



Flies and Lies

Newsletter of the Fly Fishers of Northwest Florida

April, 2022

FFNWF

PO Box 1041
Pensacola, FL 32591
www.ffenwf.org

PRESIDENT

Mick Milo
vectorfl@aol.com

VICE-PRESIDENT

Brad Heun
Bheun@att.net

SECRETARY

George Norton
geonorton@gmail.com

TREASURER

Larry Sisney
3610 Baisden Rd.
Pensacola, FL 32503.
lsisney@cox.net

MEMBER EMERITUS

Russ Shields
rkshields37@gmail.com

NEWSLETTER

Paul Wargo
586-943-3155
flyfishersnwf@gmail.com

Business Meeting
1ST Tuesday, 7 PM

Bull Session - Tying
2ND Thursday, 6 PM

Clinic -Casting, Tying,
Lunch - 3RD Saturday
9 AM

One More Month

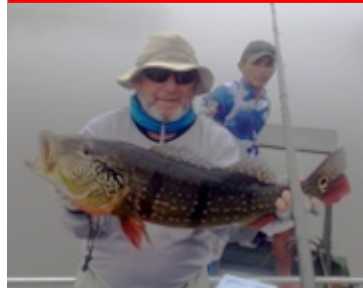
The Auction

May 21

Biggest and Best Ever



It's the reel thing.
Fly Fishing



Club Meeting:

Tuesday, April 5 at 7:00 pm

Tarpon Bob Korose will take us far, far away (again) to go fly fishing for peacock bass in the Agua Boa River in Brazil.

What's Up, Dock?

Fly tying for dock lights – that's what's up at

Fly Tying:

Thursday, April 14 at 6:30 pm

Tarpon Bob will be back with this dock fly which is just what the doc prescribed for night time blues (and reds and specks)



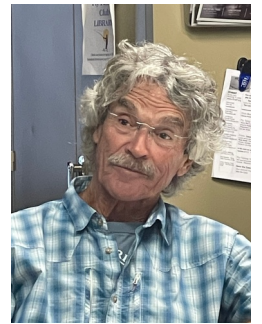
Clinic:

Saturday, April 16 at 9:00 am.

Lunch will be served Mrs. Mick Milo (and Mick) and once again we will be treated to a gourmet dish: **Shrimp Creole**

Note: This is the same week as Fly Tying and the day before Easter

Fly Fishing Class began March 14 with Capt. Baz's famous presentation on local saltwater fishing -



Baz,
Thanks again!

2022 Fly Fishing 101

4 April Week 4	6:00 7:00	Casting Instruction Introduction to fly Tying Tools and Materials
11 April Week 5	6:00 7:00	Casting instruction and practice Fly tying -- Woolly Bugger
18 April Week 6	6:00 7:00	Casting review and practice Fly tying-- Clouser Minnow
25 April Week 7	6:00 7:00	Casting review and practice Fly tying-- Elk Hair Caddis
2 May Week 8	6:00 7:00	Fly Tying -- Gartside Gurgler Introduction to Local Fresh Water Fishing



David Handley and Club Education Committee

Prez Sez: Fellow Anglers:

With April in our sights, our thoughts turn toward warmer water, sunnier skies and tamer winds. Being relatively new to Pensacola and to the club, I keep hearing the consensus opinion that the magical time when all of these conditions come together is.....TAX DAY! Well, I certainly hope this is true as my boat has undergone its winter maintenance and is poised to launch on the next favorable day.

The Fly Fishing 101 course has kicked off. Sessions will continue each Monday until May 2 starting at 6:00. Each session will consist of a combination of casting instruction, general information lectures and hands-on fly tying. Members are welcome to stop by and observe and assist as needed.

FINALLY, don't forget that our fundraising auction is scheduled for May 21. The club has amassed a huge collection of fine equipment, accessories and tackle. Many of these items are new (or like new) and of the highest quality. A listing of these auction items will be forthcoming in the May newsletter. Save your MONEY and come join us!

Til next month, Best Regards *Mick Milo*

March Clinic



Thanks to our leprechauns, Bob and Cyndi Myers for the Irish stew and soda bread. McGuire's never had any better. The Next clinic will be April 16.

In tribute to our friend: *Art deTonnancourt*



an honorary "Cast In" was held at the March clinic. Art's wife, Linda, and their grand daughter were here. Tributes were offered by Russ Shields and Jerry Giles. Wonderful memories were shared.



We received this letter from longtime member, Dr. Milt Mays:

Sorry to hear about Art deTonnancourt. I was his doctor for a while. I went fishing with him many times: the Nantahala and Tuck, on my boat when I caught my first tarpon in Carrabelle--where he rarely fished--"Just want to be there when you catch one," he said. What a nice guy! He ran the boat after I hung and jumped the first one (of course the biggest) and broke my rod, but managed to reel it in on the stump and grab the leader before it broke me off.

Then, the next day he talked me into a positive attitude to get me up and hungry for another one, which I caught. At the boat, he tried to gaff it with a short gaff through the jaw and was almost dragged into the water. I'm a much weightier guy than Art, so I had him hold the rod and I gaffed it. It was still a nice fish, though not nearly like the first one that broke the rod. It swam off after it was in the water, so it worked out.

We had some great times on the Tuckasegee, where he had "his spot" and had a little clicker to keep track of each fish he caught. He caught a nice big brookie pictured.

Other photos are also included. I think he caught his first little tunny (false albacore) with me at the Pass one fall, along with a couple of reds. All in all, many great fishing times with Art. I'm sure he's up there in fish catching heaven! Please give my condolences to his wife.



Have a nice fishing season. Hope to get back there one of these days. *Milt*

Fishing with Capt. Baz Well everybody, it's the same old story in March except the fish have gotten more finicky and the Gulf of Mexico has been rougher. Sorry to report we haven't been in the Gulf all month. It was calm enough a couple weekend days, but I try to not work then. All those darn recreational boaters out there having fun! The nerve of them!

So we've spent our time on the inside flats fishing for the same fish all the time, and man are they getting educated. Don't get me wrong. I'm not talking about a few fish. There are hundreds of redfish that I see regularly on the flats. I know them, and I think they know me too. We never kill one, but that sure doesn't make them any more cooperative. I'm always trying to figure out the combination of conditions, fly, and presentation that makes them eat.

The most successful thing at the moment is getting in the water with the fish. Here's Dave Dawson on March 6. It was a Sunday, and we ran way east in the ICW to get away from everybody. The sun was out, and the water was warm enough for "wet wading". Here's Dave with the fish of the day which took an EP grey/white baitfish.



We ran back up there the following week and waded the beach on a high tide. It was afternoon with a strong west wind and sloppy one foot chop. The water was clear, and the sun was at our backs.



Visibility was excellent except for the choppy water. We started seeing fish right away, and they weren't as spooky as usual. I think the chop actually made them more relaxed. We landed two nice fish. Jon Benstead caught and released the biggest trout of the year

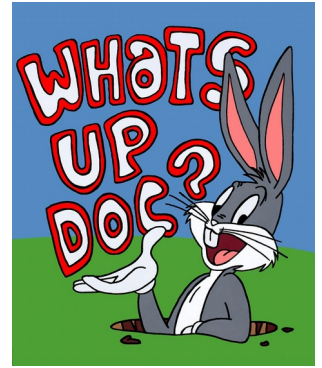
so far, and Kevin Barnes (Barney) got this very healthy redfish. We were at it two days later, and Jon picked this fish out of a school of a hundred. A little later in the afternoon Barney caught the best fish of the month...20 pounds.



Hopefully the conditions will settle down in April. I got a report today that big schools of pompano were just east of Destin and headed our way. The jacks will be right behind them. Maybe we can give the redfish and trout a break for a few weeks. All depends on the weather... **Capt Baz**

Fly of the Month **WHAT'S UP, DOCK?**

This fly was designed for fishing at night near docks and bridges. The dock lights attract small "glass" minnows and shrimp which in turn attract predators. It is a small fly which matches this forage in color and size. Developed in South Florida for snook and tarpon. It is also used for speckled trout, redfish, ladyfish and others. The fly's dubbing moves in the water making the fly appear alive.



Materials:

Hook: Mustad 34007 size 6 or 8.

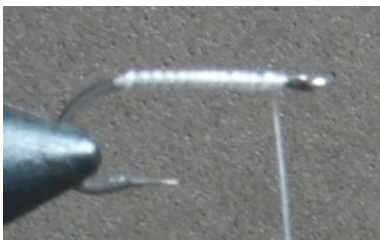
Thread: White 140 or 210 denier

Wing: SF Blend white

Eyes: Mono Nymph eyes size medium or large.

Body: white sparsely dubbed wrap

Wing Topping: Peacock Krystal flash or similar flash



1. Place the hook in the vice and pinch the barb. Start thread at the eye and wrap back to the bend of hook and then forward to just behind the eye.



2. Tie in the mono eyes at an eye length behind hook eye and return the thread to above the hook point.



3. Sparsely dub the thread and wind in onto shank making a tapered body forward to behind the mono eyes.



4. Tie on a wing of SF Blend behind the mono eyes. Trim the wing at the back of the hook bend.



5. Take 2 strands of Krystal flash, wrap it around the thread and tie down on top of wing. Trim same length as the wing.



6. Again sparsely dub the thread and wrap behind the eyes and then "figure 8" thru the eyes, finishing in front of eyes.



7. Whip finish the head and finish the fly by picking out some dubbing with a bodkin.

U-Tube video: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=GaQIlm3U4Zs>

Capt. Chip's Quick Tips by Capt. Chip Smith

Be Ready

Are you ready to feed that fish laid up on the bank or sliding down the grass? One must be ready at a moments notice to deliver the fly to the fish. I tell my clients they should cast just before they see the fish. Impossible I know but being in position to deliver a strike in a timely fashion will increase the likely hood of an eat. What is your ready position like? Here's some things to ready yourself on the bow.



Fly Line-

Strip out your max distance amount of fly line, then cast it down wind and current. Figure out what your max distance is and get a visual reference how far that looks from the boat. This will help with timing on the cast. If you have a rocket of a cast and can shoot 80' be aware of what you have to do to stop the fly at the correct distance. Strip the line back in and neatly lay it in the stripping basket, mat or cockpit. We all know fly line will wrap around any/everything available. It's tough when the cast lands 10' short because the line is in a birds nest at the stripping guide.

Leader-

Leaders range from 6' to 12' depending on species and conditions. Casting just the leader is inaccurate and sloppy. Fly line is designed to cast. How much fly line do you have out of the tip of the rod? I suggest as much fly line as you can manage. The more fly line you have out the quick you can get a shot off. False-casts are time eaters, a good goal would be to shoot 30' from one false cast. Very attainable with a bit of practice.

Fly-

Your distancing is set, line is neatly at your feet, there's enough line to make a quick short cast out of your rod tip, now hold the fly in your hand. Some hold the leader just above the fly, which is okay. The down side is if you are more than 6" into the leader the fly will inevitably hook something, fly line, shirt cuff etc. Take a look at the fly, did the wind put a feather over bend of the hook? Is there a piece of grass? Did you rush your back cast and snap off the tail of the fly?

Sissy Bars-

Are you stable on the deck? Is there a sissy bar you can lean against? The added height is great for getting a better angle on the fish but if you're unstable how will you be able to get a cast off? Find what works best for you. Also, lean against the bar, rest, take a break. When a fish is spotted come off the bar and face your target. Trying to cast around your body is just ineffective.

Now you're ready, start scanning edges, and most importantly: listen to you guide. **Capt. Chip**

This from our friends in the Bream Fishermen Association

What: *Artifishal*

Where: From the Ground Up Community Garden, 501 N. Hayne St. Pensacola

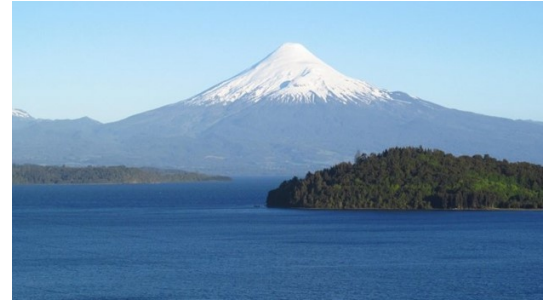
When: Friday, April 15 7:30 pm

Northwest Florida's first showing of the documentary film *Artifishal* takes viewers into the tension between marine life and the demands of a growing human population. The film chronicles the loss of native salmon populations in the Pacific Northwest and the attempt to replace those fish with salmon bred in hatcheries. There are lessons for the Gulf coast as we look to protect and restore our populations of wild native fish through enhanced water quality and habitat like seagrass beds and oyster reefs. **Everyone Welcome**

Fishing Story by George Norton

Trout Fishing Chile in an old leaky Rowboat

I had the good fortune to know a Chilean gentleman named Pepe Jacard. We were friends during the years I worked in the export business where Pepe was a senior partner in the company that represented our companies' products in Chile. He had a great sense of humor and a gift for lightning up any situation with a good joke or tale.



After visiting customers on Friday, we flew to southern Chile's beautiful lake region, which is about an hour and a half south of Santiago. We landed in Puerto Mont known as "the little city that sings in the rain" as locals advertise its dubious attraction, where almost every day a grey light mist hangs over the city. A taxi took us to an outdoor market with a tin roof where I bought a felt hat I still trout fish twenty-five years later.

After checking in, the hotel clerk booked one of the local fishing guides for the princely sum of around twenty dollars for the next day. The fishing guide was not a true guide, but a small-time subsistence farmer who rowed while I fished.

Alberto met me the next morning and we drove in his mini coupe to one of the lakes' tributaries where we launched a small wooden punt. While Alberto rowed downstream, I cast streamers and caught about twenty small trout and one big five-pound rainbow that moved up from the large lake to spawn.

The next day we decided to change locations and fish a marshy lake accessible down a steep mountain. After a big breakfast, Alberto picked me up. We drove into the mountains around hairpin curves and steep drop offs. Alberto led me down the side of the steep mountain. The footing was almost impossible due to the wet conditions so I slid down five hundred feet to a marshy fifty-acre lake where an old wooden rowboat lay full of water.

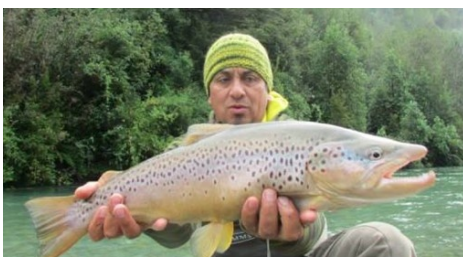
We turned it over and launched the old boat. There was a large tin can in the boat, which meant it was a leaker. Alberto examined my box of flies and informed, "North American flies won't work in Chile." Then he tied on one of his hand-tied concoctions. I fished for almost an hour without a strike.

He rowed intermittently and bailed steadily while I fished. The floorboards were almost underwater, as his bailing couldn't quite keep up with the incoming leaks. Frustrated by my lack of success, I finally opened my North American fly box and pulled out my all-time favorite fly, a deer hair Muddler Minnow. A loop knot secured the fly and help it swing naturally with better action.

The first cast with my Muddler Minnow immediately attracted a big swirl and a savage strike from a large brown trout that couldn't stand to let the Muddler pass by. I started catching big trout unlike the previous days' small fry. These trout were heavy and thick from the rich insect life in the weeds and each ran three to four pounds.

As quick, as I caught a trout the Chilean guide unhooked and released them. Finally, I asked, "Alberto I'd like to keep two trout as there were six people to share trout with that evening."

We soon had two big trout swimming in the bottom of the boat but the rising water was worrisome. Finally, just before dark, Alberto said, "Let's head in." Then I found there was only one trout not two in the boat. I asked Alberto, "Where's the other trout?" He just shrugged his shoulders and said nothing but I knew he had slipped the other trout alive back into the lake.



After we returned to the hotel, I met Pepe and his family in the dining hall. Everyone enjoyed that wonderful trout grilled served on a big platter with the head on.

The second trout was happily back in the lake and quickly forgotten. North American flies work in Chile. "Don't let any experts tell you otherwise." The next morning we flew back to Santiago.

Minutes from March 1, 2022 by George Norton, Club Secretary
Vice President, Brad Heune presiding, opened the meeting at 1900 hours.
Newsletter minutes were approved Motion by Jim W second by Larry S.

Treasurer's Report: In February we took in income from dues and we paid out money for fly tying materials and the clinic luncheon. Larry reported we have a healthy balance in checking. Treasurer's report approved Motion by Cliff N second by Jim

Presentation: George Norton presented on his 19-day trip road trip in September to Southwest Colorado with his wife, Janie. The trip combined fly fishing creeks, ponds, Lake Vallecito and the rivers in the Gunnison area. Sightseeing the National Park at Mesa Verde, the Durango train up the Animas River canyon, a western museum and Crested Butte and Ouray were the major non- fishing activities. The trip finished up fly fishing ponds in a float tube in southwest Denver and wading the South Platte. Kokanee salmon (14-18 inches) on a three weight TFO on the Taylor River was one highlight along with dry fly fishing on smaller freestone creeks at higher elevations for smaller trout. Water flow was very low due to drought but the weather cooperated (highs in the 70's and lows in the 30's). We had a light dusting of snow one night and stayed at Three Rivers Resort on the Taylor for six nights and the rest of the time looked for accommodations which were scarce.



Old Business. We discussed how to honor Art deConnecourt who recently passed away. Art was a long time club member, an avid fly fishermen and story teller famous for his high stick nymph techniques in North Carolina streams. Dave H proposed a "cast in" where club members cast into a circle and tell favorite memories of Art. The "cast in" will be right after the clinic's luncheon on March 19th. Larry will invite Art's widow to attend the luncheon.

Separately a memorial plaque of recognized deceased members was approved. A committee led by Russ will evaluate who gets on the plaque. Russ will be joined on the committee by Dave H and Cliff N. If you would like to honor a deceased member, please advise one of the committee members. Russ also made a motion to update a plaque of past club Presidents and Vice Presidents. Jim seconded the motion.

Colleen W brought some samples of hats and estimated prices. A motion by Cliff seconded by Jim. to let Colleen order 20 hats was approved.

The Fly Fishing Class is full and has a full slate of volunteers and is ready to roll.

New Business:

Dave reported we have 179 email contacts in the system. A meeting to reduce the emails to a more manageable level will be held on March 9th in the clubhouse at 9AM.

George reported on upcoming events in March. FFI Gulf Coast Council has its conclave at Percy Quinn State Park in Mississippi on March 12-13th and Red Stick Day in Baton Rouge on Saturday March 5th. The FFI event at Percy Quinn will focus on fly tying, casting games and instruction, seminars and fly fishing tournaments for bass, crappie and brim on Lake Tangipahoa, a 650 state park lake.

2005 The Meeting Adjourned