

# Tampa Bay Sea Kayakers

March, 2019 - Volume 27, Issue 3

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

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



Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
24	25 1:00 PM South Candy Channel / Masters Bayou - Level 0	26	27 10:30 AM Cancelled - Rainbow River - Level II	28	Mar 1	2 9:00 AM WEEKLY WATCH RIVER - LEVEL II
3 7:45 AM KAYAK SUPPORT FOR DAVIS ISLAND CLEAN-UP DIVE - LEVEL I	4 1:00 PM Weeden Island Mangroves - Level 0	5	6 10:00 AM Hillsborough River, Sargeant Park to Trout Creek - Level II+	7	8	9
10	11 7:00 PM TBSK Monthly Meeting - Non-Members Invited	12	13 9:00 AM Chassahowitzka River Springs Loop + Camping Option - Level I 9:00 AM Maximo Park to Shell Key - Level II plus	14	15	16 8:30 AM TBSK Picnic - Fred Howard Park
17	18	19	20 10:30 AM Circumnavigate Caledesi Island - Level II 12:30 PM STONEHENGE FOR THE EQUINOX - LEVEL I	21	22	23 9:00 AM Phillippe Park, Safety Harbor - Level 0 (Easy)
24	25	26	27 9:00 AM Fred Howard Park to Three Rooker Bar - Level III	28	29	30 9:00 AM Caledesi Mangrove Trails S. Island - Level I
31	Apr 1	2	3	4	5	6

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

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

## Camping + Kayaking

Therese Eby has scheduled a Level I paddle on March 13 (Wed) to explore the Chassahowitzka (Chass) River (please register on the web site to attend her paddle).

Because the Chass River is about 60 miles from my house, I thought that I would camp at the Chass River Campground on the night of March 12 (Tue) and the distance from my tent to the put-in would be a short one. For those interested:

- Chazzawhatizka River Campground web site: <http://chassahowitzkaflorida.com/>
- Phone for reservations: 1-352-382-2200
- Cost for primitive site: About \$26 + tax

For more info, contact Hank Brooks at [hank@tbsk.club](mailto:hank@tbsk.club)

## This months Speaker

Every year Dave Schmidt joins a group of Wisconsin kayakers who spend two weeks together paddling a series of beautiful whitewater rivers in Montana. This month he will tell us about that experience in a presentation with lots of pictures and GoPro videos.



# Lower Little Manatee River – Commongood Park

By Hank Brooks with photos by??? (Jan & Barb)



Rather than paddle the same old, tried and true places, I like stretching my knowledge and paddling places which are a little foreign to me. Of course, with that comes the possibility of getting a little lost.

Commongood Park, in Ruskin, is just off US. Rt 41 and in itself, is not remarkable. However, it does give us easy access to the lower Little Manatee River.



As I recall, using these old brain cells, there were about six of us on this trip. We initially wound our way thru the back channels lined with houses, trying to remember that on the way back we take a left at the pink house. I did bring my GPS, but with the sun glare, often have trouble using it. After about



half mile paddling, we get close to the river as we come upon our first mangrove island, Snake Island. There is a maze of mangrove islands in this part of the Little Manatee with names like Goat Island and Whiskey Key. We entered the river about 2 miles from the mouth of the river, where it empties into Tampa Bay.



We paddled into the midst of the mangroves, using our map and occasionally asking fishermen for directions. With Dave Schmidt's help we were able to keep track of our location on the map.

However, a take out with a beach, giving us a chance to stretch & tend to mother nature, seemed to elude us. Of course, on paddles, as in life, we spotted several great beaches when we were most of the way home. I did mark them on the





# Pelicans and Peace of Mind

By Hank Brooks

Photos By Hank, Barb Uzenoff and Jan Machnikowski



Life is often “lumpy”, as my brother would say. The daily trials and tribulations can take a toll on us and our peace of mind. One of the reasons we love kayaking is to get away from the “noise” of leading a busy life in today’s world. If you are open to it, a paddle can often bring some pleasant surprises which can brighten your world so that you say, “That’s pretty cool. I’m glad I went paddling today.” Such a thing happened on our paddle on the Anclote River this Saturday morning in early February.



There were four TBSKers on this paddle – Barb Uzenoff, Ted Jordan, Jan Machnikowski and myself. The sun was shining on a 70 degree February day with the wind a bit brisk at 10 to 12 mph. However, this was not a problem on the river because there were no waves and we can always find a place to rest out of the wind. We paddled about three miles upriver, past the Sponge Docks and the Alt U.S. 19 Bridge and under the bike/pedestrian bridge. We all had launched from Craig Park, and been on the Anclote River many times before.



So what made this trip special? As we approached the Sponge Docks, on a small island opposite some of the commercial fishing boats, about 50 pelicans were perched. Most were huddled together in the trees to protect themselves from the wind. A few wandered down out of the trees to water’s edge to stretch and sun themselves.



They had habituated to humans because they frequently got handouts from local fishermen. So they did not fly away as our kayaks approached the island. We tried to be mindful of their privacy, so did not get too close.



CLICK BUTTON TO VIDEO



# Robinson Preserve & Why We Paddle

By Hank Brooks

Photos from Bill Biles Barb Uzenoff and Jan Machnikowski



Robinson Preserve in Manatee County is a perfect place to plan a paddle for the winter months when it can get cold and the winds often blow. The main thing I like about the preserve is that it has canals throughout the preserve which offer great protection from the winds – should they blow. There are also several pathways from the canals to the open water of the Gulf, should you choose to be more adventurous.



On this Saturday morning in February, the weather was great for paddling – very little wind and fairly warm temperatures (in the high sixties). Our local trip leaders, who are very familiar with these waters, took the different trips: Carl Boettger (Advanced), Terry Proeger (Intermediate) and Charlene Proeger (Easy). There were about twenty of us for this paddle.

Talking to paddlers from the different trips, everyone enjoyed the day and realized that it was great to get out on the water. I even found myself expressing out loud, “I really love this sport.” Then I got to thinking about all the reasons I paddle. I found an excellent “You Tube” video on [“Why We Paddle”](#). [Check it out](#)



Clay Kent, our TBSK chef, outdid himself by adding some homemade ribs to his gourmet delights. Boy did those go fast! Hamid Marzban, a new member, brought some bakery delights from his sister’s bakery on Ulmerton Road – Frida’s Café and Bakery.



## UPDATE ON WEEDON ISLAND

By Al Tillson



As you may remember from the October newsletter, the Weedon Island mangrove trail has been closed for some time. This happened because the Florida Fish and Wildlife Commission (FWC) determined that the existing signs did not meet requirements that they be 3 feet square, reflective white in color with an international orange border, black block lettering, and a crossed paddle icon and mounted on poles wrapped in a 3-inch reflective tape. It was subsequently determined that the trail had been operating for about a quarter century without ever getting a state-required permit. Last October the Pinellas County Park Department applied to the FWC for a permit for the already established trail and also for a variance to reduce the required size of the signs. As they pointed out, a 3 by 3 foot sign would completely block the trail in many places.

Since then there has been no indication of any progress by the state on either the permit or the variance. Pinellas County personnel made several calls and were unable to learn that anything had been done. Since the start of the year I have had several contacts by email and phone with the state official overseeing this process, Mr. Lamont Nelson, Florida Fish and Wildlife Commission, Division of Law Enforcement, Boating and Waterways section. Although communications have been cordial, to date I have been unable to get any statement of what progress has been made in this matter or when the trail might possibly be re-opened. Those wishing to express their sentiments should contact Mr. Nelson at [lamont.nelson@myfwc.com](mailto:lamont.nelson@myfwc.com) or 850-617-9560.



Archive photo Bill



## Weeki Wachee River

By Hank Brooks

Photos by Tom Komar and Bill Blles



At least once a year I like to go on the Weeki Wachee River to remind myself of both the beauty of the river and the ease of paddle – if you are going downriver only. If you have family coming to visit you, and they don't have much kayaking experience, this is a fun place to take them.

The seven mile paddle from the headwaters to Roger Park took us about 2.5 hours, including a 15 minute lunch break. It is so easy even a "Cave Man" could do it. Seriously, it is almost like a Disneyland ride. Sometimes I expect a mechanical manatee to suddenly jump up and appear out of the water. We paddled on a Wednesday in mid February and the weather was great. Warm enough that a lot of the girls were wearing their brief bathing suits. I won't say that the river was crowded, but we did see about 50 other paddlers on the river, including a group of about five advanced TBSK paddlers, led by Phil Sheesley, who were first paddling all the way upriver before coasting back to Rogers Park.

We had six TBSKers in our group, so we first set up a shuttle. The river usually flows about 2.5 mph, however it appeared that it was flowing a bit fast (close to 3 mph) and the river was a bit high, so that many of the sandy beaches along the river were slightly under water. All we had to do was keep our boats in the middle of the river, dodge those paddlers who were lost and didn't know how to steer their boats, and avoid the bushes on each side of the river. Talking to other paddlers as we passed them, there was only one manatee sighting and "Alas", we missed it.

Some suggestions if you decide to go to Weeki Wachee:

Never go on weekends, if possible

The most popular launch site is in the Weeki Wachee State Park

They have limited the number of people who can launch, so call and get reservations during the busy season

Disposable water bottles are no longer permitted on the river

Launching cost is \$6/ boat if you have your own boat

They have kayaks to rent, reservations are highly suggested

Other options include:

Launching from Rogers Park and paddle upstream

Use Weeki Wachee Kayaking at 8103 Cortez Blvd, Spring Hill, FL They will take you and your boat to and from the river for a fee.





# Fort Desoto Winter Paddle

By Therese Eby photos By Dave Schmidt

At the tail end of a cold front, on a mostly sunny Valentine's Day, five of us met at the Gulf Pier on Fort Desoto for a planned paddle to Egmont Key. It was breezy with air temp at 65°F, water 64° F. with whitecaps decorating both Tampa Bay and the Gulf, looking especially rough at the north tip of Egmont Key around the deep hole. Not feeling all that energetic, I implemented plan B - an exploration north along the more sheltered shoreline of Fort Desoto to see how the shoal near North Beach and Bunce's Pass was developing.



The coastline here changed, no surprise. The entrance to the lagoon near North Beach has recently moved south, cutting through some mangroves. The long south end of hook-shaped shoal called Outback Key (2.25 mi from our launch) is now so close to Fort Desoto that people are simply wading across the waist-deep channel to reach it; a year ago you needed a boat. A tractor was dumping sand in front of a line of palm trees at North Beach (beach renourishment?)

We were on the wrong side of a shallow sandbar to reach the channel between North Beach and Outback Key so saved it for the return. We paddled outside the shoal, a shorebird mecca. (Check out <https://www.facebook.com/OutbackKey/>).



At 3 miles, we left the key, paddled through moderate chop to cross Bunces Pass and followed Shell Key north to the cut Hurricane Irma made in 2017. We passed three dolphins on the way up Shell Key - always a delight. A couple ultralight planes flew over us and landed at Outback Key.

The cut (4.3 miles from our start) was shorter but wider than a year ago, and lined with a white sandy beach, perfect for our lunch break. The northeast wind eased up, and our group, refueled, headed lazily south through Shell Key Preserve for the return trip. The water south of the cut on the Shell Key side



is signed no entry, so you should veer away from Shell Key as you head south. There was barely enough water at places with the 1.5' tide, but the wading birds were loving it. A small pod of pelicans were resting, and a couple red-breasted mergansers were fishing. The water was clear and over patchy seagrass we saw fast fish, or perhaps just their shadows, zip by along with some rays. There was only one other kayaker in sight. This part of the preserve allows no internal combustion engines.

Recrossing Bunces Pass (which wasn't busy this weekday) we watched one of the planes leave Outback Key. We followed the near-shore channel along Fort DeSoto by North Beach, which we were pleased was still navigatable and clears the swimming area. The beach gets protection from Outback Key and some of us landed to remove paddle jackets since sunshine had warmed us quite nicely.

We ventured into the lagoon just past North Beach (probably closed on a very low tide), passing white ibis in the grey denuded mangroves. A raft of dark ducks were at the south end of the lagoon. We left them at peace and headed back out. Murmurations of sandpipers entertained us on our paddle back to the launch. Maybe the beach walkers had stirred them up.



A few more fishing lines hung from the pier when we returned. The small beach was even smaller and half filled with a mixed flock of gulls, terns, willets, plovers, and sandpipers, who didn't mind sharing it with us. This was a rewarding 9.3 mile nature paddle at the edge of one of Florida's most urban areas..





## Upcoming: TBSK Photo Contest



TBSK will be launching a monthly photo contest in the next month or so. TBSK members will be able to submit photos, every month, which have some connection to the sport of kayaking. Categories will include: people, wildlife, and landscape. Voting will be conducted by the membership and the 3 winning photos will be published in the monthly newsletter. At the December Holiday Party we will show a summary of all winners and show the annual grand prize winners – who will receive a \$25 gift certificate to Bill Jacksons.

Please watch future emails for the details.





# 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.



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>



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

- **Day on the Bay March 12-14 2019 9am to 12pm** [click here for details](#)



**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://keptampabaybeautiful.com>

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 March 16, 2019** [click here for details](#)
- **Regular work day April 20, 2019 10am to 3pm** [click here for details](#)



**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>



# Visit our Sponsors for the Best Kayaking Equipment and Advice!

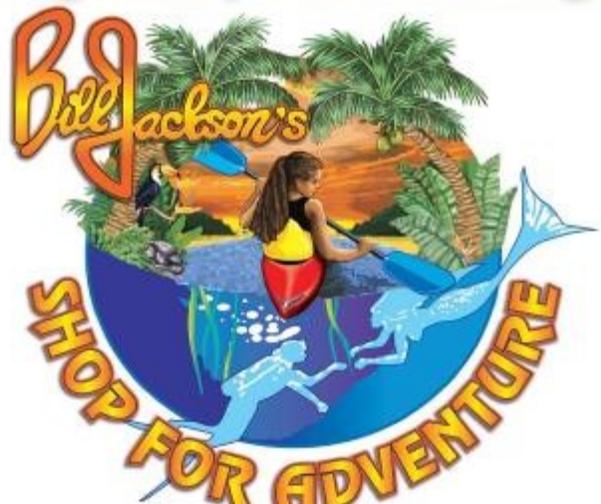
## How did new participants find out about the club?

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

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Photo by Bill Biles

# Info for TBSK.club

## Board Members

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### President

**Hank Brooks** 727 724 8983  
[jbrook1776@gmail.com](mailto:jbrook1776@gmail.com)

### Vice President

**Al Tillson** 813-832-3961  
[altillson@yahoo.com](mailto:altillson@yahoo.com)

### Trip Coordinator

**Bob Morris** 727 804 3636  
[remorrisfa@aol.com](mailto:remorrisfa@aol.com)

### Membership Coordinator

**Steve Loeven** 516 729 3297  
[sl72056@yahoo.com](mailto:sl72056@yahoo.com)

### Training/Safety Coordinator

**Jean Totz**  
[jean.totz@yahoo.com](mailto:jean.totz@yahoo.com)

### Activities Coordinators

**Clay Kent** 727.557.8159  
[kentdata@yahoo.com](mailto:kentdata@yahoo.com)

### Webmaster

**Dave Schmidt** 608-842-0135  
[Dave2Kayak@yahoo.com](mailto:Dave2Kayak@yahoo.com)

### Secretary/ Treasurer

**Barb Uzenoff** 813-447-1750  
[barbaraku@gmail.com](mailto:barbaraku@gmail.com)

### Newsletter Editor and Facebook

**Bill Biles** 727 204 5511  
[wcbiles@gmail.com](mailto: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!

- Valarie Font
- Henry Weidmeyer
- Lynn Hoover
- Karen Altieri
- Scott Jantz

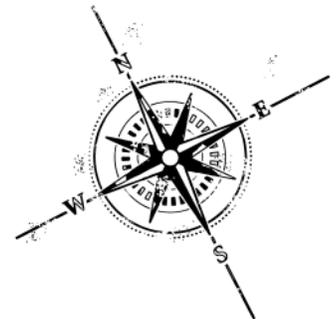
### Members that renewed this month:

- Liz Hogrebe
- Roy Hogrebe
- Al Gammons
- David Townsend
- Kevin Kenney
- Richard Arenella
- Douglas Fowler
- Mayra Rodriguez

## Treasurer's Report

2018

<b>Beginning BALANCE</b>	\$4635
<b>INCOME</b>	
Dues	\$327
<b>EXPENSES</b>	
picnic	\$65
Postage	\$20
FI annual incorp filing	\$61
<b>Ending Balance</b>	\$4815



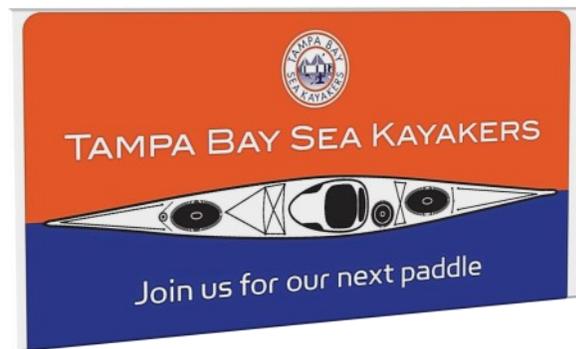


## **Tampa Bay Sea Kayakers Become A Member**

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**