



Flies and Lies

Newsletter of the Fly Fishers of Northwest Florida

October, 2022

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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

McKenzie Cup Award Celebration

October 19. There will be a virtual ceremony broadcast via Zoom from Boulder, Colorado. All members are invited to share in the celebration and watch the festivities on the TV at the club.

Details will be coming soon via email.

The McKenzie Cup is presented annually to the club that consistently made outstanding contributions on behalf of FFI. Such things as:

- Cultivating and advancing the art, science and sport of fly fishing,
- Facilitating and improving the knowledge of fly fishing,
- Keeping members informed of developments in the fly fishing community,
- Preserving the legacy of fly fishing for all fish in all waters, and
- Promoting conservation of natural resources

FFNWF's large, active membership conducting a busy schedule of 35 meetings per year, a 16-hour / eight-week long fly fishing 101 course, and our regular partnership with the City of Pensacola's summer youth program are all examples of activities which reflect the spirit of FFI's guiding vision. Additionally, our decade long, engaged sponsorship of the Pensacola program of Project Healing Waters Fly Fishing, an organization actively supported by FFI, is viewed not only as strong support to a disabled veteran community but as our club's further commitment to the betterment of the sport and the legacy of fly fishing.

Congratulations FFNWF members! Be proud of our collective achievement as all of us had a hand in making FFNWF the outstanding club it is today. Our efforts over many years highlighted to FFI the uniqueness of our membership and the special nature of our organization. *Jim White*

The Auction... Monthly

Club Meeting Raffles!!

This month the raffle winner will have two rods to choose from; both are travel rods. The first is a **Fisher** 6'7" 5/6 wt. 3 piece. The second is a **Fates** 7'6"; 5 wt. 6 piece. Both rods come with a case Both are "like new" and great casting with 5 weight line. Raffle winner gets to pick.



Steve Hofmann Auction Chair

Christmas Party Tickets are on Sale!!

The party will be December 13 at Scenic Hills Country Club. Tickets are \$30 cash at the club or \$32 online from Cyndi Myers

Club Meeting: Tuesday, October 4 7:00

Along with a program we will be planning the McKenzie Cup celebration, the Christmas Party and the election of Angler of the Year and board members.

Fly Tying: Thursday, October 13

We will be tying the Soft Hackle October Caddis. (if you are not a trout fisherman: The caddis is a bug that fish love to eat.)



The Clinic: Saturday, October 15

Sharon Handley will be stirring up some cassoulet and salad. David will do the dishes. Gourmet dining at its finest.

Note: Same week as Fly Tying Bull Session



THE PREZ SEZ

The hot and wet summer weather is somewhat behind us so I hope you all have an opportunity to take to the water and wet a line. The "Running of the Bulls" is not far away.

But the BIG news is the announcement that FFWWF are the proud winners of the McKenzie Cup, the annual award presented by FFI to the outstanding club. Please see the article submitted by Jim White which provides more complete details of this prestigious award. Congratulations to all members who continue to make our club successful.

Finally, I'd like to announce that club elections will take place at the November meeting. Voting will include club officers and members-at-large as well as Angler of the Year. So, please plan to attend that meeting and exercise your vote. Also, consider any nominations you'd like to offer for any of the elected positions. Til next time, **Mick**

Project Healing Waters Fly Fishing News

The Board of Trustees for Project Healing Waters Fly Fishing, Inc. announced the selection of John Langford as the new CEO replacing Todd DeGrosseilliers. John served in the Marine Corps, as both enlisted and officer, for 23 years, primarily as a Weapons and Sensors Officer in the F-18D Hornet, before retiring in 2009. He completed multiple operational and combat deployments and brings with him an extensive background in Veteran nonprofit leadership focused on sports, wellness, and development / fundraising.

PHWFF meetings are the first, second and fourth Mondays each month from 0930 to 1030. No host lunch at Hot Spot BBQ usually follows. Meeting dates will be October 3, 10, and 24. **Jim White**

September Meeting – Celebrate the Cup



Oktober in September



Fishing with Capt. Baz

It sure is nice getting through September without a tropical storm or hurricane trashing our local waters. Hurricane Ian was too close for comfort, but it looks like we're going to escape unscathed. It's just not our turn, and I'm glad. We lucked out. Let's drink to that and get on with the fishing.

I've been hearing there's a lot of whining about the lack of fish in Santa Rosa Sound. I think the problem has been both the heat and increased fishing pressure. There's one guy regularly anchored on one of my favorite flats with four rods out baited with live shrimp. He's by himself and probably kills just one redfish a day, but over time that's a lot of stress on the fishery. Those fish can certainly move elsewhere, and that's exactly what they've done. They'll be back to their usual spots once things get a little quieter.



Even the Spanish have been tricky this month. The secret for me has been fishing the strongest outgoing tide. We've been catching plenty of bluefish and small trout throughout the day, but when the tide starts screaming out the big Spanish and ladyfish show up. That's how it was for Russ and Dave Handley on September 22. We caught the tail end of the fast moving

water, and the Spanish were hungry. Dave's first strike almost yanked the rod overboard. A little later Russ caught and released this beauty. When things slowed down we ran out to the Gulf for a nice lunch before wrapping it up.



We didn't land a jack crevalle all month until the magic finally happened on September 21. Ken and Helen Smith and I were drifting the outgoing tide along the beach S of the Ft McRee rock jetty. It was very peaceful. Ken was casually blind-casting a streamer for ladyfish and Helen was watching all the birds, and then we collided with an unsuspecting school of 500 jacks at Caucas Point. Ken had just made a long cast with his 9wt when I saw the jacks and thrust the rigged-and-ready 10wt toward him. We're talking about some serious high-velocity chaos here, folks. The jacks were crashing all around the boat. Ken quickly handed Helen his 9wt, and she started cranking it in. Then he began frantically false-casting the big popper trying to work out some line. I was screaming "*just get it in the water*" and dodging the big, barbed fly as it flew all around the boat. And that's about the time I heard Helen screaming "*What do I do?? What do I do??*" A jack had grabbed the ladyfish streamer as she was reeling in Ken's line, and right about then Ken's popper finally landed in the water and another big jack crushed it. Dammit, man, where's that Go Pro when you need it!

Fifteen seconds later it was over. The barbless ladyfish streamer fell out of Helen's fish and Ken somehow got cut off. His 40# leader was shredded. I looked up in time to see the jacks disappearing to the west, and that was that. Yet another fruitless jack crevalle adventure. We were all shell-shocked. They were elated; I was disappointed. But we weren't through with those fish.



For the next half hour we hunted for them. We ran out on the shoal and to the west down Johnson Beach. Nothing. We came back to the point and idled north past the rock jetty and on toward the steel jetty. Ken and I were watching toward shore when Helen yelled "There they are!". A couple fish were chasing bait out toward the channel. I picked up the spinning rod and heaved the big hookless teaser plug in their direction and started raking it across the surface back to the boat. The water erupted as hundreds of jacks attacked the plug. It was a mind-blowing visual for a trout fisherman from Oklahoma, but this time Ken dropped the popper right on target and hooked up immediately. A half hour later we got this killer photo.

There's some good news on the redfish sight-fishing front. Even though the fishing has been challenging, the redfish are starting to become interested in the tried-and-true baitfish imitations. For the past couple months they've been running away from the EP grey/white, but now they're at least willing to swim over and sniff at it. Strip it "just right" and they just might eat it as this redfish did for



Megan Nellen on September 15. It was a benchmark moment for Megan; her first redfish on fly. Then Ken Smith of jack crevalle fame was back on September 23 and landed this cute little guy on an EP perfect minnow. He caught a bigger redfish a little later, but I can't post the photo because of the background. Rumor has it there's someone out there trying to steal the guides' spots so he can start up a wade-fishing business. Are there no ethics anymore? What's this world coming to...

Capt Baz

September Fly Tying Bull Session



Fly of the Month: **SOFT HACKLE OCTOBER CADDIS**

Unlike many Caddis species, October Caddis emerge as full wing adults, not on the water surface, but instead swim to and crawl out on shoreline rocks. They then emerge as full wing orange adults and fly away, leaving their pupa shucks behind. This easy to tie October Caddis Soft Hackle is to imitate a pupa making its way from the stream bottom to a rock on shore. During this time they are extremely vulnerable and trout take full advantage of it. **Pat Murphy**

MATERIALS:

HOOK: KUMOTO K100 #8-#12 STANDARD BEND, STANDARD LENGTH

THREAD: RUSTY BROWN 70d

TAIL: BURNT ORANGE HEN FEATHER

RIB: SMALL GOLD WIRE

BODY: OCTOBER CADDIS DIAMOND DUBBING

THORAX: PRISM SLF RUSTY BROWN DUBBING COLLAR: BROWN HEN FEATHER

INSTRUCTION:

1. Debarb hook, and lay a smooth thread base to hookbend. For the tail, secure the tip of a orange Hen feather at hook bend and extend fibers just pasthook bend. About 1/2" +/-.
2. Move thread to center of shank and wrap in rib wire, wrap down to tail tie in. Leave rib wire.



3. Make a small dubbing rope about 3" long and wrap orange dubbing to just short of hook eye. Leave room for hackle collar.

4. Take tag end of wire and wrap small open wraps to end of dubbing body and secure, trim remaining wire rib.

5. Make another dubbing rope with rusty brown dubbing and wrap a thorax over end of body at tie-off.



6. For the collar, prepare a brown Hen feather for palmering and tie in by tip of feather. Palmer 2-3 touching wraps for a soft hackle collar.
7. Wrap a small tapered thread nose front of collar, whip finish and glue.

Club Meeting Minutes Sept 6, 2022 by George Norton

President called the meeting to order at 1900 and introduced Tom Schaefer, a new member who has extensive experience fishing the Florida Keys and New Mexico. Welcome to the club, Tom! Minutes from last months' meeting were accepted.

Treasurer's Report: We have a healthy balance in checking account due to the record auction. Expenses were minimal. as was income. The TR was approved.

Presentation: Bob Korose “Fly Fishing the White River in Arkansas”

Bob has made many trips to fly fish the White River. He gave a complete rundown on his favorite times to go: early May for the green caddis hatch and fall for hopper fishing. He told us what flies to use, how to fly fish from a guide boat, where to stay, and where to eat.

The White River is a tail water fishery. The creation of Bull Shoals Reservoir for power generation and flood control ruined a blue ribbon small mouth fishery; but it created a world- class trout fishery that has both numbers (stocked rainbows averaging eleven inches) and big browns and rainbows that grow large in the nutrient rich environment. A guide boat is a big advantage. You can cover more water safely. The White is a very large and dangerous river under high water conditons.



Water levels affect how you fish. During low water conditions you can wade the knee-deep shoals (access marked on maps) and islands with a floating line. During high water you need a long leader with split shot or short leaders under an indicator or sinking lines. You have to get the fly deep. If you want to target big trout hug the bank in high water with big streamers and hoppers. Davy Wotten is a famous guide Bob likes to use. He fishes three wet flies at a time which is a very good method.

The species are: browns, rainbows, cutthroat, and brook trout. Bob caught a beautiful tiger trout which is a hybrid of a brown and brook. During low water hoppers, caddis, streamers, soft hackles, emergers, nymphs, midges, sow bugs and scuds all work. The White and the nearby Norfolk River (30 minutes away) is a year round fishery though summers are hot and humid and winters tend to be damp and cold with snow a possibility. Bob camped at the State Park below the dam and showed us some pictures enjoying a campfire and some adult beverages with friends. That is living right! Safety is paramount on the White as the water comes up high quickly. Thanks again, Bob. for another great presentation!



New Business: Christmas tickets sales will be available soon. The nomination committee for 2023 board members will be headed by Cliff. If you want to run or nominate someone for angler of the year contact Cliff. Voting will be in November and Angler of the Year will be announced at the Christmas Party.

There was a long discussion on raising annual club membership dues and fees for our Fly Fishing 101 class. Inflation has raised everything we use from insurance, food, beverages and fly tying

materials. A decision on increasing fees will be forthcoming, but it appeared there is broad support to raise fees to cover these costs. The Treasurer will present our 2023 budget in the future.

Second topic was future club trips. At the meeting, the trip coordinator sent around a survey on where club members would like to see trips. The overwhelming consensus was for local day trips to Fort Pickens. There was minimal interest in longer club trips requiring overnight stays. We will plan on Fort Pickens for a trip in October at our next meeting, and see if any momentum builds in the future for any longer trips.

The suggestions for overnights were to Jasper, Alabama for tail water trout; (a 4-hour drive), the Flint River in Georgia; (a four-hour drive) for shoal bass, Captiva in southwest Florida for snook; (a 9-hour drive), shad in the winter on the St. John River; (a 7- hour drive), Apalachicola for reds and trout and Mexico Beach for tarpon are all about three hours. The three-night trip to the Chandeleur Islands was not brought up. We will continue to discuss these ideas up at future meetings so if you have ideas let us know. If anyone knows of private water within one hour of Pensacola for bass and pan fish please let George know.

The meeting adjourned at 2040.

Additional note: The June auction winner of the Orvis 2pc 8 wt. rod fly rod forgot to “pickup” the rod case. If you want the rod case let me know at the October monthly meeting. **Steve Hofmann Auction Chair**