



# Flies and Lies

Newsletter of the Fly Fishers of Northwest Florida

May, 2021

## FFNWF

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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

## Getting closer.... To getting back in the clubhouse.

Meanwhile, a busy month ahead with anticipation building for the auction and everything else we have been missing:

## Wednesday – May 5 – Clubhouse Clean Up. 9:00 AM

Come if you can. But first:

## May Zoom Meeting – Tuesday, May 4 7:00 PM

The Speaker will be Steve Hofmann . . . . Subject will be “*Fly Fishing One of the Seven Wonders of the World . . . The Colorado River at Lees Ferry Arizona*”. The presentation will be a Power Point and plus a 9 minute video showing the area fly fishing techniques and stunning scenery.

## May Zoom Fly Tying – Thursday, May 13 6:00 PM

You won't need to go to Joe Patti's to get your shrimp

If you need a link to connect contact Lou Orrie at [tazgunr@hotmail.com](mailto:tazgunr@hotmail.com)

## May Casting Clinic – Saturday, May 15 9:00 AM

Note – same week as the Fly Tying

## Club Fly Fishing Trip: May 12, 2021

See the article on page 6

## Preview of the Auction Preview

We will have 13 fly rods from 5 to 12 weights . . . Brands like Scott, Sage, Thomas & Thomas and Orvis. We also have 2 bamboo rods. We have 11 Fly reels from 6 to 12 weights. Brands like: Tibor 'Billy Tate', Bauer, Hardy, Redington, Ross and Lampson.

See the whole Preview Article on page 3



**The Pres Says:** One of the lessons for me this past year has been to gain a deeper appreciation for the times, places, and people that have been placed in our life's path. Jim White authored a wonderful article (see the March and April newsletters) , a list of ten things that make our club great. Bottom line, our club has a long history of members helping members, coaching one another, and introducing new skills. As former President Karen Brand once said, "our club is a teaching club," and even with the challenges presented in the past year that continues to be the case. When you have the opportunity, drop by the clinic at the park on 3<sup>rd</sup> Saturdays. You'll have the chance to preview some auction items (maybe even test cast a rod) and the informal monthly updates shared are worth the time spent to get there.

Many of our members have received vaccinations, and it appears that access to Gulf Breeze is not too far away. Facilities coordinator Dave Handley has worked with the city to identify capacity numbers for the clubhouse. If you have the time available on May 5<sup>th</sup>, come out to the clubhouse for a few hours beginning at 9am. We'll do a bit of rearranging and cleaning.



Cyndi and I arrived in Gatlinburg on the front end of a three-day rainstorm early in April. Our 1<sup>st</sup> stop was at Smoky Mountain Angler fly shop. We arrived as they were cancelling weekend wading and float trips alike. Nevertheless, we had a nice visit and conversation while there. Returning to the panhandle it was a real treat to have the opportunity to fish with Bob Korose. Particularly rewarding was the opportunity to take a Spanish on the 1<sup>st</sup> Clouser that I



had ever tied (thanks to the fly-tying teachers of FFNWF and PHWFF-Pensacola). I had never fished it because I thought it was too clunky, but I remembered the advice of Jonas Magnusson, "let the fish be the judge". These experiences, and the images of Terry McCormick passing down the tradition to his granddaughter as they did a number on Spanish have been encouraging.



Monthly Meeting Schedule:

**General Meeting** – 1<sup>st</sup> Tuesday, 7 pm,

**Fly Tying** – 2<sup>nd</sup> Thursday 7 PM,

**Clinic** – 3<sup>rd</sup> Saturday, 9-12 AM,

**Board/Committee Chairs Meeting**-4th Thursday, 6:30PM,

**FISHING TRIPS** - AS SCHEDULED

Here's hoping that each of you can find the best way for you to truly make this your club. Tight loops, tight knots, and tight lines. *Bob M*

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**Save the Date: FFI Florida Council Expo 2021**

Dates: October 1-2, 2021

Location: Mission Inn, Howey-in-The-Hills, FL 34737

Gulf Coast is invited. More information as it becomes available. **Ron Bloomquist**

# Auction Preview

It's not too early to save up \$\$\$ for the 2021 Auction. As you noticed in last Month's Newsletter, the club was blessed with a treasure trove of high value items from the **Klaus Gohrbrandt family donation**.



The purpose of this short article is to alert you to the type of items that will be up for bid (either at the Christmas party or at the Fall Auction). We will have 13 fly rods from 5 to 12 weights . . . Brands like Scott, Sage, Thomas & Thomas and Orvis. We also have 2 bamboo rods. We have 11 Fly reels from 6 to 12 weights. Brands like: Tibor 'Billy Tate', Bauer, Hardy, Redington, Ross and Lampson. There are also 17 boxes (11"x7") of assorted flies; Approximately 1700 flies

in all. There other miscellaneous items like: fly lines, rod building supplies, leader building supplies, etc. Many items look like they've never been used. I plan on having some items like fly reels on a table for your observation during the Saturday casting clinics (except May) and at least one 8 weight fly rod on hand for practice casting. **Steve Hofmann**



Project Healing Waters Fly Fishing. Those materials will be put to very good use by the disabled veterans in our local program. Thank you Tom! **Jim White**

**PHWFF Corner** - Thank you to past FFNWF president and long time fly fisher Tom Regina for his very generous donation of much needed fly tying materials to our Pensacola program of

**FFI Corner** - Spring is here and the bugs are beginning to buzz. Time for a quick refresher on trout stream entomology. See this resource from the Fly Fishers International Learning Center - [https://flyfishersinternational.org/Portals/0/LearningCenter/Presentations/FlyFishingSkills/FFI\\_Comprehensive\\_Intro\\_to\\_Fly\\_Fishing.pdf](https://flyfishersinternational.org/Portals/0/LearningCenter/Presentations/FlyFishingSkills/FFI_Comprehensive_Intro_to_Fly_Fishing.pdf)

Skip ahead to slide 77 then review through slide 90 (yes, there will be a test!). These slides are a good tutorial on the natural sources of organic trout food we fly fishers spend so much time and money trying to emulate. **Jim White**



**FLY FISHERS  
INTERNATIONAL**

**Fishing with Capt. Baz** April started off nice, but things got interesting when heavy rains north of us flooded the rivers turning the bay into "chocolate milk" and Santa Rosa Sound into "strong iced tea". This shot of Monroe Mayfield with his first-ever redfish was from April 6. We were fishing the north side of the island and the tannin-stained water made it hard to see the fish. Later in the month when the river water arrived the visibility went to zero. You can find water clean enough for sight-fishing east of Portofino and to a lesser degree in the Big Lagoon. The water between the points and on the N side of the island is trashed and will need a week or so to straighten out.



The amazing thing is the Gulf has remained pretty nice. It's silty in some areas with plumes of mud, but there are plenty of stretches with clear enough water to see the redfish and pompano. This past month the shore break has been a problem. We've only been able to get out there a few times. The best day was April 19 for Chuck Banks, Austin, TX. We had full sun, a reasonable shore break, and plenty of redfish willing to eat the fly. Chuck hooked a monster on his antique T&T 8wt and fought it for *over an hour* before he ran out of juice and I tried to hand-line the fish to the surface. We were in about 15' of water, and I couldn't budge it. When the 16# broke we were both happy to see it go. The redfish was in the 30# range and appeared to be foul-hooked in a pectoral fin... We didn't have a chance. Fortunately, the school of fish was easy to find, and Chuck immediately hooked up and landed this beauty. He then surprised me by handing me the rod saying "your turn". Once again we found the school, and I got a 22 pounder to eat the tan/white clouser.



The forecast for the following day was for light winds, sunshine, and 1-2' seas. I could hardly wait to get out there with new client Ryan Malphurs. But instead the next morning was totally overcast, and as we rounded Pickens Point we found a solid 2-3' shore break with some 4-5 footers in the mix. There was lots of white water on the outer bar where the big waves were breaking. About the only thing we had in our favor was a long 5-7 second period between the waves. Plus, I was confident the fish would be where we had left them the day before. So we ran east just outside the breakers and drifted in the Battery Langdon area hoping for a school of jacks. Finally the sun broke through and we found a school of "high and happy" redfish within casting range. It was a little dicey with the breakers, but Ryan got the fly to the edge of the school and the fish fought for it. After landing this fish we got the heck out of there and ran inside for some calm water.



We pulled around Ft McRee and started poling the shallows trying to see redfish in the stained water. Suddenly all around us mullet started surging to the surface and jack crevalle were all around the boat. The 10wt was ready, and Ryan gave me his 8 and started stripping out line. He got out enough to make a 30' cast, and this jack inhaled it. Totally blew Ryan's mind! As you can see it's a relatively small fish, but it fought like hell taking Ryan well into the backing on a Tibor Riptide! The water was plenty shallow, so I got out of the boat with the net to keep the fish from charging under the boat and wrapping the leader around something. It all worked perfectly...for once.



BTW, I have a new fly for the jacks. It's an EP "Peanut Butter" pattern, grey/white, 3/0, 5 1/2" long. Looks great in the water and casts like a dream. Sometimes early in the season the jacks won't eat the big popper. It will definitely be the ticket when the water warms up a little. **Capt Baz**

## Fly of the Month - **SPRING SHRIMP FLY**

This is a quick and easy fly to tie and uses just a few materials. Fly has materials colored to simulate a natural look, not flashy but hopefully attractive to slot specs and reds. Strip a hook set!



### **MATERIALS:**

HOOKS: 3407, SL12S SL3H-11 #6-#2

EYES: Med. Lead 140d. Bead Chain or Med Lead Dumbbell

ANTENNA: Black Krystal Flash

MONO EYES: Self Made Mono Eyes Black

BODY: Estaz Grande Root Beer

THREAD: GRAY, TAN 140d

MOUTH: Craft Fur Medium Gray Dun

LEGS: Sili Legs Lt. Olive Bared

SKIRT: EP Tarantula Brush 1" Sculpin

### **INSTRUCTION:**



1. De-barb hook, lay smooth thread base to bend and down bent a bit. Return thread to 1/8" +/- from hook eye. Wrap in eyes and secure w/ glue.

Move thread to hook point, tie-in prepared craft fur mouth. Add k-flash antenna over top of mouth. Each side of craft fur add mono eyes you have prepared yourself.

2. Mono eyes should be pointed down and flared out a bit. Now add two pair doubled Sili legs, tie over top .

3. For skirt of fly, secure EP brush in front of secured craft fur. Palmer two turns and tie-in. Comb out, wrap thread back over tie down and onto brush fiber a few turns, in order for fiber to lay backwards.



4. Palmer body estaz to d/b eyes and secure brush between eyes and tied in front of eyes.



Finish fly by trimming estaz flat on bottom of fly. Trim side and

top of fly in a slight taper. Wrap a smooth tapered thread nose and coat with glue or cured UV resin.

Option: if you want add'l weight w/ bead chain eyes, add mono strand and tungsten beads, bottom of fly. **Pat Murphy**



## **Club Fly Fishing Trip: Johnson beach Wednesday, May 12, 2021**

Johnson Beach is in the National Park Reserve in Perdido Key and is about a mile down from the bridge over the intercostal on the left side. There is an entry gate with a fee charged, but the gate is not usually manned early in the morning. A large public parking lot is on the right side.

By May the water is usually warm enough for wet wading and the speckled trout move in over the grass flats. Typical flies like clousers, deceivers, gurglers and poppers are effective. A six to eight weight rod with a floating line and an eight to nine-foot leader and ten to twenty-pound fluorocarbon tippet. Don't go to heavy with the flies as you will pick up grass. Depths right off the shoreline vary from shallow to sharp drop offs. Don't neglect the inner side of the grass beds. Specked trout and redfish are not leader shy. Ladyfish or skipjack also show up.

Sunrise is at 6:04 AM. With southerly breezes the inter-coastal side of the island is recommended. If, by chance, we get northerly winds the Gulf side for pompano would be the backup plan.

The road down the island as of this week (April 14) was still not cleared from Hurricane Sally. I walked about a half mile from the main parking lot to the cross over and fished that area. The water was still chilly. If the road is cleared, we can drive and start fishing at the last cross walk before the turn around. *George Norton*

## **My Favorite Fly rod: A Fisher 7-8      *George Norton***

For part of the 1970's I lived and worked in the concrete jungle, "New York City." With only two weeks' vacation a year, I blew it all on trips out west. I called "Big Jim" who lived in Denver and we scheduled a two week road trip to Montana and Wyoming. We drove from Denver in his Ford Pinto wagon that Ralph Nader, called "unsafe at any speed."

Once in West Yellowstone, we camped on an old logging trail outside town, as there were no available campsites in the Park. We wanted to fish the Big Horn near Billings and booked a float trip in a fly shop. The owner took one look at my Eagle Claw pack rod, laughed and pulled out a Fisher 7-8 weight rod and said, "I'll make you a deal on a real fly rod."

I purchased the rod and it cast smooth as silk the next day. Over the years it served me well. I caught a five pound largemouth in Louisiana on a pan fish bug and plenty of speckled trout and redfish. I broke the tip section two or three times, but finally Fisher was out of business and there were no tip replacements. Over the subsequent years, I acquired more fly rods than a sensible human being should own. The Fisher 7-8 was my favorite rod and far surpassed the fiberglass Eagle pack Rod.

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## **General Membership Zoom Meeting – 6 April 2021 - The Minutes:**

Attendance: President Bob Myers, Jim White, Russ Shields, Cyndi Myers, Steve Hofmann, Cliff Newton, Ed Park, Bob Korose, Mick Milo, Lou Orrin, and Larry Sisney.

The President called the meeting to order at 7:14

**President Comment:** After a cold and stormy month of March it looks like April will truly see some improved fishing conditions. From various social media posts, it appears that our local guides have continued to do well in some challenging circumstances. Our third Saturday casting in the park events have offered an opportunity to improve skills and exchange information. Our clubhouse has

not yet received approval for opening back up but it seems that the possibility is certainly much closer now that it has been the past 11 months. Thanks again to Paul, Kent, Cliff, and Lou for being the communications glue that holds us together these days.

**Presentation:** PHWFF-Pensacola Program Lead and FFNWF-FFI rep Jim White presented a slideshow tour introducing the many opportunities available at the FFI Learning Center. His links demonstrated to us how to navigate the FFI site, how to access particular items of interest, and how to save educational material for future use and educational presentations. It was an informative review of the site. From FFI: "As the COVID-19 pandemic hit last year, it fundamentally changed what it meant to be part of the Fly Fishers International community and stewarding the legacy of fly fishing for All Fish, All Waters. In our effort to keep you connected to the sport you love and the people who are part of it, FFI stepped up to bring the FFI experience to you through FFI Online. Now FFI Online is back with updated virtual content on casting, fly tying, fly fishing skills, conservation, FFI Women Connect, episodes on global fly fishing travel, and more." Thanks to Jim for his service as FFNWF FFI Rep and for another interesting presentation.

**Financial report:** Treasurer Larry Sisney reported that the club is on sound financial footing.

**Old Business:**

- Status of PHWFF Implementation Timeline. PHWFF-Pensacola continues ZOOM meetings.
- Status of city parks/facilities. Approval for building occupancy by 15 persons granted.

**New Business:**

1. Planning spring cleaning to prepare clubhouse for pending reopening. A workday, 5 May is planned. Members can show up at 0900 for a Cinco de Mayo spring spruce-up party.
2. The 2021 class has a much better chance of happening than it did in 2020. Planning: a class beginning September 13 and completing 1 November and an auction Saturday, 23 October (rain dates following)
3. Auction Chair Steve Hofmann reported on the status of Auction 2021 preparations.

**Fishing reports:**

- Bob Korose reported success wading at Naval Live Oaks, landing a personal record Sea Trout. He also put his boat in the water for the 1<sup>st</sup> time since last fall and found the Spanish that were back in the Bay.
- Mick Milo also had successful outings for Spanish, and saw members Terry McCormick and Captain Baz while he was out.
- Bob Myers was a guest of Bob Korose and learned that even a poorly tied tan and olive Clouser can produce, boating a few near sighted Spanish on the day.

The meeting adjourned at 8:45pm. Minutes by B Myers.