



The Tampa Bay Fly Fishing Club

www.tbffc.org

Next Meeting: Wednesday, January 2 2008, 6:00 p.m.

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

Guest Speaker

Capt. Pat Damico

Capt. Pat Damico is one of the favorite fly casting guides in our area. His formal education includes B.S. Biology, Villanova University, and a DDS, Temple University. Pat began fly fishing, and tying flies at age ten in Pennsylvania and has been an avid fly fisherman ever since. He became FFF Certified Fly Casting Instructor in April, 2005, and is a director of TBFFC.

Pat's dream trip has always been to go to Argentina. Years ago he would read articles by Joe Brooks, A. J. McClain, and others about Patagonia and the fabulous scenery and spectacular trout fishing. Last March he was invited to go by a friend who had been there three times. They fished for ten days, four days of which they floated fifty miles of the Chubot River. They also fished other rivers and a fabulous spring creek. Pat will show pictures of the trip and discuss what is needed to have some of the best trout fishing in the world. Mel Krieger's presentation at our banquet a couple years ago wasn't an exaggeration!

Featured Fly Tyer

Walt Durkin

Walt Durkin is a past club president, current co-president and acting vice president. When his terms are over, it will be an "unpresided" move! He grew up in West Palm Beach and has fished on and off all his life, including through a 24-year Army career. He returned to Tampa Bay in 1998 where he enjoys fly fishing and the TBFFC. Walt will tie his "top secret" fly, which will be shown only to those with a "need to know." Fortunately, all meeting attendees have been pre-cleared to watch the procedure!

It's Time to Pay Dues Again--\$25 for single, \$35 for family, extra savings for 5-year membership

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

JANUARY 2008 PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Hello all TBFF members:

Winter is here, and the waters have cooled down, and we'll be fishing in warm clothes.

I want to thank everyone who attended our December Members' night and helped to make it a success. Fly tyers, in addition to me, included **Jeff Janecek** and **Robert Fisher**, and several members contributed to the festive food and drinks.

As you know in the month of December we had two events. One was our Play Hooky for the Holidays event, organized by **Rick O'Hara**, with food supplied by **Alligator Bob**. The second was the Don Coleman Memorial Outing, sponsored by the Suncoast Club. I want to Thank All of the members who came out to help. Without their help these events would not take place, and we as a club could not spread the knowledge we have in the art of fly fishing.

The final tally is in, and shows that our November 11 banquet was a success both for the members who attended, and for our treasury. Thanks again to all who attended, donated, and helped.

The January meeting will feature Capt. Pat Damico as speaker and Walt Durkin as designated tyer. That's a combination that you won't want to miss! Our speaker for February will be Frank Sargeant, Outdoors Editor of the Tampa Tribune, and a good friend of our club.

While at the January meeting, be sure to sign up for the January 26 outing at DeSoto Park. We have invited the Mangrove Club members to join us in this annual event.

Tight Lines, Neil Sperling 

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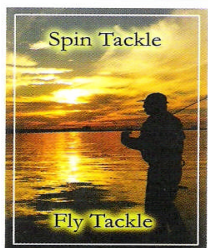
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Treasurer	Rick Valeri	813-681-9143
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	Pat Damico	727-360-6466
	Robert Fischer	813-962-0185
	Dick Miekka	727-866-8682
	Rick O'Hara	813-238-6763
	Neil Sperling	813-655-5627
	Alligator Bob Young	813-986-3008

The next meeting of the TBFFC Board of Directors will be at 6:00 P.M. on Wednesday, January 9, 2008 location TBD.

NOT GETTING THE NEWSLETTER? Please call


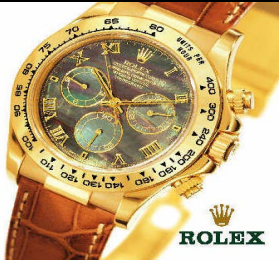
Dick Miekka, Editor, at 727-866-8682 or e-mail to dmiekka@cs.com



The Fly Guy

Capt. Pat Damico

2981 E. Vina del Mar Blvd.
St. Pete Beach, FL 33706
Tel: 727-360-6466
Web: <http://captpat.com>
Email: flyguy@captpat.com

10330 North Dale Mabry • Suite 110
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TBFFC CALENDAR OF EVENTS

2008 TBFFC MEETING DATES

Here are the meeting dates for the all of 2008: January 2, February 6, March 5, April 2, May 7, June 4, July 2, August 6, September 3, October 1, November 5, December 3 . **Please watch this space for any changes.**

EDITOR FOUND!

Bob Gaulin Has volunteered to edit our Fishing Report and Forecast (see page 6), replacing **Floyd Holder**. Please take the time to send Bob news of any fishing that you have done, so he can get off to a good start. Bob has also volunteered to help with the newsletter, but that will be a heavy burden, so we are still looking for anyone who has some time, and may eventually take over as editor. Pretty soon we will also need a new **casting editor/guru**. Dan Lagace is approaching his 100th column, and will retire at that point. Please contact Dick Miekka (dmiekka@cs.com, 727-866-8682) if you can help.

FUN-A-MENT WITH THE MANGROVE CLUB

When: Saturday, January 26, 2008, 8:00 am.

Where: DeSoto Park; fish anywhere in the park

Where to Meet at Start: We'll meet at the picnic area at the beginning of the parking lot for the fishing ramps. (follow the driveway at the big Anchor on your right not far from the park entrance)

Lunch: At Arrowhead Picnic Ground, noon.

Sign up At the January 2 club meeting

TBFFC is the host club this year and will be providing lunch. **Boat fishing and wade fishing will both be available.** We will have a short meeting/pairing/fishing report, and will start fishing around 8:15. The Fun-A-Ment portion is based on total inches of fish. There is a trophy that is kept by the winning club until the next time, although its current whereabouts is unclear. For more information, contact Dick Miekka at: (727) 866-8682 or dmiekka@cs.com

BIG GUN SHOOTOUT MOVED TO MARCH

In order to avoid conflict with our banquet, the Buccaneer games, and the holidays, we have decided to move our Big Gun Shootout event to March of 2008. Watch this newsletter for details.

PREVIEW OF COMING EVENTS:

January: Joint outing with the Mangrove Club

January or February: Shad Outing on the St. Johns River

February: Canal fishing at Tamiami

Feb. 29 – Mar. 2: Frank Sargeant Show - sign up in February

March: Big Gun Shootout.

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 26th Ave. N., St. Pete.

MANGROVE COAST FLY FISHERS

www.mangrovecoastflyfishers.com

NOTE: Newer Location for MCFE 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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Lords, and Ladies, of the Fly

Excerpted from the CaptPat.com website

What is my favorite saltwater fish to chase with the long rod? I'm often asked this question. I usually qualify it by saying, "Tailing redfish in shallow water, snook around lighted docks, or baby tarpon." The first two are more easily available, the last, continues to be a mystery. I have spent a lot of time searching areas for baby tarpon. Many times I am not successful; however I have some trips that have been spectacular. Very little has been published about these smaller silver kings. It seems that most authors want to keep the secrets to themselves. Through the years, my experience has narrowed the search to include several prerequisites for success.


Locating them and catching them are two different problems. If we limit our choice to fly fishing only, we have our work cut out for us. I know where there are several schools of smaller tarpon, up to thirty pounds, that are in the same area year around. The locations have the similar characteristics. They are bays that are away from the main body of water. The water temperature is a little warmer than surrounding locations, usually exposed to a lot of sun. A deep "hole" is usually present. My fish finder marks tons of small baitfish, probably glass minnows year around. Warmer water usually indicates a spring may be close to their home. A shallow water entrance may prevent large predators, sharks and dolphins, from getting in. They are here because they have a constant source of food, comfortable water temperature, depth, and safety.

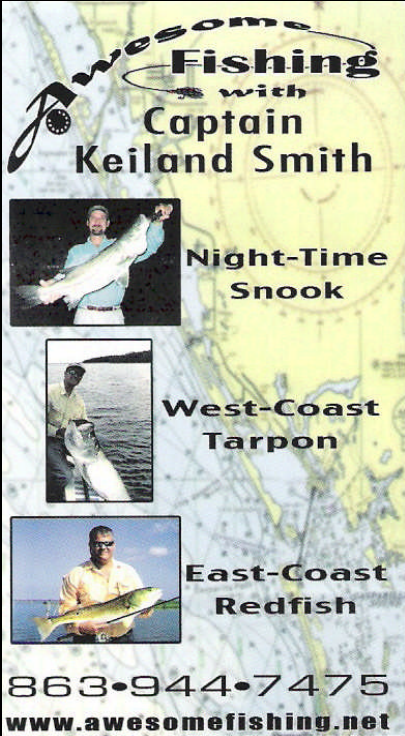
Besides bays, rivers are the next location with some consistency. Remember, they can adapt to fresh water and will sometime be away from salt for the winter months. As temperatures cool, depth seems to become more important. The outside bend in a river is always deeper. If the average depth of a river is five or six feet and an outside bend has a fifteen foot drop, this will be a good place to look. In both bays and rivers, when they are seen rolling in deep water, they are generally not feeding, but taking advantage of their air breathing ability. If the water is somewhat brackish, or stagnant, the rolling will be more frequent. Quickly casting a fly to a rolling fish will occasionally result in a hookup, but I feel most feeding is done closer to the bottom than the surface. The one that takes the fly may be a companion to the rolling fish. They are rarely concentrated and will be spread over a large area. Dr. Aaron Adams, author of "Fisherman's Coast," suggests using a weighted clouser with a sinking, or sink tip line to get your offering on the bottom where they are doing most of their feeding. If there is adjacent structures to their home, like a tree that has fallen in the water, cover the area with careful, well presented casts. Baitfish will generally use the tree for cover and tarpon will lurk nearby. This is one time that they will frequent the shallows. If presentations close to the surface are refused, use a weighted fly with a clear intermediate sinking tip fly line.

Fly selection will depend on the size of bait available. In warmer weather, I have seen them chase baits as large as four inches up to the surface in skinny water. Pencil poppers are effective when this happens. In colder weather, smaller flies are more productive. Keys type tarpon flies when downsized as small as size one work well. Expect to miss a lot of small tarpon. Unlike their bigger family members, small tarpon often swirl at the fly, resulting in "short strikes." A longer shank hook with a large gap will help. When stripping, eliminate slack by keeping your rod tip on the water surface and if you can't see the fly, watch the end of the fly line for the slightest hesitation. I've watched clients miss a take because of slack line many times, especially in brackish or tannin stained water. If seeing the end of your fly line is a problem in stained water, a one foot section of Orange colored Amnesia monofilament, the same diameter as your butt section between the leader and end of the fly line, will give you a strike indicator. This is a trick that I occasionally use when fishing for small mouth bass in rivers.

A recent kayak trip with Chrystal Murray put us into a concentration of very happy tarpon up to twenty pounds. Knowing how much I love to fly rod these juveniles, she contacted me and we ventured into a series of overgrown canals that were full of glass minnows and feeding fish. My new TFO, TiCrX eight weight fly rod was a perfect choice for our trip. This seven and a half, foot four piece rod really had a workout. Casting was simplified in tight quarters because of its size. It had adequate backbone to, "put the screws," to the tarpon that ranged into the twenty pound class. My leader was the rod's length. Five feet of forty pound for the butt section and a thirty pound mason monofilament tippet was all that was needed. A 1/0 standard cockroach, an all white keys design, and my bead butt baitfish pattern all seemed to work.

Depending on your location, it may take some effort to locate these mini silver kings. There isn't another fish that will give a fly rodder more of a challenge. The antics and commotion that begins when they feel the steel will make them your favorite too

Capt. Pat Damico, member TBFFC 



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December Photos



Club members learned how to tie **Robert Fischer's** Monster Gotcha (above, left), **Jeff Janecek's** version of the Chernobyl Ant (above, center), and **Neil Sperling's** Simple Shrimp at our December "Members' Night" meeting.



Photos by Denise Bruner



Many TBFFC members Played Hooky for the Holidays at the Port Manatee Fish Hatchery on Friday, December 7, and learned about the workings of the Hatchery from **Gina Russo** (top left), then assembled their gear, caught fish (top right and lower left), and had some of **Alligator Bob's** chili and fixin's to complete another great outing.

FLY OF THE MONTH #1

Monster Gotcha

As tied by Robert Fischer



MATERIALS:

Hook : Mustad or Eagle Claw long shank hook, (prefer **not** stainless), size 1/0

Thread : Pink

Tail : Strands from clear woven Mylar rope

Body : Pearl Sparkle Braid and white chenille

Eyes : Large bead chain or barbell

Under wing : White bucktail

Wing: Tan craft fur and pearl Krystal Flash

TYING SEQUENCE:

1. Put a slight bend in the first 3/8" from the eye to create a "bend back" style. Mash the barb down. Mount the hook in the vise with its point down.
2. Wrap pink thread from the eye back to the bend of the hook.
3. Remove about 12 - 1" strands from a clear woven mylar rope and tie in at the tail.
4. Tie in pearl sparkle braid at the tail and leave hanging. Tie in white chenille also to use for bulk.
5. Wrap the thread forward to the bend you made in the hook shank and tie in large barbell or bead chain eyes. Use figure eight wraps and several "table" wraps to secure the eyes in place (eyes are optional). Hang the thread away from the hook.
6. Add a drop of super glue to the eyes and to the tie in point of the chenille and the sparkle braid. Lay a bead of head cement along the hook shank from the tail to the eyes.
7. Wrap the chenille loosely up to the back side of the eyes. The glue should soak into the chenille. Tie off the chenille on the back side of the eyes. This adds bulk to the body.
8. Wrap the crystal braid forward over the chenille to the front of the eyes. Tie off in front of the eyes. Add a drop of head cement.
9. Flip the fly over and tie in a 2" long small clump of white bucktail for the under wing. This gives lift to the wing. Tie a small bunch of 2-1/2" long white or tan fake fur on top of the bucktail.
10. Tie in a large bunch of 3" long white crystal flash on top of the fur. Build up a large tapered pink head. Make sure all the wing materials are symmetrical. Tie off and glue. 🍷

FLY OF THE MONTH #2

Chernobyl Ant

As tied by Jeff Janecek



MATERIALS:

Hook : Long shank #8.

Thread: Chartreuse or to match body.

Body: Chartreuse sparkle chenille, 1/16" chartreuse craft foam, and 1/16" gray craft foam (or colors of your choice)

Indicators: 1/4" x 3/16" x 1/16" craft foam pieces in yellow and orange (or colors of your choice).

Legs: Yellow and black striped Sili-legs, or similar.

TYING SEQUENCE:

1. Mount the hook and wrap thread behind the hook eye, to the bend.
2. Attach chenille, advance thread to hook eye, then make 1/4 inch wraps of the chenille up to the hook eye and trim and secure.
3. Cut chartreuse craft foam about 1/4 Inch wide and 2 1/2 long. About 1/4 from end of foam, pierce with a large needle, then thread the hole over the hook eye so that the short end of the foam is below the eye and the rest is over the hook shank. Secure the foam with thread wraps directly behind the eye. A bottom lip should now be formed.
4. Now place the duplicate gray foam on the top. Wrap thread tightly 1/4 back to create matching upper and lower lips.
5. Wrap thread until about 1/16 wide to create a foundation for the legs. Thread on legs, Do not pull thread tightly as it will only straighten legs. You want a perfect v-pattern. Legs are placed in between foams.
6. Tie on yellow indicator, then whip finish and cut thread.
7. Restart thread opposite point of hook. Build up 1/16 wide for legs Duplicate the front, using the orange indicator piece. Trim all legs evenly.
8. Glue and trim lips and butt of fly. Butt should be just after the bend of the hook. This helps when fish are just nipping the fly, so they still get hooked. 🍷

FLY OF THE MONTH #3

Neil's Simple Shrimp
As tied by Neil Sperling



MATERIALS:

Hook : Size 2, regular length

Thread: Red or orange Danville or to match body.

Tail: Copper Krystal Flash and two orange feathers.

Eyes: Bead chain.

Body: Red Thread base with two red or dark orange feathers palmered over it.

Wing: (Optional) a small clump of deer hair or synthetic hair, clear or color to match fly.

TYING SEQUENCE:

1. Mount hook in vise, start thread and wind to a point opposite the hook point.
2. Tie in 6 strands of Krystal Flash as antennae, followed by two orange feathers, splayed out.
3. Tie in bead chain eyes opposite hook point.
4. Tie in two orange feathers by tips at the same point
5. Return the thread to the eye of the hook.
6. Palmer feathers forward, tie them in and trim them off 1/8" behind hook eye.
7. (optional) Tie in a small bunch of deer hair or synthetic hair to cover hook point.
8. Whip finish and cut thread, then coat head with Sally Hanson's clear nail polish or head cement 🌞



Casting Tips for TBFFC: 95

Let the Back Cast Straighten for Improved Rod Load^{©2008}

It is advantageous when trying to fully load the fly rod to allow the back cast to fully straighten before beginning the forward cast. In doing so, the fly rod begins to load the instant the forward stroke is begun. There will be a lag between the time one recognizes that the back cast has fully straightened and the time that the casting muscles respond to the caster's command to begin the forward cast. Hence, it is best to command the commencement of the forward cast when it is seen that the leader has just about straightened. The timing of the commencement of the forward cast is critical in gaining the full benefit of having a completely straightened fly line and leader in the back cast. Too soon, and the unfurled line and leader actually insert slack into the system, recognized by the familiar "buggy whip" crack and often lost fly. Too late, and the line and leader will have begun descending to the water at the acceleration of 32 feet per second, per second, also inserting slack into the system, but from a different perspective.

A practice regimen for getting the timing right when changing direction from the back cast to the forward cast is to watch every back cast unfurl while purposefully erring by starting too soon, and also by starting too late. Starting too soon feels as though the rod never gets a chance to load. Starting too late feels like the load will have been realized and then immediately lost. These errors are easy to create and are important to practice in order to gain the experience of what it feels like when starting too soon versus starting too late.

Next, zero-in on the perfect time to start the forward cast. The sense and feel will be:

1. "ahh, no rod load – too soon, wait longer,"
2. "woops, tug and fall, too long, start sooner"
3. "hummm, just a bit of load, wait a smidgen longer,"
4. "ah ha, caught it just at the end of the tug, barely when the fall began,"
5. "that's it, perfect timing."

Surprisingly, most casters achieve virtually perfect timing within about twenty false casts. It is the cumulative division and reduction of known errors that makes this possible.

Dan Lagace

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Fishing Report and Forecast

"What a great time to go fishing!"

Recently, while fishing with Kenny and Jon from fishbuzz.tv, **Capt. Pat Damico** saw more redbfish in shallow water than he had ever seen. They were in small groups, and as usual, very spooky. Twelve foot leaders, and very small flies with minimal weight were the order of the day. The number of reds being caught around dock lights has never been better. It is gratifying to see Tampa Bay redbfishing on the upswing.

Dick Miekka joined **Lloyd Bull** to fish the flats around the Anclote River. They caught numerous trout to about 19 inches, several small gag grouper, ladyfish, one bluefish, and the usual assortment of lizard fish, puffer fish, baitfish, and needlefish. At times the catching was fast and furious. Dick's chartreuse and white Clouser minnow was almost stripped down to the hook and lead eyes and was still catching fish!

Capt. Rick Grasset reminds us that Trout season reopens this month in the south region and it is usually good following the two month closure in November and December. He has caught some large trout while wading and fishing potholes and drop offs along sandbars in the winter. They will usually be loners or may be mixed in with reds. Smaller trout will usually be schooled in deeper water. He likes north Sarasota Bay and lower Tampa Bay for fishing potholes for trout and reds and Gasparilla and Pine Island Sounds for tailing reds. A Clouser or Grasset's Flats Minnow tied with lead eyes and fished on an intermediate sink tip fly line will work well when fishing potholes for reds and trout.

Snook season remains closed during January, so all snook must be released. You should find snook in rivers, creeks and canals this month where they will go to find warmer water. They may venture out onto close by flats to feed on warm, sunny afternoons. Flats that are close to deep water can be particularly good. When targeting snook on the flats or in rivers, creeks and canals, I like to use wide profile flies, such as my Flats Minnow or Enrico Puglisi style flies.

Members who attended the club outings at Port Manatee Fish Hatchery and Desoto Park had moderately good fishing and some great camaraderie.

Tight lines from your new fishing editor,
Bob Gaulin 🌞

THANKS TO OUR NEWEST DONORS

TBFFC has recently acquired a large cache of fly tying supplies and accessories. They were donated by **Egan Anderson** of **TAMPA BAY OUTFITTERS**, 701 South Howard, Suite 102, Tampa FL 33606. Their store no longer sells fly fishing equipment, but still carries a full line of sporting and outdoor clothing. When you stop by their shop, please remember to thank them on behalf of our club. The donation occurred as the result of a visit to the store by club member **Rick Happle**. It really does pay to patronize our sponsors!

We also received a generous supply of materials from club member **Cecil Strange**, who is cutting back on his fly tying efforts.

We will be featuring many of the above items in our monthly raffles, and perhaps also during our silent auction at the next banquet. That way, these donations will work to the benefit of all of our members.



You might be a fisherman if...

- 1) Your local tackle shop has your credit card number on file.
- 2) You name your black lab "Mercury" and your cat "Evinrude".
- 3) The local fly shop has a private line just for you.
- 4) You have your name painted on a parking space at the launch ramp.
- 5) You have a photo of your 10 lb. snook on your desk at work instead of your family.
- 6) You consider viennies and crackers a complete meal.
- 7) You think MEGABYTES means a great day fishing.
- 8) You send your kid off to the first day of school with his shoes tied in a palomar knot.
- 9) You trade your wife's van for a smaller vehicle so your boat will fit in the garage.
- 10) Your kids know it's Saturday--Because the boat's gone,

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
- One-On-One Fly Casting Lessons
- Shirts and Hats with club logo
- 80 Page Beginner's Basic Skills Instruction Manual
- Annual Banquet with International Speakers

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- Capt. Keiland Smith (863) 944-7475
- Capt. Rodney Smith (321) 777-2773
- Capt. Tom Tamanini (813) 920-7552

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.

South Tampa

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

Brandon

Neil Sperling.....813-655-5627

North Tampa

Jeff Abeles813-961-0097

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