



Flies and Lies

Newsletter of the Fly Fishers of Northwest Florida

McKenzie Cup Winner 2022

November, 2022

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NEWSLETTER

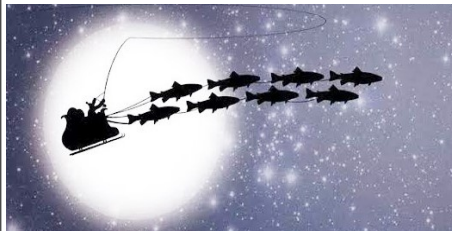
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Business Meeting
1ST Tuesday, 7 PM

Bull Session - Tying
2ND Thursday, 6 PM

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

Christmas Party December 13 Scenic Hills Country Club.



**Tickets are \$30 cash at the club or
\$32 online from Cyndi Myers**

We will have great food, great raffles, and great fun!

The Auction... Monthly Club Meeting Raffle!!

At the November meeting you will have the chance to win a **Scientific Anglers** 'System 2' Fly Reel size 7/8 made in England. The reel is a "Like New" and has an 8 wt line installed. The reel has an excellent drag system and is a left hand retrieve. \$5 raffle tickets



Steve Hofmann Auction Chair

Club Meeting: Tuesday, November 1

NEW TIME – Club Meetings will begin at 6:30!!

This month only there will be a board meeting at 5:30. And.....

THE PREZ SEZ: October 19 our club officially received the "McKenzie Cup" award as FFI's #1 Fly Fishing club for 2022. The presentation was made via ZOOM from FFI headquarters in Colorado. Jim White, Cyndi and Bob Myers set up group viewing on the Big Screen. This is a BIG DEAL for our club and I want to thank the entire membership.

The next item of business is the Election of Officers for 2023. The election will be held at the November 1 meeting **at 6:30**. The list of candidates as offered by the Nominating Committee follows. Nominations will also be taken from the floor. And last but not least, we will also be voting on our most coveted "Angler of the Year" award. See you on election night! **Mick**

Nominees for 2023: President – Mick Milo. Vice president – Brad Heun.
Treasurer – Larry Sisney. Secretary – George Norton.
Board Members at Large – No nominees



Fly Tying:

Thursday, November 10 6:30

We will be tying the **The Cocahoe Clouser**. Even comes with its own video. And its own tail.



The Clinic: Saturday, November 19

Don Smith is going to provide the last Saturday lunch for 2022 with his always popular Chicken Brunswick Stew. I also want to thank all the chefs that volunteered to step in and make the monthly lunches a special occasion with their culinary delights.

Joe (Thank you, Joe, for arranging every lunch every month!!)

The McKenzie Cup Award Celebration

via Zoom from FFI Headquarters, Boulder, Colorado



or you could watch from home or wherever you are (in Arkansas)

Fishing with Capt. Baz

It sure has been nice having an October without any rain. The water clarity both inside and out is pristine, and fall is finally in the air. Pensacola Bay water temperature dropped to 75 degrees mid-month causing an exodus of the ladyfish and tarpon. There have been impressive schools of ladyfish both east and west of Pensacola Pass, and the tarpon are pouring out of Mobile Bay and Pensacola Bay all travelling eastward to warmer water. We're still catching a few Spanish mackerel, but it's nothing like it was a couple weeks ago and the fish are smaller. Most of the jacks are gone, and the flounders are starting to make their move. Speckled trout are disappearing from the shallow water and will be arriving soon in our favorite bayous. The next big event will be giant schools of menhaden migrating from the headwaters of the bay to the Gulf of Mexico and the running of the bull redfish which we all hope will be feasting on them...

At the moment, there are more pompano on the inside flats than I can remember, and they are very aggressive. The pompano travel with schools of redfish and beat them to the fly almost every time. Just yesterday Jesse Iland from Feather-craft landed two pompano while casting to redfish. It just wasn't his day for redfish. Earlier in the trip a redfish in the 20 pound range charged his fly, but a 12" mangrove snapper ate it first. Here's a nice shot of Jesse with his first pompano.



We've been having lots of fun with the flats redfish. The fish are a little less spooky now that the water is cooling off, although the crystal-clear conditions still make things difficult. I'm having better luck with smaller flies like the EP Perfect Minnow and twelve foot leaders coming down to 12# tippet. These fish require long casts and a soft presentation. You should be using nothing larger than an 8wt and fly lines with a longer shooting heads. Leave the "Outbound Short" and "Quick Shooter" lines at home. Also, it's time to clean and retire your "tropical" lines until next June. Spool up your cold water lines for the next few months. My personal favorite is Rio's "Winter Redfish" line, but all the manufacturers have something similar.



Here are a few hard-working and lucky anglers who rang the bell in October. Each fish caught was a special event similar to the alignment of the planets. Our best day on a 6hr trip in October was 4 takes and 2 landed fish. It's not for everybody.

If you're looking for big numbers wait for the trout to show up in Hoffman Bayou or the Santa Rosa Shores/Villa Venyce canals. Terry McCormick will know when it happens, and if you're really nice he might clue you in...

Capt Baz



Tennessee Fly Fishing with Debby and Barry Tourigny



Deb and I traveled to Tennessee to fish the the water in and around Bristol. TVA has dammed a number of areas for power creating amazing float trip opportunities. Our guide, Todd, made the day enjoyable as he shared the history of the area. Fish were plentiful and the weather spectacular as the leaves were turning their brilliant fall colors. We highly recommend making the trip. **Debby and Barry Tourigny**

Georgia Fly Fishing with Ellen & Steve Hofmann



On Friday October 14th we fly fished the Toccoa River in GA. We used local guide Mat Morrison from Cohutta Outfitter's on Main Street in Blue Ridge. We started our 6 hour float trip approximately 1 1/2miles upstream from the town of McCaysville and took out below the local city park in McCaysville. It was a beautiful autumn day, cold in the morning, warming up nicely in afternoon. We were using a dry dropper rig most of the day with some dry fly action around noon. The top fly was a Caddis imitation and the bottom fly was a caddis emerger.

The fishing was very slow all day. We landed 2 fish each (a brown and a rainbow). Around noon small caddis hatch began, so we switched to dry flies. The week before we arrived several guides we talked to in the shop said they had 25-30 fish days; so I guess we were a week too late. We had fun anyway. I also tried out my new 5 weight small stream "Fates" fly rod that I won at the last month's club meeting. It is a beautiful casting small stream rod! One lesson learned about fly fishing the fall season in Georgia: it was hard notice your dry fly in the riffles of the river with all the autumn leaves floating on the surface.... So next year we'll come a little earlier. **Steve & Ellen Hofmann**



Fly of the Month **COCAHOE CLOUSER**

The Cocahoe Clouser fly pattern was developed by Peter Jordan of Lost Angler Fly Shop and Outfitters. Daphne, AL. The Cocahoe Clouser is a game changer in that it can be effective fished in both clean and muddy waters. The Cocahoe Clouser is tied with the interesting addition of a swim tail. Something we haven't seen tied for clousers. But to get the best action from this pattern it starts with the right preparation of your materials. In this case: your swim tail.



[youtube.com/watch?v=luVOglGDeRg](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=luVOglGDeRg)

MATERIALS:

HOOK: GAMAKATSU SC15 1/0

THREAD: MONO OR WHITE 140d

EYES: SMALL/MEDIUM YELLOW DUMBBELL

TAIL: COHEN'S MEDIUM CGH SWIM TAIL

FOUL GUARD: 30LB MONO

SKIRT: PEARL UV ICE DUB

THROAT: FL. PINK BUCKTAIL AND RED UV ICE DUB

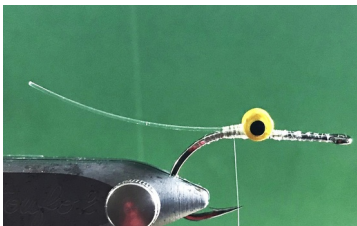
UNDERWING: WHITE CONGO HAIR

WING FLASH: PEARL AND GOLD KRYSTAL FLASH

OVERWING: TAN CRAFT FUR, BROWN BARRED MARKS

OVERWING FLASH: ICE WING FIBERS, MINNOW BACK

INSTRUCTION:



1. De-barb hook, lay smooth thread base to bend of hook. Return thread to front of hook point. Wrap small thread bump and tie-in d/b eyes.

2. Behind d/b eyes, secure piece of mono foul strip.

3. Prepare swim tail by folding over tag ends. Glue together, next glue paddle disc to tabs. Tie at bend behind d/b eyes. You will

want to leave room around tail free of materials so it moves properly.



4. To tie-in skirt, take small clump of ice dub and secure behind eyes. Fold tag over. Repeat this step with 4-5 small clumps. You want a full buggy look.

5. For the throat, take a thin clump of Fl Pink bucktail and secure behind d/b eyes. Take tag end and twist tag and tie-in at hook eye.

Create a bridge, d/b eyes to hook eye. Cement bridge for durability.

6. Secure red ice dub at hook eye and fold tag back to create gills, over bridge. Rotate vice, hook up



7. Next take 4-5 strands of pearl k/flash, double over thread tie in at hook eye.

8. For your wings, add small clump of white congo hair at hook eye. Then add 4-5 strands of gold k/flash. Next add small clump of tan craft fur for your top wing. Add 3-4 brown marker strips along top wing.

9. Final step add sparse pinch ice wing over top wing, double pinch around thread & secure. Whip, cement head.



October 4, 2022 FFNWFL Meeting George Norton, secretary

1900 President called the meeting to order

Minutes from last month were accepted and approved by George and Cindy

Treasurer's Report: Income was minimal from a new member, raffle sales and drink sales.

Expenses were minimal for the Saturday clinic. The report was approved by Russ and Bob

Committee Reports Jim from PHW reported the steering Committee is already in place and Russ, Cliff and Larry S will work to support and help Jim and PHW.

New Business

October raffle featured two fly rods; a Fisher three piece and a Japanese six piece. The winner selected the six piece which leaves the Fisher for a future raffle. November's raffle will feature fly reels. Raffle tickets are \$5 each.

Club Outing to Fort Pickens Thursday October 6th on a short notice was a success. Larry, Wolfgang and George fished the Gulf Side in front of Battery 234. The seas were calm and water temperatures were in the high 70's. They caught small jacks and ladyfish in the surf from the sandbar. Jay and Pat fished the Bay side and caught flounder and ladyfish around the grass flats directly opposite the Battery. The pompano are running but the pompano rocket didn't get them this time. The ladyfish run will soon go south but the Spanish mackerel have a few more weeks. A shot at a big red or jack is always possible at Fort Pickens in the beautiful clear water. Wolfgang brought ice cold Heineken beer which hit the spot around noon. The club survey listed Fort Pickens as the number one site members wanted for the club's trips. We will continue to discuss future trip possibilities at the general meetings to see if any interest builds for other trips. Tell George at a future meeting if you have ideas for future trips or would like to lead one.

Election Committee headed up by Cliff N, assisted by Dave H and Jim W. Please contact them with your nominations for the 2023 officer positions, the two Committee-At-Large Members and the Angler of the year. The election will take place at the November 2nd meeting. Angler of the year will be announced at the Christmas Party.

The Christmas Party now has tickets for sale. See Cyndi for in person purchases or go on line for tickets at \$2 more. The party will be Tuesday, December 13th at Scenic Hills Country Club. The key players are Jim W, coordinator and communicator with SHCC, Cliff heads up the auction with outside suppliers like Feathercraft and Orvis, Steve H handles all donations to the club by members and Jay B, known as the energizer fills the gaps. Some of the items at the Party will be a Sage and a Thomas and Thomas rod, with fly reels to match. The Cut-off to purchase tickets is the week before the party. Tickets will still be available at the door (\$5 higher) but for planning purposes it is very important to have an accurate head count in advance. The party is open to nonmembers such as spouses and friends. Bring boxes of flies or novelty items for door prizes. Every year the Party gets better and better with food, prizes and silent auctions.

2023 Club Dues: A motion at the BOD meeting was made to raise annual club dues to \$40 to cover increasing costs due to inflation. Members will vote on the ten- dollar increase. There was over whelming support from the Board, while only one board member questioned the need to raise the dues. The Treasurer will present a 2023 budget which further supports the need for the increase.

McKenzie Cup Presentation for FFI's most outstanding club for 2022 will be presented live in the clubhouse on October 19th. The club President will accept the award on the clubhouses' big screen TV. Members can also view it on Zoom by clicking the link. Come celebrate this award for the

number one club in the nation or attend on the Zoom link. Congratulations to all the members who made this award possible from our outstanding 101 class, to fly tying and casting instruction, PHW, and community outreach to name just a few of the many activities that make our club so special.

Presentation by Perter Jordan on the two handed Switch Rod

Peter's presentation was on the switch rod. He is the owner of the Lost Angler Fly shop in Daphne, Alabama at (251)-510-6804. Peter's shop, offers guided wade, kayak and genu fly fishing trips, and fly tying and casting instruction on certain Saturdays from 10 to noon and is only an hour from Pensacola.

The recommended switch fly rod for fatigue free casting at a reasonable price is an eleven foot six weight TFO Axiom which is equivalent to a ten to twelve weight. The switch rod can be cast like a conventional fly rod with one hand or with two handed roll casts which are static, dynamic, or spey casts. The switch rod works best in the surf or bank fishing lakes or wading bigger rivers. It is too long for boat fishing.

Casting a switch rod takes a different approach from a one handed rod because roll casts are used. The right hand acts as an anchor or lever since the rod remains close to the body unlike a conventional one handed rod where the right arm extends out and puts more strain on the right shoulder resulting in much less fatigue. Roll casting is easy and 80 foot casts are achievable. There are two fly lines for switch rods. The Skagit line is "home grown" out of the Pacific Northwest. Peter described casting the Skagit as like a beer can on the end of the line. The Scandi line was developed in Sweden for the switch rod. Peter can rig up a TFO Axiom 11 rod, TFO reel and line from Rio or Scientific Anglers for about \$700 which is his choice and train you.

He informed the club members that Florida rivers in our area have an abundant striped bass population. The Perdido has a natural reproducing population. The Escambia and Blackwater Rivers are stocked every two years by Wildlife and Fisheries. Peter calls stripers the southern steelhead as they pull harder than redfish. He also likes to wade fish the Fort Morgan area for redfish. Thank you Peter for such an informative and interesting presentation on a new way to fly fish.