



Flies and Lies

Newsletter of the Fly Fishers of Northwest Florida

January, 2019

FFNWF

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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

Happy New Year

Club Meeting – Tuesday, January 8 7:00 PM

Jonas Magnusson will present the program on choosing and using fly fishing tackle. This will be a great time to learn more about that new rod and reel Santa brought you (or you are going to get for yourself with all those gift cards).

Note: Meeting is one week later than usual

Fly Tying Bull Session – Thursday, January 10 6:30

The new fly will be the Mud Bug. Tie 'um and fish 'um. Or put them in etouffee and eat 'um

Clinic – Saturday, January 19 9:00 AM

Seems like forever since you have been outside. Shake off the winter doldrums and catch a touch of spring fever... fly tying and lunch inside for the faint of heart. Lunch will be the annual special event: Russ' Seafood Chowder. Yum Yum Yummy Yum Yum!

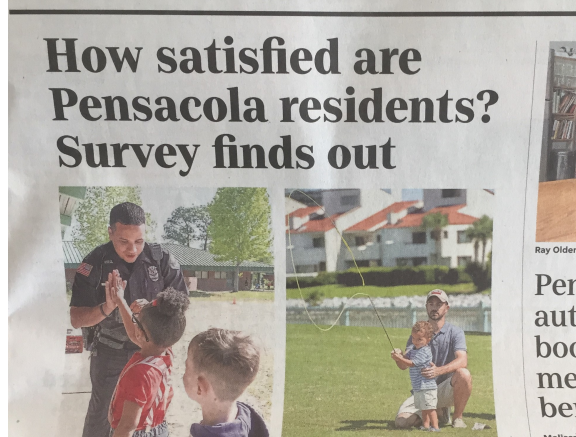


2019 Membership Drive starts in January

see Jay at all the meetings or send check to to

Jay W Brykczynski 4983 Prieto Drive Pensacola FL 32506

Dues: \$30.00. Make checks payable to FFNWF.



In the News

Take a look at the second picture – we made the Front Page!

From our Fun Day program at Waterfront Park



Christmas Party 2018



Angler of the Year: Joe Higgins !!



Special Recognition given to Russ Shields, Kent Gilliland, and Jay Brykczynski

Some Reel Happy People..... And Rod Happy People, too



Alicia won the trip with Capt. Dan
She might take Terry... maybe



Sam did well for the Storey family



That's a really cool prize

Thanks to Jim White and the many members of the committee for a well planned party!
Thanks to all who came and made it a great time to be together!!



Dave and Cliff handed out lots of prizes. Including **The Annual Grand Prize Trophy Award of Year !**



Thanks to all who donated door prizes.



Too Pretty to eat!

But we ate it, anyway.



One of the special awards was for our leader and mentor, friend and fisherman:

Russ Shields.

The award was a handcrafted stand for a Cook's Critter fly (our club logo). Fortunately we have a craftsman who can build these..... Russ, of course.

The Pres Says: Happy New Year! Hope that you had a wonderful and memorable holiday season. The club is in a fantastic place, our membership has grown and participation at last years activities were great. This coming year still has its challenges, we have positions in several committees that require member participation. Membership, Annual Auction, and a new function of Club Publicity. A major key to our club's success is our people stepping up to club challenges. Looking forward to a wonderful year, it's your club please enjoy and be part of it. Look forward to seeing you at the club in the New Year.

Dave

The Vice Pres Says: Happy New Year! Let's hope we all catch more fish this year. In support of that goal, the club's 2019 program schedule (see below) is targeting various skills that will, hopefully, lead to tight lines. As you can see from the list below, there are a few slots still to fill. Several folks have stepped forward with ideas for a few of those slots and those ideas should firm up over the next month or so and will be added to the schedule. If you want to make a presentation, please contact

Jim White.

- Jan – Jonas Magnusson** presents “Matching rods and lines”
Feb – Jim White presents “Fishing the Potomac River shad run” **Mar – TBD** **Apr – TBD**
May – FFWF Auction!
Jun – Jim White presents “Trout fishing on the South Holston River” **Jul – TBD**
Aug – Bob Korose presents “The Golden Dorado in Argentina”
Sep – Jim White presents “Trout fishing on the Yellowstone River”
Oct – Matt Wegener presents “Hunting Bull Reds in Pensacola” **Nov – TBD** **Dec – TBD**

Fishing Report from Matt Wegener



Ed Hampken and I made a trip to the Gulf Breeze Canals before the Club's Christmas Party in mid-December. Although we only fished a few hours, we quickly lost count of how many speckled trout we landed that day. A conservative estimate would be 30 fish with 7 or 8 keeper-sized speckled trout mixed in.

The fish were in the upper ends of these canals in areas that had slightly deeper water than the surrounding areas. Think “outside bends” and mid channel humps and depressions when looking for these slightly deeper areas. It may only be a difference of 1 to 2 feet, but that's all it takes to find an area full of fish. Once you get a few bites, anchor the boat and fish the area thoroughly. You may catch 5 to 10 fish before you need to move. Most of the fish are small, so 7-8 weight rods are appropriate matched with floating line and long (9-12') leader terminating in 12 to 15-pound Fluorocarbon. Terry's Trout Taker is tough to beat in size #4 (see the fly of the month several years back), but any clouser minnow tide in dark colors and less than 3" in length will catch these fish.

There is also some huge black drum cruising in these canals. You will see them near the surface, slowly moving along and often turning down every fly in your box. Ed ended our trip on a high note by hooking one of these behemoths on a small clouser minnow. It was an epic fight that took us up and down the canal before the fish finally came unbuttoned. Closer inspection of the fly showed that the hook remained true and didn't show any signs of failing. The fly must have simply popped out of the fish's mouth, just one of those things us fishermen have no control over. We did, however, have control over when to end our trip to make to the party on time and it seemed appropriate to not make another cast after fighting that big black drum. **Matt**

Fly of the Month



Mud Bug....

tyed by Matt Wegener

I'm often asked for suggestions about which crab pattern to fish. My response is simple. Colors and fly patterns matter, but size is the most important. Red fish tend to key on a size of prey, therefore your offering better be close to that size they are looking for if you want to get bit. You should feel confident if your box contains a big crab fly and a small crab fly. Then you can worry about adding additional colors and patterns to your box.

This pattern is made to imitate the smaller of the two sizes, the mud crab. I see mud crabs in almost every red fish stomach that I examine. You can find them in the mud flats in the upper bay and buried in the sand in the intercoastal. Their color tends to match their habitat, so darker patterns for mud bottoms and lighter patterns over sand.

Make a cast well ahead of a cruising red fish and let this pattern settle to the bottom. Give it a slight hop when the fish is a few feet away and hang on!

Materials:

Hook: Mustad 34007, size 4-6

Thread: Danville Flat Wax Nylon, brown or tan

Under-body: Yarn, tan or brown

Flash (optional): krystal flash, gold or rootbeer

Bead-chain eyes

Carapace/tail: Mini rabbit strip, tan or brown

Legs: Sili legs

Instructions:

1. Wrap thread onto the hook and tie in bead chain eyes near the hook eye.
2. Add two strands of flash on top of the hook shank, extending behind the fly.
3. Tie in a pair of legs on each side of the hook shank
4. Tie in yarn and wrap over the hook shank to form the body.
5. Add a short strip of rabbit fur between the bead chain eyes and the hook eye.

Form a tapered head with the thread, whip finish and cut away thread



December 4, 2018 Minutes by George Norton

Board Meeting: 1800 President Handley called the meeting to order

Financial Report: Our treasurer reported the club is running a solid balance which will serve to carry us into next year. Sixty five tickets were sold for our Christmas party. Russ moved to accept the report and Cliff seconded it.

Minutes of November 6, 2018 meeting were approved

Old Business: New officers: Bob Myers and Oleta will be board members at large and Jim White is our new Vice President. We need a member to take over the auction from Terry who has served for many years. Russ also suggested we need a new position to head up membership since Jay has been doing double duty as treasurer and membership. Would someone step up and become a new membership head? Turn-over files from most officers have been received.

Angler of the Year will be announced at the Party.

Tom Finkle has offered to help Russ in education, the class, and revising the course syllabus. The library received a donation of three DVD's: Lefty Kreh on casting methods, Joan Wulf on casting and one on rod building from Flex Coat.

New Business : We have had a banner year on ticket sales for the party. Bring some flies for door prizes. The club will need help setting up and taking down at our party so plan to arrive around 4:30 PM to help. Cliff is heading up the raffle prizes. Cliff and Dave will handle MC duties and Paul will do the invocation. Food will be served at 615 PM and the program will start early. The club decided to honor Kent and his dad with free tickets to the Christmas Party. Paul moved and Russ seconded. The President would like to make a display for the Fly of the Month in 2019. The first meeting of the New Year will be on January 8th.

General Meeting Called to order by the President at 1905. 24 Members were in attendance

Al Mueller was introduced as a visitor and old member from long ago. The good news is Al is rejoining the club. Welcome back Al!

Presentation on Red Tide and Blue Green Algae blooms Matt Wegener is a freshwater biologist with the Florida Department of Fish and Wildlife and club member. He gave an excellent report with a lot of scientific information. Red tide starts to form 10-40 miles offshore in warm and highly saline waters from single cell algae blooms and is a natural occurrence. It was first recorded by Spanish explorers. Serious study of it started around the 1950's in south Florida well before much of the



extensive coastal development of today had occurred. Red tide is much more prevalent in some years than others and scientists do not really understand why. In 2018 red tide was extensive and long lasting from south Florida to the Tampa Bay area. Matt said "If you are at the beach your eyes will burn along with a scratchy throat from toxins released by red tide that are blown ashore." Red tide

cannot be eliminated with chemicals. Currents from south Florida move red tide up the Gulf Coast. It is much less prevalent in the Atlantic.

Club members asked if red tide was affecting our bull redfish run in Pensacola Bay. Some members opined that the bull redfish were gone. Matt said "he and his Dad had caught more bull reds this November than in prior years" but guides have had a tough time locating bull redfish.

Mat moved on to blue green algae blooms which occur in freshwater and are caused by man-made fertilizer run-off. The culprit is population growth in south Florida, fertilizer run-off and large sugar plantations which are in only in business due to federal crop subsidies. The swamps in their natural state acted as a filter and improved water quality. Politicians have gone around and around for the last fifteen years or so on funding to fix it but funds have been elusive.

Thank you, Matt, for a great presentation. For more information on red tide go to www.myfwc.com

Old Business: Ed Hampken our 2018 Vice President is moving to Colorado Springs next year to take over the Marine Corps recruiting office. Good luck, Ed, and thank you for your service to the club and our country.

New Business: Our first meeting in 2018 will be on January 8th with Jonas presenting on rod, reel and fly line selection. It should be interesting.

Fishing Reports: Dan reported he had a great outing for 30-40 crappies at Pate Pond off of exit 104 about 20 miles east of Defuniak Springs. The bull red chasers reported the flotilla chasing the bull reds is gone which tells me the fish are not around in any concentration. I went Thursday and Friday on beautiful calm warm days and there were no boats, no birds and no fish. I took an eight year old out to the Three Mile Bridge for a mess of white trout. Terry has been catching the specs in the canals after cold fronts. Matt has gotten lots of bull reds with his Dad and some bluefish at the Bob Sykes Bridge. Guides have had a tough time finding the bulls. Dead menhaden were reported floating in the bay, probably due to the sudden drop in water temperature.

Meeting adjourned at 2010 hours