

# Tampa Bay Sea Kayakers

November 2019 - Volume 27, Issue 11

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

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

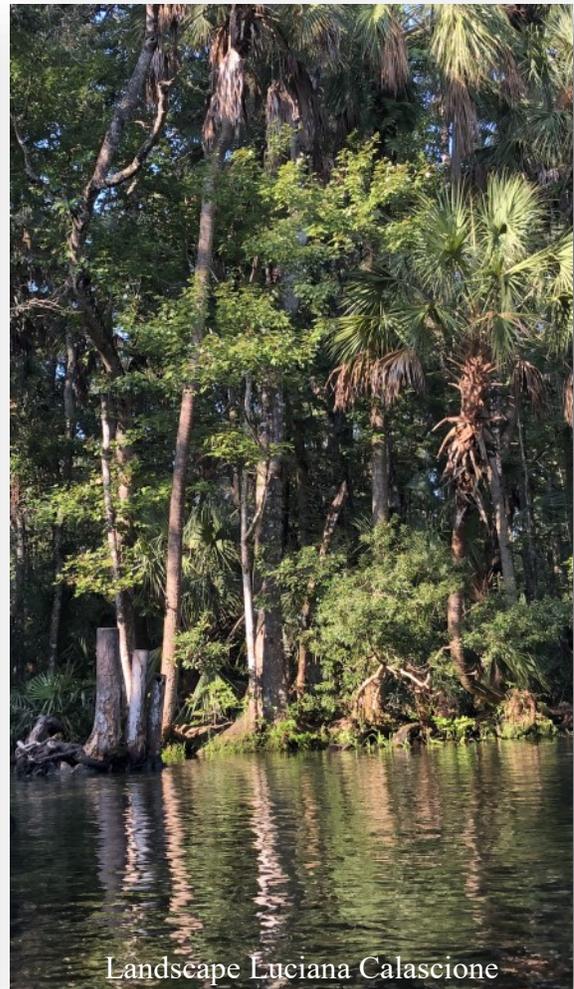


Landscape Luciana Calascione

Winners of the Photo Contest  
For the month of Sept 2019



Wildlife Barbra Uzenoff



Landscape Luciana Calascione

## ~CORRECTION!~

In last months Newsletter a picture on page 17 was tagged Photo By Bill Biles the photo was actually by  
Luciana Calascione



# TAMPA BAY SEA KAYAKERS CALENDAR OF EVENTS



Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
27	28	29	30 11:00 AM  Impromptu - Honeymoon Pelican Cove - Level II	31	Nov 1	2 9:00 AM  Hillsborough River - Level 0
3	4 8:30 AM  Cooper Bayou - Level 0	5	6 9:00 AM  Double Branch Creek - Level I	7	8	9 8:30 AM  TBSK Picnic - Fort De Soto
10	11 7:00 PM TBSK Monthly Meeting - Non-Members Invited	12	13 9:30 AM  Pop Stansell to the Spoils - Level II	14	15	16
17	18	19	20 9:00 AM  North Anclote Key - Level II  9:00 AM FPTA Paddlers Environmental Toolkit Training	21	22	23 9:30 AM  Homosassa Manatee Viewing Paddle - Level I
24	25	26 9:30 AM  Clam Bayou to Maximo Park - Level 2 plus	27	28	29	30
Dec 1	2	3	4	5	6	7

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

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



# TBSK Club Announcements



Steven Henkind, navigation instructor for the Coast Guard's sail-powered training cutter the Eagle, will describe life onboard the vessel during last summer's cruise from England to Norway on which she encountered a full gale



in the North Sea. The 295 foot ship (technically a "Barque") sails around the world conducting training and diplomatic missions. She is one of the two currently active sailing vessels in the U.S. military. Steve is also an ACA Instructor Trainer (one of only two in the state of Florida) and an L4 Open Water Coastal Kayak Instructor. His presentation will be



illustrated with photographs from the Eagle's cruise.

## TBSK Activities Coordinator

The Activities Coordinator is responsible for providing the food for our monthly paddle-picnics and the annual Holiday Party. For 2020, we continue to look for members who are willing to fill this position. Sometimes in the past, this position has been filled by several persons who share the responsibility. If you are interested, please contact any board member. Specific duties include:

- Purchase [for reimbursement] the food and drink for the monthly picnic and annual holiday party, as deemed appropriate, and bring to each venue.
- Be able to store the accessory food preparation supplies: cooking and serving utensils, condiments, and table setting materials, and transport to the club events.
- Allow adequate time to assure the site set-up and food preparation to coordinate with the paddlers' activities.
- May recruit volunteers to assist with site break down and clean up of the serving and eating areas.



## TBSK Holiday Party - Advanced Notice

The 2019 TBSK Holiday Party will be held at the Church Hall of the Holy Spirit Episcopal Church, 601 Philippe Park, Safety Harbor, FL 34695 on Monday, Dec 9 where we will share fellowship and have our recognitions, awards and 2020 elections.

If you have visited Bill Jackson's recently, you will have noticed that there are many gun safes which populate their large conference room. Because our Holiday Party requires most of this space to be cleared for our party, it is no longer practical for Bill Jacksons to do this. The TBSK board has discussed our options and decided that we will continue to hold our monthly meetings at Bill Jacksons (second Monday of each month) and have the Holiday Party only at the church hall. On Dec 9, the Holiday Party set up group will meet at 5 p.m. at the church hall which already has tables and chairs. Hank will bring the decorations. Members will bring a dish to share and can start arriving at 6 p.m. with the plan of starting the buffet line at 6:30 p.m.



# Anclote River On A Wednesday

By Hank Brooks



The idea was to get a relatively easy paddle in during the week. It had not rained in over a month, but the weather people were once again forecasting showers. So we had to plan on paddling between the raindrops.



Besides myself, we had three upper Anclote River newbies on this trip - Pat Yadon, Janet Neff and Mark Suiters. We put in at Craig Park. Since they were new to the area we



started my showing where the Greek Orthodox Church holds their Epiphany Ceremony in early January on Spring Bayou during which the bishop throws a crucifix into the water and it is retrieved by one of 50 or so young men who dive into the water to retrieve it, each looking for special blessings it will bring for the upcoming year.



I always enjoy a paddle upriver on the Anclote past the many restaurants and tourists which inhabit the area. Our little parade of kayakers seems to fit right into the spirit of the Sponge Docks. Many times I have heard a child exclaim to

their parents, "Look mommy, kayakers!" At which point many of the tourists will take our picture. The outside diners also seem to enjoy the ambience which the kayakers add to the scene. After padding past the stores, it is usually time for me to tell one of my kayak stories about Tarpon Springs sponges.



The paddle up to a park on the Anclote is a scenic trip of only about 2.5 miles and since this was a weekday, boat traffic was at a minimum. Talk among the kayakers flowed freely and before we knew it, we were at the park, ready for our break. The return trip was just as enjoyable.





# Bushwacking on the Withlachochee River

By Hank Brooks with photos from Hank, Glen Almcrantz and Mark Bastille

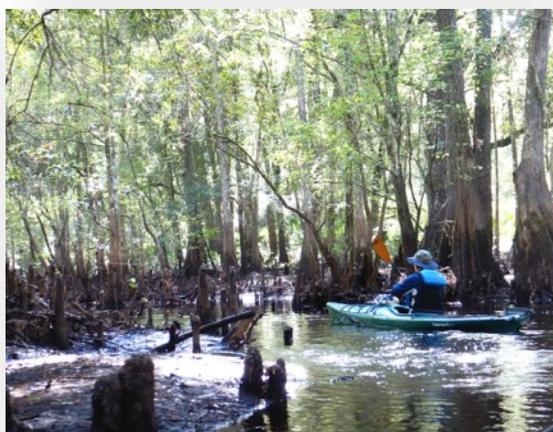


Several major rivers emanate from the Green Swamp, located north of Tampa. The Hillsborough River flows south from the swamp while the Withlachochee River flows north, before turning west to the Gulf.

Having paddled several parts of the Withlachochee River, I wanted to see how far upriver we could paddle into the Green Swamp. The farthest launch point upriver I could find on my map was at Withlachochee River Park, near Dade City. I had originally scheduled this trip several months ago, but had to cancel because the record high water and swift current made it unsafe.



I had never been to this part of Pasco County or this far upriver on the Withlachochee River. So it goes without saying that I was out of my element. I set my GPS to get me there. Once off I-75, it took me thru several small towns and then on to a winding two lane road. At one point I came across a hound dog sitting in the middle of the road which reluctantly moved as I approached. When I thought I heard “banjo music” I knew that I was off the beaten path. I did find Withlachochee River Park and was anxious to see the launch. The river bank was lined with cypress tree stumps (knees) and dropped off sharply.



Both Glen Almcrantz and Mark Bastille, my companions on this trip, said “no problem”, so with their confidence and help we successfully launched.

My original plan was to paddle upriver about four miles, take a break and then return to our put-in. This was a very naive plan on my part. I knew about the tangled web of clogged trails called the “Severn Runs” on the upper Hillsborough River. We were about to paddle on the upper Withlachochee River. The river looked clear from our put-in. We paddled upriver as the river twisted and turned. We had gone about 300 yards when we arrived at our first obstacle – a downed tree across the river.



## Bushwacking on the Withlachooshee River

By Hank Brooks with photos from Hank, Glen Almcrantz and Mark Bastille ~continued~

The bottom of the tree hit about chest level. So this meant that you either had to get out of your boat and portage around the tree or scoot down into your boat to go under the tree since my body does not bend forward very well. At this point the river had narrowed and was running at about 2.5 mph. Since I hate to get in and out of my boat because increases the risk of a capsize, I elected to scoot down in my boat to get under the log. With that successfully accomplished, the river current managed to then pin me against the log with both my bow and stern pinned by a cypress knee or tree branches. With an assist from Glen, I was able to get my bow pointed up-river into the current. I then started to relax a bit saying to myself, "OK, we got thru the major river blockage." After paddling another 200 yards we hit another blockage. Both Glen and Mark were prepared for this since they both carried folding saws in their



boats (doesn't everyone). After about 10 minutes of cutting and hacking, the path was clear, until a hundred yards upstream when we hit another obstacle. In about an hour and a half we had traveled a little over a mile and gone thru five obstacles. At this point I declared that my "fun factor" for this trip had greatly diminished. We took a break on a bank and then paddled downriver about a mile past our put-in, before returning to take out.

If you have an open mind, every trip is a learning experience. Some of the things I learned were: The upper Withlachooshee River is really beautiful. In addition to the natural beauty of the cypress tree canopy we spotted large flocks of Ibis, some night herons, kingfishers and two deer. When paddling a wild river not frequently used as a paddling trail, expect delays caused by downed trees. Paddling with experienced bush wackers like Glen and Mark made the trip safe and fun.





**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 11
- Beach Walks every Friday at 11 only November – March
- 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.



**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>

- **Saturday Nov. 2 6 pm Evening For the Bay** [for more info click here](#)
- **Fall Restoration Season** [for dates and times 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://keptampabaybeautiful.org>  
Our mission is to promote a culture of environmental stewardship through volunteer and educational opportunities.



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

- **Saturday Nov 9 at 8 am to 2 pm Discover the Island 2019** [for 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>



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

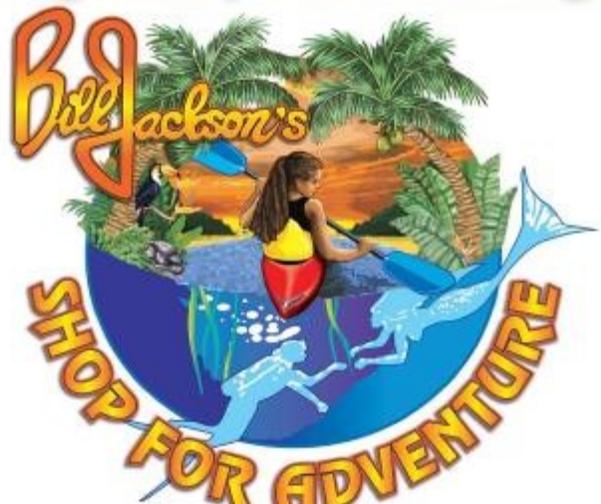
## How did new participants find out about the club?

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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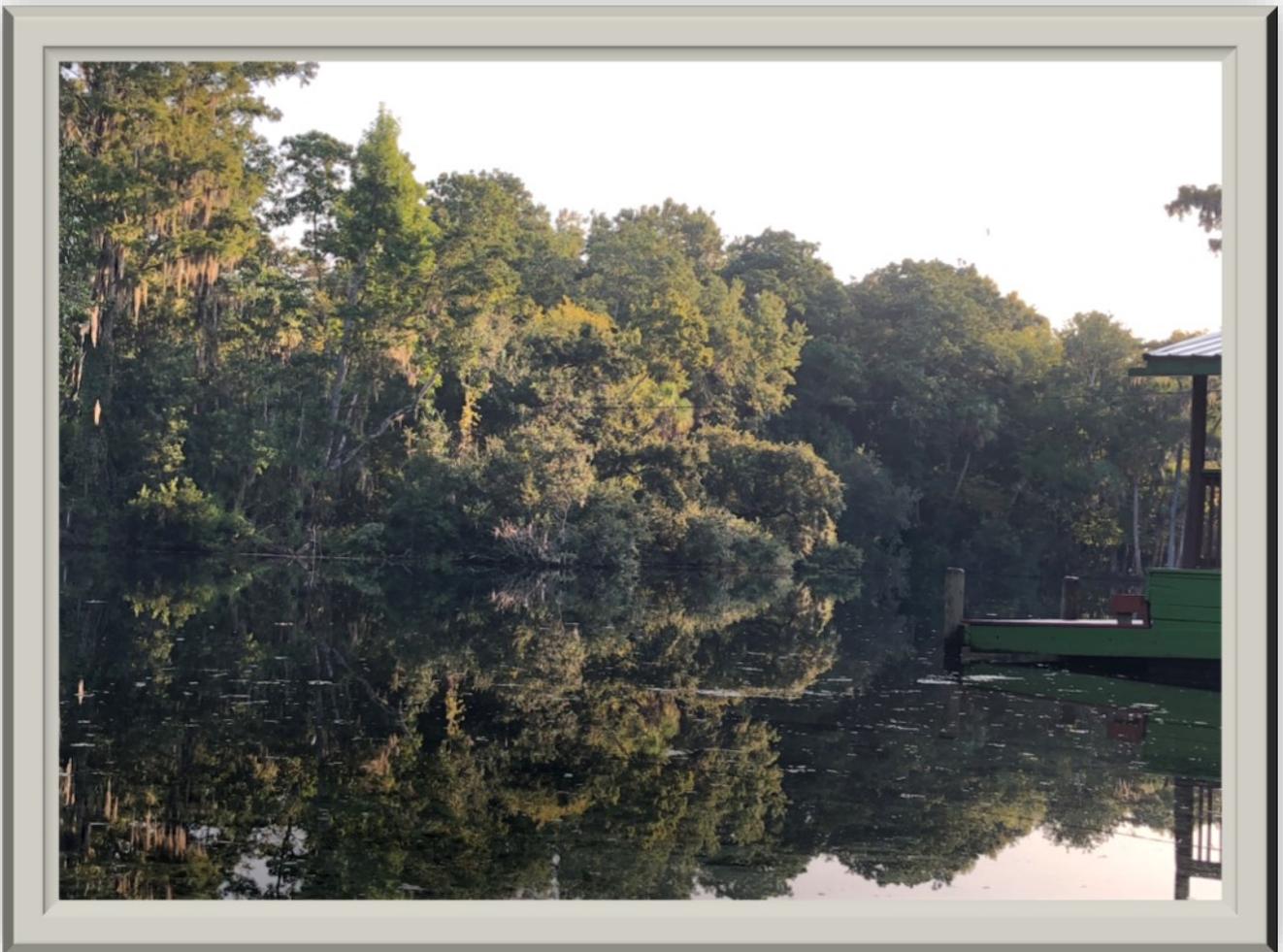
## **TBSK MEMBER CLASSIFIED ADS**

.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.

2 whitewater boats 1) Pyranna Mountain Bat 2) Wavesport "Z" both good condition \$250 EACH.

2 sea kayaks 1) Necky 17"3" glass , feathercraft rudder, double foot pegs. \$675 2) Perception Vizcaya plastic 16', new soft inner covers, bungee ex. large cockpit. \$600 All good condition.

Contact [sunrazz@aol.com](mailto:sunrazz@aol.com)



# 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)

## Members that renewed this month:

- ◇ Martin Sharp
- ◇ Chad Maynard
- ◇ Barbara Thomas
- ◇ Jan Machnikowski

## Links to Info on Website

Determining your Skills Level  
[Skill Assessment chart](#)

Paddle Signals To Use on a Trip  
[Paddle Signals](#)

[Safety Tips](#)

[Hypothermia and Heat Stress](#)

## Treasurer's Report

2018

Beginning BALANCE	\$4,452
<b>INCOME</b>	
Dues	\$140
<b>EXPENSES</b>	
AffiniPay Trans.	\$9
June & July Picnic	\$104
Ending Balance	\$4480

## Water Quality Information

*Find out if it is safe to paddle*

Florida Healthy Beaches Program ~ Florida Department of Health; [Website Here](#)

City of St. Petersburg; [Water Quality website](#)

Tampa Bay Waterkeeper – [Swim Guide](#);

FWC Red Tide Current Status [Red Tide Guide](#)



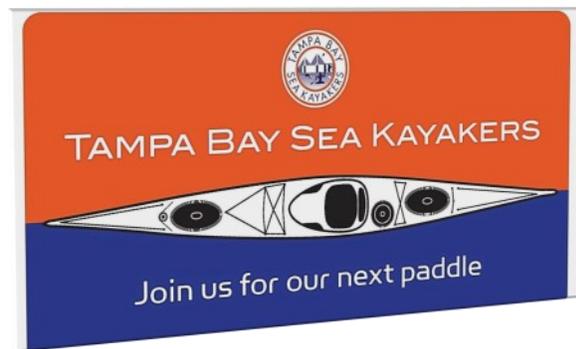


## **Tampa Bay Sea Kayakers Become A Member**

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 Cynthia McGregor*