



The Tampa Bay Fly Fishing Club

www.tbffc.org

Next Meeting: Wednesday, March 7, 2007, 6:00 p.m.

Location: Compton Park Recreation Center, Tampa Palms (See below for Directions)

Special Guest Speaker

Capt. Charles Wright

Fly Fishing -- Everglades National Park & the 10,000 Islands

Capt. Charles Wright of Chokoloskee Charters grew up fishing the waters of South Florida and the Keys and has fished Everglades National Park since 1972. He is an Environmental Engineer, a FAA Flight Instructor, a USCG Licensed Captain, a National Park Guide and an accomplished outdoor writer. On the water 225 days a year, Capt. Wright understands this diverse fishery. Chokoloskee Charters fleet of four boats, ten fishing kayaks, and very experienced fly guides allow his clients a complete fishing experience. Regularly fishing the Florida Keys and the Bahamas, he maintains that the Chokoloskee area is the best the State of Florida has to offer.

An overview of fishing the entire Park will be presented ... from the islands, the passes, the river systems, the beaches and the backcountry. Specific focus will be fly fishing for snook & tarpon, but fly fishing for other species such as permit, redfish, tripletail and trout will be discussed. The fishing kayak, as a tool for the fly fisherman, will be introduced and discussed. The format is a very casual open discussion during a power point slide show.

Featured Fly Tyer

Mike Perez

Mike has been fly fishing since 1973 in the Tampa area, initially in fresh water, and then saltwater in 1976. He has been tying flies since 1974 and has tyed with Bob Clouser, Jon Cave, and Kevin Couhenour and others. He is a member of the Orlando and Jacksonville fly fishing clubs and has served on their boards of directors in various capacities. He currently works as a Clinical instructor in surgery at the VA hospital in Tampa and completed a 21 year naval career as a surgeon in Dec, 2004.

He will be tying a pattern that he developed for fishing under the dock lights that is good for both snook and speckled trout. He calls the pattern the "Needlenose" fly and it imitates both a white shrimp and a needlefish. He will also tye a second pattern called the "Snook King" as tyed by a Jacksonville friend.

PAY YOUR 2007 DUES AT THE MEETING, OR USE THE COUPON ON PAGE 9

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

FEBRUARY 2007 PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Hello all TBFFC members,

Welcome to the month of March. The weather will be milder, the water will be warming, and the days will be a bit longer.

THANKS to Florida Wild Life photographer **James Shadle** for his great show and talk last month. I also want to THANK our fly tier of the month **Layne "Smitty" Smith**. See page 7 for instructions on tying his Bonefish Whisperer fly. THANKS also to **Nanette O'Hara** for creating a very nice new brochure for the club.

Coming up just before our next meeting we are going to participate in the Tribune Outdoors Show at the Fairgrounds, and I want to give a BIG THANKS to all of our members who are helping out at the show.

It was Nice to see the big turnout of members at our last meeting. We will be turning the clocks ahead in March, so we will have daylight saving time for our April meeting. Please be sure to bring your fly rod to practice your casting and/or help someone with theirs. We are planning an outing at DeSoto park on March 10, a casting clinic for April 7th at Compton Park, and a pay-for kayak outing to the Everglades on May 12, conducted by our March Speaker, **Capt. Charles Wright**. Sign up for these at our meetings.

Tight Lines, Neil Sperling

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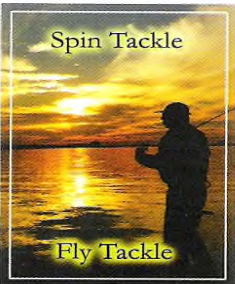
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Board Meetings

The next board meeting of the Club Board of Directors will be at 6:30 PM, Wednesday, March 14, 2007 at **Johnny Carino's**, 1102 N Dale Mabry (S of I-275, W side of Sreet, Ph. 673-8700)

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: March 7, April 4, May 2, June 6, July 4???, August 1, September 5, October 3, November 7, December 5. Please watch this space for any changes.

MARCH OUTING AT FORT DESOTO PARK

When: Saturday, March 10, 8:00 am until after lunch.
Where: Fort DeSoto Park, St. Pete; meet at the small picnic area adjacent to the main boat launch.
Lunch will be prepared by **Nick Colantonio** and served at the Arrowhead picnic area opposite North Beach.
 This is an outing designed to acquaint newcomers to the many fishing areas in the park. When we first meet, we will pair up park fishing veterans with members who are new to that location. Fishing can be by wading or by watercraft (boat, kayak, etc.). We may even have a few prizes to hand out. Sign up at our March meeting or contact **Dick Miekka** at 727-866-8682 or dmiekka@cs.com.

CLUB SHIRTS AND HATS

We will be taking orders for shirts and hats with the TBFFC club logo at our **April** meeting. Be sure to bring your checkbook or cash to the meeting. You must pay for your items at the time of ordering.

PREVIEW OF COMING EVENTS:

April 7: Casting clinic at Compton Park led by **Steve Parker**
May 12: Kayak via motherboat fishing in the Everglades and 10,000 islands, conducted by **Capt. Charles Wright** of Chockoloskee Charters, our March 2007 speaker. Not a free outing.
November 10: Our annual banquet with **Tim Borsky** as keynote speaker

GREAT BEAR LAKE TRIP WITH LLOYD BULL

AUGUST 4-11, AUGUST 11-18 2007
 SPACE LIMITED—early offer to TBFFC members
 Both Weeks can include side trip for Char on the Tree River
 Call Lloyd at 727-784-8410 for details

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.

SALTWATER FLY FISHERMAN EVENTS

SWF is moving to 387 ½ Mandalay Ave, Clearwater Beach. The location is 100' north of the roundabout. More details soon.

Events of Other Clubs: SUNCOAST FLY FISHERS


www.suncoastflyfishers.com

Regular Meetings: 6:30pm on the Third Thursday of each month, **except December**, at Wyoming Antelope Club, 3700 126 Ave. N., St. Pete.

MANGROVE COAST FLY FISHERS

www.mangrovecoastflyfishers.com

NOTE: New 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.



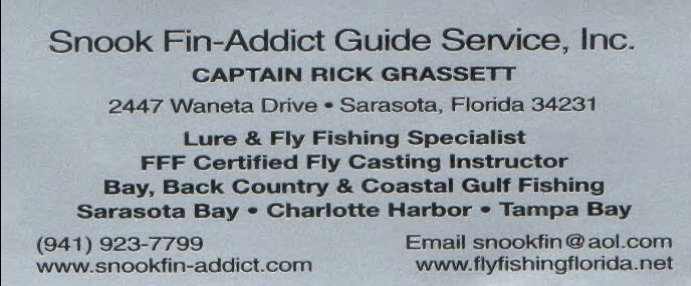
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Large Trout Love Shallow Water

By CAPT. PAT DAMICO, CapMel.com Fly Fishing Editor

If large trout are your target, this is the time of the year to get your fill. Recent outings have rewarded us with several trout over four pounds. A lot of boats have been put away to await the spring warming trend. Those in the know are now enjoying some of the best fishing of the year. How can you increase your chances of finding a concentration of heavy trout?



Big aggressive "yellow mouths" seem to have different characteristics than their smaller brothers and sisters. In order to pile on the fat, they must find a good source of protein, requiring little effort to harvest. Finding schools of baitfish will lead you to these opportunistic predators. Besides baitfish, shrimp and crabs become an important source of nutrition. Red Tide effects have reduced trout in some areas. Many affected areas are beginning to produce good healthy trout populations. Clearer water is always attractive to large trout.

Large numbers of smaller trout have been our reward when we start the day early fishing some deeper "holes" left at low tide. A few reds also seek this deeper water haven. As the tide starts to come in, the exposed flat, heated by the sun, will be a few degrees warmer. Depending on its location, a dark sun exposed flat away from direct wind can be at least eight degrees warmer than adjacent deeper water. A careful observer will see activity on this flat in the form of small baitfish looking for a comfortable place to seek food. Why do some flats have a lot of wading birds, while others have none? They eat the same things that fish eat. Skip the shallow water that is devoid of birds, and find a flat that is loaded with food. The fish that have been around awhile know where they are; you should too. A flat that has been warmed by the sun will be a welcome haven for cold winter trout.

A diary that has entries after every trip is one of my most valuable tools. At the beginning of a new month, I review the notes made during previous years. This will give me a wealth of information not only where to fish, but also places to avoid. Every trip should begin with a plan of how to structure your day. Information you have entered in your own writing should contain weather, wind, water temperature, time of day, location, productive areas, as well as places that did not have fish. Flies that produced, depth fished and type of retrieve should also be noted.

In order to get to the shallows, you generally must cross deeper water. Probe these edges with a sinking tip line and weighted fly. A cut in the flat that leads to the shallows may be a migration route for fish. On more than one occasion I blew large fish out of such a place because I was a little early and in a hurry. Be very stealthy, use a push pole or slow running electric, and make long casts. When fishing the holes, I generally use smaller flies. A floating line with at least a nine foot leader will be used in the shallows. Since I am targeting larger fish, I will use big flies, size one, or larger. Bulky dressing is not needed. Barbs are always mashed down so that a dehooker, or long nose pliers, can remove the fish while in the water without the need to touch it. Materials that undulate in the current with minimum stripping will produce. Deceivers of the soft hackle variety as recommended by Jack Garthside will work and cast easily. They will land with a minimum of surface disturbance. Brown over orange is one of my favorite winter combinations. Darker colors will duplicate baitfish, other than greenbacks, that are a staple of a large trout's winter diet. A minnow type pattern will cover more water than a crab or shrimp fly. It is surprising how well a large trout is camouflaged. Sight casting to these big boys will have your knees knocking.

Most strikes will be very aggressive! In deeper water, they will often follow and take with a soft inhale. Not so in the shallows. I have often thought a large snook hammered my fly, only to have a gator trout as my reward.

If some of your trout spots have never produced large fish during warm weather, give them a try now. You might be in for a big surprise and a lot of excitement.

Capt. Pat Damico



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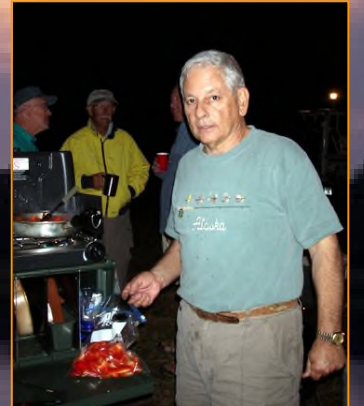
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Member Photos



If you missed the 2007 Shad Outing, You missed a Lot
(photos by Denise Bruner)



Member Photos, Continued



WHAT DID YOU DO ON YOUR HONEYMOON?

Nanette (left, with 20 lb redfish, and **Rick O'Hara** (below, with 21 lb black drum show us what they did, in these unretouched photos. They fished in Louisiana with Capt. **Danny Ayo**, the second person in each of the photos. According to Guinness, they are the only couple that ever spent part of their honeymoon in Houma, Louisiana fishing in 30-degree cold. As they like to say, "The couple that casts together, lasts together."



Wally Ziprick III caught a nice redfish while fishing with **Capt. Russ Shirley** during a recent trip in the Tampa Bay area.



Jack Hexter's son **Corey** called early on Wednesday, 1/24/07 and said, "Dad, tonight's the night." Jack's friend Joe from Canada joined them and they left Lake Worth Inlet, then rode 40 miles to just north of Ft. Lauderdale @ 1300'. Before they got all 4 lines set, a 200' deep line was eaten and game on. 45 minutes later, this 80# fish hit the deck. It was the only fish caught, but worth the trip! Sometimes fishing is fun even without a fly rod.

FLY OF THE MONTH

Bonefish Whisperer

By Layne "Smitty" Smith



White version of the fly as viewed from below (fish's perspective)
Brown is also an excellent color for this fly.

Materials

Hook: Gamakatsu SL 45 Bonefish Size 4 (for redfish use any long shank, wide gap hook).

Thread: To match body color. Flat waxed nylon is good.

Antennae: one strand of Krystal Flash, doubled, plus a dozen pieces of buck tail to match fly.

Palps: 2 to 3 turns of soft hackle (partridge or teal) color should mimic shrimp color.

Eyes: Pair of melted monofilament eyes dipped in softtex, then coated with Hard as Nails or hard head cement. Or dip in epoxy.

Body: Hackle feathers wrapped 2 at a time and folded lengthwise.

Weed Guard (Optional): 20-25 lb. test mono, double.

Tying instructions

1. Tie in buck tail 1½ times the length of hook shank at bend and slightly around bend.
2. Tie in Krystal Flash as antennae slightly longer than bucktail.
3. Tie in soft hackle by its tip, fold lengthwise and make 2 or 3 wraps (barbules facing bend of hook).
4. Tie in one pair of thin-stemmed hackle feathers, fold them in half lengthwise, and wrap the hook. Try not to travel down the hook shank too far. Cut off and over-wrap with thread.
5. Tie in eyes so they splay to sides slightly.
6. Tie in more sets of hackle, doubling as you go, until hook shank is filled.
7. Trim hackle in slight cone shape. Try to leave the hackle slightly longer at the head (remember that the head is at the hook bend, not at the hook eye).
8. Tie in double weed guard only if making the redfish version.



Casting Tips for TBFFC: 86

Thrust Cast ©2006

The **thrust cast** is useful in tightening loops and is performed by integrating the wrist break and the last few inches of lateral forward motion of the forward cast. When preparing to make a thrust cast, concentrate on saving the last few of inches of lateral motion of the forward cast to impart a forward thrusting motion with the fly rod as though thrusting forward with a saber.

Following is a comparison of timing the wrist break with a Conventional Cast and with a Thrust Cast.

Wrist break and rod position with a Conventional Cast

- o Wrist break takes place separately from the forward lateral motion of the fly rod.
- o Wrist break begins at the moment that the forward lateral motion of the rod ends.
- o The rod can be in a position anywhere from vertical to horizontal at the end of the forward cast.

Wrist break and rod position with a Thrust Cast

- o Wrist break begins at the start of the last few inches of lateral motion of the forward cast.
- o Wrist break ends at the moment that the lateral motion (thrust) of the forward cast ends.
- o The thrust cast is characterized by a horizontal position of the fly rod at the end of the forward cast.

Although the thrust cast is effective in tightening loops, it is also hard on the wrist. Since the wrist breaks while the rod is still moving laterally toward the target, extra resistance and pressure is placed on the caster's wrist during the break. The thrust cast is very rewarding with light lines and shorter casts. You may find it a bit strenuous with heavier lines and longer casts.


Dan Lagace
Member, Tampa Bay Fly Fishing Club

FISHING REPORT AND FORECAST

“What a Great time to go Fishing!”

Fly angler Marshall Dinnerman, his son Eric Dinnerman and son-in-law, Alex Medeiros, all from the Atlanta, GA area fished the coastal gulf out of Venice, FL and Little Sarasota Bay with **Capt. Rick Grasset** on Feb. 9th. After receiving a report of little tunny in the coastal gulf, they decided to check it out on Friday morning. The report was accurate, as they found them plentiful along Casey Key within a couple of hundred yards of the beach. Although they weren't breaking on the surface, Rick located rafts of birds sitting on the water and diving on baitfish with the little tunny feeding underneath them. The guys had non stop action for about 3 hours catching and releasing more than a dozen little tunnies to 12-pounds on Ultra Hair Clouser flies fished on an intermediate fly line and CAL jigs with shad tails fished on spinning tackle. They had 3 doubles and a triple. Great action!

The following day fly anglers Bernie Feinberg, from Sarasota, FL and Fred Weeman, from Elmira, NY, fished the same area. The action had slowed a little but they still managed to hook 5 little tunny, landing 3 of them, with olive over white Ultra Hair Clousers. There was more surface activity with large schools of little tunny traveling just under the surface with their backs out of the water. Blind casting the areas they had just passed through caught a couple of fish. If you've never caught one of these speedsters, you've got to do it. They are one of Rick's favorite fish to catch with a fly.

Capt Bryon Chamberlin teamed up with club member **Nick Angelo** on the 23rd and fished the Chassahowitzka area. There were a tremendous number of reds on the flats but the color of the bottom and the chop made them difficult to see. They were able to sight fish 10 reds to 26 inches using the Tasty Toad pattern. 4 trout were also landed on the fly. Additionally Bryon reports there are reds worth wading for on the Legion flats. 

If you have a fishing report that you would like to share please e-mail it to: fishing_floyd@aol.com

Tight lines,

Fishingfloyd

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Protecting Florida's Marine Fishery

The Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission has been working with a group of stakeholders representing commercial and recreational fishing, research and environmental interests to develop a draft vision document regarding the future management and protection of Florida's marine fisheries resources. Florida is widely recognized as the "Fishing Capital of the World," and we initiated this important process to help ensure that Florida maintains its abundant fisheries for many years to come.

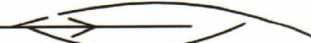
We are now inviting you to comment on the draft stakeholder document, which includes a vision statement and five focus areas relating to marine habitat enhancement and protection, ecosystem management, research coordination, interagency coordination, and funding and staffing needs. You can do so by attending a public workshop or statewide video conference that has been scheduled over the next several weeks, or by commenting to us online. The draft vision document, a news release announcing meeting times and locations, the online link, and other related information is available at <http://myfwc.com/marine/workgroups/futureoffishinginfl.html>.

We look forward to receiving your valuable input regarding the future of saltwater fishing in Florida, and thank you in advance for taking the time to participate in this process.

Mark Robson, Director

FWC Division of Marine Fisheries Management

Natural Selections



Bill Murdich (813) 971-4764

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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
- Group Clinics and Workshops
- Fly Tying Lessons
- One-On-One Fly Casting 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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Neil Sperling.....813-655-5627

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