



Flies and Lies

Newsletter of the Fly Fishers of Northwest Florida

June, 2015

FFNWF

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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



The Auction was a great success.

Thank you to everyone for making this the best auction ever. We shattered all records. Thanks to everyone who donated, everyone who came, and everyone who bid. And a special Thank You to Jerry , Russ , Jay and Paul for all of their help.

Terry, your Auctioneer

And Thank You, Terry, for getting the most out of us.

Presidents Message - June 2015 I had the honor of going to Atlanta and fishing with some of our Project Healing Waters group on May 12th. We had a float trip on the Chattahoochee River. The trip was a success and everyone caught fish and had a great time.

I caught a good number of Rainbow trout, every one larger than this one small Brown trout. It would be easy to dismiss this as just another small trout, however, to me it was a very special fish. They stock the river several times a year with Rainbow trout but they have not stocked Brown trout in many years. This little Brown was bred and hatched in the river. It somehow avoided being eaten by larger fish, Ospreys, Otters and fisherman, some of whom use bait. Pound for pound it outfought everything else I caught that day. It was a very special fish to me. Sometimes we get caught up in numbers or size of fish we catch. We need to reflect that sometimes it is not the size or numbers of fish we catch that makes a trip successful but it's that special fish.



The club needs volunteers for the nomination committee, please contact me if you are interested. There will be a **board meeting this month** at 6:00PM followed by the general **membership meeting at 7:00 PM on Tuesday, June 2nd**.

Cliff Newton

Thoughts and Prayers: Please keep Kent's mother, Selbia Reagan, in your thoughts and prayers as well as Kent and the family. Selbia has been diagnosed with advanced cancer. We hope they will find comfort and hope.

Our hearts also go out to Larry Sisney and his family. His wife lost her brother and her father in a period of ten days. The family gathered in Ohio for a double funeral. Larry won't have any pictures this month which we certainly understand.



The Auction was a great success financially but it was even better as a great time watching smiling people spending money. Spending money can be so much fun. The good thing about having so much stuff to auction off is that just about everybody who wanted to buy something got to buy something. Lots of somethings.

Save the Date –

September 18-19 The Gulf Coast Fly Fishing Fair at Ocean Spring, MS

The first gathering last year was a big success and we plan more of the same this year.

On Friday the 18th we will have some specialty classes and vendor set up during the afternoon. That evening we will have a beach party down at the Ocean Springs Yacht Club; Cajun eats, cash bar, auctions and awards. We all had a great time last year, don't miss it.

Saturday morning, the 19th, starts with a get acquainted and awards breakfast on the beautiful campus of the Gulf Coast Research Lab. (Low cost dormitory rooms will be available.) After breakfast we will have a full day of Presentations, Casting Instruction, Fly Tying, Auctions and Raffles at the Ocean Springs Civic Center. General Admission will be free again this year. Don't miss out on making a few new fly fishing friends from around the Gulf Coast and an all round great time! *Jeff Deuschle*

2015 Fly Fishing Class Review



Beach.

Reflecting back on our just completed nine week course, it seemed to go by quite quickly. The course got off to a great start with Baz Yelverton's marvelous pictorial lecture on local salt water fishing. That was followed by an entertaining and quite thorough presentation on fly fishing equipment given by Chris Vecsey from Sam's Bait and Tackle shop in Orange



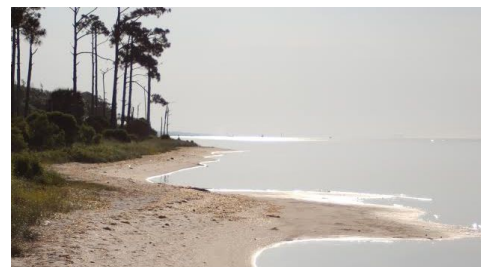
We started out with nineteen students and this year we lost more students along the way than usual: Some to military deployments, some to illness and surgery and some to job conflicts: And, as is the case every year, we lost some students to lack of continued interest: It is just

not their thing. Too bad because I think this year's course had some improved content in both casting instruction and in tying flies of immediate usefulness in fresh and salt water. The seven students that stayed all the way through were treated to an interesting exhibit on the last night with Kent Reagan's test tank which shows how the flies we tied actually perform in water and with a current. We also had really good presentation by Matt Wagener on local fresh water fishing opportunities that covered all the lakes and streams and rivers in our immediate area.

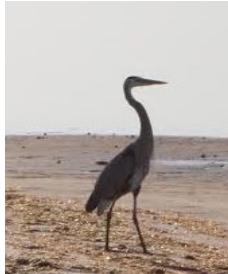
Putting on this course every year takes a lot of work by a lot of volunteers who step up and just seem to know what to do without being asked. Casting instruction is always a challenge and I think our volunteer instructors did very well. We could not conduct this course without the amount and quality of our helpers: So Kudos to all of you!

Finally, in talking to the "graduating" students they seemed to have learned quite a bit and have got off to a good start in this wonderful sport we call fly fishing. And that after all is what we set off to do! Now, after five years of managing this course and at 78 years of age and running out of ideas, I think it is time to relinquish the reins of leadership to someone new and younger. My profound thanks to all who have made the years go by quickly and given so much help.

Russ



Spring Outing May 9, 2015. Naval Live Oaks Gate opened at 7:10. The morning was absolutely beautiful with sunny clear skies and a low northerly wind. Water was smooth as glass. A nice group of 8 club members showed up. Sam and Jerry brought kayaks and it was a good day for it. Fishing began around 7:30. There were several boats out about two hundred yards. People fished with a variety of flies from clousers, poppers and shrimp patterns. Unfortunately no fish seemed to be on the grass. Folks started leaving around 1000 to 1030 hours. Last three on the water were Bob, Sam, and Wolfgang. *Ralph Newton*



Caught the first
and the biggest
and the most

June Meeting – Tuesday, June 2 **Barbara Albrecht**, president of Bream Fishers Association, will present: "The Importance of Woody Material to Fishery." Barbara is also a director of the Panhandle Watershed Alliance.

Fly Tying – Thursday, June 11

Club Clinic – Saturday, June 20

Fly of the Month

Zug Bug...by Gerry Giles & Matt Wegener

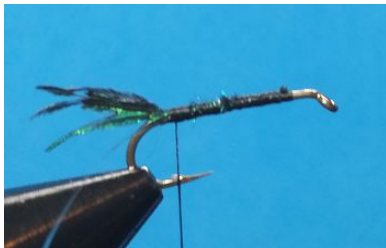
The Zug Bug was created by Cliff Zug in Pennsylvania in the 1930's. It was originally created to imitate a cased caddis fly or caddis larvae, however it may imitate several different aquatic insects. This makes it effective for a wide range of freshwater species, including trout and bream. It is also an effective bass fly when tied on a #8 hook. The Zug Bug also makes a good dropper behind a wooly bugger. Improvements to this fly for future tying includes using holographic tinsel instead of silver tinsel and using a length of wire to improve the strength of the peacock herl.

Hook.....Mustad 9671; 8-16
Thread.....Black 6/0
Tail.....Peacock sword fibers
Rib.....Small silver tinsel
Body.....Peacock herl
Hackle.....Brown, wet-fly style
Wingcase.....Lemon wood duck flank



Tying Instructions:

After flattening barb and placing hook in vice, tie a jamb knot and lay a thread base back to the hook bend. Tie in 4 peacock sword fibers, about hook gap length, at the bend for the tail. Tie on rib tinsel at same tie in point as swords.



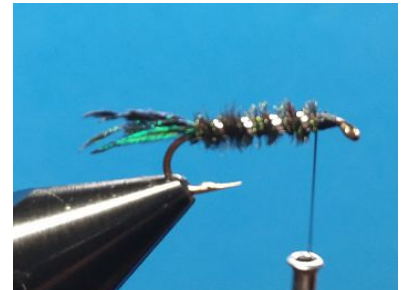
Tie on 3 peacock herl fibers at same tie in point. Wrap thread forward to behind hook eye and let hang.



Wrap peacock herl forward closely together and tie off at hang point behind eye.



Wrap the tinsel in four or five spaced turns forward and tie off at same hang point.



Tie in hackle behind eye of hook by tip, palmer two turns, tie off and trim excess.



Tie in wingcase feather slightly behind the eye, leaving room to build a thread head.

Trim the extending wingcase to proper length. Build a thread head and whip finish to complete the fly.



Fishing with Capt. Baz We caught a nice break in May when most of the heavy rain went either south or west of us. The runoff from the April rains wasn't enough to totally trash the inland waters, and we were able to sight-fish the flats all month. The shallow-water trout and redfish fishing was somewhere between good and spectacular, and the only casualty from the short-lived nasty water was the Spanish mackerel which have vacated Town Point for the time being.

One of the spectacular flats moments came at the end of the trip on May 12. My long-time client Glenn Perry was on the boat, and we had had a tough "ladyfish-only" day. We started at Navy Point, worked the Bayou Grande channel, spent considerable time at Town Point hoping for a big Spanish, poled for hours the flats between Deer and Town Points, had lunch by the EPA fishing all my favorite spots, and finally ran out to the Gulf hoping for some jacks or possibly a pompano. We were at the end of the 6hr trip and the Gulf was a little uncomfortable, so we decided to spend a few extra minutes poling one last flat before calling it a day. The first thing I noticed were all the schools of bait. The long green minnows were everywhere, and there were huge schools of catfish milling around underneath them. Glenn was having trouble blind-casting without catching a catfish, so we kept moving. Then I started seeing big trout mixed in with the catfish and a few nice redfish scattered in the mix. About that time masses of ladyfish appeared out of nowhere, and the flats came alive! It was something like you read about...fish crashing the top, showering schools of baitfish, big trout and redfish darting under the boat. I slid the anchor over and Glenn tried to pick out the redfish and trout. An hour later he had landed 7 big trout similar to the one in this photo, countless ladyfish and catfish, and hooked and lost two reds. Everything ate the sz2 tan/white clouser minnow.



Glenn wasn't the only successful trout angler in May. George Andrews landed a beauty on May 3, and my good client from London Mike Youkee landed this 6 pound beauty yesterday, May 23.



Mike Youkee is also our "Hero of the Month"

for landing this 32" amberjack May 21 on his 11wt. Jonas joined us on the boat the day before, and we ventured out in the Gulf looking for false albacore. There were no albies, so we ran on out to some structure in 75' of water with hopes of bringing an amberjack up to a popper. Jonas was throwing a new tube-fly popper on his 8wt, and sure enough a pack of AJ's chased it to the boat. A few casts later one exploded on it and headed for the bottom. By the time Jonas realized what had happened the fish was in the wreck and cut the line. Petty soon a big party boat pulled up on the wreck, and the game was over. The next day Mike and I made our way back out there loaded for bear. Mike had his 11wt with the drag on the big Bauer reel dogged down so tight I could barely pull any line off of it. After a few cast a giant 3-4# hardtail grabbed the popper and wildly headed



down toward the wreck. As it darted around under the boat dozens of amberjacks and big red snappers rose up in the water column to see what was going on. Mike released the hardtail and started casting. Two AJs came up behind the fly... a big one and a bigger one. The smaller fish nosed the fly and was in the process of refusing it when the big fish surged past and crushed it. Mike was wearing gloves and held on to the rod for dear life as the fish amazingly ran line off the drag trying to reach the

safety of the wreck. We both thought the Sage Xi3 would explode any second as I fired up the motor and slowly backed away from the wreck. After 15 minutes of fury Mike had the fish to the surface, we netted it, got the picture, and released it unharmed. The fish had to be wondering "what the heck just happened?". Check out this photo. The fish measured 32" to the fork and we estimated it weighed at least 20 pounds.

There were more heroics during the month with two anglers landing jack crevalle. George Andrews landed these two jacks May 2 both on a mullet pattern. And Bob Jenkins, Aspen, CO, landed his first-ever jack May 19 on one of Ben Walters' big white poppers.

I mentioned earlier the hot redfish action on the flats. Here are some photos of successful anglers. Rich Cuenta, May 2, on a tan/white EP clouser, and Mike Youkee and Bob Jenkins later in the month on the EP grey/white baitfish.



We landed just one bull redfish since my last report, and that was by Tommy Philtgen just east of the pass late in the day when the fish came to the surface. It was just like the "running of the bulls", and Tommy landed this 26 pounder...his biggest-ever redfish on fly.



I'm going to close this long report with a couple shots of "hipster" fly-anglers from a fun day of pompano fishing on May 1. The first is Denver's Bryce Merrill casting to fish on a magnificent morning in the Gulf. Next shot is the results of his efforts. And finally his buddy Trevor Trumble landed his first pompano on fly.



That's it boys and girls. I'll be seeing you on the water.

Capt Baz

Around the Bay Terry McCormick and Tom Finkle and some nice trout in the Bayou Grande channel



Around the Sound *Jeff Dueschle*

I couldn't make the date for our Naval Oaks outing, but Todd Thomas (ESFF) and I were able to hit Santa Rosa Sound at first light the day before. We fished hard all morning making long casts with top water plugs on spinning gear trying to find fish. We were hunting specks, but by late in the morning had only one redfish apiece and those were on the spinning rods!

We ate a little lunch, regrouped and decided to keep at it. We found more bait than we had seen all day working on a point well east in clearer water and got out to wade. I got lucky and hooked a big ol' mama trout lying deep in the grass under a school of mullet. She didn't seem to know that she was hooked at first, but when I began to drag her toward the beach she woke up and gave me a few nice runs. I just love fresh speckled trout, but this girl was very fat in full spawn so after a quick photo, we released her to do her thing. We must have worked that spot for another hour hoping for more fish, but had no more luck.



23" inch Trout - red eyed, olive & white, supreme hair clouser - grassy point in Santa Rosa Sound, mid-day, near high tide, 5/08/2015

Around the Neighborhood - Big Bream in the Golf Course Pond *George Norton, Outdoors Writer*

I have bream fished farm pounds in Pennsylvania, creeks, ponds and reservoirs in Arkansas and upstate New York, oxbow lakes off the Mississippi River in Louisiana, streams and lakes in North Carolina and a brackish river delta in Mississippi. Bream are just about everywhere. They tolerate a variety of water conditions and are present in all of the lower forty eight states.

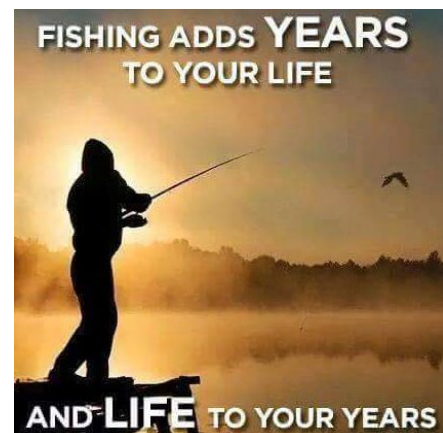
Adult bream average 6-7 inches and are frequently the first fish that a young person catches at around age five or six. I have battled with 8-9.5 inch fish on a three weight ultra-light fly rod. If they have access to deep water they are able to run straight down literally move the canoe.

Bream are known by many regional names and there are a variety of species in the family. Bluegill is the mainstay and they will take a variety of natural and artificial baits from worms and crickets to top water poppers or streamers.



I wandered onto a golf course across the street at dusk just after the golfers have departed. I noticed a commotion in one corner of the pond. Reeds were wavering and circular wakes confirmed a sure sign of fish on a spawning bed. I stripped out enough line and dropped the fly right on the edge of the bank, eased my fly off the bank, and immediately had a hook up.

The fish dug in hard and pulled hard for the weeds. I turned the fly rod sideways to power him out to open water where I fought him on the reel. I caught three more and moved on to another spot. These fish were 10 inch- 10.5 inches. I suspect they are the Georgia bluegill strain engineered to grow extra-large. No largemouth bass would want to try to swallow one as they'd choke on a fish like this. These fish are almost as wide as they are long.



I used a black woolly bugger with a chartreuse tail. I suspect they would take about any fly thrown into their spawning bed. I also caught a nice fourteen- inch largemouth bass on a Gartside Gurgler which was patrolling the area. It doesn't get any better. Big bream on a fly you've tied and a bass for lagniappe. I even picked up a couple of golf balls at the edge of the water all in a forty five minute fishing trip.

Welcome to the club, George!



The Pensacola Project Healing Waters Fly Fishing Program

Although it is running well now, our Healing Waters program got off to a shaky start and, in fact, almost never got off the ground!

Six years ago the idea of starting a Healing Waters program was brought up to the FFNWF Board of Directors by Kevin Gorby and some others. We knew from what we had seen in testimonials from participants that the program was very worthwhile. However, the memorandum of understanding that the home office wished to be implemented between sponsoring clubs and Project Healing Waters Fly Fishing, left open a question of liability to our club and our board members if an accident happened while working with a veteran. The lawyers on our board raised enough questions that nothing happened for two years and the very real question of individual and club liability remained. There was also a question of whether we could sustain a long term commitment to such a program since it was understood by all our that this could not be a temporary event.

What finally broke the ice was a “Hold Harmless Agreement” that was developed by the Management of PHWFF. Kevin Gorby argued passionately for us to get involved and took it upon himself to create our program. He talked to the VA Clinic and argued for doctors to recommend participants to work with us. He rounded up ten volunteers and arranged to have them vetted by attending a day long series of lectures that all VA volunteers must complete. Out of that group, Terry McCormick, Joe Higgins, Roy Turner, Bob Korose and Jim Morris along with Kevin began teaching the basics of fly tying and casting. Cliff Newton joined the group and is still a leading member. Roy made up dozens of little fly tying kits that taught various fly tying skills and



Oleta Webb and Kent Reagan



produced usable flies. Kevin arranged to get rods, reels and line, vises and tying materials from PHWFF and other donating sources. The program began by demonstrating casting on the lawn in front of the VA Clinic main entrance. Kent Reagan and Oleta Webb were our original participants and Jack Bauknecht came along shortly after. They are still very active with us.

Kevin also argued with the VA for a space in the Clinic where we could tie flies and get out of the weather if needed. The VA allowed us to use a conference room in the Mental Health Clinic for two hours, once a month.

It soon became obvious that one day a month was nowhere near enough time to spend with our participants and Kevin added Monday night meetings in the Navarre Community Center and that allowed us to invite some folks from Hurlbert Field and Eglin AFB to participate as well. An unknown “Angel” in the community paid the rent for the center for a full year! It was a long drive for everyone to go to Navarre every week but we began our fly rod building classes there and successfully built three very nice rods with the custom grips which our people needed.

All during those early years Kevin was the Regional Coordinator for the Deep South region for PHWFF and doing a lot of traveling and talking to any group that would listen. About this time he developed an extremely dangerous bacterial infection in his shoulder that resisted treatment for several months and ultimately required

surgery and he had to slow down his activities significantly.

It was also in this time frame that Kevin asked me to get more involved in our program and we began a new phase which saw us meeting three times each month and adding some people from time to time. We are still doing that. With then help of Pensacola Parks and Recreation we moved the Navarre meetings to the Bayview Senior Citizens Center to be closer for the Pensacola crowd. We used that location for about a year and a half until this Spring. The logistics of meeting at the VA Clinic on the first Friday of the month were difficult enough that we decided to change our meeting place to our club house and we also changed the Monday meetings to 10:00 A.M. at our club house. These changes have been well received. It has eliminated night time driving and make it easier for our participants to get to the meetings.

About two years ago we sought support from the Navy Federal Credit Union and received a check for \$500 which allowed us to pay for a trip with Baz Yelverton which was a real success! A year later we got a second donation from NFCU and that made it possible to do a four person float trip on the Chattahoochee River just north of Atlanta with Chris Scalley and his guide service.



The PHW trip with Capt. Baz and Capt Eddie Woodall in December, 2013

Getting our veterans out on the water provides some wonderful relaxation for them and we are working to grow our program and expand our activities to include more fishing time on the water: This year we hope to have three fishing outings that will include all of our participants and some of our volunteers. With the help of the money raised by the Blasting For The Brave event earlier this year we are repeating the Chattahoochee trip this month. We also had another salt water trip in May with Baz and Capt. Eddie Woodall.

Cliff Newton, in his second term as President of the FFNWF, has been a staunch supporter of the Pensacola Healing Waters program from the beginning and is helping to keep it alive and interesting and making it grow. The Fly Fishers of Northwest Florida can be proud of what has been done to help our injured veterans and I am sure that we can sustain this important activity for a long time. *Russ Shields*



The PHW Trip with Capt. Baz and Capt Eddie Woodall in May, 2015



Oletta landed this ladyfish on a rod she built and a fly she tied herself. She was very pleased... Kent did great, too. It was a tough day and he just kept casting and casting...and finally a couple ladyfish took his fly. Whew! *Baz*

Terry demonstrated the value of self inflating life vests. And a good hat that stays on no matter what. *(If you want to know why he was out of the boat you will have to ask him. The rest of us are sworn to secrecy)*