



The Salty Tippet

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tarponcoastflyfishers.com

SPRING 2026

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President's Message

Spring Fishing Looking Good

So far this year we have had some really good fly fishing outings in conjunction with the **Sun Coast Fly Fishers** ([Cypress Point](#)) and **Fly Fishers International** ([Casting Clinic](#)). Each of these meetups turned out great for those attending (with good camaraderie and great food). Look for future planned outings alongside these friendly fly fishers.

FFI Casting Clinic

The FFI casting clinics provided outstanding instructors and fly casting experts. Those attending walked away with more casting

knowledge than they came with.

Kayak Fly Fishing

Our kayak fly fishing adventures this year will continue on a regular basis and the Tarpon are almost here. Regarding kayaking, TCFF's **Ray Cannata** and **Terry Dunne** kayaked from the **Chassahowitzka River Spring** to the **Gulf of America**, a 10-miles plus round trip. We hear a **Florida Gar** jumped into Ray's kayak. See [page 10](#).

As the weather improves the fishing will get better so dust off your gear and go out and catch fish.

See you on the water.

— **Bobby Lachtara**



TCFF President
Bobby Lachtara

Tarpon Flies



The Tarpon are coming. See [page 2](#).



TCFF Club Officers

PRESIDENT

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BOB BEBOUT
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RUBY TURNER
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VICE PRESIDENT

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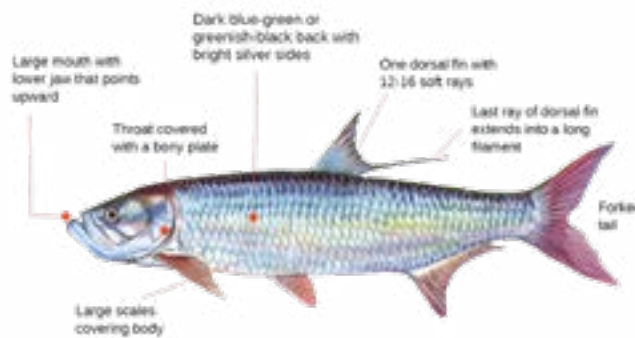
SECRETARY

RUBY TURNER
(407) 267-4658

SALTY TIPPET/WEB

TERRY DUNNE
(352) 999-1576

The Tarpon Are Coming



Tarpon can grow to more than 8 feet long and weigh in at 200 pounds and more.

It's that time of the year as the Silver Kings, arrive in the shallow Gulf waters off Hernando Beach. They make their annual migration from May through early July, with May and June marking the peak season.

During these months, thousands of migratory fish gather in local coastal waters to spawn, offering top-tier, shallow-water sight fishing opportunities.

These fish can grow to more than 8 feet long and more than 200 pounds. From above, they appear dark blue or greenish black, or even brassy if they've been in inland waters. They are recognizable by their very shiny silver sides covered in large scales.

They live in bays and mangrove lagoons, and can travel up rivers into freshwater. They usually gulp air as a way to get additional oxygen and can be seen breaking the surface for air.

Tarpon are prized for their fight but not their flesh. They are protected by significant regulations.

New Calendar

You access TCFF's Events Calendar from the TCFF website at:

tarponcoastflyfishers.com

Click **Calendar** on the menu bar. At this time, Calendar construction is ongoing.



Tarpon Coast Fly Fishers

January 2026

December '25

1	2	3	4	5	6
7	8	9	10	11	12
13	14	15	16	17	18
19	20	21	22	23	24
25	26	27	28	29	30
31					

February '26

1	2	3	4	5	6	7
8	9	10	11	12	13	14
15	16	17	18	19	20	21
22	23	24	25	26	27	28

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday					
28 Kayak Fly Fishing 	29	30	31	1 New Year's Day	2	3					
4 No specific dates. TCFF usually gives kayak fishing once a week. Contact Terry Dunne to join us, (352) 999-1576.	5	6	7	8	9	10					
11	12	13	14 General Membership Meeting 	15 Fly Tying w/ Bobby Lachara 	16	17					
18	19 ML King Day	20	21	22 2nd Lachara's Fly & Fly Club Lunch	23	24  Fly Fishing Clinic					
25	26	27	28	29	30	31					
January	February	March	April	May	June	July	August	September	October	November	December

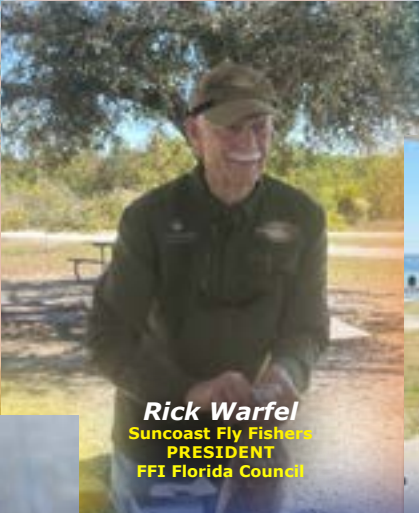


Cypress Point Park

Great fishing, great fun with the
SUNCOAST FLY FISHERS



John French
BOARD OF DIRECTORS
Suncoast Fly Fishers



Rick Warfel
Suncoast Fly Fishers
PRESIDENT
FFI Florida Council



Bill AuCoin
EDITOR: ON THE FLY
Suncoast Fly Fishers



Robert Fisher
BOARD OF DIRECTORS
Suncoast Fly Fishers

David Redd
PRESIDENT
Suncoast Fly Fishers

Tony Piazza
Suncoast Fly Fishers



Bill AuCoin
Suncoast Fly Fishers

Jim Humphrey
Tarpon Coast
Fly Fishers

Ray Cannata
Tarpon Coast
Fly Fishers



A fine meal after a
good day fishing



Bill AuCoin
Suncoast Fly Fishers

Jim Humphrey
Tarpon Coast
Fly Fishers

Bill Scarola
BOARD OF DIRECTORS
Suncoast Fly Fishers



Bob Burkard
BOARD OF DIRECTORS
Suncoast Fly Fishers



Walt Durkin
Tampa Bay Fly Fishing Club
w/27" Redfish
Wade fishing at Cypress Point Park



John French
BOARD OF DIRECTORS
Suncoast Fly Fishers

Jack Collins
VICE PRESIDENT
Suncoast Fly Fishers

Lars Allenrink
Suncoast Fly Fishers



Lars Allenrink
Suncoast Fly Fishers

John French
Suncoast Fly Fishers



Terry Dunne
Tarpon Coast
Fly Fishers



IFF Casting Clinic

INTERNATIONAL FLY FISHERS



Ft. DeSoto

TCFF accepted an invitation to attend the Dec. 20th Suncoast Fly Fishers Chili Cookoff at Ft. DeSoto State Park. A beautiful day at beautiful Ft. DeSoto.



Plotting strategy



Five kinds of chili, all good



Where to fish??



A fine bunch



Down the Chaz To the Gulf

*From the Chassahowitzka Spring
to the Gulf of America (and back)*



It was a lovely Spring day when TCFF's Ray Cannata and Terry Dunne launched from below the Seven Sisters Springs and turned left down river toward

The Crack (the popular swimming hole up Baird Creek). The tide was going out and it was an easy pull with the river current.

As we neared the multiple fish houses located midway down river, we ran into schools of Florida Gar tailing in the shallows, their long toothy beaks poking out of the water.

Florida Gar can get up to three feet long and weigh 10 pounds. Unexpectedly, one of them jumped into Ray Cannata's kayak but, before Ray could grab him, the Gar jumped out again. Still, Ray caught plenty of fish. Further down, the river became deeper and wider and, ominously, the wind picked up. We kept going.

When we reached the farthest point we had ever paddled on the Chaz, we parked the kayaks and had lunch. A passing boater told us the Gulf of America was only a mile or so ahead and we decided to go for it. When we came to the Gulf there were three more fish houses near the mouth of Chassahowitzka Bay.

On the way back, I trolled a fly behind my kayak and hooked a good-sized Sea Trout, a keeper but too pretty to keep. Something big, really big, hooked onto Ray's fly and ran out his entire fly line and into the backing before it broke off. After that, Ray caught Spanish Mackerel, a surprise for the Chassahowitzka.

By the time we paddled the five miles back, both shoulders felt broken and the hands and wrists were throbbing.

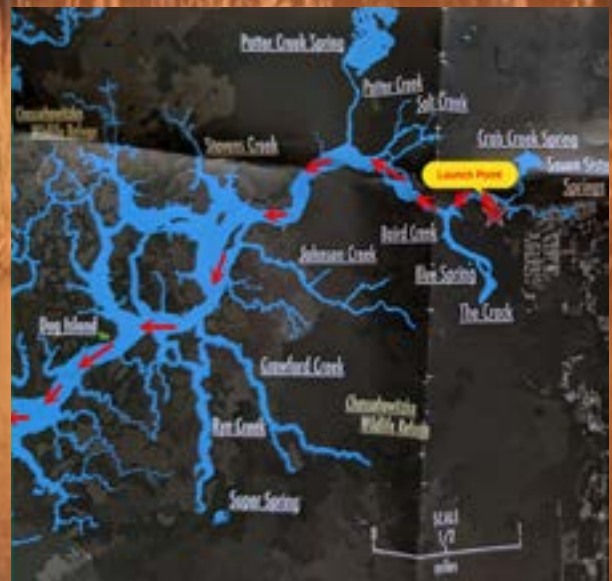
A good trip.



**Fish houses midway down the Chaz.
The water here is 14 feet deep.**



**A big Gar jumped into Ray Cannata's
kayak then jumped out again.**



Chassahowitzka River