

Tampa Bay Sea Kayakers

December 2019 - Volume 27, Issue 12

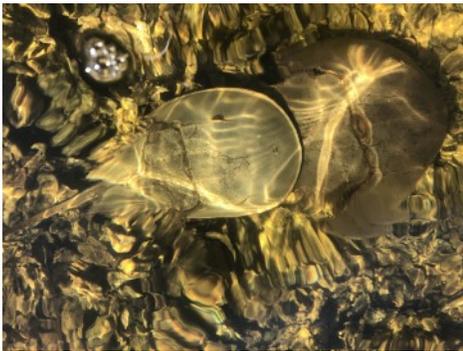
www.tbsk.club

www.facebook.com/TampaBaySeaKayakers



People Category
Barbra Uzenoff

Landscape Category
Jill Lingard



Wildlife Category
Jill Lingard

Winners of
the
Photo
Contest
For the
month of
Oct 2019

Most of us know that a TBSK member, Mark Suiters, is doing the Florida Circumnavigational Trail (CT) starting in early Nov. Below are the links to Mark's Journal and a live tracker to follow his progress.

stumpknockerblog.wordpress.com This is where my CT journal with pictures will be.

<https://share.garmin.com/stump> This is what I hope will be the live tracker of the CT

HOLIDAY
PARTY
DETAILS ARE
ON Page 3





TAMPA BAY SEA KAYAKERS CALENDAR OF EVENTS



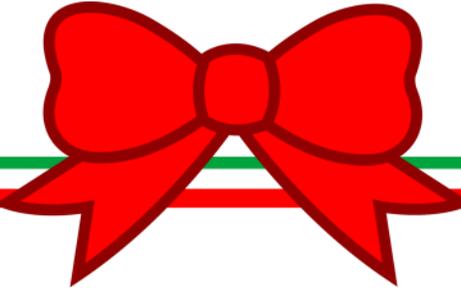
Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
Dec 1 8:30 AM Rough Water Training	2	3	4 10:00 AM Sunset Beach to Three Rooker, Level III	5	6	7 9:30 AM Pop Stansell to the Spoils - Level II
8	9 6:00 PM TBSK Holiday Party	10	11 10:00 AM Silver Springs & River - Level 1	12 10:00 AM Ocklawaha River - Level 1+	13	14 9:30 AM Braden River - Linger Lodge - Level 2
15	16	17	18 9:30 AM Little Manatee River - Level 1+	19	20	21 9:00 AM Maximo Park to Shell Key - Level II plus 9:30 AM STONEHENGE FOR THE SOLSTICE - LEVEL I
22	23	24	25	26	27	28
29	30 9:30 PM Philippe Park - Level 0+	31	Jan 1 9:30 AM New Year's Day Paddle	2	3	4

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

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

Audubon Florida's Holley Short is the Project Manager for Bird Stewardship & Monitoring in the Tampa Bay area. She and other local staff focus on the monitoring and management of shorebirds, seabirds, and wading birds along the Florida coast. Her work involves promoting awareness of breeding and nonbreeding shorebird species through a stewardship program. Holley will discuss common coastal species you may see on the beaches or at rookery islands and Audubon Florida's work to protect their habitats.





TBSK Holiday Party -

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. TBSK will provide the turkeys, ham and drinks. Members are asked to 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. Please register on our web site to let us know how many people are in your party and the dish you are bringing. Contact Clay Kent if you have any questions (kentdata@yahoo.com).



Hillsborough River – Never Disappoints

By Hank Brooks With Pictures By Hank and Dave Schmidt



We planned this early November trip as an Easy Paddle on the Hillsborough River, paddling from Sargeant Park down to Morris Bridge. While this was only a four mile paddle, we planned on paddling slow so that we could take lots of pictures.

There were six of us on this trip. Besides myself, there were Deb and Dave Schmidt, Pat Yadon, Janet Neff and a guest, Dave Gadow.



The weather had turned a bit cooler, ridding the air of some of the humidity, making paddling much more comfortable. As we started our slow decent down the river, we did see some ibis and cormorants in the distance, but not the close ups which I have come to know and love on this river.



In this part of the river, the trees overhang the river, giving much shade and the feeling of being in a cathedral. Just when I had almost given up seeing the animals close up, we glided by a great blue heron which was motionless on the river bank. He must have been only ten feet away. These animals coloring makes them blend into the scenery, so you have to pay attention. I had my camera ready and snapped a couple of pictures and he didn't move a muscle. We then rounded another bend in the river and someone mentioned, did you see the baby gators on the log. I said, "No, darn I missed those." Thank goodness that Dave got a good picture. As we glided a bit further, I glanced over my left shoulder



and out of the corner of my eye I saw a wood stork standing behind some trees on the river bank. At his feet were several brightly colored roseate spoonbills. I struggled in my boat to quickly take some pictures without capsizing. I got a good picture of the wood stork, but only a ordinary one of the spoonbills. Then there was the cormorant on the post in the center of river which was motionless as the current pulled us along, floating around the cormorant.



On the way home I reflected about the day's paddle and all the wonderful wildlife we encountered. Then I remembered, the Hillsborough River never disappoints. So the next time you get a chance to paddle the Hillsborough, consider what you might be missing if you don't go.



Salt Lake Via The Anclote River

By Hank Brooks With Pictures by Barb Uzenoff



Dave Schmidt recently came back from Wisconsin. He loves to explore so he said, "Let's paddle to Salt Lake" – "No" not the one in Utah. For those not familiar with the small body of water called "Salt Lake", it really is not a lake, but an estuary off the Anclote River, which is salty from the tide bringing in salt water from the Gulf.

There were eight of us who showed up for this eight mile paddle on this windy day. One of the reasons we decided to paddle a river, was that we knew that the wind would be blowing from 10 to 15 mph. So, in theory, we would get some protection from the wind. That was the theory anyway.

The plan was to paddle up river to Salt Lake, find a place to take a break, and then head back.



From our launch point at Craig Park in Tarpon Springs, we first visited Spring Bayou.

On the Epiphany each January, the Greek Orthodox Bishop throws a cross into the water to be retrieved by one of many young men who dive into the water to retrieve it. We then paddled out to the Anclote River and paraded past the Sponge Docks and then under the Alt U.S. 19 Bridge. All this time the wind seemed to be hitting us in the face. Since the river twisted and turned, this didn't make sense to me, but then there are not a lot of trees on this part of the river, so we were somewhat exposed.



On we paddled under the Pinellas Bike Trails bridge and then under U.S. 19 Bridge. I had made Dave Schmidt the trip navigator so that if we got lost, I could blame it on him. After studying the maps, I knew we had to first find the "Castle House" and then take a right off the river. I call it the "Castle House" because it has a turret on it which resembles a castle. Finding this house was the easy part because I had made this trip several times. With some guidance from Dave, and rechecking our maps we found "Salt Lake". It was a large body of shallow water with a few houses lining its shores. These houses can be reached from Keystone Rd, which is at the north end of Tarpon Lake.

we had to first find the "Castle House" and



mere quarter mile away from the "Castle House" which is located off U.S. 19. It had a

After a water break it was time to find a place to take out for a break. We retraced our path to the "Castle House" where I suggested that we try a new take out at the "Boat Club Bar", a

hard mud boat ramp which made a perfect place to take out kayakers – giving us a chance to rest and have our lunch. I found this place because it was on the Florida Paddling Trails web site as a possible put-in. The Boat Club started as a fishing camp after WWII and had evolved into a dive bar. Structurally it appears as it first did in 1947. I visited the place and told them I was a veteran, which helped ensure a warm welcome. They said that if I was a veteran, it would not cost me to launch my boat if I stopped in and bought a beer at their place. Can't beat that.



The Boat Club started as a fishing camp after WWII and had



On the paddle back, the wind was mostly at our back, but then seemed to die somewhat. But after a lot of paddles, that is what we have come to expect. A good paddle!





Fishing With Cormorants

By Hank Brooks With Pictures By Barb Uzenoff



When I awoke Saturday morning for the November paddle-picnic, I knew that the weather would be “iffy” with the overcast skies and the wind blowing over 10 mph. Our TBSK club officers had discussed our options and decided that we would be OK, provided we stayed close to land to get some protection from the wind.



Since there were no “Easy” paddlers, Dave Schmidt led the Level II group on a paddle on the back side of Mullet Key, launching in protected waters close to the kayak rental shop. We were able to stay out of the wind for the first part of the paddle until we came out of the mangroves and had to head across a small bay. We knew that once we paddled about a mile into the wind, we would once again be protected by the wind. So we “bit the bullet”, put our heads down and paddled directly into the wind. It was tough, slow going but we all made it.



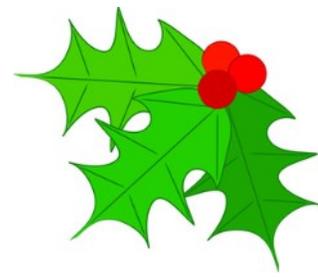
Once we got to the other side of the bay, we were once again protected by the wind. We did see a number of birds, but most were hiding in the mangroves, protecting themselves from the wind. We were soon joined by about four cormorants out on the water.

We believe that they were using our kayaks to help them catch fish. I had never seen anything quite like this. They would swim along side our kayaks and then dive under the water. We think that the shadow of our boats was startling the small fish below our boats. The cormorants were using this fact to make it easier for them to catch these startled fish. The cormorants were so close to my boat that on several occasions I almost hit them during my paddle stroke. Fascinating and fun interacting with nature!



Getting Lost With Al – Temporarily!

By Hank Brooks
Pictures by Jan Machnikowsk , Dave Schmidt and Hank Brooks



With the tangle of mangroves in Upper Tampa Bay Park, it is easy to get lost – even if it is just for a little while. There were seven TBSKers on this paddle, led by Al Tillson. Besides Al, there was Dave Schmidt, Jan Machnikowski, Bill Staab, Pat Yadon, Hank Brooks and Jackie Simpson.



It was an overcast, slightly cool morning when we arrived at the launch site. For this paddle, Al asked that we launch at the State Street Launch. It's not more than a mud patch in a residential area – but it is sufficient to launch a kayak. The paddle trail is marked from this launch point. However, for some reason they put tiny numbers on the trail signs. Perhaps it's just that old people can't read the numbers unless they are almost on top of the signs.



I have paddled this area many times and it is mostly mangroves with lots of oysters. Of course it is very tide sensitive, but Al had planned for that. I brought my plastic boat because my fiberglass one is a magnet for the oysters. I swear that they actually attack the boat. Following the signs in Double Branch Creek is fairly simple because you can usually see the next sign down the stream – although you can't read the trail sign numbers easily. Al decided to take us up what I call the "Main Channel". I call it



that because it is both wide, fairly long and fairly straight. From deep in the mangroves you have a clear view of the bay and Safety Harbor – which is across the bay. The challenging thing to do is to leave the channel and go exploring by paddling off onto one of the many mangrove trails. This area has no trail markers and those of us who have paddled mangrove trails know that one mangrove looks like another. We did have maps and a GPS, but were soon somewhat lost.

OK, to be clear, I was somewhat lost. We explored some nooks and crannies and soon determined it was time to find our way back to the "Main Channel". We followed Al who seemed to know which way to go. Several times I thought to myself, "I wouldn't go that way" – but then I often get lost in these mazes. Soon Al had us at the head of the "Main Channel!" and we had a view of the bay – found again!



On the way back we found a nice open spot among the mangroves for a lunch/ rest break. I think it was between trail signs No. 11 and 12 – but then I could not see the numbers very well.



WINNERS FOR 2019 PHOTO CONTEST TO BE ANNOUNCED AT TBSK 2019 HOLIDAY PARTY DECEMBER 9, 2019

Don't FORGET!



**ALL PHOTO SUBMISSIONS
FOR THE MONTHLY PHOTO CONTEST**

MUST BE SUBMITTED BY THE

LAST DAY OF THE MONTH

**SEND SUBMISSIONS TO
tbskphoto@gmail.com**



VOTING FOR YEAR END PHOTO CONTEST IS SOON! THE MONTHLY CONTESTS FOR 2019 CLOSES END OF THIS MONTH ANY SUBMISSIONS FOR MONTH OF NOVEMBER CONTEST WILL BE ENTERED INTO 2020



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 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)

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 to learn about the forthcoming interpretive facility.



• **Bluegrass Festival - Saturday, December 7, 2019** [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.

Hike at Brooker Creek December 7, 2019 8 am to 3:00 pm [more info click here](#)



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 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/>

- **Three's Lake Invasive Plant Removal Sat, Dec 7 9:00 AM – 12:00 PM EST** [more info](#)
- **Childs Park Cleanup Dec 7 10 am to 12 pm** for [more info click here](#)
- **Sunset Beach (Tarpon Springs) Cleanup with Dixie Belle Paint Company Dec 13 3pm to 5pm** [click here](#)



Keep Tampa Bay Beautiful: <http://kepttampabaybeautiful.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>



Visit our Sponsors for the Best Kayaking Equipment and Advice!

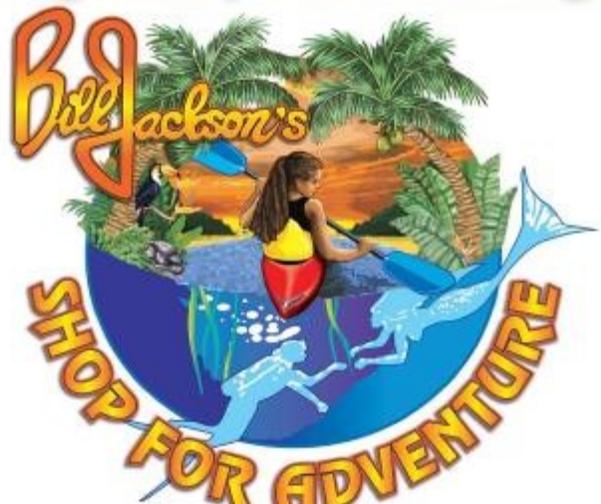
How did new participants find out about the club?

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 Jackson's"

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



Photo by Bill Biles

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

2 whitewater boats 1) Pyranha 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



Photo by Hank Brooks

Info for TBSK.club

Board Members

.....

President

Hank Brooks 727 724 8983
jbrook1776@gmail.com

Vice President

Al Tillson 813-832-3961
altillson@yahoo.com

Trip Coordinator

Bob Morris 727 804 3636
remorrisfa@aol.com

Membership Coordinator

Steve Loeven 516 729 3297
sl72056@yahoo.com

Training/Safety Coordinator

Jean Totz
jean.totz@yahoo.com

Activities Coordinators

Clay Kent 727.557.8159
kentdata@yahoo.com

Webmaster

Dave Schmidt 608-842-0135
Dave2Kayak@yahoo.com

Secretary/ Treasurer

Barb Uzenoff 813-447-1750
barbaraku@gmail.com

Newsletter Editor & Social Media

Bill Biles 727 204 5511
wcbiles@gmail.com

Welcome New Members!

- ♦ **Leslie Huber**
- ♦ **Dorsey (Dee) Demaster**
- ♦ **Arnold Holden**

Members that renewed this month:

- ♦ **Barbra Thomas**
- ♦ **Jan Machnikowski**
- ♦ **Jon Hackley**
- ♦ **Jennifer Call**
- ♦ **Bill Biles**
- ♦ **Robin Szekely**
- ♦ **Andy Bartley**
- ♦ **Chad Maynard**

Treasurer's Report

2018

Beginning BALANCE	\$4,452
INCOME	
Dues	\$140
EXPENSES	
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](#)

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](#)



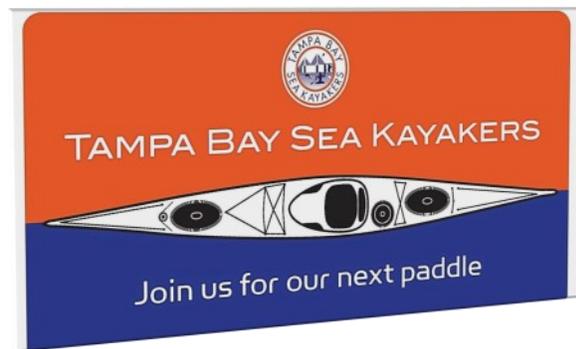


Tampa Bay Sea Kayakers Become A Member

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 L. Calascione