



Flies and Lies

Newsletter of the Fly Fishers of Northwest Florida

October, 2015

FFNWF

PO Box 1041
Pensacola, FL 32591

www.ffnwf.org

PRESIDENT

Cliff Newton
(850) 637-3367
ccnewton@gmail.com

VICE-PRESIDENT

W. (Rex) Straughn
(850) 261-7811
crew679584@att.net

SECRETARY

Kent Reagan
(850) 696-2862
kwReagan@msn.com

TREASURER

Jay Brykczynski
(850) 232-7504
jaybryk@yahoo.com

NEWSLETTER

Paul Wargo
586-943-3155
flyfishersnwf@gmail.com

MONTHLY MEETINGS at

Miraflores 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

Project Healing Waters Our group continues to meet on the first and third Mondays and second Friday of each month. We were well represented at the Fly Fishing Fair in Ocean Springs. Next we are planning a trip for six of our participants and volunteers with Capt Baz Yelverton and Capt Eddie Woodall. We are going to be looking for big Spanish Mackerel and Redfish. We are also planning a trip to the Chattahoochee River in November where we will float the river looking for the fall run of big Brown trout. We will be fishing with Chris Scalley and his River Through Atlanta guiding service.

As always we are looking for new participants from the veterans community who have military related injuries and might be interested in the therapeutic activities of fly tying, rod building and occasional fishing trips. If you or someone who might benefit from our program please contact me and we will bring them aboard. It is a great program and we have lots of activities to share. I can be reached at 850-983-9515 or online at rkshields@bellsouth.net.
Russ Shields

The Pres Says

I hope everyone is well and is finding an opportunity to go fishing. The weather is changing and soon there should be some big Spanish in the Bay. The Bull Reds should not be far behind.

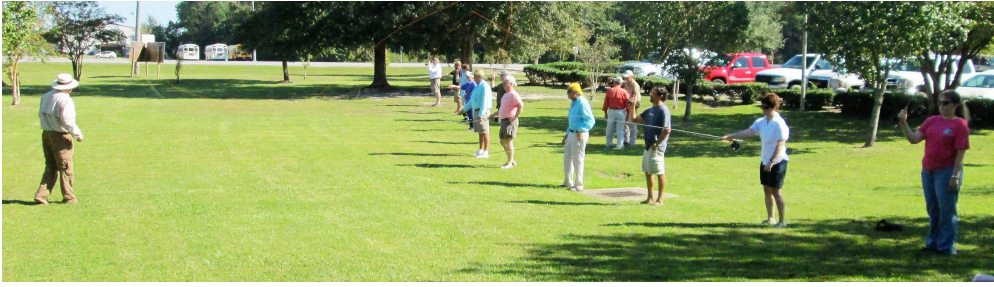
The 2nd Annual **Gulf Coast Fly Fishing Fair** in Ocean Springs, MS was a big success. This was the first year the FFNWF was a member club of the GCC. Our club was recognized with the **Education Award for 2015**. The efforts of all our members in promoting education in Fly Fishing were recognized. Special Thanks should go to Russ Shields for heading up the annual Fly Fishing course and to Matt Wagner for keeping the Fly of the Month fresh each month. Many members including your President won some wonderful raffle prizes. The classes were interesting and informative. The food was delicious and the opportunity to interact with fly fisherman from across the Gulf Coast was priceless. If you didn't get the opportunity to come this year, try to plan to attend next year; you won't regret it.

Start making plans to attend the Annual Banquet on December 8th; plans are underway to make this one of the best Club Banquets yet.

There will be a board meeting at 6:00 PM followed by the general membership meeting at 7:00 PM on Tuesday, October 6th.
Cliff Newton

October Events Tuesday, Oct 6 - Club Meeting – 7:00
Thursday, Oct 8 – Fly Tying the Famous Go Meaux – 6:30
Saturday, Oct 17 – Clinic and Lunch - 9:00 AM

Gulf Coast Fly Fishing Fair



Kent's USMC Fly Guy



Jerry and Russ teaching cold water trout fishing



Project Healing Waters booth



Paul: Here's one for the newsletter: "When fish are in schools, they sometimes take debate."

Hee Hee: Jerry G.

Capt Baz is Back! Welcome to September...finally! Fall is in both the air and the water, and it sure feels good. The water temperature has started dropping, and the fish are getting more active. A good example was September 13 when we found a large school of bull redfish on the Caucas Shoal, and from time to time a fish would crush a baitfish on the surface. I'm sure we could've caught them on a popper, but all we had rigged up was a tan/white clouser. Which worked just fine for Jeff Nall, Nixa, MO, after I took off the wire tippet. Here's a



nice shot of Jeff with a beauty. The amazing thing was there wasn't another boat in sight when Jeff hooked that fish, and by the time he landed it there were three other boats swarming around us heaving lead into the middle of the school. Of course it was on a Sunday. The redfish massing around Pensacola Pass this month and next are getting a break from the guides, because this year everybody's running red snapper trips on the weekends through October.

The most exciting and unusual fishing at the moment is for mahi-mahi that have moved within 3 miles of shore. These aren't "chicken dolphin" either. Most of the fish are from 20-24", and there are some 15 pounders in the mix. I had heard there were a lot of fish around, but the first day I found them was September 3. We were running out toward the Oops Barge looking for false albacore when my client saw a fish strike the surface about a hundred yards away. I quickly came off plane and eased in that direction hoping to find a school of FA. To my surprise a big mahi...like 10 pounds...flew out of the water just ahead of the skiff! In a controlled panic I clipped off my clients' gummy minnows, added sections of 30# fluoro, and tied on two poppers. Peter Petruzzi got one of Jonas' "tube" poppers in red/white and was the first to get his fly in the water. After a couple strips this beautiful mahi exploded on it and went airborne. While Peter was fighting his fish I saw a good-sized buoy floating just beneath the surface marking the FAD (fish attracting device) deployed beneath it. We had stumbled upon someone's private cobia spot, and it was loaded with mahi! My other angler Sam Lewis hadn't been able to get a take on his chartreuse popper, so after landing



and releasing Peter's fish we decided to change his fly. I was digging around in my fly box when Peter handed me a Coffee's Sparkle Minnow he had tied on a #1 saltwater hook. I motored back to the FAD, and when Sam dropped his fly in the water alongside the boat preparing to cast a mahi grabbed it. He could not keep the fish off of that fly! I've never seen anything like it. Peter quickly changed to a Sparkle Minnow, and they proceeded to land fifteen more fish. We had multiple double hookups with both fish leaping 6'

out of the water, crossing fly lines, everything you could hope for in a full fledged feeding frenzy! At some point during the mayhem I netted two fish at the same time, and we took time to snap this terrific photo before releasing the fish unharmed. That was three weeks ago, and the fish are still here. I ran a light-tackle trip yesterday, and Wade Knight landed one of the biggest mahi-mahi we've brought to the boat. Here's a pic.



I am happy to report the big Spanish have finally started arriving in the usual fall spots. They're not as dependable as they will be next month, but we are catching a few on most trips. The best time has been late-morning to mid-afternoon on strong outgoing water. When the water's not moving the fish haven't been there.

We've been catching them on the tan/white bucktail clouser minnow with a short section of 26# tie-able wire. Here are some shots of happy anglers who felt the incredible tug of one of these monsters during the past month. For Pete Melnick who lives in Alaska it was his first saltwater fish on fly, and he got a major line burn to go along with that big smile! Peter Petruzzi landed his Sept 3 before we headed out to the Gulf and found mahi heaven. Tom Halbrooks caught and released his on Sept 18.



Spanish mackerel aren't the only fish feeding on those grass beds these days. Here's a nice shot of Paolo Torchio on September 8 with one of three good-sized pompano caught while blind-casting for Spanish. Paolo released all three to "live long and prosper"...at least until Russ catches one of them...



I'll close with a couple more happy anglers each holding their first redfish landed on fly. Stephen Miller landed two on August 31, and John Weber got his



September 4. There are plenty of redfish are on the flats, but you have to catch a day when the mullet fishermen aren't in the area. We landed these three fish on an EP mangrove pinfish. Even though it's tied on a 2/0 hook the fish like it. Sink rate is perfect, too. They have them at Bass Pro in Destin. Talk to Charles Leech...



Capt Baz

Bonefish on the Fly...by Matt Wegener

The time had finally come. After 5 years of living in Florida and a few canceled trips, I finally made my first pilgrimage to the Florida Keys. I rarely leave home without a fly rod, but on this trip I wasn't sure how much I would get to use the TFO 8wt (won in the 2014 club Christmas raffle) and custom 12wt (bought in 2013 club auction for \$20) that I packed for the trip. The three other guys on the trip weren't fly fishermen and the 17 foot jon boat we were using was not be as forgiving to fly casting as my Hewes skiff. On top of that, trying to pack the right lines, tippet, and flies for a species I've never fished for before was enough to make my head spin. But hey, even a blind squirrel finds a nut every once in a while.

A few good decisions combined with a certain level of luck resulted in a spectacular fishing adventure that I will never forget. The first important decision was a stop in the Walmart in Okeechobee, FL to buy up a collapsible laundry basket to use as a make-shift stripping basket. This piece of equipment proved to be invaluable at helping me make casts and not getting my fly line tangled on the trolling motor, anchor, cooler, etc. The second important decision is something most of us do when we need help catching fish...I called Capt. Baz. Not only did he recommend fantastic restaurants to appease our appetite, but he introduced me to a local guide, and most importantly set us up with a game plan for finding and catching arguably the apex saltwater target in Florida...the Bonefish. Not only is this species regarded as one of the most difficult fish to catch in Florida, but my fishing partner that week had been going to the Keys for 6 years and had never even seen one. And this guy is no joke. He is a serious fisherman who has done exceptionally well along the big

bend of Florida fooling Redfish, 30-inch Speckled Trout, Tarpon and especially Snook. If he hadn't seen a bonefish poling these flats for 6 years, you can imagine where my confidence level was for even seeing a bonefish, let alone catching one, on this short 7-day trip.

But the trip started off with a bang. We hit one of the bridges near our rental house the first night and I caught two baby tarpon on a chartreuse and white Go-Meaux (see the recipe and tarpon picture in the Fly of the Month section) rigged on my 12wt rod with floating line. The other guys were all casting spinning rods and hooking fish, but these high-flying acrobatic fish had no problem throwing the hooks after only one jump. The tarpon had a much harder time free themselves from the light-weight offerings a fly angler can deliver and it showed in my high hook-to-land ratio.

We set out the next day with one goal...well maybe two goals. It was spiny lobster season, so getting a few "bugs" was a high priority on our list and luckily it only took a few hours to get our 4-man limit. Then it was all about finding the elusive Bonefish. The fishing guide Capt. Baz introduced me to, Capt. Griff (Saltwater Angler in Key West) told me about several outer keys on the Gulf side that had been holding respectable numbers of bones and permit. Then, following Capt. Baz's advice, we poured over paper maps looking for lagoons or grass flats around these outer keys that were close to deep channels. After locating several areas that met these criteria, we poled the spots to make sure they went almost completely dry at low tide, which ensures all of the fish on that flat would have to escape to deep water during a falling tide. We came back the next day right at high tide and set our trap by anchoring between the shallow grass flat and deep channel. The secret to seeing the fish was to place the boat near sandy ditches. This did two things: 1) these sandy ditches are highways fish use to exit the flat and 2) fish are much easier to spot over light sand compared to dark grass. Things were pretty slow the first hour, but activity increased as the tide started to fall. There were plenty of sharks to play with, but they refused all of my offerings. The first bones showed up 2 hours after the tide started to fall. The 2 fish moved slowly across the sandy ditch and offered my fishing partner a great shot. He made a perfect cast with his spinning rod/jig combo and both fish immediately responded by turning towards his offering. The first fish bit short, but the second fish took the bait and then headed for the hills as my partner set the hook. I've seen this on TV shows many times, but you really have to experience the sound of a screaming drag that a hooked Bonefish produces! It's unbelievable. The fish made 1 more runs before we were able to land and release the 21" Bonefish. Now it was my turn and I didn't have to wait long. A school of 3 showed up in the exact same spot, but I was still rigged up for sharks, meaning I had a bright yellow seaducer connected to a wire a leader. I didn't have time to change flies, so I went ahead and made a back-handed cast over my right shoulder. The lead was perfect but the distance fell about 10 yards short. However, these fish were apparently hungry and all 3 fish immediately changed course towards my fly. I thought for sure the wire leader would spook them, but I was wrong. The first fish hit and I strip set but missed as the fish only hit the tail of fly. This fired up the remaining two fish and one of them immediately engulfed the yellow seaducer. The next few seconds involved me trying to frantically clear the line as the hooked fish quickly exited the flat and headed straight for Cuba! Again, I've never experienced anything like a Bonefish run. It's like fighting a False Albacore on steroids in only a few feet of water. Two more runs and the 22" fish was brought to the boat, photographed, and released.



We repeated this same pattern on several different flats and saw Bonefish each day, resulting in nearly 60 Bonefish spotted during the trip, which is quite an improvement compared to the past 6 years when my fishing partner saw zero! This all goes to show that you need to know the right people, know the right questions to ask, and most importantly...listen to what those people have to say! What was amazing to me is how willing these fish were to bite, especially compared to how picky the fish on Pensacola flats can be. But Capt. Griff was right when he said making Bonefish bite isn't hard. It's finding the Bonefish and not spooking them that is the difficult part. Anchoring in a productive area assured we wouldn't spook them and making a simple 50 foot cast sealed the deal. You can bet your bottom dollar I'll be back to seal a few more deals in the years to come!

Matt Wegener

Fly of the Month – The Go-Meaux...by Matt Wegener

This fly has a large profile and great action due to the rabbit-strip tail. The lead eyes get it down deep where the big boys live and Estaz seals the deal by creating lifelike flash. Originally created by Deep South Outfitters, from Birmingham Alabama, this fly is a favorite among anglers during the annual "Running of the Bulls". This event brings jumbo-sized Redfish into Pensacola Bay that are ready to eat and make a great target for fly anglers. But this fly also works on many other predators feeding on large baitfish. I caught several tarpon on it a few weeks ago, after many other patterns were turned down. Also, be sure to check out the barred pattern created by this club's very own USMC Fly Guy.

Recipe

Hooks: Mustad 34007 1/0

Thread: Flat-waxed nylon (color-dark green or white)

Anti-fouling loop: 40-50 lb. monofilament or fluorocarbon

Body: Grande Estaz (color – chartreuse or Kelly green)

Tail: White rabbit strip

Eyes: Lead dumbbell eyes (size – medium or large)



Instructions

1. Crush barb and sharpen hook. Make a thread base and secure dumbbell eyes 1/8" behind the hook eye.
2. Move thread back to hook bend and create an anti-fouling loop with monofilament or fluorocarbon.
3. Tie in a rabbit-strip for the tail right at the anti-fouling loop, about 3" or 3.5" long.
4. Tie in Estaz and wrap forward and tie off right behind dumbbell eyes.
5. Make a tapered thread head and whip finish to complete the fly.



From Jack Bauknecht

A fellow fly fisher is putting together a box of flies, with name of maker along with it. His wife is expecting. He is going to put the flies in a vacuum tight box with instruction for the child not to open until their 10th birthday. For anyone wanting to send one of the flies they have made and name and city on a card. Please send to :

Joe Fusco 688 Colonial Blvd. Washington Twp, New Jersey, 07676

Or bring a fly to the October meeting and we will mail them all together.

Let's motivate this child to get hooked on fly fishing. *Jack*



Joe Fusco fly fishing for steelhead in NY state.
8 degrees and smiling

MINUTES

September 2015 Board Meeting

Board meeting was called to order @6:00 PM by the Club President, Clifford Newton

August meeting minutes were accepted as printed in the newsletter.

Treasurers report presented by Treasurer, Jay Brykczynski.

Discussion topics:

Christmas Party budget for prizes was recommended at the same amount as the 2014 budget. Question raised: Should budget be increased to allow for more prizes? Discussion followed regarding what amount of increase and what prizes might be considered. Recommended that a memento be given to all club members who attend the function. Some possibilities presented: pin w/ club logo or similar graphic, decal on a fly box, or a patch. Motion to increase the budget was made and seconded; vote carried the motion. It was further agreed that Jay Brykczynski would look into cost of pins and Cliff Newton would look into the cost of fly boxes with decals.

Fly Fishing Conclave in Ocean Springs, Mississippi on September 18-19th. Lots of vendors and free classes available. Gulf Coast Council President is looking for donations for a raffle during the fair. Artwork, shirts, fishing gear, etc. Motion was made by Terry McCormick that a \$200.00 fund be created for the purchasing item(s) for the raffle. Russ Shields will be provided funds to shop for appropriate items.

Nomination Committee has been established with Oleta Webb, Chair and Russ Shields and Rex Straughn as members.

Fall Outing. Ralph Newton recommends that the Fall Outing be held at Big Lagoon State Park in Mid to late October. There were no objections.

President closed the board meeting.

September 2015 FFNWF Business Meeting Minutes President called the meeting to order at 7:00 PM and turned the floor over to Russ Shields and Jerry Giles for a presentation called "**Where to go Fishing.**" Russ with support from Jerry identified and described ten different rivers and streams from the Carolinas to Montana and Wyoming. They supplemented with information about which fish to target, lodging possibilities, river bed and bank characteristics. The information was coupled with great pictures of the different locations and fish caught.

Minutes of August Meeting were published in the latest newsletter and approved.

Treasurer's Report made by Jay Brykczynski.

Fishing reports:

Spanish in the Bay and around Ft. Pickens and in and out of the Pass,

Speckled Trout on grass around the EPA, Jacks n the Bay, but bite is poor,

Spanish and Ladyfish at Bayou Grande

Christmas Party budget has been increased over 2014. A proposed new category of prize will be given to all members who attend the Party. Motion made by Russ Shields, seconded by Ralph Newton, motion carried.

Ocean Springs Conclave, September 17-18, 2015. Club donation for Raffle at event. Motion was made and approved at the Board Meeting to provide Russ Shields with \$200 to purchase one or more raffle items. Clinic on Saturday, September 18 will be cancelled due to the Conclave.

Nominating Committee established with Oleta Webb, Chair and Russ Shields and Rex Straughn as members.

The President has nominated our club for an Education Award.

Jack Bauknecht has friend with a friend that is expecting his first child. Would like to put together a bunch of flies in a box which will be closed until the child is ten years old. Jack is asking for fly donations to support this. Needs them by the November meeting.

President closed the meeting at 8:22 PM.

Minutes prepared by Ralph Newton due to absence of Kent Reagan.

More from Jerry:

- ... A thief who stole a calendar got twelve months.**
- ... When the smog lifts in Los Angeles U.C.L.A.**
- ... The batteries were given out free of charge.**
- ... A dentist and a manicurist married. They fought tooth and nail.**
- ... A will is a dead giveaway.**
- ... With her marriage, she got a new name and a dress.**
- ... A boiled egg is hard to beat.**
- ... When you've seen one shopping center you've seen a mall.**
- ... Police were summoned to a daycare center where a three-year-old was resisting a rest.**
- ... Did you hear about the fellow whose entire left side was cut off? He's all right now.**
- ... A bicycle can't stand alone; it's just two tired.**
- ... When a clock is hungry it goes back four seconds.**
- ... The guy who fell onto an upholstery machine is now fully recovered.**
- ... He had a photographic memory which was never developed.**
- ... When she saw her first strands of grey hair she thought she'd dye.**
- ... Acupuncture is a jab well done. That's the point of it.**
- And the cream of the twisted crop**
- ... *Those who get too big for their pants will be totally exposed in the end.***

Got, so far, 8,000 views on PHWFFNWF
FACEBOOK PAGE.

Go Figure.
Jack PHWFFNWF

