



Flies and Lies

Newsletter of the Fly Fishers of Northwest Florida

June, 2019

FFNWF

PO Box 1041
Pensacola, FL 32591
www.ffnwf.org

PRESIDENT
David Handley
dmhandley@gmail.com
(850) 417-9233

VICE-PRESIDENT
Jim White
Jrwhite55@aol.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

June Meeting – Tuesday, June 4 7:00 PM

Seems like forever since we were last together at a meeting but it's time to get back together again! Jim White will present the program "Trout Fishing on the South Holston River."

Fly Tying Bull Session – Thursday, June 13 6:30 PM

We will be tying the Slinky Anchovy. (Not the stinky anchovy on your pizza.)



Clinic – Saturday, June 15

Casting, Tying, Lunch: Bob and Cyndi Myers will be cooking up some Gumbo. Yum Yum



The Pensacola Summer Youth Program with the Pensacola Parks and Recreation program will run on Wednesday, June 5 and Wednesday, June 26 from 9-12 AM and 1-4 PM at our club. Each session will be split with 1.5 hours of fly casting and 1.5 hours of fly tying. Each group will have twelve children ages 9-14. The city is supplying all the materials and we need club members to help with fly casting and tying.

Pres Says: What an AUCTION!

Our annual auction exceeded our expectations. The results were the BEST EVER! The utilization of credit/debit cards was successful. Major Bravo Zulu to Russ Shields, Bob Myers, Richard Montgomery, Bob Gray, Terry McCormick, and Cyndi Myers for their hard work at making this event such a success. Moving ahead: Please help with the Summer Youth Program – tying and casting coaches. *Dave*



The Auction: Best Ever!

We had 35 bidders and took in over \$4,000. Thanks to Richard Montgomery and Bob Gray for getting everything together and to Terry McCormick for serving as auctioneer. Again. Thanks to ALL who donated stuff and to Capt. Baz, Capt. Rich Montgomery, and Jim White for donating trips. Thanks to all who brought and bought!!



May Clinic There's more to life than auctions. Even if you had no money left after the auction, there always is the Clinic. Yes, there is such a thing as a Free Lunch!



The Dragon Tail

And beer is back!

All's well that ends well

The Class of 2019 Yearbook Pictures

School Days School Days
Dear old golden casting and tying days.



Project Healing Waters Trip on Pensacola Bay



Thanks to Capt. Dan Storey (above), Capt Richard Montgomery (left) and Tarpon Bob Korose (center) for providing the boats and the help. And Joe Higgins for the pictures.

There will be a PHW trip to Tennessee on Memorial Day weekend. Look for pictures next month.

We are planning another trip in the bay on June 7. If you have a boat and would like to help contact Russ Shields.

Fly of the Month - *Slinky Anchovy* by Matt Wegener

There are lots of anchovy patterns out there and almost all of them catch fish. What sets this pattern apart is that it requires very little tying material, it's extremely durable, and it excels when the bite is tough because of the natural translucent body provided by the Clear Goo. This is a go-to fly for me when chasing summertime Albies in the Gulf. They will often turn down bulkier imitations, so it's important to tie this fly very sparse. However, look at the large patterns in the cover photo for ideas on how to use this pattern for other species, like speckled trout and redfish. We are using the "thin" Clear Goo product in this demonstration, but the "thick" should be used for larger fly patterns.



Hook: Mustad 34007, #6 **Thread:** Fine mono **Body:** Steve Ferrar Slinky Flash Blend, White
Lateral line: Flashabou, Silver **Eyes:** Holographic, 3mm or 1/8" **Glue:** Clear Goo (thin formula)

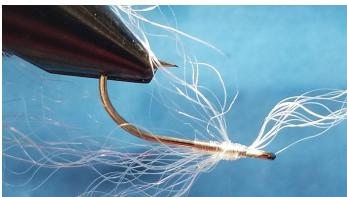
Tying Instructions



1. Use a jam knot to attach mono thread and tie in a small bunch (10 fibers) of white slinky fiber between the midpoint and eye of the hook, on top of the shank. It's important to wrap the thread towards the bend of the hook to avoid adding bulk when tying in the material.

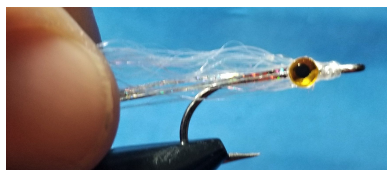


2. Fold over the other section of slinky fiber and tie down



3. + 4. Rotate the fly over and repeat steps 1 and 2 on the bottom of the hook shank.

5. + 6. Remove 2 strands of flashbou and tie in at the midpoint so that it extends down the side of the hook shank. Tie down the other side of the lateral line on the opposite side of the hook shank.



7. Whip finish and trim thread. Add the eyes and then pull the fibers back to add the first layer of Clear Goo.

8. The first layer of Clear Goo should be applied over the whip finish and the eyes to concrete everything in position. Continue pulling on the tail fibers while brushing on the glue to keep a streamlined body. Use a light to cure the Clear Goo before moving to the 2nd coat.



9. Add the 2nd coat to form the body of the anchovy. Depending on the amount added on the second coat, you may need to add 1 or 2 more coats to complete the fly. After the desired body shape is reached, trim the tail fibers.

Fishing with Capt. Baz

May has been an outstanding month with the fly rods...clear water, comfortable temperatures, and lots of sunshine. Even the wind has been reasonable. Huge schools of ladyfish and good numbers of Spanish showed up in Santa Rosa Sound early in the month for about ten days, and my clients enjoyed blind-casting the usual spots with good success. It was fun while it lasted. Finding them has been hit-and-miss for the last week or so. Here's a fun shot of John Rogers with a respectable Spanish that just about took the rod out of his hands on May 3. John was the EPA Branch Chief back in the late-80's.



The jack crevalle sight-fishing was *red hot* during the first two weeks of the month. There were days



when we spent half the trip staked out with schools of fish coming by every fifteen minutes. On May 6 Bob Jenkins landed these two jacks in the 15-16 pound range within an hour before we shifted gears and went looking for redfish. A week later on May 13 Greg Hawley and Robert Baugh got the jack crevalle experience complete with

teaser action. We were staked out in a favorite spot with Greg on the bow. There wasn't much happening when a big school appeared 250-300' west of the boat. I had my big spinning rod ready and heaved the giant hookless topwater plug downwind toward the fish. I cranked it as fast as possible and the plug danced and skittered across the surface as it raced away from the school. The fish went ballistic...chasing and crushing the plug following it straight to the boat. My clients couldn't believe their eyes. Greg dropped the popper in front of the approaching mass, and the "bait-and-switch" technique worked perfectly. He's caught jacks before and fought the fish perfectly. Twenty minutes to the net. Nice work. Then it was Robert's turn.



Robert is what Jonas would call a "trouter". I don't think he had ever had a big fly rod in his hands, and the 10wt with the big white popper was quite a leap. And of course there was the wind... After a while we saw another big school of jacks meandering around in shallow water 500-600 yards away. They seemed to be hanging around, so we pulled the anchor and idled in their direction. To have any chance we had to get upwind of the fish, so Robert could cast downwind and maybe get the fly 25' from the boat. I would have to tease them in. After a few attempts that failed on various levels it all came together and Robert

hooked one, fought it to the boat, and landed it. For a novice saltwater fly-angler it was a miracle, and Robert received a coffee mug with his photo to commemorate the grand event.

I spent most of the month poling the inside flats for redfish and trout, and believe me there are lots of fish out there. I can't remember ever seeing as many redfish along the beaches in all our usual spots from Navarre to the Big Lagoon. That's not to say they're easy, but with more shots you get a lot luckier. The fish are taking various EP minnows and the usual tan/white clouser. Usually it's the strip that makes the difference, and remember every fish is different. Let the fly sink and then start with a long, medium-fast strip to get the fly moving and attract the fish. When you have one interested change to shorter and quicker 6-8" strips with slight pauses...tic, tic, tic. Sometimes you

might need to let it drop back to the bottom. Watch the fish and see how it is responding to the fly. Don't continue doing something that's not working, because pretty soon you'll run out of line.



Here are some shots of May anglers with their redfish. We had a great day along the edge of the Gulf in late-April, and we'll start with that. Greg Catalano, Acton, MA, with two of three beauties landed on April 29. Next is Bob Jenkins, Woody Creek, CO, with one of the three redfish landed May 6. Greg Hawley, Birmingham, on May 13. Glenn Perry, also from Birmingham, on May 16 with not one but two of the most beautiful flats reds you'll ever see. The second fish is one of the deeply colored fish from the Big Lagoon. Glenn landed 5 that day. And finally a very happy Joe Mays and Greg Hawley again on May 24 with a couple fish from the Opal Beach area.



Missing from my report are photos of speckled trout, but it's not because we haven't seen any. Twice in the past week my clients have hooked and lost trout in the 5 pound range. Both times the inexperienced anglers held the fly line so tight the fish broke the 12# tippet. I landed a 4 pounder while giving casting lessons a couple weeks ago, but couldn't bring myself to take a photo... Finally Joe Mays from Birmingham landed a nice trout a couple days ago, and here he is.



Before I close, let me regress. Take another look at Bob Jenkins' photos above with the two jacks from May 6. We had a terrific trip that day...two jacks and multiple redfish later in the day. As you might remember it was Jenkins who got the Grand Slam just two weeks before. Bob was riding high with enthusiasm and confidence as he prepared for our last trip of his vacation the following morning, but things began to unravel when he dropped the six pack of Dogfish Head IPA on his tile kitchen floor as he was headed to the car. He salvaged a couple bottles, but it took him 20 minutes to clean up the mess. He was a half hour late and somewhat frazzled when he showed up for the trip. The morning's events seemed to affect his casting, and he had trouble all morning getting the fly to the fish. We were surrounded by redfish for hours and never got one to take the fly. It was the kind of frustration known to all fly



casters. You know you can do it, but why can't you do it! The harder you try the worse it gets. We finally decide to declare victory and leave...at least we hadn't broken a rod or fallen out of the boat. The plan was to have lunch and reboot for the afternoon.

I poled us away from the redfish and out into deeper water on a sandbar, dropped the anchor, and got out our lunch. The one thing I didn't do was get out the Line Tamer and load the 10wt and big popper in case some jacks showed up. It never even crossed my mind even though it's SOP this

time of year. We had only had a couple bites when the school of 200 big jack crevalle charged the boat. We made so much noise leaping to our feet that the school spooked, turned in the opposite direction, and sped away. The usual drill ensued, and the second time we got in front of the school Jenkins hooked a big fish...really big fish. Of course Bob's a pro, and he was armed with a very stout Hardy 10wt rod and reel combo, 300 yards of backing, a straight shot of 50# fluoro leader, and the big popper complete with a barb. The odds appeared to be in our favor, but did I mention that this was a *very* big jack?

After 20 minutes Bob had fly line on the reel, but the fish kept circling us. We had the anchor in the boat, the motor trimmed up, and I was diligent to slide the push pole out of the way with each revolution. Twice I had the leader in my hands, but the fish bolted away. After about 30 revolutions the fish surged, and the reel just fell off of the rod! I grabbed it and frantically tried to reconnect it as the handle spun and the drag screamed. Two seconds and the line broke.... Actually the fly line broke at the leader connection. Bob was crestfallen, but after a few minutes we had a good laugh and popped the tops on the two remaining Dogfish Heads and toasted to "Payback". This sport can be downright humbling...
Capt Baz

Fishing Reports:



Many of you may have seen some of these pictures, but we have had a great Spring on the (mostly Alabama) beaches. All the target species. The high point for me was a monster speckled trout caught on a large baitfish pattern in early May. At ~ 27.5 in. and (~7.5lb.) she would have been a fly record in multiple Gulf states, but we released that big girl to breed future record breakers!

FFNWF and all area club members are invited to please join us on Dauphin Island for HOSSFly's annual "Alabama Free Fishing Day" get together on June 7! Contact jeffcatfarms1@att.net for more information - *Jeff Deuschle*

Fishing Report

Took a recent trip to Belize, caught some bones. Had a nice permit on, but the backing overlapped and the hook popped off. Another big one got away!

Have a great summer. Fishing season is upon us here in the Rockies.

Milt Mays



Minutes – No minutes because no meeting in May. However, our Vice President offers his report for your reading pleasure (and to keep you apprised of upcoming meetings)

VP's Corner – Thanks to all of you we enjoyed the most successful auction ever. Some folks snatched up really amazing deals on great fishing equipment. Your efforts will help fund our Christmas Party (at Scenic Hills Country Club) and help fund fishing outings for our disabled veterans program, Project Healing Waters. Thank you! Our June program will be a riveting retelling of a fishing trip from last year to the South Holston and Watauga Rivers. Those are two great rivers in NE Tennessee - about 10 hours driving from here. In fact, as I write this note, four of our Project Healing Waters group are fishing those rivers, so they should be able to interject up-to-the-minute info during the June program. For the remainder of the year, see the great listing of programs below. Tight lines! *Jim*

Jul – Steve Hofmann presents “Modern fly rod and reel construction methods”

Aug – Bob Korose presents “The Golden Dorado in Argentina”

Sep – Jim White presents “Trout fishing on the Yellowstone River”

Oct – Matt Wegener presents “Hunting Bull Reds in Pensacola”

Nov – Dr. Jonas Magnuson presents “Fishing in Iceland”

Dec – Oleta Webb presents “Fishing in Montana”