

# Tampa Bay Sea Kayakers

July 2019 - Volume 27, Issue 7

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

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



Winners of the  
TBSK Photo  
Contest  
For the  
month of  
May 2019

Congratulations to Our Monthly Photo Winners  
Hank Brooks—People Category

And

Bob Morris—Landscape Category

They will be entered in the end of year  
Photo Contest

**REMEMBER!**

deadline to enter  
Photos is last  
day of each month

Info an Rules  
[click here](#)



# TAMPABAY SEA KAYAKERS CALENDAR OF EVENTS



Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
30	Jul 1	2	3 8:30 AM Rainbow River up and back - Level III	4	5	6 8:30 AM Anclote River - Level I
7	8 7:00 PM TBSK Monthly Meeting - Non-Members Invited	9	10	11	12	13 8:30 AM TBSK TRIP LEADER UPDATE DAY
14	15	16	17	18	19	20 8:30 AM Picnic Island - Level 0
21	22	23	24	25	26	27 8:30 AM TBSK Picnic - War Veterans' Memorial Park
28	29	30	31	Aug 1	2	3 Keep Pinellas Beautiful, Stevenson Creek Cleanup
4	5	6	7	8	9	10 8:30 AM TBSK Picnic - E.G. Simmons Conservation Park

 Trips & events indicated by this symbol

[Click here to go to Event Page on tbsk.club](http://tbsk.club)



## Trip & Event Schedule Club Trips (page 2)



# TBSK Picnic Chef Needed For July and August



Clay, who is in charge of our picnics, will be in Germany for both the July 27 and August 10 TBSK picnics. It would be most helpful if we could get a volunteer for either or both of these dates to cook the burgers and set up the tables. Clay has all the equipment and can transfer it to you. If you believe you can do this, or have questions, please contact Clay at [kentdata@yahoo.com](mailto:kentdata@yahoo.com) Thanks in advance!

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Apologies For the late newsletter I was out of town and was having issues with my software and computer. I always try to Release the Newsletter on the 25th of every month.

Again my apologies

# July's Speaker Janice Hindson

Janice Hindson, the assistant director of Paddle Florida, will speak on her organization and its planned schedule of trips for the coming year. Janice has a lifetime of aquatic experience, beginning as a child volunteer for the Royal National Lifeboats in the UK, then serving in the U.S. Coast Guard doing search and rescue missions. She is an ACA Level 3: Coastal Kayaking Instructor and enjoys exploring many of our springs, rivers and coastal areas.

Read Janise's profile on Paddle Florida [click here](#)



## **TBSK Website Payment System**

This is to let you know that there has been a change in the TBSK website payment system. In order to control our website payment processing charges, we will start using AffiniPay rather than PayPal for charging dues by credit card. The main difference is that TBSK members can no longer pay their dues using their personal PayPal account. Also, if possible, we respectfully request that you avoid using American Express on this site due to their added transaction fees. No other changes are envisioned at this time. If you have any questions, please contact either the club President or Secretary-Treasurer. (Last page of newsletter has contact info.)

## Paddling Between the Raindrops

By Hank Brooks

Pictures by Hank, Steven Loeven, Janet Neff



Sometimes it is comforting to know that there are at least a couple of other nuts in our kayak club who are willing to paddle “between the raindrops” to get their kayak fix. Since the weather has turned “wet” in early June, it has been difficult to find good paddling weather. So Steven Loeven, Janet Neff and I were willing to risk “iffy” weather to paddle the Hillsborough River.

As I loaded my boat it was sprinkling and the closer I got to Trout Creek Park, a light rain started. Different possibilities ran thru my mind. Will anyone else show up in this weather and if they do, how far will they want to paddle. Both Steve and Janet arrived and we checked the radar weather map on Janet’s cell phone. You could see lots of rain, but most of it was hitting the Crystal River area, with some scattered showers coming our way. So after a brief discussion, since this river does not have much current, we decided to launch from Trout Creek, paddle up to Morris Bridge Park, have lunch and paddle back.



We readied for our launch and the rains started to come. I told everyone, “Just a passing shower, I hope!” Thankfully, my prayerful statement turned out to be true. The river was as beautiful as ever. The canopy of trees over much of the upper Hillsborough River, makes it look like a cathedral as you glide thru. And we were surprised and pleased to find that the birds were

plentiful – including Baby Blue Herons, Ibis, Great Blue Herons, and a few Roseate Spoonbills. Heading upriver past the Kids Camp, the river narrows, increasing the speed of the water. It was at this point I said to myself, “Oh, Oh, we forgot about all the rain adding to the power of the river current.” Getting around some of the tight bends was a problem, but we took our time and took lots of pictures. Steve got some excellent pictures, many of which you will see along with this article.



—Continued next page—



## Paddling Between the Raindrops

By Hank Brooks

Pictures by Hank, Steven Loeven, Janet Neff

continued



The Hillsborough River originates in the Green Swamp, I believe. This results in the water containing a lot of brown colored tannin in addition to the usual sediment. With the exception of a few stretches with clear water, most of the river water is a chocolate brown. These are excellent conditions for the mischievous “River Gremlin” to operate. The twigs, branches and logs which either pierce the water’s surface or are close to it, are easy to spot because of the ripples the water makes as it flows past them. However, the “River Gremlin” hides logs and branches just far enough under the opaque, chocolate colored river so that you can neither see them or detect their presence by the flow of the river. So as you paddle along a hidden branch often reaches out and nudges your boat to the right or left. If you are not used to this it can startle you and throw you off balance. Sometimes you will be paddling along and suddenly stop – hidden log. You then yell out, “Don’t follow me, I’m stuck on a log.” However, all this adds to the uniqueness and charm of the river.



With the strong current and frequent photo stops, it took us about two hours to travel the four miles to Morris Bridge Park. Once there, we headed to the shelter next to the rest rooms to have our lunch. Just in time to avoid a tremendous downpour. However, this is Florida, so it lasted about 15 minutes and the sun came back out. It was a fast and fun trip back downriver to Trout Creek Park.





# Brooker Creek

By Hank Brooks

pictures by Hank Brooks, Judy Lathrop and Bill Biles



Sometimes you can find beautiful nature existing very close to civilization.

Brooker Creek is one of those sites. It is a small creek which flows into Lake Tarpon and makes an excellent Level 0 paddle.

There were 6 of us on this trip – TBSKers Judy Lathrop, Bill Biles, Steve Gutke and myself with guests Adrian Geary and Carole Kingham.



For the first part of our paddle, we launched from John Chestnut Park boat ramp and paddled the half mile to the mouth of creek. At first the creek seems unremarkable. However,

after you pass under the McMullen Booth Rd. bridge, the nature of the creek changes. It becomes much narrower and the canopy of trees closes in overhead. This gives you the effect of a lush garden. At places the sun shines thru the canopy, giving the scene a surreal effect. If you



have never been there, I highly recommend it. After taking lots of pictures, we completed the paddle back to the put-in because one of our guests felt they had paddled enough.

The more experienced paddlers decided to continue paddling and chose to explore the area south of Brooker Creek. One of my objectives was to see if we could find an alternative take-out that we might use as a rest stop for future paddles. We searched both sides of the south part of Lake Tarpon and unfortunately could find none. So we headed back to the take-out for lunch after paddling a total of about 4 miles



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**ALL PHOTO SUBMISSIONS**  
**FOR THE MONTHLY PHOTO CONTEST**  
**MUST BE SUBMITTED BY THE**  
**LAST DAY OF THE MONTH**  
**SEND SUBMISSIONS TO**  
**[tbskphoto@gmail.com](mailto:tbskphoto@gmail.com)**





# 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 **11am Nov – March**
- Beach Walks every Friday at **11am Nov - March**
- Monthly Shell Show. **4th Saturday each month at Rotary Nature Center , 1pm - 4:30pm**
- 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.
- **Bluegrass Festival - Saturday, December 7**



CALADESI DISCOVERY CENTER

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>



**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 July 20th 10 am to 3 pm** [click here for 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>



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

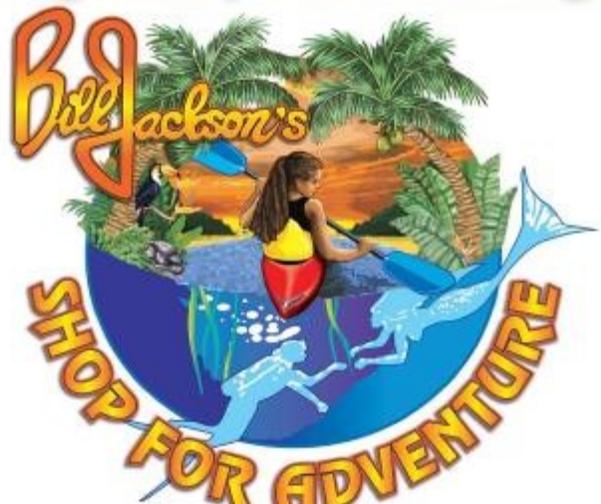
## How did new participants find out about the club?

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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# Info for TBSK.club

## Board Members

### 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 & Social Media

**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!

- [Judy Lathrop](#)
- [Hilary Adorno](#)
- [Frank Battaglia](#)
- [Thomas Caulfield](#)

### Members that renewed this month:

- [Peggy Ellis](#)
- [Emil Assily](#)
- [George Shukis](#)
- [Bill Dickerson](#)

## Treasurer's Report

2018

<b>Beginning BALANCE</b>	\$3927
<b>INCOME</b>	
Dues	\$248
<b>EXPENSES</b>	
picnic total	\$58
<b>Ending Balance</b>	\$4175



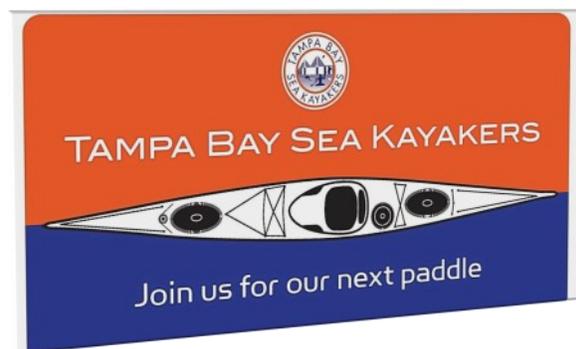


## **Tampa Bay Sea Kayakers Become A Member**

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**



Photo by Scott Jantz