing Club www.tbffc.org

Next Meeting: Wednesday, August 1, 2007, 6:00 p.m.
Location: Compton Park Recreation Center, Tampa Palms (See below for Directions)

# **Special Guest Speakers and Fly Tyers Bryon Chamberlin and Nick Angelo**

Capt. Chamberlin has been fishing the Tampa Bay area since 1993 and has been guiding for 5 years. He is a self-taught fly caster, minus a few tips from casting masters Dan Lagace and Leigh West. He has been fly-fishing for nearly 8 years and tying nearly as long. A graduate from USF, Bryon holds two degrees, a BS in Zoology and a BA in Interdisciplinary Natural Science/Chemistry. When not guiding, he works for Hillsborough County's Environmental Lands Acquisition and Protection Program, or ELAPP for short. He loves being in the outdoors and has never wanted a "Desk Job." His idea of an office is either a flats boat or a 4-wheel drive truck!

Nick Angelo was born and raised in ft. Lauderdale. He grew up fishing everywhere in south Florida, from the everglades to the keys. His uncle and father put a fishing rod in his hands at a very young age. He started fly fishing at the age of 12, catching Peacock bass in the canals behind his house. Nick's two passions are fishing and food. He has worked as a deck hand on fishing boats in south Florida and Alaska. He also worked in the fly shop at Outdoor World in Dania Beach, while attending college. He has worked as a chef for the last 7 years, and is currently pastry chef at a resort in Tampa.

Bryon and Nick will be talking to us about their recent success while tarpon fishing in the local area. Their tying will be focused on the same subject. Come and find out how they did it and how you can participate in the apex of flats fly fishing.

**Directions to Our Meetings**: **From I-75**---Take Bruce B. Downs exit from I-75; go west 2 miles to traffic light, turn left onto 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

#### JUNE 2007 PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Dear Fellow Fly Fishers; Welcome to August and hope you are able to fish despite the dog days of summer.

Thanks to **Capt. Rick Grassett**, our June speaker who whetted our appetites for western trout fishing, and to **Craig Smothers** for tying the No Name Tarpon Fly which, although rather complex, is worth your tying time as a new "go to" attractor. Instructions for tying the fly are given on page 8.

I tried to find tarpon off Ft. Desoto beach a few weeks ago, but was deterred by a steady West wind.

I did go crabbing with friends at the Mac Dill beach last week and it was a hoot. We threw out chicken necks on string and brought about a dozen crabs to hand despite difficulty netting them. We steamed them with Old Bay and they were quite tasty. I recommend this as a low stress way to fish and have fun and is great with kids. Also deep fried fish nuggets in using the Oriental bread crumbs called Panko. They result in a very light and crunch coating that give fried fish a great texture. Recommend you try it and add spices to your taste.

Please check page 3 for club activities including our annual banquet, Big Gun and other outings.

Tight lines, //Walt

Spin Tackle

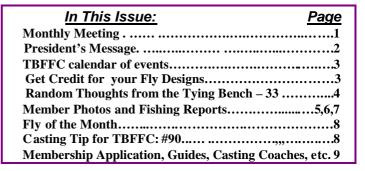


### Capt. Pat Damico

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The next meeting of the TBFFC Board of Directors will be at 6:00 P.M. on Wednesday, August 8 at Valencia Gardens.

NOT GETTING THE NEWSLETTER? Please call Dick Miekka, Editor, at 727-866-8682 or e-mail to dmiekka@cs.com



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## TBFFC CALENDAR OF EVENTS 2007 TBFFC MEETING DATES

Here are the meeting dates for the rest of **2007**: August 1, September 5, October 3, November 7, December 5. **Please watch this space for any changes.** 

#### START PLANNING FOR OUR BANQUET

Our annual banquet and auction will be here sooner than you expect. Please set aside the evening of Saturday, November 10 for our event before something else gets on you calendar. Our speaker will be Tim Borski, famous for his innovative flies as well as for his casting prowess. Borski will also conduct a clinic on Saturday afternoon before the banquet. There will be a modest fee for this event.

#### **PREVIEW OF COMING EVENTS:**

**September:** Florida Sportsman Show, and a Casting clinic led by Steve Parker

**October:** Annual joint outings with the Suncoast and Mangrove Coast clubs.

**November 10**: Our annual banquet with **Tim Borski** as keynote speaker

**December:** TBFFC annual Big Gun Shootout, and Play Hooky for the Holidays.

#### **BILL JACKSON'S EVENTS OF INTEREST**

Call (727) 576-4169 for all items listed below. Fly casting clinics each Saturday at 10 AM Fly Tying Clinics; 6:30 PM every Monday for beginners and every Wednesday for advanced tiers.

#### **SUNCOAST FLY FISHERS**

www.suncoastflyfishers.com

Regular Meetings: 6:30pm on the Third Thursday of each month, **except December**, at Walter Fuller Recreation Center, 7883 26<sup>th</sup> Ave. N., St. Pete.

#### MANGROVE COAST FLY FISHERS

www.mangrovecoastflyfishers.com

NOTE: Newer Location for MCFF Club meetings - **Twin Lakes Park.** The entrance to Twin Lakes Park in Sarasota is located on Clark Road, just 1/2 mile east of I-75, on the south (right) side of the road. Contact website above for details and directions.





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#### **GET CREDIT FOR YOUR FLY DESIGNS**

[IF YOU ARE INTERESTED IN HAVING ANY OF YOUR FLIES INCLUDED IN THE UPCOMING BOOK BY ANGELO PELUSI, TO BE NAMED Salt Water Flies of the Southeast and Gulf Coast States, PLEASE CONTACT DICK MIEKKA. WE CAN SUBMIT FLIES AND TYING INSTRUCTIONS FROM OUR OLD NEWSLETTERS AS A STARTING POINT, or go to www.angelopeluso.com.....dick





## RANDOM THOUGHTS FROM THE TYING BENCH -- 33

By C.W. "Don" Coleman

ON CASTING – Bruce Richards notes that good casting requires tight loops—on the backcast as well as on the forward cast. A long, slow, smooth pull to remove slack in the line, followed by the application of power very late in the stroke and stopping the rod abruptly (the short, fast speed-up and stop at the very end of the stroke) results in the best and most efficient use of energy. The longer the cast the longer the stroke. Not keeping tension on the fly line at all times allows slack to develop and shortens the effective casting stroke.

Softer rods, or over-lined rods require longer, smoother casting strokes. Poor casters use shorter, more abrupt strokes and tend to "muscle" or overpower the rod, which causes the tip to bend excessively. A rod with a stiffer action is not as easy to bend and is more tolerant of abrupt applications of power. Overlining a rod by two or three line weights results in a slower acting rod.

Longer rods are typically more sensitive to casting mistakes because the longer the lever the more exaggerated the motion of your hand. Only if you make the right hand motions does the longer rod work in your favor. The line does what the rod tip tells it to do, and the rod tip does what your thumb tells it to do. Your thumb must travel in a straight line during each casting stroke. No "windshield washer" motions allowed because they create slack in the line.

Most poor casters need to be told to slow down and let the rod talk to them.... Stroke the rod and feel how it flexes throughout each phase of the casting stroke. Try making some casts at night so you cannot see the rod and line to get a good feel of the rod working—but don't use hooks.

A SIMPLE CRAB FLY – Using red or brown thread, tie lead dumbbell eyes on top of a #2 standard length saltwater hook. Wrap Root Beer Estaz up the hook shank from the hook bend to the lead eyes. Invert the hook in the vise so the hook point is up. Tie in a wing of tan Neer Hair ahead of the lead eyes and allow it to extend a short distance behind the end of the hook. Make 3 or 4 stripes across the wing using a black laundry marker.

A DIFFERENT WEED GUARD – Lefty Kreh sent me some 45 pound, plastic coated, braided, stainless steel wire and recommended that I use it for weed guards. After you complete a fly, cut off a short length of the coated wire and flatten the tip to lie along the underside of the head of the fly and tie in place with the tying thread. Bend down the wire as needed to protect the hook point. Then coat the head with five minute epoxy. When dry, you can bend the weed guard any way you want. It really works. If you don't like to use epoxy, secure the weed guard with CA glue.

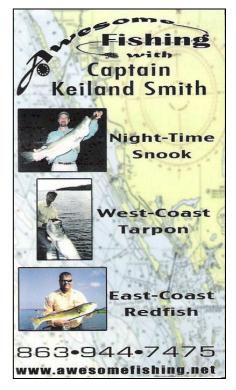
THE COMFORT GRIP – Both Bob Clouser and Lefty Kreh recommend handling a fish with the "Comfort Grip." Balance the fish on its side in your open hand, without squeezing or tightening your grip, and the fish will lay quietly. Recent studies have proved that fish released after handling have greater survival rates than fish that are netted.

MAXIMS: "You never step into the same river twice." - Heraclitus

"Always I return to the wilderness, for my heart lies in the far, quiet places." – Service

"Just one more cast" is always a lie.

Argue your limitations and sure enough they are yours.





#### Member Photos and Fishing Reports

#### A. JEFF ABELES



Left: Jeff hefts a 25" cutthroat trout from North Fork of the White River in Arkansas caught while fishing with Chuck Forneth in April;

**Right**: Pompano caught near Skyway Bridge with **Capt. Rob Gorta** on July 9, 2007



#### **B. WALLY ZIPRIK**



Wally says "FINALLY caught some monster brown trout! The first is a 25 inch brown (first day, first fish), the second is a 22 inch brown (second day, first fish) that photographed much larger than that. Actually had a fat 22 inch brown (estimated) on the line five minutes before takeout on the third day, but he broke off after only a few seconds. (Almost had the 'hat trick')".



#### C. LEO GOLEMBEWSKI



"TBFFC member Leo Golembiewski joined a lifetime friend for the opening weekend, the last Saturday in April, of Steel head fishing on Michigan's 'Two Hearted' River'. The 'Two Hearted' is in the Upper Peninsula and flows north into Lake Superior." Leo also captured the fishiness and beauty of the river in the photos below.







#### D. PAT DAMICO WITH CHARTERS AND FRIENDS



**Channing Flynn** of France and **Capt. Pat Damico** with St. Pete Beach snook taken in late July with Bead Butt Baitfish pattern and TFO Jim Teeny 8 wt.

On the right are fish that **Nanette and Rick O'Hara** caught while night fishing under the docks with Capt. Pat Damico. Nanette reports they started fishing about 2:30 a.m. and the consistent action with both snook and reds kept them wide awake and energized until dawn. When the sun came up, Pat took them to the flats near the Sunshine Skyway "Clam Bar" where each caught a trout -- completing dual inshore slams. It was Nanette's first inshore slam ever, and Rick's second in three months. They were tired but happy anglers that day!





Pat also went night snook fishing with Frank Rhodes (left) and Wes Sobczak (below right) and did a bit of successful baby tarpon fishing in late June at an undisclosed location in our area (lower left)







#### E. RICK GRASSETT TRIPS AND CHARTERS







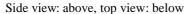
In the sequence above, TBFFC member **Rick Happle** fights and lands a large tarpon while fishing with Rick and friend Shawn. The photo at left was taken from a separate boat by **Rusty Chinnis**. Rick claimed that any muscle soreness was from raising his arm in toasts after the event.



#### FLY OF THE MONTH

The No-Name Tarpon Fly As Tied by Craig Smothers







I've had no fewer than four local guides give me various renderings of this fly. Although it's spun deer hair, it's not truly designed to be fished top-water. It sinks slightly slower than a monocore fly line. Fishing it is simple: cast it and let it sink.

#### **MATERIALS:**

Hook: Gamakatsu SC15-2H in 3/0 to 5/0

Tail: 6-8 Matched and splayed Grizzly neck hackles Backend: tan Marabou or Arctic Fox body hair. **Body:** Natural deer body hair (look for long and fine)

Eyes: 50# Burnt Mono (Ande or Mason)

**Thread:** Tan Flymaster + 3/0

#### **TYING INSTRUCTIONS:**

- 1) Starting in the back of the hook, lay down a thread base with which to tye the feathers upon. Match up (minimally) three feathers for each side in a splayed fashion. Just ahead of that, tye in a decent sized gob of fox hair making sure that it is balanced all the way around the hook.
- 2) Cut a decent amount of spinning hair, comb it out well (remove the fluff) and load it into a hair stacker. Once stacked, the tips should reach half way back the feathers. Spin it in. Glue (Fleximent). Add one more gob of spun deer hair. Glue.
- 3) Now it's time for the eyes. First of all DO NOT use your scissors on heavy mono. Use a small set of wire cutters. Cut both eyes to length. Take a set of small pliers and pinch the ends flat making it easier to tye them in. The length of the eye stalks is a proportional choice. Look at the photo.
- 4) Finish the rest of the body spinning hair to the very front of the hook. Be sure and glue each stage, and push the hair back (pack).
- 5) Trimming is the scary part. Start on the underside (hook point side). You must absolutely use a fresh double edge (shaving) blade, not the single edge utility blades. Trim the bottom as close as you dare without nicking the thread. Hold it by the hook point and trim the top. Ultimately it should be about as thick as a piece of cardboard. Watch the

eyes while trimming. Now trim the sides into a triangular shape. The back should be about 1 1/2 " wide. Note the eyes rest right at the back.

**TIP:** Burnt mono eyes are a bit of a pain to get consistent. Use a small candle rather than a Bic lighter. The mono should be pushed in and out of the blue portion of the flame. Keep a glass of water near bye and immerse immediately. This really helps.

Still can't get it. Take a piece of Mono with you to the craft store. Find the beads and look for a tight fit to your mono. At home, burn the end of the mono slightly. Slide the bead on the other end to the burnt end. Glue in place with Zap-A-Gap (the kind which fills in, not the thin Crazy Glue type). Done and Perfect!

#### Casting Tips for TBFFC: 90 Rod Creep - (Transitional and Rotational) ©2007

Rod creep occurs before the cast begins as the caster is preparing to change direction while false casting. It reduces the effective distance of motion available for the cast. Rod creep comes in two forms; transitional (lateral motion) and rotational (wrist rotation). Rod creep is easily observed during the false cast as the caster tries to set up for the next casting motion while the line is unfolding. Typically, the caster will move the casting hand somewhat forward while waiting for the line to unfold in the back cast, thus robbing lateral motion from the forward cast. Rod creep also occurs when the caster rolls the casting hand wrist somewhat forward while waiting for the line to unfold in the back cast. Again, this steals rod motion from the cast: rotational rod motion to be imparted by the wrist.

It is worthwhile to practice casting without either form of rod creep. First, eliminating rod creep allows for casting farther, easier, since the full range of rod motion, both transitional and rotational, is possible when rod creep is eliminated. Second, consistency comes from always starting from the same place, be it accuracy, distance, loop control or whatever having to do with the cast. This consistency will arise when the caster always leaves the rod hand where it stopped at the end of the false cast, and begins movement only when necessary to start the cast in the other direction. It is difficult to detect rod creep in one's own casting. The help of an observer is most useful in relating to the caster when rod creep has been eliminated from the cast.

Dan Lagace

Member, Tampa Bay Fly Fishing Club



#### 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, plus enriching experiences.

- Monthly Meetings with Famous Speakers
- Fly Fishing Outings
- Fishing Trips Sponsored by Members and the Club
- Group Clinics and Workshops
- Fly Tying Lessons
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#### Fly Casting Coaches

Novice or advanced caster, one of the following coaches can assist you with your casting. Contact one convenient to your location to arrange a casting session.

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