



# Flies and Lies

Newsletter of the Fly Fishers of Northwest Florida

May, 2020

## FFNWF

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

### PRESIDENT

David Handley  
[dmhandley@gmail.com](mailto:dmhandley@gmail.com)  
(850) 417-9233

### VICE-PRESIDENT

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

### SECRETARY

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

### TREASURER

Jay Brykczynski  
(850) 232-7504  
[jaybryk@yahoo.com](mailto:jaybryk@yahoo.com)

### NEWSLETTER

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

### 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

## Due to the virus crisis - All Club Activities remain on hold until further notice.

**However, plans are being made:**

**From President Dave Handley:**

### The Auction

The BOD and Committees are working diligently to get our annual auction to take place. Currently we have two (2) PHW and one (1) FFNWF volunteers to sort through donated items, separate into categories, and then catalog major items that could be auctioned in virtual manner. This cataloging of items proved invaluable in the sales by credit card, honchoed by Cyndi Myers.

Three points still need to be resolved:

1. **Where** can the donated items be collected ahead of time
2. **Where** will the auction be held,
3. **When** will it be held,

Other volunteer(s) will need to step forward to work this to completion. Steve Hofmann will serve as Auction Committee Lead. Because of our current restrictions on use of the Boy Scout House we are asking individuals to provide a description of items being donated via email. The format is:

Item Description	Item Details	Estimated Value	Donor's name	A picture is extra credit.
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This information will be placed into a spreadsheet so please include all information. The spreadsheet will be the sales record for the auction. Send a description of what you would like to donate to Steve Hofmann [smanhof94@gmail.com](mailto:smanhof94@gmail.com)

Stay tuned. The rest of the President's Report follows:

## **From President Dave Handley: (cont.)**

**The Coronavirus** that impacted the State of Florida, the United States of America, and the Fly Fishers of Northwest Florida. To this end Governor Ron DeSantis declared a state of emergency for the entire state, the City of Pensacola following suit. Throughout the country, gatherings are being limited to the number of people allowed to attend and the overall directive has been "stay home."

Our club is made up of a lot of people over 60. The online news, TV and radio have harkened the mortality rates within the older age groups and those who have compromised immune systems. In view of this, all FFNWF activities at the Boy Scout House were canceled, with the last function being fly tying/bull session Thursday evening 12 March. For that function a hand sanitizing station was setup at the front door, everyone entering had hands sprayed with alcohol.

**Fly Fishing Class:** The Fly Fishers of Northwest Florida Introduction to Fly Fishing Course due to start Monday 16 March 2020 is now scheduled for 8 September 2020 at 6:00PM. This will allow four sessions in September and four in October.

**Jonas:** We have been informed that our renown casting Instructor, Jonas Magnusson is moving to the Tampa area. His wife has accepted a position there. His loss will leave a hole in our club not only for his casting instruction but also his friendship. We intend to present accolades for his service to the club and our sport. The timing of the presentation must be worked out.

**Newsletter** :If you have gone fishing write-up a few paragraphs with a picture or two. Send them to Paul Wargo Editor of the FFNWF Newsletter. It doesn't matter if you caught fish or not, discuss the trip, weather, water. Your input when read by your fellow club members may be just the thing that helps them get through the day.

**Website** Kent Reagan is doing the work of many migrating to the new website platform. In a short preview he has arranged past newsletters into a format allow direct references by month and year. This new platform will allow security of our information and present exciting features for the future.

**Stay Safe and Tight Lines.** If you have questions and/or concerns feel free to contact any member of the FFNWF Board of Directors.

*Dave*

David M. Handley PhD.

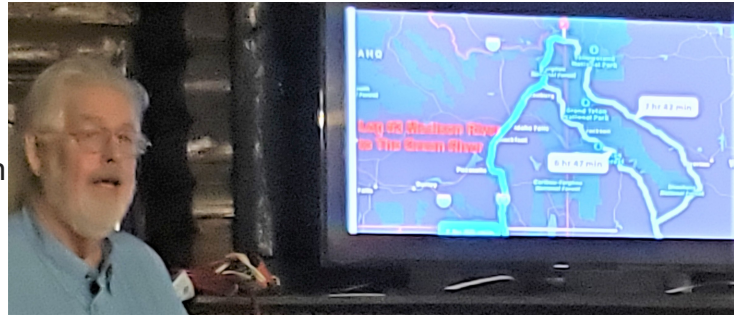
## Pictures from March (seems so long ago.....)



Bob Myers with daughter, Stephanie



Capt Unk Smith presented on his 2019 trip to Bozeman, Montana to attend the FFI Expo. He focused on a Spring Creek in Rapid City, hopper fishing on the Madison, the North Platte River below the Miracle Mile and dry flies on the Green River in Utah. Thank you, Unk!



## New Ramp at the Clubhouse!



Gary Pheabus played a major role in getting the installation of this ramp, working behind the scenes. He deserves the acknowledgment of our club and the Pensacola Chapter of Project Healing Waters for his efforts. *Dave*

# Fishing with Capt. Baz

This has been the nicest April in memory with plenty of sunshine and clear water. Water temperature got up to the high 70's earlier in the month but dropped back down to 70 a couple days ago. The fish are active. There are plenty of redfish and schools of big trout on the flats, schools of pompano and Spanish mackerel running the shore break, and migrating jack crevalle that have moved into Santa Rosa Sound and Pensacola Bay for the summer.

Most of my clients postponed their trips, so I've been wade-fishing with my antique 6wt Sage RPL whenever possible. I've caught redfish on every trip and landed one very large trout in a foot of water last week. I don't carry a camera, so you'll have to take my word for it. I finally got skunked yesterday for the first time this month after standing for two hours in the midst of at least fifty redfish. The fish were actively bottom-feeding in 2-3' of water, but they were not interested in anything I threw at them. I did get some follows on a baitfish pattern and missed the hookset on a couple short-strikes, but they really didn't want what I was offering. I finally picked off a nice trout from a school of about twenty, and it came to the surface, shook its head, and threw the fly. That was it; I gave up and went home.



We did catch and photograph some nice redfish this month . Here's a shot of Jay Lanier with a typical spring shallow-water redfish. Jay hooked a 20 pounder a little later, but the barbless hook came unbuttoned after about 10 minutes. Jonas and I sneaked off sometime mid-month and found a nice bunch of fish on one of our favorite flats on the north side of the island. The fish were spooky, but Jonas got this one to eat Capt Dan's new shrimp fly.

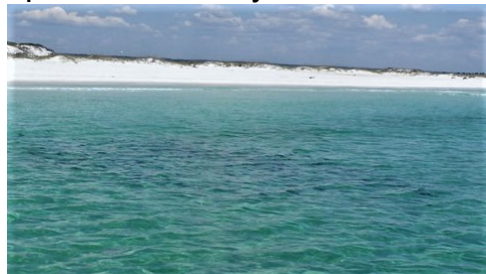


Speaking of Capt Dan...he, my brother Dave, and I took off to parts unknown last week for a 6wt Redfish Shootout. What fun! Dan won by coaxing this fine specimen to eat his own "One Cast Love Affair" gray/white baitfish. Out of a school of 10 redfish the big one ate the fly... How often does *THAT* happen?? Dave took second place honors with his first-ever redfish on a 6wt. I landed the first redfish of the day which is worth something...isn't it? No photo of course.

April 5 was a drop-dead gorgeous, bluebird day with a light northerly breeze and plenty of sunshine. Capt Dan had called the night before to report schools of FA close to shore by Portofino, so I planned to run all the way down there for some serious 8wt fun. My client was Andrew Cryer who was a Colorado guide for a few years before recently relocating to Pensacola. Andrew's a good caster but with very limited saltwater experience. He had always dreamed of standing on the bow of a flats skiff, fly rod in hand, while the guide poled the shallows. This was going to be the day to make it happen! I figured we would break him in on the FA and then hit the beach for redfish and pompano. But of course after running 30 miles (!) the FA didn't appear...no birds, no surface activity, nada. We were in beautiful water

ten miles east of Portofino, and I decided to come off plane and just idle along inside the outer bar and watch the beach.

Before too long we saw a school of big fish milling around on the surface a few hundred yards ahead of us. I killed the engine and quietly poled the skiff while young Andrew stepped up on the bow fly rod in hand. As we got closer we realized it was a big school of jacks



daisy-chaining with their fins and tails out of the water fifty feet from shore. Here's a photo which doesn't do it justice... When we were a hundred yards away Andrew turned to me and said "I'm shaking all over!".

What a moment. He made a few practice casts with the 10wt to get the feel of it, and I was



relieved to see him double-hauling and sending a tight loop 60-70' from the boat. When we eased into casting range he laid out a nice cast dropping the big popper ahead of the fish and started popping it. The jacks were interested but wouldn't eat. We tried again, and they just followed it back to the boat...curious but non-committal. We let them settle down while I changed to a big mullet "slider", and that did the trick. This fish crushed it on the first cast, and the whole school took off with Andrew's fish in the middle of them. He landed it after about 20 minutes and enjoyed resuscitating it after the photo. We found the school a quarter mile down the beach, and a much more relaxed Andrew put a second fish in the boat. The four hour trip was over, and we enjoyed a fabulous cruise back along the beach.



I'll close with one last shot of a school of jacks in Santa Rosa Sound. Jonas had just broken one off after a 15 minute fight and was tying on another fly when they came under the boat. I was on the platform with my camera...for once.

**Capt Baz**

## Fishing with Capt. Dave



I placed 3<sup>rd</sup> out of 3 in an All-Guide 6-weight shootout last week versus Baz Yelverton and Dan Storey. That made me the Last Place Winner! We all caught and released beautiful and healthy redfish.

**Captain Dave Yelverton**      [captdave@gulfbreezefishing.com](mailto:captdave@gulfbreezefishing.com)  
Gulf Breeze Fishing Charters, LLC  
<https://gulfbreezefishing.com> 850-203-0025 or 704-619-2685 cell

**Welcome!** We are happy to welcome Capt. Dave to our club. He is officially now a member!  
(We'll stick with Baz and give Dave 2<sup>nd</sup> place)

## Fishing Reports



On March 30th, while practicing social distancing, I was fishing alone on the west end of Gulf Breeze. I hadn't been out in awhile due to weather and this was a marginal day due to wind, but I had been cooped up too long. I was trying to work a drift looking for Spanish and had caught a couple of 16 inchers. I circled back around to the area I had found them and anchored up because I was moving too fast. I was casting off the back of the boat when I hooked up and I knew it was big. I was using an 8wt with a wire leader and a size 1 tan and olive Clouser with yellow eyes ( of course). I

knew I had to play the fish and not horse it or I'd brake off or snap my rod. Mean while I had to lift the trolling motor and pull up the anchor and fight the fish. After a comedy of incidences and 20 minutes, I was able to land a beautiful 38 inch Red Fish. Hopefully when we meet again, I will be able to show everyone the video.

***Terry McCormick***

**More from Terry:** The Fly Fishing Film Tour scheduled to take place in Destin on May 1 has been rescheduled for September 25. Maybe we can get a group to go?

Maybe by then we won't have to wear masks, but if we do I am ready!

**From the VP:** As I mentioned last month we are in uncharted waters, and yes, the future is still very murky. This was our previously planned schedule:

Apr – Tarpon Bob Korose presents “Catching Monster Pike in Canada” - Postponed

May – FFNWF Auction! To be Determined

Jun – Oleta Webb presents “Fishing in Montana” \*

Jul – Steve Hofmann presents “Fly Fishing Northern New Mexico and Southern Colorado”

Aug – Cap'n Dan Storey presents "Fly Fishing the Tamiami Trail"

Sep -Jim White presents "The History of Fly Fishing"

Oct– Terry McCormack presents "Fishing From the Shore"

Nov – Jonas Magnusson presents: "Implications of casting heavy flies."

Dec – Alex Bell presents "Western North Carolina Fishing Trail"



There may be some rearrangement of presentation schedules once club meetings resume. Jonas Thanks again for your willingness to share your knowledge and experiences. Please contact Bob Myers at (850)207-2070 to schedule your presentation.

Thanks, Bob Myers

## **Things to do for a Fly Fisherman during a 'Pandemic'!**

- Tie Flies - no fly fisherman ever has enough flies!
- Read fly fishing books by John Gierach, Lefty Kreh or others.
- Sort out and organize all fly boxes.
- Sharpen hook points on your favorite flies.
- Clean, inspect, repair or replace all damaged fly lines.

### **How to Clean & Care for Your Fly Lines**

Fly lines get dirty like everything else in the outdoors. Fishing out of a drift or skiff creates many problems as the fly line will pick up muck from the bottom of the boat, as well as invariably being stood on. Therefore, fly lines should be cleaned after being used for any length of time. During down-turn of the fishing season or when "**Pandemics**" hit, is an excellent opportunity to perform fly line cleaning.

### **Fly Line Cleaning**

There are basically two methods: the simple bucket wash (Or kitchen sink) and the one step paste cleaning treatment.

#### **(1) The simple bucket or kitchen -sink method:**

- Get some liquid dish soap, two buckets (or sink) of warm water, and two soft cloths.
- Add a few pumps of dish to one of the buckets and agitate to create bubbles.
- Pull your fly line off of your reel and place it in the bucket with the soapy water.
- Run one of the cloths along the line from one end to the other.
- Transfer the line to the bucket (sink) of clean water without soap to rinse.
- Use the second cloth to dry off the line as you remove it from the water. Also check for cracks.
- Re-spool the line back onto the reel.



NOTE: Rio Fly Lines has an excellent 2 part U-tube video series on this method.

#### **(2) One-step cleaning-treatment paste method:**

The second method is to purchase cleaning /treatment agent and a sponge type pad. Pull all the line off the reel and rewind the line back on using the pad soaked up with the cleaning/treatment agent. See the photos below. Scientific Anglers likes this method. Do not put too much pressure on the line when rewinding, as the heat generated in the cloth can distort a fly line. There are products on the market with pads and cleaning/treatment agents all in one package. Some line treatments can be used immediately some have to dry overnight, need to check the manufacturer's instructions.



### **Final Notes:**

**All** fly line manufacturers suggest **not** using any automotive products for cleaning fly lines. These products have chemicals in that will certainly de-plasticize the fly line, leaving it dry and cracked over time. Other agents to avoid getting on fly lines are insect repellent and sunscreen. Insect repellent (Deet) is murder on fly lines. Fly lines don't last forever. Eventually you'll notice radial cracks in the finish of your line, which signals that it's time to get a new one. Most fly lines last two / six years, depending on how hard you use them.

*Steve Hofmann*

### ***No Minutes – No Meeting...***

But George is still writing, and now our secretary is a published author:

<https://news.gulfbreezenews.com/articles/hooking-a-big-stingray/>