



Flies and Lies

Newsletter of the Fly Fishers of Northwest Florida

March, 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

The President's Corner -

To all new members, welcome. Please join us for any and all events. Stay informed by going to our Facebook page, FlyFishers of NorthWest Florida or our website, <https://ffnwf.org/>

The Auction will be held on the clinic Saturday in May which would be Saturday, May 18, 2024 from 0900-1200. Steve and Ellen Hofmann have put in many hours and done an excellent job cataloging the inventory we currently have. If anyone has donations for the auction, please bring to a club gathering NLT the week prior to the auction. Gary Pheabus has also volunteered to donate his time again this year to be our auctioneer.

Cyndi Myers

Club Meeting – Tuesday, March 5 6:30

This will be a very important meeting. The program will be a presentation about the Club House and the park/property, given by Adrienne Walker, RPA. She's the Cultural Resources Coordinator for Pensacola. She will talk about the unmarked graves they are finding, what this means and the future of Miraflores Park.

Rex Green

Fly Tying – Thursday, March 14 6:30

We will be tying Br'er Rabbit, led by Gary Pheabus.

Clinic – Saturday, March 16 9:00 AM

Another gourmet experience (along with casting and fly tying). Cyndi and Bob Myers are cooking up Lasagna, garlic bread and a salad. It's going to be one of the classic Saturday clinic lunches. *Joe Higgins*

Note: same week as Fly Tying

Fly Fishing 101

Our club's Fly Fishing Class begins March 11 and continues every Monday from 6:00 – 8:00 PM for 8 weeks. For Info and registration call: Dave Handley (850) 417-9233 or Email ffnwfeducation@gmail.com

The 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.**

Fishing with Capt. Baz The weather improved considerably in February, and so did the fishing. I spent most of my time sight-fishing for redfish both inside and out, and the biggest obstacle was extremely low water. Winter low tides tend to occur during the daylight hours. With a strong N wind, the water disappears from the bay and sound. Many of my favorite flats become dry



land forcing the fish to congregate in the deeper holes. Even small 3-5' diameter depressions can hold small groups of fish. Sounds good until you realize multiple lateral lines and 2x the number of eyes makes it almost impossible to approach the fish without their sensing your presence. If you spook one fish, they all spook, and you're done. Wading is the best approach, and sloth-like speed with the *patience of Job* can pay big dividends. The first shot is Carl from Wyoming with yet another "redfish of a lifetime" on his



6wt. Next is Ken from Oklahoma, but this time we snuck up on the fish in the skiff, and Ken got out of the boat to land it. We were in a foot of water and didn't want to take a chance losing it on one of the trim tabs.

Here are a couple more shallow-water fish caught from the boat. First up is Carl (again) and then my long-time client Ken Hutchison (Hutch) from Idaho. We were fishing a broken-down dock, and this



fish crushed the fly and accelerated through the pilings. Hutch relaxed his drag letting the fish run free, while I poled along the structure with him threading the rod through the openings. Incredibly, we caught up with the fish and landed it before the barbless hook fell out. The photo doesn't do it justice, but the redfish weighed 23# in the net.

We found some bigger fish in deeper water and caught some beauties. Ken from Oklahoma City landed this 27 pounder February 15 on his 8wt. It's his best-ever redfish, and the biggest fish of the



month. Next is Carl with his second and third redfish on January 30, and finally here's Tim Reischman from Idaho with the fish-of-the-day on February 6.

The water temperature is increasing, and we're seeing more species on the inside flats and along the shore of the Gulf. There are more trout than usual, and sheepshead are feeding



on the flats. My brother Capt Dave saw an early-season school of jacks busting bait east of the Pensacola Beach Pier a week ago, and there are rumors of big schools of black drum in the "draw". Beach anglers are catching more pompano and entering them in the Gulf Breeze Bait & Tackle tournament. Things are looking up!

Capt Baz

Fly of the Month

Br'er Rabbit

by Gary Pheabus

MATERIALS:

HOOK: Mustad Stainless 1/0

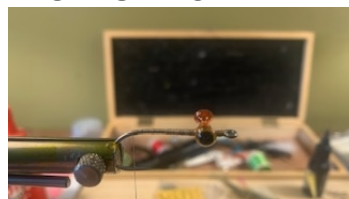
EYES: 6MM gold 3D 200 lb. mono dumbbell

TAIL: Bucktail, Steve Farrar blend, and craft fur

THREAD: 210 Danier

HEAD: Rabbit zonker¹

INSTRUCTION:



1. Place hook firmly into vise. Create a thread base from eyes to the bend.²

2. Place and tie in a pencil thickness or less of bucktail behind the eyes. Do not bind down towards the rear of the hook shaft. Use 45 degree loose wraps.

3. Add small clump of craft fur and Steve Farrar blend, at the same length of the buck tail in step-2, to the top of the bucktail.



4. Create a 6-8" dubbing loop. Insert rabbit zonker and spin. Brush out and palmer to the eyes. Leave space for second dubbing loop. Tie in rubber legs if you choose to do so.

5. Create a second 6-8" zonker dubbing loop in the color of your choice.



5.a. Make two full wraps behind the dumbbell eyes.

5.b. Starting on the far side of the hook shank behind the eyes, wrap under the dumbbell to the front of the near side.

5.c. Wrap on top of the dumbbell eyes back to your starting point in (step-5.b).

5.d. Wrap under the far eye and cross the dumbbell to the near side eye. Cross wrap under the dumbbell forward of the far eye.³

5.e. Continue Palmering to the hook eye.



6. Whip finish and add glue or UV resin to your thread head.

7. Trim and brush out the zonker. Eyes should not be covered.

1 Do not use magnum zonker. Zonker can be replaced by a manufactured brush.

2 Add lead keel to hook bend if you want the fly to sink faster or run deeper.

3 If you end up Palmering the dubbing loop counter clockwise, you've done it correct.

Project Healing Waters

Eight members of the Pensacola Project Healing Waters program spent 2 days this past week fishing the South Holston River near Bristol Tennessee. The weather was cool but spirits were high and everybody in the group caught fish!! We stayed at the South Holston River Lodge which was fabulous. The staff and the guides were great and the food was awesome (and plentiful). **Mick Milo**



Casting for Recovery - Tie A Thon is an organization that supports fly fishing around the world thru tying flies. This organization captured my heart. I reached out to FFNWF to see if this was something our club could support. FFNWF agreed to provide some flies so I reached out to Steve Hofmann, our auction committee chair, to coordinate which flies we could donate. It was determined that our club could donate around 500 flies. I'm awaiting a decision from Casting For Recovery to see which ones they could use. Once we hear from them, I will put them together and get them mailed to them. **Wolfgang Szutie.**

**Another way we
(especially the ladies)
can help
Casting for Recovery**

WE NEED YOU!

Are you versed in casting, fly tying, and general equipment knowledge?

Looking for female volunteers to be part of our Fishing Team for our October 2024 retreat in Live Oak, FL and Fishing Guides (male/female) for our last day with the participants.

Please send a message for more information to Dawn Fagot at dwfagot@gmail.com and/or Kate Kaste at katekaste42@gmail.com

Casting for Recovery
Florida
castingforrecovery.org



Fishing Report

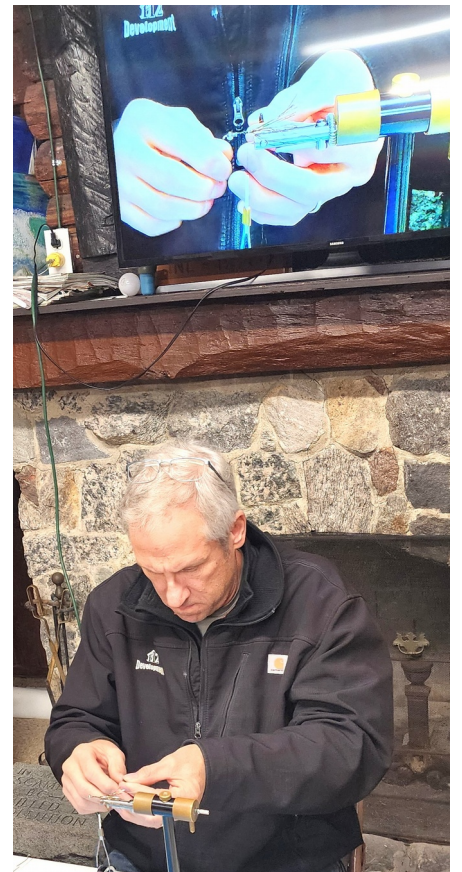
Club member and fishing guide Tom Dempsey sends this report from from Brazil:
This was my 18th trip to the Agua Boa lodge on the Agua Boa River. We caught 12 different fish species. All 4 peacocks plus piranha, arowanna, red tail cat, etc. All catch and release, fly fishing only. There are only a maximum of 10 guests on 135 miles of private water. Over 600 fishable lagoons as well as the river itself. Over 350 species of fish and they all eat flies. Crystal clear water sight fishing. Tom



February Fly Tying



Thanks to
Phil Hartz
For leading us



February Clinic



FYI: The scammers are at it again. IF YOU GET AN EMAIL FROM "CYNDI MYERS" DO NOT PURCHASE GIFT CARDS AS THEY REQUEST. This was tried last year also. Again... no one from the FFNWF club will email you requesting you to purchase gift cards on their behalf!!!
If you do receive an email, please report as spam.

Meeting Minutes: February 6, 2024. by George Norton

1830: The Vice President called the meeting to order with the pledge of allegiance.

Treasurer's Report: Larry reported club finances are in excellent shape.

The 2024 budget was approved, motion by Russ, second by George.

Minutes from last month's meeting were approved

New Business: George reported that the April 9-11 trip to Defuniak Springs resort was canceled after discussing with the BOD due to lack of interest. We needed eight to ten commitments to share the large house and divide expenses. Maybe someone in the club has access to a pond in our area and can coordinate a day trip?

March 101 Class is on schedule. Volunteers are welcome. The first week will feature a presentation on local fly fishing, what to use, and where to go.

FFI (Gulf Coast Region) will meet at Gulf Shores State Park May 5-6th. The meeting features fly fishing seminars, fly tyers, a fishing tournament, a film festival and casting instructions. Registration opens in March. Gulf Breeze is a short drive from Pensacola and the state park has overnight accommodations.

Club's surplus flies Wolfgang proposed donating them to a charity. The project was approved.

Progran Presentation: By Pensacola Cooks of 4051 Barrancas Ave focused on the preparation and preservation of seafood. Owner Jacki Selby, offers seafood recipes, cooking classes and certified facilities for start-ups in the food business. If you would like to tour their facilities call 850-456-0743 to make an appointment.

Fishing Reports: Don and George reported catching trout in the canals during cold fronts on the clouser minnow and the pompano rocket, two club favorites. Most members haven't fished due to cold windy weather.

Meeting Adjourned: 1940

And don't forget – Dues are due. In due time.