

Fill your Summer Fly Boxes with Floaters

Jenny Aldridge

It won't be too long until inshore waters start warming and the specks and reds will wake from their winter lethargy. You can think about putting away your sinking lines and shooting heads because your prey will be coming off the bottom in those deep holes in the rivers and bayous and will be heading for grass beds in shallow water. And they will be hungry! So get your floating lines ready and restock those fly boxes with your favorite topwater flies.

You would probably catch lots of fish if you simply filled your boxes with Clouser Minnows in your favorite color. But it wouldn't be near as much fun as choosing and tying other flies to present under a variety of conditions. For example, let's pretend we are on the grass beds of Santa Rosa sound a little before sunrise on a June morning. The wind is calm and the water is like a mirror. Everything is quiet and peaceful but if you observe closely you may see shrimp skipping along the surface or schools of rain minnows making the water "nervous". Occasionally, you may see the water "boil" as predators find their prey. It looks like conditions are just right for surface action so let's start with a popper. The sight of a speck (or most any other fish) attacking a popper is indeed a sight to behold. They often come clear out of the water only to nail your popper on the way down or they may miss time after time during your retrieve finally to get it just before you pick up to cast again. Isn't this a lot more fun than blind casting with a sinking fly?

Topwater flies come in many shapes, sizes and colors but have one thing in common - all



are made of some type of buoyant material. Cork, closed-cell foam, spun deer hair and balsa wood are just a few of the most common, each with its own proponents, advantages and disadvantages. One may be easier to cast, another more durable, a third cheaper



or easier to tie. No material is better in all characteristics. I prefer balsa

wood for its durability and ease of casting but largely because of a generous fishing buddy who turns out beautiful bodies on his lathe. I also like foam because it cheap and easy to work with. Topwater flies also have many names, usually descriptive of their sound or motion, including poppers, gurglers, divers, sliders, crease flies etc.

Two of my favorites are shown, one a balsa wood popper made by Travis Akins, the other a Gartside gurgler. Both are tied on long shank hooks although regular length hooks work fine too - just make sure the body doesn't interfere with the hook gape. The popper has a marabou and flashabou tail, decal eyes, finger nail polish for two-tone paint job and a light epoxy coat for better durability. The gurgler has a bucktail and crystal flash tail, closed-cell foam body and lip and palmered grizzly hackle for the legs. You may have noticed that the gurgler looks a little ratty; I haven't restocked my own fly boxes so the one shown has already tangled with a speck or two.

So the next time you see bait crashing the surface try your favorite popper. The surface action is highly addictive so watch out - you will be well and truly hooked.

PJC Fly Fishing Class runs through April 28th on Wednesday evenings from 6 to 8 PM. Casting instruction is near the gym from 6-7 PM. Tying sessions are held in room 1704, building 17 at the main PJC campus Help is needed in helping with the fly tying and casting instruction. You need not be an *expert* to help and you may pick up a few tips along the way and have fun at the same time. For more information call Tom Regina at 456-8808.

Flies & Lies

APRIL 2004

President's Report

It looks like Spring has sprung. March winds are true to form. The USS JFK is in town and the merchants are smiling (all the "mechants" I suspect, including the ones on West Cervantes, I imagine.

Art and his gang apparently had a truly outstanding experience in Bryson City, last week. What I don't understand exactly is how you cast downward vertically into a stocking vat. They must have however, since reportedly 90-113 were caught, most every day.

I'm going up there April 4-11 with the next group of "pilgrims", and again in May., and am more than ready to escape P'cola.

The PJC course continues under Tom's capable tutelage, and I hope we'll pick up some new members from that.

The auction is coming soon, as is the May picnic, so stay tuned, save up yer money, and work up an appetite.

Vice-President Russ will chair the meeting on April 6th, so treat him nice, you hear?

SCOUT CAMP needs you! We will teach the Fishing and Fly Fishing merit badges at Camp Euchee near Defuniak Springs from June 7 - 10, 14 - 17 and 21 - 24. Classes are Monday through Wednesday with merit badge exams on Thursday. Meals and lodging are provided and the fishing in the lake is wonderful. Contact Vick Vickery at 478-3584 or fwickery@juno.com if you can make time to act as a volunteer instructor for any of the camp weeks.

AUCTION, AUCTION, AUCTION....Well, folks, it's that time again. On May 4th at our regular business meeting we will hold our annual auction. The auction has been a great asset to the club. Many of the things that we continue to enjoy are a direct result of the generosity of our members at this event.

What we need now are your donations. We, of course, will accept practically anything (being the discriminating folks that we are) but a fly fishing theme is preferred. So, dig through that old gear and bring it with you to the meeting. We already have a couple of rods and various tools/gear.

Actually, I would like to know in advance (if possible) what you are bringing and have you bring it the night of the auction. You can email me at travisfly7@aol.com concerning your donations.

The club board has set some guidelines concerning minimum bid donations. Minimum bid means that you would donate an item and expect a certain amount of money in return for the sale of that item, anything more would go to the club. In order to make minimum bids work better, it was decided that we would limit the number of those items to fit the current auction and examine the amount of the minimum for each item to maximize the benefit to the club. This function will be performed by the auction committee who will also handle negotiations with the donor.

The Fly Fishers of Northwest Florida

PRESIDENT - Jay Williams Jr.
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PAST PRESIDENT - Tom Regina

COMMITTEE CHAIRPERSONS

AUCTION - Travis Akins

CONSERVATION - Doug Kemper

DIRECTORY/NEWSLETTER - Jerry Aldridge

EDUCATION/CASTING - John Brand

EDUCATION/TYING - Tom Regina

TRIPS & OUTINGS - Art de Tonnancourt

FFF REPRESENTATIVE - Larry Goodman

LIBRARY - Kevin Cohenour

MEMBERSHIP - Karen Brand


MONTHLY MEETING SCHEDULE

BUSINESS MEETING - 1ST TUESDAY, 7 PM
BULL SESSION - 2ND THURSDAY, 6:30 PM
CLINIC - 3RD SATURDAY, 9 AM
BOARD MEETING - 4TH TUESDAY, 6:30 PM
FISHING TRIPS - AS SCHEDULED

Meetings at Miraflores Park, 17th Avenue between Belmont and LaRue

Newsletter Editor - Jerry Aldridge
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jamayfly@yahoo.com

David Lambert's Oyster Mullet

Hook	Mustad 34007, size 1 - 4 (also on a 1/0 to 3/0 circle hook)	
Thread	White 3/0, red 3/0 for the nose	
Tail	White bucktail, pearl flashabou, grizzly and white hackles, splayed	
Weight	.030 lead wire	
Underbody	White yarn	
Body	Grizzly and white "Orvis Magnum Zonker" strips, regular super glue	
Flash	Holographic tinsel	
Eyes	6mm or 7.5mm Animal eyes, "gel" super glue	

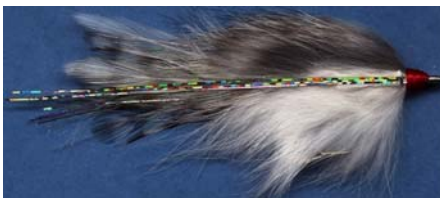


1. Secure hook in vise; attach thread and wind to the bend. Wrap 8-10 turns of lead from mid-shank to about 3/16" back from the hook eye. Cover lead with thread wraps and wind thread to the bend. Attach a matchstick sized clump of bucktail at the bend, 1 1/2 to 2 shank lengths. Add 8-10 strands of pearl flashabou on top and same length as the bucktail.

2. Attach 4 grizzly saddle hackles (2 on each side splayed apart) on top the bucktail. Attach 4 white saddle hackles (2 on each side of the grizzly, also splayed out). Attach yarn at bend. For a fatter profile use the whole diameter yarn, for a thinner profile, separate strands and use a single strand. Run thread to about 3/16" back from eye. Wrap yarn underbody and secure at front.



3. Cut a grizzly and a white "magnum zonker strip" (standard zonker strips are too narrow) to the same length as the hook shank. Be careful to cut only the "leather" and not the fur. You can also cut your own zonker from a rabbit skin. Turn skin fur side down, and cut with a razor blade. Be careful to cut in the same direction as the "grain" of the fur. Strips need to be about 5/16" wide for single strand body, to 3/8" wide for a fatter body. Cut an angle on the "front" (the fur should be flowing to the rear) to make a tie in tab. Position the grizzly strip on top so the leather tab ends just behind the hook eye. Wrap securely over the tab. Attach the white strip on the bottom. Whip and cut thread.



4. Add a drop of super glue to top of yarn underbody and to leather underside of grizzly strip. Carefully depress grizzly strip onto body and hold until secure. Repeat for the white strip. Attach red thread at eye and run 2 strands of holographic tinsel down each side of the body (down the lateral line formed by the 2-zonker strips junction). Wind a cone shaped red "nose".

5. Cut posts from a pair of animal eyes. Use a drop of gel super glue and attach eye slightly behind "red nose". Ensure it traps the tinsel and secures it in place down the lateral line. Repeat for opposite side.



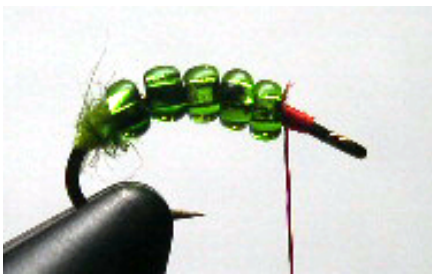
The Killer Caddis.... Tom Regina

Hook	Daiichi 1250 size 12
Thread	Chartreuse 6/0 and wine 6/0
Body	Five small Caddis Green glass beads
Butt	Caddis Green dubbing
Head	Black Hair-Tron dubbing



1. Remove the hook barb and thread five beads onto the hook. Place the hook in the vise and slide the beads up to the hook eye.

2. Start the chartreuse thread directly behind the beads and wrap to slightly past the hook bend. Using the caddis green dubbing, dub a small, tight ball to form a button. The button should be smaller than the beads yet large enough the beads will not slide past the button. Wrap the thread back to the beads. Whip finish and trim the thread behind the beads. (If the beads will not slide back over the thread, omit the second thread layer).



3. Push the beads back over the thread wraps and against the dubbed button. Tie in the wine-colored thread in front of the beads.

4. Using the black dubbing, dub a head. Allow the guard hairs to stick out to give the fly a buggy look. The dubbed head should be larger than the bead diameter and taper smaller toward the eye. Whip finish, trim the thread and apply a small amount of head cement to the exposed thread wraps.



The Killer Caddis is an imitation of caddis larva, is simple and quick to tie and has proven productive for taking fishes from trout waters. (*Fishes* is more than one species of fish whereas *fish* is one species of fish except when the *fish* are dead, then they are all fish). The Killer Caddis not only represents caddis larva but also worm-like larva.

Tools needed to tie the Killer Caddis are a vise, bobbin, and scissors. Tweezers are helpful, and for you old folks, some way to see the hook point and bead hole. The materials needed are: hook (we will use size 12), 6/0 chartreuse and wine thread, Killer Caddis beads, antron and natural fur dubbing. Your club will provide the materials. Bring your tools if you have them or the club will supply the tools.

Minutes of the Meeting of March 2, 2004

Fly Fishers of Northwest Florida
President: Jay Williams presiding

General Meeting: Called to order at 7:00 pm

2004 Officers: Jay Williams, President
Russell Shields, Vice President
Emile "Skeet" Lores, Secretary
Don Lupone, Treasure

Guest: Greg Saunders and Mike Kenny were introduced.

Old Business: Minutes accepted (unread).

Conclave registration forms were in the newsletter, Bob Clouser will be a guest speaker. PJC class starts Mar. 3 and will meet every Wed (except for Mar 17) thru April. Club donated \$125 to FFF for the conclave, Kevin Cohenour will buy an item for donation. The Directory is nearly finished, 15 members have not renewed.

Treasurer Report: Balance of \$2273.10

New Business: Boy Scout camp will be in June – sessions starting on the 7th, 14th & 21st. Kids fishing clinic will be May 8 – Club has been asked to man a booth for instructing kids. Charles Pulley has asked to bring 3-4 kids to a Saturday clinic, the board has approved with conditions, date to be set later. Club Auction will be May 4th.

Program:

Greg Saunders presented his patented flylippers along with details on ways to tie and fish them. He offered to give some to the club for testing when they are available. They can be used on Clousers, Deceivers, shrimp and topwater.

Fishing Reports: Fishing has been dismal unless you were fishing on the Lumps for Tuna. No fish were caught on the blackwater outing and several other trips by members.

Door Prizes:

Prizes including flies and a couple tubes of salami were raffled.

Meeting Adjourned: Emile Lores, Secretary

Conclave notes from Marc Pinsel - Conclave 2004 will be a little different this year. Lets start things off with the Thursday Cajon Feed. The usual bunch of characters will be there cooking for you and it is still FREE with donations gratefully accepted. A new twist this year Murray will conduct a class on turkey frying. Come early, bring your burners, pots and a turkey or just come watch and learn. The plan is to start things off with a little fun and education. If you bring your gear and cook along with Murray we will take your turkey and throw it in the group pot for the feed. Casting classes will be given by Carl Warmouth, Dan Lagace (who is doing this for ladies only on Friday) and for all genders on Saturday, and of course our main guest Bob Clouser. Chrystal Murray will be giving standup canoe programs featuring a new stabilizing device. There will be fly tying classes with Tom Travis, Bob Clouser and Kieran Frye, class size is limited.

Now something completely different, the bar and the big room. Some of our tying classes and a special events will be going on in the bar. As you who have attended this event in past know the bar closes early and one of my goals in life has been to try to find a way to keep it open. I did it, so tie flies and enjoy the atmosphere. On Friday night in the BAR we will have "THE FIRST/LAST ANNUAL CLASSIC ATLANTIC BREEM FLY TY OFF". No skill is necessary and the judging will be subjective, there is one rule – all entries must be tied on a hook and neatness and prettiness do not count. I am gonna keep that bar open. Special interest demonstrations will be going on in the big room where we hold the banquet. During the day, Bill Heugal, Dale Wilkinson, Dan Webber, John Petrie, Walt Moskal, Kieran Frye and Jerome Hebert will be doing deer, foam, wooden poppers, furred leaders and dry fly winging. This will be free and you can come and go as you please, sit down, watch, ask questions and learn.



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APRIL 2004



S	M	T	W	Thu	F	S
				1	2	3
4	5	6 Business Meeting 7 PM	7	8 Bull Session-Tying & Tall Tales 6:30	9	10
11	12	13	14	15	16 Clinic - Casting, tying gourmet lunch 9 AM	17
18	19	20	21	22	23	24
25	26	27	28	29	30	