

Flies & Lies

NEWSLETTER OF THE FLYFISHERS
OF NORTHWEST FLORIDA
June 2006

THE FLYFISHERS OF
NORTHWEST FLORIDA
PO BOX 1041
PENSACOLA, FL 32591

PRESIDENT
Jay Williams Jr.
(850) 456-1392, 572-2624
jwmsmdjd@aol.com

VICE-PRESIDENT
Russ Shields
(850) 983-9515, 712-5112
rkshields@bellsouth.net

SECRETARY
Jerry Giles
(850) 994-9946, themilton-
nole@netscape.com

TREASURER
Larry Sisney
(850) 474-1433
lsisney@cox.net

NEWSLETTER
Jerry Aldridge
(850) 478-9255
jamayfly@yahoo.com

MONTHLY MEETINGS
Meetings at Miraflores Park
17th Avenue between
Belmont and LaRua

BUSINESS MEETING
1ST TUESDAY, 7 PM

BULL SESSION
2ND THURSDAY, 6:30
PM

**CASTING & TYING
CLINIC**
3RD SATURDAY, 9 AM

BOARD MEETING
1ST TUESDAY, 6:15PM

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June Fly Tying.... In June we will tie two flies. At the Bull Session, 6:30 PM, Thursday 8 June we will be tying the Meal Ready to Eat (M.R.E.) nymph. At the Saturday Clinic, 9 AM, Saturday 17 June we will be tying the Brown Marabou Leech. Bring your tools or use your clubs tools. Your club will provide instruction and all materials for both tying sessions. And do bring a guest



General Business Meeting, Fly Fishers Of Northwest Florida, May 2, 2006, President Jay Williams, Jr. presiding

The May 2, 2006, Business Meeting of the Fly Fishers of Northwest Florida was called to order by President Jay Williams Jr., at 7:00 P.M.

The meeting was abbreviated due to the annual auction scheduled to immediately follow. President Williams reminded the membership of the club picnic on May 14th, at Shoreline Park, in Gulf Breeze. A sign-up sheet was circulated for commitment to attend the picnic. No other business requiring immediate attention was brought forth.

Following proper motion for adjournment, President Williams closed the meeting. Respectfully submitted....Gerald (Jerry) Giles

President's MessageJay Williams

COMMITTEE CHAIRS

AUCTION - Art deTonnancourt

CONSERVATION - Skeet Lores

DIRECTORY/NEWSLETTER - Jerry Aldridge

EDUCATION/CASTING - John Brand

EDUCATION/TYING - Tom Regina

TRIPS & OUTINGS -Vacant

FFF REPRESENTATIVE - Larry Goodman

LIBRARY - Bill Parrish

MEMBERSHIP - Karen Brand

PUBLICITY - Patrick Poloski

There has been a flurry of activity in Bryson City, N.C. this month and the Delayed Harvest season will be over shortly. Our last team will be up there in a couple of days to put the finishing touches on the stocked trout, some of which they hope will be the breeding sows of unusually large size. We'll hear more from them later, I'm sure.

On the most recent weekend the winner of the prestigious Klaus Gohrbandt Award was Skeet Lores who, other than sleeping, eating, and fishing, spent his AMs and PMs fly tying. Your President took his second swim in as many trips to the waters of the Bryson City area. Guess I need to pack a dive mask next time, and will make a staff to use instead of my Austrian hiking stick that I have used for years.

Art deTonnancourt did a fine job as Auctioneer at our annual fundraising event on May 2nd. Thanks to all those who generously donated their flies, rods, reels, art objects, fly tying material, tackle and assorted paraphernalia. Thanks also to those who bid so generously.

We had a great picnic on the 14th, though a smaller turnout than typical. Don't forget we have another one in October.

Jerry Giles has put together a casting clinic for July, on some ponds in Pace. He is going to have the eating part of the event afterwards at his Stonebrook home. Let's all plan to avail ourselves of this change in scenery, and show our gratitude to Jerry by our attendance. No, you don't have to have a pickup truck to drive on Pace roads. We'll have a short release of liability form for us to sign, in order for us to enjoy the privately owned property we'll be fishing on, at each of the June meetings, and it will be published in the July newsletter. Please sign and turn in to Jerry Giles at one of the June meetings.

See you Tuesday, June 6th at the general meeting. Tight Lines....Jay

FLIES & LIES....If you still get your copy of the newsletter by regular mail, please consider receiving it by e-mail only. This will save your club money for mailing costs and your editor lots of time that he could use for fishing! Contact Jerry at jamayfly@yahoo.com

What's Happening.... Jerry Aldridge



From Capt. Baz Yelverton....Do you know Jack? This fly-caster from Los Angeles didn't...but does now. The jack crevalle have been plentiful along the beach, and they just can't resist a big popper...the bigger the better. We landed this fish on a 10wt outfit after a thirty minute fight. Note the Oriskany in the background on her final journey.

From Matt Richardson....Went to the lower Mosquito Lagoon on Monday afternoon. Perfect weather, very little wind. Water was slightly murky. Saw one redfish tailing in a foot of water. Made a perfect cast head-on. Fish didn't eat. Didn't see a damn thing after that. At the ramp, got eaten alive by mosquitos.

Kids Fishing Rodeo....The Fly Fishers of NW FL participated in the 9th Annual Kids Fishing Clinic, which was held Saturday morning, May 20. We (Karen and John Brand, Travis Akins, Bill Locher) tying and casting demonstrations. Bill was a great hit with the kids who stood in along line for his casting lessons. The FL Fish and Wildlife Commission, Pensacola Recreational Fisherman's Assoc, FL Department of Environmental Protection and Wal-Mart sponsored the event. The event in 2005 was rained out but this year's event saw hundreds of kids there!

Scout Camp....For the 16th year The Flyfishers of NW Florida will be teaching the fishing and fly fishing merit badges plus fly tying and casting at Camp Euchee near Defuniak Springs. We need instructors and helpers for the weeks of June 12-15 and June 18-22. Please contact **Vick Vickery at 478-3584.**

Free....Are you planning on buying a new GM car/truck before November 13, 2006? I have and will give away, for free, a class action settlement consumer certificate worth \$250 toward the purchase of a new GM car/truck. The certificate is the result of the problem GM had with the gas tank on the 1974 pickup truck. The certificate is transferable.... **See Tom Regina.**

From the Sheep Wagon Man....Arrived in Utah today. The fog of First Divide in Wyoming is just a bad memory. The sun has replaced the gloom and the sky is cobalt blue with a few anvil top thunder heads scattered about the high plains on the Utah- Wyoming border. The climb up out of Rock Springs onto the mesa went well and I was soon to see my first heard of wild horses for this year; a Pinto and few Sorrel mares.

Skimming along the mesa at about fifty miles per hour, and looking over the edge into the green valleys below my attention was brought up short when a golden eagle dive bombed a jack rabbit right out my side window. The magnificent bird flopped a few yards away with the rabbit in his death grip and then commended to skin the creature alive. One might say Spring had sprung; the rabbit crop seemed abundant and one would not be missed.

Switch backing my way down to the ranch lands in the valley I noted the cattle to be fat, the pastures to be Kelly green and the ranch house to have a fire in the stove. The snow fences were for the most part still standing and the creeks were running a little less than full. Way in the distance I could glimpse Flaming Gorge through the low places in the distant range.

Pulling into Dutch John, I quickly unhooked the fifth-wheel and the 4-wheeler trailer that I had towed from Alabama, went to the Lodge and ate a late dinner then turned in for the night, sleeping with the windows open and a Hudson Bay Four Point blanket separating me from the frost. The next morning I departed for Kanab to pick up my Jeep and fish some of the alpine lakes near my old cabin. The trout would be hungry and I might have some luck. **(As this is typed, Mike & Russ Shields are fishing the Green River and parts thereabout with the Sheep Wagon Man. Art deTonnancourt and Bill Locher will join him later for a western Canada trip.)**

Meals Ready to Eat (MRE) Nymph.... Tom Regina

Hook	Mustad C49S size 10 through 18
Head	Gold bead - size appropriate to hook size
Thread	Gudebrod 8/0 red BCS 85
Tail	Brown Z-Lon
Body	Pearl tinsel flash (Flashabou)
Wing	Bleached elk hair
Collar	Peacock herl and red thread



Tying Instructions



1. Debarb the hook. Place a gold bead on the hook and fix the hook in the vise. Using a jam knot tie on the thread at the back of the bead head. In neat touching wraps lay down a thread base back to a point halfway down the hook bend. In neat touching turns return the thread forward. Stop the forward thread wraps two bead head distance in back of the bead head. At this point tie in a small amount of brown Z-Lon to serve as the tail or shuck. The length of the shuck at the back of the hook should extend out a distance equal to the hook gap. Keeping the Z-Lon on top of the hook tie it down with touching thread wraps to the back of the thread base. Bring the thread forward to the two bead head distance point.



2. Trim the shuck to the proper length and cut away the front tag end of the Z-Lon. Depending on the hook size, tie in several strands of pearl tinsel flash body material. Keeping the flash on top of the hook shank tie it down to a point halfway down the hook bend and cut away the tag at the front of the body. Wrap the thread forward to the two bead head point.



3. Lightly twist the strands of flash together. Wrap the twisted flash forward covering the thread turns and stop at the two bead head point. Tie off the flash and trim away the tag.



4. For the wing, cut, clean, and stack a small amount of elk hair. The amount of elk hair will be governed by the hook size. *(Note: When cutting hair from a hide always cut the hair off right down to the hide)*. The wing should extend up and over the fly body with the tips of the wing even with the back of the hook. Tie the wing on by the hair butts on top of the hook in the gap behind the bead head. Do not allow the hair to migrate around the hook shank. Cut away the butt ends of the wing hair. Apply a drop or two of head cement to the hair tie-in thread wraps.



5. Toward the back of and over the wing tie-in thread, tie on one or two strands of peacock herl by the tips. Lightly twist the herl and wrap it around the back half of the hair tie-in thread turns. Tie off the herl and cut away the tag ends. In front of the herl and in back of the bead head build the front of the collar with the red thread. Half hitch or whip finish the thread collar. Cut away the thread and cement only the thread part of the collar.

The Withlacoochee River.... Terry McCormick

I recently had an opportunity to spend a weekend on the Withlacoochee River with Master Caster and Club friend Dave Lambert. Most of you know Dave from the casting clinics that he has put on at the club. I first meet Dave at the first clinic he did at the club a couple of years ago. That's when we found out that his college roommate, Walter Liddell, is a Trooper that I have known and worked with for 25 years. Dave and I have crossed paths several times at the FFF conclaves and casting clinics and have talked about fishing together. So, we finally put it together. Dave invited Walter, Bryan Hudson and myself to join him at his fish camp on the Withlacoochee east of Madison Florida.

I meet up with Bryan at his house in Tallahassee about 10 a.m. and we loaded up his kayak and headed to the camp about an hour east of Tallahassee. We arrived to find a beautiful place on the river. We got settled in and loaded up Dave's canoe and headed to the boat ramp. The ramp is located on State Road 6 just east of the community of Lee. It is a nice concrete ramp with plenty of parking. We put in and headed downstream. The Withlacoochee starts in Georgia and runs into the Suwannee. It is cool, clear water with limestone cliffs and sand and limestone bottom. There are many springs along the way which keeps the water clean and flowing. Dave acted as host and guide. I also got some free casting tips too. We fished along the cypress trees using poppers and catching blue gills. We traveled about four miles to Dave's place and stopped for the night. Bryan

fished out of his kayak and we caught a dozen or so apiece. Walter had showed up and had supper for us. After a restful night of sleep in campers, we got up ready to do the rest of the journey. We took my truck to drop off at the Suwannee River State Park to get us back. We stopped down the road from the park at a country store that serves a hearty breakfast. We returned to the camp to get started. Bryan couldn't stay, so I used a kayak and Walter and Dave took the canoe. This leg was about 6 miles of the 10 mile trip.

Along the way I saw hawks and kites. Dave said he'd seen bald eagles there also. I was catching blue gills on poppers although there were bass and mullet jumping. Dave said there are sturgeon also. The river is wide and moves along well. There are also a couple of rapids of class I and II difficulty. After about 5 hours we entered the Suwannee and paddled up stream about 200 yards and took out. If you are looking for a nice river to run and fish, this might be for you.

Directions are: I10 east to Madison; there are a couple of motels and restaurants there. Travel a couple miles north to Hwy 90 and head east to Lee. Get on SR 6 to the ramps just east of Lee. The river runs about 10 miles. Use canoes, kayaks, johnboats with small motors or a drift boat. Fish with poppers or streamers. Take out at the Suwannee State Park. There is also camping and cabins at the park.

Carolina Fishing Report.... Skeet Lores

We were lucky from the start - it was raining on the way to the Tuck but quit before we got there. The water was a little high and a little turbid but the fish did not seem to care. Everybody caught fish, most in the dozens a day category. The river dropped on Tuesday and stayed down the rest of the week -- all day every day. We went to the Nantahala on Wednesday. Fishing was a little slower for me, but I did see some yellow mayflies hatching and caught a few fish on a yellow Adams. I caught one of the flies and put it in my fly box. That night I tied up several yellow bodied dry flies with yellow parachutes on a size 14 just in case we went back to the Nantahala. Thursday we went back to the Tuck, we did catch a light shower in the morning and one right after lunch. I think Bill and I were the only ones who stayed for the afternoon and we were both rewarded. I caught all of my biggest fish that afternoon and Bill caught several on dry flies, including one that was 19-20 inches. Friday was a little crowded and a little slow for me in the morning, I think all of the fish were tired of my wooly booger. When I started back in the afternoon, I fished streamers and wooly boogers for over an hour with no luck. Then I noticed the yellow mayflies hatching, not a lot, but a few were flying around and some were dropping down and laying eggs on the water. So, I decided to try my yellow dry flies. The first one hit while I was slapping the water with the fly while trying to get my fly line past the tip of the rod-- It was a good omen! I caught 24 on a dry fly in less than 2 hours! It was a great way to end a great trip.--- Skeet

Streamer Ties with Tom Regina
Brown Marabou Leech (Original pattern by Dave Hughes)

Trout eat leeches - but probably not enough to become selective to them. However leech flies do catch lots of trout and your streamer fly box should always have some leech patterns in it. With that said, we can assume trout will be willing to assault a leech pattern if the naturals are a part of the fishes environment. Leeches are quite common in ponds and lakes. In rivers, streams, and creeks of moving water they will be most numerous in the gravel of riffles and runs with algae where aquatic insects they feed on are present. Leeches look like worms. They swim, move, or travel with undulating movement. Leech dressings need not be exact imitations of the naturals and can be dressed as, and considered, searching patterns. In the opinion of many fly anglers and tiers, the best leech patterns are tied with marabou and/or rabbit fur hide strips. Marabou and narrow, supple rabbit strips impart realistic, fluid, undulating, swimming action to leech patterns - the actions necessary to attract trout. Although leeches may grow to 3 or 4 inches long, most fly anglers and fly dressers use and tie leech patterns 1 - 2 inches long. The most common leech imitations colors are black, brown, tan, light and dark olive, purple, and wine red.

Leech imitations are most effective when fished deep. On still waters, cast your leech fly with a sinking or sink tip line. Let the fly sink slowly and deep. Be ready for a strike which may happen during this non-retrieve part of the retrieve. Make the retrieve with a creeping hand-twist as slow as you can. Then do it slower. When you feel a strike set the hook. If you feel a tap, drop the rod tip, make a two count and softly raise the rod tip. If you're not hooked-up the trout may turn and try again.

On moving waters of a river, stream, or creek, depending on the current, use a floating line with a long leader or a sink tip line with a short leader. Cast directly upstream or quartering upstream. Stay connected to the fly and allow it to sink and dead drift with the current. The limp marabou or rabbit fur will undulate and impart natural leech movement. When the fly starts to swing toward the end of the dead drift pick it up and recast. As an alternative allow the leech fly to swing fully downstream and retrieve it with a very slow hand-twist. Although a leech may not be able to swim upstream, this unnatural tactic can work in heavily stocked waters.

Materials

Hook	Mustad 9672, 3XL, size 6
Head	3/16-inch black tungsten bead
Thread	Gudebrod 6/0 brown BCS 98
Underbody	Tying thread
Tail and wing	Brown marabou blood quills, dark Angel Hair or Lite Bright (flash)



Tying Instructions



1. Debarb the hook. Place the bead head on the hook and mount the hook in the vise. Using a jam knot attach the thread to the hook shank directly in back of the bead head. In neat touching turns wrap a thread base back to the hook bend.

Streamer Ties with Tom Regina...continued



2. At the hook bend and on top of the hook tie in four strands of flash. Return the thread to the hook bend.



3. At the hook bend tie on the tail plume of marabou measured to extend one hook length beyond the back of the hook. Pull the butt end of the plume forward over the top of the hook shank and tie it down with quick spiral wraps of thread to the bead. Cut away the butt end of the tail plume. In quick spiral turns return the thread to the hook bend. Trim the tail flash even with the back of the tail marabou plume.



4. Wrap the thread forward 1/4 the hook shank length distance. On top of the hook shank tie in another four strands of flash. Trim the flash even with the middle of the tail marabou plume. Tie in another marabou plume measured to extend to the middle of the tail marabou plume. Wrap the thread forward another 1/4 hook shank length distance and cut away the butt of this second plume. 5. Repeat the process by overlapping half of each previous flash/marabou tie on with successive ties of flash/marabou.



6. After tying the last marabou plume on at the back of the bead head tie off the thread wraps with several half hitch or whip finish wraps. Cut away the thread and cement the thread tie off wraps without getting cement on the marabou.

Clues - Don't have a leech in your fly box? Use a wooly bugger. Bronze-backs are also known to gobble leeches.

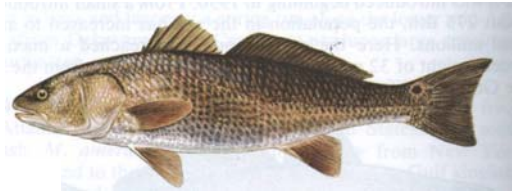
Tips from Tom & Jerry

Jerry Giles....If you have the chance to pick up tying feathers or fur from a hunter friend, and are worried that they might contain little critters, here is a tip you can try: Nuke them in the microwave. That should kill any mites or other organisms present.

Tom Regina....Common reasons fly lines become twisted: 1. Casting: Many casters have a semi-elliptical casting stroke, not straight line front to back. Many casters also roll cast at least occasionally, both casts cause line twist. Small diameter lines are more prone to twisting than others. 2. Reel Loading: If you load the reel incorrectly it can cause line twist. 3. Spool Stripping: If you allow the line or reel spool to drop line (similar to the way line comes off a spinning reel) it will cause twist. **CORRECTING THE PROBLEM:** Twist can be removed from a fly line by trailing the line, without a fly, behind a boat or in river current. Line twist can also be removed by rotating the rod in a clockwise direction (for a right handed caster, reverse for left) above your head with 15-20' of line out for 20-30 revolutions. This twists the line in the opposite direction eliminating the problem. *From a public document by 3M Scientific Anglers.*

Hooks are sized by a number that represents the distance between the point and the inside of the hook shank or gap. Large hooks (1/0, 2/0, 3/0, etc.) *increase* in size as the number increases. Small hooks (2, 4, 6, . . . 18, 20, etc.) *decrease* in size as the number increases.

When you sharpen a fish hook, with the exception of stainless steel, you will cause the rusting process to start. Sharpening files cut away the protective coating from the spear. When you sharpen a non-stainless steel hook, cover the filed point with black permanent marker ink.



JUNE 2006

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 PM		
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		

