



Flies and Lies

Newsletter of the Fly Fishers of Northwest Florida

February, 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

Roses are Red, Violets are Blue And Your Dues are Due

Send a check - **\$30.00** – payable FFNWF



to

Larry Sisney
3610 Baisden Rd.
Pensacola, FI 32503



You can pay your dues by credit card via our website:

www.ffenwf.org (\$2 extra)

Pay by March 1 to keep membership in good standing

Club Meeting: Tuesday, February 1 at 7:00 pm

George Norton will do the program: "Fly Fishing SW Colorado"

Fly Tying: Thursday, February 10 at 6:30 pm

We will be tying *Terry's Famous Tan and Olive Clouser with Yellow Eyes*, and to make sure we do it right, Terry will be there to lead us

Clinic: Saturday, February 19 at 9:00 am.

Lunch will be *Joe's Soup with Shredded Roasted Chicken, Sausage, White & Black Beans and Vegetables*. Yum Yum.



Please note: Joe is looking for chefs who would like to share their culinary love for food to volunteer for some of the monthly Saturday clinic lunches. The club has a food budget so no out of pocket expenses for the volunteer chef. Plus you get your name in the newsletter.



Prez Sez: Well, the new year has begun with some blustery weather which has probably put a crimp in some of our fishing plans. For me, and my little 17-foot flats boat, the water needs to be a little flatter, the temperature a little warmer and the wind a little lighter. But fear not, Spring will come upon us pretty quickly and 75-degree days will be more the norm.



In the meantime, the club can focus on the upcoming FlyFishing 101 course, scheduled to begin March 14. So, after a 2-year hiatus.....**WE'RE BACK!!** The course is booked full, instructors are in place and we're ready to roll. The course will span 8 weeks (one evening per week) and feature various presentations by members and plenty of fly tying and casting instruction.

Also, a final reminder for anyone interested....The Atlanta Fly Fishing Show is next weekend February 4th and 5th. If you've never been, it's worth the trip. **Go fishin', Mick**



Project Healing Waters - February is here and we're finally back to tying flies! The rod building will continue in background and help will be provided as needed to complete the 20 rods that are in progress. Contact Cliff with any rod building questions. We're also back to the standard meeting schedule of the first, second and fourth Monday mornings beginning at 1000. For February those dates will be the 7th, 14th and the 28th. Bring your fly tying tools. I will endeavor to transmit a recipe sheet prior to the meetings. If you have some of the materials feel free to bring them along. If not, materials will be provided.

Regarding the meetings in the enclosed space of our small club house, please feel free to wear a mask. Your decision. Looking forward to getting the band back together! **Jim White**

Library Corner —

There are several new to the club DVDs.

Creating Order In Your Fly Box with Peter Sticher. In this step-by-step tutorial, you will learn to identify EVERY fly on the water and fly in your box according to the insects and life cycles they imitate, and then be shown how to organize them in an easy-to-understand way. Following the Hatch Organization Method, each row of the fly box is dedicated to an order (family of flies) – midges, mayflies, caddis flies, stoneflies, etc. On the water, the viewer will then be able to follow the hatch and the feeding trout just by finding the correct row to match the active insect order, and then follow the progression of that hatch just by running their finger across a single row in their fly box.



Lessons With Lefty. In this film, Lefty shows you how you can introduce others to fly fishing and teaches you how to teach them to fly cast. You'll learn how to identify poor technique and common mistakes and Lefty will actually teach you how to cast badly so you can see the kind of issues beginners encounter such as tailing loops. Watching this film, shows just what a great fly-casting instructor Lefty Kreh really was and can hopefully inspire you to introduce new people to the sport.

Bob Myers

Fly of the Month - Terry's Clouser by Terry McCormick

The Clouser minnow developed by Bob Clouser is one of the most versatile flies ever. It is excellent in both fresh and salt water. It can be tied in many color combinations such as tan and white, black and purple, chartreuse and white, and **my favorite Tan and Olive, with Yellow Eyes**

Materials

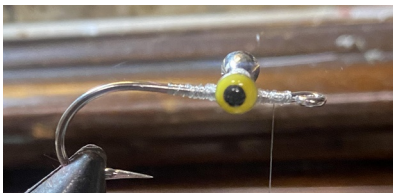
Hook size 1/0 to 6

Flashabou or crystal flash

Red crystal flash

Mono thread or color appropriate to material.

Light and dark super hair, supreme hair or buck tail



1. Lay a thread base about half way down the hook.
2. Tie on some dumbbell eyes about two hook eyes length back from the hook eye using figure 8 wraps.

3. Take a match stick width of the lighter body material about 2 to 3 times the length of the hook, and attach it to the hook. Tie it in front and behind the eyes.



4. Take 8 strands of red crystal flash, attach it directly behind the eyes. Cut it about two hook eyes in length.

5. Turn the hook over and attach 4 strands of flash materials on both sides of the hook. Cut to length of the body material.



6. Attach the darker body material in front the eyes . Tie only in front of the eyes. Cut to same length as other body materials.
7. Whip finish and glue.



Fishing with Capt. Baz January is my favorite month for redfish sight-fishing. If I've already said that about some other month I really mean it this time. There are always enough fish to keep things interesting on the inside flats from Opal Beach to the Big Lagoon, and on days when the Gulf of Mexico is clear and flat lots of good things can happen. Yes, it can be cold out there, but you don't go on those days. You must be patient, Grasshopper, and wait for the days with sunshine and light winds. When a good day arrives it's time to drop everything else, grab your waders, and go fishing.

When deciding where to fish make your decision based on the wind direction and tide. The wind part is easy; always fish with the wind and sun at your back. Tides are a little more difficult and local knowledge helps. The water has to be deep enough for the fish to be comfortable, and some flats are just too shallow on low tides. The Naval Live Oaks is a good example. Wintertime low tides make much of the good water downright unfishable, but if you can get there later in the afternoon on incoming water you'll see lots of fish. Some of the flats on the north side of the island are actually better on low tides. My advice is to put your waders on and wander around in different areas looking for stretches of beach with grass beds close to shore. Deeper sandy channels on the sand flats are also productive. I don't blind-cast but move around slowly looking for fish. When an area looks good just stand there for a while and watch. Cownose rays are a good sign, as they like the same type of bottom as the redfish. Spending time walking the flats is good for both your physical and mental health, and you might even get a shot at a nice redfish!

Winter is the best time to catch a black drum on fly. There are schools of big drum moving through the "draw" in the Gulf between the inner and outer sandbars. Lots of these fish move up into Santa Rosa Sound, and we find them in surprisingly shallow water. On higher tides you might even see one "tailing" within casting range of the beach. I'm always looking for them in the Gulf, and so far



this year we've landed three. Club member Mike Broughton landed this first drum of the year on January 13, followed by Stephen Miller, and then Carl

Huhnke who landed the biggest of the year so far on January 24...a 26 pounder!

On those great days with sunshine and a north wind I'm usually in the Gulf tucked in close to shore poling the skiff. We always see redfish, and this time of year they might even cooperate and eat the fly. So far I'm having my best success on the tried-and-true EP "peanut butter" baitfish in either grey/white or chartreuse/white. My leaders are 10' coming down to 16# fluoro, and all my flylines are "coldwater" lines with braided cores. The braided core remains supple in cold conditions whereas warm weather monofilament core lines have too much memory.





It's been a fabulous month with the redfish as you can see from these photos, and it should remain good through February. Once the spin-fishing guides start showing up it'll all go south, so you ought to get out there soon.

Capt Baz



In Our Prayers:

Steve Hoffman suffered a heart attack and was life-flighted to Baptist Hospital for a stent. He has subsequently returned home and will have a heart procedure in the near future. *Bob Myers*

The Minutes January 4, 2022 Board and General Meeting By George Norton

1905 President Mick Milo called the meeting to order.

Treasurer's report: A detailed report to the BOD and a general report to the membership confirmed our checking account has a healthy balance. We picked up several new members and the club forecasts membership growth in 2022. Membership dues for 2022 are now due and can be mailed to Larry Sisney, or delivered at a meeting. We also have the capability to pay with credit cards. See our web site for details. The 2022 budget will be voted on in the March meeting. Meanwhile any modifications to the budget should be make in February. Treasurer's report was approved. Motion by George, second by Mick

Minutes from the last meeting were accepted.

Old Business: The Christmas Party was a big success with great prizes and a robust attendance despite Covid. The Christmas Party Committee will review the party's pros and cons and report back on suggestions for the next party such as speeding up the raffle process or changes the food.

New Business: Fly Fishing 101 is full and starts March 14th at 6 PM.

The Fly Fishing Show in Duluth, Georgia is February 4-5th. The show will feature fly tying classes, travel destinations, fly fishing artists and many extras. The show is a great way to get a broad exposure to the endless possibilities of the fly fishing world plus meet some of the big names in the industry. Duluth is just north of Atlanta and the Embassy Suites is the HQ for the show and is within walking distance of the exhibition hall. Other hotels are also in the area.

PHW is back in the clubhouse for fly tying classes and rod building. You don't need to be a veteran if you would like to help out. Contact Jim White. The schedule is January 10, 17, and 24th.

Presentation by our New Vice President Brad Heune “Building a Bamboo Fly Rod”

PHW honored Brad as one of eight finalists selected to build a bamboo fly rod at a private “all male” resort called the Ox Bow Club on Michigan’s Au Sable River, a world famous trout river where Ernest Hemingway penned many of his early short stories. Brad reported that rod building was both toilsome but fulfilling. The process took a full week of eight to ten hour days, which didn’t leave much time to fish the Au Sable, which ran high and off color.

Brad led us through the process and history of building a bamboo rod. Every rod builder had a mentor and they utilized hand crafted tools and machines. A planer shaved each piece of bamboo so thin that one could see right through the shavings. The planning process took two days. Then they wrapped six pieces of bamboo in masking tape. The varnish process occurred in a tube where the rod moved an inch a minute. The drying rack took a full day. Silk is traditionally used for guide wrappings. However, varnish caused changes in color during the varnish process. It is understandable why bamboo fly rods can cost up to \$4,000.

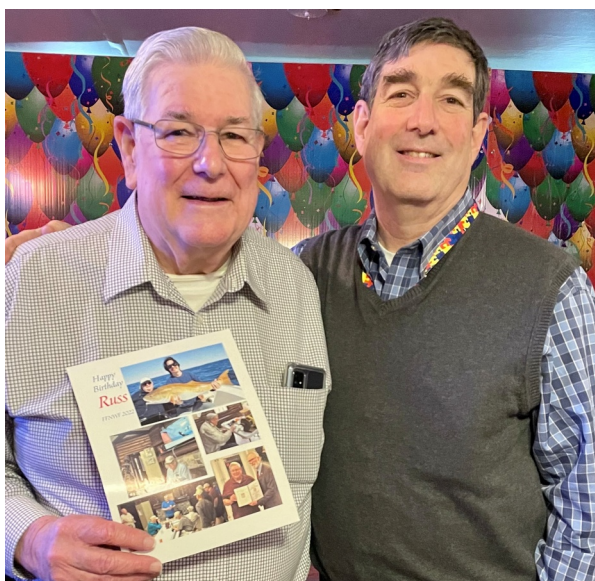
When asked about fly fishing with a bamboo rod someone wanted to know if Brad was nervous about breaking one. His answer, “I was a little concerned but I’m extra careful.”

“How do bamboo fly rods cast versus the modern graphite fly rods which are medium to fast action?” Brad said “bamboo fly rods have a different action and they cast differently. It is personal preference. Some just prefer the softer action of bamboo. A bamboo fly rod can be bent from the butt section all the way down to the tip unlike a graphite rod.” A six to seven weight rod is about the maximum. Brad’s first trout caught on his new rod was a big rainbow in Tennessee. We saw the pictures.

“Heavy bamboo fly rods are not common. You will have a tough time finding a nine weight. The bamboo comes from a specific valley in China which has all the proper minerals in the soil needed to make a quality bamboo rod.” Don’t expect to make a rod from one of our local bamboo stalks which wind up as cane poles in country stores.

Thanks Brad and congratulations for being selected and honored by PHW and for representing our club.

Meeting adjourned at 2040



Happy Birthday, Russ! 85!!

Here with his son, Mike