



The Tampa Bay Fly Fishing Club

www.tbffc.org

Next Meeting: Wednesday, September 2, 2009, 6:00 p.m.

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

Special Program

Club Fish Fry

Be sure to skip supper before you come to our September meeting, because we are going to have a good old fashioned Florida Fish Fry. The fry will be prepared and presented by Bob Gaulin, Robert Fischer, and Alligator Bob. In addition to member-caught fish, the meal will include hush puppies, cheese grits, and cold drinks. Our trio of gourmet chefs is requesting members to bring a favorite dessert dish for the assembled members to sample, assuming they have some room after the fish 'n fixin's.

Invited Speaker

Capt. Nick Angelo

Capt. Nick has been catching fish on fly since the age of 12. He was born South Florida. He was able to catch tarpon, snook, and peacock bass literally in his own backyard, which sparked a lifelong passion for the sport. Capt. Nick moved to Tampa at the age of 20 pursuing a career as a chef. After discovering what great fisheries Tampa has, he decided to turn his focus to becoming a fly fishing guide. Capt. Nick now guides the waters from Sarasota Bay to Homosassa. His specialty is sight fishing redfish in Tampa Bay or along the Chassahowitzka Wildlife Refuge and fly-fishing for big tarpon. Capt Nick will present a slideshow and talk about this year's tarpon season.

Featured Fly Tyer

Walt Durkin

Walt Durkin 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. He is a former club president and is currently a member of the TBFFC board of Directors and club co-president.

A man of many talents, Walt has built his own fly rods, fished extensively in both fresh and salt waters worldwide, organized club trips, and tied flies with his own personal flair. He will tie a basic bendback minnow pattern in several colors and styles. This popular style is both effective and simple to tie and works on many game fish.

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


SEPTEMBER 2009 PRESIDENT’S MESSAGE

Welcome to September; the month of Labor Day, back to school, start of fall, big hurricanes and, best of all, snook season and cooling waters.

Thanks to **Walt Durkin, Robert Fischer, and Leigh West** for giving us a tag-team presentation of their fishing adventures in the Bahamas at our August meeting. Thanks twice to Leigh for being our designated fly tier. Instructions for tying his Fly Fur Clouser are detailed on page 8.

Be sure to come hungry to our September meeting so you have room for the special fish fry (with all the fixings) that will be prepared by **Robert Fischer, Bob Gaulin, and Alligator Bob**. Quite a change from our usual pizza! While you are munching, watch **Walt Durkin** tie a must-have bend-back fly that should be in every member’s fly box. Then listen to **Nick Angelo’s** tarpon adventures.

Also on the docket for September is an outing at Picnic Island Park, including special fly casting and fishing for beginning through proficient casters. The outing is being spearheaded by **John Nelson**, with casting, etc. sessions by **Walt Durkin and Leigh West**. Sign up for this outing at the meeting—more details on page 3.

Tight lines // Dick 

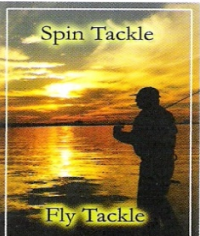
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The next meeting of the TBFFC Board of Directors will be at 6:00 P.M. on Wednesday, September 9, at Chubby’s Restaurant

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



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TBFFC EVENTS

2009 TBFFC MEETING DATES

Here are the meeting dates for all of 2009: August 5, September 2, October 7, November 4, December 2.
Please watch this space for any changes.

"SWAP TABLE" TO BE FIXTURE

Last month we had a swap meet with several members bringing items for sale or trade. We will again set up a table at the September meeting, and encourage all members to bring their excess items, or even useable "junk" for a friendly session of bargaining. It looks as though we will be having this event regularly. If there is leftover stuff that members are willing to donate to the club, we will have a white elephant silent or live auction at a future meeting. **Bring your stuff and pawn it off on some needy (or gullible) member, and have some fun!**

TBFFC OUTING TO PICNIC ISLAND PARK

When: Saturday September 26, '09, 7:00 am until Noon, followed by lunch.

Where: Picnic Island Park

What: Kayak, Canoe, and Wade fishing around Picnic Island, plus a bonus clinic giving casting, rigging, fly selection, and fishing techniques

What Else: Lunch will be served and it is planned that there will be a prize for fishing prowess. Maps will be provided.

Sign up at the September Club Meeting.

For more information, contact John Nelson at 813-857-9019

OCTOBER "CARL HANSON" OUTING WITH SUNCOAST CLUB HOSTED BY TBFFC

When: Saturday October 17 2009, 7:00 am until Noon, followed by lunch.

Where: Rotary Park, Hillsboro River

Includes: Great Lunch, Beautiful Trophy

Sign up: At the October club meeting.

This annual outing gives us a chance to interact with our friendly rivals across the bay, and to compete for the Carl Hanson Trophy for the most fish caught. TBFFC (Jeff Janecek) currently holds the trophy, after Suncoast held it for 2006 and 2007. Come help us keep the trophy!

It is necessary to have a boat, kayak, or canoe to enjoy the beautiful scenery of the Hillsboro River, and to fish for the many pan fish and bass in the river.

For more info call Dick Miekka at **727-866-8682**.

FUTURE CLUB EVENTS

- **A day with Bruce Richards** (of 3M Scientific Anglers) Joint with Suncoast Club. Date not set yet.
- **Big Gun Shootout**, a traditional casting contest among members and clubs, to be held on Nov.15
- **December Outing** with Mangrove Club and Suncoast Club at Fort Desoto Park. Mangrove will host.

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 MCOFF 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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TIPS FOR TBFFC – No. 15

Three Tips from Leigh West and Four Hints by Ed Bang

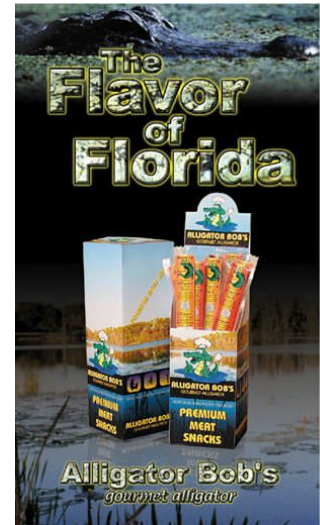
BE QUICK, BE SAFE, AND BE COMFORTABLE

1. In addition to folding the fly line or leader in half to keep the line from falling out of the rod while stringing it up, the rod is easier to string up when the rod is on one's right side (stand to the left side of the rod), since the snake guides are easier to thread from that side.
2. NEVER put your fly rod on the ground or floor.
3. To make flats fishing boots or neoprene booties more comfortable, purchase a high quality pair of athletic shoe insoles and place inside (or use the ones from an old pair of running/tennis shoes). Sometimes boots/booties come with thin, quick-drying insole, but these just don't have the support one might need for a long day on the water. Just be sure you can still place your foot comfortably inside (with/without waders).
Leigh

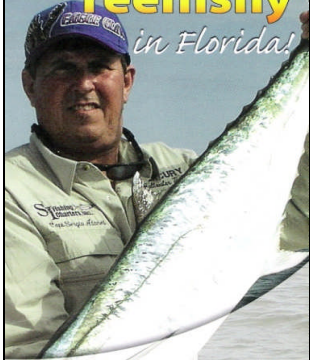
SAVE MONEY AND TIME WHEN YOU TIE FLIES

1. I've noticed some tyers, when applying flashabou or K flash to a fly tie in the desired color, cut it to length and then discard the remaining length. Instead, go to the nearest flea market and pick up the surgical clamps used in hospitals in two or three different sizes. Clamp the unused portion and keep on the desk for the next fly.
2. Here's another tip I picked up from my mentor Walt Welch. Don't bother buying all different colors of tying thread. Buy a basic white in the thread you like and then buy a set of colorfast marking pens. Color the length of thread you need for that particular fly.
3. I find myself tying more and more with mono thread, the thinnest I can get. It's very forgiving when it allows the material it's binding to show through. Then when you get to the head, substitute the color called for in the recipe. Hope this helps.
4. One more hint on tying. Most of the time at the tying bench is spent digging out the materials needed for the fly you're tying. DON'T TIE JUST ONE and soon your fly boxes will be well populated.

Ed 



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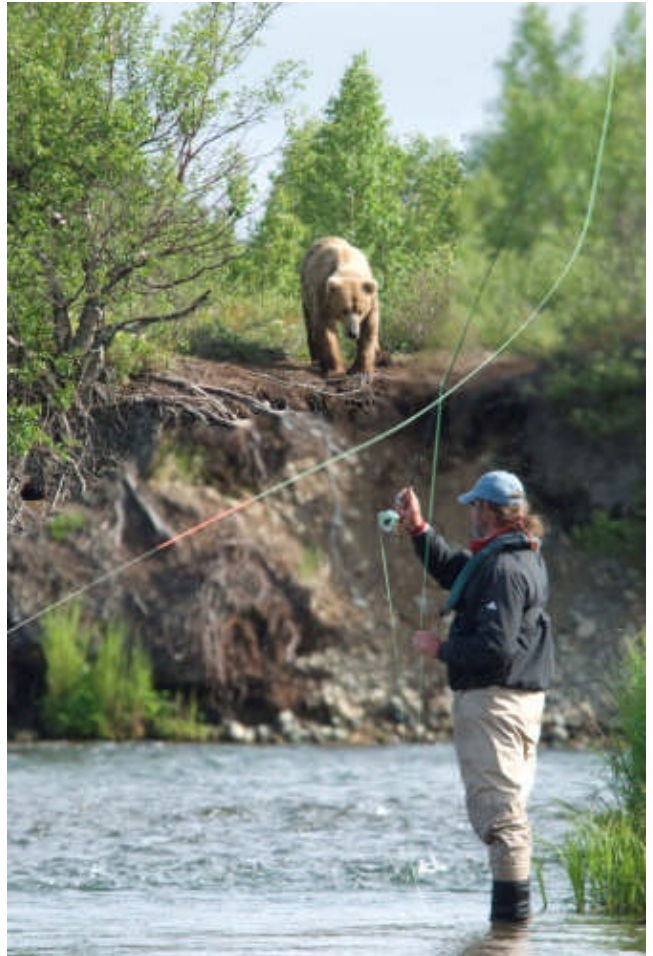


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Member Photos, September 2009

Let's start at the far north and work our way south in this photo essay.



ALASKA: Wes and Kelly Sobczak fished at Angler's Alibi during late July. Kelly got some great shots of Wes with a chrome King Salmon and making a picture-perfect cast while watched by an appreciative spectator.



PENNSYLVANIA: (LEFT) On August 12 **Pat Damico** caught a large small stream rainbow on dry fly while wielding a Terry Kirkpatrick bamboo rod.

NORTH CAROLINA: **John Broom** displays his 19" Rainbow Trout caught on the Davidson River, NC 8-13-09

Member Photos, Continued



FLORIDA: Greg Peterson took two of his students, Jacob and Garrett, fly fishing on August 8 and pulled the all-nighter. Neither of them knew how to fly cast except for the few hours Greg spent with them on the golf course ponds. Greg tried to leave after they caught a bunch of fish but was called a sissy for wanting to go to bed. He was glad they stayed because he caught his personal best redfish that was 37 inches long. All together the kids caught a couple snook each and 4-5 big sea trout each. The funniest part of the whole night was watching the kids hook fish that they could not handle and getting their butts kicked. That was Greg's chance to return the sissy comment and really get them upset. They both had big snook on but couldn't stop them before they got into the docks. They were very disappointed but they forgot as soon as they hooked the next one.



MORE FLORIDA: On August 10, Captain Bryon Chamberlin got to fish with friend and long-time tarpon fanatic Rick Redd. Despite seeing only about 15 tarpon, Rick managed to get 2 bites on fly and landed the one pictured. Their guess is around 115 lbs. Bryon didn't get to take any hero shots of Rick holding his fish boat side since he was soaking wet from landing the fish and didn't want to take the time to dry off before handling the camera gear and reducing the chances of the tarpon swimming off in the hot water.

Trout Fishing in the North Georgia Mountains

By Wallace Ziprik III

As perhaps the northernmost member of the TBFFC (I moved from Seminole to Atlanta way back in 1971), I did not get to experience the joys (or frustrations) of fly fishing until 2004. I'm still trying to figure out saltwater flyrodding (as CAPT Pat Damico and CAPT Russ Shirley can testify). This article however is intended to help with just the opposite. Orient the saltwater angler towards fresh water trout fishing opportunities within a day's drive of Tampa.

I live about 475 miles north of the I-75 and I-275 splitoff, which works out to be about an 8 – 9 hour drive. From there (depending upon your direction of travel), you are only 30 -90 minutes from the North Georgia Mountains. Atlanta is about as far south as you can travel to find freshwater trout year-round.

These fish usually fare well providing water temperatures remain under about 65 degrees. At 70 degrees they generally stop eating and 80 degrees is usually fatal. As these are coldwater fish, summer fishing for them can be difficult, except perhaps in the early AM. With that said, there are nine other months of the year (Fall – Spring) these fish thrive (and oftentimes so does the fishing). Their strength for their size can be surprising. While 9 to 14 inch fish are typical and can be stripped in fairly easily, fish over 16 inches usually need to be taken on the reel.

So what equipment should you bring? A 7 to 9 foot long 4 to 6 wt. fly rod is usually sufficient with floating line and backing to match. (Except for perhaps trophy trout, heavier rods are generally not needed or recommended. Sure, you can catch a 12 inch stocker on an 8 wt., but without the “give and take” that comes from playing a fish with a rod that's proportionate to its size, it's not nearly as much fun.) As for flies, many trout fishermen fantasize about taking one of these beautiful fish on a dry fly, such as a Blue Wing Olive (BWO) or an Elk Hair Caddis. In truth, 90 percent of the time trout are eating midges, stoneflies or some other sub-surface creature. San Juan Worms, Y2K, Prince and Copper John patterns are often quite effective.

As to places to fish, streams and rivers north to northeast of Atlanta hold the key. The Chattahoochee River (or 'Hooch which runs ENE from north of Atlanta to Gainesville, GA) is open to the public year round and offers 48 miles of shoreline for you to practice. Chris Scalley of River Through Atlanta (770-650-8630) owns/operates a reputable guide service or you can fish it yourself from your Jon boat, canoe or Gheenoe. (The Chattahoochee WMA is an excellent source of free river information at 678-538-1200. Don't be afraid to experiment with different depths on your drifts or to change out your fly patterns. What constitutes a hot fly one day may not work the next.

Another body of water open to the public that fishes year round is the Toccoa River near Blue Ridge, GA. (About 90 minutes north of Atlanta.) Unlike the 'Hooch, it is my understanding

motors of any kind cannot be utilized here. (I've only fished it twice.) Unicoi Outfitters (706-632-1880) has a full service fly shop in Blue Ridge and all the information you need to fish this river. (You may need a local shuttle service as well.) The same flies used on the 'Hooch will usually (but not always) work here as well.

What if you want REALLY big trout? Well, there are “pay to play” places that will give you a realistic shot at a 24 inch rainbow or larger, but bring (at least) a 6 wt. or better! Northeast Georgia holds the key to these fish on bodies of water like the Soque River (northeast of Gainesville, GA) or the Chestatee River (north of Cleveland, GA) amongst others. (I landed a 14 lb. rainbow here in 2006.) Depending on the establishment, you're talking about a \$250 - \$350 rod fee per person. If you've got your heart set on one of these big boys, this is the way to go. Unicoi Outfitters also has a full service fly shop in Helen, GA (706-878-3083) or you want might want to contact Blackhawk Fly Fishing at 706-947-3474).

For the advanced trout fisherman, Smithgall Woods near Helen, GA (706-878-3087) is open to the public by reservation only, and don't even think about using either a strike indicator or any midge patterns bigger than size 18. Fish can range from 9 inch stockers to simply enormous (over 24 inches), and they're very leader-shy. You can fish this yourself, but if you need the services of a guide, a brother-sister guide service called CJ Fly fishing (678-425-4388) will put you on the fish.

This article can't possibly be all-inclusive. Just over the state line in North Carolina is the Nantahala, which offers public access to seven miles of delayed harvest fishing year-round. There are others areas to fish as well. But if you're looking for some variety in your fishing routine, you're only a day's drive from the North Georgia Mountains and the fishing opportunities they hold. 🌅



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FLY OF THE MONTH

Fly Fur Clouser (e.g., For Bahamas Bonefish)

As Tied by Leigh West



Materials

Thread Danville flat-waxed nylon, white for tail area; chartreuse, yellow, fluorescent green, pink, etc. for head.

Hook Tiemco 811 S, Mustad 3407 or 34007, size 4 for winter fishing or for bonefish, size 2 or larger for summer and deeper water.

Eyes Bead chain, Dazzle eyes (brass) or dumbbell lead eyes (either plain, silver or painted with eye) work well. Match eye size with hook size (usually mini lead or extra small brass for size 4 hook, or extra small brass or lead eyes for larger hook sizes).

Body (optional) Mylar tubing (medium, pearl) or vinyl rib (clear or tan)-tie in behind eyes, if desired.

Wing Base layers- white Fly Fur (a.k.a. craft fur, polar bear hair- some colors can be found in fabric stores), topped with a darker color (any dark over light color combination).

Accent Flashabou or "Comes Alive", for belly, in wing and/or sides of fly.

Tying instructions

1. Put hook in vise with point under shank. Lay down a base wrap of white thread on hook shank, and tie in the eyes on top of the hook shank 1/3 of the distance from the eye using figure eight wraps. Cover thread with head cement or nail polish.
2. Cut Fly Fur from sheet (~20-30 hairs) and tie over hook shank, securing with wraps on either side of the eyes, so that ends protrude about the same length as the hook shank.
3. Tie in 6-8 strands of pearl Flashabou over the Fly Fur, behind the eyes (the belly area) and whip finish behind the eyes. Trim Flashabou slightly shorter than the Fly Fur. Bring thread in front of eyes. Trim excess hair and Flashabou near eye.
4. Turn the fly over or rotate vise so that eyes are under shank. Tie in some white Fly Fur (~20- 30 hairs) over hook shank near eye. The Fly Fur should be slightly longer than the Fly Fur previously tied in. Tie the thread off, and change thread to desired head color. Tie in colored Fly Fur over the white Fly Fur, slightly longer than the Fly Fur below.
5. Tie in a lateral line of Flashabou (~5 strands) just behind the hook eye on either side of the fly so that the strands lie parallel between the white Fly Fur and colored Fly Fur (Note: Addition of flash accent on the belly and as lateral lines are a great ways to make almost any minnow pattern look and fish better!). Whip finish and coat wraps with head cement.

This is truly a universal fly for fresh and saltwater fishing. Assembling a tying kit of white Fly Fur, a few colors (pink, tan, white, yellow, olive, e.g.) of Fly Fur for the top color, some flashy materials (pearl, gold and silver Flashabou or Crystal Flash, e.g.) and a few colors of thread, a multitude of flies in various color combinations can be tied at very little cost. Fly sizes and weights can be varied. Use various combinations of hook and eye sizes/weights. - Leigh West 🌅

Fishing Report and Forecast "What a great time to go fishing!"

August 4th on a full moon **Greg Peterson** and two of his students went fishing under the dock lights. **Jacob Millins**, an eight grader, and **Garrett Stephens**, a 7th grader, caught 2 snook and 5 nice sea trout on white bunny and Puglisi flies. One the same trip Greg hooked and landed a 36" redfish. Way to go guys (see page 6)!

This next report is from **Nick Colantonio**. He fished the Goodnews River in Alaska during the first week of August. It was the start of the Silver Salmon run and they were plentiful. Mornings were spent in tidewater casting streamers and poppers for silvers, and he caught many up to 32 inches. Nick brought home 40 pounds of filets (only bucks are kept, never hens). They spent afternoons upriver casting to rainbow trout and arctic char in sizes up to 24 inches. The fly of choice was a deer-hair mouse.

As **Bob Stearns**, writer and Florida resident, said at dinner one evening "The Goodnews is consistently one of the most productive rivers in the world."

Florida guides and writers **Rodney Smith** and **John Kuminiski** were working at the lodge this summer so there was a real Florida presence.

Capt. Rick Grasset reports that tarpon fishing was real hot in the beginning of the month of August with several bites and some catches with friends and guests.

Don't forget, Snook season opens on Sept. 1st after a four month closure. Many snook will be found in the surf, in areas close to passes and under docks under the lights. Tarpon, juvenile tarpon, Reds and trout should be hot items for the rest of August and into September. Gator trout are in skinny waters. Go get em!

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- Fly Fishing Outings
- Fishing Trips Sponsored by Members and the Club
- Group Clinics and Workshops
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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.

South Tampa

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

Brandon

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

North Tampa

Jeff Abeles813-961-0097

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

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

Bill Murdich 813-971-4764

Leigh West. 813-971-8697

Saint Petersburg

Capt. Pat Damico.....727-360-6466

Polk County

Capt. Frank Rhodes.....863-967-4258

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2009 member application
Tampa Bay Fly Fishing Club

Your Name: _____ Date: _____

Mailing address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____

Hm. Phone: _____ Wk. Phone: _____

Email address: _____

Type of Membership: _____

Please Check: One Year Five Year

Please list names you wish to include in family membership

Name: _____ Rel: _____

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