

Flies and Lies

April, 2025



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President's Corner

Our fly fishing 101 class kicked off without a hitch and we welcome three new members.

As a non-profit, the club depends on your annual dues to support it. If you haven't paid your dues yet, please reach out to Larry Sisney.

Another way the club is supported is our annual Auction in May. If you have any items you'd like to donate, please reach out to Steve Gramo or bring your items to the next club function.

The weather is starting to warm up, fingers crossed for more fishing reports.

Cyndi Myers
President

Club Meeting – Tuesday, April 1 6:30

In addition to the business meeting, please join us for a presentation by Steve Hofmann. Steve will share his experience of "Fly Fishing Northern New Mexico", including the famous San Juan River. He has over five years of experience fishing on this river, as well as many other rivers in Northern New Mexico.

Fly Tying – Thursday, April 10 6:30

Bob Korose will lead us in tying the Flash Belly Clouser.

Clinic – Saturday, April 19 9:00 AM

Join us to perfect your casting and tie the Flash Belly Clouser. Russ Shields will share some homemade Kielbasa and fixin's for the April clinic lunch.

Business Meeting

Our March business meeting featured a presentation by David Buckner. Mr. Buckner presented a collection of fly-fishing electronic resources and discussed the upcoming FFI Gulf Coast Classic Fly-Fishing Expo.

There's an excellent recap of the presentation in the minutes at the end of the newsletter.

Quick note from Chef Joe: I want to thank all those who helped getting the lunch food from my vehicle to inside the club house March 22. I especially want to thank Ellen Hofmann. She did a great job getting the food unwrapped and laid out on the table for the members to enjoy lunch. I don't move around as easily as I used to, so thanks for the help. Chef Joe

Fly-Fishing 101

The first session of FF-101 was led by Russ, with a presentation on fly rods, reels and lines. The second week consisted of casting instruction and a presentation on fly fishing species by our esteemed club guide, Richard Montgomery.



FF-101 Members, right and Students, left, Week 1

Project Healing Waters

By Mick Milo



Revised Schedule

The Monday sessions of Project Healing Waters are temporarily re-scheduled for Wednesdays until after the FF 101 class concludes. The remaining Wednesday dates are 10/26, 4/2, 4/9, and 4/23. Meetings will continue to be at 0930.

Fly Tying

Russ led us through tying the Klinkhammer Special. I thought this was a little more challenging than the flies we typically tie. It was well worth the effort, however, to work with some new materials and techniques.



Saturday Clinic

The weather on Saturday was terrific. Warm, with a light breeze, perfect for casting practice outside. Russ also gave us another shot at the Klinkhammer Special.



Fishing Report

By Captain Richard Montgomery

The Bay and air temps have risen a bit, fishing not so much. We are still waiting on the arrive of early spring Spanish run and specks to return to the flats. That said, the redfish and pompano are available on the Gulf side of Pickens. Checks the troughs cruising fish. Check Capt. Baz Yelverton Instagram @bazyelverton for some nice photos.



Baz has provided some pics of a number of large redfish he has tracked down while poling the shallows of the Gulf and Pensacola Bay. Proof positive not all redfish leave the bay after the running of the bulls! The idea here is cover the area very slow. His fly of choice for these fish, EP minnow patterns, the color changes almost every day...

April should supply even warmer weather and FISH. Keep looking for the Spanish to arrive, speckled trout to flood the flats and maybe some early bluefish down near the Pass. All of which can be taken with club favorite tan and olive Clouser or tan and white Clouser minnow. If you want to be in know when they arrive follow Terry McCormick and Baz on Instagram. Terry is @flycastsgt and Baz again is @bazyelverton. Welcome to the new age...



Are you ready for the Spanish?

Bob Korose

Spanish mackerel are arriving back in our area now. I saw an article in Florida Sportsman magazine (April 2024) by Mike Conner about fly fishing for Spanish mackerel. He says “to deter cut-offs from the sharp teeth, tie your flies on long shank hooks”. He ties his Clousers, glass minnows, and other streamers on long shank streamer hooks like Mustad S74SAP (formerly 34011). The Spanish will mostly bite the back of the shank so the teeth are on the front half of the hook and not the bite tippet. He suggests using a bite tippet of 40-60# Fluorocarbon (or wire if the water isn't too clear). The attached picture shows a Flash fly variant, a Green weenie, and a tan and olive Clouser all tied on long shank hooks.

In May we will be tying a Flash fly variant (the top fly in the picture) for the Fly of the Month.



3-D Printed Fly-Tying Materials

It took me a while to track this down, but it's interesting. The Chocklett Factory has started printing parts for fly tying. They have wings, carapaces and claws printed in plastic. Here are a couple of pictures from the catalog page. Here's a link to the Mad River video that advertises the materials, <https://youtu.be/gcCtxlnw7L8?si=oRkY6ReGQQivSMxv>. It's certainly not mainstream yet, but it's an interesting idea.



Fly of the Month: The Flash Belly Clouser

By Bob Korose

This fly was developed together by Bob Clouser and Bob Popovics. Bob Clouser demonstrated tying it at the Atlanta Flyfishing Show this February. It is an excellent fly for many fresh and saltwater species and should be terrific for the Spanish mackerel, bluefish, ladyfish, and many others in our local waters too. It is an easy fly to tie and can be tied with many wing and flash materials and in many different color combinations.



Ingredients:

Hooks: Mustad 34007 (S71SNP-DT) sizes 1, 2 or 4

Thread: 210 denier Flat waxed nylon Fl. Fire Orange

Eyes: Dumbbell (size medium) in yellow, red, silver, white

Body: Pearl Chenille or Petite Estaz or FTD Arctic Ice Clear (orange, pearl and many other colors)

Flash: Krystal Flash or FTD Twist (pearl, copper, rainbow)

Wing: Clouser used bucktail. Yak hair and synthetics like SF Blends, Super Hair, FTD Crystal Web, FTD Congo Plus, and many others work well too.

Steps:

<p>1. Start the thread an eye width behind the hook eye and wrap back to mid hook. Tie in the dumbbell eyes two eye widths behind the hook eye then bring the thread to behind the eye.</p>	<p>2. Tie in the chenille and wind the thread over it to the bend of the hook. Return the thread to behind the eyes.</p>	<p>3. Palmer the chenille forward and tie off behind the eyes then bring the thread in front of the eyes. Turn the hook over in the vice</p>
<p>4. Tie in a small clump (2 ¼ times the hook length) of the lighter color hair in front of the eyes.</p>	<p>5. Tie in 5 strands of flash wrapped around the thread. They should be ½ inch longer than the hair</p>	<p>6. Take a small clump of the darker hair (same size as the light) and tie it on top of the rest.</p>
	<p>7. Form a nice head then whip finish. Use UV or head cement to complete the fly.</p>	

The Minutes

FFNWFL Club Minutes General Meeting March 4, 2025

By George Norton, Secretary

1830 The President called the meeting to order with the pledge of allegiance.

Presentation of FFI Gulf Coast Council by David Buckner

David graciously drove over from Ocean Springs Mississippi to update our club on the Gulf Coast Classic May 2-3 at Gulf Shores State Park. The Classic will have pro fly tyers, casting lessons seminars and a Saturday night film festival.

Our club will have a table at the event. The venue has cabins and a hotel along with a campground. Lake Shelby and the surf offer a variety of fly-fishing opportunities. Registration is \$20 for one day or \$30 for two days. See FFI's website for further details.

David hopes to get more interaction between the Gulf Coast clubs. He has a wealth of information on fly fishing the Mississippi Gulf Coast. He joined our club on the spot. His home club in Ocean Springs is HOSS FLY which recently merged with the Gulfport Club.

One idea for a joint club fishing trip was to the Chandelier Islands twenty-five miles south of Biloxi. The islands are famous for wade fishing for speckled trout and redfish. David spoke highly of the "Pelican," which is an offshore barge that can house and feed up to ten fishermen. If someone wants to run with this idea the contact for the Pelican is Richard Smith.

David invited us to attend meetings in Ocean Springs whenever in the area. They have good wade fishing at Ship Island and other Mississippi barrier islands and a joint trip to Ship is another possibility. Ship Island has a ferry from Gulfport.

Thank you, David, for coming over and an interesting presentation and for your "*Fly Fishing Electronic Resources*." Hope we can work a joint club trip in the future.

Casting for Recovery was held at Camp Weed on a private lake east of Tallahassee. Wolfgang and George attended and provided fly casting instruction and help for the women's breast cancer retreat. It was an inspiring experience. See Wolfgang or George for further information if interested in volunteering.



Wolfgang shaking hands with Director of Casting for Recovery, Dawn Faldo