

Flies & Lies

NEWSLETTER OF THE FLYFISHERS
OF NORTHWEST FLORIDA
OCTOBER 2008

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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

Minutes, September 2, 2008

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General Business Meeting, Fly Fishers Of Northwest Florida, September 2, 2008, Vice-President Joe Higgins, presiding

Vice-president Joe Higgins called the meeting to order at 7:00 P.M. At that time he introduced new member Don Smith, who was welcomed. The treasurer's report was approved as submitted. Art de Tonnancourt moved to approve an additional \$100.00, for the Saturday Clinic gourmet lunch yearly allocation. Larry Goodman seconded, and the motion was unanimously approved.

The chair of the nominating committee, Jay Williams, stated that he would present the proposed slate of officers for 2009, at the October meeting. The list will include two board members at large. Those present were reminded that the Fall Picnic is Saturday Oct. 12th., at Shoreline Park. A \$5.00, fee will be charged per persons over 16 years of age. Everyone is encouraged to bring a covered dish. Fishing will commence at dawn, and the picnic to follow at 11:00 A.M.

Another outing has been planned by Art de Tonnancourt. It is scheduled for Oct. 18th., at Whiting Field Navy Boat Dock. The club will provide lunch at that function. Contact Art for further details.

Plans progress for the Dec. 16th., Christmas Party at the new Holiday Inn, just North of the interstate on Davis Hwy. Respectfully submitted; Jerry Giles, Secretary

Casting & Tying at the Club.... Tom Regina

At the Thursday October 9 Bull Session starting at 6:30 PM, Don "Big Wolf" Lupone will lead us in tying a Catalpa Worm as part of our regular 2008 terrestrial fly tying series. The fly Don has chosen has a woven body, but don't let that discourage you from attending this tying session. Don has demonstrated this simple overhand knot weave for us in the past and it was easy for everyone to master. All fly tying materials will be provided by your club and Don. If you have them, bring your vise and tying tools... or use the club's vises and tools.

We will not have a fly tying session at the Saturday October 18 clinic. The "clinic" is being replaced with a fishing trip. (After all we are a fishing club.) Art deTonnancourt has arranged a fishing trip to the U.S. Navy boat docks at Whiting Park for October 18. (See Art's article in this newsletter for all the details). If you don't plan to fish during this trip come on out anyway. This will be a great opportunity to practice your fly casting on water. 3/0 John will be back from his western piscatorial pursuits and will be available to give casting instruction and critique.

Russ and Jerry G. will provide us with another mighty fine lunch including big and little people drinks... and it won't cost you anything.

As always guests are welcome at all our meetings, bull sessions, clinics, and fishing trips. So bring a guest, or several, we will welcome them and hopefully interest them in fly fishing and fly tying.

October Schedule

October 7	Business Meeting
October 9	Bull Session, Tying the Catalpa Worm with Don Lupone
October 12	Fall Picnic at Shoreline Park, Gulf Breeze (details above in "Minutes")
October 18	Fishing Outing and Clinic, Details page 6

Fishing Report... Captain Baz Yelverton



The high wind with minimal rain from Hurricanes Gustov and Ike were just what we needed to jump start the fall fishing season. When the gulf finally calmed down we found many wonderful channels carved close to the beach both east and west of Pensacola Pass. Earlier in the month they were filled with ladyfish up to four pounds, but now they hold more bluefish, some pompano and a few redfish. There are also numerous reports of large schools of reds on inside flats from Garcon Point to the pass. You just have to put your time in looking for them and get lucky. We found a school of about fifty fish on Sept 5, and Rob Angus, Birmingham, AL, landed two on a tan/white Clouser. Here's a shot of Rob's first redfish which was about 29" and weighed 10#.

On September 21 large schools of false albacore arrived in the vicinity of the the Pensacola Beach Pier for the first time since late-June. My client Rhad Hayden and I were there first thing Monday morning, and Rhad caught them on size 6, clear, gummy minnows. It was challenging fishing as schools of Spanish mackerel were feeding in the same area. I bumped up the tippet to 30# fluoro in the name of fly preservation, and the FA didn't seem to mind. The fish were big as you can see in this picture of Rhad with his first "little tunny".



The next day it was too rough to run to the Albie Hunting Grounds, so we set up just east of the pass and Floris van den berg, from Holland, had a great time catching big ladyfish on a gurgler using a 5wt outfit with a 7wt shooting head system. We'd been catching and releasing ladyfish for about an hour when the first school of jack crevalle I've seen since July 4 appeared a couple hundred feet south of us. They were milling around inside the current line and slowly drifting in our direction. I grabbed the 12wt for Floris, unclipped the anchor, and the north wind blew us toward the fish. Floris had never handled a 12wt, but he put the big popper right on the edge of the school and the jacks fought for it.



I fished Floris two more days, and we successfully hunted for pompano and redfish in the gin-clear water along the edge of the gulf. Here is Floris with his first pompano, a big fish in the 4# range. I'm also attaching a shot of him releasing the second pompano. Check out the water color!



We caught this last redfish by wading one of the new cuts east of the pass. There are a lot of spots where the old road has washed into the gulf providing structure for redfish, flounder, and pompano. It doesn't even look like our beach; it's more like fishing on some exotic volcanic island in the South Pacific.

One last comment, the FA have surprisingly starting refusing gummy minnows. A few days ago after trying almost everything in the box we tied on an Umpqua Cowen's Albie Anchovy, size 6, and hooked a fish on the second cast. For the last few days Cowen's fly has been the ticket. If you don't know the fly here's a link. <http://www.saltwateredge.com/FLY77.html>

See you on the water, Capt Baz

Catalpa Worm... Don Lupone

Catalpa worms, also known as catawbias are prized as fish bait. Catalpa worms are the caterpillar stage of the Sphinx moth. Catalpas, like many other caterpillars, spend the winter underground in the pupae stage. As spring arrives and soil temperatures warm the adult moths emerge to mate. Females deposit eggs in mass on the underside of catalpa tree leaves. About a week later, up to 1000 eggs from a single adult can hatch. The newly hatched catalpas feed and grow for about three weeks. During this time many worms fall or are blown from the leaves and branches of trees overhanging water and become a hardy meal for fishes.

The catalpa worm life cycle begins again when the worm drops to the ground and pupates. A typical catalpa life cycle is about six weeks, which means several generations can occur in a single season. Only the last hatch in the fall winters underground.

Materials

Hook: Mustad 79580, 4XL, streamer, size 6
Thread: 6/0 black
Tail: Black goose or turkey biot
Abdomen: Chartreuse and black Ultra Chenille
Setae: Grizzle rooster saddle hackle feather
Head: Black Super Fine dubbing



Tying Instructions

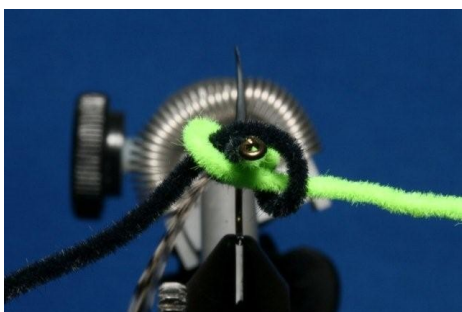


1. Debarb the hook and place it in the vise. Using a jam knot, tie the thread on one hook eye distance back from the hook eye. Lay down a neat thread base on the hook shank to a point just above the hook barb. Form a bump of thread at this point and move the thread forward about 1/8-inch. Place a black goose biot, concave side up, on top of the shank so it lays on the bump of thread. When tied in, the biot should extend back about 3/4-inch beyond the thread bump. Wrap the thread over the butt of the biot, so it is tight against the bump. This will raise the biot upwards forming a 30 to 45 degree angle to the

shank. Tie in the grizzle hackle feather at the biot "bump". Leave the feather hanging from the shank for later use. Move the thread to a point about 1/4-inch behind the hook eye.

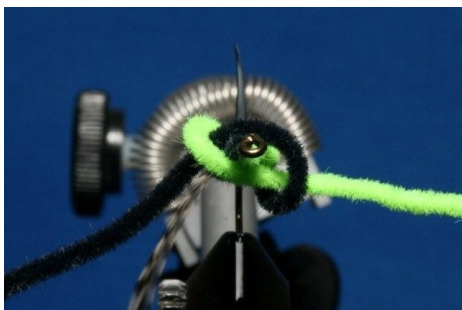


2. Cut 5-inch pieces of chartreuse and black chenille from the skins. At a point about 1/4-inch behind the hook eye, tie on the chartreuse chenille to the FAR side of the hook. Bind the chartreuse chenille to the SIDE of the hook all the way back to the biot tail and the hanging hackle feather. Wrap the thread back to the 1/4-inch starting point and tie on the black chenille to the NEAR side of the hook. Bind the black chenille to the SIDE of the hook all the way back to the biot tail and the hanging hackle feather. Bring the thread back behind the eye and whip finish or half hitch the thread and cut it away.



3. Turn your vise so the hook eye is facing you. Tie a simple overhand knot with the CHARTREUSE chenille going over the BLACK chenille. Note: In this weave the CHARTREUSE chenille ALWAYS goes over the BLACK. Slip the BLACK chenille loop OVER the hook eye. Note: In this weave the BLACK chenille ALWAYS goes over the hook shank and the CHARTREUSE goes under the hook shank. Manipulate the loose knot to the back of the hook just over the beginning of the biot

Catalpa Worm (continued)



tail. Cinch the knot by pulling both strands of chenille simultaneously outward and perpendicular to the hook shank. Get all the slack out of the knot so it is secure to the hook shank. Note: You want a BLACK stripe on top and a BLACK stripe on each side of the worm. If you cinch the chenille too tight the strips will be distorted. Continue making overhand knots, CHARTREUSE over BLACK, BLACK over hook eye, moving forward and cinching them close to each other on the hook shank until you are about ¼-inch from the

hook eye. Turn your vise back to its original or normal position. Re-attach the thread at the very front of the woven body. Tie off the chenille pieces, cut away the tag ends and bind them down. In about eight evenly spaced turns, spiral wrap the hackle feather forward to form the setae. Tie off the feather in front of the woven body. Cut away the feather butt end and bind down the tag.



4. Apply black dubbing to the thread and build a head about the same circumference as the body. The head should extend forward to a point about one hook eye distance back from the hook eye. Cover the hook space between the front of the head and hook eye with thread. Whip finish or half hitch the finishing thread and cut the thread away. Apply a small amount of cement to the finish thread wraps. Tease out some of the dubbing to add a “fuzzy” or “hairy” appearance to the head of the worm.

Southeastern Anglers Report...Dane Law

What a season so far, and it is a long way from over yet. I think the best is yet to come. Our spring and summer fishing brought some incredible action. Some of the best days we have ever seen, and some of the most difficult. From huge browns tirelessly eating cicadas on top in some places, to minimum flows and warm water in others. I think the next three months are going to get on down to just some good consistent fall fishing – and we are ready. Here’s what we think.

Hiwassee River – Hiwassee reservoir is in much better shape going into fall than the previous two years, with a good possibility of September moisture. The lake is near turnover, and the waters should begin cooling soon. Night time ambient temps are 60F or below in the area. We will be fishing the upper river with a mix of floating and maybe some wading. We are currently seeing good holdover which will increase. It should be a good fall for dry fly fishing. Fall is probably going to be better than summer, which is unusual.

Toccoa River – We are expecting much better fall fishing here than in years past. Water temps are good and have been all summer. Flows should be good for float trips with a little wading encouraged at the shoal areas. Fish stockings have been heavy here during the summer, and holdover is good. We are excited about the possibility of better regulations on the river next year. Here again, I think we are going to have better fall fishing than is normal.

Clinch River – With favorable low flows, this will be some great trout fishing near Knoxville. The water is cold and we are currently having good days here. Mostly nymph fishing with some streamers. We are catching fish within the new protected slot already and some real nice brookies too. It is a lot of fun to catch three species of trout in a tailwater.

Cumberland River – We are expecting a repeat of last year’s awesome fall fishing. The largest trout ever caught by an SEA client was caught here last fall. I won’t go into detail, but October/November should be an event. I think the fish will spread out and we will have action down the Burkesville or below. Southeastern Anglers is pleased to announce that Captain Mark Scarborough will be joining us in Kentucky this month. We are working from a new computer. If you receive duplicates please let me know. Southeastern Anglers 423-338-7368. Thanks, Dane.

Combined Fishing Trip & Clinic... Art de Tonnancourt

Our scheduled Saturday, October 18th club clinic will be combined with a fishing trip that will be held at “Whiting Park”, the NAS Whiting recreation area located just outside of the city of Milton. The following details will assist everyone in getting there and be aware of the planned program:

Driving directions: Heading East on highway 90 go through downtown Milton and cross the Blackwater river over the large bridge near the center of town. Within a mile, or so, after crossing the bridge, Johnson Road crosses hwy 90 right after an antique mall on your left (south). Turn left on Johnson Road for a very short way and turn left again on “Old River Road” to “Whiting Park. I have reserved one of the small pavilions (#5) near the water and the park is relatively small and easy to find the group.

Schedule: Plan to arrive by 7:30 AM and coffee and doughnuts will be provided for all. We will have some hand-outs of the river sketches and some of us who are familiar with the waters will share whatever information we have about the fishing. Both freshwater and saltwater species are usually available. There is a good boat ramp for those of you who take your boat on a trailer, and there are boat rentals available as well. The water is usually suitable for kayaks so bring them if you have them. Plan to launch around 7:45 AM. Plan to fish until 11:45AM to return for refreshments and some great hot dogs (polish sausages actually) with the fixings that will be prepared by our great clinic chefs, Russ and Jerry Giles. The party will probably be over around 1 PM.

More Details: The facility has 2 sizes of pontoon boats, 8 and 12 passenger for \$17 and \$19 per hour. I have reserved a smaller (8pass) boat and will share the boat and cost with the first 5 people who send me an email artdetonnancourt1@cox.net confirming they want a seat. This should be fun fly fishing off the pontoon boat.. They only have one 8 passenger pontoon boat, but have several of the larger one. Some of you other military retirees might also wish to reserve a pontoon boat and invite some of the members to share it with you. This idea could be the makings of a real memorable good time! You may reserve a pontoon boat by calling the park at (850) 623 2383.) Also available are Jon boats with 8 hp motors and safety equipment for \$14 per day. You will need to be either retired military or have one of our many club members who are military retirees sign out the boats for you. There are two standing rules for the facility: NO GLASS containers, and NO PETS. Please observe these rules.

Sign Up: Everyone is asked to sign a sheet to be passed around at the October business meeting if they intend to come, and should you miss that sign up let Russ, Jerry or me know you're coming so we can get enough beers, soft drinks, dogs and doughnuts.....Let's make it a great turnout, and bring a friend along who would enjoy this fine group of sportsmen and make this a memorable club event.

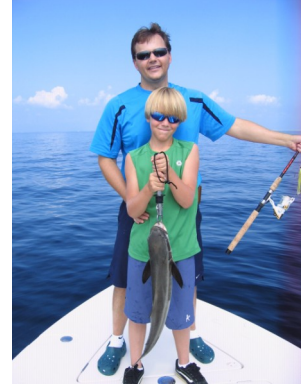
Foul weather plan: If the weather forecast by mid-afternoon on Friday the 17th does not look favorable for this event, I will confer with Jerry Aldridge and Jerry will send an email prior to 4 PM to cancel. The event will then be

Fishing Report... Captain Bob Quarles

The fishing has been better than I have seen in a long, long time.....Big redfish, pompano, huge ladyfish, spanish and reds on the beach and on the flats.....Fall fishing has been fantastic..... we have had great weather and lots of targets for the fly rod, several club members have been coming with me and enjoying the bait blitzes...



Jim Eanes even brought his grandson and we caught his first fish on fly, his first cobia and then a limit of red snapper, how's that for a good day!



I have had the pleasure of taking several first timers lately and new people to our area and saltwater flyfishing, they were all blown away by the action. If you have kids, or want to introduce some people to saltwater flyfishing, now is the time!



Speaking of club members, pick up the October issue of Florida Sportsman. Blue Heron Guide Service is mentioned along with a nice picture of long time club member Dan Green with a monster redfish we caught on fly, actually doubled up with Jerry Hagn, the best fishing for the bull reds is about to break loose! Hope you enjoy the pics!



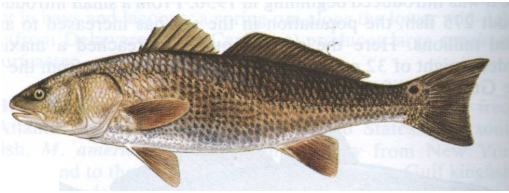
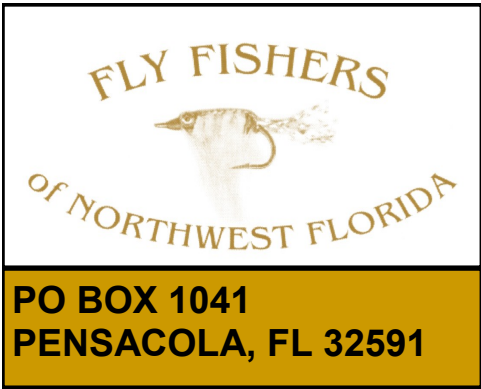
Capt. Bob Quarles, 850 501-1530, 850 437-3169, www.blueheronguideservice.com

Western Report... Karen Brand

Travis is alive and well in Yellowstone and had dinner with him last night! Heading to Slough Creek today and will fish there thru the weekend. We spent last week on the Big Horn and had a great time and caught browns, rainbows and cutbows. Waded most days but rented a drift boat last Tuesday and floated 13 miles of the river. Jerry and Larry also drifted with a guide that and we met up with them and fished for a few hours. You will have to wait till we get home for fish picture.

The Green River is full of water and it is the highest we have seen it in years. Because of the water flows the fish are holding in different places but we are getting it figured out! We can still wade but the current is too strong to cross and fish the banks opposite to Little Hole. We have had hatches everyday but the beetle as been the go to fly during the entire trip and we have never really fished beetles in past years. Jerry and Larry arrived yesterday and had a good day of fishing. Tom Fiinkle headed home to Maine yesterday - he has been fishing with us for the last 3 weeks, on the Shoshone, Big Horn, Yellowstone and the Green. Picture is of the Green taken from the look out above Little Hole. See you in Oct!...Karen & John





OCTOBER 2008

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
			1	2	3	4
5	6	7	8	9	10	11
	Business Meeting 7 PM			Bull Session-Tying & Tall Tales 6:30 PM		
12	13	14	15	16	17	18
Fall Picnic, Shoreline Park, Gulf Breeze Page 2 for details				Fishing Outing and Clinic, Whiting Park Page 6 for details		
19	20	21	22	23	24	25
26	27	28	29	30	31	