

Flies & Lies

NEWSLETTER OF THE FLYFISHERS
OF NORTHWEST FLORIDA
MAY 2011

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MONTHLY MEETINGS

Meetings at Miraflores Park
17th Avenue between
Belmont and LaRua

BUSINESS MEETING

1ST TUESDAY, 7 PM

BULL SESSION

2ND THURSDAY, 6:30
PM

CASTING & TYING CLINIC

3RD SATURDAY, 9 AM

President's Message.... Tom Birdwell

What a great Fly Fishing club we have! In the past 2-3 years our hardworking membership committees have almost doubled our membership. With many new members there have been changes. Some of these new members are long time fly fishers, but most are new to our sport. It is up to the more experienced members to help our new members.

The casting program under John Brand is great, and Tom Regina's fly tying instruction is second to none. Our newsletter "Flies & Lies", is a good one thanks to long-time editor, Jerry Aldridge. Learning to tie fresh and saltwater flies and catching fish on flies that you have tied is very special. Russ Shields heads our over all Fly Fishing instructional program with help from club members. This program helps "wannabes" get started on the right foot.

Our Saturday Clinics and lunches are well attended, Kudos Art Detonnancourt our chefs. Jerry Giles is working on a Kayak river fishing trip and Terry McCormick is planning a Kayak "show and tell" program. We need more time fishing, If you have ideas for a fresh or saltwater fishing trip please let us know. If you'd like to plan our club future fishing trips: we have a job for you!

Fly fishers have long been known for their courtesy and sharing on the water and a willingness to allow differing opinions regarding flies, time to fish, places to fish and other less important issues.

Board of Director's meeting, 6 PM, May 3rd. Good fishing, Tom.

VP's Corner.... Terry McCormick



There are some exciting times ahead for the club business meetings. In May we will have Mr. **Matt Wegener** (pictured), a flyfisherman and biologist with FWC to talk about what FWC is doing in local fisheries.

June is the annual auction. Remember that we need your donations and participation. A good time will be had by all.

In July let's "Yak about Kayaks". Bring your kayak if you have one and let's compare notes. If you're thinking of getting into kayak fishing, this may provide some of the answers you need.

If you haven't been attending the Tuesday night meetings lately, come on back. Fishing and fun is also coming back.

Freddie Thronson sends this note, "Hope to be back with the group soon. I am in Germany now on my way back to the states from my deployment to Afghanistan. I have a back injury that will need surgery."

Business Meeting, Fly Fishers Of Northwest Florida, April 5, 2011, President Tom Birdwell, presiding

FFNWF BOARD AND MEMBERSHIP MEETING APRIL 5, 2011

There was no board meeting for lack of a quorum.

General Membership Meeting

The meeting was opened by President Tom Birdwell at 6:10 with 11 members present. A guest, Dan Storey was introduced. The program was presented by Dennis Craig, President of the Ocean Springs Fly Fishing Club on fishing the outer islands around the Ms. Gulf Coast.

Minutes from the March meeting and the treasurers report were read and approved.

Jerry Giles made a motion that each year the Board of directors notify delinquent members by letter that unless dues were paid within a specified time that their membership in the club would be terminated. Motion was passed. President Tom reported that Mitch Abernathy asked not to be made an honorary member of the club. A motion was made not to grant his request and make him an honorary member. Motion was passed.

Jay Williams made a request that the members consider volunteering for the office of Treasurer for the 2012 year. President Tom pointed out that the chairman position of the fishing trip committee is presently vacant and asked for a volunteer.

Paul Wargo suggested that we promulgate information about the upcoming club auction for the benefit of the new members.

Jerry Giles asked that we do something about vacant committee chairmanships because it effects the number of directors who are needed to make a quorum. It was suggested that we suspend some committees without chairmen until there is a need for them and a chairman is appointed. No action was taken.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned.

John Fitzgerald, Secretary

Casting & Tying at the Club.... Tom Regina

May 12 - Bull session 6:30 PM. Joe Higgins will lead us in tying the Redfish Slider.

May 21 - Monthly Casting and Tying Clinic, 9 AM until about 1 PM. Casting instruction and practice with John Brand. Fly tying the "Y2K" with Jerry Giles.

Your club will provide all tying materials to tie both flies. If you have them, bring your vise and tools. The club can also provide a vise and tools for you and your guests. The recipe and tying instructions for both flies can be found in this newsletter. Bring your long rod to the Saturday casting clinic. Club fly rods/reels are also available for you and your guest. Free lunch will be provided at the Saturday casting and tying clinic. Beverages are available for \$1 at all club bull sessions, clinics, and meetings.

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AUCTION JUNE 7TH

We are looking for donations of all things flyfishing. Please hold your items until the day of the auction if possible. I will have the club house open by 5:00 pm the day of the auction for donations and browsing. If you will not be able to attend, I will take your items early. Remember everyone can help. Make a dozen or so flies, donate a fishing trip if you have a boat, bring or buy a book. If you've upgraded your equipment let us have your old stuff. Come early and stay late, spend some money and have fun....Terry McCormick

Russ Shields will donate this beautifully crafted tying cabinet to the club auction. The workmanship is exquisite. You can expect spirited bidding for the cabinet and other high quality fishing "stuff".

Y2K Bug... Tom Regina

Google "Y2K Bug"... It is hard to find a reference to the Y2K Bug fly on-line. What you will find are hundreds of references to dooms day; the end of life as we know it; or the end of the world... as many predicted would happen on January 1, 2000. As it turned out the dooms day prediction reliability was zero. However the Y2K fly has great reliability as a trout catcher.

I was introduced to the Y2K Bug by bamboo fly rod maker W.S. (Bill) Oyster. Bill lives only a few yards from the Toccoa River in northwestern Georgia where he uses the Y2K with great success. I have also had wonderful days of catching many trout on the Tuckasegee River in the mountains of western North Carolina using the Y2K Bug.

I fish the Y2K with a quartering upstream cast, mending line as necessary to keep the fly bouncing along the river bottom with a drag free drift. At the end of the drift allow the fly to swing downstream. You will get many takes as the fly rises off the river bottom. I find it helpful to apply a sinking agent such as Loon's "Henry's Sinket Wetting Agent" to the Y2K. The hydrophilic (Having affinity for water.) properties of the sinket helps the fly break the waters surface tension and sink more rapidly.

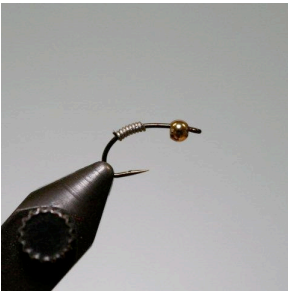
The Y2K Bug can be tied in hook sizes from about 18 to 10 and in various trout or salmon egg colors. We will tie the Y2K in a sizes 12 and 10 and in pink.

Tying Materials

Hook:	Musted C49S, size 12 and 10
Bead:	7/64-inch gold
Weight:	.015 lead free wire
Thread:	6/0 white or color to match Glo Bugs yarn
Body:	Pink Glo Bugs yarn

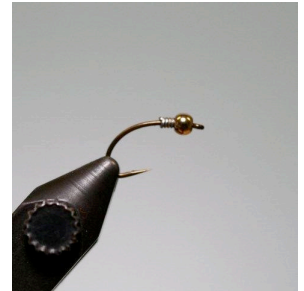


Tying Instructions



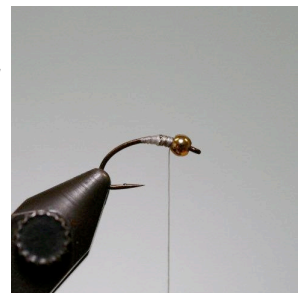
1. Debarb the hook. Place a bead on the hook and secure the hook in the vise. Cut about a 3-inch length of lead free wire from the spool. Make eight wraps of wire around the hook shank, between the bead and the hook bend.

2. The front wire wraps will go inside the bead countersunk hole. Move the bead back over the front wire wraps.



3. With your thumb nail or a suitable tool, from the back of the wire wraps, slide the wire and bead tight up against the hook eye. *Note: The lead free wire serves two purposes. One; it holds the bead in place tight against the hook eye and two; it adds weight to the fly which it turn helps keep the fly bouncing along the stream bottom.* Using a jam knot, start the thread directly in back of and adjacent to the rear wire wraps. In neat touching turns wrap a thread base back to a position directly above the hook point.

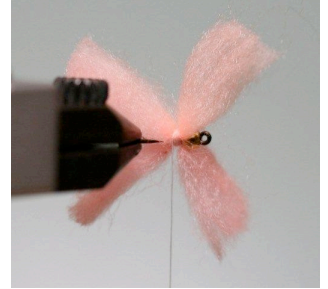
4. Wrap the thread forward forming a tapered thread ramp to the level of the wire wraps. Lay a single thread wrap in the space between each wire wrap with only a half thread wrap at the back of the bead.



5. Cut one 3-inch length of Glo Bugs yarn from the skein. Split the piece of cut yarn in half lengthwise. *Note: After tying several Y2K Bugs you will be able to judge the correct amount of yarn needed.* Tie one piece of yarn, at its middle, to the top of the hook directly in back of and adjacent to the bead with two light overlapping thread wraps. When you pull straight up on the thread bobbin to tighten the tie-on thread wraps the yarn will tend to migrate to the far side of the hook. You may have to use your fingers to help move the yarn to the far side of the hook or keep it from migrating to far around the far side of the hook.

YZK Bug.... Tom Regina (continued)

6. In the same manner tie the second piece of yarn to the near side of the hook with two tight overlapping thread wraps. With this piece of yarn however, start the tie-on close to the bottom of the hook shank. Again, as you tighten the thread the yarn will tend to migrate toward the near side of the hook and may require some manipulation with your fingers. Pinch the two pieces of yarn at the tie-on thread wraps and take two more tight overlapping thread wraps around both pieces of yarn and the hook being careful not to allow the yarn pieces to migrate away from the sides of the hook.



7. Lift the four yarn "legs" up, forward, and out of the way and take several neat thread wraps around the hook shank back to a position directly above the hook point. Let the bobbin hang at this point. Separate the four yarn legs to form an X.



8. With your thumb, index, and middle fingers, fold the two front legs back while at the same time, and with the same fingers, grasp the two rear legs. Pull all four legs back and parallel to the hook shank. Pinch and stretch the yarn while taking several tight overlapping thread wraps around the yarn legs and hook at the thread hang point. Do not allow the yarn to migrate beyond the sides of the hook. Use an extended-reach whip-finish tool to tie off the thread with about four or five whip-finish wraps at the thread hang point. Cut away the thread and apply a small amount of head cement to the whip-finish thread wraps being careful not to get cement on the yarn legs. Pull and stretch the four yarn legs straight back over the hook bend. With one clean scissor stroke, slightly beyond the back of the hook, cut away the excess yarn.

Let's Go Fishing!

Where: Blackwater River near Harold, Fl. Sixteen (16) miles east of Milton, n Hwy. 90.

How: Blackwater Canoes will rent us kayaks or canoes.

How much?: Canoe--\$21.00, Kayak \$26 Short, \$28 Long.

Float ordinarily takes four (4) hours but will last longer fishing.

When?: 8 A.M., June 24th., Friday. They require notice of the number of participants, so I will ask for a firm commitment the first week of June. Other details will be provided at that time.

Contact Jerry Giles, by e-mail at: flyfisherman1942@att.net, and I will pencil you in!

The Board is seeking a successor for **Larry Sisney, as Treasurer**, to take office in January, 2012 . No bond is required, and Larry will facilitate turning over the reins. The job entails keeping the checkbook, the bank account, presenting a monthly meeting report to the Board, and working up an annual budget with the Board. You ARE needed. Interested? Please contact Jay Williams, 572-2624.

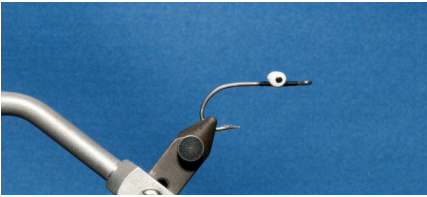
Redfish Slider... Joe Higgins

MATERIALS

Hook	Mustad 3407 size 2, 1, or 1/0
Thread	3/0 Tan or black
Eyes	Small Dumbbell
Tail	Tan Craft Fur
Sparkle	Copper Krystal Flash
Body	2 Brown Hackles
Wing	Tan Craft Fur
Face	Green Craft Fur



TYING INSTRUCTIONS



1. Secure hook in vise hook point down. Start thread behind hook eye and wrap to middle of hook shank, then back to about 2 hook eye widths from hook eye. Tie on eyes.



2. Wrap thread back just past hook point. Tie on a clump of tan craft fur about the length of the hook shank.



3. Tie on 2 or 3 strands of copper krystal flash and adjust so they run along side the tail.



4. Tie on 2 brown hackle feathers at the butt ends.



5. Attach both tips together with hackle pliers and palmer the hackles around hook to just behind eyes. Tie off and clip excess. Take thread to front of eye and tie off with a half hitch. **DO NOT** cut thread. Turn hook up side down in vise and tie on a clump of tan craft fur for the wing.



6. Tie on a smaller amount of green craft fur for the face of the fly. Wrap the thread for a neat head, tie off.

NOTE: The newsletter staff forgot to turn the fly upside down in the vise in the photos accompanying steps 5. and 6. Please do so when you tie the fly.

Fishing Report... Captain Baz Velverton

April has been a challenging month with the fly rods mostly due to wind. A sizeable shore break has kept us from pompano fishing, but outside the inner bar has been calm enough to drift or pole looking for jack crevalle. Four clients got the fly in front of jacks, and two were able to hook and land fish. It's amazing how many things can go wrong in the few seconds before a school of jack crevalle moves into casting range. One client actually took my hat off with a 3/0 popper (barb up!) as the fish moved into range. Another tried and tried but just couldn't throw the fly far enough with his 12wt to have a decent chance. That night he emailed me with the news that all day he'd had his 12 wt reel on a 7wt rod. A really *good* guide might've noticed that...



The first client who made it happen was Jeff Voigt from Spokane, WA, on April 14. Jeff fought this fish masterfully with almost no drag, palming the reel with a gloved hand to apply the necessary resistance. A few days later on April 18 Ken Hutchison, Nampa, ID, landed the next fish on a 3/0 white popper. Since then the Gulf waves have been in the 2-4' range making things difficult. We need a good cold front to flatten things out and move the fish to the beach, and that should happen the end of next week.



We've been seeing a lot of trout and redfish on the inside flats, but man is it hard to get them to eat the fly! We've thrown everything in the box at them, and the only decent fish landed was this redfish Hutch landed April 20 on a gray/white Puglisi baitfish. In desperation I had Hutch's fishing partner Greg Fisher break out the spinning rod, and he caught fish after fish on live shrimp...so they WILL eat. On one flat Greg landed and released five trout the smallest



one measuring 23". Here he is with a typical beauty. Maybe It's the moon...fishing pressure...whatever, but I hope it changes soon.



I'm pleased to report the big Spanish mackerel have moved back into the bay, and we're finding them in the usual places. It's "hit and miss" at the moment but should get better as more fish move in from the Gulf. Greg Catalano, Acton, MA, caught and released this fish at Town Point on April 17. It was good to see Jerry Aldridge and Tom Finkle there that day. Jerry had the big Spanish going after a Gartside gurgler. You'll have to ask Jerry and Tom about that; I'm sure it was fun to watch.

The missing piece for me has been the pompano. Usually we land 4 or 5 fish each spring on fly, and it hasn't happened yet. I'm hoping this next cold front will make a difference.

Hate to close on a sad note, but I think the big redfish have mostly moved out. We landed one on April 12, but haven't seen a big school along the beach since. Similarly, the fish are "few and far between" on the sandbars close to the pass. I've seen a lot of fly-fishermen on those bars lately and wonder if some of our friends from Alabama might've gotten the word through our newsletter. I'll have to be more careful in the future. See you out there. Capt Baz

Saltwater Fly Fishing... Skeet Lores

Editor's Note: Skeet originally wrote this article for "The Sense of it All", a local interest magazine currently distributed in Mobile and Baldwin Counties. Thanks for sharing it with us, Skeet.

Saltwater Fly Fishing
By Skeet Lores

When most people think of fly-fishing, they think of fishing mountain streams for rainbow trout or skipping a popping bug across lily pads in pursuit of bass or bream. Those that are aware of saltwater fly-fishing tend to think it is for tarpon or bonefish in areas like the Florida Keys or Bahamas, but most are not aware of the wide variety of saltwater fish that will take a fly right here in our local waters. They include redfish, speckled trout, spanish mackerel, king mackerel, dolphin (the Mahi-Mahi type), skipjacks or ladyfish, bonita and even pompano. In fact pretty much any fish that will take a lure will take a fly and in some cases they will take a fly even if they won't take a lure.

The major difference between freshwater and saltwater fly-fishing is in the "flies". In freshwater, most of the flies are imitations of insects—everything from gnats to grasshoppers, but in saltwater, most of the flies are imitations of minnows, shrimp or crabs. These flies can look pretty realistic and can be designed to look like they are moving even when they are sitting still—something a hungry speck or redfish just can't resist. In addition, because of their lightweight, they can be delivered very softly right in front of the fish without spooking it.

The rods and casting are a couple other aspects of saltwater fly-fishing that are a little different from their freshwater counterparts. Fly rods are made in a variety of weights to be able to cast heavier lines and flies. Freshwater rods typically range from 0 to 5 weight, while saltwater rods typically range from 6 to 12 weight, although I have seen some as heavy as 15 weight (these were being used to catch yellow fin tuna). Casting distances in freshwater are often only 30 to 40 ft, while in saltwater, distances are usually at least 60 to 80 ft and having the ability to make cast over 100 ft can significantly increase your chances of hooking up.

Saltwater fly-fishing is the kind of activity in which you can become totally immersed—to the point that you can forget about anything else in the world for a while. Whether it is while looking for the telltale signs of your prey—unexplained ripples or a glint of sunlight off a tail or fin; making that perfect cast—close enough to be seen but not too close; or focusing on tying your flies—getting those feathers and fur to lay just right; or best of all—landing that big fish, saltwater fly-fishing offers a wide variety of way to get lost in a world of your own in a very enjoyable way. Even practicing your casting can be relaxing and therapeutic.

Getting started in saltwater fly-fishing can be a little overwhelming to a beginner, but there are some fly-fishing clubs that can make that task a little less daunting. In Pensacola, there is the Fly Fishers of North West Florida (P.O. Box 1041, Pensacola, FL, 32591 or on the web at www.flyfishpensacola.com) and they even offer classes for beginners that includes casting as well as fly tying lessons and information on fly selection, where and how to fish. In Fairhope, there is a relatively new club called the Eastern Shore Fly Fishers (www.easternshoreflyfishers.com) and the president is Spencer Johnson, the owner of a fly-fishing shop in Fairhope called the Church Mouse (phone 251-928-1619).

Fly tying can be a rewarding part of fly-fishing whether it is for saltwater or freshwater, but saltwater fly tying is a little easier in my opinion—the hooks are a little bigger and easier to see—those size 23 hooks are hard enough to see, much less getting those gnat wings on straight! There are thousands of saltwater fly patterns, but the best all around fly for saltwater is the Clouser Minnow, it is a relatively simple fly and can be tied in a variety of colors and sizes. Probably the next minnow imitation is the Deciever, it is a little more complex to tie, but is a very effective fly. There are also a number of really good shrimp imitations that work great on specks, however, some of the best flies are not an imitation of anything in particular—like the Seaducer. My favorite part of fly tying is gathering the materials—deer tails, squirrel tails, duck feathers, turkey feathers—who knew preparation could be so much fun.

Most modern fly rods are made of graphite and are very light and fast. Fast refers to the speed that the rod returns to position when flexed, the speed of modern rods makes it possible to cast very tight loops and that helps make long cast. Many older rods were made of bamboo and some of the best older bamboo rods are highly sought after by collectors. Bamboo rods are not as fast as modern graphite rods but they are very pleasing to cast. Because they are not as fast, they are actually easier to cast for the beginner since the timing does not have to be as perfect. Several of the members of FFNWF have made their own bamboo rods at a class taught by Bill Oyster (www.Oysterbamboo.com) He is a self-taught bamboo rod builder that teaches a weeklong class for 6 people in his shop in Georgia. His classes cost \$1390, but at the end of the class, you will have a hand made bamboo rod that will be tailored to your preferences and an heirloom that can be passed down for generations. Bill Oyster also sells bamboo fly rods that he has built—they go for a little under \$2000 to a little under \$5000—depending on the amount of engraving and special features.

Once you have the necessary equipment; fly rod, fly reel, fly line and flies, and have mastered the art of fly casting, you are ready to have some fun with the fishes! One of the best things about fly fishing is that you can feel the fish so much better than with spinning rods—you really can almost tell what kind of fish is on because you can feel it so much better. One of my favorite places to fly fish is the Fort Pickens side of Pensacola Pass on the north side of the point. I have caught hundreds of fish there—often in a single afternoon. Most of what I caught there was Spanish mackerel, ladyfish,

Saltwater Fly Fishing... Skeet Loes (continued)

and bluefish, but I have also caught bonita and redfish. Fly-fishing also works great under the lights around docks for specks and redfish and the lightweight of the fly does not spook the fish like spin-fishing lures will. Saltwater fly-fishing does not require a boat since many of the fish that take a fly are found in shallow water, but for those that do not have a boat and want to go after some bigger fish, there are a number of fishing guides in the area that cater to fly fishermen. Baz Yelverton (www.GulfBreezeGuideService.com) is one of the best in the Pensacola Area. The Eastern Shore Fly Fishers has a couple local fly fishing guides listed on their website—Capt Dan Kolenich and Capt. Jack Teague.

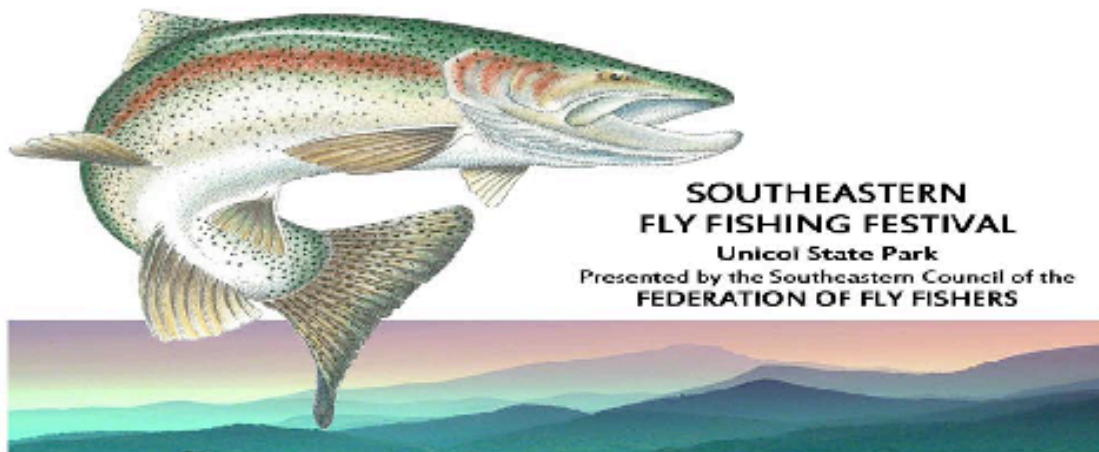
Thanks to Club Volunteers

We have just completed one of the most successful Fly Fishing Courses in many years, measured by the number of students who completed all eight weeks. The credit for this goes to the many volunteers who helped out in the casting and tying phases of the course: We simply could not have done it without your help. In the beginning, when we first contemplated the course for this year we pleaded for volunteer help and you all came thru. From the early stages of advertising on the website and in the Pensacola News Journal, to the very end of the course OUR Club should be very proud of what WE were able to accomplish. You made my job easy to do. In the very finest sense of the words: WELL DONE....Russ Shields



APRIL CLINIC PHOTOS





**SOUTHEASTERN
FLY FISHING FESTIVAL**

Unicoi State Park

Presented by the Southeastern Council of the
FEDERATION OF FLY FISHERS

The South Eastern Council of the *Federation of Fly Fishers* will host the **Southeastern Flyfishing Festival** Thursday-Saturday, **June 2 - 4, 2011** at the **Unicoi State Park Lodge** and grounds in **Helen, Georgia**.


Check out UNICOI SPL on YouTube at <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=AaemJy67yZ8>

The Festival will feature flyfishing greats such as **Ed Jaworowski, Jim Casada, Jimmy Jacobs, Oscar Feliu** and many, many more presenting programs and seminars about all facets of the wonderful sport of flyfishing. They will also have forty of the best regional fly-tiers demonstrating their art and many Commercial Exhibitors showing the latest in flyfishing goodies. A **"Fishing With The Stars" fun day** is planned for Thursday, June 2nd, a **"Blind Woolly-Bugger"** fly-tying contest on Friday and Saturday June 3rd & 4th, **free casting competition will be open to all** (with some great prizes) on Saturday, June 4th.

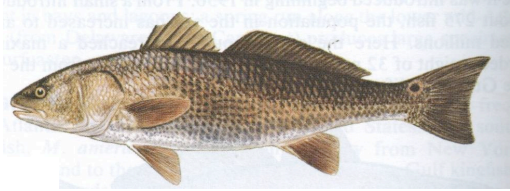
Details of all the events are available at www.fffsec.org . Click on the Southeastern Flyfishing Festival tab at the top of the webpage or call Mike Arnold, Festival Chair at 859-240-5839.

The South Eastern Council of the Federation of Fly Fishers is a non-profit, tax exempt Educational and Conservation resource since 1991.

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FLY FISHERS

OF NORTHWEST FLORIDA

**PO BOX 1041
 PENSACOLA, FL 32591**



MAY 2011

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
1	2 Business Meeting 7 PM	3	4	5	6	7
8	9	10	11 Bull Session-Tying & Tall Tales 6:30 PM	12	13	14
15	16	17	18	19	20	21 Clinic - Casting, tying, gourmet lunch 9 AM
22	23	24	25	26	27	28
29	30					