

# Tampa Bay Sea Kayakers

AUGUST, 2018 - Volume 26, Issue 8

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

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



29	30	31	Aug 1	2	3	4
			8:30 AM Upper Tampa Bay Park - Level 0			8:30 AM TBSK Training Day, boat control - All Levels
5	6	7	8	9	10	11
						8:30 AM Dunedin Cswy to Three Rooker - Level III
12	13	14	15	16	17	18
	7:00 PM TBSK Monthly Meeting - Non- Members Invited					8:30 AM TBSK Picnic - E.G. Simmons Park
19	20	21	22	23	24	25
10:00 AM Trout Creek Park - Level II						8:30 AM Lowry Park - Level I
26	27	28	29	30	31	Sep 1

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

[Click here to go to Event Page on tbsk.club](#)

## Speaker of the Month

The August speaker will be Mike Ruso who gives an entertaining account of completing the Florida Circumnavigation Trail as one of the earliest paddlers to do so.

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# Safety Notes

By Phil Sheesley



## It's All About the Lightning

This time of year, our biggest concern when venturing out on another kayak trip has to be lightning. Those beautiful puffy white cumulous clouds are our friends. They can be beautiful to look at, and they often provide a welcome relief when they block the otherwise unrelenting sun and allow us some time to paddle in their shade. When they grow, though, they can become the towering cumulonimbus clouds that are not our friends. Check the forecast carefully before you launch in Florida in the summertime, and keep a watchful eye on the sky. You should always be alert for the direction that the weather (read "clouds") is moving. Try too, to gauge the speed of change. The (power boat) fishermen have a saying about lightning that goes "If you hear it, fear it, if you see it flee it". Our problem comes with the "flee it" part. Paddle mightily if you will, you still aren't going to move more than about four miles in an hour.

Now consider that lightning can strike up to ten miles from that cumulonimbus cloud, and you can see that you would do well to plan well ahead on how to make your timely exit from danger. Remember too the rough rule of thumb and count the number of seconds from the time you see a lightning flash until your hear the thunder, then divide by five to get the distance to the lightning strike in miles. Another maxim is the "30/30 rule" that says if you hear the thunder in 30 seconds or less, you are in the danger zone; and you should wait 30 minutes after the storm passes before resuming your outdoor activity. So enjoy the summer weather, paddle often, but please "keep a weather eye".



# Ebb & Flow Hillsborough County Paddling Trails

By Hank Brooks



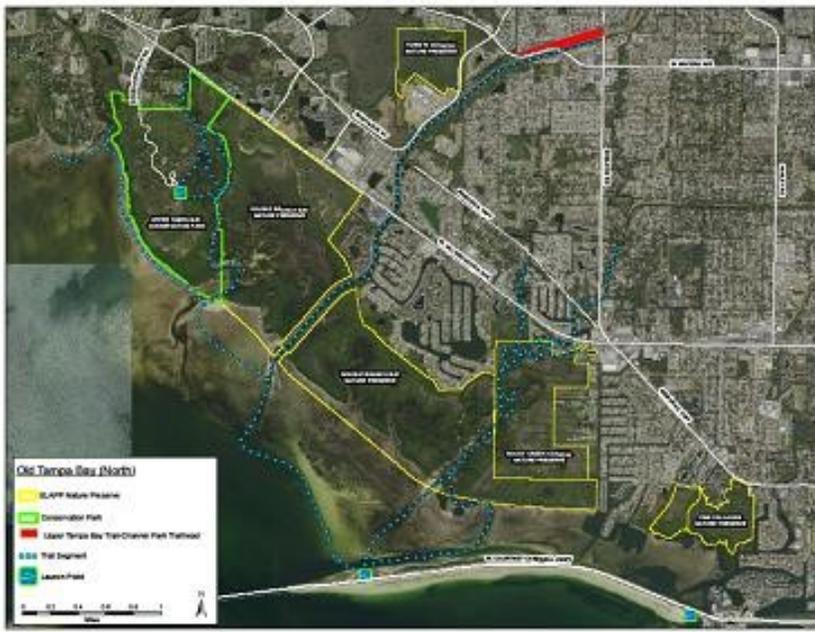
Hillsborough County Conservation & Environmental Management is in the process of better defining the many paddling trails in their county and TBSK has agreed to help them with this project. In late June 2018, TBSK members Jill Lingard, Bob Morris and Hank Brooks met with the county (which included water trails project manager Chris Kiddy) to start the planning. Jill is also the current president of the Florida Paddling Trails Assn.



The county is blessed with open water in Tampa Bay, many rivers and wonderful estuaries. All this diversity in types of water and natural habitats provides paddling trails for people with a wide variety of interests who want to enjoy Hillsborough's water trails.

Most of us are very familiar with the fabulous scenic Hillsborough River and it's the many plants and animals which can be viewed during a paddle. The many parks along the river offering excellent places to rest and/ or take out.

However, the paddle trails along the Little Manatee and Alafia Rivers are not as well known. And who among us has paddled Bullfrog Creek or Upper Tampa Bay? Well that's the purpose of this project. To better define the lesser known trails and to put all this information on the county's web site. The overall goal of this project is to encourage residents and visitors to explore Hillsborough County's vast coastal and inland waterways.



So TBSK will be paddling the lesser known trails, marking the put-in's and rest stops and then making suggestions for trail improvements. The information will be sent to the county to produce some excellent paddling maps which will show everything needed to paddle the different areas. If you are interested in helping explore the trails, contact Hank Brooks at [jbrook5@tampabay.rr.com](mailto:jbrook5@tampabay.rr.com)



# Kayaking on Georgian Bay, Canada

By Cynthia McGregor and Jill Mostellar



Destinations Traveled

Would you journey 3600 miles round trip to pick up a new kayak? We did! To pick up a new kayak no longer manufactured and to explore the emerald green waters and pink quartz rock of Georgian Bay and to visit friends and family along the way. The favorable Canadian exchange rate was also an incentive.

To warm up, Jill Mostellar and I paddled Rocky River, OH and explored cliffs and beautiful houses along Lake Erie. After picking up a custom Greenland paddle in Canada for Cynthia, we headed to Toronto to pick up Jill's new kayak. We also picked up our third of the 3Ms-McGregor, Mostellar and Charles Murphy who joined us from Oregon on this crazy adventure.



Over three days we explored small inlets, shallow bays with aquatic grasses, rugged rocky shores and many small islands of Beausoleil National Park including a short jaunt to Fairy Lake. Our glamping accommodation was called an "Otentic". A structure with half high solid walls and windows and a sturdy tent covering with a porch, picnic tables and our own bear box for food storage. A park service ferry transported our camping gear which was quite a treat allowing us to avoid packing the kayaks. We paddled the several miles from the launch site to the island enjoying the scenery of cottages and their boat houses. Beausoleil Park is an escape for many Torontonians for fishing, power boating and sailing. Although we saw many people there were no crowds and the calm beautiful waters and hikes were very enjoyable. The only venomous snake in Ontario, the Massasauga rattlesnake inhabits the island but fortunately they are reclusive and we didn't spot any of them.



The pinnacle of the trip was paddling Killarney, three hours north where emerald waters met the rose quartz rock. We meandered through the archipelago of small islands after our crossing to Philip Edward Island. The distance of our day trip was hindered by a thick fog bank that rendered our destination islands invisible. We chose to take our lunch break on a rocky point until the fog dissipated. As it lifted the vista was once again stunning! On several of the islands we saw iron rings along the shore which were used to tether the log booms during the 1800s. Our return to the lodge in the 'metropolis' of Killarney, population 386, continued to provide beautiful scenery although more urban as it is home to several marinas. We paddled the channel near town to observe both the working boats and the weekenders' sleek sailboats.



Local fresh lake trout and pickerel were a delicious dinner to end our day of exploring.

*"The pinnacle of the trip was paddling Killarney"*



## Why I Reach Out To Clean Our Waterways

By Tom Sobocinski  
pictures by Bob Morris



Is picking up trash in Coffee Pot Bayou a fun way to spend a very hot and muggy Saturday in July? The answer is no! It is not. If it is not fun, why do it?

It is because kayaking means a great deal to me and what makes it possible is all the beautiful water I have access to in the Tampa Bay area. When I am out there picking up empty beer cans and other trash I see it as a way of saying thank you to nature for the joy she brings me. Nature doesn't ask me to clean her up. This is something I can do that she doesn't have the ability to do on her own. On this Saturday we had approximately 20 like-minded kayakers that answered Tampa Bay Watch's call to give back a little of their time as a way of saying thank you for what we are given for free. Next time Darry Jackson asks for help with the Saint Anthony's Triathlon, (a charity event) or Tampa Bay Watch asks you to partake in a cleanup, ask yourself, as a kayaker, if you are giving back enough for what you receive. Think about the last time you said thank you to Jackson's for providing us with a meeting place or to nature for saying enjoy me.

When another opportunity comes up that asks you to give of your time as a kayaker say yes; I will be there. It will be your way of saying thank you for what you so enjoy.

*Editors note: On Saturday, July 7, Tom Sobocinski, Mayra Rodriguez, Steve Loeven, and Bob Morris participated in a cleanup organized by Tampa Bay Watch (TBW). According to Rachel Arndt of TBW, a grand total of 159 volunteers worked together to remove 2,277 lbs. of trash from four sites around Pinellas County including 29 bags of trash weighing 164 lbs. at Coffee Pot Bayou.*





# FYI!

## 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)



**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.



CALADESI DISCOVERY CENTER

**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 [paddleflorida.org](http://paddleflorida.org)  
To register for trips: [Click here for Info](#)



**Tampa Bay Watch:** <http://www.tampabaywatch.org>

**Great Bay Scallop Search** Saturday, August 25, 2018 9 am - 1 pm [Click Here For Info](#)

**Black Skimmer Nesting Guardians Needed** [Click For Info and other volunteer Info](#)



**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/>)

- Regular work Day Aug 18, 2018 10 am to 3 pm [Click here for Info](#)
- Regular Work Day Sept 15, 2018 [Click here for 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!

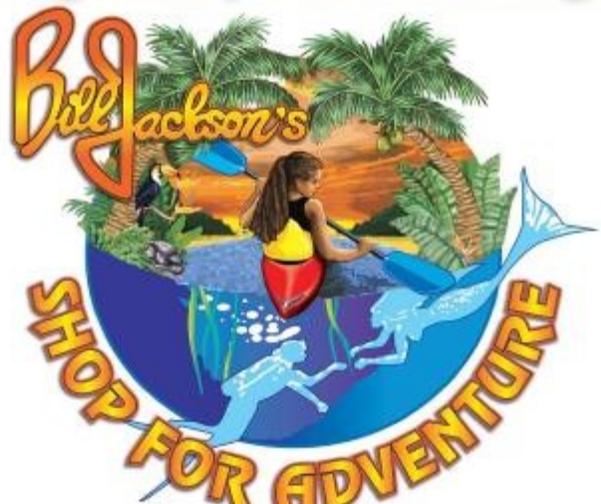
## How did new participants find out about the club?

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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Photo by Bill Biles



Damn jet skis. Those noisy contraptions which kayakers hate because most of them are not respectful of other boaters and their noise ruins a peaceful, serene paddle. If you promise not to tell anyone, on my family vacation in Destin, FL this past July I went to the “dark side” and rode a jet ski for the first time. How could this happen you might ask? Here is the story and my excuse.

Every year we get together as a family. Our four kids, their spouses/ girlfriends, and all their kids. This time we even had a future great grandson attend. All told, there were over 20 of us. Talk about a Genesis story where so and so begot what’s her name. The kids ranged in age from five to twenty five, with most of them in the lower age range. So there was lots of people, the pool was full and the margarita’s flowed. With this many kids around making the requisite kids’ noise, you needed to have a lot of margarita’s available for sanity sake.

Toward the end of our seven day stay, one of my sons asked if I wanted to go kayaking with him, his wife and a couple of the older kids. He said that I could show them how to hold the paddle. I said that I was up for that. When we got to the kayak rental place, all they had to rent were jet skis – no kayaks available. This might have been a blessing because the only place to kayak was among the boat piers, fighting the boat wakes the entire time. Since my son was “buying”, we rented three jet skis. The owner of the shop asked if I had any experience. I said that I had never been one of the things. I refrained from adding that I was a natural born kayaker and hated the damn, infernal machines. I thought that best kept to myself before renting.



The shop owner was very thorough describing the many ways you could mame, drown or otherwise incapacitate yourself while riding one of these machines. He showed me the start and stop buttons and the auto kill switch in the event you fall off. When I asked where the brakes were, he scowled and asked if I wanted to take a paddle along. Not a bad idea I thought. He gently shoved me off and yelled, “Start your engine” – which I managed to do. I quickly learned that not only are there no breaks, but you have to give it some power in order for it to turn nicely. OK, we off, our three jet skis all in a row, with me trailing slowly behind as we kept to trolling speed until we cleared the marina area.

With all the other power boats in the area, the ride was quite bumpy. Since I was sitting on top of the ski, my center of gravity was much higher than in a kayak. Several times I wanted to reach out with my paddle and do a brace, but, alas, no paddle. We finally made it out of the marina area so we could open the throttle of the skis. That’s what my son and daughter-in-law did as they did loop de loops around me. I would start to pick up speed and get the ski starting to plane. I was holding on so tightly that my knuckles where white and my teeth grimaced. Then a wave would hit me from the side and I would let off the gas. Never could get myself to ignore those side waves. My son told me that I had to just power thru them. Easier said than done. Then mercifully he gave me the signal that our one hour rental time was up and we had to go back. Yippieeee!

I can honestly say that it was a fun experience, but have no burning desire to do it again. On the way home I bought ice cream for everyone. Therefore there was a happy ending for all.

# Info for TBSK.club

## Board Members

.....

### President

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tampajohn@gmail.com

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### Membership Coordinator

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### Training/Safety Coordinator

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### Activities Coordinators

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### Webmaster

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### Secretary/ Treasurer

Hank Brooks 727 724 8983  
jbrook1776@gmail.com

### Newsletter Editor

Bill Biles 727 204 5511  
wcbiles@gmail.com

## 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.



## Welcome New Members!

- **Earl Morrogh**

## Members that renewed this month:

- Bill Dickerson
- Jane Collins
- Michele Pedro

## Treasurer's Report

2018

Beginning BALANCE	4280
<b>INCOME</b>	0
Dues	0
<b>EXPENSES</b>	0
picnic	0
Postage	0
TBSK Stickers	0
Ending Balance	4280



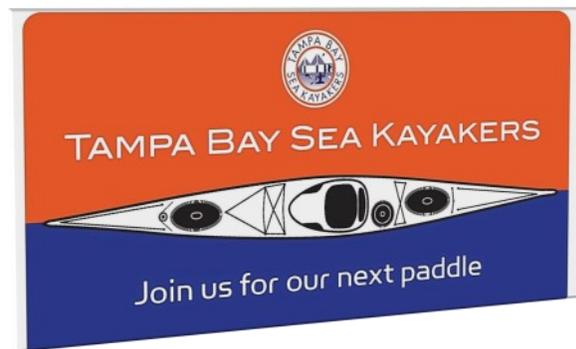


## **Tampa Bay Sea Kayakers Become A Member**

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  
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Seminole FL 33775-8682**