



## **Corona Virus Puts TBSK On Hold**

The TBSK Board has decided that at this time, in order to abide by the government health recommendations, it is best to shut down official TBSK Paddles for now - those advertised on our web site and with TBSK trip leaders. We will keep a close watch on the situation, and as soon as we can, we will resume operations that are deemed appropriate.

Trying to get a grip on this corona virus is tricky and trying to figure out the best policy for TBSK is just as difficult. Each day seems to bring a new government regulation and another beach or park closing. To get the virus under control we have responsibilities as individuals and as a paddling club.

Thanks for your patience.

# Tampa Bay Sea Kayakers

April 2020 - Volume 28, Issue #4

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

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



Wildlife Jeff Guild



People- Barb Uzenoff



Landscape-Jan Machnikowski

Winners of the Photo Contest  
For the Month of April 2020



# TAMPA BAY SEA KAYAKERS CALENDAR OF EVENTS



Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
29	30	31	Apr 1	2	3	4 10:00 AM Cancelled - Alafia Banks Bird Sanctuary - Level 1
5	6	7	8	9	10	11 10:00 AM Cancelled - Chassahowitzka River - Level 1+
12	13 7:00 PM Cancelled - TBSK Monthly Meeting	14	15	16	17	18 8:30 AM TBSK Monthly Picnic - Fort De Soto Park
<b>Remaining activities Subject to change in accordance to Covid-19 precautions</b>						
26 Postponed - Kayak Support St. Anthony's Triathlon	27	28	29 9:00 AM Dunedin Causeway - Level 1	30	May 1	2

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

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



# Paddling the Estuaries of Old Tampa Bay

By Hank Brooks With Pictures by Barb Uzenoff



If you look at a map of the Tampa Bay area, there are literally hundreds of places to paddle. I really enjoy the variety because it makes paddling more of an adventure for me. That why I scheduled a trip in the estuaries of Old Tampa Bay, just north of the boat ramp on Courtney Campbell Causeway. Getting the tides right is critical on this paddle.

Right be-

side the concrete boat ramp is a very nice sandy beach which is excellent for kayaks. There were seven TBSKers on this trip. From the ramp it is about a mile paddle before we hit Channel A, which the engineers dug to allow water access to the homes built further inland. We went east down the channel about a half mile before taking a left and heading into the mangroves. These were fairly wide for mangrove trails, about 10 feet wide, with the trail often breaking into wide open spaces. Like typical mangroves trails, it was a maze with many options to get lost. Not really lost, but tem-

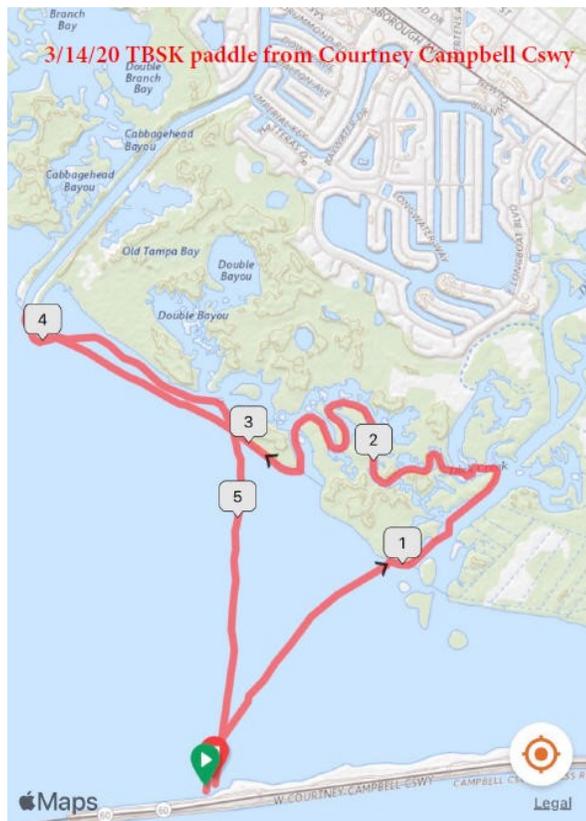


porarily lost. After our second dead end, Barb asked, "When was the last time you did this trip?" "About two years ago I believe" was my response.



Eventually we found out way out to the bay and headed to the beach at the mouth of Channel B, another

man made channel, where there is a sandy beach. Since it was a weekend, there were several motor boats which had beached themselves to enjoy the area. After a rest and lunch break, it was time to head back. On the way back we all agreed that the water was getting a little "skinny" (shallow) so perhaps we should skip our second excursion into the mangroves. A nice paddle of about six miles.





# Hillsborough River in Spring

By Hank Brooks with Pictures by Hank & Holly Wainwright



The nice thing about living in the Tampa Bay area is that you can usually find a good place to paddle, regardless of the weather. When the weather forecast showed high winds, we moved the paddle from the Gulf to the Hillsborough River, where we knew we would be protected from most of the wind.



This was the first time I could remember doing a Hillsborough River trip on a weekday. I knew the traffic would be difficult, and it was that and more. I was



pleased to be joined by ten other TBSKers for this paddle from Sargeant Park down to Morris Bridge Park. After setting up our shuttle, we were ready to go. No problem other than some broken foot pegs on my old plastic boat. It's at these times that we discover just how important foot pegs are to a kayaker.

We first headed upstream to see if the gators were out and we were not disappointed. Several of us had paddled this river many times and most of us remarked that we had never seen so many gators. For this trip we probably saw over fifty gators. Most of them were rather small three to four footers

with a few six to eight footers thrown in.



The river was slightly low because of the lack of rain, so we were frequently bumping into unseen logs hidden just below the water. We were quite pleased that the many birds of all kinds were out to greet us. Many egrets, blue herons, roseate spoonbills, cormorants,

snowy herons and anhingas were seen. It was a photographer's paradise. Of course taking pictures of animals in nature is both time consuming and



often frustrating – especially from a kayak moved by the river's flow. You try and maneuver to get your shot and the bird goes behind a tree, you move your boat to compensate and then the bird flies off. Oh well, I did get a few good shots.



Lunch at Morris Bridge was a great end to our adventure!



**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
- 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.



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>  
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!

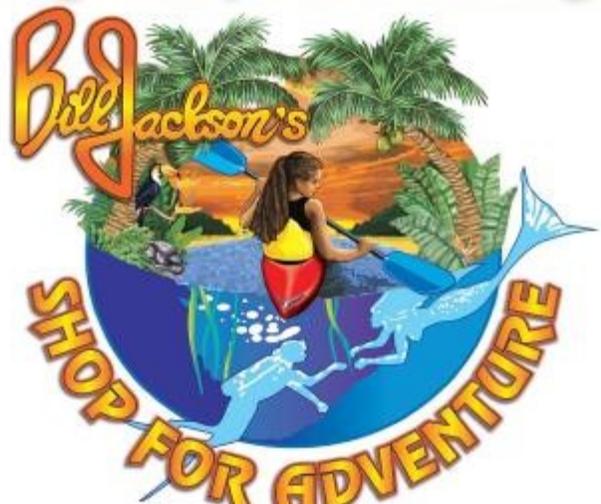
## How did new participants find out about the club?

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

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 Jacksons"

9501 US 19 North, Pinellas Park, FL 33782 (727) 576-4169  
[www.BillJacksons.com](http://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](mailto:sunrazz@aol.com)



# Info for TBSK.club

## Board Members

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### 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

**Pat Yadon** 832-392-3074  
[pyadon2000@gmail.com](mailto:pyadon2000@gmail.com)

### Membership Coordinator

**Janet Neff** 516 401-474-4970  
[jpn630@gmail.com](mailto:jpn630@gmail.com)

### Training/Safety Coordinator

**Jean Totz**  
[jean.totz@yahoo.com](mailto:jean.totz@yahoo.com)

### Activities Coordinators

VACANT

### 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)

## 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](#)

## Welcome New Members!

⊙ **Audrey Gendreau**

⊙ **Lynn Marie King**

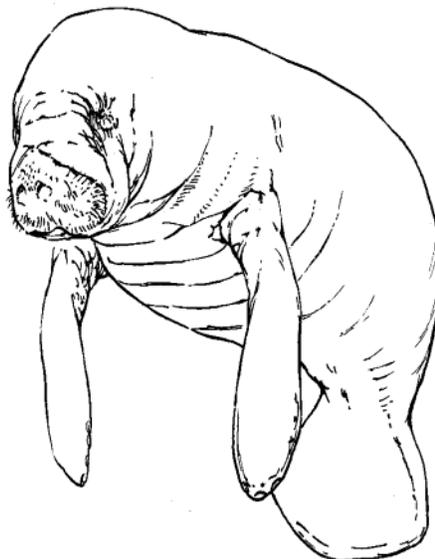
## Members that renewed this month:

⊙ **Corey and Karen Culbertson**

⊙ **Roy Hoglebe**

⊙ **Janet Neff**

⊙ **Deb Schroeder**



## Treasurer's Report

2020

Beginning BALANCE	\$4129
<b>INCOME</b>	
Dues	\$305
<b>EXPENSES</b>	
WildApricot Website	\$540
January Picnic	\$74
AffiniPays Trans.	\$12
Postage	\$1
Total Expenditures	\$637
Ending Balance	\$3797

## 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](#)

Restricted Areas of Tampa Bay [USCG Security Zones](#)



## **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-*