

Flies & Lies

NEWSLETTER OF THE FLYFISHERS
OF NORTHWEST FLORIDA
NOVEMBER 2005

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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

BOARD MEETING
4TH TUESDAY, 6:30PM

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FLIES & LIES

If you still get your copy of the newsletter by regular mail, please consider receiving it by e-mail only. This will save your club money for mailing costs and your editor lots of time that he could use for fishing! Contact Jerry at jamayfly@yahoo.com

Fishing Trip Report.... Art de Tonnancourt, Fishing Trip Chair

Just returned from Bryson City, North Carolina where **Tom Regina, Jay Williams, Joe Higgins, Mitch Abernethy, Don Lupone** and I leased the beautiful Black Bear Lodge and fished the Nantahala and the Tuckasegee Rivers for a week.

For the new members who haven't heard about this fabulous N.C. "delayed harvest" trout fishing program, I'll give you some of the highlights. N.C. has several streams, including the "Tuck" and the "Nan" that are heavily stocked from October 1st until the first Saturday in June when fishing in these designated streams are with flies and catch and release. (From June until October anything may be used and fish may be harvested and usually are within the first few weeks of June.) All of us catch trout each day we fish. Many of us catch many trout (up to 90 plus trout) on some days!

I usually reserve Black Bear Lodge, a beautiful 3500 sq. ft. 4 bedroom, 4 bath, fully furnished log lodge 4 or 5 weeks during the delayed harvest months. The shared cost of the rent at this writing is \$170 each for 6 participants. We have an opportunity for some great fellowship enhanced with celebratory meals having each participant responsible for one evening meal.

I give priority to past participants however any member who wishes to be invited, please contact me (preferably by email at artdetonnancourt1@cox.net or by phone 492-3833) so your name may be put on the "list". I have the lodge reserved for November 6 to 12 (2005), April 9 to 15, and May 7 to 13. Depending on the response, I may reserve other weeks in November, December, March, April or May. So get on your computers and let me know your desires.

NEW SUBJECT: I will attempt to organize a local fishing trip for the winter season. We had one two years ago at the NAS Whiting fishing camp in Milton with 21 participants, which made that trip a great success, in spite of no fish being caught.....but what fellowship on a beautiful day in January. In the past, we have also had several trips to Shoreline Park and one to the Perdido River. We need to have a boat ramp, a place to have coffee and doughnuts at a morning briefing, someplace to light a grill, sit down for some food after the fishing session and tell fishing tales. Please send me some ideas for an alternative winter local fishing trip location, as well as any creative ideas about contest, etc.

Christmas Party

What a crazy year, frost in the air with temps dripping to 34 in Milton this morning; a major hurricane just hit South Florida, and Christmas is right around the corner!!

The Christmas Party is Dec 1 at Pensacola Yacht Club with Social Hour beginning at 6 PM and Dinner at 7 PM. Dinner tickets can be purchased during the 3 club meetings in November; tickets must be purchased in advance. Raffle tickets will also be available at the meetings or can be purchased the night of the event. Raffle tickets are \$5 per ticket or 6 for \$25.00. Editor's note: Raffle prizes will be rods and reels again; still working on discounts/ donations.

Dinner Buffet will include;
Smoked Pork Loin with Creole Pineapple Salsa
Coconut Crusted Grouper With Mandarin Orange Salsa
Green Salad
Green bean Almandine
Chive Scalloped Potatoes
Assorted Rolls w/ Honey Butter
Assorted Cakes
Coffee and Tea

For details on the event or to purchase tickets, please call me at 516-1852 or KBrand@SantaRosaMRI.com

More Colorado adventures with Milt & Lynn...Milt Mays



Guide Brian Byerly of Lakewood, Colorado, displays a Mysis shrimp-fed rainbow caught on the Taylor River near Gunnison. Byerly used a #20 Barr Emerger and a 5X tippet to land the 34-inch long fish, which weighed 22 pounds and had a 23-inch girth.

I had wanted to fish the Blue since I got here. It has record sized rainbows and browns that are all catch and release for the first two miles or so below the Dillon Reservoir. The fish are up to 30 inches or more, and have gotten quite fat through the years on the local population of Mysis Shrimp. Apparently this small shrimp has really taken off in this tailwater, and the trout love it. They are also in the Gunnison River as well. The picture was copied from Flyfisherman Magazine by the way at <http://flyfisherman.com/rmwest/dwmysis/index.html>.

So, looking at pictures like that one, I tied a few mysis patterns for my trip. I got the pattern from one of the local shops. Unfortunately, I did not read the above cited article until after I went. But, I had some good luck anyway.

The drive to Silverthorne is about 1 hour 45 minutes from my house. It is mostly 65-75 MPH on very good highways. Since this is a tailwater fishery, it can be fished year round, so I was glad for the good highway. However, as you may have recently noted, with big snows, such as the one on 10 October, they will close I-70 going through the Eisenhower tunnel. So, in true winter, I will have to watch the weather. I had been watching the weather, and knew we were possibly going to get some snow over the weekend. So, now being the retired sot that I am, I went on Friday 7 October. We had some pretty cold days that week, but it turned out to be shirt sleeve weather the day I went. The aspen in the fall can be beautiful, but usually a little sooner. Below is a picture from a leaf peeping trip we took two weeks earlier over by Rand, CO.



So, we turned off of I-70 at Silverthorne, and went right into the parking lot of the outlet stores. The reason we parked there, is that some of the best fishing is right behind the outlet stores. This was the guy down stream from me. He looks like Art at his hole on the Tuk!

This might not be for those interested in solitude and no people--quite the opposite. This was one of the few places I've fished where I had an audience.



Given that this was such a famous river, and that the fish were supposed to be so hard to catch, I was all thumbs and poor casts at first. After loosening up some, and being frustrated with no takes on mysis nymphing, I saw some noses coming out of the water and decided to try dry flies. Good thing! 'Cause they were big noses. It was nice, because the river was low enough so you could really wade easily, getting to both sides of the river.

My first spot was about 100 ft from the I-70 overpass. It was surprising how little noise I noticed. And after five fish, I didn't care where I was. They were mostly interested in some BWO and Parachute Adams patterns. Then I saw the really big nose coming up in front of a big boulder. So, I quietly made my way over to a good casting spot, and floated a BWO pattern right over his spot and, Holy sh.., that big rainbow came up and slurped the fly in. And it was a good fight on my One-weight I'd just got from Orvis. Though it was not the fight I would expect from a redfish or a bonita, it definitely

kept my interest for a few minutes. Twenty four inches, and fat!

Next I went to the area just below the footbridge overpass to the other malls. This area had some big rainbow that people on the bridge could point out to fishermen. Lynn wanted me to try for these and show up all the other fishermen that could not catch them. Unfortunately, these were all night feeders, or at least some-other-time feeders. So, I eased my way down one more section of rock breakers, about 50 feet away, and found a nice pool. I took another 22 inch fat rainbow out of there and several small brookies, and few browns, all to the cheering wife on the bridge. I have to say they were very picky fish. The fly had to float just right, and had to be what they wanted, or they just looked it over and went back to their lie.

So, though it wasn't a 50 fish day on the Tuk or the Nantahalla, in 4 hours catching a dozen fish and a few hogs on one of the premier rivers in Colorado felt pretty good. And, I got to sleep in my own bed, after a nice supper and a beer! Tight lines!

President's MessageJerry Aldridge

The Flyfishers of NW Florida welcome new member **Mark Essert** who recently moved to the Tiger Point area from Bend, Oregon. Please make him at home and be sure and ask him about fishing the mighty Deschutes River. Another almost new member, **Larry Sisney**, has agreed to take on our library now that **Kevin Cohenour** has departed. Kevin accepted a position with the Department of Labor in Denver so he and **Marti** are already on their way.

Boy, will I miss Kevin, fishing buddy extraordinaire, as will all of us. Wonderful fly tyer and even better teacher as our Thursday night crowd will attest along with many, many PJC students, scouts at summer camp and young tyers at the Southeastern Council conclaves. Kevin had to leave quickly to accept the job so the club's Board of Directors declared Kevin "Honorary Lifetime Member" and awarded him a plaque so stating. We wish him and Marti well in Colorado.

Our fish fry and fishing outing on the 9th of October was great fun. Fishing success was somewhat moderate but some of us managed to catch a few. The "Largest Speckled Trout" prize was won by yours truly but the prize (a box of 16 salt water flies tied by **Travis** and me) was donated to the raffle later in the day. The deep-fried salmon and mahi-mahi was superb thanks to chefs **Russ Shields** and **John** and **Karen Brand**. And the potluck dishes were just as good.

The 2nd Thursday Bull Sessions are going to take a slightly new direction for a while. While Kevin was here, he and I were alternating months and trying to come up with a different fly for each month. It has become more and more difficult to come up with a fly not only different but also effective in local waters. Fresh water trout flies with their much greater variety are easier but not of interest to all. With Kevin gone, it will be doubly difficult. So....for now the bull sessions will be more free form without a featured fly or instructor. The exception will be when we have the occasional volunteer who would like to lead the group and provide the recipe for the newsletter. Your club will continue to provide tools and tying materials.

If you want to learn a particular fly or technique, let me know before the bull session (preferably before the newsletter is published) so we can have the right materials there. Several of the club's more advanced tyers will continue tying so you can pick the person you want to tie with or you can simply tie on your own. Let's give it a try and see how it goes. The general theme of the November Bull Session will be "Tying Inshore Flies" (see article on page 6) so we will be tying clousers, gurglers and deceivers or whatever you would like to tie or see tied. See you there!

A thundering herd of volunteers to stand for election as club officer has not yet formed. **Unless folks step forth, some club offices will remain unfilled.** Please contact **Travis Akins** before the November business meeting and election if you can help. May all your drifts be drag free....Jerry Aldridge

October Quick Ties with Tom Regina....Wolf River Midge (originally tied by Scott Sadil)

Midges are essentially mosquitoes “ true flies of the order *Diptera* but without the penetrating proboscises”. Most, but not all midges are tiny insects. Some midges may be a half inch long or longer. For this Quick-Ties we will tie a “middle” size midge pupa using a size 20 hook.

Trout feed on midges between hatches of other insects when other food sources are not as readily available. The late Gary LaFontaine once said “ *a midge pupa is never wrong*”. That is to say, trout will nearly always accept midge pupa as plausible food. And there are times when trout feed exclusively on midge pupa.

The Wolf River Midge Pupa can be fished throughout the water column by adjusting the amount of weight added to the tippet. To fish the fly in the surface film, dress the thorax with fly floatant. Midge pupa or duns are also effective as droppers beneath or behind a dry fly.

The materials we will use to tie the Wolf River Midge Pupa are a size 20 hook, black 8/0 thread, fine copper wire, black dubbing and head cement. The tools needed are a vise, bobbin, scissors and a bodkin. Depending on how good or poor your eye sight is a magnification device may be in order.

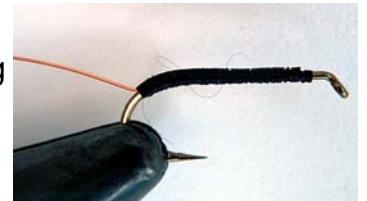
Tying Instructions

Hook	Mustad 94840 size 20
Thread	Black 8/0
Body	Black 8/0 thread
Ribbing	Fine copper wire
Thorax	Black Hare’s Ear Plus dubbing
Head	Black 8/0 thread



1. Debarb the hook and secure it in the vise. Using a jam knot start the thread two hook eye distance back from the hook eye. In touching turns lay down an even thread base along the hook shank to a point about one third the way down the hook bend.

2. At the hook bend tie in a piece of fine copper wire on top of the hook shank and wrap an even layer of thread around the hook shank and over the wire tag to the thread tie on point. Make two half hitch or whip finish wraps of thread to tie off the wire. Cut away the excess wire tag. (The body of this midge pupa should not be tapered).



3. Hang the bobbin over the bobbin rest and wrap the wire forward in five or six evenly spaced turns to form the rib. Take three or four turns of thread to secure the wire at a point one hook eye distance back from the hook eye. Cut away the excess wire.

4. Apply a small amount of dubbing to about one inch of the thread. Slide the dubbing up the thread to the hook shank and wrap a neat thorax. Form a small neat thread head. Take several half hitch or whip finish wraps to tie off the thread. Cut away the thread and apply a small amount of head cement.



Caution: When tying small flies do not allow any tying materials or head cement to encroach on or into the hook eye. Any materials in the hook eye will make it more difficult to thread the tippet through the small hook eye.

Minutes of the Meeting of October 4th, 2005. Fly Fishers of Northwest Florida. President Jerry Aldridge presiding

General Meeting: Called to order at 7:00 pm. Previous meeting was Sept. 6. Minutes were approved without reading. Two new members were present, George Bennet and Larry Sisney.

Old Business: Don Lupone provided a treasurer's report – balance 2890.84 in bank, but with 3 new memberships and expenses not yet included, actual balance is 2882.38. Treasurer's report approved.

Committee reports: No Board meeting to report, next meeting Nov. 6. **FFF-Karen** - no report.

Conservation- Skeet reported that CCA banquet would be on Oct. 20 and encouraged members to attend. Also reported on CCA actions to stop reduced limits and seasonal closure of grouper fishing.

Nomination Committee- Travis asked for volunteers or nominations for officers since we will be voting for new officers in November at the next regular meeting. Members are also encouraged to think about their choice for angler of the year, which will be selected at the November meeting.

Fishing Trips- Jerry reported that the fall fishing trip will be in conjunction with the fall picnic at Shoreline Park. Fishing will start at 6:30 with coffee and donuts and a briefing. There will be a contest for biggest Speck caught, no limit on type of fly used. **Library-** Kevin - we will need a new librarian next year since Kevin will be moving to Colorado. Christmas Party - Party will be held on Dec. 1st at the Pensacola Yacht Club (Thursday).

Program: Travis and Russ gave a program on rod building. They discussed materials and options available and pointed out that it is relatively easy to do. Building your own rod gives you the flexibility to build a rod to suit your specific preferences.

Fishing Reports: Bill Locher reported catching specks in Hoffman, Larry Sisney reported on fishing in Arkansas. Jerry has been catching reds, pompano and ladyfish. Travis reported that the new cuts in Pensacola beach were very productive and caught reds, whiting, pompano and black drum.

Door Prizes: Several flies were raffled.

Emile Lores, Secretary

Tying Inshore Flies - Where Do I Start.... Jerry Aldridge

Northwest Florida has been blessed with a great variety of inshore fish species, some abundant year around such as the speckled trout, some more seasonal such as bull reds marauding our bays and beaches in the fall and winter. Ladyfish, blues, Spanish or king mackerel, pompano, flounder and jack crevalle are always a possibility. So....what flies does a newcomer buy or tie to have a good chance to partake of this bounty? Salt water inshore anglers are just as opinionated as their fresh water counterparts so you won't be troubled with a shortage of recommendations. Once again, I will jump into the fray with my short list of flies to tie. These work for me and others and will serve well as a starting point. For around \$125 you can fill your inshore box with flies proven to catch just about species likely to be encountered.

You should have flies in your inshore box that will cover the water column from the surface to as deep as you can reasonably expect to fish with a fly. The fly I choose to cover the deeps is (big surprise) the **Clouser deep minnow**. This is a proven fly that has probably **Continued next page-**

Tying Inshore Flies - Where Do I Start... Jerry Aldridge

caught more salt water fish than any other. It is easy to tie and is very durable if properly tied. Clousers can be tied in any size from huge to miniscule but sizes 2 and 4 hooks will be enough to begin with. Some of my favorite color combos are pale orange and brown (especially in autumn and winter), smoke and black, tan and olive, chartreuse and white, and tan and yellow. Lots of other colors work but we will start with these to keep costs of materials down.



Lefty's Deceiver is a fine fly to work the water column from just below the surface to 3 or 4 feet down (more if you weight the hook). This is probably the second most popular salt water fly and has caught just about anything that swims. A little more difficult to tie than clouser but a must have fly. We will start with all white (Lefty's original), chartreuse and white, yellow and orange (a good color for redfish), and red/white/grizzly. Deceivers can be tied with artificial wing material but bucktail makes a more eye-appealing fly.



Jack Gartside's Gurgler is my first choice for a noisy fly on the surface. Poppers of many sorts will work well also but the gurgler is easy to tie with readily available materials; \$5 worth of foam at Hobby Lobby will make your gurgler bodies for the next 10 years. We will start with white, red, yellow and orange.

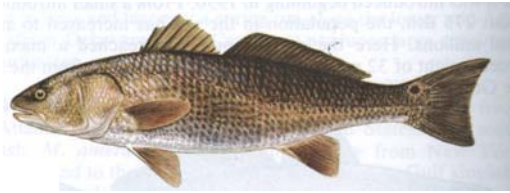


Material List. The materials required to tie our flies is listed below. Substitute materials are sometimes used to keep costs down For example, flashabou is used in place of spooled mylar for the bodies of our deceivers. You can certainly use original material if you want to spend a little more. Total Material cost is about \$125,. Costs were taken from the catalogue of a single supplier except for the foam (locally available at Hobby Lobby for around \$1 per sheet). Other suppliers might be cheaper on individual items.

1. Hooks, Mustad 34007, sizes 2 and 4, 2 boxes of 50 at \$6.25 per box, \$12.50.
2. Thread, Danville 3/0 waxed, white, red, orange, beige, \$0.95 per 100 yard spool, \$3.80.
3. Spirit River Dazl-eyes, nickel, 5/32/ 3/16, \$2.75 per 25 pack, \$5.50.
4. Unique Hair, tan, olive, chartreuse, white, smoke, black, yellow, \$2.50 each, \$17.50.
5. Flashabou, copper, gold, silver, pearlescent, \$2.95 each, \$11.80.
6. Krystal flash, orange, root beer, chartreuse, pearl, yellow, \$3.50 each, \$17.50.
7. Bucktail, pale orange, brown, white, yellow, red, chartreuse, \$4.50 each, \$27.00.
8. Saddle hackle, white, yellow, grizzly, red, \$2.95 each, 11.80.
9. Marabou, white yellow, orange, \$1.50 each, \$4.50.
10. Foam, white, yellow, orange, red, \$1 per sheet, \$4.00.
11. Ice Chenille, pearl, yellow, orange, red, \$2.50 each, \$10.00.

Total Material Cost = \$125.90

A box or two filled with these flies, a few of each size and color listed will catch a lot of inshore fish. You will add other kinds and colors and sizes as you gain experience but these are a helluva start!



NOVEMBER 2005

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

