



TVFF Club News

May 2019



Program – May 16, 7 pm

Silent Auction

The May 16, 2019 Club meeting will be set aside for a public silent auction to help dispose of the fly fishing items from the estate Frank Gasper, to be held in room 201 of Faith Presbyterian Church at 7PM.

Over a hundred items will be placed at auction at the May 16th Club meeting. This will be a silent auction, open to the public with 100% of the proceeds going to Frank's family.

Items include fly rods, reels, waders, fly vests, wading shoes at least 30 fly boxes (most with flies labeled), an extensive collection of books, and much more. [Gasper Auction Item List](#)

Bidding will start a 7 PM and conclude at 8:30. Payment is by cash or check only. Checks will be made out to Barbara Gasper and photo ID will be required for non club members.

This is a great opportunity to provide a service to the bereaved family of a former member.

Board Meeting – Notice of reschedule date

This is the official notice that the Board of Directors meeting scheduled for May 2 has been rescheduled to June 6 due to a conflict.

Updated Fishing Reports

[Great Smoky Mountains National Park](#) – Little River Outfitters (Daily)
[White and Norfolk Rivers](#) – Cotter Trout Lodge (Weekly)

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**Please welcome our
newest member:
Nic Dudash**

This Month's Activities

- May 2 – Board Mtg rescheduled to June 6
- May 9- Fly Tying 7pm Room 201
- May 16- Program 7pm Room 201
- May 23- Fly Tying - 7pm Room 201



BOD Minutes

BOD minutes are now available for review at the monthly meetings.

Members can read the minutes by simply asking the Club Secretary, David Hatfield.



TVFF Fly Tying Group

Foam Popper series

May will mark the start of the Popper series. Dick Curtis and Joe Tremblay will conduct joint sessions designed to develop your popper skills as we progress from a basic bass popper to increasing elaborate poppers while developing new skills along the way.

Each session will introduce a new skill such as; how to make popper heads, attach weed guards, paint eyes as well as affix readymade eyes, paint detail bodies, and apply the finish coat.

Series will include handouts on; the best glue to use on foam, available paint and marker choices and what finish you should use for your choice of paint or marker. Information that will help you select the best option for your project.

Fly Tying Nights May 9th and May 23rd

Faith Presbyterian Church, 7-9 PM

Cost \$3.00



All are welcomed! Fly tying equipment is available for new tyers. Come and discover the joy of catching fish on a fly you tied or even designed. Join us for 2 hour sessions held on the 2nd and 4th Thursday of the month at 7 PM.



Catch of the Month – Joe Tremblay

These pictures are from the club trip to Donovan Lakes the week of April 22-26. Joe gets catch of the month but I gave myself the thumbs up for a personal best.

Joe caught the big fish of the week, a 5 lb. 2 oz. largemouth. He also caught a 4 lb. 2 oz. fish with several 2 and 3 pounders mixed in. You can see the white popper in the corner of the fish's mouth. Plus, he caught a 1 lb. 2 oz shellcracker on a damsel fly nymph.



My best fish was a 4Lbs. 2 oz. largemouth caught while fishing with Dick Curtis. It is my largest bass on a fly rod. I was using a popper tied by Joe Tremblay, probably like the one we will tie on May 9.

Dick's big fish was a 4 lb 0 oz largemouth. He also caught several fish between 2 and 4 pounds. Dick was using one of the poppers that he showed at the April tying event



Education Director

The TVFF Board is seeking a candidate to fill the term that ends in 2019 for Education Director. For a full description of duties see [here](#). This is your chance to get involved with the club. The main duties are to arrange/assign the fly tying classes. You do not have to be the tier but you are welcome to. The other Board members will suggest tiers and flies to help get you started. You are also asked to attend the three remaining Board meetings and to vote on items brought before the Board. Contact Joe Tremblay or any Officer or Director with questions.

Earth Day

Thanks to Larry Hice, Ted Krona, Tom Wallace and Joe Tremblay for representing TVFF at Hays Nature Preserve for Earth Day on April 20th. Here are a few pictures from the event.



Left: Ted (seated) and Tom (standing) demonstrate fly tying. Notice the tents of other exhibitors in the background.

Below: Ted's grandson, Joe, with a fish he caught at Hays on a fly he just tied

Fill a Box

Faith Presbyterian Church sponsors a "Fill a Box" program to assist seniors in our community that are identified as food insecure. Please help TVFF support this worthwhile activity by bringing one item from the list below to the next meeting.

- 1 box of low-sugar, high fiber CEREAL
- 1-2 boxes of instant OATMEAL
- 1-2 boxes of BREAKFAST BARS
- 4-5 cans of TUNA, HAM, CHICKEN
- 6-8 cans of low-sugar FRUIT
- 6-8 cans of SOUP
- 6-8 cans of low-salt VEGTABLES
- 3-5 boxes of LOW-PREP MEALS (Hamburger Helper, Mac n Cheese)
- 2-3 bottles/jars of Condiments (mayo, ketchup, oil, etc.)
- 1 jar of PEANUT BUTTER
- 1-2 packs of SNACKS/DESSERT





Peacock Bass



Oscar



Mayan Cichlid

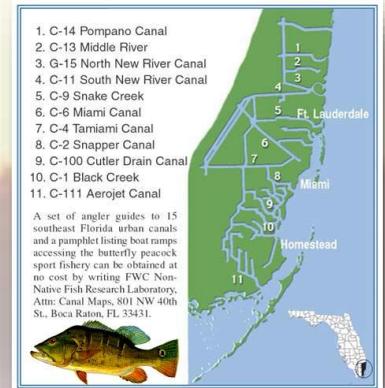
Fishing for Peacocks and other exotics

By Joe Tremblay

For years I've heard tales of hard fighting peacock bass in the Amazon River but never thought I would ever get the opportunity to catch one. Then a few years ago, I started hearing of peacock bass here, in the U.S.

It seems that Florida was having problems with exotic species invading the canals of Miami. These aquarium fish, released by their owners were flourishing in the warm canals of South Florida. Florida's solution was to introduce their natural predator, the peacock bass.

Normally introducing non-native species creates as many problems as it solves. Not so for the peacocks. This Central America native cannot survive in waters below 65°F so their range is the same as their target species. In addition, Florida can now boast to be the only peacock bass fishery in the U.S. providing Florida an \$11 million annual economic benefit.



I soon found a willing partner in former club president David Darnell and off we went on a recon trip to Ft. Lauderdale. This was to be a short trip, fly in, fish 2 days and fly out the next. The mission, see if it was worth going back for more. I'll let you be the judge.

We arrived on April Fool's day and, after a phone call to Capt. Wayne Fellows, we made arrangements to meet him the following morning at a local bait shop. Capt. Wayne suggested we fish Alligator Alley the first day rather than fish the Miami canals as originally planned. Fishing Alligator Alley ranked high on my bucket list so it didn't take much to convince me to change our plans.

The next morning we met Capt. Wayne at B.J. Bait and Tackle and I noticed that the deck of his Ranger bass boat was littered with rods. We knew that Capt. Wayne was not a fly fishing guide when we hired him and it took some time to convince him that 15+ rods on the front deck were not needed and would make fly fishing difficult.

Reluctantly, Capt. Wayne removed the rods leaving only a few stored in the center of the boat, "in case we needed them". I believe he was concerned about leaving \$3000 or more worth of rods in his truck while we fished. So if you book Capt. Wayne, be sure to mention you're a fly fisher and need a clear deck.

This was my first trip down Alligator Alley. The 78 mile long highway crosses the Everglades from Ft. Lauderdale on the east to Naples on the west and is lined with canals on both sides. Although the canals appear to be continuous, they are not. They periodically go through underground culverts restricting access to one 6 to 10 mile section at a time.

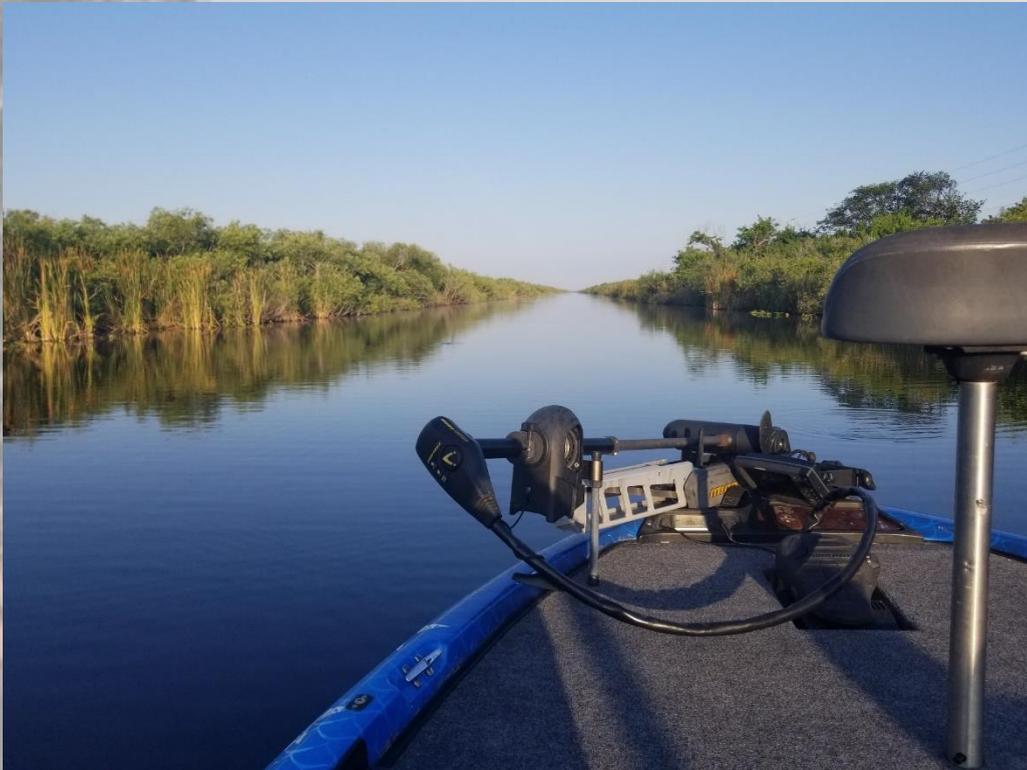




Capt. Wayne launching the Ranger Bass Boat



Getting ready to board



Heading down the canal to Capt. Wayne's favorite spot
(Canal is 70 ft. wide 12 ft. deep)



One of the many locals we encountered
(Notice rock ledge gator is resting on)



We fished during the week so fishing pressure was light, but still we came across several boats as we sped down the canal at 45mph. We soon reached our destination and I tied on a popper while David fished a wet fly. It only took 15 minutes of David catching fish to convince me that wet fly was the way to go.

April is early in the peacock season and the water, although warm by our standards, was still cold by peacocks standards. There were a few females nesting on the rock ledges (like the one in alligator photo) and bait fishermen are fond of casting to them repeatedly until they get angry and take the bait. Not something I wanted to do, but if you cast to the ledge and let your fly drop off the edge, you will often get a take. Sometimes it was a Mayan Cichlid (Cichlid for short), an Oscar, a Peacock bass or even a largemouth.

I quickly changed to a bucktail clouser with zonker strip and started catching fish. As a matter of fact, I caught a great variety of fish. Including Peacock, Cichlid, Oscar, largemouth bass, bowfin, and an armored catfish (another aquarium escapee).



Bucktail Clouser with zonker strip

David caught many more peacocks than I did plus an assortment of Cichlids, Oscars and largemouth bass. We had a great day without resorting to the "Dark Side" by using one of Capt. Wayne's bait casting rods.

What I had read about Peacock bass fighting ability was definitely true. A 2 pound Peacock fights as hard as a 4 pound largemouth and never gives up.

The same is true of Cichlids and Oscars. I have caught a 2 pound bluegill and a one pound Cichlid fought every bit as hard, Oscars even more so. Even smaller fish will put a bend in your rod.



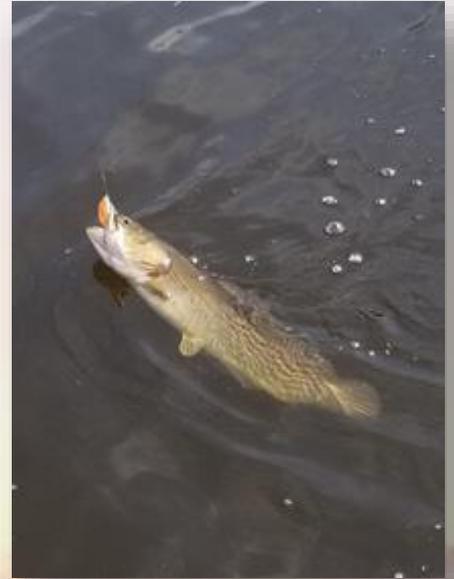
A few of my fish



Peacock Bass



Nice Largemouth



Bowfin



Armored Catfish



Mayan Cichlid

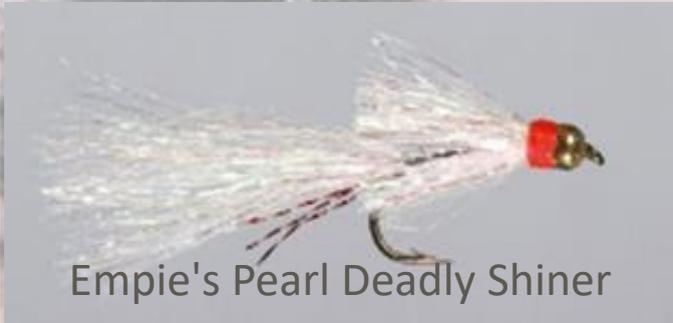


Some mating males display bump



Oscar

What I used



Empie's Pearl Deadly Shiner



Polar Fiber Minnow

Caught mostly Cichlids and Oscars



Bucktail Clouser with zonker strip

Caught all species



Fusion Baitfish

Caught mostly Peacock & Largemouth Bass



A few of David's fish



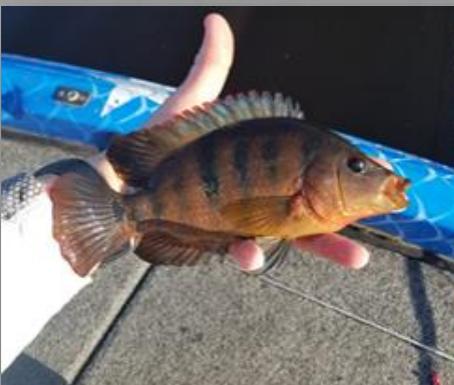
Mating Male Peacock Bass



Largemouth



Peacock Bass



Mayan Cichlid



Oscar

Some of what David used



Cowen's Somethin' Else



Cowen's Baitfish



Looper's Spineless Minnow

Murdich Minnow



We booked our trip though [Bass On Line](#) and even though Capt. Wayne is not a “Fly Fishing” guide, Capt. Wayne can definitely put you on fish. We caught fish from the first time our flies hit the water on the first day to the last cast on the last day. It was epic. The fish fought especially hard, so much so that by the end of the trip my hand was sore for a week from gripping the rod while fighting the fish. That’s a good thing.

I have been on many guided trips and heard “You should have been here yesterday” often enough but not this time. Even though we were early in the exotic fish season, David and I both caught well over a hundred fish and had a great time.

I’m glad we heeded Capt. Wayne’s suggestion and fished Alligator Alley the first day instead of the Miami Canals. We had such a first great day, we opted to go back to Alligator Alley the second day.

Turned out to be the right call too, because fishing was even better the second day. I’m sure that was due to knowledge imparted to us by Capt. Wayne and the information gained during our visit to Old Florida Fly Shop and the Fort Lauderdale Bass Pro Shop.

This trip was not only one of my most successful guided trips ever, I got to check off 2 items off my bucket list; Peacock Bass and Alligator Alley, making this trip hard to beat.

Will I go back? **You Bet I Will** and soon. If you want to book a trip with Capt. Wayne you can reach him at (888) 629-22767 or (954)369-8890 or wayne@bassonline.com.



TO FLY FISH

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FLY FISHING FOR PANFISH: BLUEGILL AND OTHER SUNFISH[VIDEO]

It's always assumed that a big fish is better than a small fish, it seems. It's surprising, then, how popular a fish named after its tendency to remain smaller than a frying pan ("panfish") can be, both among those who fish "conventional" methods and fly anglers. True, some do lose that desire to pursue the ...



TVFF Job Jar YOU CAN HELP!

Click on a Job listed below and send an email to volunteer or to obtain additional information.

This is your opportunity to support TVFF without signing up for a long term commitment.

Your help is needed and greatly appreciated.

[Manage the TVFF Job Jar](#) - Update this page monthly and coordinate requests.

[Provide flies for the TVFF Casting for Recovery \(CfR\) Fly Box](#) – Tie or purchase 14 flies of the same pattern for the TVFF CfR Fly Box. Contact the [TVFF program manager](#) prior to selecting the pattern to avoid duplicates. Fly boxes will be donated annually.

CfR provides free healing retreats for women breast cancer survivors in various stages of treatment and recovery. CfR's retreats offer women opportunities to find inspiration, discover renewed energy for life, and experience healing connections with other women and nature.

[Club News Contributor](#) - Provide the Communication Director content of interest geared toward our members such as activities, articles, trip reports, etc.

[Official TVFF Photographer\(s\)](#) - Photograph TVFF events and email photos to the Communication Director.

[Safety Pin Flies](#) - Tie some safety pin flies to be given to visitors at TVFF outreach activities. This simple to tie pattern is very popular with younger visitors. Demand is always great and outstrips our supply; we never have enough.

[Manage TVFF Calendar](#) - Update TVFF Google Calendar with events provided by BOD.

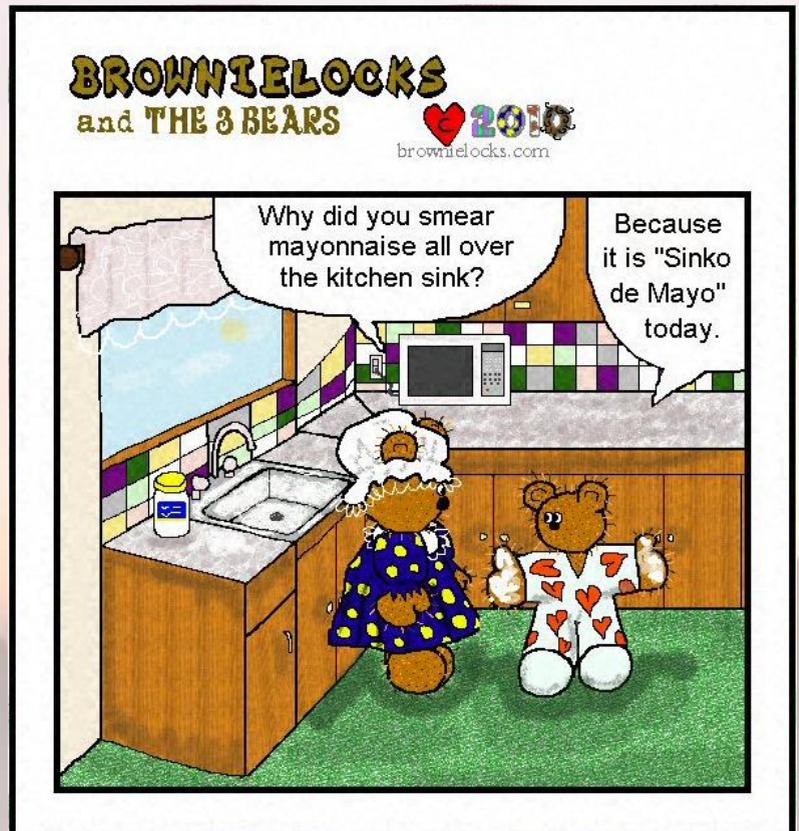
May Holidays

Cinco de Mayo

This Mexican holiday celebrates a military victory of Mexico against an invading French force on May 5, 1862.

Napoleon III, nephew of Napoleon Bonaparte, and Emperor of the second French Empire hoped to expand France's influence to Central America.

In the U.S, we mainly celebrate the Cinco de Mayo specials at our favorite Mexican restaurant.



Salsa Month

May (every day of the year for some)

National Salsa Month was created in 1997 to recognize the 50th anniversary of Pace Salsa.

There are claims that salsa passed Ketchup to become America's best selling sauce in 1991.

Whether you look it spicy or mild, smooth or chunky, go ahead and enjoy it with breakfast, lunch and dinner all month long.



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