



Flies and Lies

Newsletter of the Fly Fishers of Northwest Florida

July, 2020

All Club Activities STILL on hold but plans being made...

AUCTION DONATIONS can be dropped off at the club JULY 11 from 9:00-11:00 AM

Steven and Ellen Hofmann

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 LaRue

Business Meeting
1ST Tuesday, 7 PM

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

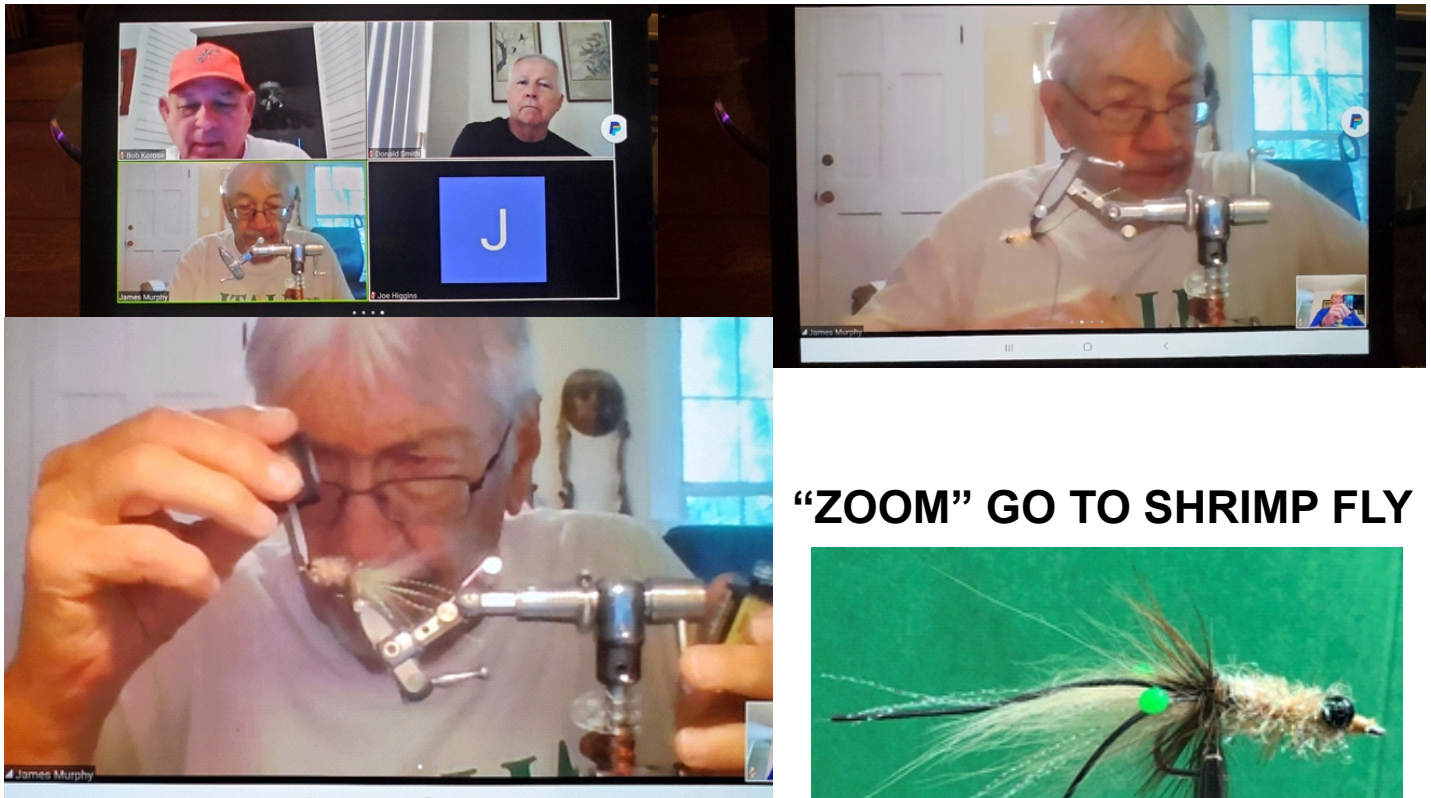
**Clinic -Casting, Tying,
Lunch**
3RD Saturday, 9 AM

From the President: We held a Board-of-Directors (BOD) and Committees virtual meeting via Zoom, the minutes are included in this newsletter. A major point of discussion was the Fly Fishing course. We intend to split those currently enrolled into two groups. Each group will receive the same instruction. Classes will be given on Monday and Thursday evening in September and October. The issue driving this is the mandate of Social Distancing. After much research it was determined that the 100% capacity of the club house is 30 people. The State of Florida Guidance is 75% of capacity which is 20 people. With a class sized at 10 per session, one instructor and three mentor/members inside helping with tying. Another three members would assemble the rods and reels for casting, and the disassembly and sanitizing of the rods & reels, repack and breakdown the casting instruction support ensemble.

A detailed Standard Operating Procedure (SOP) is in development that will govern our activities through this NEW NORMAL.

Steve and Ellen Hofmann have taken in items for the auction. There is discussion about highlighting the unique items collected thus far. Our Christmas Party Committee is watching developments unfold.

On the next page are some pictures taken during our last Zoom session. We would love to see more of our members join in. Just send me an email dmhandley@gmail.com and let me know your interest. I will be in contact about the mechanics of joining. This past week Pat Murphy demonstrated tying the Zoom Shrimp Fly, great job, thanks Pat! **Dave Handley**



“ZOOM” GO TO SHRIMP FLY

MATERIALS:

HOOK: GAMAKATSU SL11-3H, MUSTAD 3407, #2-#4

THREAD: TAN 140D, PINK 140D **WEIGHT:** LARGE BLACK BEAD CHAIN EYES

ANTENNA: PEARL KRYSTAL FLASH , 4-6 STRANDS **MOUTH:** TAN ARCTIC FOX FUR

SHRIMP EYES: MONO 30LB. FL, GREEN/ BLACK

MAJOR FEELERS: BLACK ROUND RUBBER LEGS

SKIRT. PALMER BROWN HACKLE 4-6 WRAPS DEPENDING SIZE OF HACKLE

BODY: MEDIUM CACTUS CHENILLE BONEFISH TAN

INSTRUCTION:

WEIGHT: SECURE SHORT OF HOOK EYE

ANTENNA: 4-6 STRANDS EXTENDED PAST HOOK BEND, TRIM TO LENGTH LATER

MOUTH: PINCH OF ARCTIC FOX AT BEND OVER ANTENNA.

SHRIMP EYES: SECURE AT HOOK BEND, FLAIR OUT JUST PAST EDGE OF MOUTH FIBERS.

MAJOR FEELERS: PAIR SECURED PAST MOUTH TIE-IN. OVER TOP

SKIRT: SECURE HACKLE FRONT OF FEELERS, PALMER CLOSE WRAPS, 4-6 WRAPS, DEPENDING ON SIZE OF HACKLE

BODY: SECURE AT LAST TIE-IN, PALMER TO BEAD CHAIN EYES, TIE OFF BETWEEN AND FRONT OF BEAD CHAIN

FINISH: SMOOTH, TAPERED NOSE, WHIP FINISH, AND USE HEAD CEMENT OF YOUR CHOICE.

Fishing with Capt Baz

June was a tough month unless you enjoy catching ladyfish. Don't get me wrong, I like ladyfish but usually as a last resort. Sight-fishing for them while wading is always exciting for a little while and you can more easily manage the mess, but I never take a camera. Small bluefish fall into the same category. Fun to catch but not really photo-worthy. So that's my excuse for lack of photos in June.

We had some nice days the first week of the month and saw plenty of redfish and trout on the flats. The problem was getting them to eat. I think it was the rapid rise in water temp that put them off. Then we lost a few days to Tropical Storm Cristobol. After things settled down red snapper season opened, and I was slammed with snapper trips for the rest of the month. Let's face it... red snapper trips are lucrative, relatively easy, and I have a hard time passing them up. Maybe I'll put that behind me some day, but I wouldn't bet on it.

The most "successful" fly trip of the month was on June 14. Tim English and I ran west of the pass to "Crane Cove" and had a few fun hours with the ladyfish and bluefish. On the trip back we lucked into a large school of bull redfish close to shore on the Caucas Shoal. There were a couple hundred fish milling around a foot below the surface and incredibly no other boats had seen them. It was too sloppy to pole so I idled upcurrent of the fish, killed the motor, and drifted within casting range. Tim had a 9wt with sinking line and a chartreuse EP baitfish, and the big fish were happy to eat. He landed three fish of this quality before the dirty water from the bay reached us and we lost the school.



The question of the month has been "where are the false albacore"? In normal years they are all the way inside the pass by now, but no one had seen any until the past couple days. Finally they are showing up in big schools both east and west of the pass, and this coming week could be *the week* they come inside. Even though these are small 2-3 pound fish they are still a blast on 8wt tackle. Be prepared with all the usual flies including Matt's "Slinky Anchovie", and don't forget to drop down to 12# tippet.

In closing let me remind you masochists and adrenalin junkies that it's **Tarpon Time!** The big fish are already passing through, and there will be more and more of them for the next few weeks. The most successful method is to get out there around first light and search for schools of rolling fish. West of the pass is best due to less boat traffic. The fish will be rolling along westbound just outside the sandbar in 8-15' of water. You can use a trolling motor to get in front of the school within casting range, but don't crank up your engine. Various 2/0 and 3/0 baitfish imitations are the ticket: chartreuse/white, purple/black, red/black. Rapid non-stop 6-8" strips will get their attention. If you get lucky and jump one of these monsters it will be a moment you'll never forget. Get even luckier and land one and you'll have club bragging rights from now on. Just be sure to take a photo...

Capt Baz

Delacroix Trip by Matt Wegener

Delacroix, LA is just a short 3-hour drive from Pensacola. I hauled my flats boat over there two weeks ago and experienced some fantastic sight fishing for redfish. I went with a friend that had done this trip the previous fall. The thought was the redfish would be in similar locations, but that was not the case. We drove down Wednesday morning and fished that afternoon, mainly in areas he had caught fish the previous October. The water was muddy and choked with an aquatic plant called milfoil. We did manage to catch two small reds in that short day, but we still had plenty to figure out. The next day we headed farther from the ramp and found clear water around lunch time.



The secret to finding clear water was to travel through the muddy water in the bayous, then into small tidal creeks barely wider than the boat, that would then open up into small "ponds" or "lakes". These areas would only be a 1-2 feet deep, but the water was clear and there were redfish in almost each one we went into.



Once we found the fish, they were easy to catch. They aren't nearly as spooky as the redfish in Pensacola Bay. In fact, if you spooked one and it sped off, you could often make another cast after they turned off the afterburners and get a hookup. The other big difference is how close you could get to them without spooking. Casts were often less than 30 feet. There is no need to lay out a 90 ft cast in the Louisiana marsh. Also, forget about leading the fish. They pretty much wanted the fly



within 2 feet of their mouth, or they weren't interested. Greg Saunders, the creator of Fly Lips, gave me a good selection of patterns he has used in the same area with great success. The gold spoon fly he gave me worked great. I also used a gold spoon on light spinning tackle as well. I caught between 25 to 30 redfish on this 4-day trip, most of them caught by sight fishing.

If you decide to go, make sure you bring plenty of supplies, because the nearest gas station is 45 mins from the ramp. The bait store at the ramp only sells gas, popping corks, and live shrimp. If you plan on sight fishing, make sure you have an elevated casting platform or cooler to get you a better vantage point for seeing fish. *Matt Wegener*

Kayak – Mick Milo's kayak is still for sale. See June issue for more info. Contact Mick if interested. 804-363-9276



All Dressed Up and Nowhere to Go...

So Cyndi Myers dressed these Clousers instead in anticipation of getting back on the water. Someday. Soon.

Minutes from June 8 Zoom Meeting

A Zoom Meeting for board members and committee leaders was arranged and conducted by President Dave Handley on June 8.

Financial Report: The Treasurer reported \$1289.51 in checking. Pending expenses for a plaque, our IRS non-profit application and insurance with FFI will leave a forecasted balance end July of \$551.34. We have 73 paid members and expect another 12- 15 will renew which will bring in more revenue. Our non-profit application is pending with the IRS which will save the club from paying taxes in the future. Most attendees for the fall class have already paid. Motion to accept the treasurer's report made by Bob M and seconded by George N. Motion passed.

The Minutes from March 8 were accepted as presented in the newsletter

Old Business: 8 tickets to the Christmas Party have been sold. With Jonas' move to the Tampa area, a casting committee to carry on his teaching methods is on our agenda. Due to the virus, Whiting Field's annual Leisure and Travel show was canceled. Our club had a presence at the event last year, which generated publicity for both the club and PHW. Steve Hofmann and his wife Ellen inventoried last year's leftovers from that auction and offered to head up the Auction Committee. Thank you Steve and Ellen! They would appreciate help. No date yet has been set for the auction due to the uncertainties of the virus.

Steve and Ellen Hofmann will be at the club on Saturday, July 11 from 9:00 – 11:00 AM to receive auction donations. Drop yours off....

New Business: Jay will relinquish his position as Treasurer after many years and he will be missed. Fortunately, a very capable long-term member offered to take over next year. During the transition, Jay will mentor Larry.

Web Site: Kent gave an update on development of the new Website and he cited some improvements in the works and suggestions. One issue to be addressed is our fly tying recipes on the web page. Which flies should be included and deleted? How to organize them on our web site? A suggestion was to organize flies by species of fish and to focus flies used in the Pensacola area rather than cold-water trout flies.

Christmas Party Status: We still hope to have the party at Scenic Hills CC on December 8th. Jim made a deposit but there are many uncertainties with the Virus. Hopefully the Party will be held and will be better than ever. A successful auction is paramount to raising money for the party.

Auction: We discussed the idea of holding it on a Saturday after our clinic luncheon once we are allowed to use the building.

The Class and social distancing: The rods and tools will have to be sanitized. The question is whether to keep the entire class together or split the class into two groups on Mondays and Thursdays. Another idea is to start group one in September and another group in the spring.

Casting Instruction: We will continue casting instruction at the Clinics (3rd Saturday each month) based on Jonas' methods. We will be sure our instructors will use Jonas' methods.

The building: The city of Pensacola controls the use of our clubhouse for meetings. Everything is currently on hold including PHW meetings.

Fishing Reports: For inshore battles, troll flies outside the sandbars in the Gulf for Spanish, bluefish and ladyfish around Fort Pickens with schools of bonito further offshore. Trout and reds are under the lights at night. Try the docks on the west end of Gulf Breeze. Typical flies are clousers, shrimp patterns and Deceivers. The pompano have left.

