



Flies and Lies

Newsletter of the Fly Fishers of Northwest Florida

November, 2017

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MONTHLY MEETINGS at

Miraflares 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

Christmas Party

Tuesday, Dec 12

\$25

Holiday Inn

N. Davis Hwy at I-10



Hors'deuvres 6:00 - Cash Bar - Country Buffet Dinner 7:00

Tickets on sale at the Meeting Nov 7, Tying Nov 9, Clinic Nov 18

Raffle Tickets sold at the dinner \$5 /6 for \$25

Raffle Prizes include trip with Capt. Baz, Brand new fly rods by Orvis, St. Croix, and TFO BVK, Fly Reels, and a Yeti Cooler.

Separate raffles for each item. Door prizes, too

Please plan to attend, **buy your tickets in NOVEMBER** and bring a donation for the door prizes.

Tickets by MAIL: Jay Brykczynski 4983 Prieto Drive Pensacola FL 33506

Checks payable to FFNWF Pick up your tickets at the door.

Christmas Party Slide Show – If you have pictures of fish caught on the fly you would like in the slide show please email the pictures (.jpg format) to paulwargo3@gmail.com by November 15.

November at your Club:

Club Meeting – Tuesday, Nov 7 – 7:00 This is the most important meeting of the year. Election of officers and Angler of the Year. Final plans for the Christmas Party. **Party tickets on sale.** The program will be by Oleta about False Albacore fishing in North Carolina.

Fly Tying – Thursday, Nov 9 – 6:30 (note: same week as meeting). Last fly tying session of the year. **Party tickets on sale.** The fly will be The Perfect Shrimp (not at Joe Patti's – you tie it yourself)

Clinic – Saturday, Nov 18 – 9:00 Last clinic of the year. **Party tickets on sale.** The lunch will be by Don Smith; our own little Thanksgiving feast

Bob Korose We found Bob in the wheel chair which is a lot better than when I saw him two weeks ago, and he was hungry. He enjoyed the Oktoberfest lunch since he apparently has been loosing weight since checking into the rehab. He was discussing with both Russ and Jerry his fishing in the past in Arkansas which was a good sign to me.

He told us that he was able to stand unassisted at the parallel bars but still transfers with a sliding board from the bed to the chair. He is hopeful of leaving soon...so in general...there was good improvement but he has a way to go to be able to be safe alone at home. *Wolfgang Szutie*



Lefty Kreh *Excerpts from an email Lefty sent to his friends. It was relayed to us thanks to Corbett Davis, Jr.*

I was 92 in January and had a carotid artery operation. During testing the hospital determined my heart was only pumping 35% and must limit my physical activities followed by a rest. Several weeks ago I realized I was developing another problem, which is normal for someone nearly 93. It turns out I have congested heart failure. This means the schedule I lived for decades is no longer valid and I will spend most my time at home. As we get older we learn to adjust to what we can and cannot do. I have a number of interesting projects on the computer and I am busier than a Syrian bricklayer. In summary I'm busy and content but I want you to know I am so appreciative you've have shared your lives with me. *Lefty*

Oktoberfest



Thanks to Jerry Giles and friends for wonderful food and a wonderful time (again) this year. Even genuine German white brats and red cabbage and good old American beer



Project Healing Waters Trip October 12

First hand Report: (*editor's note And a Great Article!*) The last couple months have been filled with "firsts" for me. First time meeting the FFNWF group, first time with Project Healing Waters, first time tying a fly, first time casting a fly rod. It all came to a head on October 12th. I was fortunate to be paired up with Capt Baz that beautiful morning. We launched out of Peg Leg Pete's and made our way to the northwest side of the sound, west of Shoreline Park. As we approached our first spot, we could see a bunch of top water action. All I was looking to catch was a good time, and that was already guaranteed. We anchored and started casting.



I'm sure you can remember the first time casting/presenting a fly, how sometimes things clicked and it seems the stars align in your favor... let's just say that wasn't the case for me. Few casts were beautiful, most were dreadful. We were anchored over a little bit of a hole, maybe 10ft deep, and every time I managed to get the fly through the hole, we could see a fish follow the fly, and then give up. We tried a couple different flies and finally settled on a synthetic, chartreuse and white, Clouser minnow. As luck would have it, a Pompano thought it looked mighty tasty and hit it. First fish caught on a fly, and first Pompano I've caught. Win win. He didn't put up much of a fight, I never got him on the reel, just hand stripped him to the boat. He was an inch over slot, so into the cooler he went. We stayed there for a bit, but didn't get much action, so we headed south towards the Ft Pickens toll booth. There we anchored and attempted to catch another fish.

I was more than happy with the trip so far. Cast after cast after cast, I was lucky to get the fly 30ft from the boat. Occasionally, I'd manage a beautiful cast, followed by an ugly one. It was on an ugly one that I managed to hook my first Spanish Mackerel (same fly I'd caught the Pompano with). When I got him hooked, he went ripping through the water before it could register that I had a fish on. I'll never forget the sound of the line ripping through the water, or the sight of the rooster tail caused by the line... or the feeling of the line burn. His first run was close to 100yds, Capt Baz even detached the anchor thinking we might have to give chase. When he did slow down and I got him turned, he was only catching his breath for another run. I'm not sure how long the fight was, time stood still, but when we did get our first look at him, I was grinning from ear to ear. We got him to the boat and I cheesed for some pictures. Definitely not a forced grin, I'm still grinning just thinking about it. Big THANK YOU to Capt Baz, PHW, and FFNWF for helping me make the memory of a lifetime. I'm hooked! *Aaron Davis*



Fishing with Capt. Baz The HOT news is the bull redfish have started their run a couple weeks earlier than usual. There were "a thousand" fish on the Caucas Shoal yesterday according to a reliable source, and today they were in the neighborhood of Buoy 22. Time to dust off the big tackle and get your reels ready. I always carry two 10 weight outfits...one with a full sinking line and the other with a floater. Be sure to use big, barbless (3/0 or 4/0) hooks, so the fish can't suck the fly down into their crushers. It will be quite a run this year, and next month's report should be loaded with photos...including YOURS. Best to get out there before everybody in town finds out about it.



But let's talk about October. The most dependable action was on the big Spanish mackerel. Here are some photos of anglers lucky enough to "feel the power" of these magnificent fighters: Larry Sisney on Oct 11, Aaron Davis with the best fish of the month on Oct 12, Amarillo's Kevin Howard on Oct 13, and Dave Walters on Oct 26.



There are always lots of other species available in October, and here are a few notable ones. First up is Aaron Davis with his first pompano on fly. How about that! Landed it while Spanish mackerel fishing on a fly tied by Russ Shields. Next is George Testerman, Kingsport, TN, with both a super-fine ladyfish landed at Town Point and the all-time boat record flounder landed October 17 on a tan/white clouser minnow. Those of you familiar with the area will recognize the background, and that fish is still up there. Weighed 5 pounds on the bogagrip! The flounder sucked the fly so deep that I extracted it through the gills....barbless hook saved the day. Finally, here's Dave Walters with a 21" trout on October 26. The interesting colors on this fish were perfectly camouflaged with the mottled bottom.



October 26 was a picture-perfect day for sight-fishing. Dave and I poled between "the points" and spotted this first redfish in 3' of water. The fish was "high and happy" swimming straight at us with the sun directly behind us. With the sun in its eyes the fish never saw the boat and nonchalantly swam over and ate Dave's

gray/white EP baitfish. It was a big fish...over 28". A little later we pulled in close to the point and Dave landed another redfish...maybe 18". Then we ran over to our favorite Spanish spot on the N side of the island, had lunch, and Dave landed the big Spanish in the first row of pictures (he and Anne enjoyed it that night at Peglegs). We still had a couple hours left, so we ran all the way to Opal Beach on glassy water and found the mother lode of redfish and trout. Dave had about 20 shots but only got this one redfish and the 21" trout to eat. Finally we lost our light and ran on back. It was one of those days that makes you glad to be alive, in a skiff, with a fly rod in your hand. I know *you* know what I'm talking about... **Capt Baz**

Project Healing Waters: Lou Orrie, one of our newer PHW participants, had complicated surgery on his neck (cervical spine) and is going thru the recovery process and on very limited activity. Please keep him in your thoughts and prayers as we look forward to him returning to all our activities.

We will start a rod building class this month during our PHW meetings on November 6, 13, and 27. We have been asked by the Bream Fishers to do a demonstration of fly tying at the Bream Fishers picnic on Saturday, Nov 11, which happens to be Veterans Day. I think it would be really nice if we could get a couple of volunteers to do that—all the better if they were veterans! *Russ Shields*

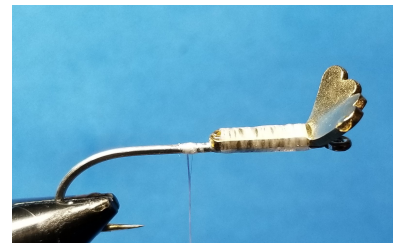
Fly of the Month – The Perfect Shrimp by Matt Wegener

Let me share a bit of a secret. This shrimp fly combines a natural shrimp appearance and a scooting action that flat-out catches fish. Hint: use smaller #6 patterns for dock lights and persnickety fish like mangrove snapper.

Hook: Long shank hook, such as a #4 Mustad S74SNP-DT
 Thread: Tan or white Danville Flat-waxed nylon
 Body: Gunny's Sand Crab Dub (USMC Fly Guy), sand crab color
 Tail & antennae: Steve Farrar Flash Blend, mullet brown color
 Shell back: Pro 3D shrimp shell, brown on tan base color
 Ribbing: 15 # fluorocarbon
 Weight: Fish Skulls Shrimp Tail, Large and gold color



Tying Instructions



1. Tie in the shrimp tail on top of the hook shank and leave 1/8" of a space between the tail and hook eye.



2. Invert the hook and tie in the flash blend, about 1 1/2 times the diameter of a matchstick. This creates the tail and antennae of the fly.



3. Tie in a 6 inch piece of 15 # fluorocarbon for the ribbing. Then create a dubbing loop and add dubbing for the body of the fly.



4. Usually you will need to make a second dubbing loop to finish the body of the fly.



5. Brush out the dubbing with a wire bristle or a tooth brush



6. Lay the shrimp back over the hook shank and tie in place with awaiting thread at the hook eye.



7. Wrap ribbing towards the hook eye. Whip finish and coat the shell back and thread wraps with thick clear goo.

October Meeting Program – Matt Wegener



Matt gave an outstanding presentation that should be seen by everyone in the club and anyone else who fishes with the fly rod here. What a wonderful place to live and what wonderful waters to fish..... For a complete summary of his presentation see George's notes in the minutes. Thank you, Matt!!

Fly Fishers of Northwest Florida Minutes October 3, 2017 George Norton, Secretary

Board meeting was brought to order at 6:00 pm by President Oleta Webb.

There were seven board members/committee chairs present.

September's minutes were reviewed and accepted by all present. Treasurer's report was presented and accepted.

New Business: It was proposed to combine the membership chair with the Treasurers duties. A motion was made and seconded and approved to combine the duties of the Membership Chair with those of the Club Treasurer.

Christmas committee was formed and will decide on types of rod and reels to be purchased for the upcoming Christmas Party raffle.

Discussion concerning repetition of club topics presented at both the board meeting and general membership meetings was further discussed. It was determine in order to make better use of the general membership time to streamline topics presented unless the membership was required to vote on club changes and issues, as required in our club by-laws. All topics will be featured in the Club Minutes and posted in the monthly newsletter keeping club members informed.

Russ Shields presented a letter that will be sent to Congressional leaders pertaining to funding S-333 expansion which enhances water conveyance along the Tamiami Trail highway and greatly improve water flow south into the Everglades.

As this topic reflects our purpose as a club "to advocate and encourage conservation and the betterment of fishing waters." It was agreed to go forth with the letter.

Thank You Russ for taking this on.

Board meeting was adjourned at 6:35 pm.

The club meeting was called to order by President Oleta Webb

September minutes Accepted and Approved

Treasurers Report: Accepted and approved. Club finances are in good shape with a surplus that will meet our needs for a great Christmas Party.

Christmas Party – December 12 – Holiday Inn : Tickets (\$25 each) go on sale at the October Saturday clinic and will continue at each meeting. If you can't make any of the meetings to purchase tickets you can mail your check (payable to FFNWF) to: Jay Brykczynski [4983 Prieto Drive](mailto:jay.brykczynski@ffnwf.com) [Pensacola FL 33506](mailto:jay.brykczynski@ffnwf.com)
We need a solid ticket sold amount by November 30th. So don't delay."

A Christmas Party committee has been formed which will include Russ, Cliff, Matt, Jim, George, Jay and Oleta. The Committee will meet and take care of the details.

Raffle items were discussed. It was suggested that boxes of flies from club members be donated for the raffle. We discussed offering a couple Orvis rods. We will also ask Bob Story of Feather Craft if he would like to donate a prize again. There will be the trip with Baz and we will add a new big prize – a Yeti cooler instead of giving away fly boxes. Tickets will be \$5 or 6 for \$25 and can only be purchased at the party. There are individual raffles for each item.

Presentation: Matt Wegener is a biologist with the FWC as well as our club fly tying guru. Matt gave an outstanding presentation on fishing the four seasons in our area. Matt covered the available species, locations, and seasonal trends.

During the fall the highlight in the Bay is the running of the Bulls which peaks from Nov 11-25th but it can last late into December. The Geaux Meux, the Green Weenie and poppers all work. The bull reds are always on the move and the birds and boats chasing the schools help locate them. A sink tip line with a 8-10 wight rod is recommended. The fall is also a good time for Spanish mackerel, ladyfish, slot reds and trout. Pompano and whiting are also available on the fly in the surf.

The main targets in the winter are trout and slot reds inshore and in the river deltas. Trout and reds move depending on the cold fronts. Sight fishing for reds is good at Big Lagoon, Fort Pickens and on the flats where there is white sand and grass. Trout tend to come onto shallow flats during warm weather and drop off to 6-12 feet after a cold front. Fishing bayous with deep holes and shallow flats nearby are what you should also look for in the winter. Don't forget to fish run outs and pockets in the marsh where reds like to set up shop. Go to flies are a tan and white clouser minnow with yellow eyes. In the rivers striped bass and hybrid strippers are great sport and a challenge of the fly, while schools of false albacore pile up on the beaches especially when there is a north wind which flattens the surf.

In the Spring Spanish mackerel show up and Matt prefers fishing them with a 60-80 pound mono tippet (8-10 inches), not wire, on the edge of the grass flats in 5-7 feet of water. Matt also enjoys fishing freshwater for bluegill and bass in the spring and goes after gag grouper and snapper in the Bay with a 350 grain fly line. Trout, reds and ladyfish are readily available but keep your eyes peeled for surface activity.

The summer can be tough. This is the time to fish at night under the lights for trout and reds. Cast into the dark and bring the fly into the light. Most hits occur during that transition. False albacore are very selective and are taken with a small Gummy Fly, a # 6 which imitates a small anchovy. Spanish and ladyfish round out the picture in the Bay, while Kings and Dolphin can be caught offshore on the fly.

Matt thanks for the great presentation and we all learned a lot.