



Flies and Lies

Newsletter of the Fly Fishers of Northwest Florida

April, 2024

FFNWF

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Business Meeting
1T Tuesday, 6:30 PM

Bull Session - Tying
2ND Thursday, 6:30

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

Coming! **The Auction!** Coming! **Saturday, May 18!**

It's time to make plans (save up your money!!) for the biggest event of the year at our clubhouse. Top quality fly fishing equipment and trips. Bargain prices but also the primary annual fund raiser for our club.

We are still accepting donations of quality used fly fishing equipment. Bring it to the club at one of our April events. Thanks to Steve and Ellen Hofmann for doing all the preparation to make our auction a success!!

Club Meeting – Tuesday, April 2 6:30

Wolfgang Szutie will take us to Campeche Bay in the Yucatan back country for baby Tarpon (still really big fish, especially on a fly rod) *Rex Green*

Fly Tying – Thursday, April 11 6:30

Our honorary Member Emeritus, Russ Shields, will lead us in the tying of the EZ Body Cone Fly, a lightweight version of the venerable Tan and White minnow without the Clouser eyes.



Clinic – Saturday, April 20 9:00 AM

Another gourmet experience is in store for all you tyers and casters (and relaxers and story tellers). Lunch will be good old Red White and Blue Hot Dogs with Chef Joe's All American Fixin's.

President's Corner

The FF101 Class this year got started without a hitch and we welcome 6 new members. Capt Baz was unable to attend, however Capt Montgomery, our very own Certified Casting Instructor, did an excellent job presenting a program about local fishing opportunities in Baz's absence.

Annual membership dues are now past due. If you've not paid, please get with Larry Sisney, our treasurer. 3610 Baisden Rd, Pensacola 32503. \$35 payable to FFNWF. Or use our website: www.ffenwf.org With the weather turning a bit warmer, we look forward to more fishing reports.

Cyndi

South and East FFI Fly Fishing Classic Conclave Gulf State Park in Gulf Shores May 3 and 4

Demonstration Tyers for Classic

We're currently in the process of lining up demonstration tyers for the Classic, and I was curious if anyone from Fly Fishers of Northwest Florida might be interested. We should have morning and afternoon slots available both days and folks aren't expected to tie the entire weekend. As a bonus, tyers receive free admission to the event. (More information is in the minutes).

If you are interested, please contact me, and I can provide you with a copy of the demonstration tyer form. Thanks **Chris** Chris Williams thefatfingeredflytyer@gmail.com

Fly Fishing 101. Class is in session. Monday evenings



Fishing with Capt. Baz

It sure is frustrating. Waiting for the big push of migratory species is a royal pain in the butt. You know they're coming, but where the heck are they??? Gulf Breeze Bait and Tackle posts photos of big pompano almost every day, but I haven't seen one yet. There are rumors of jack crevalle running the beach, but none have come by *my* boat. It will get to you, but you can't let it get you down. My very own and sometimes accurate crystal ball tells me the weather system over the next few days is the catalyst we've been needing. The forecast calls for 30 hours of 30 knot SE winds gusting to 40, and Gulf seas growing to 8-9'. That big surge from the SE should warm our subnormal Gulf water temperatures and deliver the schools of fish we've been waiting for. It'll take a few days for the sediment to settle, but with a little luck we'll hit April 1 with clear water and water temperature in the

low 70's. Finally, we'll have perfect conditions for the spring run of cobia, jacks, pompano, and Spanish mackerel to begin.



Although the fly-fishing weather was generally lousy in March, we managed a few days of late-winter magic both inside and out. Alex from Bend, OR, hit the jackpot March 6 when the sun popped out for a couple hours in the afternoon. We were poling some shallow flats, and the redfish went berserk. They ran down the fly like they hadn't eaten in a while, and you don't see that very often around here.

Alex had 5 takes, landed 2, broke off a big fish, and lost the others when the barbless hook fell out. Most of the fish were over grass, but the sun was bright enough to see the orange in their pectoral fins. It was a spectacular experience for Alex and a visual treat from the poling platform.



Carl Lietz from Atlanta and I had an excellent couple days in mid-March. Carl landed his biggest-yet redfish March 11 on a new EP baitfish pattern, but the record didn't last long. The major fireworks came the following day. We had calm, clear water both east and west in the Gulf for the first time in weeks and finally found a big school of redfish on the inner bar. The Gulf redfish had been AWOL all

winter, and I couldn't believe my eyes. They were high in the water column and totally unafraid of the boat. I didn't have my sissy bar which made the shore break too much for poling, so we idled well ahead of the school, and let the boat drift into casting range. Carl put the new fly ahead of the fish, let it sink, and they fought for it when he started



stripping. How about

this shot of his new personal record 22 pounder! We ran down the beach until we found them again, and Carl landed one more before the fish gave us the middle fin and disappeared into the deeper water. It was quite a day.



It's been an outstanding winter of redfish fishing, and I hate to see it come to an end. On the other hand, the thought of adding jack crevalle and pompano to the mix has my juices flowing in a big way. Maybe we'll add a fifth ***Emerald***

Coast Grand Slam to the books next month! There's a chance for sure, and as soon as the Gulf calms down we'll be out there trying...

Capt Baz

Fly of the Month

EZ BODY CONE FLY

by Russ Shields

Materials:

Extra Select Craft Fur (white and tan)

Pearl Krystal Flash

EZ Body mylar tubing, medium

Mustad 34007 size 2 or 4

210 Den flat waxed nylon thread, white (and red if preferred for head of fly)



Put hook in the vise and wrap a several layers of thread base of the hook shank.



Select a small bunch small bunch of white craft fur and remove the under fur. Attach it at the bend of the hook.



Tie 2 strands of Krystal flash on top of white craft fur.



Tie a small bunch of tan craft fur, under body fur removed, on top of white fur and Krystal flash a little short of the white fur.



Tie in a 1 1/2 inch length of medium EZ body tubing at mid- point of hook shank.

Push back the EZ body over itself so fold is just short of the hook bend.

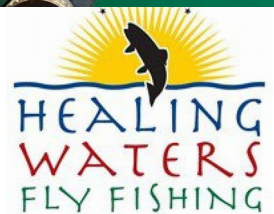
Cut excess EZ body at the hook eye and tie the end of the tubing at the hook eye. Whip-finish with white or red, 210 den thread. Coat with head cement or UV cure glue.



Fishing Reports From far away



PHW March 5-9 I was invited to Oak Heart Lodge(OHL) in Newaygo, MI. There, nine veterans took to the Muskegon and Pierre Marquette Rivers to target steelhead. While steelhead were caught, rainbow trout, browns, and walleye were also landed. The rivers produce fish year round, and whatever is in season will be the targeted fish on future trips.



All fish were caught on simple egg patterns using a "chuck n duck" cast (lead weights were added to ensure a quick sink to the bottom of the fast moving rivers).



32 PHWFF trips are planned for this year, and that pace is expected to last for many years. The owner of OHL is friendly and wants to give back whatever he can to the veteran community, thus the

sole funding of OHL. The staff of OHL and the guides are all fantastic. If the opportunity arises, I highly recommend attending. All gear, including thermal ice fishing bibs/jacket are available at the lodge. **Aaron Davis**

And far far away



Here is my fishing report from my trip to Christmas Island 5-13 March. The fishing “was for the birds” (see picture one). I had a great time on the trip but the fishing was difficult due to the weather. The fishing is mostly sight fishing and the winds, rain and clouds made seeing and casting to the fish very difficult. I did however get a variety of fish. The second picture is a goat fish, the 3rd is a blue trevally,

the 4th is a bonefish, the 5th is a queenfish (like a Spanish mackerel but silvery), and the 6th is a golden or striped trevally. **Bob Korose**



March Clinic



Meeting Minutes March 5 by George Norton

The Present called the meeting to order at 1830 with the Pledge of Allegiance

Treasure's Report: Larry reported income from dues and the 101 class less expenses for the textbooks, food, beverages, and new fly rods, reels and lines for the class and club use. Our checking account has a healthy balance and the report was approved.

New Business: George reported on the Gulf Coast FFI (Fly Fishers International) rendezvous in Gulf Shores State Park the first weekend of May 3-4th. Google their web site for further information. Participants can interact with attendees from twelve clubs in our region from Lake Charles, Louisiana to Destin. There will be fly fishing seminars and featured fly tyers and casting instruction along with a film festival and fishing tournament.

Fly Fishing 101 Russ reported Class Textbooks are ready, an excellent reference and are now available for only \$15.

Presentation by Andrea Walker with the Preservation Society: City of Pensacola

Andrea is an archeologist and gave us a fascinating presentation on the Miraflores Burial Study. She spent countless hours researching newspaper data bases and conducting interviews.

The park's history began in 1806 with a Spanish land grant. Miraflores was originally known as Havana Park which was subdivided into lots and mortgaged. Most early owners



rented out houses to tenants. In the 1850's a yellow fever researcher named RB Smith set up a private infirmary. During the second half of the century the Free Will Baptist Church had a Negro burial ground here.

The Boy Scout cabin was built in 1934 by the WPA and is on the historic register. In 1965 the park changed names from Havana Park to Miraflores Park after Pensacola's sister

city, which is a well know affluent suburb of Lima, Peru.

In 2021 during a cleanup of the building's basement the Boy Scouts found the remains of two human skeletons in the crawl space. Analysis proved the remains were over 75 years old and were of African or creole descent. No DNA was done.

Andrea received a national park grant and surveys determined there were forty- five deceased remains buried on the property. City Hall and the mayor formed a commission which is reaching out to the community for a consensus on the next steps. Thank you, Andrea, for your enlightening talk.

Fishing Reports: George reported March is the best month for largemouth bass.. Spanish mackerel and pompano arrive soon. April is the best month for bluegill who are shallow and protecting their spawning beds where bass like to patrol the outside looking to pick off fry. Trout show up around my condo pier right on tax day.

1750: Meeting Adjourned.