

Tarpon Tales

By Milt Mays

It was about a four hour trip to Carrabelle, Florida from Gulf Breeze, but with the time shift to Eastern Daylight time, it added an hour. So, we arrived at the quaint little Georgian Hotel at about 12 noon local time, Thursday, 17 June 2004. We got checked in and headed out to the ramp at Lanark Village. The first surprise was the ramp fee had gone up from \$7 per launch to \$10, though you could get a yearly pass for a measly \$70!! Guess I was used to the cheap Pensacola ramp fees. I had forgotten that I was in the booming city of Carrabelle. Right! Anyway, we got out to "the spot" that just about every local knows about by about 2pm. There were two boats there already. I know it's hard to believe, but we actually used some flats etiquette and asked them where they wanted us to go so we would not interfere. After getting anchored, we started seeing tarpon right away. What an adrenalin rush, seeing several six foot fish swim within 10 feet of the boat, too close to cast to, but wow! We each got shots at several fish, but they all had lock-jaw. At about 3pm, Jack West, of Fairhope Middle Bay Outfitters fame, pulled up with a couple of buddies. He said they had just taken about 2 hours to land the biggest tarpon he had ever caught. He didn't get to measure the fish because it broke off right as they got it to the leader.

After drooling over Jack's story and some more maneuvering of boats, we got several more shots at fish. Then, at 5 pm one of the guys on another boat hooked one. After only one beautiful jump the fish took off with boat in tow, and we saw him still fighting the fish when we left around 6pm. The next day we saw them again, and they said he fought the fish for over two hours before it also broke off after getting to the leader. So, after four hours of fishing we were fishless, but felt optimism at having seen so many fish, and having two fish being caught in those 4 hours.

On Friday we were up early, got to "the spot" by 6:45am, and we were the first. What a dandy spot it was! We saw 100-150 fish that day, and many good shots, but only a few fish even turned toward our flies. Needless to say by 4pm we were tired and a bit frustrated. There had been a few boats out there, including the boat that had hooked the fish the day before. No one had jumped a fish that day. But, having been taught by Art to always look for the pony in the pile of horse manure, I regained my positive attitude. Kevin was in the fish-spotting position on the poling platform riding up and down with the enlarging, afternoon, sea-breeze waves. Though we had pretty good sea-leg balance by now, the muscles were fatigued and shaky from 10 hours of rocking and standing. Every now and then a rogue wave would catch you and you would lose your balance and careen off the bow platform into the bowels of the boat, narrowly avoiding barking your shins, or at least usually....

Anyway, at about 4:30pm Kevin spotted a group of 5-6 fish about thirty feet from the stern. I could not see the fish due to the afternoon angle of the sun, and so my cast was in the general direction. But, Kevin saw the fish take the fly and the fish jumped immediately, giving both of us a great view of it at about 20 feet from the boat. What a magnificent fish. To take a two inch fly then jump and do a gill-rattling shake that close was awe inspiring. She began taking line and just after I cleared all the fly line and she was getting into the backing she jumped again, and that was that! Now I had been teased, and frustrated, but at least we knew we could do it too. So, I had a few minutes left on the hour of my fishing time. Well, twenty minutes later, I lucked out again.

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Flies & Lies

JULY 2004



HELP WANTED....Do you have a few hours each month to help with "Flies & Lies", our club newsletter? We need a volunteer to print, collate, staple, address and mail the newsletter. You would use the club's laser printer and software and would be reimbursed for stamps, paper and materials. If you would like to help, please contact Kevin Cohenour at klcflies@yahoo.com or 484-8164.

Editors note—A club is only as good as the effort and time its members put into it. Please help if you can!

President's Report

July President's Report: Summer, being hot, humid, and a time for travel, especially by those with school age

children, generally is a time during which numbers in attendance drop, at the various club functions. However, we had an excellent turnout at the June casting clinic.

Tom Regina had prepared a "gourmet" meal, as usual.

Father's Day saw Tom and Art deTonnancourt head out for Tennessee, then on to the Appalachians, and ultimately up the northeastern coast. These guys are the ultimate "trout bums", for sure. There has been very little "new business" to trans-

act, so the board has not had to meet the last couple of months. Our meetings and programs go on anyway, and so there will always be an opportunity to meet with your club buddies and enjoy the activities.

The fall will bring another club picnic in October, and the Christmas party is already scheduled for Thursday, December 2, at Gus' Shack, on Scenic Highway. Gus and his chef, club member Eric Lucas, did an outstanding job for us last time so you can count on it being excellent, again.

Have fun, stay safe, and good luck with those specks, ladyfish, etc.
Tight Lines,
Jay



Art deTonnancourt cooks sausages and hot dogs at the club outing June 6th.



Tom Birdwell, Skeet Lores and Kevin Cohenour enjoy Art's hospitality at the club outing lunch.

Scout Camp 2004

Scout camp this year was once again supported by your club. Member Vic Vickery arranged for himself, and club members Terry McCormick, Jerry Aldridge, and Kevin Cohenour, as well as two non-club member friends Gene Langston and retired scout executive Ed Kneller to teach the fly fishing and fishing merit badges. About 120 scouts were provided with instruction over the three weeks of camp in casting, safety, sportsmanship, and how to properly release a fish. Additional instruction in fly tying was provided as the scouts tied Woolly Buggers, Clouser Minnows, and Foam Beetles. The scouts were all so excited to learn to tie and cast a fly, and all of us found it personally rewarding. Plan to help next year if you can.



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PAST PRESIDENT - Tom Regina

COMMITTEE CHAIRPERSONS

AUCTION - Travis Akins

CONSERVATION - Doug Kemper

DIRECTORY & NEWSLETTER - Jerry Aldridge

EDUCATION/CASTING - John Brand

EDUCATION/TYING - Tom Regina

TRIPS & OUTINGS - Art deTonnancourt

FFF REPRESENTATIVE - Larry Goodman

LIBRARY - Kevin Cohenour

MEMBERSHIP - Karen Brand

MONTHLY MEETING SCHEDULE

BUSINESS MEETING - 1ST TUESDAY, 7 PM

BULL SESSION - 2ND THURSDAY, 6:30 PM

CLINIC - 3RD SATURDAY, 9 AM

BOARD MEETING - 4TH TUESDAY, 6:30 PM

FISHING TRIPS - AS SCHEDULED

Meetings at Miraflores Park, 17th Avenue between Belmont and LaRue

Newsletter Editor - Jerry Aldridge
(850) 478-9255

Quick Ties with Tom Regina... Larva Lace San Juan Worm

Hook Mustad 37160 size 10
Thread 6/0 Red
Body Larva Lace Body or Nymph Rib Material



1. Crush the hook barb* and bend the hook shank up taking about 1/2 the hook's original bend out.



2. Place the hook in the vise. Attach the thread just behind the hook eye and completely cover the hook shank with touching thread turns all the way to the back of the hook. Return the thread to just in back of the hook eye.



3. Cut a 4" piece of the body material. Trim one end to a 45 degree angle. Attach the angled end of the body material just behind the hook eye.



4. Pull the body material over the top of the hook shank and while stretching the material wrap tightly over it with touching thread turns all the way to the back of the hook. Bring the thread back, in spiral turns, to just behind the hook eye.



5. Using the conventional wrap method, wrap the Larva Lace Body or Nymph Rib Material in tight touching turns (while slightly stretching it) up the hook shank to just behind the hook eye. Make about six thread wraps to tie off the body material then stretch the body material forward and cut it off. The end of the body material will pull back to the tie off threads. Form a small thread head, whip finish and apply head cement to the thread head.

***This fly has a tendency to hook fish in the upper part of the mouth. Removing the barb lessens chances of harming your catch when removing the hook.**

Larva Lace Materials can be obtained from most fly shops and fly tying catalogs or directly from Larva Lace Worldwide at www.larvalace.com.

EP Fiber Baitfish

Hook: Mustad or Owner hooks, size 4 to 3/0

Thread: Clear size G

Gills: Red EP fiber

Body: EP fibers, colors as desired

Flash: EP sparkle, colors as desired

Eyes: "3D" eye, size as desired

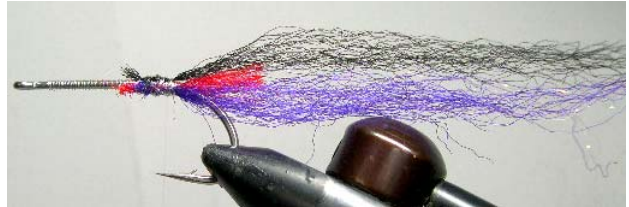


1. Secure hook in vise. Attach thread behind eye and wind to bend. Attach a short piece (about 1/3 hook shank long beyond bend) of red EP fiber on bottom of shank, extending past bend.



2. Attach a sparse amount of the bottom color of EP fiber at bend, extending desired length beyond bend. This is how long the finished fly will be.

3. Attach a few strands of EP sparkle on top of shank so it lays on top of the bottom color. Attach a sparse amount of the top color of EP fiber on top of shank at bend.



4. Attach a few fibers of EP sparkle on bottom of shank in front of previous tie in. Attach a slightly shorter sparse amount of the bottom color of EP fiber in front of the EP sparkle. Repeat procedure for top colors of EP sparkle and EP fiber.



5. Repeat steps "4" and "5" alternately, progressively using shorter pieces of EP fiber until you reach about two hook eye's distance back from eye.

6. Secure a very sparse amount of the top color so it extends down each side covering the "lateral line" area. Wind a cone shaped head, whip and cut thread. Cement head.



7. Using gel superglue attach a "3D" eye on each side, ensuring it secures the side fibers to the shank. Trim to desired "fish" shape.

Go'n Fish'n

by Tom Regina

In the latter part of June Art de deTonnancourt and I will venture out in the department vehicle, with pontoon boats in tow. We are headed Northeast for a few weeks of piscatorial pursuit. Our first order of business will take us to the Hiawassee River at Reliance Tennessee.

The Hiawassee has a reputation as Tennessee's premier trout tailwaters. Rising in the mountains of Northeastern Georgia, the Hiawassee slips into a tunnel at Appalachia Dam in Tennessee and emerges about 10 miles downstream to reclaim its channel after passing through the Appalachia Power House. Art and I fished this river a couple years ago with good results catching and releasing both trout and bass. Our guide was *super guide* Tic Smith. Some may remember Tic from when he gave us a presentation on the Hiawassee and the Bow River in Canada. Representing Hiawassee Outfitters Tic also donated a guided float trip on the Hiawassee for one of our auctions. We will again float the river with Tic one day and pick his brain then venture out on our own in the pontoon boats for a couple days.

From Tennessee we will continue North to Virginia and the Shenandoah National Park and the Shenandoah River. Art has experience fishing the small freestone park streams for the mountain trout they hold. We will fish both the park for trout and the Shenandoah River for smallmouth bass.

From Virginia we will continue Northeast to the town of Grand Lake Stream, Maine to fish the Grand Lake Stream (river) for landlocked salmon and trout. Grand Lake Stream is a three-and-a-half mile fly fishing only run from West Grand Lake to Big Lake. Grand Lake Stream is known for its wondrous stocks of landlocked salmon and brook trout. We are told that by the time we arrive in July most of the salmon will have moved back to the depths of Big Lake, however we have been assured the river will be chuck full of brook trout that will provide us with festive sport. The area around Grand Lake Stream has many other trout waters and we intend to give a few of them a go also.



Art deTonnancourt brings in a trout on a recent NC fishing trip.



Tom Regina tries out the latest in trout waders. It is a new wader material known as "natural skin". He says it doesn't keep you dry, but it sure cools you off on a hot day.

Member's Photos



Russ Shields concentrates on catching a NC trout.



Bill Parrish casts to a hungry NC trout.



Jerry hold the mounted 12 lb bass which was caught in the lake at the Boy Scout camp.



Tarpon Tales continued from pg 1

This time I remembered to bow to “The King” a little better, with Kevin’s gentle prodding. Kevin had the quick release anchor released, and the fish had jumped 3 times and was on the first long run. After a hundred yards of backing she jumped again, and threw the hook again. My first words were something like, “Boy, that was really exciting!”, or maybe it was “Damn—not again!” Knowing me it was probably the latter. Actually, after that latter thought kept intruding several times, I was actually able to say out loud “Oh well, at least I got four jumps!” And Kevin, the eternal optimist and great guy said, “Hey, you got the best part of the catching and didn’t have to do the work of getting it to the boat.” Yeah, I felt a little better with that thought, but then that intruding thought kept hitting me in the back of the teeth, and keeping me awake that night. There was always the next day, right?

The next day we decided to get out there even earlier, because it was Saturday. At 6:15 we were on our way out, and arriving at our spot found another boat there already. As it turned out this was a great couple of guys, including one Americanized Englishman named Adam, who came to the states years ago as a ski bum, then transferred over to being a fishing bum. What a great day of banter between our boats. Kevin and I had a couple of long looks and follows by fish, but no takers. Finally about 3PM Adam hooked a fish, and lost it, but only after some rebel yells from our boat and 3-4 jumps. When the waves were coming over the bow we went in for a great junk food dinner. Then we got ready for the final day, or, really the final five hours. Just had to make sure I didn’t close my eyes for too long in the trickle of a shower that night, everything was still moving!

Well the next day we were out even earlier, but Adam was already there. By 10am we had a couple of good follows, but still no fish. The next hour is the story that goes with the picture, but it’s too long to finish here. I guess you’ll have to ask me about it later!

Meeting Minutes, June 7, 2004... Emile Lores, Secretary

Fly Fishers of Northwest Florida

President: Jay Williams presiding

General Meeting: Called to order at 7:00 pm. Previous meeting was the auction—no minutes.

Old Business: FFF Conclave at Gulf Shores was good according to Milt. There were some good tiers and paid clinics, but less free programs. Kevin said he learned a few new tricks from Bob Clouser.

New Business: Treas. Report—Balance of \$3291.35, auction proceeds were \$1470.50.

Russ Shields has an alphabetical index of flies from the newsletter and suggested that we put a copy in the library.

Milt made a motion to print copies of all the fly patterns and the index and put copy in the library. Motion carried.

There will be a club fishing trip this Sunday June 6. The trip will be centered around Big Lagoon and we will meet at Art's house at 9:00 for coffee & donuts and at 1:00 for lunch. Art's house is 7 docks west of Southwind Marina. Art is collecting a list of those that have boats and those that need boats.

Program: Skeet Lores gave a presentation on Ecosystems and Ecosystem Function with a focus on estuaries.

Fishing Reports: Reports of few but large specs in the sound. High salinity from drought may be causing specks to move up the bay.

Door Prizes: Prizes, mostly flies were raffled.

Meeting Adjourned

The A.E.D. Department of Piscatorial Pursuits announced that Jay Williams was awarded the Klaus Gohrbandt trophy on the last trip of the North Carolina Trout Bums. (See photo). The rotating perpetual trophy has the following citation describing the trophy:

DEPARTMENT OF PISCATORIAL PURSUITS NORTH CAROLINA TROUT BUMS DIVISION

The Klaus Gohrbandt perpetual trophy* has been presented to the following anglers in recognition of that participant in each North Carolina trip of said Department. These anglers and trout bums were nominated and voted by unanimous acclaim, that said participant's exalted presence, demeanor, culinary expertise and piscatorial pursuits have been above and beyond that of any trout bum present resulting in an exceptional contribution to the fellowship and enjoyment by all others present:

TRIP DATE	LOCATION	RECIPIENT
04/04/04	Black Bear Lodge	Jay Williams
04/18/04	Black Bear Lodge	
05/09/04	Black Bear Lodge	



* The Klaus Gohrbandt trophy is to be passed along physically on the next trip by the last recipient, either personally or by proxy if not attending. This is to be done in perpetuity and recipient's eligibility for the award is limited to once per calendar year.

Signed this date of April 1, 2004, Art deTonnancourt, HEAD A.E.D.
Department of Piscatorial Pursuits



FLY FISHERS

OF NORTHWEST FLORIDA

PO BOX 1041
PENSACOLA, FL 32591



JULY 2004



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