



# Flies and Lies

Newsletter of the Fly Fishers of Northwest Florida

January, 2024

## FFNWF

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Business Meeting  
1T Tuesday, 6:30 PM

Bull Session - Tying  
2ND Thursday, 6:30

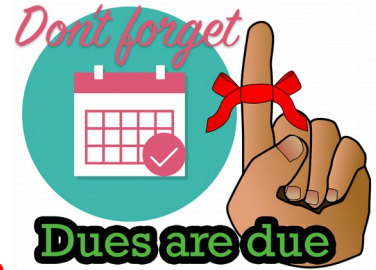
Clinic -Casting, Tying,  
Lunch - 3RD Saturday  
9 AM

A new year for our club but one thing stays the same:

## Dues are Due

Send a check - **\$35.00** -  
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](http://www.ffenwf.org) (\$2 extra) **Let's get the New Year off to a  
great start!!**

## The NEW President's Corner -

I hope that each of you are enjoying the holidays. We had a fabulous Christmas party on December 12th. The affair was complete with good food, great raffle prizes and auction items but most important was the great fellowship. Thank you to everyone that made this year's party a huge success!mmmmWishing you all a Happy New Year. *Cyndi*  
*See more about Cyndi as Angler of the Year next page.*

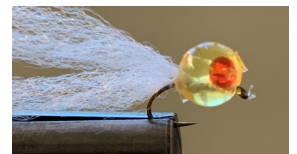
## Club Meeting – Tuesday, January 2 6:30

*(note – it will seem like a Monday)*

Wolfgang Szutie will take us to Campeche Bay in Mexico for tarpon fishing.

## Fly Tying – Thursday, January 11 6:30

Our new vice-president, Rex Green will present the Otter's Milking Egg.  
Bring your eggnog, if there is any left.....



## Clinic – Saturday, January 20 9:00 AM

By then spring will be in the air..... Well, at least you should get outside for a while and get some fresh air casting – and get warm inside with some eggnog and the Milking Egg. Lunch will be Chef Joe's Chicken & Sausage Stew with a mixture of Beans & Vegetables served with Crusty Bread & finely grated Parmesan Cheese. No slurping. No elbows on the table. After all, this is a Fine Dining establishment. Bon App'etit

# The Christmas Party



**Angler of the Year Cyndi Myers**



**The Energizer Bunny Award to Gary Pheabus**



**Jim White was given some freeze dried cookies baked by Russ Shields for his trip to Virginia.**



**But then Russ surprised Jim with a hand crafted gorgeous fly tying cabinet**



# The Raffle and Auction Winners

**And a Good Time was had by All!!**

**Fishing with Capt. Baz** As most of you know, wintertime is my favorite season. There may not be as many fish available, but there are enough of them in the shallows to keep things interesting. Most of the baitfish disappear when the water temperature falls into the 50's, but the redfish haven't forgotten about them. A properly presented baitfish imitation will almost always get a follow, and more than half the time a redfish will eat it. The winter reds are usually focused on the bottom, so it's imperative to cast far enough ahead to give the fly time to sink. When the fish either sees the fly or gets close enough to see it, strip with relatively short, quick "tics". When you see the fish take the fly, don't yank the tip back trying to set the hook. Instead, execute a long, smooth "strip strike" which either achieves a solid hookset or leaves the fly in the strike zone in case the fish missed it. One of the most common errors is dropping the line too close to a fish or actually "lining" it. When they hear and feel the fly line dropping hard on the water it's all over but the crying.



Here are some nice shots of our typical winter shallow-water redfish. Tom Blair hooked two and landed this first fish on December 13. Tim Boothe hooked three and landed the next two December 21. It's amazing how close we can get to them when the water's cold...54 degrees yesterday. Also, we're getting away with 16# tippet which ain't gonna happen during the busy months...



Pretty much all I do during the winter is sight-fish for redfish both inside and along the edge of the Gulf when conditions permit. I've caught pompano as late as January in the Gulf, plus there are always some large black drum in the mix. Inside, we'll see a few trout on the flats and often encounter black drum. FYI, I've never caught a black drum on a minnow imitation. For that reason I always have a second rod on board rigged with a clouser.

When things get desperate, I'll go up into the bayous or canals looking for trout. Got a message the other day from Don Smith that a friend of his was catching trout in a Santa Rosa Shores canal. On a cold day those areas can feel pretty darn good while having lunch and making some blind casts with a clouser minnow. Plus, you might just hit the jackpot and catch a big flounder or a striped bass. Of course, sitting at home in front of the fireplace on a cold day is pretty good, too. The other thing to watch out for December through February are false albacore along the beach and in the current line at Pickens Point. There were hundreds of birds in the pass yesterday, so the bait is there. Did not see any FA, but it could happen any time.



Mike Broughton and I had a good day at the beginning of the month. We ran east in the Gulf looking for redfish, and Mike got this one to eat a tan/white clouser minnow. Pretty sad looking redfish, but it pulled hard. I told Mike "Even a blind redfish finds an occasional clouser minnow". We ran farther down the beach and found a nice school of pompano around some submerged chunks of asphalt left behind by Hurricane Ivan 20 years ago. Mike hooked three and landed this one...his first pompano on fly. Way to go, Mike!



Way to go, Mike!

**Capt. Baz**

## The Fly of the Month **OTTER'S MILKING EGG** by Rex Green

Mostly for Trout, salmon and steelhead, this is a go to fly during spawning. The imitation is soft, translucent in color and size that mimic's a real egg. The white veil resembles the fertilization that sticks to the egg or emulates from the egg if punctured.

### MATERIALS:

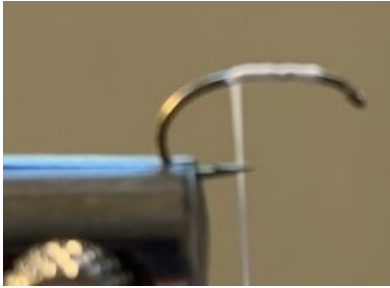
Hook: Umpqua, TMC 2487 Nymph, size 14 (hook size can be 12-16)

Thread: size 8/0, color-White, Red or Shrimp

Otter's Egg: size 6mm, color-Tangerine, red, apricot, kiwi

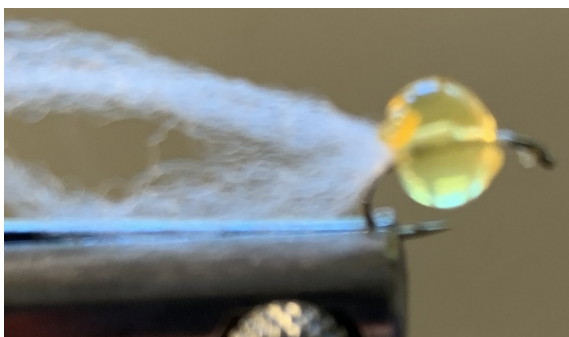
Veil: Glo Bugs Yarn, color-white

Embryo: Small red bead, size 3/32 to 5/32's



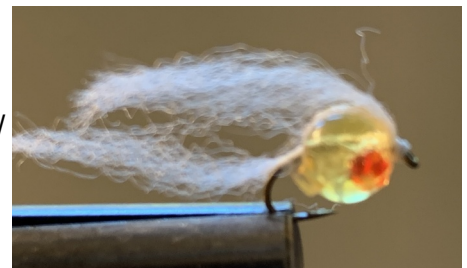
With hook in vise, attach thread just behind the hook eye and wrap back towards the start of the bend in the hook.

Attach a LITTLE bit of yarn (3 inches) and tie a whip knot or half hitch and cut off the thread/bobbin.



Add the egg, push onto eye of hook all the way through, then with a needle tool, add red bead into the front of the egg. Work the bead into the top of egg with your fingers

Re-attach thread between front of egg behind hook eye. Pull veil/ yarn over top of egg and tie down behind hook eye and whip finish. You can add glue to top of egg to hold veil in place. Trim veil to your liking.

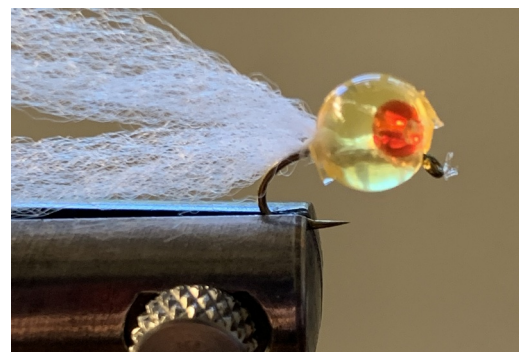


Here are videos showing different ways to tie this fly. With and without the embryo, with the veil in the front/ rear or both.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=v22xYHO5GdQ>

[https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Y7-pNc\\_Riq4&t=1s](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Y7-pNc_Riq4&t=1s)

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=owdqAleIpPI&t=2s>



## **Spring Club Trip to Twin Lakes Camp Resort 2024** By George Norton

I toured the resort-campground last year. At the January meeting I will discuss a spring trip in April. The questions are: 1. who might be interested and 2. is there a preference for going during the middle of the week or the weekend?

The resort is a luxury RV campground with 5 cabin suites, 9 air-conditioned glamping tents, and 3 tiny houses to accommodate different size groups. The pricing, for example, is \$255 a night for the cabin suites which have 2 bedrooms and 2 bathrooms with a living room and kitchen. The tiny house runs \$211 a night and has a small bedroom downstairs with a loft upstairs. They have kayak and an electric boat rental, a large pool and rec room. They have a web site and their phone number is 850-892-5914 for further information.

The feedback from last year favored trips close to Pensacola and Defuniak Springs meets that objective.

## **Meeting Minutes for December 5, 2023** by George Norton

**1830** The President called the meeting to order with the pledge of allegiance

**Order of Business:** The Minutes for the November meeting were approved as posted

**Treasurer's Report:** Monthly income from Christmas Party tickets, hats, and dues less expenses for Saturday clinic food, pastries, and raffle prizes (rods and reels) for the party leaves a solid balance in checking. Report approved, motion by Jim and second by Russ.



**Christmas Party: Ticket** sales totaled forty eight according to Cindy. The final number for SHCC was 50 attendees with 10% overage allowance on the food. Some very nice rods and reels were purchased by Cliff for the raffles. There also was a silent auction. *(Note: at the party our new president, Cyndi Myers was named 2023 Angler of the Year. Cindy has served in many capacities in the club. Congratulations and well deserved).*

**New Business:** Russ made a motion to honor Jim White for his years of service to our club. Jim served in many roles and has made our club better by his leadership and wise counsel. Last year our club was voted the outstanding club by FFI and Jim had a big role in that honor. Jim and his wife will be moving to Virginia shortly and the club voted to make him an honorary member. He will be sorely missed.

## **Presentation: Steve Hoffmann "Fly Fishing North Carolina and Georgia"**

Steve and Ellen fly fished two locations in North Carolina and one in north Georgia. Their favorite was the Davidson River's private waters in Brevard where they wade fished two half days in September. They had planned a float trip one day for small mouth bass elsewhere, but decided against it because the water was too low. The Davidson has easy wading and they caught a number of beautiful large browns and rainbows to twenty inches. Steve said, "I'll go back there in a heartbeat!" The flies used were pheasant tails, hoppers, mop flies and squirmy worms. They fished with Davidson River Outfitters.





On a second trip, they floated the Tuckasegee River near Bryson City, North Carolina for two days. Steve reported they caught a fair number of smaller trout in the delayed harvest section but hooked and lost several bigger trout in the section above the delayed harvest. Their guide offered them a shot of moonshine after Steve lost his second big trout. They used a variety of flies from squirmy worms, to streamers and stone flies.

Their third trip was to North Georgia to the Toccoa River in the tail water section. Beautiful fall leaves filled the river and made detecting strikes difficult and the fishing was fair best at best. As always, Steve's presentation featured maps and beautiful photos. Thanks Steve and Ellen for sharing your trips.

**Meeting Adjourned at 1940**

