

# ***Flies & Lies***

NEWSLETTER OF THE FLYFISHERS  
OF NORTHWEST FLORIDA  
MAY 2013

THE FLYFISHERS OF  
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## **MONTHLY MEETINGS**

Meetings at Miraflores Park  
17th Avenue between  
Belmont and LaRue

**BUSINESS MEETING  
1ST TUESDAY, 7 PM**

**BULL SESSION  
2ND THURSDAY, 6:30  
PM**

**CASTING & TYING  
CLINIC  
3RD SATURDAY, 9 AM**

## ***President's Message...Terry McCormick***

November will be a very busy month for the Fly Fishers of Northwest Florida. First, November 5 is Election day. We will be voting for a new slate of officers along with 2 board of directors members at large. We will also vote on the angler of the year. Come let your voices be heard.

Secondly, Christmas Party tickets will be on sell this month for the party on December 10. We have added some great raffle prizes this year including a fishing trip with Capt. Baz. Tickets must be bought this month so we can have a count by Thanksgiving. It's the same price as it has been for the last several years. \$ 25 per person, raffle tickets \$ 5 or 6 For \$25. We will have the party at the Holiday Inn on Davis. Social hour starts at 6 pm, dinner at 7 pm. We also need door prizes such as flies, hats, books, etc. if you can bring something it would be appreciated.

Third, turn your clocks back on the third and get up early and go fishing, the sun will be up earlier.

There will be a Board of Directors meeting on The fifth at 6 pm, followed by the general meeting and election at 7 pm. We need as many members as possible to be there to vote.

Tight lines and the tug is the drug,

Terry.

**Business Meeting Minutes—See page 3**

## **Fly Fishers of NW Florida Annual Christmas Party**

**Date: December 10, 2013 Tuesday**

**Time: 6 PM Cash bar Dinner served at 7:00 PM**

**Location: Holiday Inn 7813 N. Davis Hwy Pensacola FL**  
**Hors'deuvres: Complimentary Drumettes and Meatballs**

**Main Course: Country Buffet**

**\$25 per person**

**Mark your Calendars. More info to follow in the December  
Newsletter**

# Fishing Report... Captain Baz Yelverton

Okay, boys and girls, it's the season we've all been waiting for. Seems like all of a sudden everything's turning on at once. False albacore...giant Spanish mackerel...slot-redfish on the flats...bull reds! The choices are exhausting, but we'll just have to keep level heads and deal with it. If the aforementioned species aren't enough the mahi-mahi have moved in just outside the outer sandbar in the vicinity of Battery Langdon, and we're seeing blackfin tunas as close as the USS Massachusetts. On October 27 there were thousands of bull redfish on the surface a half mile east of Buoy #6, and all these fish will be heading inside the bay during the next week or so looking for menhaden and bay anchovies. Man, what a season it's going to be!

But let's take a look back at October which was an excellent transition month. The false albacore showed up in a big way earlier in the month on a tide line close to the sea buoys, and we had very good success with the old faithful #6 gummy minnow. As I mentioned last month the secret is a l-o-n-g five foot strip with a little snap at the end. Here are some shots of clients who got their drags tested on the FA in October: **Elden Rosenthal**, Portland, OR, on October 8; Aspen, Colorado's **Bob Jenkins** on October 11; and **Allen Taylor** on October 13. These were all mid-to-large sized albies in the 6-8# range. Fabulous fish. Here's a link to a short YouTube video of **Bob Jenkins** on his birthday October 11. Copy and paste it to your browser; I think you'll enjoy it. <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=wZl5dVdH9o8> (Preview)



The seriously big Spanish mackerel are here in a major way. **Bob Jenkins** landed this fish on October 11, and since then the numbers have exploded. I was fishing for fun on October 11 at Town Point and landed a Spanish that weighed 7 1/2# on the bog a grip. That's a "bloody-your-knuckles" fish for sure, although I escaped unscathed. Can't say that for the fish though as we took it to Peg legs and had it fried for dinner. Everybody should really get out there and have a taste of these brutes. They're badass to the bone, and you don't need 80' casts to make it happen. The tan/white buck tail clouser minnow is the ticket, and I've been going to a short piece of 26# AFW tie-able wire because the Spanish were biting through 80# mono. That ought to tell you something... By the way, take lots of flies. Make your cast and let it sink...and sink...and sink. Then give it a quick 3' strip and let it sink again followed by another quick 3' strip. Continue all the way to the boat, and keep a good grip on your fly rod.

The slot-sized redfish sight-fishing on the inside flats is as good as I've ever seen it. There are plenty of fish, and they are willing to eat if you're in an area that doesn't get too much fishing pressure. My "go-to" fly has been the tan/white EP clouser minnow, size 2. You'll also see fish in the heavier traffic areas, but good luck getting them to eat. I think by mid-November all the fish on the flats will be hungry. Here are a couple nice shots from October: **Bob Jenkins**



# Fishing Report.... Captain Baz Yelverton

on October 11 and **David Butler** on October 15. We landed six redfish on each day.

Check out this bull redfish caught by **Elden Rosenthal** on October 8. **Elden** was



fighting a popper-hooked bluefish on the Caucas Shoal when a school of a dozen bull reds rose under his fish and either tried to eat the bluefish or take the popper from it. It's the same thing that happened last month. This time the popper pulled loose, and both the bluefish and redfish dropped out of sight. I had a 10wt ready with a sinking line, handed it to **Elden**, and he put the heavy clouser in the vicinity of the action. A couple strips and he was hooked into this fine bull redfish. The lesson is to be prepared at all times for the big redfish. Once we're into October and November they can



pop up anywhere anytime.

I hope to see you on the water in November... **Capt Baz**

## Business Meeting, Fly Fishers Of Northwest Florida, 1 October 2013, President Terry McCormick, presiding

The October meeting of the Fly Fishers of Northwest Florida was called to order by Pres. Terry McCormick. There were 18 members and one visitor present.

The minutes were accepted as published.

The treasurer reported a balance of \$5,690.59.

There was a general discussion of the Christmas Party scheduled for Dec. 10, 2013. Members were asked to make a commitment to attend.

The meeting was adjourned at 8 PM.

Submitted by Bud Newbill

## Fly Tying: What Is “Genetic Hackle”

by Philip Monahan

Have a question you want answered? Email it to us at [ask@midcurrent.com](mailto:ask@midcurrent.com).

**Question:** *What is “genetic hackle”? Isn’t all hackle genetic?*



**Answer:** When someone talks about “genetic hackle,” what they are really talking about are feathers from birds that have been genetically engineered through selective breeding to produce feathers especially for fly tying. Take a gander at one of the Whiting Farms birds, for instance—some of which are the end result of 80 years of selective breeding—and you’ll note that they don’t much look like barnyard chickens. These are exotic, fragile animals. Their cape and saddle feathers are now so long that breeders had to create longer-legged birds just to keep the valuable feathers from dragging on the ground.

And it’s not just length that hackle farmers are after. They’re also trying to produce feathers with *greater barb density*, which means fewer turns of the feather are necessary on each fly. In their natural state, feathers have longer barbs on one side, so *barb symmetry* requires careful breeding. Then there’s the *rachis*, which fly tiers incorrectly refer to as the *quill*. Tiers need the rachis to be pliable without being brittle, with a shape that resists twisting. The list of desirable traits goes on.

According to Dr. Tom Whiting, the Doctor Moreau of chickens, it’s a never-ending challenge to produce birds with high-quality feathers that are perfectly proportioned for fly tying. Once you’ve bred the kind of bird you want, you don’t just sit back and reap the rewards.

“It takes a lot of selection pressure just to keep the birds where they’re at, which is an unnatural state,” he says. Breeders have created the feathers that tiers want “by identifying, isolating, stabilizing, and perpetuating novel mutations,” he explains.

Strangely, the color of the feathers is not something he spends much time worrying about.

“No matter what color comes out of the breeding process, we can find a use for it,” he says.

The exceptions to this rule are the rare and highly valued colors such as cree..

## ITEM OF INTEREST—Continue

“Cree can be maddening,” says Whiting,” because it doesn’t ‘breed true.’ It’s actually a three-way cross of colors, making it nearly impossible to predict.”

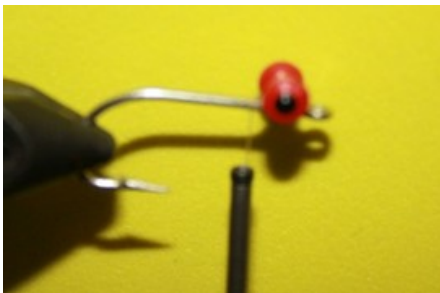
Ultimate, Whiting argues, the chicken itself is little more than a life-support system for the follicles that produce tying feathers, in the same way that sheep exist to produce wool.

*For a more complete look at the amazing features bred into these birds, see my article “Closer Look” in the May/June issue of [American Angler](#).*

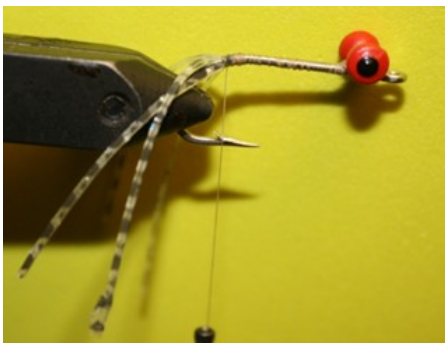
**FROM EDITOR:** This article appeared on the Hatches internet page and I thought it would be of interest.

## Kent’s Hard Back Horned Crab

- Hook:** Mustad 34007 Size 4  
**Thread:** Tan Uni 6/0 or Olive Uni 6/0  
**Eyes:** Small Red Lead Dumbbell eyes placed 1 eye length behind eye of hook.  
**Rear Legs:** 2 halves of white with black striped Crazy Legs, 1 half each side of hook  
**Body:** Dark Brown Congo Hair topped by Caddis Tan Congo Hair  
**Front Legs:** 2 halves chartreuse with black specs Crazy Legs, 1 half each side of hook  
**Horn:** Approximately 1 inch of medium tan ultra chenille, melted at each end, tied directly behind lead dumbbell eyes.  
**Epoxy:** Hard plastic  $\frac{3}{4}$  disk adhered to Dark Brown Congo Hair underneath the fly using 5 minute epoxy.



Step 1: Attach small red dumbbell eyes 1/8” to 1 eye length behind eye of hook.



Step 2: Attach 2 halves of white with black striped Crazy Legs, 1 half each side of hook facing the rear of the hook.

## *Kent's Hard Back Horned Crab—Continue*



Step 3: Attach approximately 2 inch segments of Congo Hair on body of hook starting at bend and ending with a small gap about 1/8" behind the dumbbell eyes. Dark Brown Congo Hair should be on the bottom with a layer of Caddis Tan Congo hair on the top. Both colors are attached on the top side of the hook.



Step 4: Lift all Congo Hair straight upwards so each side meets on top of the hook. Being careful not to clip the rear legs, trim the hair in an arch about the bend of the end of your thumb resulting in a crab shaped body.



Step 5: Take approximately 1 inch of tan medium Ultra Chenille and hold in middle with pair of tweezers. Singe each end with a lighter creating a set of "horns". Attach horns directly behind dumbbell eyes. Attach 2 halves chartreuse with black specs Crazy Legs, 1 half each side of hook facing forwards towards the eye of the hook.



Step 6: Trim all legs to desired length. Turn fly over and apply a coat of 5 minute epoxy to the bottom of the crab, on the Dark Brown Congo Hair. Apply hard plastic  $\frac{3}{4}$  disk to epoxy and clamp. Ensure front legs do not get caught under disk and continue to face in the proper direction. Let dry and remove clamp and then trim any of the plastic disk that extends beyond body of crab. **Go fish!**

**Now Open!!**



# USMC FLY GUY

We are now open for business. Check out our website at [usmcflyguy.com](http://usmcflyguy.com) and our store at [store.usmcflyguy.com](http://store.usmcflyguy.com). USMC Fly Guy is founded by FFNWF member Kent Reagan who was introduced to fly fishing through the Healing Waters Program. We currently specialize in saltwater flies, but are slowly introducing fresh water flies as well. In the future we hope to also offer leaders. Stop by our website or like our Facebook page. For your convenience there is also a store located on Facebook which can be access directly from our Facebook page.

Guides and businesses are eligible for a wholesale accounts. If you're interested in a pattern that we don't currently offer feel free to contact us and we'll do all we can to accommodate your needs. Contact us as [contact@usmcflyguy.com](mailto:contact@usmcflyguy.com) for any questions or comments. We hope you stop by and visit us. Tight Lines! ~ Kent Reagan

# The Tip Jar....

**Gerald Gillis** — Go to <http://www.hatchesmagazine.com/> There is an excellent video instruction on how to tie a hot wire nymph. I called it the two-wire when I taught how to tie it at the club. One of my favorite nymphs for trout.

**Jim Morris** - I carry a crochet hook for untangling knots in the line or leader. It doesn't take up any space or add extra weight and has saved the day more than once.

## *Around the Bay...and Further Away*

Early in October I went to PA for two weeks. The main reason was so my wife could go to her "55" year high school reunion. Of course, I plan to do some fishing while I was there. The trip was a lot of fun and I did get to go fishing one day. It rained on the other days I could go and the trout streams were flooded. Too dangerous to fish with bum legs.



My son and law and I went to Codorus State Park where he had fished before and to give you an idea of how the leaves turned the picture is of one of the many trees that were changing color. Much different than what is in Florida. The first fly I tried was the Japanese beetle which Russ showed at a Friday VA clinic for Healing Waters. Caught a blue gill on almost every cast. The last cast was hit by something which I never saw and lost the only fly of that type. Lesson learned – always have more than one fly of each kind.

Phil, my son in law, while using his spinning rig caught an item of interest. The reel was busted and not worth fixing. Sure wish people would put their trash in the trash can instead of our lakes and streams.



The entire trip was not a total waste. We got to enjoy some Maryland Blue Crabs. A dozen was all we could afford since crabs are selling for \$35.00 a dozen.

Going back in December. Maybe a trout next time. Maybe some more crabs!!!

**Roy Turner**





## *Around the Bay....and Further Away - Continue*

**Jeff Deuschle** - A friend from Eastern Shore Fly Fishers and I found some big black drum tailing in clear water this month. The big bruisers were oblivious to anything we threw at them, but Matt's black "Redchaser Whistler," with rattle, tied at the September clinic, turned the trick. I promised Matt that rattle fly would catch me a big red, but I guess a big black drum will have to do!



**JEREMY WAGNER** — As you know Northern Colorado was hit with a 1,000year flood about a month ago. Hardest hit was one of the gems of American fly fishing: Sylvandale Guest Ranch. Located 5 minutes from Loveland, CO this family owned dude ranch offered a welcoming environment and affordable, world-class, private fly-fishing. The ranch offers well-managed wild brown trout river fishing and spring-fed ponds stocked with MONSTER Camloops, Northern Steelhead, Browns and Cutbows. The ranch and the river were destroyed in the flood and will likely take over a year to rebuild.

How can we help: Donations and support (Fish for the cause)

The legendary "Big Lakes" are high up in a mountain valley, safe from the river's fury, are OPEN and still fishing great.

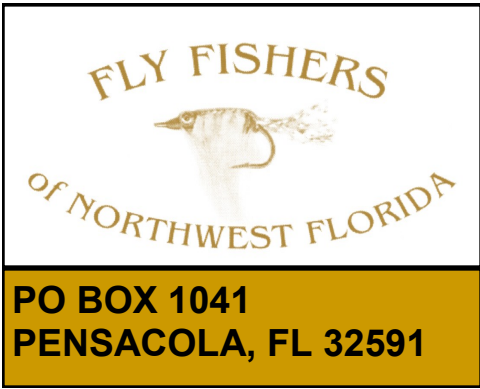
Can you ask the club to keep Sylvandale in mind on their next trip to Colorado? Located only 1 hour from Denver International Airport these lakes are easily accessible and well worth the trip.

<http://www.sylvandale.com/>

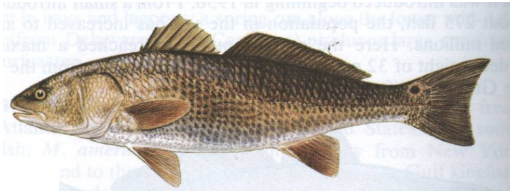
<http://www.coloradoan.com/viewart/20130917/NEWS01/309170037/Flood-decimates-Loveland-s-Sylvan-Dale-Guest-Ranch>

Fishing Reservations: [kathiw@sylvandale.com](mailto:kathiw@sylvandale.com)

Tight Lines,



"Do unto others downstream as you would have those upstream do unto you."  
Wendell Berry



# NOVEMBER 2013

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
					<b>1</b> VA tying clinic	<b>2</b>
<b>3</b>	Healing Waters	<b>5</b> Business Meeting	<b>6</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>8</b>	<b>9</b>
<b>10</b>	<b>11</b>	<b>12</b>	<b>13</b> Bull Session-Tying & Tall Tales 6:30 PM	<b>14</b>	<b>15</b>	<b>16</b> Clinic - Casting, tying, gourmet lunch 9 AM
<b>17</b>	<b>18</b> Healing Waters	<b>19</b>	<b>20</b>	<b>21</b>	<b>22</b>	<b>23</b>
<b>24</b>	<b>25</b>	<b>26</b>	<b>27</b>	<b>28</b>	<b>29</b>	<b>30</b>