



Flies and Lies

Newsletter of the Fly Fishers of Northwest Florida

February, 2020

FFNWF

PO Box 1041
Pensacola, FL 32591
www.ffnwf.org

PRESIDENT

David Handley
dmhandley@gmail.com
(850) 417-9233

VICE-PRESIDENT

Bob Myers
Myers.w.robert@gmail.com

SECRETARY

George Norton
geonorton@gmail.com

TREASURER

Jay Brykczynski
(850) 232-7504
jaybryk@yahoo.com

NEWSLETTER

Paul Wargo
586-943-3155
flyfishersnwf@gmail.com

MONTHLY MEETINGS

at Miraflores Park
17th Avenue
between
Belmont and LaRua

Business Meeting
1ST Tuesday, 7 PM

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

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



Dues are due. Just Due It! -
See Jay at any club gathering
in February. \$30 .

Club Meeting – Tuesday, February 4 7:00

Cap'n Dan Storey presents "Fishing the Okefenokee"

Fly Tying – Thursday, February 13 6:30

Crunch a bunch of crawdads with Matt Wegener
(Capt Crunch) as we tie the *Crazy Dad*.



Clinic – Saturday, February 15 9:00 AM

You have two choices to take you wife out for Valentines Day and avoid the crowds on Friday. Bring her to the bull session on Thursday and show her we have no vices, just vises. Or, bring her to the Clinic for a romantic lunch.

Joe Higgins will serve his Out of This World "Never the Same Twice" Chili.

Jonas will be back for the casting clinic. He will teach the curve and the tuck cast. Some of us need a tummy tuck to give our elbow more room during the cast, but that's not what Jonas means.

Report from Africa

I recently had the privilege to serve or military in Djibouti Africa for 30 days. While there, I was scheduled to lead a snorkeling trip off base which provided a 2 hour boat ride to the reef. On the ride to the Gulf of Tadjoura,

we encountered dolphins and a few fish jumping. We didn't, however spot any whale sharks which is the primary focus of these day outings. The landscape on either side did provide mountainous beauty and the reefs are beautiful with lots of colorful fish... *Cyndi Myers*



Fishing with Capt. Baz

I love our January fly-fishing. You sure can't take it for granted. After waiting and waiting...and waiting...for the right conditions, when they arrive you just have to drop what you're doing and go fishing. Sometimes you can find trout in the bayous and canals. When the planets all align there might be a short run of false albacore in the Gulf. But day in and day out it's all about redfish. There are plenty of redfish on all our favorite grass flats on both sides of Santa Rosa Sound from Woodlawn and Opal beaches west to Fair Point and the Ranger Station. The problem is getting them to eat. I haven't had a take in the Sound in a month, but I have had some good follows and feel like I'm closing in on the right fly. Even wade fishing hasn't done the trick. Maybe some colder weather will help.

Fishing along the beach in the Gulf of Mexico is a different story. Those redfish are hungry, and there's not much pressure on them right now. As always you have to pick your days. Club member



Sarah Holman and Mark Gleason were on the boat New Years Day, and conditions were right for poling the beach. As usual there was wind and current, and casts had to be accurate and relatively long...50-60'. The fly-of-the-day was a 2/0 EP tarpon baitfish which can be challenging into the wind on 8wt tackle. Mark did a nice job with this first fish after a hard upcurrent fight. The trip was a gift from Sarah to Mark, and as you can see everybody was thrilled getting this one in the net. We



continued poling westbound and saw a small school of 6 bigger fish moving out of the inside slot and across the bar. They never saw us coming. Mark laid out a beautiful cast upcurrent of the fish and let the fly sink as it drifted in their direction. They were in 2' of water when he started stripping, and the last fish ate it. Quite a visual! The redfish measured 38".



The next decent day was January 5, and Josh and Mary Symes were on the boat. The water was off-color and light was poor, but we found a small school of fish bunched up just on the inner dropoff of the sandbar. The north wind and a surprising shore break made casting challenging, but Josh persevered and coaxed this fish to eat the fly. Earlier in the day Josh had yanked a floating crab out of the mouth of a redfish and was quite happy to get the monkey off his back.



A few days later Jonas, Capt Dave, and I decided to wade that same sandbar west of the tower. It was simply spectacular. Calm, clear water with plenty of sunshine with a north breeze. All three of us hooked fish, and I was lucky enough to land one. The fish took a green weenie tied by Travis Akins. Thank you, Trav! This fish was well over 20 pounds and quite a handful in the current. My brother got a short video of the release, and I put it on Youtube. Here's a link:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=1MriMU2Kev0>.

Three days later Gulf seas were over **10'**!! Timing is everything with the fly rods in January...

Capt Baz

(Please forward this newsletter or print the next page and give to friends who might take the class:)

Fly Fishers of NW Florida 2020 Fly Fishing Class

Fly Casting (with a professional instructor)

Fly Tying (flies for saltwater and local freshwater)

Equipment Selection (try our rods before you buy)

Knots and setting up your tackle

Every Monday starting March 16 to May 4 6:00 to 8:00 PM

At the club - 1600 E. Belmont Street at 17th Street (Miraflores Park)



March 16 will feature Introduction to **Local Salt Water Fly Fishing** by Capt. Baz Yelverton
Weeks 2 through 4 will include **Professional Casting Instruction** by Jonas Magnusson

And:

23 March **Introduction to Fly Rods, Reels & Lines**

30 March **Introduction to Fly Fishing Knots and Tackle Rigging**

6 April **Introduction to Fly Tying Tools and Materials**

13 April **Fly Tying – The Wooly Buggler** and casting instruction by our members

20 April **Fly Tying – The Clouser Minnow** and casting instruction by our members

27 April **Fly Tying – The Elk Hair Caddis** and casting instruction by our members

4 May **Introduction to Local Fresh Water Fishing** with Matt Wegener

Registration is \$60, which includes all course materials and the use of club equipment for fly tying and fly casting. Also included is club membership dues for the remainder of 2020.

Call Don Smith at 850-384-7272 or send email to dksmith497@yahoo.com for more information and to register for the course.

Class size is limited to 15 so register early!

Fly of the Month - A Crunchy Subject...by Matt Wegener

Those of you following my additions to the Fly of the Month over the years may notice I pick out a theme for each year. This year is no different and I would like to turn our focus to the freshwater crawfish. Whether you call them crawfish, crawdads, crayfish, or yabbies', there is no doubting they are creole candy for freshwater species such as largemouth bass. In fact, a study on the local Escambia River found crawfish outnumbered fish 3 to 1 in the stomachs of Largemouth Bass bigger than 10". Additionally, we found crawfish in the stomachs of the newly described Choctaw Bass and researchers from the University of Florida determined that crawfish are a primary food resource for Shoal Bass in the Chipola River. So, whether you are floating downriver in your canoe or hitting a local pond, make sure you pack some crustacean patterns. This month we will start with an easy one, called the Crazy Dad. I originally found this fly on the McFly Angler YouTube Channel, but have made a few adjustments to suit our local waters.



Materials:

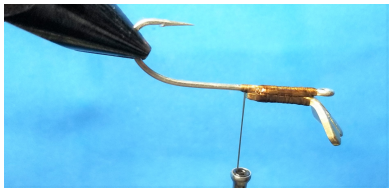
Hook: TMC 9395 (#6 or #8) **Weight:** Fish Skull Cray Tail (medium for #6 hook or small for #8)

Thread: Ultra thread 140 denier (brown) **Wing:** Fox tail **Wing case:** 1/8" flash back

Tail: Rubber legs (Hot Craw #056 from www.fishingshirts.com)

Body: Cohen's Carp Dub (Cray-Zee Olive) or USMC Fly Guy Sand Crab Dub

Instructions:



1. Mash barb and tie in cray tail on top of hook shank so that it rides hook up.



2. Tie in 5 to 6 strands of rubber legs, 1.5 to 2x the length of the hook shank.



3. Make a dubbing loop and move thread forward. Twist dubbing loop, then brush out additional fibers.



4. Wrap dubbing forward. Add more dubbing if needed.



5. Tie off dubbing loop. Brush again with a dubbing brush or toothbrush.

6. Tie in 1/4 of a pencil width worth of fox tail. Pull out underfur and tie in on the bottom the hook shank to form the carapace (shellback). Whip finish to complete fly.





My Favorite fly rod- A Fisher 7-8 By George Norton

For part of the 1970's I lived and worked in the concrete jungle, "New York City." With only two weeks' vacation a year, I blew it all on trips out west. I called "Big Jim" who lived in Denver and we scheduled a two week road trip to Montana and Wyoming. We drove from Denver in his Ford Pinto wagon that Ralph Nader called "unsafe at any speed."

Once in West Yellowstone, we camped on an old logging trail outside town, as there were no available campsites in the Park. We wanted to fish the Big Horn near Billings and booked a float trip in a fly shop. The owner took one look at my Eagle Claw pack rod, laughed and pulled out a Fisher 7-8weight rod and said, "I'll make you a deal on a real fly rod."

I purchased the rod and it cast smooth as silk the next day. Over the years it served me well. I caught a five pound largemouth in Louisiana on a pan fish bug and plenty of speckled trout and redbfish. I broke the tip section two or three times, but finally Fisher was out of business and there were no tip replacements.

Over the subsequent years, I acquired more fly rods than a sensible human being should own. The Fisher 7-8 was my favorite rod and far surpassed the fiberglass Eagle pack Rod.

FFI Gulf Coast Conclave

Percy Quin State Park March 13-14

The "Sweetwater Classic" is scheduled for Friday-Saturday March 13-14 at Percy Quin State Park in Southern Mississippi. The park is off I 55 due north of New Orleans just north of the Louisiana – Mississippi state borders. The Park features a five-hundred-acre lake, rental cabins and a campground. My wife and I plan to attend and have already reserved our cabin.



The lake was recently drained and stocked with bluegill, largemouth bass and black crappie. Spawning beds, fish attractions, and habitat were added. The Park also features an excellent 18-hole golf course. A three-day fishing license is \$15.

The event will feature fly tying demos, a casting skills challenge, a master casting instructor, and two fly fishing tournaments for bass and pan fish. A top of the line kayak will also be raffled off and the proceeds will benefit GCC's education and conservation initiatives.

For further information on Percy Quin State Park and cabin rentals see their website or call 601-684-3938 or go to the FFI Gulf Coast Council web site for further details. *George Norton*

The VP's Corner – Future Programs: Great turn out for the first meeting of the year and many thanks to Steve Hofmann for his presentation “Fishing in Wyoming”. This month Cap'n Dan Storey presents “Fishing the Okefenokee”.

Scheduled for upcoming months

Mar – Hugh Smith presents “Fishing Montana's Famous Rivers”

Apr – Tarpon Bob Korose presents “Catching Monster Pike in Canada”

May – FFWWF Auction!

Jun – Oleta Webb presents “Fishing in Montana”

Jul – Steve Hofmann presents “Fly Fishing Northern New Mexico and Southern Colorado

Aug – TBD Sep – TBD Oct – TBD Nov – TBD Dec – TBD. Thanks again for your willingness to share your knowledge and experiences. Please contact Bob Myers at (850)207-2070 to schedule your presentation. *Bob*

FFNWF MEETING JANUARY 7, 2020

Board Meeting: 1807: The President called the board meeting to order at 1807.

Financial Report: Our budget and forecast for 2020 are in good shape. There was a surplus over expenses with the raffle prizes at the party. 67 attended the Christmas Party.

Upcoming expenses will be \$600 for reserving Scenic Hills CC for the Christmas party on December 8, 2020 and \$800 for fly tying materials and new vises for the class starting in March. The members voted to make the deposit for Scenic Hills now to avoid a likely price increase.

So far 11 members have paid their 2020 dues. Please pay Jay ASAP.

Minutes of 3 December 2019 were approved (motion by Bob, second by Russ).

Old Business: Cliff and Kent will work on the price of our website, which is due for renewal in May. Go-Daddy asked for a big price increase, but Cliff will see if a longer agreement can mitigate some or all of the increase.

President's Comments: The Party was a wonderful success and the Christmas Party Committee (Jim, Jay, Paul, Cliff, Bob and Cyndi Myers) did a masterful job with the food, the raffle and the atmosphere. We need some new blood in the Committee for the 2020 Party. Jim will head it up and Cliff volunteered to continue handling the raffle prizes.

We need volunteers to help spruce up the cabin before the clinic on January 18. In that regard, we need a used vacuum cleaner. Contact Dave if you have one to donate.

New business: Terry reminded us of the Fly Fishing Show in Atlanta Jan31- Feb1. About six club member plan to attend.

Fishing reports: Terry reported trout were stacked up in the bayous in December and he had a fifty fish trip and showed us a mangled Clouser to prove it. Danny had a good trip for crappie at Stone Lake in Century and Sarah caught some rainbows in Gatlinburg, TN. She also had a successful trip with Baz for redfish. Reminder: Send your fish pictures to Bob Myers for posting on Facebook.



The General Meeting convened at 1900: There were 22 in attendance.

Presentation on Fly Fishing in Wyoming by Steve Hoffmann

Steve and Ellen are some of our new members. We were fortunate to have them join the club. Steve accepted the position as Board Member-at-Large for 2020. Steve and Ellen moved from Arizona in late 2018 to Navarre be close to their two sons. Steve had a long career in the Merchant Marines and also taught at the California Maritime Academy. He has a Masters in mechanical engineering from Michigan and enjoys rod building and fly tying. Ellen is a PT. They took a number of fly fishing trips to Wyoming from 2011- 2017. His presentation covered all corners of the state and he had photos of some big trout caught primarily float fishing the Miracle Mile on the North Platte near Casper, the Big Horn in Thermopolis, the Greybull, the Tongue and the Clark's Fork River of the Yellowstone. Thanks Steve for the information you shared which will be a great help for my upcoming road trip this summer to Wyoming and Montana.

The meeting adjourned at 2010.

Never Too Old for a Party Happy Birthday, Russ!

