



Flies and Lies

Newsletter of the Fly Fishers of Northwest Florida

May, 2022

FFNWF

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Business Meeting
1ST Tuesday, 7 PM

Bull Session - Tying
2ND Thursday, 6 PM

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

The Auction

May 21 10:00 AM

Biggest and Best Ever See page 2

Club Meeting: Tuesday, May 3 at 7:00 pm

Jim White will present: Fishing in Yellowstone

Fly Tying: The Redfish Rattler

Thursday, May 12 at 6:30 pm

Tarpon Bob teams up with Jordan and Spencer (Church Mouse Fly Shop, Fairhope)



No Clinic May 21 Because that is **The Auction!**

The Prez Sez

The FF101 course has been rolling along for the past 7 weeks but, alas, will conclude on Monday, May 2. The participants are enjoying the instruction and hopefully taking away good, solid fundamentals to build on. Many thanks to all of the member volunteers and special thanks to our Education Chairman, Dave Handley and to all of our instructors; Richard Montgomery, Baz Yelverton, Russ Shields, Bob Korose, Terry McCormick, Cliff Newton, Gerry Giles, Brad Huen and Matt Wegener.

Finally, the big event in May.....The (almost) annual auction! Get ready for the excitement May 21st. This auction has to be the largest and most spectacular in club history. We've had more than 2 years to amass some very generous donations from members, past members and local estate gifts. Items for auction are detailed in this newsletter and there are some beauties. Until next month..... Keep it reel! **Mick**

The Auction

**Saturday, May 21 10:00 AM
at the Club House**

The club has a total of 170 Items that have been donated by family estates and club members, including:

Fly Rods 46 rods (from Fly 3 weight to 12 weight), including at least
6 famous name brand high value items (> \$200 on internet)

Fly Reels 22 reels of all sizes, including at least
5 famous name brand high value items (> \$300 on internet)

Fly assortments 15 boxes (11"x7") of flies (> 1500 flies total)
Dry flies, nymphs, bass flies, saltwater flies etc.

Fly Lines 30 lines including such brands as SA, Orvis and Cortland (3 wt. to 12wt.)

Fishing Trips with guides: Thanks to Capt Baz and Capt Richard Montgomery for donating trips you can bid on.

Miscellaneous items: Wooden landing nets, trolling motors, fly rod wall holder, wading boots (ladies and men's), boat bags, stripping basket, etc.

Note: There will be a minimum bid on the high end rods and reels.

Sage or Scott Rods will start at \$180; Bauer and Tibor reels \$250 to \$300.

We also have many Orvis, TFO, and Cabela's rod & reel outfits that were donated recently.

Some of the high end rods and reels will be held over for raffles at the Christmas party. For more details on the high end items; check the May, June, July and August Newsletters

Auction set-up begins at 9 AM. Item bidding starts at 10 AM.
We will accept credit cards. Hopefully we will done by 1200.

Many Thanks to our Auction Donors. Here is a list of known donors: Dr. Klaus Gohrbrandt family, Mick Milo, Captain Baz Yelverton, Capt. Richard Montgomery, Dr. Birdwell Family, Bob Meyers, Capt. Eddie Woodall family, Duncan Smith, Corbet Davis and Steve Hofmann.

So come on out, bring your wallet, Bid soon Bid fast, Bid often, Support the Club!!
Steve Hofmann, Auction Chair.

Fly of the Month: The Spencer Special aka Redfish Rattler

by Jordan Perry and Bob Korose

Jordan: This fly was shown to me by Mr. Spencer at the Church Mouse Fly Shop in Fairhope, Alabama. I was looking through the store, and he said, "Hey, you look like a military man. If you have a few minutes, come over to this table, and let me show you what I'm tying." I was not going to turn down this opportunity to learn from a man with so many years of experience. He tied it quickly, handed it to me, and said, "Thank you for your service. This one's on the house." He never told me what he called it; just that it was one of the most popular and effective flies that he offers. I am sure it has a name, and if anyone knows of it, please let me know. This has been my number one fly. I have lost count but have brought around 50 redfish to hand since I started using this fly the fall of 2019. Please enjoy and let me know how it works for you all.



Bob: Jordan is in the local Project Healing Waters program. He showed me this fly one day while we fished for reds at Naval Live Oaks. He prepared the write-up which is attached here and is only slightly modified for our use. Let's call it the "Redfish Rattler"

Hook – Size 1 saltwater (Mustad 34007)

Thread – 3/0 (white or any color) I like fire orange or red especially for head.

Eyes – Medium lead dumbbell (yellow eyes with black pupil)

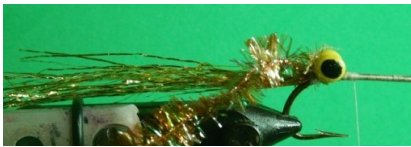
Tail – Any material with flash (FTD Northern Lights/SF Blend,) Tan, gold or golden olive

Body – Chenille (Pearl, Estaz, Krystal Flash, or others) medium size. Color is similar to tail.

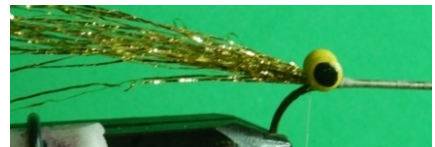
Glass rattle – 4mm



1. Put hook into vice and start thread wrap and make a good base.
2. Attach 2 1/2 inches of tailing material just before the bend of the hook – it can be trimmed later as desired.



3. Attach dumbbell eyes above the barb of the hook.



4. Cut a length of body chenille (7 or 8 inches) that will enable wrapping the body from the bend of the hook, over the dumbbell eyes and the rattle to the eye of the hook. Tie it in at the hook bend where the tailing material was tied in and leave hanging. Wind the thread forward to just in front of the dumbbell eyes and leave hanging.

5. Tie in the rattle just in front of the dumbbell eyes.



6. Wrap the Chenille forward over and around the dumbbell eyes and over the rattle to just behind the eye of the hook and tie it off. Make a nice sized red head and whip finish the fly.

Fishing with Capt. Baz

April has been an exciting month for Gulf of Mexico fishing. The water temperature is up and the jack crevalle, pompano, Spanish mackerel, and cobia have all arrived. Beach and pier anglers are loading up, but it's been too rough for my skiff. The last trip I ran in the Gulf was a lifetime ago back in February! My brother Dave took me cobia fishing a week ago in his "new" boat, so at least I got to finally get out there. As expected we didn't see any cobias, but I was surprised to see huge schools of false albacore at the Liberty Ships. It was a beautiful sight and bodes well for a nice May run of albies closer to Pensacola Pass.



So like last month we've been spending our time fishing for redfish on the inside flats. I've broadened my range to include more time in Jim White's backyard as the Big Lagoon is always productive this time of year. Once the Big Lagoon Jet Ski Tours get rolling all bets are off, and that will happen around Memorial Day. The increasing water temperatures have made for more comfortable wading, and we've been doing more of that with very good results. Plus, we're seeing quite a few nice-sized trout which adds some welcome variety.



We had some spectacular catches this month starting with Monroe Mayfield and a twenty pounder on April 10. I was poling close to shore in a foot of water when we saw a couple big fish cruising farther out near the dropoff. Monroe was throwing a new mullet pattern, and the bigger fish crushed it. As I learned from a bad experience last year, we immediately got out of the boat and moved well away from the skiff to fight the fish. After the redfish made a couple good runs into the backing Monroe eased his way to shore and gently coaxed the fish to the beach. When it was in less than a foot of water I was able to net it. There were more big fish cruising the area and Monroe's buddy Jacob took the rod and hooked an even bigger redfish! I couldn't believe it. We went through the same drill, but this fish was "smarter" and knew to rub the leader on the quartz sand over and over until the tippet broke. Which it did when the fish was in 10" of water fifteen feet from shore. I was almost close enough to dive for it with the net but chose to not make a fool of myself. Monroe and Jacob are river guides for Cohutta Fishing Company, Blue Ridge, GA.

Brian Boutchard landed the next hog on April 24. We were wading the north side of the island and had been in the water for a couple hours when a school of five big fish appeared coming right at us. Brian had plenty of time and dropped the fly well ahead of the approaching fish. When they got close he stripped it three times and this fish inhaled it. The fish ran 100' into the backing and seemed unstoppable, so I tightened the drag one click and started looking around for jet skis. He stopped it and started backing up toward the beach. We didn't realize how big the redfish was until it "flashed" about 60' out. What a sight! It was a nail-biting fifteen minutes before he brought it to the net. Whew! The really big ones always have a good chance of getting away.



Interesting that the two biggest fish of the month happened on Sundays. I don't usually fish weekends...



Here are the rest of the happy anglers from April. They all found ways to make it happen under challenging conditions, and I'm proud of every one of them.

Capt Baz



**Welcome to
the Club!**

**The Class
of '22**

April Clinic



Thanks to Ellen Milo for the delicious Shrimp Creole



April Fly Tying: What's Up, Dock?



Dream Destinations

Tarpon Bob takes us all over the world. Stuff dreams are made of.

Looking for some exquisite flats covered by crystal clear water? How far would you go? Wolfgang Szutie sent pictures from such a beautiful place to fish. Care to join him? Grab your passport. Get vaccinated.

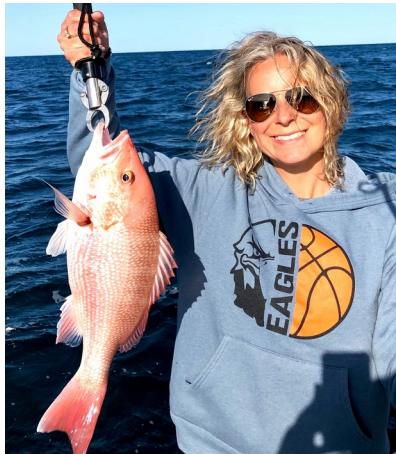




Join him at Naval Live Oaks.

(Caution: you will have to fly or drive all the way to Gulf Breeze)

From the Editor: A personal note: When our kids were at Perdido Key on spring break, our daughter and her husband took our grandson, Trevor, on a half day charter trip as his high school graduation present. They went out with Capt. Dave Yelverton (Baz's brother). It was windy but Capt Dave was able to get to a red snapper spot for some exciting catch and release fishing. If you



have friends or family looking for a spin fishing trip I highly recommend Capt. Dave. [Gulf Breeze Fishing Charters with Capt Dave \(850\) 203-0025](https://www.gulfbreezefishing.com)

FFNWF Meeting Minutes April 4, 2022 by G. Norton

1900 President Mick Milo called the meeting to order.

Treasurer's report: Larry informed that our checking has a healthy balance. Our treasurer made a \$750 down payment to reserve Senic Hills Country Club for our annual Christmas Party. During the month minor expenses occurred. Name tags for new members were approved. Treasurer's Report approved. Motion by Cliff, second by Jim.

Presentation by "Tarpon" Bob Korose Peacock Bass Fishing in the Amazon

Bob gave us a very thorough and informative 136 slide presentation on his two trips. The trips were coordinated by www.fishingwithlarry.com and covered seven nights.

Bob, and his fly fishing buddy from Louisiana flew from Miami to Manaus, which is the capitol city of the Amazon region, historically famous for the production of natural rubber. They stayed at the Tropical Hotel in Manaus for one night and the following day flew to their base camp where they hit the water with a guide. They slept in a cabana facing an enormous swimming pool.



They fished in 18 foot skiffs with different guides every day. Bob fished with a floating and an intermediate since the fish are on structure and shallow. They used 40-pound fluorocarbon leaders and loop knots. Bob made short casts to structure like downed trees and grass while their guides poled from a platform.

The flies were colorful and easy to tie. Bob's favorite color was red and white but yellow worked fine. Bob made one important adjustment by going to a smaller hook which led to more strikes. They found clear water in ox-bows and creek mouths, but also fished the main river which was low. The Lodge has recorded 18 different species caught on flies. Bob scored a very unusual catch of a red tailed catfish of about 28 pounds. It was only the third ever caught by anglers fishing with that guide. The lodge honored Bob by having him wear an Indian chief's headdress that night at dinner.



Peacock bass have huge heads and are brightly colored. Bob said the peacock bass averaged 5-8 pounds and his personal best was a fifteen pounder! There are numerous large game fish that jump and fight ferociously. The variety of birds and wildlife was staggering. Bob took a slide of the backside of a wild tapir, which is like a giant wild boar. They also found pink dolphins thousands of miles from the Atlantic Ocean. Bob, Thank you for another wonderful presentation

Old Business: The purchase of 20 hats with the club's name was approved.

New Business: Thanks to Jim W and the committee, the club's by-laws were circulated and updated to club members. At the next meeting a vote of three quarters is need to pass the measure. George informed about our club being nominated for FFI's "McKenzie Award" as the best club in the Gulf Coast Region which stretches from Destin to lake Charles, Louisiana. See the letter George, with Jim's help sent to FFI supporting our club. FFI will evaluate the nominees from all the regions and at some point will select the outstanding national club.

2045 Meeting Adjourned



You have read many times in Baz's reports about "the tower" at Ft. Pickens. The tower broke apart in Hurricane Sally and the National Park Service is in no hurry to fix it.

They left the remains laying there but at least nature has put it to good use, albeit very close to the ground.

Photo courtesy of Wolfgang Szutie

The following letter was submitted by George Norton after our club was nominated for the McKenzie Award

TO: Gulf Coast Region FFI

Re: Fly Fishers of Northwest Florida

I am writing this letter to support FFNWF for the McKenzie Cup “which annually recognizes the FFI Club which has made an outstanding contribution to the sport and mission of the FFI.” The core mission of the club “ is to assist people of all ages to learn and enjoy the sport of fly fishing.” I can’t think of a better description and NWFFF exceeds the mission.

FFNWF has offered an outstanding Fly-Fishing class called Fly Fishing 101 for many years. The class welcomes and methodically leads a raw beginner to a proficient level by class end. Students learn useful knots, fly equipment and fly-tying tools and materials.

The class learns how to tie three popular flies and cast proficiently while gaining knowledge from experts such as fly fishing guides, a state wildlife and fisheries biologist and club members with expertise gained through years of practicing the sport. The modest fee for 101, includes the annual dues for club membership. The class covers eight sessions beginning in March on Monday evenings. The class offers a printed syllabus.

The club members continue to mentor students with three regular monthly meetings. A general meeting covers the club’s business and features a speaker on a specific fly-fishing topic or location. Another evening meeting focuses on a useful fly pattern with helpful mentors.

At the meetings, the club offers a full array of fly-tying tools and materials free of charge for those who don’t have their own. On the third Saturday morning of every month, the club offers both fly tying and fly-casting instruction followed by a free hot lunch cooked by a member which enhances the club’s camaraderie.

The 101 class has introduced newbies to fly fishing for many years. The learning curve is not easy for those who don’t have access to a class like 101. The class requires many volunteer hours but the club exceeds with volunteers who step up. The class would be a model for other clubs on how to educate and bring in inexperienced fly fishers who might be intimidated by the learning curve if they had to learn on their own. The class instills confidence gathered from the patient support of club volunteers.

In 2011 the club sponsored the start of the Pensacola program of Project Healing Waters Fly Fishing (PHWFF). That organization supports the emotional and physical rehabilitation of disabled active duty and disabled veterans through fly fishing and associated activities. Over the past ten years well over thirty disabled veterans have sought out and found assistance and rehabilitation through the Pensacola program of PHWFF. All activities of PHWFF Pensacola are provided to the disabled participants free of charge. Those activities include fly tying, fly rod building, fly rod casting instruction, fly fishing education and fly-fishing outings. The program’s success is directly attributable to the unwavering support of FFNWF. The club provides the volunteers who so generously provide their time, and they share their meeting location. Additionally, FFNWF provides gratis membership to the disabled participants of the program. So, in addition to the three monthly PHWFF meetings, those participants also enjoy attending the three FFNWF monthly meetings as well. For those who take in all the meeting opportunities, the immersion into all things fly fishing is very deep. In fact, one participant became so involved in the sport that he started a small business supplying local tackle shops with flies. The Pensacola program of PHWFF would not have started nor would it still be in operation ten years on if it were not for the mentorship and support of FFNWF. Scores of disabled veterans are thankful.

The monthly newsletter comes out promptly and features information in a central location. The newsletter has received recognition for excellence. The club also has a fully stocked fly-fishing

library available for club mentors to check out. The FFNWF web site is excellent. Our Facebook page adds additional ways to market the club.

Each summer the City of Pensacola operates a week-long program intended to teach youngsters how to fish. Several years ago, FFNWF teamed with the city and now, one of the days of the program is devoted to an introduction to fly fishing. The youngsters learn to tie a fly and to cast a fly rod. While the one-day experience is intended only to introduce them to the sport, it is small beginnings like the one supported by the club that plants seeds for the future. Again, the club's very active volunteer base makes it possible.

Finally, FFNWF manages for the City of Pensacola the building in which the club meets. Built by the Civilian Conservation Corps (CCC) in 1932, the Boy Scout Building has provided a home for the club for over thirty years. In addition to the club and the Pensacola program of PHWFF, three other clubs are hosted by the facility. In 2018, the club began working closely with the city and the state to have the building, the only remaining CCC built structure in northwest Florida, placed on the National Register of Historic Buildings. That effort paid off in 2020 when the building's historical significance was recognized and the building registered.

I endorse Fly Fishers of Northwest Florida for the McKenzie award. Their mission "is to assist people of all ages to learn and enjoy the sport of fly fishing." This club in the Florida panhandle has far exceeded expectations in helping people learn and enjoy fly fishing. Without the countless hours of club volunteers, fly fishing in the region would not have grown to the degree.

Sincerely Yours,
George Norton Club Secretary