



Flies and Lies

Newsletter of the Fly Fishers of Northwest Florida

June, 2020

FFNWF

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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

All Club Activities remain on hold until further notice.

From the President: We have been pro-active in rescheduling our course from March to September. We have begun to inventory and catalog donations for our annual auction. Steve Hofmann has stepped forward to lead the activities of our auction, he will be posting time and place that you may drop off your items for the auction.

We have and will continue to query the City of Pensacola Parks and Recreation as to a scheduled and requirements for utilization of the Boy Scout House. This facility is utilized by five (5) different club activities.

Thanks again to Gary Pheabus who worked behind the scenes to have the handicap ramp installed at the club. Great job Gary!

Jordan Perry a participant in the FFNWF sponsored Project Healing Waters has been very active tying flies and fishing them from shore. His catches are very impressive. Congratulations, Jordan!

For the last month a group of club members have getting togethers online using an app called Zoom. It has been helpful for me to see and communicate with other club members. If you would like to join this growing group please send an email to me at dmhandley@gmail.com. Tight lines, Dave



Auction News: Eventually we will have a club auction in 2020!! While we wait for an exact date, please inventory all your items that you want to donate to the "Auction" this year. You can e-mail me the items you want to donate with a short description, condition and estimated value. Also, note if you want the donation to go to Project Healing Waters program. I would like to start collecting all items ASAP. My wife and I are planning on being at the club meeting place in **Miraflores Park** to collect your donated items on **Saturday June 13 and Saturday July 11** from 9 to 11 a.m. Assuming that we will not have a club meeting before August.

Please remember the yearly Auction proceeds are used to fund the club activities; i.e. fly-tying items, pay club insurance, buy lunches, etc.

Steve Hofmann; 2020 Auction Chair; e-mail: smanhof94@gmail.com

Fishing with Capt. Baz May was a terrific month to be on the water with a fly rod. Without the usual spring rains all of our local waters were pristine and perfect for sight-fishing. The fishing was best early in the month when the water temperature was in the mid-70's. The redfish on the flats were active and actually willing to eat a well-presented fly. There were big trout milling around, and plenty of jack crevalle and pompano migrating along the beach in the gulf. Around mid-month the ladyfish showed up in good numbers, and there were lots of Spanish mackerel around the Mass.



Bob Jenkins was back on May 1 hoping for his third Grand Slam, but it didn't happen. We got both the jack crevalle and pompano during the first half of the trip and spent the next four hours trying unsuccessfully to catch a redfish. Two short strikes and a missed hookset, but it wasn't to be. Here's Bob with the first two legs.



Three days later the same thing happened to Glenn Perry, but this time we couldn't find a darn pompano. Glenn landed his first-ever jack crevalle, and we spent a couple more hours looking for pompano before we got blown out of the gulf and headed to the Orient looking for redfish. We tried a new area and found lots of fish in the late-afternoon sun. Glenn landed five upper-slot redfish in the last hour and a half of decent light. Bob Jenkins would've given his left "toenail" for one of those reds a few days earlier... Here are some photos of Glenn from May 4.



We only landed one more jack during the month, and Bob Jenkins did it again on May 7. By the end of the month the jack crevalle action in the gulf had slowed down, but we've been seeing more and more schools of fish in the sound and bay. These fish will be with us until October, and they'll be getting bigger every day. Keep that 10wt armed and loaded at all times!



We had a blast on the inside flats in May. Club members Wallace and Colleen West took their auction trip on May 8, and it turned out to be windy with good sun. We worked hard to find fish in calm water and finally hit the jackpot along a stretch of the Big Lagoon. Wallace landed his first-ever redfish on one of his own creations. A few days later Chuck Banks landed the biggest



trout of the year so far (23") in a couple feet of water "between the points" and added this pretty little redfish on his last cast of the trip. Both fish ate the EP gray/white minnow.



On May 19 Jack Michalski and I decided to get in the water and go after them. We fished a flat known to have the spookiest fish on the planet, and Jack got this fish to eat the EP minnow just as a cloud came over us. We could see the fish on the sandy bottom, but it couldn't see us... We poled another flat later in the day, and Jack landed his second redfish of the day.



On June 1 the water temperature at my dock was 88 degrees! The flats fishing will be very challenging for the summer. Your best bet will be long leaders 10-11' and the lightest tackle possible. Getting in the water will improve your hookup rate, and man that water sure feels good. Be careful out there, and drink plenty of water.

Speaking of being careful, I had a near disaster in the gulf last Thursday. There was a sloppy 2-3' shore break, and I was in the skiff with two clients. All three of us were standing up holding on to the grab rail for dear life. The only reason I was out there was that the morning had been very tough, and I was hoping to find a miracle school of jacks to save the day. I got far enough out from shore to keep it relatively safe and ran slowly to the east through the troughs of the waves. When we reached the old "palm tree" area sure enough there was a school of jacks running eastbound just outside the inner bar. I sped up and got in front of them preparing for the shot. One client sat down, and the other one picked up a big spinning rod. He held the rod with one hand and the grab rail with the other. I was bumping it in and out of neutral keeping the bow into the waves as the fish came into casting range. Later as I tried to piece it together, I believe he lost his balance and fell when he let go of the grab rail to cast. As he went down his hand must have landed on the throttle pegging it to the dash. In an instant I was on my back sliding out of the boat with the engine screaming at full throttle. The client that was sitting down grabbed my leg stopping my slide, and looking forward all I could see was blue sky over the bow and that wide-open throttle. Somehow I did one massive sit up and snatched the throttle back to neutral. One client was still sitting, and the client with the rod was on the deck in front of the console. We took inventory, and no one seemed to be hurt, so we powered forward to the observation tower and landed one of those mothers! The lesson is to connect the kill switch lanyard when conditions get dicey.

Capt Baz

Project Healing Waters Update

1. COVID-19 - PHW HQ announced the continued suspension of all PHW activities nationwide through July 31st. However, PHW Pensacola participants have been invited to join the weekly FFNWF Zoom sessions hosted by Dave Handley.

2. The Post Fly tying kits ordered for participants have begun arriving. Once all the kits are in hand, Zoom tying sessions will be conducted. *Jim White*

HOSSFLY Club First Annual Jack Tournament

Dates: June 1 – July 10, 2020

Location: AL, FL, LA, and MS Gulf Coast

Species: Jack Crevalle

Tackle: Fly rod and reel with hand-tied fly only. No conventional tackle or chumming allowed.

Entry Fee: Free for HOSSFLY members and \$25 for non-members (entry fee includes a 2020 HOSSFLY club membership). **Registration is required for all participants.** Deadline for registration is May 31. Email Clark at clark@clarkgordin.com to register. Please provide your name and contact information. For non-members, also mail payment to Clark Gordin at 1902 Kensington Street Ocean Springs, MS 39564.

Winners: First, second, and third places will be awarded based on length (total fork length). Multiple catches are allowed. One award per angler.

Required Documentation: A picture of the fish with measuring tape is required. Please email documentation to Clark at clark@clarkgordin.com. Catches must be submitted by midnight on July 10, 2020. The tournament will be catch and release unless a state record is caught.

Winners will be recognized at the July 11 HOSSFLY meeting at 6:00PM at the Ocean Springs Yacht Club. Rules and Judges Committee consists of Bill Hancock, Richard Schmidt, and John Bottko.

Please be respectful of others by reporting forthright and truthful catches – Honor System rules apply. Please contact David Buckner at (601)616-5400 or Bill Hancock at (601)807-5811 if you have an questions.

More from the Gulf Coast Council:

<https://gulfcoastcouncilffi.org/2020/05/14/casting-skills-challenge-a-big-success-at-the-sweetwater-classic/>

This was a casting competition that our own George Norton entered. Since we have had no meeting George has no minutes to report but he does have this fishing report:

Two weeks ago trolled Clouser Minnows and the Redfish Radish inside and caught nice sized ladyfish.
George

Fishing Report

The Perdido river has been hot since the water fall out of the from the high waters. The last four or five weeks popper fishing has been fun on both the Alabama and



Florida side. Bull bream are thick. I have been having better luck with my white

poppers. Yellow isn't bad at times. My bubble bee has been good on bass up in some lakes early. Fish in cooler was just the start of a day. Tight lines. *Oleta*



For Sale by One of our Members

Wilderness Systems RIDE 135 Fishing Kayak
13.5' L 34" W
"Camo" Color Scheme
Like-New Condition
FULLY-LOADED AND SET UP FOR BOTH
FRESHWATER AND SALTWATER SERVICE



Accessories:

Paddle

2 SEATS- Standard low-rider PLUS elevated seat to facilitate standing up

Collapsible stand-up/leaning bar

Accessory rails on both gunwales for mounting rod holders, sonar etc.

Rod holders for both spinning and fly rod

Cargo box (milk crate) with rod holders mounted behind seat

Full-length anchor trolley

Outriggers for additional stand-up stability

Lead anchor

6- foot "stick anchor"

Push-cart with large rubber wheels

Dry bags

Lowrance Eagle depth sounder

Night-running light

T-bar truck bed extension

If you looked up the Ride 135, you know that it sells NEW (and empty) for >\$1000
The above accessories easily takes that value up to/over \$2000.
\$1200 TAKES IT ALL!

Thanks for your interest.

Mick Milo

804-363-9276



Safety First – always use an ocean going kayak



Frustrated with dolphin and sharks stealing your catch? Come up North!

