



Flies and Lies

Newsletter of the Fly Fishers of Northwest Florida

September, 2018

FFNWF

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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

Day of Play Pensacola - Saturday, Sept 29

from 10:00 AM to 2:00 PM. Sponsored by Pensacola Parks and Recreation, this event is to encourage families to put down the electronics and get outside. This is a free event open to the public. Our club will participate with fly tying demos and a casting area. There will be parents as well as children; a great opportunity to grow our club. Sign up at the meeting if you would like to help!

Back to School! Clinic - September 15



*School days, school days,
dear old golden rule days!*
And the golden rule is: No slack in
the line before the pick up from
the water!

Teacher Jonas will ring the bell to bring class to session at Shoreline Park in Gulf Breeze so that we can cast on the water. He will also teach the water pick up. Class will be from 9:00 – 10:00 then we will drive back to the club for recess and lunch. Recess!! Free hot lunch!! What a school we have!!!

From the Prez Where did the summer go? There is lots going on in your club and September is the time that the pace increases. Soon the weather will cool changing the water temperature that will signal prime fishing in the bay. Jonas will resume casting instructions at the Saturday clinic. Tickets for the club Christmas Party at the Scenic Hills Country Club are on sale from Jay; it's going to be an epic gathering.

Word of our Introduction to Fly Fishing course has resulted in new club members. Check out the club's Facebook page, FlyFishers Of NorthWest Florida. Kent Reagan continues to add new things to our web page. Our club and the Project Healing Waters Chapter will have a space at the Pensacola Parks and Recreation "Day of Play - Pensacola" on 29 September. We have three volunteers but will welcome all interested.

Dave

Club Meeting – Tuesday, September 4 - 7:00 PM

This is one of those Tuesdays that will seem like a Monday, but it is time for our September meeting. Plans for Day of Play will be discussed, along with plans for the casting lesson at Shoreline park as part of the September clinic. The program will be “Big Fish on a Fly Rod” by Bob Korose – hang on to that 12 wt as we go after billfish and tarpon, and best of all: Christmas Party tickets will be on sale!

Fly Tying Bull Session – Thursday, September 13 – 6:30 PM

We will be making the **Mushmouth**. Good enough to eat (but get the gumbo instead)

Clinic – Saturday, September 15 – 9:00 AM

This will be a “first” for our clinics – Casting instruction with Jonas on the water at Shoreline Park (Gulf Breeze) and then back to the club for fly tying and lunch, and lunch will be special, too. George Norton will be cooking up some Gumbo!!

Project Healing Waters

Because of Labor Day, we will meet on the 10th, 17th and 24th at 10:00am each day. **Russ**



August Clinic - Nothing like a pot of Polish stew to bring out a crowd... That, and Matt and Jonas doing tag team tying. We had 21 people show up including three new members. Matt presented the Mega Popper and Jonas followed up



with tube tying the mega popper. And yes, the Polish stew disappeared quickly. Thanks, Jay!



Tying a large popper for big fish is a great excuse to buy that 12 WT fly rod you need....

Fishing with Capt. Dan We left off last month chasing the false albacore and hoping for a few more tarpon shots before it all closed out. Well, the albacore are missing in action again and although I did put a big one in the air with Captain Chip the day after I sent you July's report, still no tarpon face grab for me this year. There are a bunch of fish left for us locally but you will have your best shots at them in the bay. Jim White was on the boat August 9th and got to witness hundreds of big tarpon rolling all around us. Of course we flailed feathers in their general direction, but nothing happened for us. Casting at rollers is really tough. You just have to keep guessing where the fish is, which way he is going, how far down he is, and how far he is swimming. Then make that calculation instantly, put the fly in that exact spot and give it the retrieve that he wants. It's just like playing the lottery, except the prize is right in front of you and you can't sleep at night for three months. If that sounds like fun to you, grab a sinking line on your 12 wt, and pull streamers in the area of the turning basin. You will see them roll in there most evenings between now and about mid September.

Also inshore, we have enjoyed some great trout and redfish action on the flats again. The water has cooled down a few degrees from the summer rains we have been having, but I think most of the improvements in the bite are attributed to the fish just getting used to it. The fish seem to have a larger "spook zone" when you are landing the fly near them, so remember that they know food doesn't fall from the sky. Lead the fish and wait for him to swim near it and discover the free meal that he has happened upon. I have had the most luck on a grey and white baitfish fly that is not the one you are thinking of. I have been working on something to replace the traditional EP peanut butter style minnow that is easier to tie. If I can't batch them out for my charters, it really doesn't help me much. So I will share it with you some day.



Spanish mackerels and bluefish have popped up here and there in the bay, so I bet it is getting about that time to fish your usual spots with a bit of wire. Don't be surprised if you see a wall of showering mullet bearing down on you though. The Jack Crevalles are wreaking some havoc inshore and we have been seeing fish pretty consistently for the last 3 weeks or so. We had countless shots at fish on August 7th, but when we finally hooked up, the fly line broke! My client had a knot in the fly line that luckily clicked its way through the guides on the way out, but when he tried to really pull on the fish, it popped right at the knot! First for me. I know those lines can do it. I managed to catch one wading on the same setup a week later. Pictures are on the club's facebook page if you don't believe me. It's as close to GT fishing as we can get without going broke, so if you really want to stretch a 10 wt out and catch some real bruisers on foot, call me and I will tell you where to go. I might even tag along.

Outside the pass is the place to be when the conditions allow it. We are enjoying some great redfish action along the beach and the big ladyfish continue to save the day when boredom starts to set in. All of the nearshore public spots are holding king mackerel, Spanish mackerel and barracuda. Club member and spring class graduate Jay



Erickson caught his first toothy critter out at the Tex Edwards barge on August 7th. Also, If you know the secret spot, you can take advantage of some world class remora sight fishing. You read that right. 'Ole sneaker head. I'm not talking about the little guys either. Check out this porker that Thao Le caught on August 5th! It actually takes a long cast to get them to eat.



Lastly I shared this on the club's facebook page as well but I want to revisit it here as this was one of the coolest experiences I have had this summer. I ran all the way to big lagoon to pick up my client on August 8th, and we had planned on running back out of the pass to chase Spanish and redfish, but as I came around the corner at admirals island, I noticed the last of the incoming tide had the water absolutely clear. It was early morning so not a pontoon boat or jet ski in sight, and the large individual ladyfish were up on the shallowest part of the bar chasing the alewives that have made their homes up there recently. My client had never saltwater fly fished in his life, and I saw the opportunity to get out and wade it. It was incredible. Our smallest clousers and the 8 wt in hand, we snuck around that flat for hours. Watching those fish zig zag the bars and charge the fly. As close to bone fishing as you can get here. Only difference being that these "Pensacola bonefish" rarely refuse the fly!



Best bet to see backing this month: Inshore guys, don't leave the house without a 10 wt and a popper. Offshore guys, Sinking lines and big streamers for king mackerel near the tex Edwards barge or in the area of the three barge reefs. "Sit at home guys", take all of your line off the reels and clean it. It's gonna cool down soon and November is getting closer by the day.

Capt. Dan Storey

Editor's Note: Capt Dan will be putting most of his pictures on the club Facebook page. Please check there for updates and more pictures.

The Fishing Trip



The sun rose in the East. We were ready! Fishing at Johnson Beach was good. For about an hour. Terry McCormick caught a Lady fish. But as Horace Greeley says: "Look to the West, young men, look to the West." The rest of us decided it was wise to retire our lightning rods.



Another FFNWF trip added to the list.

What jinx???

Here is a link to an interesting and inspiring article. Hopefully by the time you get this the article will still be online. Enjoy.

<https://www.nytimes.com/2018/08/19/sports/maxine-mccormick.html?rref=collection%2Fissuuecollection%2Ftodays-new-york-times&action=click&contentCollection=todayspaper®ion=rank&module=package&version=highlights&contentPlacement=10&pgtype=collection>

Fly of the Month: **SKOK'S MUSHMOUTH** by Pat Murphy (note: Pat and Matt will be alternating months)

MATERIALS:

HOOK: SHORT SHANK 2/0

FLASH: FLASHABOU, PEARL OR YOUR CHOICE

EYES: PRISMATIC

HEAD: UV RESIN (SOLAREZ OR LOON)

BODY; BELLY; ANGEL HAIR PEARL, WING, ANGEL HAIR, COLOR YOUR CHOICE

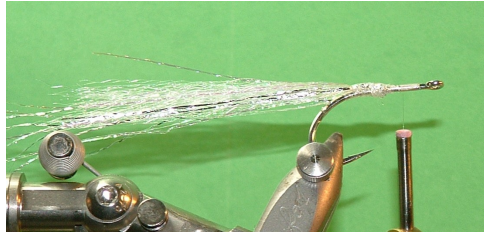
NOTE: WING AND BELLY MATERIALS, WING-N-FLASH, ANGEL HAIR, LITE BRIGHT .

THREAD: MEDIUM CLEAR MONO

TAIL: WHITE SUPER HAIR

GLUE: SOFTEX OR CLEAR FUSION

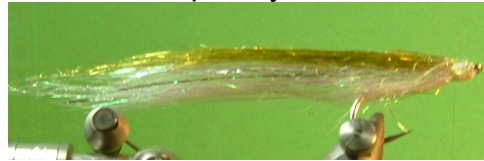
INSTRUCTION



1. Tie mono midshank, followed by a small amount of tapered super hair on top of shank. Secured wraps and one turn of thread under tail material. Length of tail determines length of fly. Fold flashabou in half, loop flash under hook eye and secure in front of tail tie.

2. Saturate tail and flash with glue to a point just past hook bend. This will prevent materials from fouling hook point. Form both colors of angel hair into tapered bundles a little longer than tail, set aside.

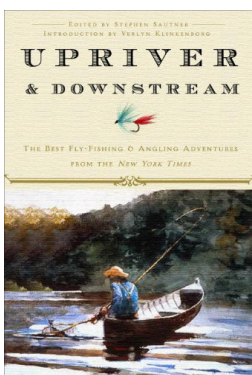
3. Tie down pearl angel hair, 1/3 back from hook eye leaving a tag end past hook eye. Repeat step with wing angel hair top of fly. **DO NOT TRIM EXCESS**



4 Comb out angel hair to remove tangles. Tie mono tight to hook eye.

5. **Option: Coat back of fly with glue to give a secure body, also coat fly belly lightly.**

Then fold over excess tag ends and secure. Then whip finish, cut thread. Stick on eyes and coat with uv resin, coat head of fly with resin also.



Book Review “Upriver and Downstream” By George Norton

Put your feet up, turn the TV off and treat yourself to tales of trout, salmon, bass, pan fish, Northern pike, striped bass, tarpon, false albacore, bonefish, ice fishing, garfish, paddlefish and even sturgeon.

A cast of interesting characters are woven thru the pages in venues from England, Iceland, Russia, the Falkland Islands, The Amazon and Northern Canada to fishing on the Brooklyn waterfront and the waters surrounding JFK Airport.

Well known angling writers such as Nick Lyons, Ernest Schwiebert, Stephen Saunter, Peter Kaminsky, Nelson Bryant, and Thomas McGuane to name only a few, appear in this collection of articles from the New York Times published in 2007 by Harmony Books.

The collection is broken up into “COLDWATERS, WARMWATERS, SALTWATERS, ODDWATERS, and FARWATERS.” The wide range of authors and topics is a bonus. I recommend it!

Outdoor Story **Slough Creek and One Heck of a Hike**

By George Norton: Outdoor Writer: January 23, 2016

Slough Creek consists of a series of three meadows. To reach the second meadow requires a six mile hike from the trailhead up a gradual incline at 8000 feet. It takes about two and quarter hours each way to access the second meadow.

On top of it all, you have to carry in all you need: Waders, boots, a lunch, bottled water, a vest, fly tackle and a rod. Slough Creek is in the northwest quadrant of Yellowstone Park and drains into the Lamar River, the major tributary of the larger Yellowstone River.

The hike will punish you if you are older or out of shape. The rewards of hiking in are many. There are the snowcapped Anadarko Mountains with a twisting meadow stream full of cutthroat trout averaging 15-18 inches. These trout are natives and willingly take large dry flies, especially terrestrials like Stimulators and Hoppers, during the summer.

Terri, Jim's wife knew the familiar drill and cooked a lumberjack's breakfast of oatmeal, pancakes, bacon and eggs. The three of us arrived at the trailhead at about nine.

Jim and his wife are Denver residents and are used to the high altitude. Big Jim gave me a concerned look. He said, "Norton, are you sure you can handle this hike? We can fish the first meadow for you. Ahehehe. The first meadow is only a three mile hike. You're a flatlander! "

"Nah," I replied without thinking. "I can handle whatever you can." I knew full well it had been about thirty-five years since we had last fished and hiked into the second meadow.

For a flatlander, not accustomed to the thinner air, I was curious but concerned if I could handle it. I had been loafing in the heat down south, and riding a golf cart was about all the exercise I had gotten lately.

Bears are always a possibility in this area. Jim had warning bells. Lots of luck I thought. Bells don't give me a lot of confidence versus a female grizzly protecting her cub. Nevertheless, the only animals we saw were pack horses with outfitters loaded with food and camping equipment headed twelve miles in to the third meadow.

We took a break about every thirty minutes. The bugs weren't bad and the sun shone. Finally with a sigh of relief that I had survived the six mile hike, I tossed off my pack and waders, and lay sprawled out totally spent under a tree.

I lay back overjoyed to have the weight off my back. Jim said, "Norton are you going to fish or take a nap?" "I'm taking five," I replied. Thirty five years ago we had sprinted to get our flies in the water. One year we caught so many cutthroats, we tried different flies to see if there was one they wouldn't take.

This time the fishing was slow and steady. I caught six quality fish on big dry flies in a beautiful area. We fished until four in the afternoon and hiked out and slept very well that night. The next day we fished the Lamar River. Mountain Men would have found our big hike into Slough Creek e a piece of cake.

(George is now writing a column called Fishy Tales in the sports section of the Gulf Breeze weekly paper)

Fly Fishers of Northwest Florida Minutes-August 7, 2018

There was no Board Meeting.

FFNWF General Membership Meeting: President Dave Handley called the meeting to Order at 1900. There were 15 members present. July minutes were accepted with no changes. The Treasurers Report was approved.

Minutes of July Meeting: Russ approved the minutes and Larry seconded.

Treasurer's Report: Tickets are now on sale with the Treasurer at \$30 each for the Christmas Party at Scenic Hill's CC. Russ approved the TR and Pat seconded.

Old Business: Christmas party tickets are on sale. The Menu will be continual Hors' oeuvres and a cash bar. There will be raffle prizes and donated fishing trips. This annual event is not to be missed and good food and an enjoyable evening at the Scenic Hills Country Club is assured. George Norton gave a quick review on the club's fishing trip the next morning to Johnson Beach. The trip was rained out after forty minutes of fishing and will be rescheduled in September. Date TBA.

New Business: The city would like the Club to set up a table on September 29th at a fair downtown from 10-2 PM to showcase fly tying. The Board of Directors will vote if we want to proceed.

Committee reports: Kent Regan is going to Montana to fish with a PHW trip. Oleta is also making a good recovery from recent surgery.

Presentation: We had an excellent presentation from four club members who went on a float fishing trip to Montana in April to fish the Skwala Hatch on the Bitterroot River near Missoula where each day they floated ten miles as the Hatch moved every day. The group of Art, Larry, Jay and Jerry had a great time from delicious and filling shore lunches to all the free Moose drool beer brown ale) their hearts desired at a local brewery. They all caught a good number of trout to twenty one inches mostly on large foam flies that resembles a big cockroach. The fish were rainbows, browns, cutthroats, and cuttbows, a hybrid. The trip was timed before the snowmelt and run-off and the weather cooperated perfectly. Thanks guys for the presentation and especially to Jay for the Moose Drool you shared at the meeting.

Fishing Reports: Art reported that his recent trip to float the Green River in Utah was a success with many large rainbow and browns over twenty inches mostly on nymphs. Terry reported good catches of speckled trout fishing over grass beds in the Bay on tan and white Clouser Minnows but the fish turn off early. George reported trolling Clouser minnows, Foam Gurglers and Lefty Deceivers worked for a mixed bag of Spanish, ladyfish and bluefish along the beaches.

The Club President meeting adjourned the meeting at 2019.