

# Tampa Bay Sea Kayakers

November, 2018 - Volume 26, Issue 11

[www.tbsk.club](http://www.tbsk.club)

[www.facebook.com/TampaBaySeaKayakers](http://www.facebook.com/TampaBaySeaKayakers)



Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
28 9:00 AM Impromptu-ROUGH WATER RESCUES AND TOWING -ACA L4 - Leve III	29	30	31	Nov 1	2	3 9:30 AM BACK SIDE OF WEEDON ISLAND - Level I plus
4	5	6	7 8:30 AM Dunedin Causeway to 3 Rooker Bar - Level II	8	9	10 9:00 AM Upper Tampa Bay Park - Level I
11	12 7:00 PM TBSK Monthly Meeting - Non-Members Invited	13	14	15	16	17 8:30 AM TBSK Picnic - Anclote River Park
18	19	20	21 9:00 AM Little Manatee River - Level II	22	23 9:30 AM Braden River - Linger Lodge - Level I plus	24
25	26	27	28	29	30	Dec 1

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

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

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The November Monthly Speaker will be Monica Woll. She will be talking about the Flagler Railroad



## Safety & Training Notes ~ November, 2018

By Phil Sheesley



Why TBSK?

What is it that makes Tampa Bay Sea Kayakers not just another “paddle group”?

The Club website home page carries the headline “Our primary goal is to help people enjoy the sport of sea kayaking in a fun & safe manner.” While ours is a “social paddle club”, we want to ensure that our club trips are conducted safely – and we’ve been doing that successfully for well over 20 years. We hear from time to time “there are too many rules” or “it’s too organized”; well, we are organized and we do have some (not really very many) guidelines (not “rules”) that have worked well to ensure that when you join a TBSK led trip you can have some assurance that appropriate steps have been taken to help ensure that not only will you have some fun, but also that you will return safely and on time. Our Trip Leaders, while not necessarily expert kayakers, are experienced sea kayakers and they have undergone an evaluation to confirm that they can guide you and your friends with reasonable skill. Leaders are evaluated on their familiarity with the club’s paddle guidelines, with Trip Planning, Fundamental Kayak Paddle Strokes, a variety of On Water Rescues, Towing, Basic Navigation, and Group Control. A TBSK Trip Leader will never leave you on your own without appropriate support. Our “guidelines” have been developed over the years for one overriding reason, so you can –

### 2019 TBSK Club Officer Positions

At this time we have candidates for all TBSK Club officer positions except for Safety & Training. This position requires the person to have paddling skills competency to be able to teach and willingness to attend the monthly TBSK board meeting. If you have an interest, please contact either Phil Sheesley or Hank Brooks. If this position is not filled, we will do Safety & Training by committee. Hank will head up a committee of former Safety & Training officers to plan quarterly training events - getting training



# Picnic Island Mangrove Trails - Revisited

By Hank Brooks with Photos by Hank & Barb Uzenoff



Since Al Tillson and I first visited the Picnic Island mangrove trails about a month ago, this was my first official TBSK trip there. We went out with a total of nine TBSKers, but only came back with five. More on that at the end of the story. Besides myself there were, Maria Rodriguez, Murray Cohen, Ilene Roebeck, Tom Malone, Carl Boettger, Al Tillson, Barb Uzenoff, Jane Collins,

While the weather was still hot, there was a light 5 mph breeze blowing which helped, along with the cooling effect of being shaded by the mangroves. The plan was to meet at the kayak launch on Picnic Island, which launches right into a mangrove trail. Since none of us had launched here before, it was a game of follow the orange ribbons tied to the mangrove branches. The short trail dumped us into Tampa Bay, and what was soon to be a great view of St. Petersburg, about 10 miles away.



The paddle to the mangrove trails was only a little over a mile. Since only Al and I had been



there before, we had two objectives: 1) to see if we could find another exit thru the mangrove

maze

(rather than just retracing our steps) and 2) not to get lost. (continued next page)



## Picnic Island Mangrove Trails - Revisited (continued)



We planned the paddle so that the incoming tide would provide sufficient water depth and have enough current so we could easily tell the deeper parts of the mangrove channels. Many of us commented on how peaceful and serene the setting was, even though there were planes landing at nearby airports. On this trip we had a secret weapon, Carl "Mangrove King" Boettger. He has been sniffing out mangrove trails for years and is very good at it. Once we got about half way thru the

trail, we set Carl to work. He would dart down one possible passage, turn around and say, "That's not it". Then he would head off in another direction, always out in front probing and testing - looking for that long sought after short cut back to the bay. He did find a path which he said was highly overgrown. Since this was a Level O Paddle, I said, let's go back the way we came in - that way I know we won't get lost. As we were paddling back I heard Carl, "Wait, Wait, I think I have found a way back. I'm not certain, but I think this may be it." I said, "It's time to take a break off the water. I'm certain of returning the way we came in. Let's do that." "Dead Tree" beach was right where it was supposed to be, for our lunch break.



After our break, we started losing people from our official paddle. First Carl said he wanted to drop from the group so he could explore



for the "short cut" he was sure he had found (no one wanted to go with him). When we got close to the launch point, Al, Barb and Mayra decided to stay on the water for a bit to paddle some more.

While we were packing our gear, Carl came in and said, he found the short cut. I hope to explore that with him in the future and perhaps mark it with some colored ribbons for the future



## All in for the Chassahowitzka

By Phil Sheesley, Photos by Tom Komar



The Chassahowitzka is still my favorite local river and a perfect place for our “Level One” paddles. The feeling was reinforced this week when seven TBSK paddlers enjoyed a nearly perfect day on this crystal clear, largely unspoiled, river.

We started by visiting 7 Sisters Springs, just upstream from the boat ramp (and small sand beach) at the Chassahowitzka Campground (parking fee for the day is \$5). Then it was downstream with visits to some of the other lesser springs along the way. The remarkable thing about the day was the absence of wind – and boats. I heard the comment over and over again “I’ve never been here when it’s been so quiet”. We paddled past a manatee and an eagle as well as herons too numerous to mention and osprey. One osprey had a spectacular miss on a dive only a few feet from us. The quiet allowed everyone to enjoy all the sights and sounds of the surroundings without interruption (thankfully the one air boat in the area left early).



## All in for the Chassahowitzka - continued

After a paddle up Salt Creek, about 2 miles from the launch, we paddled back upstream and along the route to “The Crack” the river’s most well known, and much visited, spring. It’s a narrow, winding route up to the spring, but well worth the added time.

We spent about half an hour enjoying the cool spring water, with some even attempting the rope swing (without much success). We had the spring to ourselves – which brings to mind a caution about paddling this river: Don’t do it on a weekend if you want the peace and quiet that we enjoyed. As with many of our

local rivers, the weekends are often packed with day trippers. It’s also important that you check the tides before your visit, since low tide means you can’t access some of the most pristine and enjoyable locations. Following the visit to the Crack, we crossed back across the river and back to the campground for lunch. It was a relaxing paddle of about seven miles.





## Little Manatee River – 24<sup>th</sup> St. Launch

By Hank Brooks with pictures by Barb Uzenoff



It had been over a year since I visited the 24<sup>th</sup> St. lunch and a few things had changed. There was grass close to the sandy beach and the river was running a little fast. It normally runs about 0.5 mph, on this day, in the center of the river is was running about 1.5 mph.

Because it had been a while since I had paddle this part of the Little Manatee I forced myself to pay attention to the many twists and turns, and side branches, in the river. Between our launch point and the I-75 bridge (about three miles), it is easy to get lost if you don't pay attention. The trip to the bridge was uneventful and fast – almost too fast. I said to myself, “Oh, Oh, we are going to pay the price when we head back”. After passing under the I-75 bridge, we found an excellent take out with a shallow river shelf for an easy take out – and our lunch.



On the way back we took some time to explore a side stream which led into the mashes along the river. With the tide going out, and knowing that we had a tough upstream paddle in front of us, I knew it was time to head back





## Hidden Coast Paddle Adventure 2018

By Cynthia McGregor

Destinations Traveled

This year the annual Hidden Coast Paddling Adventure took place on October 3<sup>rd</sup> – 7<sup>th</sup> at Cedar Key. Guided half day paddles explore the creeks, rivers and wild coastlines located near quaint small towns. Participation is limited to 100 paddlers and there was a great variety of trips offered from exploring offshore islands to small rivers hidden in the tall grasses. The historic themed trips near Cedar Key were popular and passed by oyster facilities and had many shore bird sightings. Several TBSK members attended and some were guides and sweeps for some of the trips. The welcome evening and dinners featured delicious local seafood fare. On Sunday morning, a breezy trip to a small island found us greeted by some Seminole Indians in native costumes and we enjoyed a traditional breakfast of fried mullet. It was a fun weekend with a variety of kayaks and paddles to be seen and new places to explore. Check the HCPA website soon for information on next year's events. it was great fun!!





# 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 Andy Bartley email: [sailonbear@hotmail.com](mailto:sailonbear@hotmail.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](mailto: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](mailto:jbrook5@tampabay.rr.com)



# News & Events Around the State

(updated info in red)

Click on items logo to go to there general website



**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](http://caladesidiscoverycenter.com) to learn about the forthcoming interpretive facility.
- **Honeymoon Island Bluegrass Festival Dec 1 2018 for more info [click here](#)**



For an update on this year's Sea Turtle Baby Boom, see this article: <http://www.tampabay.com/news/environment/wildlife/baby-boom-sea-turtles-set-new-record-for-nesting-on-pinellas-beaches/2307517>

**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)

<http://www.floridapaddlingtrails.com>



**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](http://www.floridasee.org/docs/Florida_SEE_Assessor_Position_Description_2015.pdf)



**Paddle Florida** Paddle Florida is a non-profit corporation that promotes water conservation, wildlife preservation, prings restoration, and waterways protection via fun and educational multi-day paddling trips in Florida's most spectacular river and coastal environments. For trip details and registration, visit <http://www.paddleflorida.org/> To register for trips: <http://www.paddleflorida.org/services/preview-and-register-for-trips-5165.html>

- **Flagler Coastal Wildlife Experience: November 1-4, 2018 [info click here](#)**
- **Ocklawaha Odyssey: November 30 - December 4, 2018 [info click here](#)**



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

- **Tampa Bay Watch Event Calendar [info click here](#)**



**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>  
• **Hillsborough River & Coastal Cleanup Saturday, September 15, 2018**

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



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

- **Regular Work Day Nov.17,2018 [more info click here](#)**



**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>





# Info for TBSK.club

## Board Members

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### President

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tampajohn@gmail.com

### Vice President

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### Secretary/ Treasurer

Hank Brooks 727 724 8983  
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### Newsletter Editor

Bill Biles 727 204 5511  
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## 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!

- Jim Akker
- Mike Drake
- Julie Chalhoub
- Sherry Pine

## Members that renewed this month:

- Jill Mosteller
- Jon Hackley
- Richard Wood
- Robin Szekely
- Martin Sharp
- David Oliver
- Jan Machnikowski
- Jennifer Call
- Jackie Whitaker

## Treasurer's Report

2018

<b>Beginning BALANCE</b>	\$457 5
<b>INCOME</b>	
Dues <newsletter add	\$225
<b>EXPENSES</b>	-\$25
<b>Ending Balance</b>	\$477 5



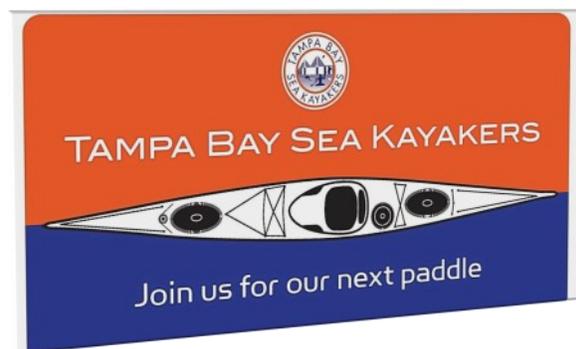


## **Tampa Bay Sea Kayakers Become A Member**

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!



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