



Flies and Lies

Newsletter of the Fly Fishers of Northwest Florida

May, 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



It's Auction Time! Saturday, May 20 9:00 AM at the Clubhouse

The 2023 Club Auction now has 150 items, including 20 Fly rods & 20 reels, a large collection of fly tying materials & fly tying accessories and Art Work. Among the fly rods are a vintage Sage 8 wt. rod and a vintage Thomas & Thomas 8 wt. rod. Among the name brand reels there are Pflueger, Orvis, Ross and Cortland. Several of the reels are "new" in their original box.

There are also many accessories like wooden landing nets, line winders, wading staffs, stripping baskets etc. We also have over 44 fly boxes with various sizes of flies; over 1000 flies total both salt and fresh water.

A highlight of the auction will be fly fishing trips by local guides or club experts. Last minute donations are discouraged. Of course that heirloom "Payne or Gillum" bamboo fly rod will always be accepted.

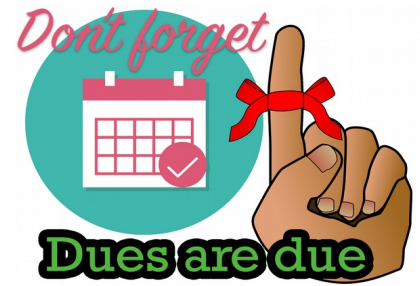
Auction day has always been an event of fun and fellowship with spirited bidding. Be sure to bring your check book or credit card and get some great bargains and at the same time you will help the Club and Healing Waters treasury. Come out early to check out the collection of items.

Start time is 9:00 am.

Steve Hofmann, Auction Chair.

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)

Online payment is currently down. You have the option to either mail your check to Larry or bring your check to the next meeting. You can pay with a credit card at any club function.

Club Meeting: Tuesday, May 2 6:30

The program will be “Montana Cutthroats by Horseback” by our very own president, Mick Milo

Fly Tying: Thursday, May 11 6:30

Our Fly of the Month will be the “BMF Baitfish” by our very own president, Mick Milo

Rest assured, we do not pay double for overtime.



No Clinic lunch: The Auction will be Saturday, May 20

April Clinic



Fishing with Capt. Baz

April blew in with the usual wind and rain. Gulf seas were 2-4' from the SSE for the first couple weeks which pushed in that beautiful turquoise water "tower boat" cobia anglers see in their dreams. The pompano arrived right on schedule, and I got tired of hearing stories about anglers limiting out from the beach. Plus, there were reports of big schools of jack crevalle coming by the Pensacola Beach Pier. I was stuck on the inside trying to figure out the ever-so-picky redfish and wondering if the Gulf was ever going to calm down. At least Santa Rosa Sound was warm enough for wading, and 14yr old Brady Sherck landed this beauty on an EP baitfish. Sorry about the background... secret spot.



The Spanish mackerel arrived in large numbers, and we started seeing a few jacks on the inside flats. Jeff Lampe hooked into a big one April 7 on his 8wt while blind-casting for Spanish. It was the end of the trip, a storm was bearing down on us, and we were trying to avoid getting skunked when the fish struck. After chasing it around for 20 minutes in the rain I finally got my hands on the leader and broke it off. We called it a "caught" fish avoiding the skunk and hauled butt back to the dock.

The highlights of the month came over a three day stretch April 17-19. A big cold front moved through on April 15 and knocked the Gulf down flat. I could hardly sleep from the excitement of finally being able to get out there. My clients Jennifer Holbrook and Kim Jones were coming from San Diego and were concerned that rain from the cold front might trash the water. I assured them the water clarity would be fine but decided to drive over to the beach on the 16th to check it out. I couldn't believe my eyes when I saw the surf and drove all the way to Opal Beach looking at brown water. The outer bar was clear and green, but everything close to the beach was muddy. Tides were neap for the next couple days, so I didn't expect a surge of incoming water to clean things up. I gave Jennifer and Kim the bad news that night, but they were already in town and eager to fish. So, I planned for another day of redfish hunting starting in the "No Combustible Engine" zone behind Ft McRee.

It was in the 40's with a cold north wind the next morning, and I ran in the lee to Town Point before crawling across the bay to Bayou Grande. We met at the Navy Point Boat Ramp and took the usual spray while exiting the channel and heading south toward the Gulf. The water was calm west of the turning basin, and we stopped to clean our sunglasses. I thought I must be hallucinating, because from that distance the water at Pickens Point looked green. We hugged the shoreline to Pensacola Pass, and then ran straight downwind to the Gulf where we found turquoise-clear water and a 6" shore break. We pulled in by the Ft McRee rock jetty and were greeted by a school of 200 redfish



floating in the water column looking bronzed and happy. I poled the skiff toward the fish, and Kim took the first shot. For a woman who had never seen such a school of redfish she did great laying cast after cast into the fish. But the redfish wouldn't rise to the EP minnow. I changed the other redfish rod to a tan/white clouser, and Jennifer got off a single cast before another boat motored into the school and the fish spooked. When a jet ski arrived, we decided to head east looking for pompano.

The water east of the pass was pristine, and there wasn't a human in sight as we continued east to one of my favorite pompano beaches. We idled in close and dropped the anchor. The view was breathtaking with a deep blue sky, emerald green water and bright sunshine. It was calm enough to pole west along the shallowest part of the bar, while Kim and Jennifer took turns casting downwind at redfish. Jennifer landed her first-ever pompano when this fish snatched her EP minnow away from a redfish. We found a large school of redfish just outside the bar, and I poled us close to shore and dropped anchor when we drifted into casting range. There were redfish and pompano mixed together, and I was pulling out a pompano rod when the jack crevalle arrived.



This was no ordinary school of jacks. There were 500 fish in the city block-sized school, and they passed a hundred feet from us in their usual formation. We left the redfish and went after them. It was typically frantic as I poled us out to motoring depth, and Jennifer and Kim stowed the smaller rods and got the 10wt ready. The big school of fish was easy to see as we ran down the outer bar, and I pulled in a few hundred yards ahead of them. Jennifer was on the bow with the 10wt, and I was on the platform holding the boat in position when the fish approached casting range. Man, oh man, what a sight! Jennifer was mentally

prepared for the moment and laid the big popper on target ahead of the school and waited. When the lead fish reached her fly, she aggressively stripped, and the jacks climbed over each other to eat it. She strip-set like a pro, and it was *game on*. After tightening the drag on the Tibor Riptide she brought the fish to the net in 20 minutes. We snapped pics and headed west hoping for another shot before they reached the pass. We found them near the observation tower, and Kim got her shot hooking up ten feet from the boat. Her fish was thankfully a little smaller because when the dolphins came after it she was able to horse it in. We landed the jack and ran for a quarter mile away from the dolphins before releasing it.



Since Jennifer had two legs of the *Emerald Coast Grand Slam* it was time to return to the redfish school to finish it off. When we arrived, there was another skiff sitting on top of them with the trolling motor down. They appeared to be following the school to the west, so we pulled in east of them and poled east with the afternoon sun at our back. Next thing we knew the other boat was right behind us herding the redfish ahead of them and past our boat. Jennifer made a couple casts, but the fish were on full alert uninterested in the fly. The other boat cranked up, ran around us, and pulled in 200 yards down the beach. I'd already had one altercation with another guide that morning and wasn't in the mood for another, plus they had already harassed all the fish along that beach, so we decided to run back to the pass and look for the school of fish we had seen that morning.



The water was tannin-stained, but we found the redfish close to the surface reflecting the late-afternoon sun. Jennifer selected a 1/0 chartreuse and white clouser minnow that she had tied

hoping it would get quickly down to the fish. I poled us into range, and she made the shot. It was a perfect cast, and a redfish immediately grabbed the fly. Once again, she strip-set perfectly, and the fish started its run. We were all screaming with delight, but as she was clearing her line it caught on something and popped the



leader. The redfish school disappeared in the dirty water, and that was that. It's the closest we've ever come to getting *The Slam* without actually getting it. Ironically, Jennifer's first fish the following day was this impressive redfish which ate an EP minnow. Kim followed suit, both anglers landed pompano, and we finished the day hunting for the final leg of the elusive *Slam*...but the jacks never showed up.



On the 19th Father Tony Davis, Glenwood Springs, CO, was on the



boat for his first ever saltwater fly-fishing experience. The wind was forecast to go from NE to E mid-morning, so we started early and ran east hoping to find a school of redfish. The shore break was already building when we arrived, but I could still pole the outer edge of the bar. A small school of redfish came into range and Tony put his first-ever saltwater cast in front of them. Immediately a camouflaged pompano snatched his fly and took off. His first cast! The barbless hook fell out after a few runs, and we resumed poling. Another school of redfish came into range, he made another nice cast (his 2nd), and this beautiful redfish crushed it. After a 30-minute fight in increasing seas, Tony brought it to the net.

Catholic priest...24# redfish on his second cast...makes you wonder. **Capt Baz**

Future events:

The Gulf Coast Council – 12 clubs including FFNWF will host a **Fly Fishing Conclave at Gulf Shores State Park on May 4 – 5 - 6**. The park has a 200 seat auditorium, three classrooms for seminars with fly tying and casting instruction. Fly fishing films will be shown. A fly-fishing tournament will be held on Friday details TBA. Don't miss it.

- Seminars
- Fly tying demonstrations
- Fly Tying Theatre
- Exhibitors and vendors
- Beginner fly casting instruction (free with admission)
- Beginner fly tying instruction (free with admission)
- Fly tying workshops (registration required)
- Casting workshops (registration required)
- Fishing Tournament (registration required)
- Fly Fishing Film Tour (F3T) (ticket purchase required, limited seating)
- "Lunch & Listen" conservation roundtable
- Raffles & silent auction for great items



Fly of the Month – The B.M.F. Baitfish by Mick Milo

I was first introduced to this fly while fishing with buddies in the 10,000 island/Everglades area below Naples and Marco Island. However, down there, this fly is tied in a larger size for Snook and Tarpon. The preferred color for mangrove Snook is solid white and for laid up tarpon, the preferred colors are purple, black and dark red in a variety of combinations. Hook sizes were larger (1/0, 2/0 etc.) than we typically use in our area, but it struck me that this might be an effective fly in our area if “toned down” in size. I have also been experimenting with various color combinations more suitable to our fishing. For this tutorial, I have chosen white, gray and silver. It is a baitfish-looking fly much like our local favorite, the *EP Baitfish*.....but it is MUCH easier (and much faster) to tie than the EP Baitfish and because it utilizes some natural materials like marabou and ostrich hurl, it undulates beautifully in the water more so than the EP Baitfish.

Materials:

Hooks: Gamakatsu SC-15 size 1 or 2

Eyes: “Stick-On” eyes of choice

Tail – Dark Gray Ostrich Hurl,

Head/Collar – EP Foxy Brush, Silver Fox (3”)

Thread: 210 Flat-waxed nylon-white

Body: Lower Body/Belly – White Marabou,

Upper Body – Light Gray Marabou,

Instructions:

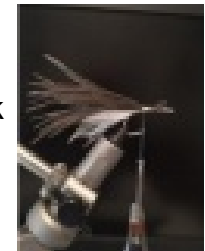
1. Begin at the hook eye and wrap a thread base all the way back to the bend of the hook, just above the barb.



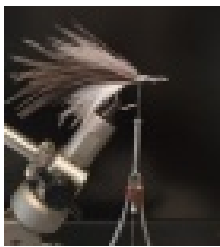
2. Tie in on the top of the hook shank a small clump of white marabou extending approximately one hook length beyond the hook.



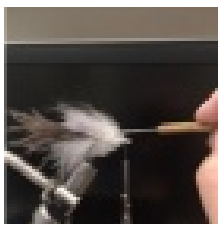
3. Snip off approximately 20 hurls from the dark gray ostrich feather and tie in on top of the white marabou to extend two hook lengths beyond the hook.



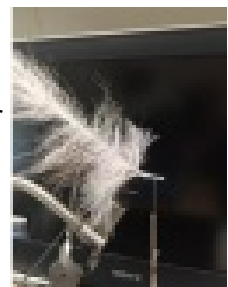
4. Tie in a small clump of gray marabou equal in size and length to the white marabou belly.



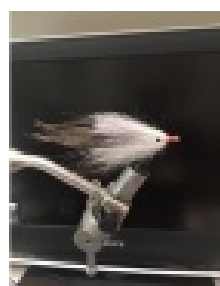
5. Tie in the wire spine of the Foxy Brush and wrap the thread all the way forward to one eye width short of the actual eye. Palmer the brush forward in fairly tight wraps. As you palmer the brush, sweep the brush fibers backward to avoid getting caught up in the wraps.



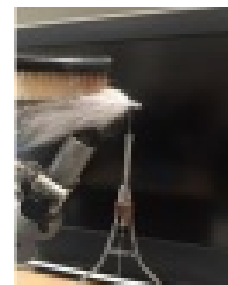
6. Using a bodkin, pick out any brush fibers that have been trapped in the palmering process.



7. Brush out the Foxy fibers to create a full, bushy head.



8. Attach the “stick-on” eyes with superglue and build up a nose. Whip finish and coat the nose with head cement or UV resin. (The nose can be colored RED with a “Sharpie” pen, if desired).



Club meeting April 4, 2023 Minutes

By George Norton

1830 President called the meeting to order with the Pledge of Allegiance.

Presentation by Bob Myers: A film called “The Rocky Mountain Fly Hwy“

Highway 20 runs from the Yellowstone Park area near Wyoming’s northwest corner through Idaho to the Oregon border for about 500 miles. The Highway crosses numerous blue ribbon trout streams.



Some of the film’s featured rivers were the Madison, Firehole, Henry’s Fork, Teton River, South Fork of the Snake River, Big Lost River, Big Wood River, Silver Creek, South Fork of the Boise River and the Owyhee River in Oregon in the high desert. The film showcased some beautiful Rocky Mountain scenery and an interview with famed trout guide and entrepreneur, Bob Jacklin. The film touched on the rich history of the region. Thanks, Bob, for picking out a beautiful film.

Comments: The 101 class is going very well and is on schedule as is the auction on May20th.

Treasurer’s Report: Dues are now delinquent. Please pay. We have a solid balance in checking.

Gulf Coast Classic: Jim W will represent PHW and our club at the Classic and Gary P will represent us as a featured fly tier. Hope many of our members will attend this event. FFI Gulf Coast Conclave in Gulf Shores State Park (Alabama May 4-6th) will have fly fishing seminars, leading fly tiers, and casting instruction and a fly fishing film festival are sure to attract attendees from the twelve clubs in our region (Destin to Lake Charles, Louisiana) and many nonmembers.



The facility is top notch and a short drive from Pensacola. The cost for the three day is \$20 plus \$20 for the film festival. Details are available on the FFI web site. Anyone interested in volunteering should go tovolunteers@ffigcc.org and the deadline to sign up is April 1st.

Fishing Reports: George and Oleta reported the bass were spawning and the Spanish are in the Bay. Look for diving birds and fish breaking the surface.

1920 Meeting Adjourned