



Flies and Lies

Newsletter of the Fly Fishers of Northwest Florida

August, 2023

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NEWSLETTER

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Business Meeting
1ST Tuesday, 6:30 PM

Bull Session - Tying
2ND Thursday, 6:30 PM

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

WE ARE BACK ON SCHEDULE!

Club Meeting – Tuesday, August 1 6:30

We are back on our regular schedule. The program will be about the famous **Louisiana Redfish**, presented by Wallace West.

Fly Tying – Thursday, August 10 6:30

We will be tying the **Poppin' Flat Shrimp Gurgler**, and we will join the new age of education by learning via video

Clinic – Saturday, August 19 9:00 AM

For our lunch Jay Brykczynski is going to serve his world renowned **Polish Stew**. Come hungry.

Prez Sez

I hope you all have found some way to beat the heat this summer, not to mention the wind and the rain during the last month. Local fishing reports amongst club members have been sketchy of late. But I trust that some of you were able to get out on the water during the brighter periods.

Personally, I had no choice but to stay off the water for the last month due to boat mechanical issues, but I'm looking forward to hitting it as hard as I can for the rest of the summer. I've never caught a "false Albie" so that is one of my goals going forward this year.

So, to all of you, good luck, stay safe and protect yourselves from the elements. And have a great August! **Mick**

Fishing with Captain Baz

The good news for August is the false albacore have finally returned in impressive numbers. You'll find them "waterfalling" two to three miles S of the Pink Condos, and we've seen a few fish running the inner sandbar. A guide buddy of mine found schools of them last week feeding in Pensacola Pass along the tide line. The dirty runoff from our Father's Day hundred-year rains kept them out of the bay, but the water's getting better. Plus, there are plenty of bay anchovy bait balls between Pickens Pier and the turning basin. I wouldn't be surprised to see "bonitos in the bay" in August.



Here are a couple shots of Jeff Coen on a glassy calm July 19. There wasn't a breath of wind out there, and the heat index must've been 110. These were small 2-3# fish, and it took me a while to figure out the right fly. They were feeding on something tiny, and I went through all my juvenile bay anchovy patterns with no success. Jeff was casting like a mad man and about to have a heat stroke, when I gave up on the small flies and tied on a #6 clear gummy minnow. Bang! Jeff landed fish on his next three casts. The fish regurgitated the usual "snot" bait, plus there were some 1/2" perfectly formed minnows that looked like Spanish sardines.

Redfish and trout fishing has been tough. The water in both Santa Rosa Sound and the Big Lagoon looks like strong iced tea, plus it's hot... 86 degrees. We are seeing fewer fish on the flats and are having a hard time getting them to eat. In the last two weeks, we only hooked two fish and broke them both off. Too bad, too, because one was a 4-5 pound trout and the other an upper-slot redfish. Would've made nice photos.



We've been having better luck with redfish around the pass. The water temperature has been much cooler at 76 degrees, and there are small schools of fish both east and west along the beach. Plumes of dirty water, lack of sunshine, and boat traffic are major problems, but we got lucky three times during July. First up is Mike Rothfarb with a couple beauties on July 7. We found them again July 11, and Chris Fanale landed his first redfish on fly.

I think tarpon season is done. It was a bust again this year because of the June storms. Actually, we had a very nice run of fish; it just happened earlier than usual. You needed to be ready June 1, and I wasn't. Maybe next year. **Capt Baz**

Capt. Baz has a new website – still same address www.gulfbreezeguideservice.com

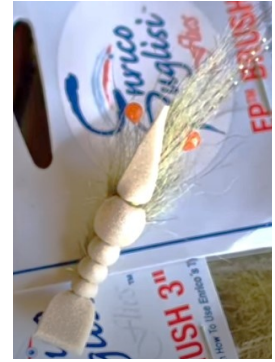
He mentions our club in articles about fly fishing opportunities. Check it out!

Fly of the Month

We will be tying the **Poppin' Flat Shrimp Gurgler** following the instructions in this video:

<https://youtu.be/i30BtHt20wY>

Gary Pheabus will lead the session and will provide the materials.



Project Healing Waters In August we'll be meeting on the 7th, 14th and 28th. Those are all Monday's. The program begins promptly at 0930 but the building is usually open by 0900 if not earlier. We're always on the lookout for interested disabled veterans. If you are one such individual, or you know one, send him/her along to one of our meetings. *Jim White*

July Bull Session Fly Tying



July Clinic



July 11, 2023 Minutes General Meeting by George Norton 1830 President called the meeting to order with the Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag.

President's Comments: New hats are on sale for \$25 at the next meeting. Thanks to the cleanup crew who cleaned our room and storage closet. We need the storage closet to remain clutter free. Therefore kindly contact Steve and Ellen before dropping off auction donations so they can be marked and organized before storage.

Schedule for July: Dates were adjusted, moving the Saturday Clinic to one week later. Last Month's Minutes were approved as posted

Treasure's Report: Our checking account has a healthy balance. Report was approved; motion by George and second by Russ.

Presentation: Russ on making a Split-Bamboo Rod in Blue Ridge, Georgia

Russ has made two split bamboo rods in two-week long classes of 6 days each under the guidance of owner, Bill Oyster. Rod building classes take place in northwest Georgia. Russ loves casting

bamboo rods and built a five and a six-weight rod during two classes in consecutive years.

Bamboo rods cast smoother and softer than conventional graphite or boron fly rods., They appeal to heritage, beauty and tradition. There are forty- four steps in making a split-bamboo fly rod and Russ enjoined every minute of the small classes.

The bamboo, known for its density in building bamboo rods, came from Tonkin, a region in China. Russ started with a twelve-foot-long Culm of bamboo that he cut in half and split into 12 pieces in case of breakage. The butt and tip sections required six pieces of bamboo. The rods are hexagonal. Russ scorched the bamboo with a torch to his preferred color, which was on the lighter side. He scraped the burnt bamboo, heated it in an oven, and examined it visually to insure straightness. Countless steps completed the process.

Each class started at 8:30 and ran until 5-6 PM, but the first day class lasted twelve hours. Under Bill's careful guidance, every person no matter what their experience level in woodworking left with a finished fly rod in a sock and case. Attendees had their own workbench and tools.

Each Individual builder customized his or her rod from the shape of the cork gripe to the reel seat design. Wrapping guides and engraving completed the process. Russ stressed, "Do it while you can. Your hand-made split bamboo rod will be a family heirloom."

I called their office and they have a few openings off the wait list for both 2023 and 2024, though their web site oysterbamboo.com indicated they had no open slots. Call 706-633-3230 for further information or see their web site. The class runs just shy of \$3,000. Food and lodging are additional. Thanks Russ for the wonderful insight into building a split bamboo rod.

Fishing Report from George – Catching Trout off the condo pier, Spanish, bluefish, and ladyfish inside the Inter coastal east of the Pass and a redfish wading Naval Live Oaks.

1935: Meeting Adjourned