

Flies & Lies

NEWSLETTER OF THE FLYFISHERS
OF NORTHWEST FLORIDA
NOVEMBER 2012

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NORTHWEST FLORIDA
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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... Terry McCormick

October was a great month, the weather was nice, many club members returned from near and far and there has been larger attendance at meetings. The octoberfest or should I say feast was great thanks to Gerry Giles. Although the wind did keep many members from showing up for the fishing outing, those that did had a good time.

Thanks to those members who helped with the Project Healing Waters flyfishing school. It was a great success and very rewarding for students and members alike.

With November comes the elections. That's right we will be voting on new club officers and the Angler of The Year. So get out and vote on November 6. The meeting will start at 7 pm with Bob Korose giving a presentation on his Alaska trip and then the votes will be taken. There will also be a Broad of Directors meeting at 6 pm.

Tickets are on sale for the Christmas party to be held at the Holiday Inn on Davis Highway December 11. I am also seeking door prizes again. If you could tie a half dozen flies or donate new items (caps, trips etc.) it would be nice to have for door prizes. Once again we'll have great raffle prizes too. Prizes will be Orvis 7wt and 3wt rods, 7wt and 3wt reels with line and backing, and one salt water and one fresh water tying kit. Dinner tickets are \$25 per person, raffle tickets are \$5 each or 6 for \$25. This is one of the highlights of the year so don't miss it.

Tight lines and the tug is the drug, Terry

Fly Fishers of NW Florida Annual Christmas Party

Date: December 11, 2012 Tuesday

Time: 6 PM Cash bar Dinner served at 7:00 PM

>

Location: Holiday Inn 7813 N. Davis Hwy Pensacola FL
Hors'deuvres: Complimentary Drummettes and Meatballs
Main Course: Country Buffet
\$25 per person

**Mark your Calendars. More info to follow in the December
Newsletter**

From "World's Best Fishing Jokes"

A Texan visits a friend in Minnesota and they go out fishing one afternoon. When his friend lands a really big one the Texan says, "That's a nice fish, can I use it for bait?"

Business Meeting, Fly Fishers Of Northwest Florida, October 2, 2012, Vice President Gerald Giles, presiding

The meeting was called to order at 7 pm by Vice President Gerald Giles with 15 people present. Monte Cooper was introduced first as a guest and then as a new member. Monte has spent many years' trout fishing in Montana and saltwater fishing around the world. He is new to Pensacola and wishes to learn about salt water fishing in the Pensacola area. The minutes of the Sept 4, 2012 business meeting were read and approved. The treasurer's report was read and approved.

Jay Williams, chairman of the nominating committee reported that Terry McCormick volunteered to remain as president for a second term and Jay Brykczynski volunteered to remain as treasurer for a second term. The committee is still searching for someone to assume the role of Vice President, and of Secretary. Jay will send an E Mail to the club membership seeking to fill these positions.

Russ Shields announced that the Healing Waters fly fishing classes are going well and they will be entering week 3 of the 6 week course and the vets will begin fly casting. Volunteers are needed. The course is being held at the Bay View Senior Citizen Center in Pensacola.

Karen Brand is handling the ticket sales for the club Christmas party December 11, 2012 at the Holiday Inn

The next club fishing trip will be at the Big Lagoon State Park October 27, 2012 at 8 am. Terry McCormick will E Mail the membership directions to the location and details as to where we will meet.

Russ Shields has purchased copies of a book "Essential Knots and Rigs" which will be used for both the Healing Waters and the FFNWF fly-fishing courses. The club voted to reimburse Russ for his out of pocket expense.

There being no further business the meeting was adjourned at 7:35 pm 2012. Bob Willice interim secretary

Project Healing Waters Fly Fishing Course Comes to a Close.... Russ Shields

On the 29th of October we completed the first fly casting and fly tying class for three veterans.

Baz Yelverton gave a wonderful, two hour presentation to get us off on the right foot and we took off from there. The six week long course was an abbreviated version of our annual eight week course but we managed to get most if not all of the material in. Since we needed handicapped accessible facilities the city invited us to use the Bayview Senior Citizens Center at Bayview Park on Bayou Texar. We even managed to get in some on- the-water casting!

We had three students/clients for the course and most times we had a one to one student to teacher ratio. I want to thank all the Healing Waters volunteers from our club who made this course possible. They include: Kevin Gorby who provided the impetus for us to get started, Terry McCormick, Jay Brykczynski, Joe Higgins, Roy Turner and Cliff Newton. Jerry Giles who is not a regular, vetted member of the Healing Waters volunteers, non-the-less was there to help every night.

This was an especially satisfying undertaking for me and I am sure the same is true for all our volunteers. I hope we can repeat it again in the future with a new crop of veterans in need of some assistance. It was fun and I am honored to have worked with our great volunteers in this worthy cause. WELL DONE, gentlemen! Russ

Pictures page 5

Fishing Report... Captain Baz Velverton



The **BIG** news is the **2012 Running on the Bulls** officially started on October 26 when new club member Jay Bond landed this 22 pound beauty after a 45 minute battle on a 9wt. This was Jay's first-ever redfish on fly, and landing it was quite a feat...even broke the rod! The fish were a half-mile east of Pensacola Pass under birds outside the outer bar. We ran out there to check it out after seeing the birds and a few big splashes. Jay tried to get one on top with a 3/0 slider, but the school was moving fast and kept sounding. We changed to a sinking line with the old faithful green/white "go-meaux", and Jay hooked up almost immediately. By the time we landed the fish the school was gone, Jay was whipped, and we headed back in. The following day I ran west of the pass with some spin-anglers, and we found the mother lode of redfish about halfway to the Perdido Key condos. We stayed with the fish for a couple hours, and my clients landed 25-30. If I'd only had fly-anglers on the boat! I took some video and posted it on YouTube. Cut and paste the following link into your browser, sit back, and enjoy. <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=3Lg99Yiuwh4&feature=youtu.be> This is just the beginning. The big schools of redfish should be with us for the next 6 weeks anyway. I suggest sticking with 10,11, or 12wt tackle to keep from over-stressing the fish. Best to have one rod rigged with a floating line and a big popper, crease fly, or slider. The other rod should have a fast-sinking line to get the fly down quickly to diving fish.



The false albacore are on the prowl in the Gulf, too, but as usual they're hard to find. We ran all the way to Navarre Beach on October 10 looking for blackfin tuna and found huge numbers of FA a mile offshore. There were "thousands" of them all around us, but we couldn't get them to eat *anything*! We even tried Capt Harry's "snot bait" imitation with no success. Finally, Rocky Sleight landed this fish (his first) on an imitation of Jimbo Meador's size 6 "bonito" fly. After trying all possible stripping techniques Rock just let the fly dead-drop,



and the albie nailed it. It was a sweet moment. A while later Greg Speer (aka: Rocket Man) from Ft Collins, CO, got one to eat a #6 clear gummy minnow. After 500 or so more casts we gave up and made the 22 mile run back to Pensacola Pass. Those darn FA sure can be difficult!

On the inside the big Spanish mackerel fishing has been off the charts. The fish are running the edges of the usual grass beds, and there are some monsters in the mix. Using spinning tackle a few days ago we landed one that weighed 8# on the Bogagrip! Now that's a bona-fide monster that according to my IGFA book would have been a world record on 16# tippet. Check out these impressive catches during the past month: Jamison Griffin on October 12, Floris van den berg on October 17, Larry Green on October 21, and Jay Bond on October 26. The "go-to" fly has been the usual #2 tan/white Clouser minnow with 80# mono leader. Cast it out beyond the edge of the grass, and let it sink...and then let it sink some more. Give it a snappy 2 1/2' strip, and let it sink again. The fly looks like a shrimp diving for the bottom, and the fish hit it on the drop. The quick, snappy strip gets their attention in a big way. Keep this up all the way to the boat or until a giant Spanish mackerel just about rips the rod out of your hands. Be aware these are big, dangerous fish. Set your drag in advance, and by all means keep your knuckles away from the reel when the fish takes off.



Sight-fishing on the inside flats for slot-sized redfish and speckled trout has also been outstanding since the water temperature dropped. The water is very clear in Santa Rosa Sound, and the fish are readily taking the fly. That's as long as

Fishing Report... Captain Baz Velverton



it's the *right* fly of course. We've been having our best success with a size 2 olive/tan/white Clouser minnow tied by Karl Elliott out of EP fibers. Karl ties in a little red marabou for gills, too. I'm not sure what the key factor is, but the fish are eating it up. Floris van den berg from The Netherlands coaxed this impressive trout to eat it on October 17. A little later Floris landed three redfish on the same fly.



A few days before on October 10 Rocket Man and I anchored in 2' of water and watched the reds milling around some grass beds 50-100' away. The water was dead-calm, and we were afraid to try to pole any closer. Rocket picked out a fish about 80' away and made a perfect cast dropping the fly 10' in front of it and let the fly sink. On the first strip the fish charged the fly but didn't eat it. Rocket went into the short, quick "bonefish" strip mode and got the take. Fall sight-fishing for redfish on our flats is as good as it gets anywhere. There are fish in the shallows all along the beach from Deer Point to Town Point and from the pink condos on the beach all the way to Pickens Pier. You just have to spend enough time out there to find their favorite stretches of beach. Once you find them you can count on the fish being there year after year. Happy Hunting! Capt Baz

Project Healing Waters Fly Fishing Class



Joe Higgins with Kent Reagan casting from the dock at Bayview Park.



Russ testing some "Spoon Flies".



Roy Turner teaching tying the Gartside Gurgler to Kent Reagan and Oleta Webb



Jerry Giles teaching the No Hackle Elk Hair Caddis.



Oleta Webb and Kent Reagan tying the Caddis using tools supplied by Project Healing Waters Fly Fishing.



Russ trying to help out.



Dan Swindle, in the red shirt, tying the Caddis with help from Cliff Newton.



Kent Reagan and Dan Swindle working on the Caddis with the "Old Folks" looking on.



More untitled photos. All photos by Jay Brykzynski



Octoberfest Clinic....Photos by Jay Brykczynski

Octoberfest comes to NWFF Club at the Saturday casting clinic. Our own Jerry Giles was the German Beer and Bratwurst Meister. Over 30 members attended and there were no leftovers.



2013 Club Officers....Jay Williams, Jr.

The Officer slate to be presented by the Nominating Committee at the November business meeting, is as follows: President - Terry McCormick, Vice President - Cliff Newton, Secretary - "Bud" Newbill, and Treasurer - Jay Brykczynski.

The Chair will then entertain nominations, with seconds, from the floor, for any or all of these four positions. Following the election for these positions, the Chair will open the floor for nominations and seconds for the two Director-At-Large positions.

Installations of the new Officers and Directors will be held at the January business meeting, at which time they will assume their duties for 2013.

The Tip Jar....Bob Willice

WHICH FLY?



Fish will use the least amount of energy to obtain food. The forage selected depends on availability and size. As a general rule larger flies that imitate baitfish (croakers, pinfish, mullet and menhaden) will catch bigger fish but produce them in smaller numbers. Smaller flies that imitate crustaceans (shrimp and crabs) will catch smaller fish but produce them in greater numbers.

Bull Red caught on 5 1/2 inch yak hair clouser deep minnow on sinking line.

Firecracker...Matt Wegener

We have tied quite a few saltwater fly patterns in the past few months, so I thought it was time to try a trout pattern. Besides the need for variety in our lives, another reason for tying a trout fly is to make sure our eyes are still capable of placing a whip finish on a #18 hook. If you are up for the challenge, I think you will find that this fly will tempt at least a few fish in your local trout hole.

The firecracker was introduced to me by a friend on a trout stream in Missouri several years back. I was catching an occasional trout on a variety of different colored F-C crackle backs, but my friend was hooking-up on nearly every cast. I asked him to show me what he was using, and the firecracker has been a standby in my box ever since.

Although this fly is simply a variation of the popular F-C crackleback, it excels at catching fish in a variety of water clarities and light conditions. Considered the "old stand-by" on many Ozark trout streams, the crackleback catches trout like crazy; but the particular color that the fish want that day varies quite a bit. The firecracker, on the other hand, is what I would consider an attractor pattern that generates a reaction strike, often resulting in bone-jarring strikes from angry trout. Therefore, if I had to pick one fly in a single color to locate fish on a clear Ozark stream, the firecracker would be it.

I typically present this fly by stripping it in an across-stream or downstream direction. Using a sink-tip line, I will count it down several seconds and then begin with short 2" strips or longer, more drawn out 4" strips. I also have great luck catching fish during a hatch by using floating line and stripping the fly quickly, just below the surface. Often you can catch fish that have turned down your dry fly imitation by quickly stripping a wooly, like the firecracker, in front of their face. I generally start with a larger fly, but will go as small as a #18 if the water is clear. The hardest part is trying not to set the hook too hard after seeing a hungry trout crush this fly.

Tying Materials

Hook:	Mustad dry fly hook, #10-18
Thread:	Red flat 3/0 or 6/0
Body:	Orange <i>Sparkle Braid</i>
Flash:	Peacock herl
Hackle:	Yellow grizzly saddle hackle



Tying Instructions



1. Start by wrapping a thread base, then tie in a 3" piece of saddle hackle at the rear of the hook shank.
2. Tie in two pieces of peacock herl at the rear of the hook shank. I do this by doubling up a single piece of herl. Next, tie in the sparkle braid that will be used to form the body.



3. Wrap the thread forward and whip finish if you have a rotary vice. Wrap the sparkle braid forward to form the body and tie off behind the hook eye.
4. Fold over the peacock herl to form the overbody.



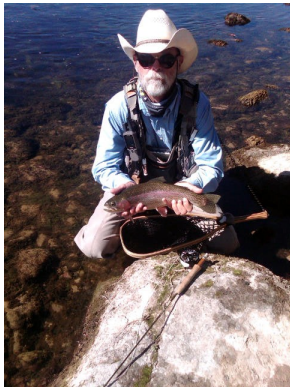
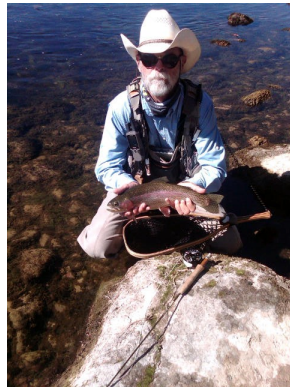
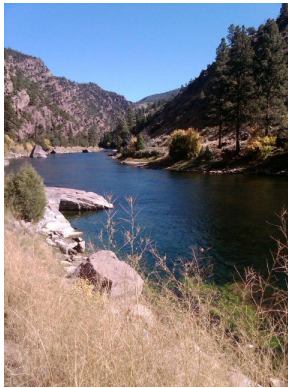
5. Whip finish and wrap the hackle 4-5 times and tie off behind the hook eye. Finish by whip finishing and sealing the thread wraps with fingernail polish.

Around the Bay....and Further Away

From David Burton....Art de Tonnancourt and David Burton fished the Hiwassee River, Reliance, TN in October guided by Southeastern Anglers. The Hiwassee River is very scenic with a few class 2 rapids. The upper river features an abundance of whitewater, deep runs, fast riffles, and big shoals that provide excellent fish habitat. The tailwater contains mostly rainbow and brown trout, with the average size running between 10" and 12" inches with larger trout possible. We had a 50 fish day running from 10" to 16". Viewed bald eagles, other birds and four deer swimming across the river. The day on the water was not wadeable because of power generation. A great fishing adventure in drift boats or kayaks. For a guided trip we would recommend Southeastern Anglers. Excellent day trip including a quality lunch. For more info on the river visit www.southeasternanglers.com.



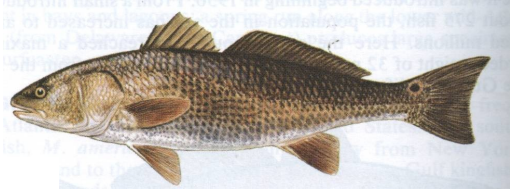
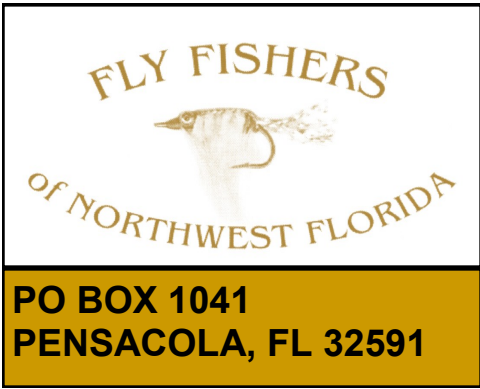
From Jeff Deuschle....We ran into some schools of False Albacore on the return trip from the Chandeleur Islands a few weeks ago. They were all 5-6 lbs. and boy did they strip the backing off our 8 weights!



From Karen Brand....Karen, John and Travis Akins and some nice trout from Utah's Green River and Wyoming's high desert lakes near Cody



From Tom Finkle....Another huge Spanish Taken and released near Gulf Breeze



NOVEMBER 2012

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