

Tampa Bay Sea Kayakers

March, 2018 - Volume 26, Issue 03

www.tbsk.club

www.facebook.com/TampaBaySeaKayakers



Month: March 2018

[Switch to List View](#)

| Week | Month | Year | < Previous Month | | Today | Next Month > | |
|--------|--|---------|---|----------|--------|--------------|--|
| Sunday | Monday | Tuesday | Wednesday | Thursday | Friday | Saturday | |
| 25 | 26 | 27 | 28 | Mar 1 | 2 | 3 | 9:00 AM Phillippe Park, Safety Harbor - Level 0 |
| 4 | 5 | 6 | 7 | 8 | 9 | 10 | 8:30 AM Fort DeSoto Mystery Paddle - Level III |
| 11 | 12 | 13 | 14 | 15 | 16 | 17 | 9:00 AM Hillsborough River - Level I |
| | 7:00 PM TBSK Monthly Meeting - Non- Members Invited | | 9:00 AM Lowry Park (Hillsborough River, Tampa) - Level II | | | | |
| 18 | 19 | 20 | 21 | 22 | 23 | 24 | 8:30 AM TBSK Picnic - Phillippe Park, Safety Harbor |
| | | | 10:30 AM STONEHENGE FOR THE EQUINOX - LEVEL I | | | | |
| 25 | 26 | 27 | 28 | 29 | 30 | 31 | |

Trips & events indicated by this symbol are led by TBSK members.

[Click here to go to Event Page on tbsk.club](#)

For our March 12th meeting, TBSK member Bill Staab, former Seattle area resident, will provide us great stories and photos of his two paddling trips near Vancouver Island.

On April 9th TBSK member and FPTA President Jill Lingard will share tales from paddling in Cuba last December.

A letter by Peter A. Clark, President of Tampa Bay Watch, Inc.

25 Years of restoring the Bay Every Day

Tierra Verde, FL - Tampa Bay Watch, a nonprofit organization dedicated to the protection and restoration of the Tampa Bay estuary, is proud to celebrate its 25th anniversary this year. Peter A. Clark, their founder and President, would like to express his gratitude by sharing a few words to kick off this special year.

“We at Tampa Bay Watch often hear the accolades on the wonderful habitat restoration projects and water quality improvements that have been made in Tampa Bay. But the truth is that the core of our organizational development has always been and will continue to be energizing the community, young and old, to take a leading role in the recovery of the Bay. It was those early projects in the 1990s that really instilled in our hearts that people really, truly wanted to make a difference in the Tampa Bay estuary, if they only knew how. And that led to the formation of Tampa Bay Watch in 1993. A small group of environmentalists and educators providing the critical science and coordination necessary to create projects, and inviting community groups, schools, youth programs and others to do the hands-on construction.

Essentially we have stayed true to the mission, oh but how we have matured over the years. Our award-winning and often duplicated Bay Grasses in Classes program laid the groundwork for development of our education programs at the Tampa Bay Watch Marine Center. Fifteen years old, I still consider the Marine Center new as it now serves as our base of operations, providing new educational platforms, organizational offices, staging area for restoration projects, and social and fundraising opportunities. What a blessing to grow a marine science facility on the shores of the Bay, exactly where we need to be....

All of you who have participated in our habitat restoration projects know that we have only just begun. It is easy and important to point out how far we have come – water quality best in the bay since the 1950s, seagrass having recovered 20,000 new acres since the 1980s, and fish and wildlife are returning to the bay as a result of these improvements. Yet we face a continued population growth that threatens to undermine the achievements we all have grown to enjoy. One of my greatest concerns is the separation of our children from the natural environment. So many students that have come to Tampa Bay Watch as part of their field trips have never been on a boat before, or to one of our many wonderful beaches. It is so hard to imagine, but it is a reality for many. What we consider gains in technology are removing the next generation from enjoying the amazing resources right in our backyards. How can we expect our children to continue to protect the bay if they do not learn to love it?

And that is the challenge of Tampa Bay Watch moving forward. While involving the community in bay protection activities 25+ years ago was the seed of our institution, addressing the critical need for the next generation to experience and understand the value of a healthy bay is essential. Join us as we begin the next chapter of our organization -- as always it will be the community that truly makes the difference.”

Learn how you can get involved in Tampa Bay Watch at tampabaywatch.org and stay tuned for several engaging activities throughout the year in commemoration of their 25th anniversary celebration.

Tampa Bay Watch is a nonprofit 501 (c)(3) stewardship program dedicated exclusively to the charitable and scientific purpose of protecting and restoring the marine and wetland environments of the Tampa Bay estuary encompassing over 400 square miles of open water and 2,300 square miles of highly- developed watershed. Tampa Bay Watch involves more than 10,000 youth and adult volunteers each year in hands on habitat restoration projects. For more information, visit www.tampabaywatch.org, or call 727-867-8166.

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Weedon Island on a Windy Day

By Hank Brooks with photos by Bill Biles



We were greeted at the Weedon Island launch site by a small family of raccoons

When you are planning kayak trips during the winter months, one of our major concerns, especially for Level 0 and Level I paddlers, is windy conditions. This is made especially difficult because when we schedule the paddle it is often 4 to 6 weeks before the paddle.

On this January day we got sunshine with winds around 10 mph. Because we would be paddling on the mangrove trails, where you barely notice the wind, we knew we would be OK there. However, we had to paddle right next to the mangroves for about half mile - so we notified all paddlers of the winds to make sure they felt comfortable before coming on the paddle.



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We were greeted at the Weedon Island launch site by a small family of raccoons who were inquisitive and not threatened by our presence at all. We had 10 TBSKers who were with us on this paddle. We chose a day when there was enough water and the tide was rising - filling the mangrove trails. I was using my relatively new 12 ft long, carbon fiber Epic GPX. It weighs only 33 lbs and I love it when loading and unloading it from my truck. However, it does not track well and seems to have a mind of it's own, especially in strong currents and high winds. The tides created a current of up to 3 mph on some of the trails. With the mangroves limiting our ability to use extended strokes, even using edging, it was extremely difficult to control the direction of my boat. Someone suggested putting a rudder or skeg on the boat. However, that is another story for another time.

For the most part, we were well hidden and protected from the wind. About 2/3 the way thru the trail, we found a nice beach to take-out for a lunch and rest break. After lunch, we completed the trail.

While we were loading our vehicles, I noticed a strange looking kayak which was being carted to the water. It was about 14 feet long and 30 inches, green in color, and had a strange looking "pipe" coming out of the stern of the boat. Upon closer inspection, the pipe was the exhaust from a jet ski motor in the back of the boat. Yes, a jet ski kayak. I'm sure you are asking, "Where can I get one of those?" So I asked the usual question, "How much did it cost." Without blinking, he replied, \$6,500 delivered to your house. Bill Biles and I watched as he stepped into the boat, gave us a quick wave and was off in a flash.

Monday, Dec





Robinson Preserve - Sunshine & Beautiful Birds

By Hank Brooks with Photos by Bill Biles

Those of you who decide not to come to the February TBSK paddle-picnic at Robinson Preserve in Manatee County - all I can say is that you missed a beautiful day, a great opportunity to paddle and some fine food cooked by chef Clay.

When you plan these picnics so far in advance, you cross your fingers and hope that you get a good weather day. We got a great one! The sun was shining all day with the temperature about 70 degrees, with NO humidity. The wind was blowing about 10 mph, but that didn't bother our Level 1 & Training Group since we paddled on the inside mangrove trails, which blocked most of the wind.

Carl Boettger and Terry Proeger took the more advanced paddlers while Charlene Proeger volunteered to handle the Level 1 paddle. When we learned that we also needed a trainer for the picnic, Charlene agreed to combine the Level 1 paddle with training.

Beside Charlene there was Jennifer Call, Bill Biles and myself in our group. We paddled at a leisurely pace before stopping and Charlene asked what we wanted to work on and encouraged us to "have fun with it". We started with edging and then practiced our edging as we paddled thru the twists and turns of the trail. Next it was paddling backward, edging our boat to keep it going straight. Of course if you are going backward, the edging technique is reversed. Had to pay attention on that one.

Jennifer is new to Florida and was learning her birds. So we all took delight in pointing out the different species and their unique traits. We saw a beautiful white heron, some osprey, and of course, some ibis. It was a magical day on the water with wild life and friends - just enjoying being in our boats. And a great thing about the picnic is that after the paddle we got to eat like royalty. We hope that you can come to the next picnic to create some wonderful memories for yourself.





Egmont Circumnavigate February 17 2018

By John Marek

pictures by John Marek and Jill Mosteller



Thirteen intrepid members embarked from the Gulf Pier and the Bay Pier at Fort DeSoto.

The group met up and proceed to group up and at the channel markers to cross the major shipping channel.

Best safe practice is to always cross the channel the at a marker. Also,

best Safety Practice is not to cross if you can see a large vessel coming! The group than proceed to the South End



of Egmont than to the fort ruins ..see pic below.. than down the Gulf side to take out for eats ..a mild surf landing and launch was done..



After eats the group proceed back...to preparing to cross the channel at the markers at the North/ East End of Egmont.

As the group proceed towards the markers a large vessel was seen going out being escorted by a pilot boat.

The pilot boat postponed itself between the group and vessel coming out ...see pics below ...



We have been told that when crossing the channel, you must stay 100 yards from any military, cruise or commercial vessal at all times



Large commercial vessels are probably traveling at least 8 knots to maintain steerage and stopping is problematic at best. It can take a large ship 5 miles to stop The channel, is for them to navigate and is to narrow for turning or to avoid vessels in there path.



Safety and Training Notes – March

By Phil Sheesley

We'll continue with our emphasis on "Boat Control" at this month's (March) TBSK Picnic kayak training session. Please consider joining us as we talk about, and then practice, controlling your boat in open water. We'll discuss and demonstrate the mechanics of turning as well as maintaining your course and timely stopping. As always, our time will include a review of the forward stroke (the one you use 99% of the time). Of course, it's all dependent on what the folks who show up want to work on or feel they'd like some help with. Should be a good time for all, and then we'll all go for a short paddle – one that will ensure that we're back in good time to enjoy the picnic fare.

On the matter of Safety, one thing we've noticed is how little attention is often being paid to the "Skills Self-Assessment Guide" on our TBSK website. If you haven't done so already, PLEASE take a careful look at that chart and make an HONEST self-assessment of your own paddling skill. Confidence on the water is a good thing – but overconfidence can be a very damaging, possibly deadly, thing. If you see something on the chart that is keeping you from HONESTLY moving "up" a level, you can get help in working to perfect that skill. That's what our "training" sessions are intended for; just let us know what you'd like to work on. Remember that when you sign up for a "Level X" paddle, you are telling the Trip Leader, and all of your fellow paddlers on that trip, that you are fully capable of performing EACH of the skills listed for that level.





Florida Paddlesports Training Set for May



Florida's Paddlesports Program trains volunteer guides so they can lead groups of kayakers in a safe and fun manner, especially families with children. Since 2014, 74 people have completed the course and several of these trained volunteers are leading trips for the public in Florida state parks.

The training involves 16 hours of intense instruction with expert American Canoe Association (ACA) instructors who coach attendees through the rigorous ACA Coastal Day Trip Leader course. This course focuses on risk assessment and group management, an excellent fit for creating future generations of safe paddlers.

The next training will take place May 15-18 at Lake Louisa State Park near Orlando with a limited class size. Cost is at the reduced rate of \$140 per person with free cabin stays for three nights. Participants pitch in an additional \$10 for dinner on the first night and after that, they provide for their own meals. Participants must also join the ACA and prove membership, and they bring their own kayak and gear. [Join ACA](#)

training involves 16 hours of intense instruction with expert American Canoe Association (ACA) instructors

Class teachers will be Russell Farrow of Sweetwater Kayaks, Wayne Douchkoff of Wayne Adventures, and Kim Munshower, volunteer kayak guide on the Hillsborough River.

Interested in sharing your passion for paddling Florida's outstanding waterways with future paddlers? Reserve your spot by sending an e-mail to Doug Alderson of the Office of Greenways and Trails at doug.alderson@dep.state.fl.us. There is no deposit requirement, although we want only serious commitments since class size is limited.



Events

Kayak Camping for TBSK Members

Many of our TBSK members are interested in camping, especially from a kayak. If you are interested in camping, please make sure to let Gary Bernier gwbarnier@gmail.com know. Contact him you need to get in touch with all of the TBSK members interested in camping .

Also, Andy Bartley launched a Facebook Page for TBSK Camping:
<https://www.facebook.com/groups/1780031405551417/>



Member Requested Trips

Anyone can request a paddle to a location they want to go and we will see if we can find a trip leader to lead the trip for you. Just submit a Trip Request by the 10th of the month prior to your trip so the next newsletter can advertise it with the trip leaders' name.

You Can Do This By Emailing tbsk@tbsk.club with "Trip Request" in the subject line.

1. Put-in and take-out locations
2. Destination and total distance
3. Preferred Date(s) and time
4. Skill level required ([see Trip Planning/Paddling guide on TBSK.club](#))
5. Phone number (should trip leader have questions)

Trip Coordinator will:

- Post this trip request with the monthly "request for trips" which is sent out to trip leaders.
- Notify the person requesting the trip if we can find a trip leader and if the trip can be led exactly as requested, or if some modification to the trip is necessary.

New Places To Paddle

Comments from our member survey observed we always paddle the "same old places". We need to get out of our rut! With that in mind, we are encouraging our trip leaders to expand their paddling horizons. All members should note that we have a "Paddle Places" section on our web site which lists places to paddle in the greater Tampa Bay area (see menu on bottom of the home page).

In "Paddle Places" one of the things you will find is the Pinellas County Paddling Guide, which lists about 100 different places to paddle in Pinellas County - where most of our members live. The link to the guide, which TBSK helped create, is found below:

<http://www.pinellascounty.org/blueways/pdf/BluewaysGuide.pdf>

If you have a favorite place to paddle, and it is not listed in "Paddle Places", please contact Hank Brooks at jbrook5@tampabay.rr.com



News & Events Around the State

(updated info in red)



Friends of the Island Parks (<http://www.islandparks.org>) supports Caladesi Island State Park and Honeymoon Island

- Osprey Trail Walks every Wed, Sat, Sun at 11
- Beach Walks every Friday at 11
- Monthly Shell Show. 3rd Saturday each month at Nature Center, 1pm
- Wildlife Status:
 - Osprey: 15 Active Nests in March, and first chicks spotted March 28th
 - Eagles: 2 Eaglets fully grown and ready to Fledge in March
 - Great horned owls: Owls are not anticipated to nest in the parks this season
 - Sea Turtle: Season runs from May through October. 43 nests were spotted last season.
- Visit caladesidiscoverycenter.com to learn about the forthcoming interpretive facility.



CALADESI DISCOVERY CENTER

For an update on this year's Sea Turtle Baby Boom, see this article: [Click For Turtle update](#)

March 27 [Speaker Jack Davis, author of the prize winning book "The Gulf"](#)
Program will be held at the Palm Harbor Unity Church

Florida Paddling Trails Association (FPTA). We are the steward of all of Florida's water trails. Our mission is to develop water trails, protect the environment along the trails, and be a resource and voice for paddlers. Jill Lingard is the FPTA President, and Hank Brooks is this Region's Director for FPTA. (Our region is Hillsborough, Pinellas, & Manatee)



- **March 3, 2018 Everglades Challenge**
- **March 15-18 2018 3rd Annual Traditional Qajaqers of the South**

The Adventurous Woman. Fishing, Camping, Kayaking, Hikes for women of all skill levels. Meets the 3rd Wednesday at Bill Jackson's. 6:30pm, February-November.

Society for Ethical Ecotourism: Florida SEE is looking for volunteers to help vendors become certified.

See info about SEE on Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/FloridaSEE.org>.

Info on the volunteer position can be seen here:

- http://www.floridasee.org/docs/Florida_SEE_Assessor_Position_Description_2015.pdf



Paddle Florida <http://www.paddleflorida.org/>

- **March 10-16, 2018: Choctawhatchee Challenge**
- **April 6-8, 2018: Suwannee River Paddling Festival**

To register for trips: <http://www.paddleflorida.org/services/preview-and-register-for-trips-5165.html>



Tampa Bay Watch: <http://www.tampabaywatch.org>

March 17, 9 am - Noon Great American Cleanup clean up for Skyway Fishing Pier, Coffee Pot Bayou Fort Desoto, Cunningham Key/Baywatch



Keep Pinellas Beautiful strives to keep our community clean and beautiful.

We have many volunteers and adoption programs available in which you can participate.

<http://www.mykpb.com/>



Keep Tampa Bay Beautiful: <http://keeptampabaybeautiful.org>

Our mission is to promote a culture of environmental stewardship through volunteer and educational opportunities.



Egmont Key Alliance (<http://www.egmontkey.info/>)



Florida Water Environmental Association: Over 70 years after its creation, FWEA continues to make historic differences in the advancement of the water environment, science and technology, making it a leading professional water organization in Florida. Our history says a lot about the leadership, dedication and hard work. <http://www.fwea.org>

Updates by Bill Biles

Visit our Sponsors for the Best Kayaking Equipment and Advice!

How did new participants find out about the club?

Since early April we have been tracking how new members found out about TBSK. The results so far are:

- Outfitters 3
- Internet Search 3
- A Friend 3
- Other 3
- Facebook 3
- Brochures 3

Support our sponsors!

One of the Finest
Kayak Shops in the Country!

Bill Jackson's

SHOP FOR ADVENTURE

"Every Day is a
Demo Day at Bill Jacksons"

9501 US 19 North, Pinellas Park, FL 33782 (727) 576-4169
www.BillJacksons.com

Kayakers needed for Swim Around Lido Key in Sarasota, FL on April 14. We need about 12 more kayakers to escort (pilot) solo swimmers around the island of Lido Key. This is a 7-mile journey in both the gulf and bay. Volunteers get a \$60 gift card, free official race t-shirt and souvenir mug, excellent post race meal, and a goodie bag. This is a beautiful paddle around a beautiful island. Come on out and support a swimmer. To register, go to <https://www.clubassistant.com/club/clinics/reserve.cfm?c=2237&cid=76232>

Paddling Places

Sand Key out of the Sailing Club !



By John Marek photos by John Marek



Looking for a paddle location on Clearwater Bay ...try this oneGo to Sand Key pull into the Sailing Club entrance and proceed to the left .. you will pass rest room facilities on your right .. you will come to a sandy beach where you can put in/take out.. Once you

are in your boats, you will paddle out to Clearwater Bay to the north is Clearwater Pass where you can go out into the Gulf ! or just island hop on the 5 or 6 spoil islands in Clearwater Bay. The Spoil islands lay west of the Inter Coastal Waterway but boat traffic is still something to watch



In the middle of Bay there is spoil island with that lonely tree , see picture.

You go North in the Bay there are several options



If you have any ideas for a trip such as this please send them to us. It doesn't have to be a fancy place or a fancy trip. After all it is about getting out on the water with friends



Info for TBSK.club

Board Members

.....

President

John Marek 813 951 5650
tampajohn@gmail.com

Vice President

Cynthia McGregor 305.619.8276
sailingcyn@gmail.com

Trip Coordinator

Bob Morris 727 804 3636
rcmorrisfa@aol.com

Membership Coordinator

Steve Loeven 516 729 3297
sl72056@yahoo.com

Training/Safety Coordinator

Phil Sheesley 813.695.7395
philshesley@hotmail.com

Activities Coordinators

Clay Kent 727.557.8159
kentdata@yahoo.com
Irm Lukanik 727.557.4880
llukanik@gmail.com

Webmaster

Secretary/ Treasurer

Hank Brooks 727 724 8983
jbrook5@tampabay.rr.com

Newsletter Editor

Bill Biles 727 204 5511
wcbiles@gmail.com

TBSK MEMBER CLASSIFIED ADS

.No classifieds submitted this month. Classified Ads Policy: Any TBSK member may place a classified ad. The ad is free for the first six months. After six months ad expires. May be maintained for \$5 per month. Please notify the editor when item is sold.

Welcome New Members!

- Katie Edwards
- Al Pollak
- John McElroy

Members that renewed this month:

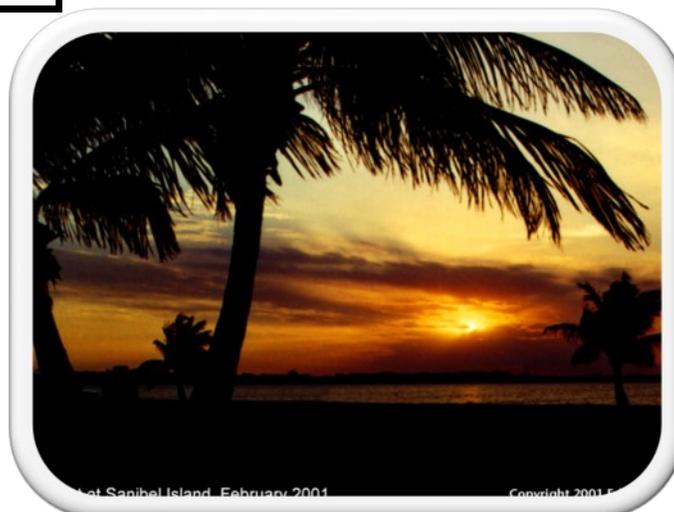
- Bill McComick
- David Townsend
- Kathy Nagel
- Kevin Kenney
- Richard Arenella

Treasurer's Report

Jan2018

| | |
|------------------------------|--------|
| Beginning BALANCE | \$5068 |
| INCOME(Dues Payments) | \$225 |
| EXPENSES | |
| Liability Insurance | \$595 |
| Shelter Rental | 385 |
| State Corp Filing Fee | 61 |
| Website Certificate | 190 |
| Ending Balance | 4061 |

Is there something you would like to see in the newsletter on a regular bases or even just one time ! Send your ideas in to wcbiles@gmail.com



AFTER ALL IT IS YOUR NEWS-LETTER! I JUST SLAP IT TOGETHER!

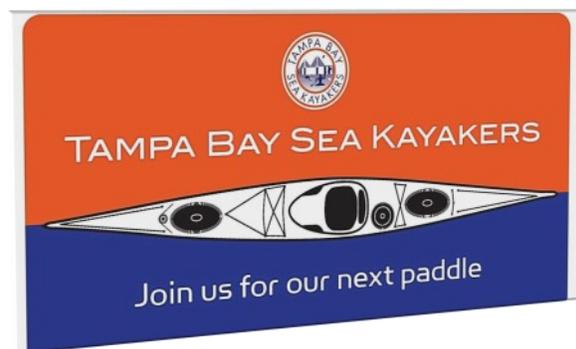


Tampa Bay Sea Kayakers Become A Member

You may join TBSK online using your web browser. Just go to the link <http://www.tbsk.club> and click "Join Us" at the top of the page. You can pay club dues at the end of the process.

To join the Tampa Bay Sea Kayakers by mail, click on "Join Us" at the top of the TBSK web site. Click on the Liability / Waiver Form. Print the form and send it to the address listed at the bottom of this page. The application and waiver form are also available at TBSK meetings held at Bill Jacksons Store on the second Monday of each month at 7:00pm.

We hope to see you at our next TBSK event!



**Tampa Bay Sea Kayakers
P.O. Box 8682
Seminole FL 33775-8682**

