

Tampa Bay Sea Kayakers

January 2020 - Volume 28, Issue 01

www.tbsk.club

www.facebook.com/TampaBaySeaKayakers



Landscape Mark Suiters

Winners of the
Photo
Contest
For the
month of
January 2020



Wildlife Hank Brooks



People Hank Brooks

At the January meeting Russell Farrow of Sweetwater Kayaks will discuss their upcoming 25th Annual Florida Gulf Coast International Sea Kayak Symposium. Running from February 21st - 23, it will offer a variety of classes, trainings, and assessments suited to the needs of paddlers from beginning to advanced levels. As the name suggests, it usually draws paddlers and instructors from well beyond the Tampa Bay area.



TBSK 1st Annual Photo Contest Winners 2019



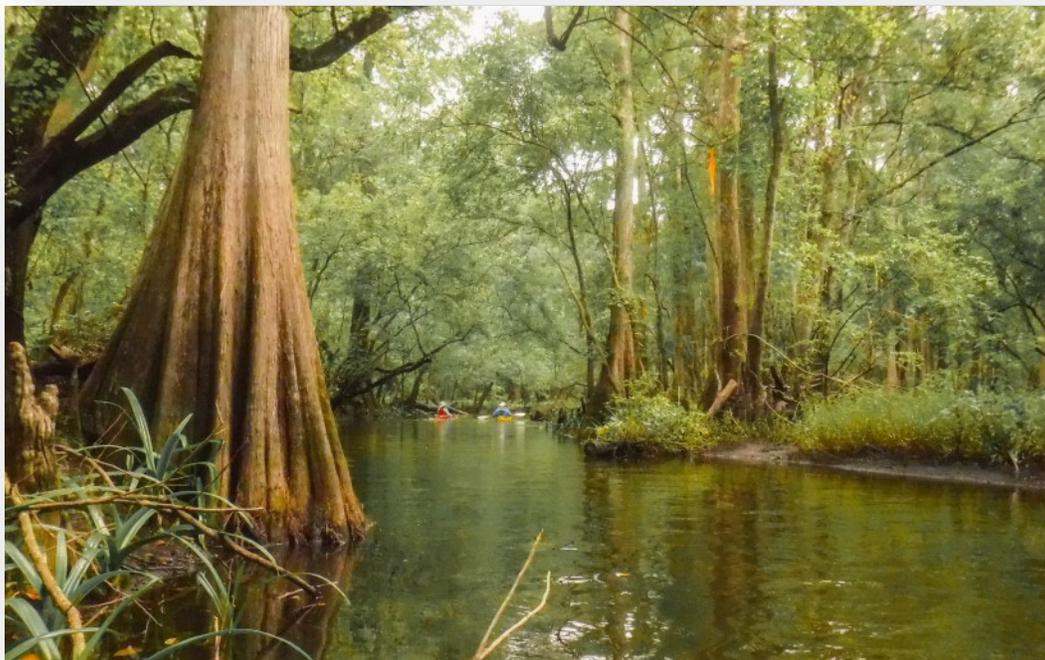
Each winner received a \$25 gift card to
Bill Jacksons



People—Barbra Uzenoff



Wildlife-Jill Lingard



Landscape - Steven Loeven





TBSK 2019 Holiday Party

By Hank Brooks With Photos By Bill Biles



It was great to see about 55 people at the Holiday Party to celebrate another successful paddling season, to recognize the people who make our club successful and to elect our club leaders for 2020. This year the party was held at the Church Hall of the Holy Spirit Episcopal Church in Safety Harbor. Our speaker for this event was Audubon Florida's Holley Short, Project Manager for Bird Stewardship & Monitoring in the Tampa Bay area. Holley talked about the Audubon society's programs and showed pictures and gave descriptions of the many beautiful birds in this area of Florida.



Bob Morris, our TBSK Trip Coordinator, led the recognition of the many TBSK trip leaders. For 2019 we increased the number of trips led from 95 to 115 (+20%) from the previous year and the number of people paddling on these trips increased from 635 to 678 (+7%). Our club owes a deep gratitude to all our trip leaders who help make us a great social paddling club.



Each year our club recognizes an outstanding volunteer for the year – the Ed Styron Award for Outstanding Service. This person is selected by those who have won the award in previous years. This year Bob Morris was chosen for this honor for his excellent performance as our Trip Coordinator for the past three years. Not only had he done an great job as Trip Coordinator, he also was immensely helpful in his work on the TBSK board by anticipating problems and helping find solutions. He deserved this recognition.

For the 2019 TBSK Photo Contest, Bill Biles led the presentations and awards. The winners who received a \$25 gift certificate at Bill Jacksons were:

People Category: Barb Uzenoff

Wildlife Category: Jill Lingard

Landscape Category: Steven Loeven.

TBSK Officers elected for 2020 were:

President – Hank Brooks

Vice President – Al Tillson

Sec/ Treasurer – Barb Uzenoff

Membership – Janet Neff

Training/ Safety- Jean Totz

Website – Dave Schmidt

Trip Coordinator – Pat Yadon



Newsletter Editor – Bill Biles

We have not been able to find a volunteer for the Activities Coordinator position, so the TBSK board will determine how we handle the food at the 2020 picnics and the Holiday Party.

A big thanks to Clay Kent and the many people who helped make this an event a



Manatee Viewing Paddle - Homosassa River

By Hank Brooks

Photos from Hank Brooks, Jan Machnikowski and Pat Yadon



In late November the manatees are heading to spring waters to stay warmer for the winter. So our plan was to visit the springs near Homosassa to visit these large cute mammals. Eleven TBSKers met at a launch site close to the Monkey Island Bar – the island actually has monkeys which can be aggressive if you get too close. Our ace in the hole was Ken Alvord, a TBSK member, who lives in Homosassa, who acted as our local guide. This worked out quite well.

The weather was great for paddling – a touch cool for Florida, but warm enough so that you did not need a paddling jacket once we got started. The sun was playing peek-a-boo in the clouds. After getting everyone on the water it was time to head for Homosassa Springs Wildlife State Park, about 2.5 miles upriver. At this point the river is about 200 yards across with some houses on the shoreline. Boat traffic was fairly low, making it much easier to paddle.



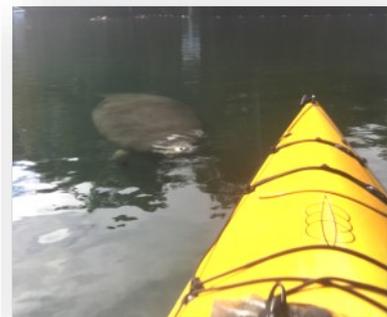
We proceeded at a leisurely pace until we got to the springs, which main-



tain a 72 degree temperature, which the manatees love and require to stay warm. Manatee viewing is somewhat difficult because, although they are very large animals, they stay mostly underwater except to occasionally break the surface with their snouts to get a gulp of air. As we paddled toward the springs I was on full alert – scanning for manatees. Then I saw my first one – what looked like a large grey/ brown rock just under the

surface of the water. Quite exhilarating! Then there was another and another. At the spring head we floated about a herd of manatees, including some relatively small calves. There must have been over twenty five in this area. As we floated about, many of us taking pictures while we quietly observed, I was a bit tense because I was once capsized by a manatee which I startled and rose up and capsized my kayak. I kept my hands on my paddle, ready to brace if necessary, so that I didn't get dumped again. After visiting for about 30 minutes, we returned to our launch point. Of course nature welcomed our return journey with a 8 mph headwind.

After the paddle, most of us headed to the Freezer Tiki Bar for some local seafood. I had the shrimp which had been boiled in spices and then soaked in garlic butter – great stuff.





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Exploring The Ocklawaha River

By Hank Brooks With Photos by Hank and Ken Alvord



If you are going to paddle this river, the first thing you need to do is to learn how to pronounce it's name. If you break it into syllables it's not too difficult: Ock - la - wa - ha. Must be an Indian name. This river originates in the Lake Griffin/ Leesburg area, but is mainly powered by the Silver River, which joins it just east of Ocala. In fact you could say that this is an extension of the Silver River. This is one of the rare rivers which runs from south to north, eventually dumping into the St. John's river - which flows past Jacksonville.



On this fine early December morning the air was crisp, but did not require a paddling jacket. There were five of us. Four of us had stayed in cabins at the Silver River State Park, and Ken Alvord joined us from his home in Homosassa. Since the weather was getting cooler, the launch time was set at 10 a.m. The plan was to launch at Ray's Wayside Park where the Silver River joins the Ocklawaha River and paddle downriver to Gore's Landing - about 10 miles downstream. We would stop along the way for a pit stop - at least that was the plan.



Before we started, our trip leader, Dave Schmidt made it clear that this was an exploratory trip because none of us had paddled this river before. He said that his research show several potential break spots about half way thru the paddle. So with much excitement, and a little trepidation, we set off on our adventure to explore this river. Since this river is powered primarily by the Silver River, the current was flowing at close to 2 mph, so we didn't have to paddle real hard to make good time. We were surprised and pleased to find a lot of wildlife along the river.



In addition to the ubiquitous cormorants, we viewed many ibis, a stork and a beautiful snowy white egret. The foliage was starting to change color from it's summer green to an autumn gold and red - making for a very colorful landscape.



Along the way, all of us were keeping a close eye on possible take-out locations. Most of the banks were lined with cypress trees and their "knees" making landing difficult. There were a few shallow spots along the river, but no obvious place you could take out five kayaks. When we got about half way thru the paddle, some of us were saying, "My bladder is filling up. How far is it to our break spot?" The reply was, "My GPS shows that a road comes to the river, where there should be a take-out." Several minutes later the conversation was, "There is a road, but it ends at 30 foot cliff at the river's edge." We kept paddling until we agreed to raft up for some lunch. At this point our GPS said that we had only about four miles to go - so we "poured on the coals" to get as much speed as possible. I believe we were all pleased to see Gore's Landing and a great place to take out and get a bathroom break. It was fun exploring another Florida river.





TAMPABAY SEA KAYAKERS CALENDAR OF EVENTS



Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
29	30 9:30 AM Philippe Park - Level 0+	31	Jan 1 9:30 AM New Year's Day Paddle	2	3	4
5	6	7	8	9	10	11 9:00 AM Hillsborough River - Trout Creek to Rotary Park - Level 1
12	13 7:00 PM TBSK Monthly Meeting - Non-Members Invited	14	15	16	17	18 8:30 AM TBSK Picnic - Trout Creek Park
19	20	21	22 9:00 AM Lowry Park (Hillsborough River) - Level 2+	23	24	25 9:30 AM Little Manatee River - Level 1
26	27	28	29	30	31	Feb 1

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

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



ALL PHOTO SUBMISSIONS
FOR THE MONTHLY PHOTO CONTEST
MUST BE SUBMITTED BY THE
LAST DAY OF THE MONTH
SEND SUBMISSIONS TO
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 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: 10 Active Nests in March 24, 2018
 - Eagles: 2018-2019 12th consecutive year for Eagles to Nest
 - Great horned owls: Nesting 2017-2018 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.



◇ **Friends of the Island Parks Night At The Theatre: "The Man Who Came To Dinner" March 25**
[Info & Tickets Here](#)

◇ **Island Earth Days April 18 & 19 2020**

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



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



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

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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!

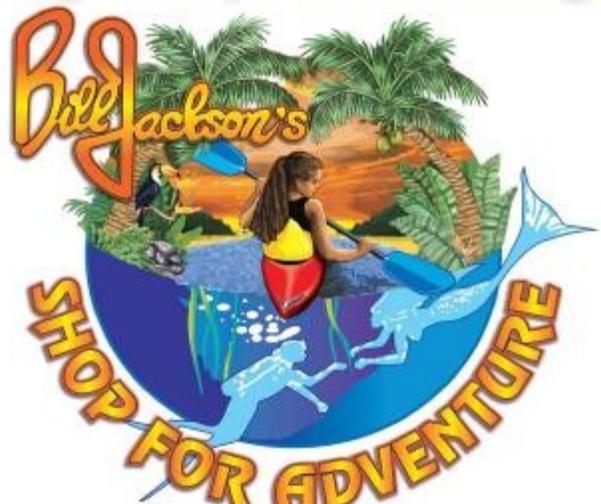
How did new participants find out about the club?

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



Photo by Bill Biles

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!

Members that renewed this month:

-

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](#)



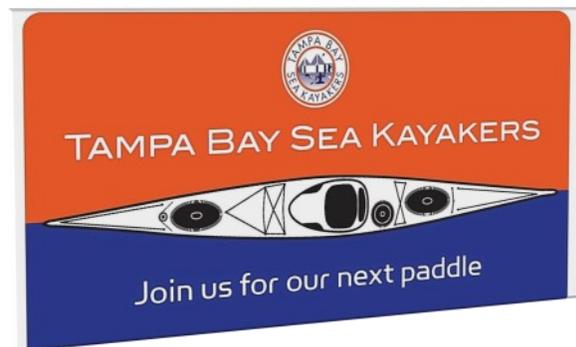


Tampa Bay Sea Kayakers Become A Member

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 Cynthia McGreg-