



Flies and Lies

Newsletter of the Fly Fishers of Northwest Florida

January, 2021

FFNWF

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

PRESIDENT
Bob Myers
Myers.w.robert@gmail.com

VICE-PRESIDENT
Mick Milo
vectorfl@aol.com

SECRETARY
George Norton
geonorton@gmail.com

TREASURER
Larry Sisney
2021 FFNWF Treasurer
3610 Baisden Rd.
Pensacola, FL 32503.

MEMBER EMERITUS
Russ Shields
rkshields37@gmail.com

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

MEETINGS now
being held via Zoom

Business Meeting
1ST Tuesday, 7 PM

Bull Session - Tying
2ND Thursday, 6 PM

Clinic -Casting, Tying,
Lunch - Will resume
TBA

**Regardless of Covid 19 Regardless of the Hurricanes
Regardless of a new President and Treasurer
Regardless of a New Year**

One Thing Never Changes

Dues are Due

And you can't do this via Zoom

**Send a real check - \$30.00 – payable FFNWF
to Larry Sisney**

**3610 Baisden Rd.
Pensacola, FI 32503**

Let's get the New Year off to a great start!!

**First Meeting - New Year – New President
Tuesday, January 5 7:00 PM via Zoom**

We have had some outstanding presentations at these Zoom meetings by our speakers and this meeting will be no exception. The program will be our long awaited trip to Canada with Bob Korose for Northern Pike on the Fly

At the meeting we will discuss the possibility of outdoor gatherings at the club on the third Saturday of the month (Clinic Day) subject to City approval. We would bring our own lunch and fly rods and have casting games and competition which would be the safest way to meet in the near term. See the Minutes at the end of this newsletter.



Karose Konquers Kanada

From Our New President

This normally is the monthly newsletter that includes a note from the President reflecting on a wonderful year-end Christmas Party. NORMALLY. As I write we are approaching the end of a year that many would like to erase from the memory bank. The coronavirus affected us in many ways and posed many unforeseen challenges (Program presentations, Fly tying instruction, FF101 Class, Auction, Outings, Christmas Party). My appreciation of all that our club offers, the activities and events we share, and particularly the camaraderie and willingness to share knowledge has grown in the forced absence of many of those activities.

Our scheduled FF101 Class, though not taking place in 2020, was the impetus for a newly produced club course book that will last for years-SUCCESS. Our auction, postponed from May and finally held, outdoors, in daylight hours, in October, with every single item sold SUCCESS. Our Christmas Party, well planned by an active committee was cancelled, but the club suffered no financial loss, relationships with host facility was maintained, and a good groundwork for a 2021 Christmas Party was preserved – SUCCESS. We learned how to meet and share presentations, have fly tying instruction, and maintain some sense of connection via ZOOM (sometimes for this old guy with a steep learning curve “YOU’RE MUTED BOB. UNMUTE”)- SUCCESS.

Yes, it has been a challenging year, but I think FFNWF navigated the challenges in a good way. Many thanks are due to outgoing President Dave Handley. He maintained a steady hand at the helm throughout our journey through these uncharted waters.

Even with the challenges of the current environment we have much to look forward to. Almost every state has reported dramatic increases in the sale of fishing licenses in 2020. FFI’s annual conclave was cancelled in 2020 and will not take place this year either and yet FFI reports that participation in fly fishing also has grown during the pandemic. One of the ways FFI responded was to expand opportunities to learn via interactive webcasts on fly fishing skills, fly tying, casting, and conservation education

My hope is that we continue to hang together as we have, until we once again resume in house, in person, gatherings. My sense is that the 3rd Saturday clinics might be first to return, followed by the inside programs. Much of that depends upon the city’s reopening of facilities and the recovery status of the pandemic. Until next time. *Bob Myers*

“The true angler can welcome even a low river and a dry year, and learn of it, and be the better for it, in mind and spirit.” G.M.W. Wemyss

From Our New Veep Hello Members!!

As your newly-elected Vice-President, I’d like to welcome you to another year of monthly meeting programming. While the 2021 program schedule is still a work-in-progress, the January and February programs are locked in. In January, we will hear from Bob Korose who will share his “Canada Pike Fishing” adventure and in February, yours truly will present “Montana Cutthroat on Horseback”. Details on future programs will be forthcoming” Happy Holidays!!! *Mick Milo*

Fishing with Capt. Baz We had some excellent fishing this month for those who could work around the usual December weather challenges. Water temperatures have fallen to about 62-63 degrees in the Gulf and the mid-50's inside, and water clarity has been good to excellent. It's my favorite time of year for sight-fishing the shoreline of the Gulf and numerous flats in the Sound. Where we fish depends on the wind, but there are enough redfish everywhere to keep the clients happy. It's definitely not easy fishing. We're usually getting 15-20 shots in a 6hr trip, and landing 2-3 fish is a very good day. Of course there's always the option to pull into a bayou or canal and catch a dozen or more trout while blind-casting clouser minnows, but most of my clients prefer the hunt. There's nothing like stalking the shallow water.

Coldwater lines are a must during the winter, as the mono-core tropical lines just don't work. I like Rio's "Winter Redfish" line. It has a braided core which remains supple in cold weather and a longer head to allow for softer presentations. On the inside I prefer 8wt or lighter tackle and 10' leaders coming down to 12# fluoro. In the Gulf I'm using 9 and sometimes 10wt tackle for the bigger and heavier flies, plus the leaders can be a little shorter (9') and heavier (16-20#).

Let's start with photos from the Project Healing Waters trip which finally happened for Oleta Webb and Tony Moore on December 8. I had canceled two previous dates due to the Gulf being blown out, and that's where I wanted to fish. Finally we caught a nice day with a north wind, plenty of sun, and clear water.



It was a cold run out to the observation tower, but once we anchored up just outside the inner bar it was pristine. We picked a spot where a small channel cut through the sandbar to the inside trough. I was confident there would be redfish passing through if we had the patience to wait them out. Tony was up when the first group of fish appeared westbound. This was a group of six big redfish cruising high in the water column, and the lead fish took Tony's chartreuse/white EP baitfish with no hesitation. For a guy who's never landed a big fish on fly

Tony did great! After a half hour of fighting the fish into the current Tony finally brought the bona fide bull redfish to the net. A little later Oleta was up when a large school of redfish came into range. She used long, smooth strips to coax this beauty to eat the fly, and then closed the deal with a nice strip set. Very little happened for the next hour or so while we enjoyed the setting and ate lunch. When the wind picked up we ran into Gilmore Bayou where Tony and Oleta landed a bunch of trout and one adorable little rat red. I don't usually kill trout, but we slid one nice fish into the cooler for Tony's dinner. It got rave reviews...



Here are some others who hit pay dirt in the Gulf during the last month. First are a couple photos of Will Duncan who



hooked five redfish and landed four on November 23. Next is Ryan Thomasson on December 1 with a fabulous fish caught close to the Sea Buoy. The *Running of the Bulls* was happening that day 2-3 miles out in the Gulf. Go figure. Well look who's next...could it be Capt Dan Storey?? My good client Stephen Miller invited Dan to join us on December 10, and Dan showed us how it's done. And





finally David Barnes from Pittsburg, Kansas, on December 29 with his first redfish on fly.

When the Gulf is blown out I've been spending most of my time "between the points" sight-fishing for spooky redfish. Most of the docks were destroyed in Hurricane Sally, and that has improved the fishing. At

least it's a lot easier poling through the pilings than having to go all the way out and around the docks. It's still very technical, but we are having a lot of fun and catching a few fish. First up is Connor Wald with his first-ever redfish on December 13. Next is Ramu Nallamala with the only fish landed on December 14. Ramu had another take from a larger fish but



tried to "trout set" it... Charlie Forest, St Paul, MN, kicked butt on December 26 by hooking three redfish and landing two plus catching a nice trout out of a school of about 30. And finally here's Devin Snyder, Denver, CO, with his first redfish on fly.



The last exciting news is the arrival of the winter black drum. They come every year and hang out around structure close to Pensacola Pass. Gradually some will work their way along the shore on the north side of the island, and the highlight is when we find them tailing. I started seeing a few fish early in December but never found them congregated until December 11. Master Chef Stephen Miller was back for a second day, and this time brought his son Trent. We had wasted a couple hours searching unsuccessfully for redfish and decided to check

out a few winter black drum spots. Bright sunshine and gin-clear water made it possible to find a school of 50-100 fish holding on the bottom. I anchored "up-stream" of the school, and Stephen used my 10wt and full sinking line to drift a chartreuse/white gau-meaux back into their midst. The drum don't see very well, and the trick is to move the fly very little. You just get it to the bottom and let it wiggle. If the fly tries to ride up in the current you play out more line to let it sink. All the time you are watching the dark blob down there knowing your fly is about to get eaten.

Sometimes you feel a little pressure or a small tug from a short-strike, but you have to have the patience to wait. Eventually a fish will eat the fly, and when you strip set it's like driving the hook into a stump. About then the big drum ambles off down-current, and the fight is on. Check out this shot of Stephen with the first fish landed...a 28 pound brute. It took about a half hour to land that fish, and the school relocated. We found them after a short search and once again positioned ourselves



up-current for the perfect cast. This time when Stephen hooked up he handed the rod to young Trent and spent the next half hour talking him through the process of fighting a big fish on fly while his son was hanging on for dear life. It was a wonderful father/son moment, and I tried to stay out of the way unless the rod was about to get broken. Miracle of miracles Trent landed the fish, and you



can tell by his smile he was pretty pleased. We landed a third fish before the rain started and called it a day...a *very good* day!

And that's it for 2020 boys and girls. It's been a rough year on multiple fronts, but "our waters run through it" and help keep us sane. Here's to a happy, healthy, and prosperous 2021. **Capt Baz**

Farewell to Jonas

Our club had the opportunity to present some mementos to Jonas Magnusson, MD on his departure of our area. These items were in appreciation for his contribution to the club, our Project Healing Waters chapter, and the sport of fly fishing. The plaque was focused on his contribution to casting and included the quote, "You can't buy a good cast!" The other item was the mounted club fly, Cook's Critter, with glass dome. Jonas and his casting mentorship will be missed but not forgotten.



Fair winds and following seas, friend Jonas..... let us hear from you. Dave Handley



"When I moved to Gulf Breeze, and started fishing the salt, it became clear to me that I needed to learn to cast better to have any chance of catching fish. I immediately understood that tying the umpteenth fly would not get me out of that particular predicament. The only way to cast better is to learn from someone who casts well and can teach. Those two qualities don't necessarily go hand in hand. I found a person who did indeed cast well and also could teach me to cast better. This led me to take the FFI's standardized casting

instructors test. Now, the best way to learn something really well is actually to teach it. That's how some of you became my students (a.k.a. Guinea Pigs). I like to think that most got a little better. However, I learned a lot from the clinics and also teaching the club's course.

Thanks for our time together and thanks for the Club's recognition Dave brought to me in Gulf Breeze where I was packing up my home." Jonas

FFI Happy New Year! I report having relieved Rex Straughn as the club's Fly Fishers International (FFI) representative. As you know Rex has helmed this position for many years as he helped the club navigate important changes in how we interact with FFI HQ. Thank you, Rex, for your inspired leadership. Big shoes to fill and I look forward to carrying on his legacy of keeping FFNWF well informed regarding the services offered through our affiliation with FFI. For this newsletter I'd like to pitch the work by FFI to improve fly fishing education. Over the past two years they have dramatically expanded the content available through their online presence. Visit - <https://flyfishersinternational.org/Education/Learning-Center> - and you'll see a lot of the great resources FFI has quietly added over the past year. From casting to stream reading to entomology to fly tying to conservation, there is something for everyone. And that is not counting the webcasts FFI began hosting as a result of the COVID pandemic. See here - <https://flyfishersinternational.org/FFI-Online> - for webcast offerings and sign up to receive periodic emails promoting upcoming series. Great stuff and FFI membership is not required. Please contact me with any questions you have regarding FFI. Tight Lines! – *Jim White*



FLY FISHERS
INTERNATIONAL

Project Healing Waters Fly Fishing News -

A very generous donation to our program from Florida House District-1 Representative Michelle Salzman enabled us to put four of our participants on the water to hunt the elusive bull red. Capt'n Dan hosted Brad and Roger and Capt'n Baz hosted Oleta and Tony. Unfavorable



weather conditions forced several reschedules but eventually the skies parted and the sun shown and the trips were underway. Brad reported - "We had a great day on the water with Capt'n Dan. We covered lots of water looking for fish and found bait by the tons. We were there, food was there, but the bull reds forgot about our dinner date and stood us up. We still had a great time catching a variety of specks, white trout, small red, puffer, and croaker. It was a beautiful day on the water and thanks to those who made it possible."



The weather was more favorable for the trip a few weeks later with Capt'n Baz. Oleta and Tony both landed bull reds along the gulf side of Ft Pickens. Tony's recent switch to two handed casting really upped his game. And Oleta, another two handed caster, also lipped a monster. Perhaps we should all look into this two handed casting phenomenon!



Grateful Thank You to Representative Salzman for her very generous donation and support to PHW Pensacola and to Capt'n Dan and Capt'n Baz for making the time in their busy schedules to get a few of our folks out on the water. We have funding available to do it again in the spring and will make those plans early in 2021. Maybe we'll be chasing the big Spanish.

In other PHW news - While no official word is out, my conversations with HQ lead me to believe PHW activities, at least into the third quarter of 2021, will look a lot like most of 2020 with in person activities remaining suspended. That said, the club is looking to restart Saturday outdoor casting clinics and if they do, we'll piggy back PHW casting into that venue. Until such time as we can get back together safely in the club house for in person activities, Zoom will remain our modus operandi (thank you Lou for your efforts in this regard).



Finally, in addition to the donation from Representative Salzman, significant donations were received from Navy Federal Credit Union and the Emerald Coast Veterans Alliance. Additionally multiple individual donations were received from persons locally and from across the country. Thank you to everyone who supported

Project Healing Waters Fly Fishing and our mission to provide emotional and physical rehabilitation to disabled veterans. Let's make 2021 a safe and great year for our PHW vets! - **Jim White**

Fly of the Month - DIRTY WATER BAITFISH MINNOW

MATERIALS:

HOOK: GAMAKATSU SL12S #1/0

THREAD: BLACK 140d

EYES: 6MM/8MM 3D HOLOGRAPHIC

TAIL: PURPLE CRAFT FUR

FLASH: HERRING BACK KRYSTAL FLASH

SKIRT: SENYO AQUA CHENILLE BLACK CHERRY

BODY: EP TARANTULA BRUSH BLACK/RED



INSTRUCTION:



1. De-barb hook, thread base to bend. Secure clump of craft fur at bend 1-1/2" x shank. Tie-in 4-6 strands K/Flash, doubled over top.



2. Tie skirt front of tail base. Palmer forward 6-8 wraps & secure.



3. For head/body attach in front of skirt EP brush and palmer forward to hook eye. Whip finish and head cement. Pick out trapped fiber and pull fibers up towards the back and belly of fly.

4. Trim each side of fly to a flat, close shape similar to a bait fish. Trim wing and belly to a tapered smooth shape. Completing the bait fish image.

4. Trim each side of fly to a flat, close shape similar to a

5. Affix holographic eyes each side and overcoat w/ UV resin or head cement



Wings and Things
Monogramming
3815 W. Navy Blvd
Pensacola, FL 32507
850-455-3081
Larry D. Speed Irma D. Speed
www.wings-and-things.com

Wings and Things now has our club emblem on file and will charge \$8.00 per shirt. For an extra \$4.00 they will affix name and titles.
Jay

The Changing of the Guard:



Jay hands over the books to new treasurer Larry Sisney and new president Bob Myers

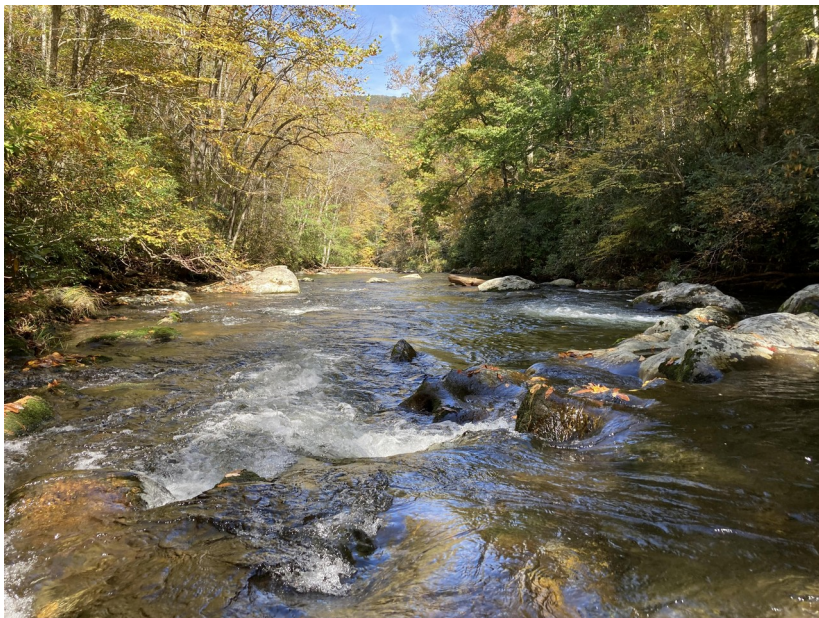
Thanks, Jay, for 8 good years as our Treasurer!!



Fishing Report – More about Hazel Creek from George Norton

Hazel Creek is a tributary of Lake Fontana in the southwestern corner of North Carolina and is rated in the top 100 trout streams in America. The Creek originates in the Smoky Mountains and is very wild and very remote. I took a thirty-minute boat ride across Fontana in bone chilly early morning fog. Dropped at the mouth, I followed a hiking trail that ran parallel to the Creek for about two miles. I never saw another fisherman.

Fishing the Creek entailed dealing with slippery banks and virgin forests that came down to the edge. The current was strong and lots of roll casting and mending was necessary. My other strategy was positioning myself in the middle of the creek and fishing downstream and upstream.



I started with a Stimulator and a dropper but hang ups on the dropper and tangles were frequent. I switched to a double dry fly rig with the Stimulator and an elk hair caddis. The caddis did better so I tied- on two elk hair caddis and caught five browns and rainbows, none more that 11-12 inches. These were wild trout. There are no stocked fish in the Smoky Mountains.

Lake Fontana is a warm water fishery that has a wide range of fish from trout to smallmouth to pan fish. I learned that Fontana fishes best in the coldest months starting around Thanksgiving. We stayed two nights in a cabin at the Fontana Lake Resort. The resort has a small pond and I sight fished some big rainbows on a three weight TFO.

General Membership Zoom Meeting - 1December 2020 - The Minutes:

Attendance: President David Handley, Bob Myers, Jim White, Jay Brzezinski, George Norton, Cindi Myers, Steve Hoffmann, Paul Wargo, Mike Milo and Larry Sisney.

The President called the meeting to order at 7:14

Out-going President Dave Handley gave a heart felt **Thank You** to members for keeping the club alive and well during the Virus. He said, "Pour two shots at midnight on New Year's Eve for getting us through a difficult 2020 and for better days to come in 2021."

Presentation by Steve Hoffmann "Fly Fishing Humor"

Steve's Power Point Presentation featured comic fly fishing situations from the internet and a humorous true story of fly fishing in the California Sierras. Steve said, "A bear cub came around the corner when he was fly fishing a stream. Ellen yelled at the top of her lungs, "Steve, "You better get out of the water now! A Mama bear is probably in the neighborhood." Steve skedaddled out before the Mama Bear showed. My favorite comic was of a typical fly fisherman with a closet full of fly rods. After his wife complained about more rods than you can ever use, he came back with, "Think of them as shoes." Thanks Steve for the chuckles.

Treasurers Report: Jay presented a very good report. We have a surplus despite the challenges of Covid. After Jay's eight years as Treasurer, Larry takes over in January. Jay summed up, "We now have 501C nonprofit status approval which will save us on federal taxes going forward and in 10-15 days we should have a Florida sales tax exemption which will help on club supplies."

Old Business: The new officers for 2021: President Bob Myers, Vice President Mike Milo, Secretary, George Norton, Treasurer, Larry Sisney, PHW Chair Jim White, Education David Handley and two Board Members at Large, Cindi Myers and Steve Hoffmann.

New Business. David said, "We need to think of the transition to meeting in person in the future." A consensus was to plan for outdoor meetings the third Saturday of the month subject to City approval. This is a logical step forward. We would bring our own lunch and fly rods and have casting games and competition which would be the safest way to meet in the near term.

The second topic was the need for a club member with strong IT skills who can take over updating the web site and Facebook. See the President if you would like to help on this important matter.

The March 2021 class may need some creative ideas if it is to happen. Otherwise the class will be pushed back due to the virus and city restrictions for use of the club house.

There will be a Fly Tying Zoom meeting with Pat Murphy on December 10. The link is in your e-mail.

Fishing Reports: Tarpon Bob waded Naval Live Oaks and caught a 25 inch red and another 21 inches. The following day Bob landed four trout. Later in the month Bob and Don Smith got into nonstop big Spanish inside the Bay. George went out two days later and only got one nice Spanish. Timing is everything on migratory fish as they headed further south in their migration. Captain Dan took out members on a PHW trip and picked up trout and some small reds on the flats inside but no bull reds. This year has been a disappointment for bull reds. Steve Hoffmann went out with Captain Chip and had some shots at big reds outside the pass and inside for smaller reds on the flats but got skunked but said, "Happy to be alive and fishing after his hip surgery and still trying for his first red on the fly rod." George fished hard for two days in Mississippi and picked up only two small trout and learned why. The trout fishing in Mississippi has fallen on hard times due to the opening of the Bonnet Claire Spillway over the last two years which caused algae blooms. Muddy Mississippi River water killed all the oyster beds and scattered the trout elsewhere. George reported on a good trip in mid- November to the Smoky Mountains. The highlight was fly fishing remote Hazel Creek in North Carolina with a double dry fly rig for small browns and rainbows. The only access was a long boat ride across Lake Fontana and he had the creek entirely to himself. A great stream for dry fly fishing and hiking in rugged remote terrain in fall colors.

2015 Meeting Adjourned

