



Flies and Lies

Newsletter of the Fly Fishers of Northwest Florida

March, 2018

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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

2018 Fly Fishing Class

Begins March 12 Monday Nights 6:00-8:00 PM

For a weekly schedule see page 2



He is BACK!!! Welcome back Bob!!! (aka Tarpon Bob)

After months of illness and rehab, Bob is not only back, but he is giving the program at our March meeting – Once again, on a lake far away.....



Glad you are back, Bob!!!!

Tuesday, March 6 – 7:00 -

My friend Ted and I fished Lake Strobel aka. Jurassic Lake in southern Argentina. It is famous for its population of very large rainbow trout which were stocked decades ago. The lake and river are isolated and surrounded by private property and the large rainbow population continues to thrive.

Fly Tying – Thursday, March 8 – the

Squirminator

Clinic – Saturday, March 17 - Casting, tying, and lunch: The All American Hot Dog. See pictures from February on page

From the Pres: *The old rhyme “March, in like a lion out like a lamb.”*

In our sport, wind can be an issue however with the help of our own Casting Master Jonas we can find ways to mitigate its effects. Get the gear out, grab a friend, and go fish! Or, at least, come and cast.

I represented us again at the Pensacola Parks and Recreation Committee meeting in February. I found that we have a line item in their budget for work on the club house. This work will be to achieve ADA improvements, (handicap ramp, etc.). This is great news!

Please come support our fly fishing course. It is an excellent time to meet new members and show them our main benefit: our fellowship. Dave

2018 Fly Fishing Course. Mondays 6:00 – 8:00

March 12 Opening remarks by FFNWF Club president Dave Handley
Introduction to Local Saltwater fly fishing Capt. Baz

March 19 Professional Casting Instruction Jonas Magnusson
Introduction to Fly Rods and Reels Russ Shields

March 26 Professional Casting Instruction Jonas Magnusson
Introduction to Fly Fishing Knots and Tackle Rigging Bob Korose

April 2 Professional Casting Instruction Jonas Magnusson
Introduction to fly tying Tools and Materials Tom Finkle

April 9 Casting Instruction and practice Casting Committee
Fly tying -- Wooly Bugger Capt. Dan Storey

April 16 Casting Review and practice Casting Committee
Fly tying-- Clouser Minnow Matt Wegener

April 23 Casting Review and practice Casting Committee
Fly tying-- Elk Hair Caddis Jerry Giles and Russ Shields

April 30 Introduction to Local Fresh Water Fishing Matt Wegener
Fly Tying -- Gartside Gurgler Russ Shields



Project Healing Waters Rod building

Russ will present a program on building bamboo rods for all of us at our April club meeting. The dogs come in handy, too. See Jim White's article about fly tying.

Clinic Casting - March 17 We will

1. Revisit the pick up and lay down cast and build on it. Now we learn to shoot some line
2. Then we will do the triangle exercise and add hauling to the mix.

Jonas





February Clinic

Jonas casting. If you think that was good you should see what he can do with a rod.



Dr. Tom Birdwell, charter member and past president at the clinic.
Tom's son joining the club

Lunch. Joe's New Chili.
As good as ever.

Check out this link for PNJ article about former member Corbett Davis, Jr.



<https://www.pnj.com/story/opinion/2018/02/24/marlette-fishin-meets-fiction-dead-mans-fingers/363429002/>

Book Review "Fly Fishing for Smallmouth Bass" by Bob Clouser

Bob Clouser is the father of the Clouser minnow and has guided for smallmouths in Pennsylvania for years. I bought this book on Kindle and highly recommend it. The book is a very thorough treatment of stream and river fishing for smallmouth on the fly.

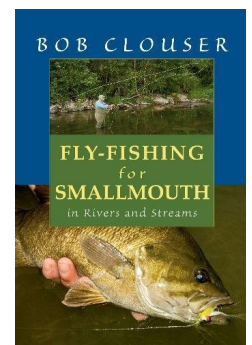
I have done an extensive amount of largemouth bass fishing but very little river fishing for smallmouth. After Gary Pheabus and I fished the Shenandoah River in Virginia last summer for smallmouth, I was really hooked.

I was amazed by the fight in them especially after dropping down to my Temple Fork three weight. The largest bass I caught was only thirteen inches (no fish stories here) but I had a thirty fish day of 8-13 inch fish. I fly fished all day and was the only boat on a beautiful river in the middle of July.

I asked myself the question. There have to be bigger smallmouth in the Shenandoah and how could I learn to get some bigger fish/ This book explained and answered all those questions from what flies to use and the seasons for using them. I got busy and tied up a bunch of flies for a trip this summer. **George Norton**

P.S. don't forget to listen to the song "O Shenandoah" by Tennessee Ernie Ford, a beautiful classic.

Next month: *Freshwater Fly Fishing Trips from the Pros*



Fishing with Capt. Baz Happy to report that Baz is recovering well from surgery and is about to start rehab therapy. He hopes to be on the boat again in April.

Fishing with Capt. Dan February was a slow month for me so I will try to keep the report short. The early arrival of spring has really warmed up the waters fast. I saw 47 degrees at the start of the month, and we are low 70's in most places by now. Unfortunately the spring winds are here too. The gulf has been unfishable for me all month. But there are fish to the inside, finally!. Over the last week we have enjoyed poling some of the clearer water east of the Bob Sikes bridge. The fish are there, you just have to put the right fly in the right place. It was a combination that just didn't happen for what few clients I had this



month. I think another few weeks will fire the fish up a little more and we will start to see them eat some of our less than perfect presentations. I have managed some bites on my scouting days though. Here is a typical fish on the inside flats these days. Notice the clouds in the background? Sometimes the good weather just doesn't happen and you have to make the most of what you got. Haven't seen any trout yet but they will be there soon.



This month's fish selfie comes courtesy of a very cooperative bull swimming a sandbar near the pass earlier this month. Every now and then, a fish just swims up to you looking for something to eat.



Of course it helps to have the right fly. If your tying bench looks like this, you are doing it right.

Best bet to get into the backing next month is going to be staking out the beach with your big poppers waiting on the Jack Crevalles. It's gonna happen early this year, so if you get the weather window take it and get out there. For those of you landlocked, the pompano should be in your dreams about now. Remember the first run of fish are usually the big ones. A 5# pompano will put it to you a lot harder than one of the inside flats redfish will.

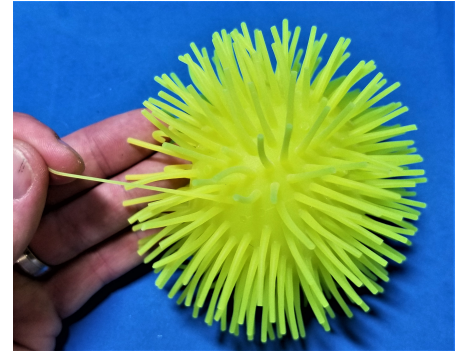
Happy spring to all of you. It's here. It's time. **Capt Dan**



Pictures from the February meeting.
See report on Dave's recommendations and Jerry's presentation in the minutes

Fly of the Month **Squirminator**tied by Matt Wegener

The squirminator is a bright fly with lots of movement that can be used for cold-water trout and panfish. Tim Flagler created this fly as hybrid between an egg pattern and a squirmy-wormy pattern. It's jig hook and tungsten bead head creates a relatively weedless fly that can be fished deep. Be sure to check local regulations on the legality of using plastic tails on a fly before fishing and also search for this fly on Youtube for a video on how to tie it.



Materials:

Hook: Gamakatsu J20 Jig Nymph (Stock # 354404-20), Size 12

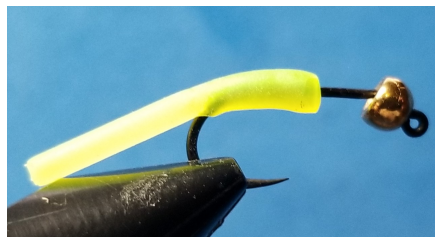
Bead head: Tungsten bead, 1/8"

Thread: 6/0 Orange

Tail: Appendage from a kid's squishy ball of Puffer Ball on Amazon

Under-body: Orange dubbing, Superfine or similar brand

Over-body: Chartreuse egg yarn



Instructions:

1. Remove an appendage from the puffer ball
2. Pinch the barb and slide on the bead head. Slide the rubber appendage over the hook point. Coat the shank with super glue and slide the appendage the rest of the way on.

3. Twist some orange dubbing onto the thread.



4. Wrap the dubbing around the hook shank between the rubber appendage and the bead head to form the under-body.



5. Trim off a ¼ of egg yarn and spread out the fibers.



6. Place the fibers in a dubbing loop and spin. Then wrap over the orange under-body. Whip finish and coat with head cement.

This month we start a new feature on fly tying stations. Please write up something about your endeavors and send it in with a picture or two. Thanks to Jim White for starting us off:

My Fly Tying My dad taught me to tie flies the same summer he taught me to fly cast. I was 11 years old and my family was on our annual trip to visit my grandparents in Riverton, Wyoming. While I don't recall catching a lot of fish on the fly that summer, I was smitten by all things associated with fly fishing and especially tying flies. Over the years since that summer I've tied a lot more flies than I have caught fish. I suspect I'm not alone in that statistic.

Dad gave me the fly tying kit he had used growing up. It consisted of an ancient Thompson C-clamp vise, a bobbin, scissors, and hair stacker. Materials were never a problem as we had dogs (hair and undercoat materials), various feathers from duck and bird hunting, and mom had sewing thread and other materials. It wasn't until a few years later that I learned about standard fly patterns. Up to that point I merely grabbed materials and tied them to hooks in a manner that looked "fishy" to me. Some caught fish, most didn't but I never let that slow me down.



Fifty plus years later I am still tying flies. My kit has expanded considerably and I tend to tie standard patterns with standard materials (I no longer use my dogs as a source!). My growing stash of materials is organized in a chest of drawers on top of which I keep my fly tying station. That station is a White River Fly Shop Journeyman Fly Tying Station (\$49.99 at Bass Pro). It is a portable fly tying bench and it allows me to move to comfortable locations. My vice is a Peak rotary and I have been very happy with its performance. My tools

include the standard mix. Currently, my favorite bobbin is the magnum sized Rite bobbin. The long stem and adjustable tension make for a confident tying experience with larger saltwater flies.

Since returning to Pensacola I have focused on saltwater. Clousers, Crazy Charlies, Seaducers, Lefty's Deceivers in sizes 4 - 1/0. Missing from that mix are surface flies and gurglers which are next on my list to learn. Synthetic materials have replaced deer hair as I find a lot of choice in colors and I think the synthetics hold up to more fish than does the natural fur.

For freshwater trout I tie a lot of nymphs. My favorites include the American pheasant tail, green cadis pupae, and the zebra midge. They are easy to tie, and with different colors, I find it easy to match just about anything I come across in a trout stream. I tend to tie most of my nymphs with tungsten bead heads to get them down.

My dry flies are mostly Adams- a great, non-specific species pattern that catches a lot of fish. I usually tie in the parachute style because they float well, are (usually) easy to see, and the body suspends just below the surface which may increase visibility to fish.

For me fly tying is a great way to relax. I enjoy the camaraderie of our frequent FFNWF tying meetings and learning new patterns. Plus, it is a blast to catch fish on your own hand made flies. I heartily recommend you mark the FFNWF meeting schedule on your calendar and make a point of attending the fly tying sessions.

Cheers. **Jim White**



Fly Fishers of Northwest Florida Minutes February 6, 2018. George Norton, secretary

Board meeting called to order at 6:15 by President David Handley. 12 members present.

Old business: We discussed structured casting instruction at the clinics by Jonas Magnusson. It was decided to offer both the casting lessons and free time for members to practice on their own as in the past. Pat Murphy has agreed to back up Matt for fly tying when needed on Thursdays and at the clinics,

New Business/Committee Reports:

Treasurer, Jay reviewed the budget for 2018. Our club's finances are in good shape. Income comes from our club dues, Christmas party tickets, the May auction and the eight week Fly Fishing class. Our expenditures cover our fly tying supplies, the Christmas party and other expenses. We currently have 29 paid members.

A motion was made to approve the Treasures report and 2018 Budget, Oleta seconded the motion and was approved by all present.

President, Dave suggested we make a powerpoint presentation for the Pensacola Parks and Recreation Board. The Parks and Rec Board is largely unaware of our club and how it benefits the Pensacola community. We would highlight our eight week class. Dave attended a Meeting on January 18 where presentations were given by the PNS Rowing Club and a briefing by the Tennis Center. The Rowing Club by being proactive with Parks and Recreation has secured a large section of a new PNS building at Bayside Park while the Tennis Center got some improvements.

Our Club History needs to be developed and incorporated into the presentation which will include "the location of the club, our activities, general meetings, fly tying and casting sessions, clinics, and classes open to the community." Russ and our Past President, Oleta Webb will pull together information on the club history for the presentation. Paul moved we prepare the presentation and Russ seconded it.

Dave is developing a questionnaire for our members. The purpose of a survey is to find out what we are doing right or wrong and to generate new ideas to better serve existing members and attract new members.

A plan is in the works to develop a club fishing trip to a freshwater site in April or early May and more to come on this from George.

The newsletter was discussed. One addition would be an article and photo of a member's home fly tying station. We already have one volunteer to be featured in next month's newsletter. Another idea is a book review. Please pick out a book from the library and submit a short review to Paul.

New Fly Tying Kits for the upcoming class was proposed by Russ. Our old kits are not in good condition and Russ believed a fresh set of 15 kits can be bought for about \$400. Gerry motioned to approve and Oleta seconded it. None opposed the purchase. The old tool kits will be available at the May auction.

Fishing Reports: They were few due to very cold and windy weather.

Presentation: Jerry Giles gave an outstanding presentation of his seventy years of fly fishing. Jerry said, "Like Santiago in "the Old Man and The Sea" I was born a fisherman." He took us through his rough upbringing in central Florida to finding fulfillment and success during his high school days in central Nebraska where he had moved after his Mom remarried a wonderful step-father. In Nebraska

he learned to noodle catfish, fly fish in gravel pits, take care of cattle, and was class President and had the lead role in a school play.

In Florida I loved his story as a kid fly fishing out of an inner tube on a local lake. He was just seven and fly fishing among water moccasins and alligators. He sold his fish to the farm workers in the nearby orange grove. He described how he learned to work a popper and cast in the pockets of the lily pads. "Let the popper sit on the water until all the ripples are gone and then twitch the popper just ever so slightly." In Florida he delivered milk to Cypress Gardens in the middle of the night and once was caught fishing on a train trestle over water with a train coming head on and he and his companion had to lie down next to the tracks to save themselves as the train roared by. Jerry was totally independent at a young age and had to fend for himself.

He tied his first flies and fly fished in gravel pits for bass in Nebraska and loved the people there. I noticed his deep appreciation of nature while fishing. He has fished all over from North Carolina to Montana and has made numerous presentations to our club on fly fishing techniques and tips. He credits the club with much of his fly fishing knowledge and the wonderful friendships and trips with fellow members. Gerry has been giving back his knowledge and experience to the club for a long time.

Thanks Gerry for your great life story and all your contributions to our club and the many members you have helped and influenced over the years.

Meeting Adjourned: 1945