

Tampa Bay Sea Kayakers

March 2020 - Volume 28, Issue 3

www.tbsk.club

www.facebook.com/TampaBaySeaKayakers



People Jan Machnikowski



Landscape Jan Machnikowski

Winners of
the
Photo
Contest
For the
Month of
March 2020

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Club Announcements



Speaker for March



Photo By Mel Rogers

Our March speaker, Laura Harrison, will be discussing a place many of us know very well: Egmont Key. Because of its strategic location where the Gulf of Mexico meets Tampa Bay, the island played a significant role in Florida's history. Dr. Harrison directs an ongoing research project at USF aimed at digitally preserving the island's endangered heritage. The 3D visualizations of the island and new archival research reveal previously unknown details about the island's history and heighten awareness of the many perils facing the island today.

Proposed Change To TBSK Charter

In order to more accurately reflect how expenses are reviewed by the TBSK Board each month, the following change is proposed for the TBSK Charter under "IV Finances".

Current wording:

Review: All expenditures made during the previous month that exceed \$50 will be reviewed at the next Board of Directors meeting.

Proposed wording:

Review: The Board members will review the Club's expenditures as submitted on the Treasurer's monthly financial reports.

This proposed charter change will be discussed and voted upon at the TBSK March General meeting. If you have any questions which you would like to ask before then, please contact the TBSK Secretary-Treasurer **Barb Uzenoff** barbaraku@gmail.com



The spoil islands off of Dunedin were created many years ago from the dirt they dug when the Intercoastal Canal was created. These islands are frequented by boaters, especially kayakers, because they make excellent camping and resting spots. These islands are under the jurisdiction of Pinellas County and managed by the Keep Pinellas Beautiful organization. Of course, any area which is frequented by humans needs cleanup



maintenance. The TBSK board has often discussed “adopting” one of the islands, but because of paperwork concerns (e.g. necessary to sign a two year contract and then file pre-cleanup and post cleanup reports) they have been reluctant to officially adopt an island – preferring to just clean one up when the opportunity arose.



This trip was organized by Dave Schmidt to explore the spoil islands off of the city of Dunedin. We put in at the Dunedin City Marina. There is a small beach there next to the marina which is excellent for kayaks. Twelve of us who launched on this early February morning. The air was slightly crisp (65 degrees) with a brisk 10 mph wind blowing from the south. The plan was to explore five or six islands to see which might need a cleanup and to determine which might be adoptable. And before you ask the question, “No, we cannot build a club house on an island which we adopt”.



We headed south, into the wind, toward the Clearwater Beach bridge for several miles before arriving at a very nice island. It had a good beach which would be great for take outs. A few paddlers decided to quickly do this. We next headed north, putting the wind at our backs, to explore more islands. A few were quite small with a very small beach. Others were more inviting. Most of the island beaches were either on the south or west side of the island. One island was only about 3/4 of a mile west of Dunedin Marina, making it easy for anyone, regardless of skill level, to paddle out to it.



We stopped at an island for a rest stop and watched as the wind picked up from 10 to 15 mph. The waves were only about 1.5 feet high, which an occasional 2 footer. Several of us decided that it was time to head back to the take out, while others opted for a more physical challenge. They headed south for about another mile to the next island and then headed east toward the shore line. It was then that they had to paddle directly into the wind for about 2 miles, before reaching the take-out. While challenging, it was a great work out. The spoil islands are fun and close by!



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SpringsWatch Outing on the Weeki Wachee River

By Jill Lingard

Photo's by Jan Machnikowski



Likely many members of our club have paddled the popular Weeki Wachee River in Hernando County. On February 9, seven TBSK'ers combined paddling with science by participating in a SpringsWatch monitoring session on this lovely spring-fed stream.

[SpringsWatch](#) is a citizen science volunteer program offered by the Florida Springs Institute. FSI currently has groups monitoring eight spring-fed rivers: Wakulla, Ichetucknee, Santa Fe, Rainbow, Silver, Wekiva, Homosassa, and Weeki Wachee.

Our Weeki Wachee paddle from the head spring to near the Gulf and back to Rogers Park was about 8 miles long. Along the way, we stopped at 15 stations to take and record various measures of water quality. Here's what we evaluated and why:

Dissolved oxygen. Oxygen dissolves into water from the atmosphere and as a byproduct from photosynthesis from aquatic plants. ADO level that is too high or low can put stress on aquatic life forms.

Specific conductance. Compounds like salt and limestone break down into positive and negative ions, which conduct electricity. Specific conductance measurements indicate the presence of these chemicals as well as pollutants in the water source.

Photosynthetic Active Radiation. Our PAR meter measures how much light is available in water for photosynthesis.

Submerged aquatic vegetation. Underwater plants provide food and habitat for wildlife, stabilize riverbed sediments, and remove pollutants.

Water clarity. The amount of dissolved organic compounds present in water affects its clarity. Low readings can indicate high concentrations of floating algae, known as phytoplankton. Human activity can also stir up the riverbed and release particulates—a major factor on the Weeki Wachee.

Fish counts. Donning masks, snorkels, and fins, three of our paddlers jumped in and conducted a fish count between two stations. They evaluated the approximate number, length, and variety of fish species. These measures allow FSI to extrapolate an estimated biomass for the river.



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SpringsWatch Outing on the Weeki Wachee River

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So what did we see on February 9? Gin-clear water and lush submerged eel grasses within the state park boundaries where boaters are required to stay in their craft; a darker, mud-puddle-colored, barren waterscape denuded of submerged aquatic vegetation downstream near Rogers



Park. Weeki Wachee paddlers can see this with their own eyes on any day. Secchi disk readings backed up our eyeballs with a reading of 89.5 feet within the state park and just 7 feet at Rogers Park. Throughout the day, we saw a total of 3 manatees and 6 turtles. Our fish count between stations 2 and 3 yielded 161 mullet, 108 sunfish, 22 bass, 52 sheepshead, 1 crevalle jack, 202 needlefish, 110 mangrove snapper, 4 tilapia, 300

minnows, 40 gizzard shad. As we paddle downstream, dissolved oxygen and specific conductance gradually increased, with a spike at Hospital Hole where the saltwater layer is more exposed and mixes in with fresh.

Hospital Hole is station 14 for us. Do you know how this 145-foot deep underwater sinkhole got its nickname? A “halocline” forms where the freshwater and saltwater meet. Bacteria that live in this layer produce hydrogen sulfide, the gas that produces rotten egg smell. Hydrogen sulfide is toxic to the parasites that live on fish and manatees, so Hospital Hole acts as a cleaning station for them. During our session, we saw hundreds of mangrove snapper and a couple manatees hanging out in this underwater spa.

Everyone appeared to have a great time paddling the Weeki Wachee and learning more about its chemistry, wildlife, ecosystem, and threats. A beautiful waterway becomes even more fascinating when you have an opportunity to study and understand its components. Based on feedback from our group, I will look to schedule another TBSK SpringsWatch paddle later this year.



Davis Island Circumnavigation

Story by Phil Sheesley, Pictures by Tom Komar



Saturday, February 15th, started with a steady NNE wind at about 15; not enough to discourage the six TBSK paddlers who set out from the Davis Island boat launch to circumnavigate (sounds more impressive than it is) the Island. This a pretty easy paddle in protected water, with an always available lee shore to moderate the effect of the wind. It's a busy place though, with moderate pleasure boat traffic and, more importantly commercial shipping (read "watch out for busy tug-boats!") traffic. It's important on this trip to keep the group together and to keep wary eye for ships that are not likely to be too concerned with a kayak in their way.



Small launch beach next to (N) the Boat Launch

We were fortunate on this trip to have a group of experienced kayakers who could relax and enjoy watching the activity in Port Tampa. The size of the ships is impressive when viewed from three feet above the water-line. We were careful to avoid any ships that appeared to be

making ready to move, but even so were able to get a good look at all the work being done in this busy port.



This specialty ship was especially impressive



There was one Carnival and one

Royal Caribbean ship in port

After our "tour" of Port Tampa, we paddled past the Tampa History Center and the downtown hotels and Marina before starting up the Hillsborough River. The wind had moderated a bit by this time and the day had turned warm with a lot of sun. The Tampa River Walk was busy! It was good to see so many people enjoying being out and about downtown. We passed Curtis Hixon Park where a bar-b-que festival was going on, making us wish we had a landing spot near the park, but instead we paddled up river to Ulele and the Tampa Armature Works, both doing a big business on what had become a beautiful day. After the Armature Works (a food venue with lots of specialty restaurants if you've not been there) we went a short distance back down river to the new Tampa River Center. *~continued next page*

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View of downtown Tampa with the River Center docks and our boats in fore-

Great place for lunch (the one you bring with you), with first-class facilities. The low rowing docks are easy for kayak entrance and exit – but we were sure to assist each other during these maneuvers to lessen the possibility for unplanned dunking.



Lunch break at the River Center: L-R Eileen Burns, Dave Schmidt, Unknown, Joe Webb, Bill McCormick (Tom Komar - taking the pictures as usual)

We took our time at the River Center, watching all the folks enjoying the Center and the adjacent park. One passer-by stopped to ask about our boats and TBSK, saying that he would check the web-site and look forward to joining the club soon.

Then it was back on the water for the paddle past the Convention Center and Tampa General before paddling down the west side of Davis Island.



Derek Jeter's "cottage" on Davis Island

We didn't explore the canals on Davis Island as the paddle was already going to be about 10 miles (we added some distance by paddling up-river), but they are interesting and we'll plan to do that another day. As planned, we got back to the launch site at just after 1:00. Another interesting, fun, day on the water.



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



TAMPABAY SEA KAYAKERS CALENDAR OF EVENTS



Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
Mar 1 8:30 AM Cancelled - Terra Ceia Aquatic Preserve - Level 2	2	3	4 9:00 AM Werner Boyce State Park - Level 1+	5	6	7
8	9 7:00 PM TBSK Monthly Meeting - Non-Members Invited	10	11	12	13	14 9:00 AM Old Tampa Bay Estuary - Level 1+
15	16	17	18	19	20	21 10:00 AM TBSK Picnic - Simmons Park
22	23	24	25	26	27	28
29	30	31	Apr 1	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)



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.

• **Night At The Theatre "The Man Who Came To Dinner" Wed, March 25, 2020** [click here for tickets and info](#)

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/>



- **2020 Great American Cleanup March 1, to June 31** [click here for more info](#)

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/>)



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!

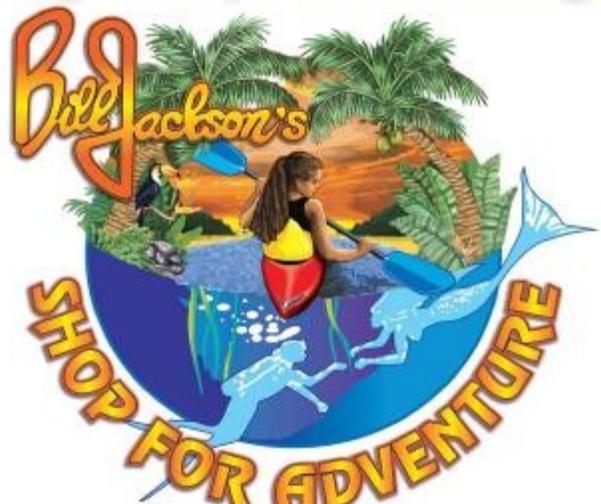
How did new participants find out about the club?

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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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 month. Please notify the editor when item is sold.

Two pairs of splash pants, w 36-40 length 33. Both have velcro waist and cuffs. New, never worn.

1. Industrial River Supply (Level 6) \$25
2. Extrasport \$45

Contact Sharan at sunrazz@aol.com

FREE LADIES O'NEILL TRI-COLOR (TEAL, PURPLE, BLACK) WETSUIT,
SIZE 12

BACK ZIPPER, SPRING-STYLE WETSUIT

TEXT INQUIRIES TO 813-447-1750



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

Pat Yadon 832-392-3074
pyadon2000@gmail.com

Membership Coordinator

Janet Neff 516 401-474-4970
jpn630@gmail.com

Training/Safety Coordinator

Jean Totz
jean.totz@yahoo.com

Activities Coordinators

VACANT

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!

- **Joe Webb**

Members that renewed this month:

- **Tom Doehleman**
- **Keith Fowler**
- **Al Gammons**
- **Jim Greenhalgh**
- **Bill McCormick**
- **Monica Wall**

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
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](#)



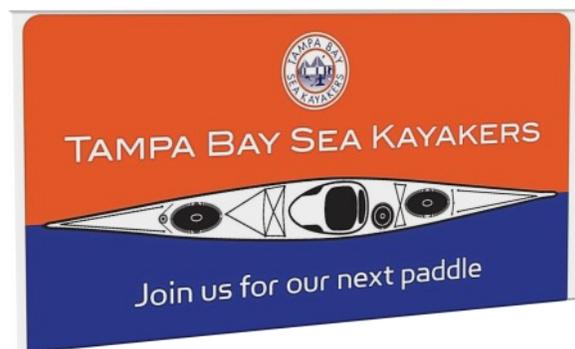


Tampa Bay Sea Kayakers Become A Member

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-