



Flies and Lies

Newsletter of the Fly Fishers of Northwest Florida

June, 2016

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

Business Meeting
1ST Tuesday, 7 PM

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

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

Let's Go Fishing – Saturday, June 4

And this time actually catch some fish!!!

Our 2016 Fly Fishing Class ended on May 18. We had a steady turnout and a very successful class. Many thanks to all our club members who helped all through the 9 weeks of instruction. A joint **class and club outing** is planned for **Saturday, June 4**. It will take place at Leon Brooks Hines Lake in Alabama just a short ways east of Brewton. I suggest that people Google the lake and get specific instructions for getting there. Here are links to directions:

<http://www.outdooralabama.com/escambia-county-public-fishing-lake>

<http://alabamabirdingtrails.com/sites/leon-brooks-hines-public-lake/#>

And lots of pictures of lots of fish:

<https://www.facebook.com/Leon-Brooks-Hines-Escambia-County-Alabama-State-Public-Fishing-Lake-353511168062605/>



The cost for fishing the lake is \$12.00 for an Alabama Lakes license which is good for a year and a \$3.00 fishing fee to fish from the shore. If you have a boat, canoe or kayak there is a launch fee of \$3.00. Only electric motors are allowed. Boats and motors are available to rent for \$5.00 per day. The lake is open from daylight to sunset. There is a store at the lake to pay for fishing and purchase other items. Their phone number is [251-809-0068](tel:251-809-0068).

Bring a lunch and drinks and come have a great day fishing.

The word is that the lake is full of bass and bream! (Gary has been there, and, yes, he caught fish!!) Again, Thanks to all who helped make this year's class a real success.

Russ Shields

Club Meeting – Tuesday, June 7 – 7:00

Please note that because of a quirk in the calendar, our meeting and the fly tying bull session are the same week. At the meeting on June 7 the program will be by **Brian Cooper**, Director of Parks and Recreation of Pensacola. Our clubhouse is under the jurisdiction of Mr. Cooper and his department. Let's give him a warm welcome but thank him for getting us AC.

Fly Tying – Thursday, June 8 – 6:30

We will be tying the **Spawning Shrimp**. See Matt's article. Good time to learn about the EP Brush (for all kinds of flies)

Clinic – Saturday, June 18 – 9:00 AM

Casting and Tying and Lunch. Yum Yum. Jay Brykczynski's **homemade Italian sausage chili**. Yum Yum.

Auction was a Great Success!! Thanks for the donations and Many Thanks for the bids!!



And Thanks (Again!) to Terry!!

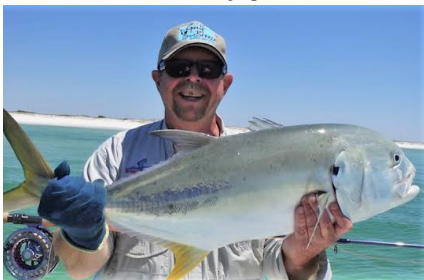
Fishing with Capt. Baz (one more picture from the Seychelles)



The **BIG** news for May is that Bob Jenkins, Woody Creek, CO, achieved the *Emerald Coast Grand Slam* on May 7! It's just the second time in 13 years that someone has accomplished *The Slam* on my boat, and it takes both skill and luck to bring it home.

Jenkins had never landed a pompano, and we started our day anchored just outside the inner bar east of the Ranger Station. It was a gorgeous morning with a light N breeze, clear water, and plenty of sunshine. Plus, the water temperature was below 75 degrees eliminating the problem of ladyfish...a good thing since Bob was using 15# tippet and occasionally blind-casting while we watched and waited. We were "loaded for bear" with three rods ready to cast.

Jenkins had the pompano rod in his hand, and both the redfish and jack rods were ready with their lines either in the Flyline Tamer or coiled on the deck. It wasn't too long before a pair of pompano appeared traveling eastbound darting left and right as they sensed the boat. Jenkins waited until they passed us, laid out a nice cast in front of them, and this fish nailed it. Chalk up another pomp for the little yellow pompano fly! We were having so much fun with the pompano (I also landed one while Bob took a "bio-break") that we decided to stay put and see what swam by. Out of the corner of my eye I



caught movement in the dark water 150' outside of us and realized a big school of jacks had passed us heading west. Pandemonium ensued as we stowed the other rods, unclipped the anchor, and sped away to get in front of them. This was a huge school of a few hundred fish, and they were just as happy as they could be. Bob put a short cast into their midst and about thirty of them tried to eat the big white popper. Jenkins strip-set perfectly and after about 25 minutes brought this jack to the net.



Two down and it wasn't even noon. Since he had lost a nice redfish the previous day and we were seeing numerous reds in the surf, Jenkins wanted to clip back to the anchor and stay where we were until the wind shifted to the south....which happened in an uneventful 30 minutes. My plan was to spend the rest of the day hitting all my favorite redfish spots on the N side of the island, and we hit paydirt on Bob's first cast at the first spot... a blind cast into a little pocket where I'd seen a couple redfish a few days ago. This barely-legal redfish took an EP clouser, and that was that! Did I mention it takes a little luck?



We spent the rest of the afternoon trying to "upgrade" the redfish but never landed another one. Jenkins did catch a nice trout which I guess could've been a tie-breaker if someone else got the slam that same day...

I found a shallow-water area that holds some really big redfish and took Ronnie Johnson, Montgomery, there on May 9 along with son Brian who'd given him the trip as a Christmas present. Ronnie's an experienced fly-caster

in his 70's, and this was his first saltwater trip. It took a while to find the fish, but when we did Ronnie immediately hooked into a monster



on one of his own hand-tied clousers. The fish exploded away bloodying Ronnie's knuckles on the first run which went well into the backing. The small-arbor reel on his little 8wt was screaming, and I was scrambling to unclip the anchor when the hook fell out... As he was cranking in the backing and the fly line I saw more giant redfish under his line and yelled for him to let the fly drop. Which he did while twitching the rod tip giving more life to the fly, and this fish ate it! The odds were against us with just a hundred yards of backing and 15# tippet, but Ronnie fought the redfish

like a magician. *Ninety minutes later and a mile away* we landed it in 25' of water! It was an epic struggle. After 30 minutes we had the fish close to the boat in 3' of water, and I jumped overboard to try to net it, but it bolted when my feet hit the bottom. Hard to believe Ronnie battled it for another hour! The fish weighed 28 pounds. Three days later I took another septuagenarian fly-caster to the same spot, but the results weren't so good. Fred Shannon, San Antonio, hooked the biggest redfish of his life but lost it when the fish made a mad dash under the boat and snatched the tip of Fred's 8wt into the "V" formed by the gunwale and the cleated pushpole. The rod exploded, the tippet broke, and the redfish swam away unscathed. Fred was as happy and excited as I've ever seen a fisherman. "Wow", he said. "That was great!!!" Since then the big fish have moved on, but it sure was fun while it lasted.

My new international client Johnny Gray from London was on the boat May 17 and 19 with the goal of catching his first redfish. We got skunked the first day fishing along the edge of the Gulf, although he had two extremely exciting follows from 20# class redfish on his own go-meaux variation. We had north winds all day making my favorite redfish spots on the N side of the island unfishable. Two days later the wind started from the north but clocked around to the south in the afternoon. We spent the first three hours in the Gulf in a futile attempt for pompano and redfish and when the wind shifted to the S came inside for lunch and some hard-core redfish sight-fishing. I anchored on the edge of a favorite sandbar and we got out the sandwiches and the 10wt in case some jacks came by. Which they did! To my surprise just as we finished

lunch a school of about 50 jacks came outside our boat and headed up on the sandbar. I snatched up the anchor and we made a big loop and cut them off on the bar. Johnny had a blast landing these two 12-14# fish over the next hour. But then it was time to get serious about getting Johnny his redfish. We spent a couple hours working our way east hitting all my good spots, but the fish wouldn't



cooperate. We changed from bucktail clousers to EP clousers to baitfish patterns in all the good colors, but neither the trout nor the redfish were interested. Finally at 4:45pm...almost 8 hours into a 6 hour trip... the magic happened. We saw three nice eastbound trout a few feet from shore and decided to try Johnny's small go-meaux imitation. I was poling to the east and Johnny was working out line to make a backhanded



cast at 2 o'clock when I spotted a big, dark-backed redfish coming toward us at 10 o'clock. Johnny easily converted the backhand to a nice 70' cast ten feet to the left of and slightly beyond the redfish. The fish just charged over and ate it. It was fun to watch. No hesitation. The fish took Johnny into the backing twice before he brought it to the net. Here's a photo of a very satisfied Johnny Gray and his

31 1/2" redfish. Mission accomplished!

This final shot is from May 24 with a 31" redfish that saved the day for Greg Speer, Ft Collins, CO. It was after 4pm when this fish ate an EP clouser.



Some things to think about:

June is a good month for casting the pompano rocket on grass beds for pompano that have come in from the Gulf.

- The ladyfish are here big-time if you want to just get out and have some fun.
- Spanish mackerel have finally arrived in large numbers at the USS Massachusetts.
- Good numbers of amberjacks are on the near shore wrecks, and they love big poppers when the water's calm. Check out this photo of Bob Jenkins' 10wt as a big jack heads for the wreck. The AJ won the battle...
- My crystal ball tells me the false albacore will make their annual trip into Pensacola Bay around June 21. Good time to be there looking for them.
- Drink plenty of water. It's getting hot out there.

See you on the water. *Capt Baz*

Project Healing Waters Trip - Chattahoochee River, Atlanta GA May 23-25 with guide John Scalley.



And a good time was had by all!!!!

Fly of the Month Spawning Shrimp with EP brush....by Matt Wegener

This is a great impressionistic pattern that imitates both shrimp and crabs. The long-flowing legs and EP brush also give it great action in the water. The orange butt and thread seals the deal. This color just seems to make strike. I will be heading to the Keys this fall with a couple dozen of these flies to fool bonefish and mangrove snapper. Try them around the Pensacola area for redfish on the flats or use bead chain eyes and work them over the sea grass and rocky structure for speckled trout. You may be surprised how many mangrove snapper we have around here if you fish this pattern on a light tippet around the same structure in the late summer.



Tying Materials

Hook: Mustad #2 34007

Lead eyes: Lead, medium

Tail: Semper-Fiber, Orange

Legs: Devil-Dog Legs, Medium Tan

Thread: Danville's flat-waxed nylon, Fluorescent Fire Orange

Rear eyes: EP crustacean eyes, Large & Black

Antenna: Krystal Flash, Black

Body: EP Shrimp Dub Brush

Tying Instructions



Flatten the barb and secure the hook in the vice. Lay down a thread wrap and attach lead eyes 1/8" behind the hook eye on top of the hook shank, so that the fly will ride "hook up".

Invert hook in the vise and tie in the Semper Fiber in at the middle of the hook shank so that it extends beyond the rear of the hook 2 times the length of the shank.



Tie in the eyes so that they extend past the end of the Semper Fiber.

Tie in 4 Devil Dog legs, twice the length of the hook shank and 4 strands of black Krystal

Flash slightly longer than the legs.



Tie in the dubbing brush at the middle of the hook shank and make 2 to 3 loose wraps towards the eye of the hook.

Tie off behind the lead eyes and trim the excess brush. Form the thread head, whip finish and then trim thread. Using a brush or bodkin, brush out the material to make a buggy appearance.



Fly tying in May – Serious stuff. Note all the equipment. And NO beer bottles on the table. That is serious.

Eating in May - Seriously good food. Thanks to Dave Handley. More coming at June clinic with Jay's sausage chili



Fishing Around the Bay



Jay with a 22" speck. (Editor's note: I cropped out the background but will send you the full frame. For a price. Or, you could ask Jay. For free.)



And Far Away

Wolfgang Szutic spent a few weeks in the Keys, fishing a lot by wading close to shore. Here is a barracuda caught on the fly – then caught by a shark (see the tail). Wolfgang saved the barracuda. And his fingers. Shark, cuda, and Wolfgang are all fine.

And Far FAR Away



Bob Korose took a trip to the Christmas Islands. Don't confuse the Christmas Islands with the Easter Islands. Different oceans. How far is "Far FAR?" Further than the Seychelles, and that's far. Bob will be doing the program at our July meeting about his trip.



Save the Date! September, 16-17 Ocean Springs, MS
Gulf Coast Fly Fishing Fair

Friday – Vendor Set Up and Specialty Classes
Friday Evening – Buffet, Drinks, Auctions
Saturday – GCRL Breakfast, Catered Lunch,
Programs, Tying, Casting, Auctions and Raffles.

A Note from the Pres I am in ML catching the big ones, The club is doing well, with many new things done and others still underway. Please do what you can do to help. Will see you June 7th.
Thanks, your Pres, *Rex*

A Note from Oleta I need fresh cut grass for my geese. Only grass, no pine straw. I will come to meet whoever to pick up the grass. My mom is now on dialysis and on a very high protein diet so I have to fatten up these geese. I will be back in Pensacola the night of June 7th late. After that I will meet anyone anywhere to pick up a bag of fresh cut green grass. I don't need but few Wal Mart bags. I will even rake up the cut grass that I need. Thank you *Oleta Webb* 850-221-9797 LilCurve87@outlo

A Note from the Editor Last month we used a picture in the newsletter ("Fly Fisherman Asking for Money") that was protected by copy-write. The owner of the copy-write objected. The picture was sent to us by a member, as is often the case. We did not realize there was a copy-write and we sincerely apologize. The picture has been removed from the newsletter on our website. We are sorry.