

Flies & Lies

NEWSLETTER OF THE FLYFISHERS
OF NORTHWEST FLORIDA
AUGUST 2004

THE FLYFISHERS OF
NORTHWEST FLORIDA
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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
4TH TUESDAY, 6:30PM

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ALL FFF CLUBS IN SOUTHEASTERN COUNCIL— We are happy to share our newsletter “Flies & Lies” with you each month and look forward to receiving yours in return. In order to cut costs, we have decided to distribute by e-mail rather than post. Please send your e-mail address to Jerry Aldridge, Editor at jamayfly@yahoo.com to continue receiving our newsletter. Please send your electronic newsletters to the same address or your paper copies to FFWF, PO BOX 1041, Pensacola, FL 32591.

Tommy and the Little Tunny... Milt Mays

There was that sound again, like a waterfall, or the fountains of water at Las Vegas. And all it did was make the job at hand more difficult. It reminded us both of the ferocity of the fight to come, and need for haste, but accuracy. If you were blind, and close enough, you could locate our quarry just by that shshshshshshshshshsh rushing sound. But, the problem was we were not blind, which added to our jitters. The site was awe-inspiring. There were hundreds of them, swimming side ways, with one pectoral fin out of the water, mouths agape, rushing through the water, leaving a small wake. They were like soldiers, almost touching, moving in formation. Only, the formation was constantly changing directions, like waves, always fluid, and never really predictable. They were unpredictable, because their prey was trying to be unpredictable in its flight from these muscular miniature attack submarines. We were seeing the raw and uncut struggle of life and death. Why did they turn on their side? It must have been more difficult to swim fast like that.

Maybe they could take in more of the tiny anchovies with their mouths turned sideways.

Of course, I could wonder at these things NOW, out of the heat of battle. But, THEN it was different. Once you saw this spectacle coming at you, and realized you had to try to put your cast out in front of this unpredictable line of eating machines, the adrenaline rush made your cast a wide-looped, line-piling failure that was lucky to go 20 feet. You had to consciously slow down your cast, your preparation and your thoughts to get it right. And once you learned how to do that, and finally got a pretty good cast out there in front of the gape-mouthed wolf pack, they would change directions, and your fly might just have well been in the bathtub. It was sight casting, but there was no time to read the water, or get three or four false casts to get it to lay on the water just right. It was salt water fly fishing at its most demanding.

First, you had to build a fly that was a good imitation of the anchovy. If not, you

could put the fly right in their face and not even get a bump. Then, in 90 degree heat, after sweating half your body weight, you had to keep your balance in a bouncing, running and gunning boat, have the fly line ready, be able to make one or two false casts, and deliver the fly accurately 50-70 feet away. And, of course.....you had to get lucky and have the bonito actually continue in the direction you thought they were going, and have them eat your fly. But, then, once you hooked one, the sweating had just be-

gun. The first run makes a bonefish look slow, and the powerful fight afterwards making you wish the hook would fall out. But, after the fight was over and you got to hold up your "little tunny" for a photo-op, it was something to tell stories about time and time again. So, please ask Tom Regina about his recent first bonito on a fly. Or for those outside the South, this was his first *Euthynnus alletteratus*, false albacore, or "little tunny". And believe me, "little" is not about the fight!



President's Message Part 1....Jay Williams

Your board, officers and committee persons are always interested in improving the benefits that the club offers you for your membership dues. We'd like to feel that you are pleased with our events, food served, educational activities, fellowship, etc., but we don't know unless you give us positive feedback, and equally important, constructive criticism.

Below, you will see a copy of the minutes of last night's BOD meeting. I'm including it because I want you to see how we approach issues for resolution, AND because we wish you to individually consider if you can take a more active role in the club's operation by working in one of the areas mentioned, where we urgently need help:

1. Conservation Chairperson
2. Collating and mailing the newsletter.
3. Tell us what you like/don't like/wish to

see/ in the newsletter. Thanks, and Tight Lines....Jay

Board of Directors Meeting Minutes, July 13, 2004, Quorum present. President Jay Williams, presiding.

1. Resignation from membership of Doug Kemper accepted. Search will begin for new Con-

servation Committee chairman.

2. Doug has been written and thanked by the president for his non-earmarked contribution of \$100 to the club.

3. Jerry Aldridge voiced concerns with the newsletter:

He would like to see the President's Report be appreciably longer (perhaps up to two pages) and include more recaps of past events and discussion of future club events, as well as other fishing information. Some discussion, with explanation and contextual information followed.

He would like for the Committee Chairpersons to contribute to the newsletter.

He is a bit "tired" of the collating and mailing function. He would like to provide only the publishing functions. Discussion ensued and in the absence of volunteers to perform the collating and mailing there were two Motions, duly seconded, and passed. Both were by Milt Mays:

1. That Jerry investigate the cost of having these functions performed by a commercial establishment such as Kinko's or a similar operation.

2. Send our newsletter only to the clubs who are sending theirs to us. Jerry will alert the other clubs to this change. Respectfully submitted, Jay Williams.

President's Message Part 2....Jay Williams

Fellow Anglers....I hear tarpon have been seen on the west side of the Pensacola Pass last week, and that specks and redfish are biting well. My hat is off to those who will brave 92-95 degree weather.

Your Board met July 13, and I subsequently sent you information re the newsletter, asking for your input and preferences. I have had none. Hopefully, comments have gone to editor Jerry Aldridge.

Your BOD wants the newsletter to reflect your interests and input, so I'm once again extending an invitation to get involved. Also, be thinking about the election of next year's BOD, which will come at the November business

meeting. The Nominating Committee will announce its recommendations in October, and motions for other candidates can be made from the floor. We would like to see some "new blood" with new ideas come forward. There's much satisfaction in serving as an officer or board member. Plus, it gives you something to do on those meeting nights.

Additionally, you all will have an opportunity to nominate and vote on the annual winner of the "Angler of the Year", an honor to be revealed at the Christmas party on December 2nd, again at Gus' Shack. Tom Regina continues to put forth much effort in having our facilities ready for us, and providing those gourmet Saturday

Continued next page

President's Message Part 2....continued

COMMITTEE CHAIRS

AUCTION - Travis Akins

CONSERVATION - Vacant

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

meals. Thanks, Tom.

We need a member to help with the newsletter by collating and stamping those that are to be mailed. I have switched to getting my copy only by e-mail and it has worked out fine. Everyone so inclined saves us the cost of mailing and will help save us a dues increase sometime. If willing, speak with Jerry about it.

Our Conservation Chairman, Doug Kemper, unfortunately, due to pressures on his time, the Zoo having changed its legal form, has had to resign his membership. He generously gave FFNWF a \$100.00 contribution as a token of his regret, and good wishes for our continued success. Thank you, Doug. Come back whenever you can.

See you next Tuesday at the general membership meeting. Tight Lines....Jay

EDITOR'S NOTE: Jay mentioned the good fishing - let me echo that. The specks have been really eager for gurglers and poppers even in the hot part of the day. Even Kevin can catch some on my flies - he can't remember to bring his. **Happy upcoming retirement to Kevin and Travis!**

Casting and Tying Clinics.... Tom Regina

The Fly Fishers of Northwest Florida holds a "Bull Session/Fly Tying Session" on the second Thursday of each month at 6:30 PM at Miraflores Park off 17th. Avenue, one block North of the railroad overpass. One of your club's most experienced fly tiers leads the tying session, teaching how to tie the featured fly of the month as published in our newsletter, "Flies & Lies". Your club provides all the tying materials and tools needed to tie the fly. If you have your own tools please bring them to the session.

The session leader demonstrates how to tie the fly while explaining how each part of the dressing is applied to the hook. The leader then ties the fly a second time as "students" tie their flies, step-by-step, following the instructor. You are welcome to tie several of the featured flies while the session leader gives individual instruction and answers questions as needed.

If you have a fly you would like to learn to tie at a Thursday session let Jerry Aldridge or Kevin Cohenour know.

On the third Saturday of each month at

9:00 AM, at Miraflores Park, your club conducts a "Fly Casting and Quick-Ties Fly Tying" clinic. We have several expert fly casters in our club who are available to help you learn to cast and/or to help you improve your casting. If you don't have a fly rod, your club will provide one. Many of the members bring their fly rods and practice their casting techniques during this time. If you are considering the purchase of a new fly rod, this may be a good time to do some research as most of our members will let you try their rods.

During the Quick-Ties part of the Saturday clinic you can receive instruction on tying a simple *quick-tie* fly. The flies we tie at the Saturday clinics will be quick and simple to tie and usually use only a few and often "new" materials. The instruction follows the same format as the Thursday sessions mentioned above.

The Saturday clinics usually last until sometime after noon so you will have time to participate in both the casting and fly tying activities. Free lunch and drinks are provided at the Saturday clinics.

Quick Ties with Tom Regina... Black Marabou Leech

HOOK	Mustad 79580, 4XL, size 12
WEIGHT	12-20 turns .020 round lead free wire
THREAD	6/0 black
TAIL	Black marabou
BODY	Working thread
MID-WING	Black marabou
FRONT WING	Black marabou with six strands black Krystal Flash



1. Crush the hook barb. Place hook in vise and wrap hook shank with about 16 wraps of weighting wire.

2. Just in front of and touching the weighting wire, attach the thread with a jam knot and layer the hook shank and wire with thread.



3. Gather a good bunch of marabou fibers and clip or strip them from the feather stem. Measure the fibers the length of the hook shank and tie the fibers in at the hook bend. Wrap the thread over the fiber butts and continue to wrap the thread forward to about the hook shank midpoint.



4. Gather a second bunch of fibers the same density as the first bunch. Again measure the fibers the length of the hook shank. Tie this second bunch of fibers in at the midpoint of the hook shank. Tie down the fiber butts and wrap the thread to just behind the hook eye.

5. Prepare a third bunch of marabou fibers the same size and length as the first two. Tie this third bunch of fibers in just in back of the hook eye.



6. Measure six strands of black Krystal Flash the same length as the marabou. Tie the KF in at the front of the marabou. Clip away the excess KF, form a neat thread head, whip finish and cement the head.



Cook's Critter....Original Recipe by Vance Cook

HOOK	Mustad 34007, size 2
THREAD	3/0 red
EYES	Hourglass, 3/16"
TAIL	Pink mylar tubing, medium
SHELLBACK	Pink mylar tubing, medium
BODY	Pink estaz chenille
HACKLE	Grizzly saddle, palmered
BEARD	Pink yak hair



1. Crush hook barb. Place hook in vise and lay thread base from eye to bend. Place thread 1/4" behind eye. Attach eyes there with 8-10 diagonal wraps around eyes and shank in one direction, then 16-20 wraps in other direction and then 8-10 wraps in original direction. Finish tying in eyes with 10 or so horizontal wraps under the eyes but over hook shank. A touch of head cement applied to thread wraps will keep eyes firmly in place. Return thread to bend. Cut piece of mylar tubing two hook shanks long and remove the cotton innards. Tie the center of tubing in at bend with several firm turns. Wrap 3-4 turns directly in front of tubing to prop it out of the way.



2. Attach a length of estaz in front of tubing. Attach a saddle hackle by its tip at same place. Wrap estaz forward in adjacent turns stopping just behind hourglass eyes. Secure there and trim excess. Palmer hackle forward with 5-6 turns stopping behind hourglass eyes. Secure there and trim excess.



3. Pull shellback forward along shank while stroking hackle downward with other hand. Secure shellback first behind eyes with 6-8 firm turns and then in front of eyes with 6-8 more. Trim excess.



4. Turn hook upside down in vise. Select and cut a piece of yak hair a matchstick thick and two hooks long. Tie in hair in front of eyes to form beard. Trim excess, form neat head and whip finish. Pick out mylar to form tail. Coat head, shellback and other exposed thread wraps with head cement.

Angler of the Year Guidelines... Russ Shields, VP

Your Board has established a set of guidelines for selecting an “Angler of the Year”. We will accept nominations at the October Business Meeting and select the **AOY** by secret ballot at the November Business Meeting. Presentation of the award will be at our **Christmas Party on December 2nd**. Please plan to attend these important meetings.

GUIDELINES FOR ANGLER OF THE YEAR

- Major or multiple contributions to club
 - Volunteer to help when/where ever
 - Pensacola Junior College assistance
 - Meetings, outings, clinics, parties
- Conservation contributions
- Club office holder or board member

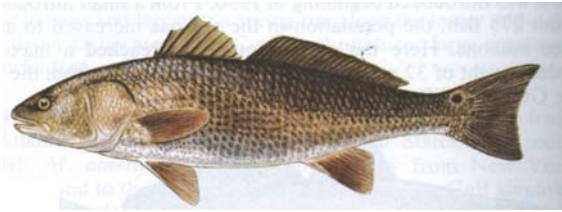
There may be other factors one would wish to consider in nominating or voting but the guidelines above should be included in your selection process.

This space reserved for your fish stories, photos and tall tales in general. No tall tale to tall to tell.



FLY FISHERS
 OF NORTHWEST FLORIDA

PO BOX 1041
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AUGUST 2004

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
1	2	3 Business Meeting 7 PM	4	5	6	7
8	9	10	11	12 Bull Session-Tying & Tall Tales 6:30	13	14
15	16	17	18	19	20	21 Clinic - Casting, tying gourmet lunch 9 AM
22	23	24	25	26	27	28
29	30	31				

