



Flies and Lies

Newsletter of the Fly Fishers of Northwest Florida

February, 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

Dues are Due

Send a check - **\$35.00** – payable FFNWF to
Larry Sisney 3610 Baisden Rd. Pensacola, FL 32503

You can pay your dues by credit card via our website:
www.ffenwf.org (\$2 extra)

The President's Corner -

Happy Anniversary!! This is our 40th year.
We are looking for ideas to make this a special
time for our club!

Soon it will be March. The annual FF101
class is just around the corner so spread the word. If you're interested in
volunteering for this event, please contact Dave Handley.

Reminder, annual membership dues for 2024 are now being accepted.
Payments can be made in person at events at the club or online.
New Member \$40 - Renewal \$35 - Associate \$10 (those not permanent
residents of Escambia or Santa Rosa counties) Add \$2 for online payment
Cyndi

Club Meeting – Tuesday, February 6 6:30

Catching fish is the easy part. Next comes the challenge of cooking.
"Pensacola Cooks" will be giving a presentation on preparation, cooking,
seasoning and storage of fish. Invite a friend or bring your spouse who
likes to cook.

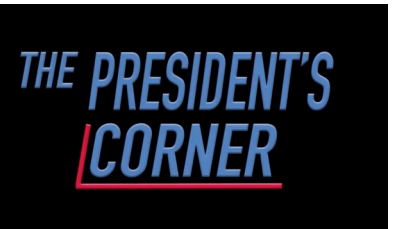
Fly Tying – Thursday, February 8 6:30

We will be making the Thin Mint Bugger. No, we
are not making Girl Scout Cookies (but they would
go good with the fish). Instead it will be a fly all
kinds of fish will find to be very tasty.



Clinic – Saturday, February 17 9:00 AM

Speaking of tasty, Chef Joe will be serving his Chili – a very special treat
served only once a year – and this is it!! Now or never. Don't miss it!!



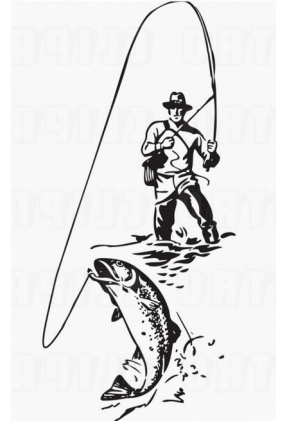
Fly Fishing 101

Our club's 8 Week Fly Fishing Class

BEGINS March 11, 2024

Every Monday Night from 6:00 – 8:00 PM

Including: The Principles of Fly Fishing
Equipment Selection - Fly Tying - Fly Casting – Knots



For Info and registration call: Dave Handley (850) 417-9233
or Email ffnwfeducation@gmail.com

Cost is \$95 which includes complimentary membership
in FFNWF for the remainder of 2024.

Registration requires membership application and payment for enrollment.

Class is limited to 10.

Club Trip to Twin Lakes Camp Resort April 9-11 Tuesday afternoon to Thursday morning.



This is a top notch resort that borders two lakes. Fly fishing for bass and pan fish should be at its peak in April. It is a luxury RV campground that also has cabins, houses, glamping tents, and tiny houses to accommodate different size groups. They rent kayaks and an electric pontoon boat. They have a swimming pool and a rec room. Only trolling motors or non-motorized boats are

allowed. They have a web site or their phone number is 850-892-5914 for further information.

The large house is \$960 for two nights which would be divided by the number staying there. I have reserved on my credit card. It sleeps up to ten with a full kitchen, living room and two full bathrooms.

The two bedroom cabins with king beds rent for \$255 a night, and the tiny houses run \$211 a night with a bedroom downstairs, a kitchen and a sleeping loft. The glamping tents were a little less.

I will need to know if you want to stay in the large house or if you prefer your own accommodations (in which case you will need to book directly with the resort). So far we have tentatively Bob and Cindy, Russ, George and Janie, Rex, and Bob K. If you would like to go contact George at the February meeting or clinic.

I need to know if you want to stay in the house or get your own accommodations.

George Norton

Fishing with Capt. Baz January has been a tough month to be a fishing guide. Wind, rain, freezing temperatures...oh my! I haven't been on the water since January 4 and am getting concerned about my mental health. The only really good day since then was on a Sunday, and my client went to Mass instead of going fishing!



The good news is there are plenty of redfish both inside and out. Plus, we are seeing surprising numbers of trout on the flats even with the water temperature in the mid-50's. Here's a nice shot of Kevin Williams with the last redfish of 2023, and another of Stephen Miller with the first redfish of 2024.



Jeff Lampe and I had a couple good days poling the shallows during the first week of the year. All the fish we saw were big, and they were very interested in the EP minnows. This first redfish was about 12 pounds, and my old Sage Xi2 8wt blew up during the fight. That was quite an experience for Jeff who'd never had a graphite rod



explode in his hands. I handlined the fish to the boat, and off we went. Was glad to have a backup rod on the boat. The trout was sitting in a small sandy hole about 20' from shore. The water was only a foot deep, and I was afraid to spook it by poling too close. So, I stopped well short, and Jeff laid out a nice, soft cast 4-5' to the side of the fish. It made the mistake of coming over to investigate. We saw 15-20 trout that morning on the sand in singles, doubles, and small groups.

Activity on the flats will accelerate in February as the water warms and more baitfish arrive. The Gulf is forecasted to calm down next week opening up the shoreline for sight-fishing, and I can hardly wait to get out there. Beach anglers are catching pompano, and you can bet there are schools of redfish both east and west of the pass.



I'll leave you with a photo of a 42" redfish my client Carl Huhnke from Wyoming caught on his 6wt while wading on a cold January 20. The redfish crushed the sz 6 fly and almost spooled him before he stopped it and coaxed the fish back to shore. That's almost 200 yards of backing folks, and he was using a 15' 12# leader. Carl carries a little scale with him, and the redfish weighed 22.8 pounds. He's the guy that a few days earlier chose going to Mass instead of fishing...

Capt Baz

Fly of the Month The Thin Mint Bugger

by Phil Hartz

This fly is great for trout, large and smallmouth bass, walleye, and brim(sunfish where I come from). It fishes well as a streamer with a slow or fast retrieve. Strip strike works best. The fly is a fairly easy tie and should produce some great results on the water.



Materials

Hook: Streamer hook size 6 or 8
Bead: Size 3/32 gold or copper tungsten
Ribbing: Small copper wire
Body: Peacock hurl

Thread: Brown
Weight: .025 lead alternative wrap
Tail: Rainbow Flashabou
Hackle: Brown bugger hackle

De-barb the hook using your vice. Add your bead, small hole first and secure it in the vise.

Start the thread behind the bead with a small build up to hold the bead in place, then lay a thin thread base down the hook shank and take a few wraps rearward before snipping the tag end off.



Start by wrapping the .025 lead 1/2 to 1/3 the length of the shank back from the eye, then wrap forward to the bead. Secure the lead with numerous thread wraps to hold the lead in place. Return thread to bend of hook.

Tie in a clump of rainbow Flashabou for a tail. Start the ends behind the lead wraps. This will help build up the body. Tie in an 8" piece of thin copper wire. Start behind the lead wraps. Tie in a clump of peacock hurl, again, starting behind the lead wraps.



With the thread at the tie in location, wrap the peacock hurl forward to the bead. Tie off. Prepare and tie in a brown bugger hackle. Tie off thread and move bobbin out of the way.

Use one or two wraps of the hackle behind the bead, then wrap back to the tail of the fly. Tie off the hackle with one or two wraps of the copper wire and wrap the wire forward to the bead. Wrap the wire the opposite direction of the hackle to help hold it in place. Tie off wire, fold back, tie in and remove excess. Whip finish or half hitch finish the thread and Voila! You are now ready to fish.

Project Healing Waters

A group of 8 PHWFF participants, led by Volunteer Leaders Terry McCormick and Mick Milo, will be heading up to Bristol TN in mid-February to fish the renowned South Holston River. Hopefully, many photos and stories will return with the group. *Mick Milo*



Happy Birthday!!!

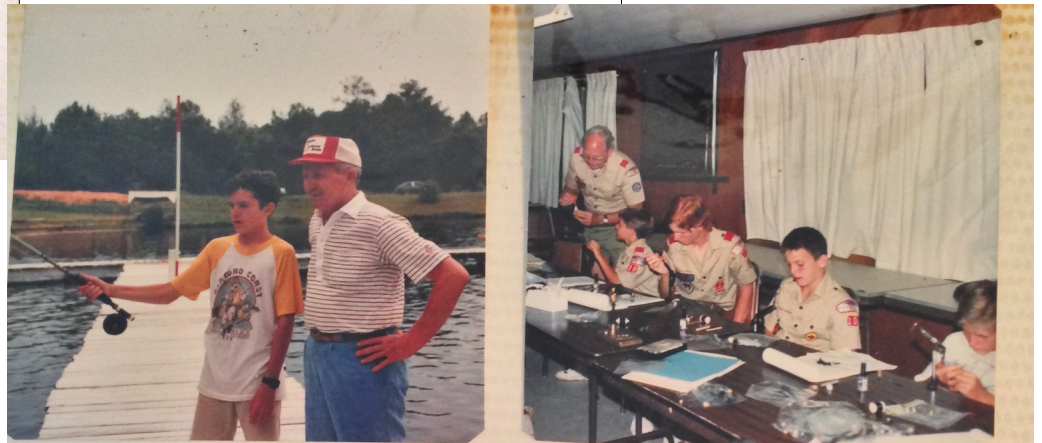
2024 is our 40th Anniversary



Pictures from the Early Days

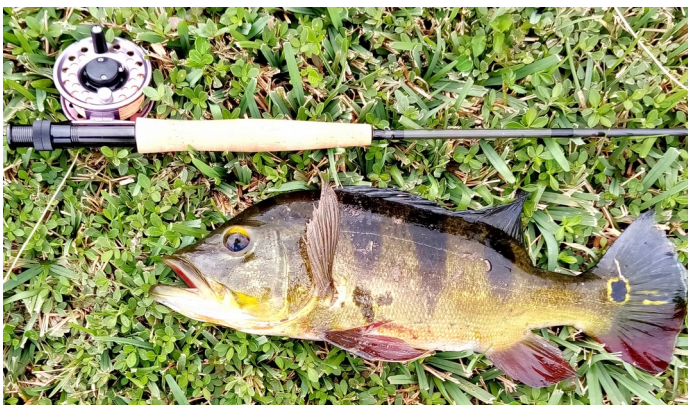
More about our anniversary celebration in the months ahead

In 1985 Vance Cook join the club. Vance was an expert fly tyer but he had one personal favorite fly: Cook's Critter that became the 'trademark' of the club and still is our logo today



Fishing Report

Down in South Florida on vacation. I caught these peacock bass in a lake behind my friend's house. Got them on a size 4 gurgler on my 3 weight. **Tarpon Bob Korose**



Club Meeting January 2, 2024 The Minutes by George Norton

1830: Cyndi Myers, our incoming President for 2024 called the meeting to order with the pledge of allegiance.

Minutes : The minutes for the December meeting were approved.

Treasurer's report: Monthly income came from Christmas tickets, raffle sales, membership renewals less expenses for the Christmas Party and a variety of expenses such as FFI dues. (Fly Fishers International). The club has a healthy balance moving forward in 2024. The report was approved, motion by Russ, second by Cyndi.



Our Christmas Party was a major success. The food, prizes, and atmosphere were enjoyed by all the attendees. A motion was made by George to return to SHCC next year and was approved by attending members. Jim is moving to Virginia shortly so the Christmas Committee needs a new chairman.

101 Class: The class starts in March and the textbook is being updated. Dave H handling.

New Business: April Club Trip to Twin Lakes Camp Resort: Tell George Norton if you are interested in attending. Details will finalize over the next months and will update everyone at the February meeting. I am developing an emailing list to those who expressed interest in the trip at the January meeting.



Presentation: Chris Combs from the enforcement division of Florida Fish and Wildlife (FWC) made a surprise visit to the club and talked about his job and boating safety. Chris patrols our waters and his job is protecting the natural resources from wildlife outlaws and insuring boaters follow safety regulations. He strongly recommended the importance of wearing life jackets and sobriety. Several in our club, plus Chris, have fallen out of their boats unexpectedly. Terry fell overboard and had his inflatable life jacket on which may have saved his life.

Chris told some humorous tales of wildlife outlaws and how they were caught using some very creative ways. I especially liked his story of a lobster fishermen who tossed his over the limit spiny lobsters onto the top of a porta potty. He planned to climb the porta potty and retrieve them after everyone left the area, but Chris got a tip and nailed him. Chris doesn't like being the bad guy and would rather give a warning rather than citations but some people are repeat offenders. Thanks Chris for all you do to keep us safe and for enforcing the laws which help conserve our natural resources. He suggested we get the app for Florida Fish and Wildlife on our phones to keep up with changes in regulations.

P.S. Wolfgang's presentation on his trip to Campeche, Mexico for baby tarpon will be rescheduled. We are looking forward to that one.

Fishing Reports: Don had good reports on specs in the canals after cold fronts off his dock. Most members haven't fished due to cold and windy weather.

Meeting adjourned at 1940

January Clinic

A cold day in the dead of winter. Cold hands but warm hearts prevailed (nourished by Joe's most excellent soup)..



The brave but few were able to cast and did not catch hypothermia

