



# Flies and Lies

Newsletter of the Fly Fishers of Northwest Florida

June, 2023

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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

## 2023 Auction Report

The Auction was a big success! All attendees were eager to spend their money and a good time was had by all. The club made \$4000 which was \$1000 more than our goal.

We sold all the available fly rods and reels. We sold all the donated fly boxes and fly tying items and materials. Of course, the fishing trips with Capt. Baz and Capt. Richard went fast!!

The Auction was conducted by Ellen Hofmann, Steve Hofmann and Gary Pheabus. Gary took over the "Auctioneer duties" after 1 hour because Steve's back gave out. Thank you Gary! Russ Shields, Larry Sisney, Cindy & Bob Meyers took care of the accounting.

Again a big thanks to all that helped to set up and clean up afterwards. *Auction Chair Steve Hofmann*

***And an even bigger Thank You to Ellen and Steve for working all year on the Auction!!***

### **Club Meeting: Tuesday, June 6 6:30**

The program will be presented by Frank Rawley about Tenkara fly fishing.

### **Fly Tying: Thursday, June 8 6:30**

Our Fly of the Month will be the Olive Finger Baitfish.  
Best tied while eating a muffaletta sandwich

**Note: Same week as meeting**



### **Clinic : Saturday, June 17 9:00 AM**

The lunch will be All American Favorites: Hot dogs, baked beans, and potato salad courtesy of Cyndi and Rob Myers.

# 2023 Auction



Newest Life Member Walter Van West



**YouTube** This is the inspirational story of Joe Humphreys. Best 90 minutes I've spent. **Bob M**  
<https://youtu.be/D8cL8JsqGpQ>

# 2023 Fly Fishing 101 Class



# Fishing with Capt. Baz **EMERALD COAST GRAND SLAM!**

Matt Smith from McKinney, Texas, got **The Emerald Coast Grand Slam** on May 3. We were just coming off the neap tides, and the water around Pensacola Pass was off-color. So, we ran east through patches of light mud until we found some decent water for sight-fishing. The silty water made visibility challenging, but it was greasy-calm, and we had good light. I got us right in tight, and we found plenty of redfish close to shore. Matt and his brother Andrew took turns on the bow casting various flies in their general direction, but the fish were as picky as ever. After an hour or so Matt got one to eat an EP baitfish, and we were on the board. We continued looking for a redfish for Andrew but got interrupted by a big school of jacks that passed us in the draw.



We ran ahead of the school and waited while Matt made some practice casts with the 10 weight. When the school arrived he kept his act together, made the cast, and strip-set the first fish that crushed the big popper. We landed the fish in 20 minutes, and it was only 11:45. The 10wt was too much for Andrew, so we ate lunch and returned to the redfish area hoping to find a pompano.

The problem was the murky water. There was no way to see a pompano, so I set us up just outside the inner bar and both guys blind-casted weighted spawning-shrimp hoping to get lucky. Over the next hour we landed numerous blue runners and lost a few flies to Spanish mackerel. I could feel the monkey starting to crawl up my back and decided to relocate.

The wind had picked up from the west, and we ran into the chop all the way to the “Palm Tree” area which had always been good for pompano. Once again, we spent a fruitless half hour blind-casting as the wind increased. I could feel the **SLAM** slipping away...again...and decided to throw the “Hail Mary”. We battened down the hatches and ran due west into the 2-foot chop through Pensacola Pass, across the Caucas Shoal, and on down a couple miles to an area known as Crane Cove. It’s where we caught the pompano for the first **SLAM** over fifteen years ago, and I’ve caught many pompano there since. I anchored from the bow in six feet of water, and Matt got set up



to cast from the stern. The boat was rocking, and waves were coming over the bow as he worked out the line and laid his first cast toward the bar. He let the fly sink, started quick erratic strips, and a pompano nailed it and went airborne. The fish tried all the usual tricks, but I’d left the barb up, and this time it didn’t get away. What a feeling when I got that pompano in the net! We were all both shocked and elated. After we took a photo and released the fish, Matt flipped the fly back out there and caught another pompano. Against all odds we’d lucked into the perfect spot, and the 4<sup>th</sup> **Emerald Coast Grand Slam** was in the books.



May is always the best month for the Grand Slam species. Here's a nice shot of Brian Boutchard with his first-ever pompano.



Greg Catalano had a killer day with the jack crevalle on May 9. Even broke his 12wt on one...

Phillip Parsley, my old buddy Rocket Man, and Riley Delong all caught beautiful redfish during the month.



As we move into June and July there's a realistic chance to catch a tarpon on fly, and **THAT's** what I'll be focusing on... **Capt Baz**

## Club Fly Fishing Trips

**St. George Island** wade fishing or bring your own boat or kayak for redfish and speckled trout September 13-15<sup>th</sup>. St. George is near Apalachicola and the Sportsman's Lodge is a motel in Eastpointe make your own reservations there at 850-670-8423. If the fishing is sub-par the oysters and fresh seafood at local restaurants are great. Talk to George or Wolfgang at a future meeting.

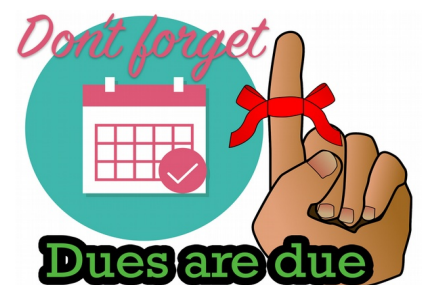


**Chandeleur Islands** trip May-June next year if we get 8 firm commitments willing to make a deposit. The trip currently costs \$900 per person and includes all meals and lodging on a houseboat. Three nights and two full days of fishing. License for Louisiana and tips are extra. The islands are thirty miles offshore of Biloxi, Mississippi and are famous for wade fishing speckled trout and redfish. Talk to George at a meeting if interested. **George Norton**

## Reminder – Dues are due!

**2023 Dues: \$35.00** renewal (check payable to FFNWF) to  
**Larry Sisney - 3610 Baisden Rd. -Pensacola, Fl**  
**32503**

**New Members : \$42.00** (cost includes a member nametag)



# Fly of the Month **OLIVE FINGER BAITFISH**

## MATERIALS:

**HOOK:** SC15 OR 3407 #1

**EYES:** 6MM YELLOW DOME HOLOGRAPHIC

**BELLY TAIL:** WHITE CRAFT FUR W/ SHARPIE  
BLACK BARRED

**TOP TAIL:** GOLDEN OLIVE CRAFT FUR

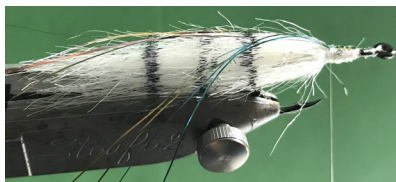
**THREAD:** MONO .006

**FLASH:** PEARL FLASH A BOU

**HEAD:** TAN MEDIUM PALMER CHENILLE  
or ROOT BEER PALMER CHENILLE



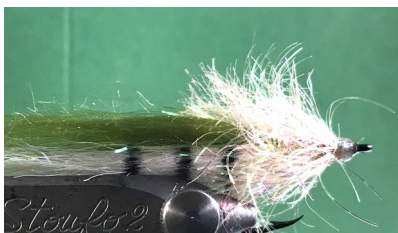
## INSTRUCTION:



1. Debarb hook, lay smooth thread base to hook barb. Rotate vice, add small clump white craft fur at hook bend, 1-1/2 times hook shank. Mark 3-4 black or brown bars along belly tail.

2. Rotate vice to up wright position, secure 3-4 strands flash-a-bou over top of white bellytail.

3. Add small clump of olive craft fur, 1-1/2 times hook shank at hook bend. Extend same length as bottom tail.



4. For head of fly, add palmer chenille at base of tail and wrap in close wraps to just short of hook eye. Whip finish small tapered thread nose.



5. Finishing fly, trim palmer chenille to a tapered head. Add dome eye to each side of fly.

Overcoat eyes and thread nose with head cement or UV resin.

Option: Substitute root beer med. Palmer chenille for tan.



**Prez Sez** The big news of this last month was, of course, the fundraising auction. ALL of our expectations were exceeded! I won't go into detail since Steve Hofman has included his summary in this issue. But I would just like to extend my personal thanks to all who volunteered their time and efforts to make it such a success. **Epecially to Steve and Ellen!** And thanks to all the club members who attended and opened their wallets.

The weather is starting to cooperate and the prospects of a great summer of fishing look promising. Get out and enjoy! Send photos for the Newsletter. **Mick**

## May 2 Meeting Presentation by Pres. Mick Milo, Yellowstone Cutthroat Trout by Horseback

The trip was to Slough Creek, MT, Third Meadow. The party of six spent a week in Yellowstone and booked a 3 day fishing trip with Slough Creek Outfitters. The company (more info at <https://sloughcreekoutfitters.com/> ) Slough Creek Outfitter's base camp is located just north of Yellowstone National Park. The camp is in the Absaroka-Beartooth Wilderness Area. Fishing trips are available from July to Labor Day. The horseback ride from the



point of origin to the Third Meadow camp was a

four hour, 13 mile trip. Dan's Hopper was the fly of choice for this particular trip. Fishing included meadow streams and alternating with fast water sections in the canyons. The trip is a very affordable 3 days in the wilderness, well away from the Park crowds.



### Board Of Directors Meeting Minutes April 27 by George Norton

1905 President called the meeting to order.

**Treasurer's Report:** Income from dues and beverages less expenses for our Post Office box renewal, clinic food expenses and pastries left a healthy balance in checking.

**Gulf Coast FFI May 5-6:** Jim W reviewed the May FFI conclave at Gulf Shores State Park. Club representatives who attended were Richard M for fly casting instruction, Gary P for demo fly tying and Jim and Bob M represented PHW. Thank you to our volunteers. The event showcased renowned demo fly tiers, casting instruction, and a variety of classroom seminars on fly fishing in our region.

**Conservation Issues:** There were meetings and updates on conservation efforts at FFI such as western dam removals and restrictions on mining. In our region the Gulf Coast Council actively supports conservation efforts, especially in Louisiana to reduce redfish and speckled trout harvest led by the Gulf Coast Councils' Director, Glen "Catch" Cormier. Studies by Louisiana biologists say the spawning biomass is not in good shape due to overharvest and habitat loss. In the last forty years the number of salt water fishers doubled along with better equipment, know-how and technology. The other Louisiana push is for a buffer zone on menhaden harvest to one mile from the beach. Further information is available on FFI website.

**Education: The 101 class** was a big success with great participation by the students.

**Web Site Update:** Issues with Pay Pal are on-going but progress is expected soon.

**Membership:** YTD we have four honoree members, seven Associates and fifty-nine paid regular members which is short of last year's total of ninety-three paid member. Please pay dues.

**Auction:** Terry is back in for the May 20<sup>th</sup> event. Thanks to Steve and Ellen for countless hours cataloging all the stuff.

Meeting Adjourned at 1945 hours.