



Flies and Lies

Newsletter of the Fly Fishers of Northwest Florida

February, 2018

FFNWF

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MONTHLY MEETINGS

at Miraflores Park
17th Avenue
between
Belmont and LaRue

Business Meeting
1ST Tuesday, 7 PM

Bull Session - Tying
2ND Thursday, 6:30
PM

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

Note: Membership Dues are Due

\$30

See Jay at any meeting in February or mail check (payable FFNWF) to
Jay Brykczynski 4983 Prieto Drive Pensacola FL 32506

Club Meeting – Tuesday, Feb 6 7:00 The old "nymphermaniac," Jerry Giles, will present the program. Jerry has presented many of the technical aspects of fly fishing in the past. This time he will meander a bit from the norm and present: "**70 Years of Fly Fishing**," otherwise to be know as: "*How Did I Live Through That?*" followed by "*Whoa, Don't Do That!*" As always, we will find it informative, exciting, and entertaining. There will be a board meeting at 6:00.

Fly Tying Bull Session – Thursday, Feb 8 6:30 Note this is one of those months the meeting and fly tying are the same week. Put all that fancy stuff away and **Fish with Worms**. Nothing like good old fashioned night crawlers.

Clinic – Saturday - Feb 17 Spring is here! Get outside and start casting. Jonas will be offering real instruction with a planned approach to each clinic. See page 5. Lunch will be Joe's Chili – not the Famous Joe's Chili from years gone by but a **Brand New Joe's Chili** never eaten before by anyone. Be brave. Be here.

National Recognition from Project Healing Waters!!

Aaron Davis is one of our newer veterans who undertook the task of building a fly rod he could be proud of. After pictures of his rod were seen by PHWFF Headquarters Staff he was asked to write a Blog post about the rod he built. I urge you to read it as I believe it embodies everything that we are working toward in the Healing Waters Program.

Aaron is obviously a talented guy and an excellent writer, but he is also, like all of our other veterans, an injured veteran on the mend and having fun with us in the process. I am blessed to have him in our program and he inspires us all. **Russ**

See page 2. This is a condensed version to fit the page. Please click this link to see the whole article along with more pictures.

<http://www.projecthealingwaters.org/regional/a-year-of-firsts-fly-tying-fly-casting-and-rod-building/>



A Year of Firsts! It's been a whirlwind of an adventure for me this past year. I went from an unpaid intern to full time employee. I am able to step behind the curtain of the Federal Judicial System and aid the Department of Homeland Security in removing child predators from neighborhoods. I've made new friends and said goodbye to some. One of the highlights this year was meeting the Project Healing Waters (PHW) crew in Pensacola, FL sponsored by the Fly Fishers of Northwest Florida club. Sometimes you run into the right person at the right time and it changes you. That's what happened with me.

I work in a very mentally challenging field while battling PTSD on a daily basis. I need breaks and decompression time. PHW gives me that break. The Pensacola Chapter meets every Monday and that is where I spend my "lunch break." It helps get me focused prior to really diving into my work for the rest

of the week. That calm before the storm.

In October I was able to attend a fishing trip hosted by PHW. It was my first time fly fishing and beginner's luck was with me. I caught a pompano and a Spanish mackerel. I'll never forget that rush of excitement as the mackerel was hooked and darted away from the boat. The line ripping through the water caused a rooster tail a foot tall... whoo, good fun.



When offered the opportunity to build my own fishing rod I took the bait; hook, line, and sinker. When the blank arrived and all the pieces were ready, I had

dreams of hooking monster fish on a rod I built and on a fly I tied. I didn't want to bite off more than I could chew and after securing a few guides, I knew that I wouldn't be able to get too crazy with the decorative aspects. I found inspiration from some flies I came across. The flies are tied to mimic military medals. Now on my list of things to do is to tie a fly for every military ribbon I have



earned. To do something similar on the rod I settled on the one that meant the most to me, a Bronze Star I that I earned on one of my deployments in Iraq.

While I was working on the rod, I thought back to the fly rod I had watched my father fish with. It was a yellow rod with brown and yellow diamond wrap. Being born and raised in Oregon, cheering on the University of Oregon Ducks, I knew that yellow and green were going to be the colors I'd use to attempt a diamond wrap. I'd read about formulas to calculate the intersections of threads, but I thought I could eyeball it. Math isn't a strong suite, and neither is patience. My first attempt at the diamond wrap failed when I was securing the wrap. I couldn't figure out how to secure it again so I pulled everything off. My second attempt was better but I noticed there were gaps (so don't look too closely). Still, I was more than happy with the outcome. It was taking too much time away from my little girls. I decided I was done. I have a rod to call my



own, assembled with my own hands (with expert tutelage from PHW chapter leadership). Now all I have to do is go fishing. *Aaron Davis*

8 Week Fly Fishing Class

Sponsored by the Fly Fishers of Northwest Florida

BEGINS March 12, 2018 Monday Nights 6:00-8:00 PM

Learn & practice the principles of Fly Fishing:

Equipment Fly Tying Fly Casting Knots

Monday's 6:00 – 8:00 PM at Mira Flores Park, 17th Ave and Belmont

For Info and registration call:

Russ Shields 983-9515 or Email rkshields@bellsouth.net

Cost is \$60 which includes membership in FFNWF for the remainder of 2018.

Register early - class is limited to 15.

Project Healing Waters New Endeavors

In trying to accommodate creating (1) an evening class for PHWFF, (2) a new idea for a "Master Tying" series of classes, (3) our 2018 Course schedule and (4) our regular PHWFF meetings, I looked at the third Wednesday evening of the month since that had no conflicts with any of our other activities. So that we are all on the same page, here is my plan:

We will begin evening PHWFF classes on Wednesday March 21 to start at 4:30 and end at 6:30 or later. This should give us time enough to find participants, and select a series of topics for the meetings. We will begin with the fundamentals of tying and casting, but it will depend on the number of participants we attract.

For our "Master Tying Classes" I think we should start them in late March as well, on Wednesday March 28th. Gary Pheabus will be in charge of these special classes.

Our regular Project Healing Waters classes will move to Wednesday mornings during March and April beginning on March 14 because the annual FFNWF Spring Class is on Monday nights. We will resume regular classes on Monday, May 7.

It is clearly going to be a busy spring and we will need lots of help in every endeavor but it should be fun as well as challenging. If you have any questions or ideas please send me an email. Cheers, *Russ*

FYI - **The Florida Wildlife Commission**, Law Enforcement Div., has a weekly report to which you can subscribe, at MyFWC@public.govdelivery.com See what great work they do and what a dangerous job they perform. *Jerry G.*

FFNWF has **Worms!!**... by Matt Wegener

Worm flies are popular for tarpon during the famed palolo worm hatch and for stripers on the east coast. Recently anglers are discovering they work on redfish around dock pilings and have even created weedless-patterns for catching largemouth bass. We are going to learn the basics this month that will be applied later this year to create some great looking flies that will catch all of the above. This skill can be applied with a multitude of materials, but my favorite is Patron's Bohemian yarn that can be found in sewing & knitting stores or online.



Hook: Mustad 34007, #1-#2

Thread: Thread to match body color

Weight: Tungsten conehead or 0.025 lead wire

Adhesive: Superglue with brush applicator

Body: Any chenille (but I prefer medium-size trilobal antron chenille or Patrons Bohemian Yarn)

Tying Instructions



1. Start with a 3" & 12" section of chenille. Taper one in of the shorter-piece of chenille with a lighter.



2. Before putting the hook in the vise, crimp the barb and slide on a conehead for weight. Place the hook back in the vise and lay down a thread base and tie in both pieces of chenille behind the conehead.



3. Lash the chenille to the top of the hook shank while moving the thread and chenille towards the bend of the hook.



4. While holding the shorter section of chenille in your left hand, begin wrapping the longer section of chenille around the shorter section with your right hand. Make about 6-8 wraps.



5. While pinching the first set of wraps with your left hand, begin wrapping another 6-8 wraps back towards the hook.



6. Tie it off the long piece of chenille and then tie in a second color of chenille if you want a variegated look.



7. Twist the two strands together to form the 2-toned or variegated look.

8. Wrap the thread forward to behind the conehead, then wrap the chenille forward to the awaiting thread and whip finish. Coat the tip of the tail in super glue to keep the chenille from unraveling.



Casting at the Clinic – February 17

I plan to go through the basic casts at the casting clinics. I think that we can teach more members if we have a structured approach to the clinics. I will teach the PUALDs next clinic and so on through the year. There will be a test after each session, and those who pass will get to eat! *Jonas*

The pickup and lay down cast

This is the basic fishing cast and we will break it down into its components.

Its purpose is to unstick the fly from the water surface (the lift part) and cast the fly out again (the subsequent parts). We start casts by lifting the rod tip until the casting hand is at breast height. We do not rip the fly line from the water surface since that will scare the fish. When we lift the rod tip you will on water notice that the fly line clears the surface and runs away from you to the leader. That is when you commence the casting stroke. Pay attention if you wait too long it will sag again to the surface.

We start with fly line (30' - 35') and leader (7,5') straight. There should be no slack in the line.

- Beginner**
1. Rod's tip down and lift gently to shoulder level (peel)
 2. now we flick the line over the rod tip upwards and backwards (pluck)
 3. and pause for the line to straighten (pause)
 4. now we flick the rod forward (pat) and stop the hand at 10 o'clock.

The line and leader straighten, and we let them gravitate/float down to the surface.

Intermediate

1. Adjust body stance to right foot forward and mimic dart throwing. Elbow over right knee. Line and leader straight and tip down slightly above surface of the water. Elbow slightly in front underarm pointing to the end of the rod. No slack again.
2. Now gently raise the line off the water to the 10-o'clock position (Peel)
3. and go into the back cast keeping the loop narrow (Pluck).
4. Pause and wait for the line to unfurl (Pause).
5. Now flick the line forward stopping crisply at 10 o'clock (Pat).

Let the line unfurl and when straight lower to surface.

FYI – Conservation Concerns. This link is from Jeff Deuschle. It indicates concern for what is happening to our forests - no matter where they are, forests are a concern for everyone who loves the outdoors.

http://www.southerntrout.com/blog/2018/1/28/usfs-timber-sale-at-buck-creekupper-nantahala-river?mc_cid=05dba15fcb&mc_eid=cfafe05bb0

Matt Wegener adds: Chances are the raw lumber is shipped overseas and shipped back for sale here as wood products. Adds insult to injury.

Fishing with Capt. Baz.



Even with all the cold weather in January there are still plenty of redfish around. You just have to pick your days to get out after them. Dane Vasant landed this first fish early in the month on the "secret fly" and then a week later Bob Jenkins landed one on the old faithful tan/white clouser. There will be big redfish in the shallow water around the pass for the next two months, but you will have to work hard for them.



Best bet is to pick a likely spot, anchor, and wait. If you don't see anything in an hour it's time to move. Just remember this time of year you're not going to catch any redfish with the motor running...

I got a report today of false albacore in Pensacola Pass. It was a reliable source, and the timing is right. If the fish are in the pass they'll also be running close to shore around the Observation Tower. Somebody needs to check it out and report back. Pick a day with a north wind and good sunshine. Anchor just outside the inner bar with your 8wt, floating (winter) line, and a #6 gummy minnow. Keep your eyes peeled because it happens fast!

Unfortunately, it won't be me out there because of the rotator cuff surgery I'm having in two days. I'll be on the sidelines for a while but am hoping to be back on the skiff in time for tarpon season. In the meantime Capt Dan Storey will be writing the monthly report and spilling all of *his* secrets. So learn what you can from Capt Dan, and hopefully you'll be back to reading my own personal *BS* in a few months. **Capt Baz**

Fishing with Capt. Dan Storey

January was an easy month for me schedule wise. The sub freezing temperatures one week followed by cloudy skies and south winds the next was a pattern that kept my phone from ringing off the hook.

Who knew? We did luck into a few really, really nice days and I was lucky to have a fly charter on one of those days. January 19 brought John Nouse to the boat from Akron, Ohio. He has caught redfish before but his best yet had been 13#'s. We ran straight to the beach where I had been seeing fish all month and they were right where they were supposed to be. Only problem was, I was there too and they knew it. We spent 2 hours trying to close the gap one way or another on what seemed to be fish everywhere we looked. They wouldn't have it and stayed well out of range. Inside the pass was the same story. Even at anchor it was always something that set them off. If a boat ran by them it would push them towards us, but by the time the fish got just in range, the wake from the passing boat would slap against us too! He seemed to be enjoying himself though.



This month's fish selfie is really cheating as I spent a lot of spare time in the woods this month, but here is a fish from 12/29. He ate the Clouser as did two of his buddies.

The thrill of watching those dark backs swim towards you in 2' of clear water is hard to beat for someone who doesn't get to bug sling the salt too often. As our time came to a close I decided to head to one last spot that I had seen some fish weeks prior.

I told him that we wouldn't see many over there, but the ones that are there are usually pretty cooperative. We watched a little saddle on the bar for thirty minutes without seeing a fish. Oh well, time to go, when I turned to climb down the platform I saw this fish just off the port quarter. I whispered to John to flip the fly out there but he had already wound up the slack in preparation for the ride back. He quickly stripped a few yards off and rolled a 10 footer out there as the fish swam under the fly. I was kicking myself. I took the clouser off earlier because we had a few refusals. Now this fish is 5 feet down hugging the bottom and the unweighted crab fly will never get down in time. He picked it up and rolled it again, and then a third time well ahead of the fish. That doggone redfish stopped under the fly, rose vertically in the water and sipped that darn crab off the surface 7 feet from the boat! I'm glad John knew what to do then because I was no help. All I could think to say was "I can't believe that fish just ate that!" It looked like a 30# rainbow trout sipping a coachman. What a day.



My best bet to get into the backing next month? I would stick to what has been working and be patient with the biggest redfish of the year in the surf. They will cooperate if you do the time. There are fish everywhere you look, as long as you look in the right places! I don't have to tell you the secret fly because you already know what it is. Never saw any albacore in January. There were a few pictures posted from pier fisherman and I did have a client claim the day before his trip he saw a pod down around the sugar bowl, beach side. That's about all I have for you. We will be at the fly fishing show in Atlanta this weekend, so give me a shout if you are there. Hopefully by the time I get back that groundhog will have given us some good news. I've already started tying big poppers. **Capt. Dan**

MINUTES from January 2

President Dave Handley called meeting to order at 1830 hours. Nine members present on a very chilly and frosty night. December minutes were accepted.

Old Business: Discussion of the Christmas Party. The Christmas party was a success. An all-time record of 55 members and guests attended. We were pleased that 20 door prizes were donated by club members. Thank you, club donors. Kent Reagan was made an honorary life member, joining Jon Williams who was also at the party. Bob Korose was there; he is making a good recovery from his recent illness. Congratulations to Matt Wegener who was honored as our Angler of the Year.

Despite the success of the party, there are still issues with the quality of the food. It was decided to look at other options for the next party. A new Committee headed up Jim White will look at alternatives.

Treasurers' Report: We have enough in the treasury to cover our monthly expenses until our cash flow builds back up once members pay their annual dues. Dues are \$30 per member and can be paid at one of our meetings or mailed to Jay directly. Associate dues (more than 50 miles away) are \$10 a year. Federal taxes, FFI dues and insurance also have to be paid. Our annual auction also raises money for the club. Russ moved to accept the Treasurers report and Jim W and Gerry G seconded it.

New Business/Committee Reports: Education Committee -. Our annual class starts on the second Monday of March and will run for 8 weeks to May 2 (The Auction will be the next night.)

The class is limited to 15 and will include tying five flies and casting instruction from our professional certified instructor. Participants will also be given fishing information about our area from a leading professional guide. Russ made a motion to increase the cost of the class from \$50 to \$60 which had been the traditional cost charged until last year. The small increase will allow us to probably break even. The motion was seconded by Jim W and Jay B and approved. Therefore the tuition will be \$60 per attendee but that includes the \$30 annual dues.

PHW had a very successful year. Participants tied flies and built their own fly rods that can be entered in a national competition in May/June. We are sorry to see that Kiel and his wife move away since she has been transferred. A special thanks to Russ who heads up PHW.

Future Club Trips: George Norton will head up the search and planning for a spring freshwater trip. His mission is to find a quality warm water venue where we can catch big bluegills on three weight fly rods. The spring trip is tentatively scheduled around April 21 (when the blue gills will be on the spawn) and the location will be decided by end of March. Contact George if you have access to a quality private lake.

Fishing reports: George tried the beaches on December 30th but struck out. He ran across one pod of fish, probably reds, but they didn't like his offering or weren't hungry.

Presentation: Our new Vice President Dave Hamkens gave an excellent presentation making us aware that each state has different laws regarding stream access. Montana is the most liberal state for allowing public access (fishing up to the high water line is legal) while access in Wyoming is much more difficult where you are not allowed to anchor in private water. Dave also gave us some tips on researching fishing areas on the internet for access. Thank you, Dave.

Meeting adjourned at 2015 hours