

# Flies and Lies

February, 2026



## FFNWF

[www.ffnwf.org](http://www.ffnwf.org)

PRESIDENT  
[Richard Montgomery](#)

VICE-PRESIDENT  
[Bob Korose](#)

SECRETARY  
[George Norton](#)

TREASURER  
[Larry Sisney](#)  
3610 Baisden Rd.  
Pensacola, FL 32503

MEMBERSHIP  
[David Handley](#)

MEMBER EMERITUS  
[Russ Shields](#)

NEWSLETTER  
[Dave Kuechenmeister](#)

## President's Corner

Well January wasn't all that fun. Chilling, windy and snow, but there were fish to be caught. February looks like it's going to be a follow up of January cold and low tides. This is the time of year to sit down at your vise and stock up on all your favorite flies for the upcoming fishing season. Remember how quickly Spanish, lady fish and blue fish can tear up your flies, so you best get tying.

This month our Bull/Tying Session we will be welcoming Community Fly Supply's signature tier Yusuf al-Ansari. I guarantee you; you will catch fish with the fly he is tying, the Gravity Minnow. See y'all there.

A couple other things, please put in your calendars the FFI Gulf Coast Council's "Gulf Coast Classic" May 2-3. Registration opens February 1. Don't forget our Fly Fishing 101 class starts March 2nd and runs for 8 weeks. We are still looking for more students and new FFNWF members as well, so let's spread the word.

**Richard Montgomery**  
President

## Club Meeting – Tuesday, Feb 3, 6:30

In addition to the business meeting, Tarpon Bob will be giving a presentation on Peacock Bass fishing in Brazil.

## Fly Tying – Thursday, 12, 6:30

The Fly of the Month is the Gravity Minnow. Leading us this month will be Yusuf al-Ansari from the Community Fly Supply shop.

## Clinic – Saturday, Feb 21, 9:00 AM

Join us for casting practice and another at the Fly of the Month. I will provide BBQ beef brisket for lunch.

## Gulf Coast Classic



The Gulf Coast Council (GCC) of Fly Fishers International (FFI) is presenting the 3rd annual Gulf Coast Classic fly-fishing festival, to be held Friday-Saturday, May 1-2, 2026, at the Learning Campus of Gulf State Park in Gulf Shores, Alabama.

Registration opens February 1. Watch the homepage, <https://ffigulfcoastclassic.com/> and our website for more information.

# Fly Fishing 101

The annual Fly Fishing 101 class starts in March. Please see the flyer for any information on dates and registration.



## Business Meeting

The January business meeting included a vote to select the new logo for the club. This logo is now used at the website and in this newsletter. Thanks, Gary Phebus, for working on this! Steve Hoffman also gave an enjoyable presentation on fishing humor.

## Membership Dues for 2025

The dues are coming due! Dues are \$35 to renew this year.

There are three ways to pay,

1. **Pay Larry** in person at a club meeting,
2. **Mail a Check** to:  
Larry Sisney 3610 Baisden Rd, Pensacola, FL 32503
3. **Pay online** through <https://ffnwf.org/membership>. A two-dollar fee is added for the online payment.

**8 Week Fly Fishing Class**  
Sponsored by the  
**Fly Fishers of Northwest Florida**  
**BEGINS**  
**March 2, 2026**  
**Monday Nights**  
**6-8 PM**  
Learn & practice the principles of Fly Fishing  
Equipment Selection  
Fly Tying  
Fly Casting  
Knots

Day/Time: Monday's 6 - 8 PM

Location: Mira Flores Park, 17th Ave and Belmont

For Info and registration call:

David Handley (850) 417-9233 or Email [ffnwfeducation@gmail.com](mailto:ffnwfeducation@gmail.com)

Cost is \$95 which includes complimentary membership in FFNWF for the remainder of 2025. Register early, class is limited to 15.

## Project Healing Waters

By Mick Milo



The Healing Waters group devoted January to a Bamboo fly rod building clinic. Due to some very cold weather on the last meeting, the project is going to extend into February.



In addition, Gary also let a fly-tying session. We had a couple guests. Gary had invited one of the ladies, Rachael Hill from the Wisconsin National Guard.

Sitting next to Oleta was another visitor. Kirstin hasn't submitted any paperwork, yet, so there's not much else I can say about her.



Gary writes that he took Rachael fishing. Later, she went to Tampa and caught this Alligator.

*(Photo credits: Dave and Gary)*



## South Holston River

Each Year, the Pensacola Chapter of PHW sends 10 members to the beautiful South Holston River in Bristol TN for a 2-day, 3-night guided fishing trip.

This year's attendees are:

Terry McCormick - Trip Lead  
JoJo Bulan - Assistant Lead

Robbie Wragg  
Jeremy Anderson  
Rex Green  
Gary Pheabus

Brian Hinkson  
Oleta Webb  
Chase Miller  
Marcus Henry

We should have some great fish photos when they get back.....Tight Lines!

## Fly Tying and Clinic

Ten or so members came out this month and worked tying the Parachute Beetle and received some casting instruction. Later, all enjoyed the chili lunch that Cyndi served up. (photo credits: Cyndi)



# Fishing Report

By Captain Richard Montgomery

Like I said earlier, unless you are seeking fish in the shallows, the Bay has been very hit or miss this past month and will probably continue to be so. Maybe with the more consistent colder temps, the fish will again be in the bayous, deeper channels and river mouths. I'm afraid it has been a little too cold for me but a few intrepid anglers, Terry M, Bob C, and George N, to name a few -- ventured out only to be handed the Zero. I will be happy to send an amended email when the fish show. When they do, use various colors of Clousers or weighted streamers and retrieve very slowly. Remember the water is cold and so are the fish.

I heard via the grapevine Captain Dan Storey found some False Albacore near the Pass, but they didn't linger for too long. Like Captain Baz always says, wintertime wading for fish in the Gulf of Mexico can be very productive. You never know what you will run into.

Captain Baz and Captain Dan have accounted for some mind-boggling big redfish and black drum in the usual spots. These fish are very educated and very touchy so a gentle approach is needed -- no trolling motors here folks! Shown below are just a few of them. Oh, Baz's Feb/Mar client, Carl, is in town so watch for Baz's social media account to light up. The photos are all of Carl with Baby, Mama, and Daddy redfish with a black drum thrown in for fun.

As for me, I'm headed to TX for a week and then down to the southern Keys after that so y'all enjoy.



# Fly of the Month: The Gravity Minnow

By Yusuf al-Ansari

The Gravity Minnow earned its name because—you guessed it—gravity pulls it straight to the target. (And yes, gravity still works underwater!) So, what's the target? Any foraging fish that eats minnows.

Seriously the lead eyes gets the fly down into the path of fish and the broader profile gives a true minnow shape. Use this fly in slightly deeper water where the plop on the surface gets their attention and drop gives them a chance to grab it. Be ready with that stripping hand quick!



## Materials:

1/0 Gamakatsu SL12s hook

Craft fur

210 denier thread

EP 3" craft fur brush

EP 1.5" minnow head brush

Medium lead dumbbell eyes

## Tools:

Flush cutters or wire cutters (old scissors will work too)

Sharp scissors for trimming

UV resin and UV light

Bobbin

Whip finisher tool

## Steps:

1		Create a thread base stopping just past the hook point
2		Tie in about a 3" section of craft fur using 3-4 securing wraps right where the hook begins to bend the end of the hook. Once secured we'll cut off our excess and cover any stray fibers with thread
3		Tie in the 3" EP craft fur brush and secure it in front of where we tied in the craft fur

4		<p>Once secured, wrap the 3" inch craft fur brush 3-4 times around the shank of the hook ensuring to pull back the fibers after each wrap. Wrap back on the fibers and use flush cutters or old scissors to clip off the remaining brush. Using a brush tool (here I'm using an EP finger brush) brush the fibers forward from the tail section then brush them back over themselves</p>
5		<p>Now that the tail section is complete, we will attach the medium dumbbell eyes to the shank of the hook just in front of the hook point making sure to leave room to tie in our minnow head brush.</p>
6		<p>Next, we will work on the head section of the fly by securing the 1.5" EP minnow head brush behind the eyes. We will wrap this brush 3 times behind the eyes again ensuring to pull the fibers back with each wrap</p>
7		<p>Advance the thread to the eye of the hook and wrap the brush once over the dumbbell on the side that's facing away from you pulling the fibers back and then wrap the brush over the side of the eye that's closest to you.</p>
8		<p>Now that we have wrapped the brush over the eyes we will wrap the brush 3 times around the shank in front of the eyes. Secure the brush with a few wraps and pull all the fibers back and trim off the excess brush.</p>
9		<p>At this point I like to whip finish the fly and secure the wraps with UV resin. You could fish this as is but we are going to trim the head to get a more uniformed shape</p>

10		<p>Now we will use our brush and brush the head section completely out freeing up any fibers that may have been trapped. This step is essential for getting a clean trim</p>
11		<p>Next, we will trim the fibers to create a more uniformed head. Angle your scissors at 45 degrees and make your first cut. It helps to use the eye of the hook as a guide for your scissors.</p>
12		<p>Invert your fly using your vice's rotary function and trim the belly of the fly the same way we trimmed the top.</p>

# **The Minutes**

**By George Norton**

## **January 7, 2026 FFNWF General Meeting Minutes**

1830: The President called the meeting to order with the Pledge of Allegiance.

Treasure's Report: The club's finances are in excellent shape going into the new year.

The FF 101 Class begins on March 2 and runs to the end of April. Please encourage anyone who might be interested in signing up and joining the club.

May 16th is the Club Fund raiser on the third Saturday. Please consider a donation.

George proposed a Club Fishing Tournament for the largest largemouth bass, redfish, Spanish mackerel and speckled trout. The tournament will run to the end of November and is open to paid club members for fish caught in Florida on a fly rod. A \$100 cash prize or gift certificate will be awarded at the Christmas Party for each winning species. Take a photo of the fish and measure it from the mouth to the fork of the tail along with where and when it was caught and on what fly. Any further information will be discussed at the February meeting.

Gary proposed adding \$1,000 to petty cash for minor expenses to speed up the use of club money for minor items to avoid long board approvals.

Gary presented club logos for our newsletter, banners at club events, the website newsletter banner, stickers and tee shirts. A vote passed to select his best logo. Thank you, Gary!! A great marketing idea.

Christmas Party: Russ presented an extensive critique of the food and service based on a number of complaints by club members. In a nutshell, the service and food were not what the club and the committee expected despite all the communication with the Holiday Inn. The club was given a \$600 refund in acknowledgement of their failure to render contracted services with a promise they will meet or exceed our expectations this year.

At this time, we have made no down payment for the December party. It was noted we need to start selling tickets earlier than last year since only forty attended the party. The party produced a surplus helped by the refund and larger than normal number of ticket sales for the raffle items. The Party normally runs a deficit and has to be subsidized.

Tarpon Bob did a bang-up job with selecting the party prizes of fly rods and reels, gift certificates etc. Thanks Bob!

Volunteers for monthly Presentations and fly tying are needed at the monthly meetings. See Tarpon Bob.

Presentation by Steve Hoffmann on "Fly Fishing Comedy"

Steve got a lot of laughs from club members who were treated to a slide presentation of funny mishaps in the great outdoors of equipment failures, getting a hook in the ear. bears, etc. all played well to our attendees.

Anyone who has fly fished for a long time has probably been hooked in the ear, gotten lost, fallen overboard, hooked an osprey or been swept down river by rising water when the generators opened up. These mishaps make memorable humorous stories and Steve's presentation was spot on.

Fishing Reports: The bull red run is over and didn't attract much interest. The bulls stayed out of the bay but the local guides caught shallow water reds on the flats. No reports on trout showing up in the canals yet as an extended cold front is needed to move them inside.

# FFNWF Newsletter Submission Guidelines

We love hearing from our members! To help us get your stories and updates into the next issue of the FFNWF Newsletter, please follow these simple steps:

## 1. Focus Your Content

We're looking for articles centered on club news, fly fishing tips, local reports, and conservation efforts. To keep our newsletter informative and on-topic, we aren't accepting creative writing essays or unrelated personal columns at this time.

## 2. The Editor's "Final Cast"

To ensure every issue is balanced and fits our layout, the editor has final say on which articles are included. If we can't fit your piece in this month, we'll do our best to save it for a future edition!

## 3. Polish and Prep

Your words are important to us! All submissions will be edited for grammar, length, and clarity. If we need to make significant changes, we'll send a draft back to you for your "thumbs up" before we head to press.

## 4. Technical Format

Please send text in an editable format (like a Word doc or a plain email). To save us from re-typing your hard work, please do not send text as a PDF, JPG, or screenshot.

## 5. High-Quality Visuals

A great photo makes the story! When submitting images, please keep these three things in mind:

**Send the Original:** Attach the original photo file (JPG or PNG) to your email. Please don't "embed" the photo inside a Word document, as it ruins the resolution.

**High Resolution:** Use the largest file size possible so the image looks sharp in print and on screens.

**Captions & Credits:** Include a brief note telling us who is in the photo, where it was taken, and who took the shot.

All that said, I can work with anything you send me. This just sets the initial expectations for each of us.