



# Flies and Lies

Newsletter of the Fly Fishers of Northwest Florida

March, 2021

## FFNWF

PO Box 1041  
Pensacola, FL 32591  
[www.ffenwf.org](http://www.ffenwf.org)

PRESIDENT  
Bob Myers  
[Myers.w.robert@gmail.com](mailto:Myers.w.robert@gmail.com)

VICE-PRESIDENT  
Mick Milo  
[vectorfl@aol.com](mailto:vectorfl@aol.com)

SECRETARY  
George Norton  
[geonorton@gmail.com](mailto:geonorton@gmail.com)

TREASURER  
Larry Sisney  
2021 FFNWF Treasurer  
3610 Baisden Rd.  
Pensacola, FL 32503.

MEMBER EMERITUS  
Russ Shields  
[rkshields37@gmail.com](mailto:rkshields37@gmail.com)

NEWSLETTER  
Paul Wargo  
586-943-3155  
[flyfishersnwf@gmail.com](mailto:flyfishersnwf@gmail.com)

MEETINGS now  
being held via Zoom

Business Meeting  
1ST Tuesday, 7 PM

Bull Session - Tying  
2ND Thursday, 6 PM

Clinic -Casting, Tying,  
Lunch - Will resume  
TBA

**The Pres Says:** It has been a cold, bleak February but warmer days are just around the corner. Thankfully that old Pennsylvania groundhog doesn't dictate our weather. A glance at the forecast for March indicates a month with much warmer days. These colder days have given the opportunity to check and re-check equipment and to tie enough flies to prepare for upcoming fishing adventures.

- Reminders:**
1. PAY YOUR DUES! To: Larry Sisney 3610 Baisden \$30 payable FFNWF Pensacola FL 32503
  2. Let Steve Hofmann know if he can count on your help for the FF101 Class and/or the Annual Club Auction (dates TBA)
  3. If you can, reach out to the chairs of committees to offer your assistance.

**Tight loops, lines, and knots. All the best. Bob M**

## Club Meeting – Tuesday, March 2 7:00 Zoom

Contact Lou Orrie if you need a link: [tazgunr@hotmail.com](mailto:tazgunr@hotmail.com) Mick Milo takes us to Montana for Yellowstone Cutthroats (by horseback and mule train)



## Fly Tying – Thursday, March 11 6:00 Zoom

The Weedwacker

Again: Contact Lou Orrie if you need a link: [tazgunr@hotmail.com](mailto:tazgunr@hotmail.com)



## Casting – Saturday, March 20 9:00 Bring your lunch.

**Fishing with Capt. Baz** The first three weeks of February were tough with more than our usual share of rain, wind, and cold. On most of the sunny days it was so cold my hands wouldn't work, and I postponed the trips. We only managed to get "out there" four times but were pleased with the numbers of shallow-water redfish. The water temperature in Santa Rosa Sound has dropped to 52 degrees, and the fish have move off their normal sand flats into areas with lots of shallow grass. We found grassy areas in both the Naval Live Oaks and Big Sabine that were holding lots of fish, but we never got one to eat the fly. I think it's time for Matt Wegener to earn his keep by coming up with the perfect "turtle grass crawler" for this time of year.



*Photo from Baz's website:  
<http://gulfbreezeguideservice.com/>*

In the Gulf there are numerous schools of above-slot sized redfish cruising just outside the inner sandbar. The fish will be somewhere between Battery Langdon and the "Palm Tree". You should cruise farther out in the draw until you find them, and then sneak in well ahead of the school, drop the anchor, and wait. Remember the fish will spook if they hear your motor or see your boat. I like to set up a couple hundred yards ahead of the fish with the sandbar just out of casting range. With a little luck the fish will come between you and the bar, and you'll be able to get the fly ahead of them. The best flies this time of year are the big streamers you would use for the Running of the Bulls. Of my four trips this month only three were fly-fishing clients. As luck would have it, I had the spin-fishing clients on the only day with good Gulf conditions. They hammered 'em, but I'm not posting the pics...



A new client from Denver landed the only redfish on fly this month so far. This is David Dawson on February 11 with the biggest fish he's ever caught. The redfish took a chartreuse/white EP baitfish.

In closing I'm happy to report seeing quite a few pompano February 20 along the shore in the Gulf. They are arriving a little earlier than usual. Time to tie up some of the little yellow pompano flies, and hit the beach.

***Capt Baz***

## **2021 VIRTUAL International Fly Fishing Film Festival**

*Editor's note:* There is a fly fishing film festival coming up that you can watch at home. I am having a hard time copying the information from emails that contain the info; nobody uses good old http or youtube links anymore. Ctrl – click this link and see spectacular video previews of the film. If you sign up and watch let us know how it was: [IF4 2021 Sizzle | Get your tickets on Vimeo](#)

**The VEEP Corner:** The weather certainly looks like it will improve over the next several days (and hopefully well into March). So, maybe that will drive many of us out of hibernation and get us out on the water. In case it doesn't, FEAR NOT, because we have a complete schedule of Monthly Program speakers lined up to help keep those juices flowing. Please see the tentative schedule below:

2021 FFNWF Monthly Meeting Program Schedule		
Meeting Date	Presenter	Program Title
1/5/2021	Bob Korose **	Canada Pike Fishing **CANCELLED - Technical Difficulties
2/2/2021	Bob Korose	Canada Pike Fishing
3/2/2021	Mick Milo	Slough Creek (Montana) Cutthroats by Horseback
4/6/2021	Jim White	FFI Update
5/4/2021	N/A	No Program - Annual Fundraising Auction
6/8/2021	Steve Hofman	Fly Fishing the Colorado River at Lees Ferry
7/6/2021	Dan Storey	Putting the Wrong Fly in the Right Place
8/3/2021	Matt Wegener	TBD
9/7/2021	Jerry Giles	TBD
10/5/2021	Jim White	TBD
11/2/2021	Mick Milo	Everglades -2021
12/7/2021	Steve Hofman	Fly Fishing Ettiquette

This month's presentation will be given by yours truly and will highlight a trip I took a few years ago, targeting Yellowstone Cutthroats in the Absaroka-Beartooth Wilderness of Montana. The only means to get to them was by horseback and mule train. I hope you enjoy it. **Mick**

## Tributes to Fly Fishermen by Steve Hofmann



Since my wife and I have taken up fly fishing 15 years ago we have traveled many of the North Western States that are famous for fly fishing. We came to realize that you knew you were in a famous fly fishing area by the statues or monuments the locals had erected. This bronze statue is in the middle "**North Platte River**"

near the town of Casper Wyoming. We took the pic from the visitor center looking east toward downtown. The 'fish' picture was taken from the "Miracle Mile" section of the same **North Platte River** south of Casper.



Next Month: the town of Carbondale Colorado!

# Fly Fishers of Northwest Florida - ffnwf

**Editor's note:** Ron Bloomquist, a director of Project Healing Waters in Florida and member of the Membership Council of FFI asked the leadership of our club to list the things that have led to the success of FFNWF. Jim White wrote this up and I think the whole club should see it: This is Part 1. Part 2 will be next month. Share with your friends:

1. The Pensacola area supports a large retired or veteran military community looking for something in which to be involved. We understand hierarchy and, in general, support chains of command. We're also know how to be at the appointed place at the appointed time. While we enjoy the support of 80+ paid members, generally, there are anywhere from 15-20 folks who regularly attend meetings. Not unusual, I think most clubs operate in this fashion. The majority of the "core" members are vets who just keep showing up week in and week out and keep the club active. And speaking of active,

2. Active web site ([www.ffnwf.org](http://www.ffnwf.org)). Years ago we were fortunate to bring in an individual (thank you Kent!) who was tech / IT savvy AND interested in setting up and maintaining our web presence. All these years later he is still running the site for FFNWF. Lots of solid content on the site, to include,

3. An awesome monthly newsletter (thank you Paul!). It is hard to overstate the importance of that publication in the advertising of our club and of the local fishing scene here in NW Florida. And the wide distribution that publication receives continues to bring folks into the area to fish and in some cases they attend meetings and join the club (one club member lives in Japan!). One of the reasons the newsletter is so awesome is,

4. The content provided by the top notch, professional fly fishing guides in our area. Currently Pensacola is home to three "fly fishing only" guides. Additionally, there are several "gear fishing" guides proficient enough in our sport to also support fly fishing trips. Several of these guides provide newsletter content each and every month. On our website lives more than ten year's worth of newsletters. If someone plans to visit Pensacola in May and wants to know what's running, they need only to read through the ten years-plus of June newsletters (May's fishing results published in June) to get the gouge. Of course, the newsletters are also great advertising for our guides so its a win-win.

5. In addition to the professional guide content, various members (although not as many as Paul would like) submit articles each month. Paul has hosted themes on favorite rods, books, fly tying stations and trips - all great content that keeps folks coming back for more. The newsletter also includes photos and pattern sheet for that month's "fly-of-the-month." And that supports the fact that we meet,



Scrapbook pictures from years gone by. Yes, that is Lefty on a visit here.

**Thank you, Jim!!**

## Fly of the Month: **WEEDWACKER** by Pat Murphy

This fly was tied in a manner that will prevent it from hanging up on docks after poorly placed casts. It is weedless, as well. There are a variety of materials you can use, but I have chosen a material new to me. Hope you find it successful.

### **MATERIALS:**

**HOOK:** VMC #6319 WIDE GAP 1/0 WORM HOOK

GAMAKATSU #58411 WIDE GAP WORM HOOK 1/0

**THREAD:** WHITE 140d

**BELLY FLASH:** PEARL UV KRYSTAL FLASH

**BELLY:** CRYSTAL FLASH, SILVER SCALE (S/F BLEND WHITE)

**LATERAL LINE:** SILVER FLASHABOU (DYED BLUE PEARL FAB)

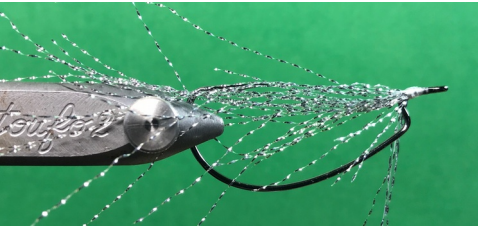
**WING BACK:** CRYSTAL FLASH, MULLET BROWN (S/F BLEND TAN)

**WING FLASH:** KRYSTAL FLASH, BONEFISH TAN (OPTIONAL)

**THROAT:** RED EP FIBER **EYES:** 6MM HOLOGRAPHIC DOME

### **INSTRUCTION:**

**Note:** All materials will be tied on shank between hook eye and hook bend. Stagger material on shank to form a taper nose.



1. Debarb hook, add 6-8 doubled K/Flash at shank with tag end extended past hook eye. Tag about length of hook to bend. Secure and fold tag end under belly flash.

2. Over top of flash add thin clump Silver Scale materials staggered @1st tie-in extended just past flash.



3. For the lateral line, add 8-10 strand Flashabou doubled, top of belly material. Stagger tie-in. Extend to match belly materials.

4. Secure 7-8 strands K/Flash wing flash over top, doubled extended to end of fly.



5. Brush materials to back of fly, between thumb and forefinger feather out materials and trim to baitfish profile.

6. Add small pinch red EP fibers at end of shank before bend. Divide around hook

7. Add eyes to material strands behind shank.

### **TYING TIPS**

If you are having a problem with you lead eyes rotating around hook after catching a fish, try using metal file to rough up hook shank in different directions before applying thread. Wrap eyes in regular manner. Then make open wraps from eyes to bend then apply super glue, and wrap back to eyes. while super glue is still wet. Then continue tying your fly materials. **Pat**



**February Casting Clinic** – nothing like throwing line and spinning stories to warm the cockles of your heart (it was 35 degrees that morning!)



## Slough Creek and One Heck of a Hike

By George Norton: Outdoor Writer: January 23, 2016

Slough Creek is in the extreme northeast quadrant of Yellowstone Park and descends twisting and turning thru a series of three extensive meadows. The snowcapped Anadarko Mountains loom big in the background. Slough Creek drains into Soda Butte Creek which feeds the Lamar River and the larger Yellowstone River.

Big native cutthroat trout are the reward on large dry flies but first reaching the second meadow requires a long hike up a gradual incline, two and half hours each way. On top of it, you carry in all you need: waders, boots, a lunch, bottled water, a vest, flies and a rod. The hike punishes those who are older and out of shape but the cutthroat trout average 16-18 inches and willingly take large dry flies, especially terrestrials, stimulators and hoppers, during the summer.

Terri, Jim's wife, knew the day's drill and cooked a lumberjack's breakfast of oatmeal, pancakes, bacon and eggs. The three of us arrived at the trailhead at about nine.

Jim and Terri are long term Denver residents and are used to the high altitude.

Big Jim gave me a concerned look. He said, "Norton, are you sure you can handle this hike? We can fish the first meadow for you. Ahehehehe. The first meadow is only a two mile hike. After all, you're a flatlander and we understand."

"Nah," I replied without thinking. "I can handle whatever you can."

For a flatlander, not accustomed to the thinner air, I was curious but concerned if I could handle it. I had been loafing in the heat down south, and riding a golf cart was about all the exercise I had gotten lately.

Bears are always a possibility in this area. Jim had warning bells. Lots of luck I thought. Bells don't give me a lot of confidence versus a female grizzly protecting her cubs. Nevertheless, the only animals we saw were pack horses with outfitters loaded with food and camping equipment headed twelve miles in to the third meadow.



We took a break about every thirty minutes. The bugs weren't bad and the sun shone. Finally with a sigh of relief that I had survived the four mile hike, I tossed off my pack and waders, and lay sprawled out totally spent under a tree. I lay back overjoyed to have the weight off my back.

Jim said, "Norton, are you going to fish or take a nap?" "I'm taking five," I replied. Thirty five years ago we had sprinted to get our flies in the water. One year we caught so many cutthroats, we tried different flies to see if there was one they wouldn't take. This time the fishing was slower. I caught six quality fish on big dry flies in a beautiful area. We fished until four in the afternoon and hiked out and slept well that night. The next day we fished the Lamar River. Mountain Men would have found our big hike into Slough Creek a piece of cake.

## **FFNWF CLUB MEETING - 2 FEBRUARY 2021 - Minutes**

**ATTENDANCE:** President Bob Myers, Vice President Mike Milo, Secretary George Norton, Treasurer Larry Sisney, Member-at-Large Steve Hoffmann, Member-at-Large Cindi Myers, Website/Facebook Cliff Newton, Project Healing Waters, PHW Steering, Christmas Party Jim White, Newsletter Paul Wargo, Nominating Committee Cliff Newton, FFI George Norton

Call to Order: 1900

**President's Comments:** *"It was really nice to get the opportunity to spend some time together in person on 16 January. We had the opportunity to welcome new members Carmine Ricciardi and Tom Dempsey and to catch up after months of time apart. For the near term our monthly schedule will look similar; Club Meeting and Fly Tying via ZOOM, and 3<sup>rd</sup> Saturdays outdoors in the park."*

### **Old Business:**

- 3<sup>rd</sup> Saturday in the Park has resumed for outdoor activities only, bring your own rod and lunch. Fly tying and gourmet lunches to resume at a date TBD.
- The call for a website manager is answered. Kent Reagan has invested a great deal of time and energy in updating the club's website. He has graciously agreed to continue in that important role.
- Articles for the newsletter are needed by club members for inclusion in the award-winning newsletter put out by Paul Wargo. Paul is particularly interested in articles involving favorite fly patterns and innovative fly-tying materials and patterns.

### **New Business:**

1. Presentation of 2021 Budget as approved by BOD/Committees. Treasurer Larry Sisney put together a club budget for 2021 that is well thought out and designed to meet the needs of the club during these uncertain times. The BOD and Committee chairs recommend approval. Motion by Jim and seconded by Mike and the Vote was 100%.
2. The Auction Committee will accept donated items at the clubhouse each 3<sup>rd</sup> Saturday, beginning with the February 20 gathering.

The club Facebook page ( <https://www.facebook.com/groups/1266369516829296/> ) has a link to the club website ( <https://ffnwf.org/> ) and now notes that we are a 501c organization. The FB page has a viewership of more than 200 people from around the globe. The Facebook page, website, and newsletter are each doing an excellent job of reaching those interested in fly fishing Northwest Florida. Good job Cliff, Kent, and Paul! Thank you.

## **Presentation: Bob Korose “Canada Pike 2019.”**

Bob and his long time fishing buddy from Houma, Louisiana traveled to the Great Slave Lake of the Northwest Territory in Canada for a shot at catching one of the world’s largest Northern Pike which exceed 50 inches. A forty incher is considered a trophy size pike. Bob and Ted landed several over forty inches.

Bob flew from Pensacola to Dallas to Calgary, Alberta, Canada where they spent the night. In Calgary they took a prop plane to Yellowknife, where they connected with a float plane to the Trout Fork Wilderness Lodge. A cold front roared thru upon their arrival and canceled the fishing the next day. Bob and Ted tied flies and thankfully the weather cleared the next day.

Great Slave Lake has the perfect environment for generating giant pike. Islands, massive shallow grass flats and deep water with white fish for forage all produce big fish. Bob went prepared with three rods in 8-9-10 weights with both floating and intermediate lines.

Bob adapted much of what he learned in Argentina fly-fishing for Dorado using both top water and large streamers. A forty-pound wire bite tippet and a jaw extender to unhook the pike prevented losing a finger. Black and purple streamers on dark overcast days, and lighter colors on bright sunny days produced best, though “a hungry pike will eat about anything including young ducklings.”

Every morning after breakfast Bob and Ted left with their guide in a Jon boat with large decking. After a successful morning of fishing, their guide prepared a fire and cooked the smaller pike for a shoreline lunch which were just as delicious as walleye. They fished all afternoon and at night enjoyed the company of the other 14 anglers in the Lodge over supper.

The Trout Rock Wilderness Lodge limits guests to sixteens. The prime times are right after ice out in May. Even though the Lodge is open year round, fly fishing for pike lasts about six to eight weeks because pike move to deeper water in the summer. Bob booked his trip thru “Fishing with Larry.” Fly fishers come from all over the world and many come back every year.

The presentation’s highlights were the photos of Bob holding a giant pike and his blow by blow account of the annual pike tournament on July 5-7th. Bob and Ted faced off against veteran pike fisherman, many of whom come back every year but they pulled off an upset and the two pike fly fishing rookies knocked off the experts! Bob pulled in a 44-inch pike as time ran out which put them over the top into the winner’s circle. Their names will forever reign in the Lodge’s trophy room and they won an ice fishing auger, which they generously donated to their guide. Congratulations Bob and Thanks for another great presentation!

A motion to adjourn Made by: Cindi Myers and seconded by: Larry Sisney at 2040