



# Flies and Lies

Newsletter of the Fly Fishers of Northwest Florida

September, 2021

## FFNWF

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Business Meeting  
1ST Tuesday, 7 PM

Bull Session - Tying  
2ND Thursday, 6 PM

Clinic -Casting, Tying,  
Lunch - 3RD Saturday  
9 AM

***Due to the resurgence of Covid in our community, these decisions were made by the Board of Directors on September 2:***

**No in person meetings at the clubhouse until further notice.** The club meeting and fly tying sessions will be by Zoom as they were last winter.

**Club meeting via Zoom -Tuesday, Sept 7 7:00 PM**  
Program: Jim White - "South Holston and Watauga Trout"

**Fly Tying via Zoom – Thursday, Sept 9 6:30 PM**  
*The Midnight Mullet*

**Saturday Clinic – September 18 - outdoor only** (with access to restrooms). Meals will not be provided; bring your own lunch.

**The Fly Fishing Class and the Auction have been postponed until spring, 2022.**

**The Christmas Party will be discussed at the October club meeting.**

**Details follow in the report from Acting President, Mick Milo.**

**The (Acting) Pres Says:** It's been a trying and hectic couple of weeks, since 3 of our members were hit by the COVID virus. Our fearless leader, Pres. Bob, and his wife, Cyndi, tested POS August 14 and I tested POS two days later. I'm HAPPY to report that I am 95% recovered and speaking with Cyndi last night, it appears that she is coming along much the same. Bob has had a few rough spots but, as you all know, he's a *tough old bird* and his prognosis is now VERY GOOD! I know you all hear it every day but I don't think I can stress enough how important it is to **get your vaccinations**. I have "underlying health conditions" which have always concerned me should I ever contract this disease, but **I'M CONVINCED** that being vaccinated truly mitigated my illness. I urge any of you who have not done so (and are able to) please consider it and get it done.

The Board of Directors decided we should regroup and reconsider how to move forward with club activities for the remainder of 2021. On September 2 the board passed the following changes in meeting formats:

**The Club will cease all indoor, in-person events until further notice.** Such events include (1) The 1st Tuesday General Member Meetings and (2) The 2<sup>nd</sup> Thursday Fly Tying/Bull Sessions. These events will return to a virtual, ZOOM format the same as were conducted throughout 2020 and the beginning of 2021.

**The 3<sup>rd</sup> Saturday (outdoor) Casting Clinics will continue,** but the indoor fly tying sessions will be suspended. Lunch will not be provided by the club and as such attendees should bring their own food and beverages if desired. Club beverages provided inside the clubhouse will also be available (for a nominal donation).

Restroom facilities will be open with hand soap and sanitary wipes readily available.

**Project Healing Waters indoor, in-person events will be discontinued** until further notice which includes all 1<sup>st</sup>, 2<sup>nd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> Monday monthly fly tying and rod building activities. Healing Waters Coordinator, Jim White, will provide continued guidance going forward.

**Most regrettably, the FF101 Course, scheduled for 13 September, will once again be postponed until 14 March 2022 (tentatively).** I know that we have a number of prospective students who are eager to participate in this program and it pains us to have to postpone it once again. We ask that all participants please bear with us as we work through this. Trust me, the course is well worth the wait.

**The annual Fundraising Auction, scheduled for next month, will likewise be postponed until May.** Due to the extensive inventory of high quality items available for this auction, we anticipate a record turnout. This will be an outdoor event. We will evaluate the progress made with COVID between now and then and determine appropriate protection measures.

**No decision has been made regarding the Christmas Party.** Party Chair, Jim White will contact Scenic Hills Country Club to see if we have a cancellation deadline. Once that is determined, we will decide whether it's a "go" or "no go" based on COVID data at the time.

I am truly sorry that I haven't been the bearer of much good news. But be assured, we will persevere. Until next month..... SPEEDY Recovery Bob!!! **Mick Milo**

## Fishing with Capt. Baz

The good news is that by the end of August the inside flats cleared up enough for some excellent sight-fishing. The bad news is on August 31 Hurricane Ida flooded the rivers that feed into Pensacola Bay, and all that muddy water is heading in our direction. My guess is the bay will be trashed in a few days, and in a week Santa Rosa Sound will become strong iced tea. We can probably count on clean water for the Running of the Bulls in November, but the rest of September and October will be dicey.



Maybe the Gulf will cooperate for the next couple months. The false albacore are around and should be with us through October. Here's Matt Neal with a respectable FA on August 14. The fish were feeding on "snot bait" five miles SE of the pass. We dropped down to 12# tippet and tiny juvenile bay anchovy imitations trying to get a take. It took us two hours, but we finally got this fish to eat one of my own creations made from embroidery thread. The temperature was in the high 90's with full sun and a light breeze. Heat index had to be 105. We

snapped this photo, fired up the motor, and headed for home.

The effects of Hurricane Ida lasted from August 29-31. Miraculously, two days later the inside flats were pristine. AJ Hosenfeld and I poled our favorite spots and found plenty of redfish, but the only thing they were interested in was Matt Wegener's "fathead" mullet. AJ broke off a much larger fish before landing this one.



After lunch we set up on a jack crevalle spot and within 15 minutes a



school of fifty behemoths appeared coming straight up the anchor line. The jacks were not at all concerned and started milling around the boat while AJ made the cast. The big popper landed and the jacks fought for it. Problem was AJ kept trying to "trout set" them, and the hook kept falling out. I was screaming "strip set...strip set", and he finally did on the third fish.

I'm writing this report with a heavy heart after losing my close friend Capt Eddie on August 31. He was cleaning fish at the end of my dock on July 30, and a month later he was gone. Don't know how much friends mean to you until they are gone.

**Capt Baz**

**Capt. Eddie Woodall**, a friend of the club and PHW and a close personal friend of Capt. Baz, passed away on August 31. Capt. Baz and Capt. Dave Yelverton have helped the family set up a GoFundMe account to help the family with medical and funeral expenses.



This is from the Eddie Woodall website:  
Fullnetfishingcharters.com

### ***Rest in Peace Captain Eddie Woodall***

*May you have Heavenly winds and following seas*

The Emerald Coast fishing community lost one of her premier ambassadors on 31 August. Captain Eddie Woodall, loved and respected by all who knew him, lost his fight with Covid-19 related Pneumonia after a month-long battle.



For nearly 20 years Eddie owned and operated Full Net Charters, a first-class fishing guide business serving anglers from all over the country.

If you knew Eddie, you knew him as a gifted outdoorsman and extremely generous individual who was willing to help just about anybody with just about anything, at any time night or day - it didn't matter. That's just how Eddie rolled: as a living example of servant leadership.

To help Eddie's family overcome this tragic loss financially, Eddie's friends have started a GoFundMe page with all proceeds benefiting Eddie's wife Ellen and their two daughters.

**If you would like to help go to this website and click on the link:**

**[Rest in Peace Captain Eddie Woodall - Full Net Fishing Charters | Fishing Pensacola to Ft Walton Beach](#)**

**Thank You!**

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### **August 3<sup>rd</sup> Presentation: Matt Wegener "Drifting the Grass Flats in late Summer in Santa Rosa Sound. Notes by George Norton**

Matt is a club member and works for Florida Fish and Wildlife (FWC) as a fisheries biologist. He gave a twofold presentation. The first part was on the overall health of our grass flats. There are three kinds of sea grass. Turtle grass, shoal grass and eel grass. The second part was how to fish our sea grass beds.

Historically in the 1950's the Bay and Upper Estuary were full of grass flats which enhanced marine life. Sea grass doesn't grow in water generally deeper than 5-6 feet, but starting in the late 1950's and 1960's, industry and population growth decimated the sea grass especially in the upper estuary. Point source pollution from industry was largely eliminated in the 1970's but erosion, septic tanks, and run





off from new subdivisions and farming put fertilizers, herbicides and pesticides into the watershed. This type of pollution is much harder to pinpoint than pollutants from industry.

The bad news was followed by some good news starting in 2003-2010. There was an 8% increase in sea grasses and from 2010-15 a 13% increase. Most of the losses were in the upper estuaries while sea grass in the lower Bay has been relatively stable. Efforts to replant sea grass have established some new areas but the sea grass has not expanded due to those efforts. One positive development near the Three-Mile Bridge has been the offshore rock barrier, which helped establish new grass, called Project Greenshores. Longer term the continued



population growth around the Bay will be the biggest challenge as man interferes with the natural filtering capabilities of mother nature such as docks which reduce sunlight and canal dredging.

Part two was how to fish the grass beds. Matt loves to target speckled trout with large flies in chartreuse and white that move lots of water. He uses technology to try to pattern the trout on depth and location. One day they might be at 3.5 feet and later at 5-6 feet. Trout follow patterns like largemouth bass while redfish are unpredictable. If you can figure out the trout pattern that day, then your chances of success grow exponentially.



Matt focuses on drifting the grass flats from about tax day in April into November. He recommends point of grass, edges and drop offs, sand spots and deeper water later in the day. Trout over the grass flats are typically not tippet shy, especially with a fast retrieve, so go with heavy mono in case a toothy Spanish or blue takes your fly. His favorites fly line is an intermediate Rio Outbound Short for an 8-9 weight rods but don't overweight this line. A short leader of 3-4 feet is fine with a bite tippet. He will also fish a floating line with a longer leader.

The best months for Jacks are May and September, Bluefish and Ladyfish May- late October, Pompano September-October, Spanish April-June and October-November, and redfish year round.



Always drift with the wind to reduce noise. Matt uses a trolling motor and steady is better than off and on to avoid spooking fish. Put out a five-gallon bucket or a drift sock to slow your drift. Learn to cast backhand to avoid hooking your buddy. Thanks Matt for an interesting and informative presentation.

Contact Rick O'Connor at 850-478-5230 for further information of how we can get involved on sea grass conservation.

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## Fly of the Month MIDNIGHT MULLET

For the next six to seven months it is my intent to illustrate a fly that is considered by local guides and active lay fisherman as their most productive and favorite go-to flies as the Fly Of The Month patterns. This past month, the EP Bait fish was the first installment of these monthly fly patterns. I trust you will find these fly patterns to be both you favorite as well as productive for you. The Midnight Mullet is an easy pattern to tie and uses very few materials. **Pat Murphy**

## MATERIALS:

HOOK: GAMAKATSU SL-15 1/0

TAIL: PEARL POLAR FLASH

HEAD: PALMER CHENILLE, CHARTREUSE, PEARL

THREAD. HOT ORANGE 140d,

LATERAL LINE: GRIZZLY HACKLE

EYES: 6MM/8MM YELLOW HOLO YELLOW.

## INSTRUCTION:



1. De-barb hook, start tying thread just in front of hook point. Secure a generous clump of tail material at this point.

2. Add lateral line hackle at same tie-in point and extend just past tail length.



3. Secure head chenille in front of thread hump created by previous tie-ins. Palmer forward to hook eye. 16-18 wraps. Whip finish and wrap tapered thread nose.

4. Add holographic eyes just behind tapered nose. Use enough gel adhesive to press adhesive through chenille and hold until gel sets to attach to hook shank.

5. Option used warm gray marker to add color to top half of head.



## FFNWF Meeting August 3 Minutes

**Call to order: 1900**

July Minutes were approved.

**President's Comments:** The July clinic saw five first time visitors. Two joined the club on the spot and the others are likely candidates for membership. Once again, I was impressed by the warm welcome that club members provided. I can't tell you how much that means, but I believe that it is a defining characteristic of this group. Inquiries via the club webpage lead me to believe that we will likely have several newcomers to our upcoming monthly meeting.

**Treasurer:** Larry reported our balances in checking are healthy and membership is in good shape.

**Committee reports:**

**Auction:** Steve reviewed a recent donation from Dr. Birdwell's family which further enhances our auction in October.

**Christmas Party:** We hope to have donations from Orvis and Feather-Craft plus a handpicked selection from the auction donations for raffles.

**Fly Tying:** Pat will lead us in making the EP Minnow on Thursday and at the Saturday Clinic.

**Club Trips** George reported the best time for a three-night two-day trip to the Chandeleur Islands in Louisiana from Biloxi would be October 2021 or May-June 2022. This is primarily a wade fishing trip over grass flats. Sign up with George if you are interested. Estimated cost is \$700 and is all

inclusive except your adult beverages. We need ten to twelve to make the trip. For local trips let George know your ideas for private ponds within one hour of Pensacola.

### **Old Business:**

- Several of the Klaus Gohrbandt donated reels are high dollar items. The BOD recommended setting a minimum starting bid at the auction. The designated items that do not receive a minimum bid will be made available for post-auction eBay sale to maximize their value to the club.
- The Board discussed and approved a variety of methods for receiving annual dues.
- As a follow-up to our club's designation as a 501c organization, the president appointed a By Laws Review Committee. The committee is tasked with determining whether non-profit status necessitates any changes in the current bylaws and submitting recommendations to the Board for review. After BOD review the proposed By-Laws would be presented via the monthly newsletter and then submitted to membership.

### **New Business:**

1. Recommend the Auction and Christmas groups determine how many and which items are to be set aside (if any) for raffle bidding at the Christmas Party. Would like VP Mick Milo to coordinate this as he has done such fine research on the collection.

**Comments:** We discussed how to value the donations that are high end rods and reels. Several options were presented. We concluded there was a preference for members to purchase these items at a minimal but acceptable price (to be established). If that does not occur, they will be sold on E-Bay and or put in the raffle for the Christmas Party. The club wants members to have every opportunity to buy the high end items.

**FFI** Jim informed us that FFI is a conservation oriented organization. His question was how can we be involved? We concluded that the club would seek Matt's advice on how we might help since he is a freshwater biologist with Wildlife and Fisheries.

**Prayers:** Keep Bob Korose in your prayers as he is recovering in ICU from heart surgery and Dave Handley recovering at home from the hospital.

**Adjourn: 1955**