

# Flies & Lies

NEWSLETTER OF THE FLYFISHERS  
OF NORTHWEST FLORIDA  
APRIL 2011

THE FLYFISHERS OF  
NORTHWEST FLORIDA  
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com

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## NEWSLETTER

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## MONTHLY MEETINGS

Meetings at Miraflores Park  
17th Avenue between  
Belmont and LaRua

## BUSINESS MEETING

1ST TUESDAY, 7 PM

## BULL SESSION

2ND THURSDAY, 6:30  
PM

## CASTING & TYING CLINIC

3RD SATURDAY, 9 AM

## Board Meeting, Fly Fishers Of Northwest Florida, March 1, 2010, President Tom Birdwell, presiding

President Tom Birdwell called the Board meeting to order at 5:15 PM with 7 board members present. Tom asked for discussion on the need for a club historian. Several members indicated that the existing club history text is adequate and that the club should be focusing on the future. All agreed not to appt a historian at this time.

Jay Williams commented that there should be no committee meetings scheduled during regularly scheduled board meetings. Tom indicated that, from his recollection, the committee chairmen were not members of the board, therefore their presence was not required at board meetings.

After a discussion of whether the bylaws designated committee chairmen as members of the board of directors, Jay Williams made a motion that if the committee chairmen were not members of the Board, the bylaws should be amended to make them members. Russ Shields agreed to second if the motion was amended to include a total update of the bylaws. Amended motion was passed unanimously. A copy of the Bylaws will be sent to every board member for review.

Treasurer Larry Sisney presented the 2011 budget. The Budget was passed unanimously.

Larry Sisney proposed Mitch Abernathy for life membership. Passed unanimously. Art DeTonnancourt suggested that, from his recollection, committee chairmen were a part of the board of directors. Bob Horton read from the bylaws the section addressing the composition of the Board. Committee chairmen are members of the board of directors. There being no further business before the board the meeting was adjourned.

## Business Meeting, Fly Fishers Of Northwest Florida, March 1, 2010, VPresident Terry McCormick, presiding

The meeting was opened by vice president Terry McCormick at 7:05 with 21 members present. The program was presented by David Burton on his fishing trip to the Kenai River in Alaska.

New members were introduced: Bob Cochran, Doug Gore, James Morris, and Geoff Brodersen.

Larry Sisney presented the 2011 budget and the Feb. monthly report. The report was unanimously accepted.

Russ Shields reported on the Fly Fishing School. 22 people were signed up and paid with 12 people on the waiting list, thanks to Paul Lukkar who got an article in the PNJ announcing the class. Each student will get a membership packet. There was a discussion about whether it would be better to have the membership packet printed or on CD. The membership committee will make the final determination.

Russ indicated that, because of the excellent response to the fly fishing class offering, there would be a need for a significant number of volunteers for each session. John Brand said he would absolutely have to have help teaching casting and passed out an instructional text to enable everyone to teach in the same way.

Paul Wargo stated that the membership committee was ready to email the draft 2011 membership directory for the purpose of making any necessary corrections.

The motion was made to inform Mitch Abernathy that he has been made a life member of the club. Passed unanimously.

Terry reminded the club that the 2011 budget reflects an income from the Auction of \$1,500, an increase from last year's income, and asked for donations of auction items from the members.

There being no further business before the board the meeting was adjourned.

## *President's Message.... Tom Birdwell*

Spring weather has finally come to the Pensacola area. Some of us fished all winter, but this is the season that most of us look forward to for fishing trips. The club has added some new members and Russ Shield's excellent course will add some more who are eager to test their newly acquired skills. Be sure to invite one or more of them to join you on your next fishing trip. There are still some important committee chairs to be filled. One of them is "Fishing Trips". There are a good many "honey-holes" in our area and maybe we need to find some new places. We haven't had a trip to St. Joe Bay or Apalach lately, both good spots. North Carolina and the "Tuck" and the "Nan are a day's drive, but worth it. Also Smithgall Woods outside Helen, Ga. is a good spot. Maybe you know of a place that you'd like to share.

The Webmaster slot is open and Bob Holton, who has done a great job said he'd help you get started. Larry Sisney our treasurer will finish out his term, but needs some relief. Larry said that he would also help his replacement. He has done an outstanding job of keeping the club financially sound. If you would like to serve the club on the above or other committee please contact the committee chair or contact me on line or call 456-6073 or see me at the next meeting.

We have a great club. We need to fish more. Your ideas and suggestions for the good of the club are always welcomed

There will be a BOD meeting at 6PM immediately before the general meeting @ the club house. Good fishing, Tom

## *Casting & Tying at the Club.... Tom Regina*

April 14 - Bull session 6:30 PM. Jerry Aldridge will lead us in tying the Gartside Gurgler.  
April 16 - Monthly Casting and Tying Clinic, 9 AM until about 1 PM. Casting instruction and practice with John Brand. Fly tying the "October Caddis Larva" with Tom Regina.

Your club will provide all tying materials to tie both flies. If you have them, bring your vise and tools. The club can also provide a vise and tools for you and your guests. The recipe and tying instructions for both flies can be found in this newsletter.

Bring your long rod to the Saturday casting clinic. Club fly rods/reels are also available for you and your guests.

Free lunch will be provided at the Saturday casting and tying clinic. Beverages are available for \$1 at all club bull sessions, clinics, and meetings.

**Great looking Idaho steelhead, Bob!  
There must be a good story behind it**



## October Caddis Larva... Tom Regina

### Tying Materials

**Hook:** Mustad R90, size 4  
**Thread:** 6/0 black  
**Head:** 3/16-inch black bead  
**Body:** Light yellow cotton yarn striped with permanent brown marker  
**Thorax:** Peacock herl



### Tying Instructions



1. **Lay down a thread base.** Place the bead on the hook and fix the hook in the vise. Move the bead forward to the hook eye. Using a jam knot, start the thread on the hook directly behind and adjacent to the bead. In touching thread turns, wrap the thread back to a point directly above the hook barb. In several quick spiral wraps, take the thread forward to the back of the bead.



2. **Tie on the body yarn.** Cut about a 12-inch length of yarn from the skein. Using a permanent brown felt marker, such as Prismacolor marker, place two brown stripes down the entire length of the cut yarn. Tie in one end of the yarn directly behind the bead. 3. **Lay down the underbody.** Untwist and flatten the yarn. Wrap the flattened yarn back to the point on the hook directly above the hook barb. *Note: With each turn of yarn continue to untwist and flatten the yarn.* Do not tie off the yarn.



4. **Wrap the segmented body.** At the point above the hook barb, retwist the yarn into a tighter than original strand. Start wrapping the tightly twisted yarn forward. Decrease the tension with each successive wrap while still keeping the yarn twisted. This procedure will contribute to a well-segmented body. Wrap the yarn forward to directly behind the bead. Tie off the yarn and cut away the excess.



5. **Tie in the peacock herl.** Select three or four peacock herls. Even the tips. Use your thumb and index finger to stroke the group of herls from tip to butt. Tie the herls in directly behind the bead and cut away the tag ends.



6. **Form the thorax.** Twist the peacock herls into a loose "rope". In several turns, wrap the herl rope to form a bushy thorax about the same size as the bead head. Tie the herls off directly behind the bead. Half hitch or whip finish the thread and cut it away. Place a small amount of head cement over the finish thread wraps.

*Note: For a caddis larva that has a slower sink rate, tie the fly without a bead head. The peacock herl will serve as the head.*

## *Gartside Gurgler... Original Recipe by Jack Gartside*

### MATERIALS

|                 |  |
|-----------------|--|
| <b>Hook</b>     | Mustad 34011 or equivalent, size to suit quarry  |
| <b>Thread</b>   | White 3/0  |
| <b>Tail</b>     | White bucktail, pearl crystal flash or flashabou |
| <b>Body/Lip</b> | White closed cell foam, 2mm or 3mm               |
| <b>Legs</b>     | Grizzly hackle                                   |
| <b>Throat</b>   | Red hackle                                       |



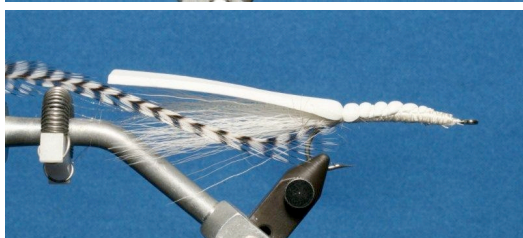
### TYING INSTRUCTIONS



1. Place the hook in the vise. Using a jam knot, start the thread on the hook directly behind the eye. In touching thread turns, wrap the thread back to a point directly above the hook barb. Cut a swatch of bucktail a match stick thick or a little more. Measure and cut the blunt ends so the bucktail is two hook lengths long. Place bucktail on top hook with blunt ends 1/4" behind eye. Tie in bucktail at mid shank, starting with 3-4 loose turns. Then apply **upward** pressure and wrap several firm turns. Cover bucktail with thread stopping just above barb. Lightly apply head cement to thread wraps.



2. Tie in a long grizzly hackle on top hook by its tip with concave side down. Tie in 8-10 strands of crystal flash.



3. Cut a piece of foam two hook lengths long and one hook gape wide. Tie the foam in at rear so that foam extends to 1/4" behind hook eye. Secure foam with 3-4 firm turns. Be careful not to cut foam with thread.



4. Wrap thread forward in 5-7 wide spirals using just enough tension to securely bind body without breaking thread or cutting the foam. Trim excess foam and cover with thread wraps. Palmer the grizzly hackle forward in the grooves formed by the thread and secure with a few thread wraps. Tie in a red hackle and wrap two turns to form the throat. Let thread hang 1/4" behind eye.



5. Stroke the hackle downward and bring foam forward to form a shell back. Secure with several firm wraps and whip finish under the foam just behind the eye of the hook. Trim foam to form a lip extending about 1/4" in front of eye. Cover all exposed thread wraps with head cement.

## Fishing Report... Captain Baz Velverton



Well, the groundhog was right. Spring *did* arrive early and with it came the most outrageous redfishing we've ever seen in March. Due to a skiing vacation followed by nasty weather conditions upon my return, I didn't run a trip in the Gulf until March 11. Matthew Vann and I turned east from the pass and immediately came upon a brown blob that looked just like a big bait ball. Thinking there might be some redfish beneath the bait we pulled in a little up-current and drifted into it. To our surprise it was all redfish, and they were high and happy. Matthew landed his first-ever bull redfish on the "dreaded first cast". The first cast jinx didn't hold; however, and Matthew ended up landing five that morning. The last came out of a school of about 500 fish, and for those of you who've never seen such a school check out the second photo. The dark mass that looks like a grass bed is the school of fish. We were heading back to the school when a small pack of jack crevalle appeared just far enough away for us to have time to grab the 10wt which was rigged and ready with a big popper. Matthew made the cast, stripped once, and the jacks attacked it. I can guarantee you it's a moment he'll never forget! After a half hour fight Matthew landed the jack... March 11 being the earliest we've ever landed one.



We spent the last half hour of the trip searching for the elusive pompano, but as usual the Grand Slam was not to be. For the next three days my spin-fishing clients had good success with the redfish east of the pass.



On March 16 I met my good client Howell Raines and his friend Walter Kirkland at the Navy Point ramp. There was a mullet fisherman there that I know who told us about some big schools of redfish he'd seen the day before west of the pass. I had not been to the west in months, but we decided to check it out first thing. We were the only boat on the Caucus Shoal. It was calm, the water was clear, and there must've been a thousand redfish milling around on top in schools of 100-200 fish. The redfish weren't crashing the surface, there was no bait visible, and there were no birds. The fish were swimming around very close to the top like schools of giant baitfish. They eagerly took everything we threw at them. Here's a nice shot of Walter with a typical redfish lit up in it's orange finest. Both Walter and Howell caught them until they tired of it, and we headed to the east looking for jacks. Which we found, and Howell landed the all-time boat record 28 1/2# jack on my Sage Xi2 12wt. Once again we went in search of pompano and found none.



St Patrick's Day was another beauty, and I had two fly casters in their 70's on the boat. Once again we were the first boat to the shoal, and the fish were there in spades. Here's Francis Crockard with a fine specimen landed on a 9wt. After landing four or five fish each we headed inside to a sandbar for some shallow water sight-fishing, and 79 year old Hobart McWhorter landed the redfish of the day...42" and around 30#.



The redfish continued to be on the shoal for the next few days, and we did very well. Here's Glenn Perry on March 19, Corbett Davis, Sr, on March 21, and yours truly also on the 21st. The award for the biggest redfish of the day March 21 went to Corbett Davis, Jr, with this brute landed just east of Pickens Point.



## *Fishing Report.... Captain Baz Yelverton*



Of course all good things must come to an end. When word got out about the redfish on the shoal every lead-slinging spin-fisherman with access to a boat descended on them, and by March 22 they were gone. Jerry Hohla, Ft Wayne, IN, and I looked for them that day with no luck and resorted to hunting around the inside sandbars close to the pass. Finally we found a few fish, Jerry hooked three, and landed this monster on his Sage Fli 8wt. He fought it for a bona fide 45 minutes... I timed it. It's the biggest redfish we've ever landed on an 8wt.

There continue to be big reds east of Pickens Point, but the area has become "infested" with Spanish mackerel. My spin-fishing clients and I drifted the beach March 24 just outside the range of the beach pompano fishermen. I could see the reds on the bottom, but there were so many Spanish that we couldn't get the jigs down to them. We lost two jigs in two casts and left. It's great the Spanish have arrived so early and in such huge numbers. We'll have a ball with them on 6wt tackle through November; however, it's going to make for some very interesting pompano fishing. Speaking of pompano, they're here although we haven't caught one yet on my boat. Geoff Brodersen landed three on fly a week ago wading the inner bar near the observation tower.

The inside flats are turning on, too. We "wet waded" some flats in Santa Rosa Sound two days ago, and the water temperature was 71 degrees in the morning and 76 by the afternoon. It was surprisingly comfortable. We never found any reds, although my client did land one very nice trout...around 24". Unfortunately the photo is on his camera. This is the best time of year to wade the Naval Live Oaks flats...before all the spin fishermen work them over. It's also my favorite time to fish the grass flats on the south side of the Big Lagoon. I hope to see you out there. Capt Baz

## *From the Clinic Food Committee.... Art de Tonnancourt, Chair*

George Bennett from our food committee struck a home run in the gourmet department when he procured some delicious Pizza Hut pizzas with all the fixings. That was a great idea George and well done. George negotiated the volume price on these pizzas so well, I thought the Pizza Hut was going to deliver him some money for having bought them.

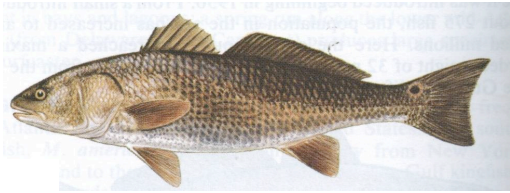
For April 16<sup>th</sup>'s clinic lunch, Mike Rowan from our committee is in charge, and he expects to have Sloppy Joes and a big bowl of homemade potato salad for all of us to enjoy.

Our lunch will be served at 11AM when the new lunch iron triangle bell manufactured especially for us by ED Wingfield will be rung for all to "come and get it"!

Our committee of 13 were all invited to a North Carolina trout stream fishing trip from April 9<sup>th</sup> to 16<sup>th</sup> and 7 of us will be participating. Join one of our many committees and see how much fun there is in participating and making things happen. By the way, our Membership Committee is looking for 3 or 4 congenial members to be "greeters" at all our meetings. Greeters can be new members (preferably) as well seasoned members, and will help distribute name tags and introduce themselves to arriving members as well as introduce arriving members to each other. A nice position to get to know everyone. Contact our membership Chairman David Burton, or myself, or Paul Wargo (Club Directories), George Bennett (New Member Packet) or Joe Higgins (Name tags), and we'll assimilate you quickly. (PS....The membership committee has reservations in NC for the first week in October.)

**FLY FISHERS**  
  
**OF NORTHWEST FLORIDA**

**PO BOX 1041  
 PENSACOLA, FL 32591**



# APRIL 2011

| Sun       | Mon                      | Tue       | Wed  | Thu       | Fri  | Sat       |
|-----------|--------------------------|-----------|--|-----------|--|-----------|
|           |                          |           |  |           | <b>1</b>                                       | <b>2</b>  |
| <b>3</b>  | <b>4</b>                 | <b>5</b>  | <b>6</b>                                   | <b>7</b>  | <b>8</b>                                       | <b>9</b>  |
|           | Business Meeting<br>7 PM |           |  |           |  |           |
| <b>10</b> | <b>11</b>                | <b>12</b> | <b>13</b>                                  | <b>14</b> | <b>15</b>                                      | <b>16</b> |
|           |                          |           | Bull Session-Tying &<br>Tall Tales 6:30 PM |           | Clinic - Casting, tying,<br>gourmet lunch 9 AM |           |
| <b>17</b> | <b>18</b>                | <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> |