



Flies and Lies

Newsletter of the Fly Fishers of Northwest Florida

October, 2023

FFNWF

PO Box 1041
Pensacola, FL 32591
www.ffenwf.org

PRESIDENT

Mick Milo
vectorfl@aol.com

VICE-PRESIDENT

Bob Myers
myers.w.robert@gmail.com

SECRETARY

George Norton
geonorton@gmail.com

TREASURER

Larry Sisney
3610 Baisden Rd.
Pensacola, FL 32503.
lsisney@cox.net

MEMBERSHIP

David Handley
dmhandley@gmail.com

MEMBER EMERITUS

Russ Shields
rkshields37@gmail.com

NEWSLETTER

Paul Wargo
flyfishersnwf@gmail.com

Business Meeting
1ST Tuesday, 6:30 PM

Bull Session - Tying
2ND Thursday, 6:30 PM

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

Christmas Party Tickets Are On Sale

The party will be December 12
at Scenic Hills Country Club.

Tickets are \$30 cash or check
at the club or \$32 online from
Cyndi Myers



Club Meeting – Tuesday, October 3 6:30



Don't be afraid. Tarpon Bob Korose
will be taking us on a freshwater trip to
Jurassic Lake in Argentina, targeting
large rainbow trout on a fly rod. But
Park your car near by. Just in case....

Fly Tying – Thursday, October 12 The Blue Crab 6:30

It's so pretty you can put it on the Christmas
tree (if you don't catch anything). Mick Milo



Clinic – Saturday, October 21 9:00 AM



Oktoberfest

Grillmeister Jerry Giles will serve up
sausages and Cyndi Myers the German
potato salad, and there will be beer in
the frig!

The Prez Sez:

Cooler temperatures are starting to prevail so fish activity should hopefully be on the rise. I have caught some decent Spanish the past couple of weeks but nothing very big yet. And, of course, the Bull Run is just around the corner! But in the meantime.....

Mark your calendars !!! Annual club elections will be held at the **November 7th General Meeting!!** In the coming days, you will all be receiving an email with the election slate for President, Vice-President, Secretary, Treasurer and 2 Members-At-Large. Some of these posts have been pre-populated by the Nominating Committee with names of members who have already agreed to stand for various offices. However, we will also be accepting nominations from the floor for any/all of the elected offices. If you would like to stand for an office prior to election night, please contact Cliff Newton, Jim White or Bob Myers to get your name on the slate in advance.

We will also be casting our votes for the coveted "ANGLER-Of-The-Year" Award. Nominations for this award can be submitted to me by email in advance or you can nominate your candidate from the floor on election night. **Mick**

Fishing with the West's (including newest life member, Walter West)



Colleen and I took Walter up to NC for his first hiking and fishing adventure. Used one of the auction rods to great success and caught a bunch of rainbows and brookies. Colleen caught the biggest fish as per usual with a beautiful colored brookie. Fly of choice was a #14 yellow neversink caddis with a # 16 pheasant tail off the back, but we probably could have fished just the dry and done just fine. *Wallace*



Fishing with Capt. Baz Labor Day has finally come and gone. The kids are back in school, most of the tourists have moved on, and many locals have put boating on the back burner. Add in some nice, cool mornings, and it's a lot more pleasant out there these days. All we need is for the fishing to get hot... like it's supposed to do in September.

All the exciting Gulf of Mexico redfish action came to a halt early this month after the huge swells from Hurricane Idalia rearranged the shoreline. There was a surprising amount of beach erosion, and the redfish schools that I've been fishing disappeared. My guess is they moved offshore or possibly into the deep water of Pensacola Pass. Idalia brought us not only damaging swells, but also copious quantities of dog flies. If you like to get bitten by flies, now's your chance. I think a million of them are living on Johnson Beach. We found some pompano down there a couple weeks ago and anchored 20' from shore for some sight-fishing. Right off the bat we got shots at pompano and landed a couple whiting, but in fifteen minutes there were 500 flies in the boat crawling all over us. We couldn't stand it and had to get out of there. It was dead flat, so I ran hard along the beach with my client Hunter Hargis swinging a towel to get the flies out of the boat.

I stopped at Caucas Point hoping we'd luck into some redfish. The tide was moving out, and sure enough there was a brownish school of fish coming toward us from the Ft McRee jetty. The fish were comfortably floating close to the surface, and I pulled out a 9wt rigged for redfish with an intermediate line and an EP minnow. Hunter took the rod and watched the fish as I prepared to slip the anchor over. Suddenly he yelled "THEY'RE BIG JACKS!"

These were indeed *big* fish, and there was no way the 9 was going to be enough. There was ample time to pull out the 11 and re-stow the 9, as we drifted with the motor off presenting no threat to the fish. They milled around the boat as Hunter took the 11 and stripped out line. Even though he was inexperienced with big fly tackle, he laid the popper out beautifully. The whole school came to the fly, and a nice 25 pounder ate it right at the boat. I knew we had a good chance of catching the fish. Hunter was using my Sage RPLXi with fighting grip, Tibor Gulfstream, 30# fluoro leader, and a 4/0 popper with a bombproof hook. Plus, we had a good hookset, Hunter had cleared the line and the fish was on the reel, and there were no other boats in the area. All we had to do was take our time and enjoy the fight.

All went smoothly until a pod of a dozen dolphins showed up, and one of them got very aggressive with the hooked jack. Hunter cranked down the drag and began horsing the fish in, running around the boat as necessary while I ran circles around the dolphin trying to keep it off the jack. You talk about pandemonium! Hunter brought the fish close enough for me to grab the line, and I got my gloved hands on the leader. I was on my knees in the stern pulling the frantic jack backwards to the boat with the dolphin moving in for the kill when the 30# leader popped at the hook, and the jack crevalle exploded away. The fish escaped. There was no pigtail, just a clean break. I was using an improved clench knot and think it was just too much pressure for the 30# Maxima. It was nonetheless quite a thrill for the young man from Texas, but dammit man I wanted that photo. It's been a while since we caught a jack.

The best day of the month was earlier that week on September 5 when the incredibly picky inside redfish decided to eat chartreuse. The Gulf was blown out, so Greg Hawley and I ran east to pole some of our favorite flats. Greg started with a little shrimp pattern tied by Capt Richard and hooked the first redfish we saw. I couldn't believe it. The fish down there had had lockjaw for months, and this one crushed the fly. It was a nice 25-26" redfish. We were in very shallow water, and Greg had trouble controlling it. He eventually lost it when the fish surged under the boat and



broke the leader on a trim tab. I had a few more versions of Richard's fly, but fish after fish refused it. In desperation I changed to an EP chartreuse baitfish, and that's all it took. Greg got four more takes and landed three of them. Here's a shot of his biggest redfish. This time we got out of the boat and landed it on the beach. Too bad we didn't think of that with the first fish...



The Spanish mackerel fishing is finally picking up, although it's not exactly *hot* yet. We've been landing 1-2 big fish per trip, although Capt Richard got 3 a couple days ago on his auction trip with Mick Milo. Maybe they're waiting for the cooler water temps in October. Let's hope so.
Capt Baz

Fishing with the Hofmann's Brevard, NC

During the week of September 18-22 Ellen and I took a fly-fishing trip with Davidson River Outfitters (DRO) in Brevard NC. We wade fished a ½ day wade trip on 19th and the 21st on the Davidson River with guides Walker Parrot and Jeb Hall.



We opted to fish on DRO 3 mile of

stretch of private water near their shop. The river on both days was beautiful with crystal clear water. In other words, it was an excellent day for sight fishing. This stretch of river is known for big rainbows and browns. The first day was Steve's big day with many beautiful

large rainbows landed (probably >15). The second day was Ellens' big day with many rainbows landed and many short releases. (See Pics) The method of fishing on both days was a three-fly rig (Upper fly a Parachute hopper, middle fly a San Juan worm type fly, and the lower fly a generic small bead-head nymph.) Once flies were selected, we cast the rig upstream of sighted fish and then observe the fish chase the flies, set the hook when they struck then hang on! "THE TUG IS THE DRUG"

Both days were fantastic fly-fishing trips! Davidson River Outfitters is highly recommended if you are in and around the Brevard area in North Carolina and desire a guided trip. Both Walker and Jeb were extremely friendly and helpful. Probably two of the best guides we have ever hired in our 20+ years of fly fishing.
Steve and Ellen Hofmann

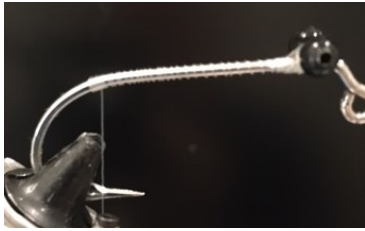


Fly of the Month: Bruce Sublett's "Blue Crab", presented by Mick Milo

This pattern was designed by professional fly tier, Bruce Sublett, for redfish and trout in the various estuaries and marshes along the northern Gulf Coast from Texas to Louisiana. Its orange and blue accents are specifically designed for murky/stained water. I first tied this fly to try in the marsh bottom at the mouth of the Escambia river close to where I live. I caught a slot redfish on the 2nd or 3rd cast so it is my go-to for that kind of habitat.

Materials: Hook: Eagle Claw 413 Jig Hook, Size 1-4
Orange (or Red) Rabbit Fur
"Heavy" Orange Rubber Leg Material
Green/Olive "Silly Legs"

.005 Mono Thread
Kingfisher Blue Soft Hackle
Olive Chrystal Flash Chenille
Bead Chain Eyes (Large)



Start a jam knot/thread base just behind the jig bend in the hook. Tie on the bead chain eyes about 1/16 - 1/8" back from the jig bend. Continue the thread base rearward to the bend of the hook.

Tie in a small clump of rabbit fur on the top of the hook shank.



Tie in the tip of a hackle feather, then palmer forward 6-8 wraps (heavier is better). Wrap back over the hackle to make the skirt lay toward the rear of the fly.

Tie in a piece of heavy orange rubber leg material to form two "crab claws", pointing rearward alongside each side of the hook.



Tie in the olive chenille and palmer forward (again, heavier is better) about half the distance to the bead chain eyes.

Tie in 2 strands of silly legs on each side of the hook shank (creates 4 legs on each side of the shank).



Continue wrapping the chenille the rest of the way toward the bead chain eyes, maneuvering the chenille around the silly legs. Once you reach the bead chain eyes, continue to wrap the chenille over the top of the eyes and continue one or two wraps in front of the eyes. Lock the chenille in place with some thread wraps and whip finish. Add a dab of super glue or head cement over the whip finish.

Position the "claws" and legs and then trim to desired length.

September Trip to Apalachicola Bay by George Norton and Wolfgang Szutie

After no luck trying the grass flats behind St. Joe Island searching for reds and trout, we headed to the Pass in search of feeding birds. We found big schools of fish feeding on top with many pelicans and terns hitting the water.



False Albacore, Spanish and big ladyfish were caught and the fish were in close proximity to the boat allowing for short casts. We started with the club's slinky anchovy which was the ticket for the FA's. Ladyfish and the Spanish also hit the Crazy Charlie and Clouser minnows.

If you have never tangled with False Albacore on the fly rod, they are one of the toughest fish in the ocean. The problem is to get them in as quick as possible or they are dead on arrival if played too long. The good news is anyone can catch one, as they feed aggressively on top churning the water into a frenzy.



We stayed at the Sportsman's Lodge and Motel in Eastpoint and learned Apalachicola is no longer Florida's top oyster producing area as a dam in Georgia altered the salinity, which was negative for oyster production. The two days of fishing were action packed and the best action I've ever had in Florida.

George also sends pictures of panfish from Connecticut. Good ol' Clouser Minnow



September Clinic

Grilled mullet with all the trimmings.



Yum Yum

Thanks, Russ and Jerry

September 5 Club Meeting Minutes by George Norton

1800: President called to Meeting to Order.

Minutes from Last month were approved

Treasurer's Report: In August we had minimal expenses and income. Our finances are strong and our budget is on track to year end. Report approved. Motion by Russ, second by Steve

Committee Reports:

Bob M reported receiving a donation that included a half dozen quality items such as fly reels and rods that will be selected for the Christmas Party raffles.

Membership and Education: Dave H is in the hospital, and while he recovers, Larry offered to cover membership and education. In November-December the annual class syllabus goes to the printer. Last month we picked up several new members. The best way to get new members is to invite someone to attend a meeting or clinic.

Christmas Party: Mick volunteered to get the tickets printed. Jim W reported everything is all set for the party December 12 at Scenic Hills. The menu will be finalized a week before. Ticket sales deadlines will be announced in the November newsletter.

Fly of the Month and the Newsletter: Wolfgang will present the sea streamer in September. Paul wants the **fly of the month** presenters to put the introduction and the recipe in a Word document and pictures should be attached to the email as individual jpg files

Elections for 2024: The election committee consists of Cliff N., Jim W., and Bob K. If you have never participated and would like to run for the board of directors or nominate a candidate see Cliff, Bob, or Jim. In November we will vote on the Board positions which are Club President, Vice President, Secretary, and Treasurer plus two Members at Large that rotate out every year to give new people exposure to the Board.

Presentation on "Fly Fishing the Great State of Colorado" by Steve & Ellen Hoffmann

Steve and Ellen fished 10 famous rivers in CO between 2012 and 2016. This presentation covered their fly fishing experiences on these 10 rivers. Cache Le Poudre River (West of Fort Collins); Elk River (Steamboat Springs); Crystal River near Carbondale, Gunnison River (Near town of Gunnison); Taylor River (Near Almont); Uncompahgre River (Near Ridgeway), Pine River (East of Durango), Piedra River (Near Pagosa Springs), San Juan River (East of Pagosa Springs); & the Rio Grande River (Near Creed). Steve said by far his favorite river and area to fly fish in Colorado was the "Gunnison River" with local guide Jason Booth.



Steve's second-best river he fished in Colorado was the "Pine River" east of Durango. That was the river where his guide (Will Blanchard) even climbed a tree to sight for fish for him. This river surrendered many colorful rainbows 18 to 20 inches. Thanks Steve and Ellen for sharing your fly fishing experiences with the club.