Flies and Lies

November 2026

President's Corner

Well, October started out pretty good fish returning to the flats, annual fund raiser about to happen, and bigger crowds at meetings, but then...Hurricane Isaias smashed with more than aclub function; it uprooted fellow club members lives! We should all be thankful that storm hooked to our east.

What can I tell y'all about our postponed fund raiser, not sure. But rest assured it will be the top topic at the board and business meetings in November, so be sure to be there. The next topic will be the Christmas Party. It will be in same location as last years, tickets are $35 per person *($37.00 on line,* ***No cash****)* and there will be a limit of 45 total tickets, so grab one as soon as they go on sale. I hope to see a bunch of bright eyes and smiling faces at all the Nov meetings.

Richard Montgomery
President

Casting and Tying at the Club

Club Meeting
Tuesday, November 3, 6:30

The business meeting for this month is going to be busy. We need to confirm who the Board of Directors will be for 2027, as well as the Club Fly-Fisher of the Year. We also need to make a first cut at scheduling quite a few jobs, including Membership Chair, FF101 Chair, Fly of the Month Chair, and the Saturday Clinic lunch list, among others. Ticket sales for the Christmas Party will also start at this meeting.

This will be an important meeting. Please plan to attend.

In addition to the business meeting, Ramsey Greene will give a presentation on fly-fishing tips and techniques

Fly Tying
Thursday, November 12, 6:30

Hurricane Isaias really messed up our schedule in October and it's continued to screw up November. Due to some unexpected events, the Fly of the Month is, once again, the Lightbulb.



Saturday, November 21, 9:00 AM

The Saturday clinic will not repeat the Lightbulb. Ramsey will lead us through some fly-tying techniques that are related to the presentation from the Tuesday Business meeting. The recipe for the Tilt Wing Adams is included later in the newsletter.



Plan to stay for lunch! Richard is going to be frying Mullet.

Upcoming Events

November 2026

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
1	2 Healing Waters 9:30 am	3 BOD Mtg 5 pm Business Mtg 6:30 pm	4	5	6	7
8	9 Healing Waters 9:30 am	10	11	12 Bull Session 6:30 pm	13	14
15	16	17	18	19 Community Fly Supply Fly Tying Night 6:30 pm	20	21 Clinic 9:00 am
22	23 Healing Waters 9:30 am	24	25	26 Thanksgiving	27	28
29	30	1	2	3	4	5
6	7	Notes				

FFNWF

www.ffnwf.org

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NEWSLETTER
Dave Kuechenmeister

Christmas Party

Our great, annual Christmas party will be on December 8th at the Holiday Inn at 7813 N. Davis Hwy. Social hour starts at 6:00 pm with the buffet dinner to be served at 7:00. If desired, alcoholic beverages can be purchased at the hotel bar near the lobby.

Tickets will be $35.00 per person by check or $37.00 on line. There are only 45 tickets available. **No cash!**



There will be a nice selection of rods and reels in the silent auction. More details on this will be printed in the December newsletter. Please bring one or two items for door prizes. And, lots of other goodies including gift certificates for the ladies. So come and socialize with your fellow club members and guests.

Project Healing Waters

By Mick Milo

Due to Hurricane Isaias, October was pretty much a bust as far as our events schedule went. The fly-tying session and the wade-fishing trip at the Live Oaks park were cancelled as well as the FFNWF fundraiser on the 17th. However, we kept the schedule somewhat intact for the final event of the month. On Monday, October 26th, we started our annual fly rod-Building clinic. We have 12 members who signed up to build rods this year which, I believe, is the largest group we've ever had. These participants will spend the month of November building their own custom fly rods (from scratch). Photos of their efforts will be available next month.

Business Meeting

The September business meeting is documented in the minutes attached to this newsletter. The presentation by Scott Freeburg is described below.

Presentation by Scott Freeburg on Fly Fishing in Michigan: The Four Seasons

By George Norton

Scott is one of our newer members and has been a great addition and resource for the club. He is a snow bird and resides in Milton part time.

Michigan is a peninsula that sits between two Great Lakes. Scott said, “In Michigan you are never farther than one mile from a body of fishable water.” There are four major rivers that are most known but many others have excellent fly fishing but are less recognized. The main four rivers are the Ausable, the Manistee, the Muskegon, and the Pere Marquette.

The fishery is very diverse due to migration from the Great Lakes like Atlantic Salmon, Steelhead trout, Coho and King salmon along with resident warm water fish like walleye, smallmouth, large-mouth and panfish.





January-March is a good time for steelhead and brown trout on streamers, nymphs, and egg patterns if you are tough enough for the cold weather. In March Michigan has a massive fly-fishing expo in which Scott has been closely involved.

April –June is good for steelhead and the pink Barbie Clouser is a good choice. In May look for may-flies and go with the Hendrickson in size 14 best fished from noon to 3 PM. The spinners fall at 5-6 PM and the Adams Parachute works well. June is good for the Hex's in size 6-8-10 and Isos in 10-12. Late May is a terrific time to fly fish smallmouth in Lake Huron around boulders. 100 fish days are common

Fly Tying and Clinic

The Thursday tying session and Saturday clinic were cancelled due to Hurricane Isaias. See you in November.

Fishing Reports

By Captain Richard Montgomery

In early October, the big Spanish mackerel started to show on various grass flats. They still weren't thick -- you had to work that arm -- but were they there. Then HI came to visit. He caused a H of mess. I fished not long he passed by, and I don't believe I ever seen the bay water so darkly stained. It wasn't muddy, it was just dark brown. Guess what my clients and I found on the flats? Times up, big Spanish! I was amazed at how quickly they took the fly, one or two big strips and they were on. It was one of those days if you didn't get a take in the first ten feet you should just pick up and start over. Hudson and his dad landed many like the pics. Although Rocky's fish was one over the top. Flies for the last few days, Clousers, tan/white with red eyes, and a Farrar Blend fibers Clouser brown/white with chartreuse lead eyes





The redfish have made it back to shallow waters, and yes, they are just as difficult as ever. Now the big QUESTION has the bull made here yet? Yes, but not in great numbers. With these cooler temps I would expect the big schools any day.

Fly of the Month I: The Lightbulb

By Bob Korose



Capt. Tom Shadley of Mangrove Outfitters in Naples, Florida, created this fly with bright, glow-in-the-dark materials after snook and tarpon refused his standard patterns during night fishing sessions. This fly really works. It turns out that just about everything eats the Lightbulb both night and day including speckled trout and redfish. It is an easy fly to tie. It can be tied in various hook sizes and with different weighted eyes depending on the size of the fish and the water depth to fish. We will tie it here with a large silver bead chain eye or an X-small white dumbbell eye. Try it in our region for Spanish mackerel, bluefish, ladyfish, specks, and redfish. Give it a try under dock and bridge lights at night too. See a video of the fly here.

Materials:

Hooks: Mustad C70SD or C47SD Size 1

Eyes: Large silver bead chain or X-small painted white dumbbell

Thread: White flat waxed nylon.

Tail: Polarflash Mirage Opal (FTD Big Game Hair Tinsel-Bright White)

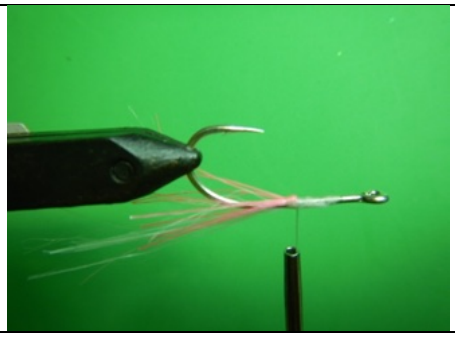
Fin/Body: Palmer Chenille Medium Pearl

Head: Medium Pearl Chenille or Pearl Estaz.

Flash Glow pink and glow white Flashabou (FTD pearl Shadow flash)



1. Place the hook in the vice and start a thread base. Tie on the glow white Flashabou.



2. Turn the hook over and tie on the gills of glow pink Flashabou.



3. Turn the hook back over and tie on the eyes. Leave room in front for the fly head.



4. Tie on the Polarflash in two clumps. Side by side on the top and sides of the hook. This keeps the tail from fouling on the hook.



5. Tie on the pearl Palmer chenille and wrap forward with 3-4 turns while stroking the fibers to the rear.



6. Tie on the Estaz or Pearl chenille and move the thread to forward of the eyes. Palmer the chenille forward and through the eyes and tie off.



7. Make a nice head and finish with head cement or UV.

Fly of the Month II: Tilt Wing Adams

By Ramsey Greene

This month, rather than call out a specific recipe, this fly is a generic application of the tilt wing technique. The tilt wing, or hair wing parachute, can be applied to any traditional parachute pattern fly. I use this on everything from Klinkhamers to parachute hoppers -- with deer hair, elk hair, and synthetics. Apply it to some Smoky Mountain favorites for a deadly variation on the seasonal staples. In the winter, try it on a BWO or for the spring, use it in a Parachute Hare's Ear or Purple Haze. For the summer, it is a fantastic way to dress up a Smoky Mountain Candy, Schoeder's Hopper or Yellow Sally. It's a great way to add indicators to dry fly patterns too. To focus on just the technique, I'm going to simply tie the back end as a traditional parachute Adams



Materials:

Hooks: Any dry fly hook Sizes 12-18. I generally never use below an 18. Today we are using TMC100 size 12

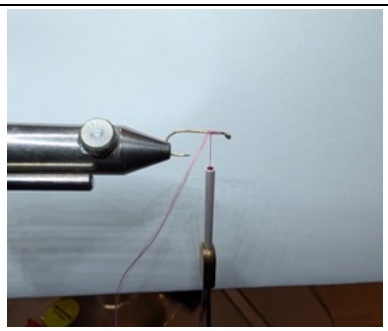
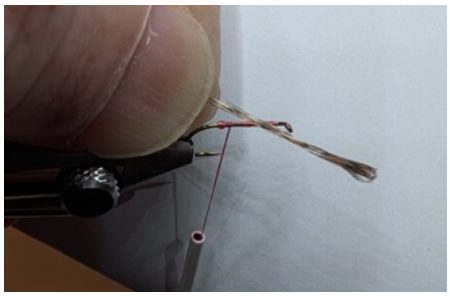
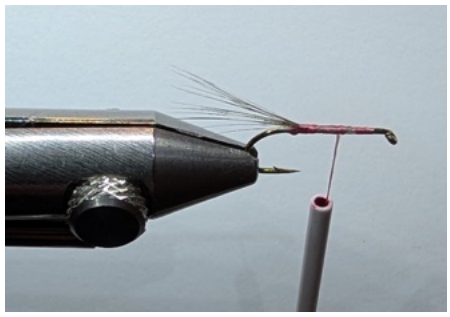
Body: Adams grey superfine. Substitute any color

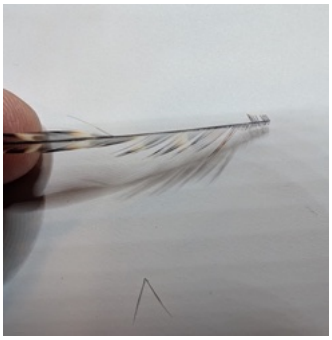
Thread: Semperfli Nano Silk 100D (12/0) Gray (I use red in some pictures for detail). You can use any 6/0 – 12/0 in black, red, copper, or brown. I do prefer GSP thread for this fly.

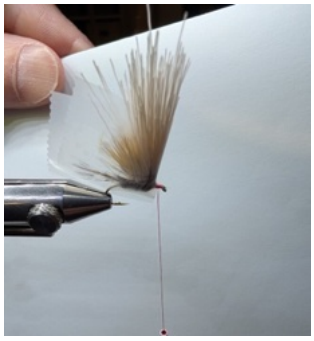
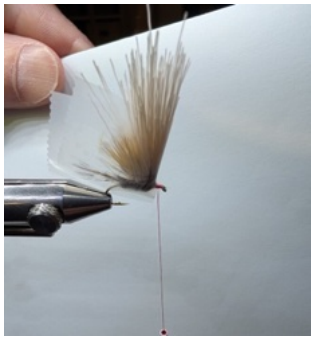
Wing/Post: Fine deer or elk hair. I find I like deer over elk for most trout patterns these days, but either one works fine. Most important factor is quality hair.

Hackle: Size 12- 14 dry fly hackle. Saddle hackle will make this much easier, longer feathers are easier to manipulate. You can use whatever color you prefer, my go to is Cree or grizzly variant for Adams.

Steps:

		
1. Start the thread near the eye and create a thread base back to just before the bend. If you want a fanned-out tail, add a little thread ball.	2a. Tie in the tail fibers.	2b. Tip: tilt the butt ends to slightly face you. When you wrap the tail fibers in, they will rotate to the top of the hook.

		
3a. Pull out a tuft of dubbing that floats on a breeze. You can always bulk up a fly, but it trickier to evenly remove dubbing.	3b. Dub the fly forward to about the 2/3-3/4 mark.	4. Select a hackle and prepare the feather as seen in Pic. I trim the tie in point and shiny side facing me, pull the barbs off the upper edge. This makes for a much cleaner parachute wrap regardless of technique.
		
5. Tie in the hackle dull side up. When it is wrapped, the shiny side should face down.	6. Select a clump of deer hair and comb and stack. After stacking, remove and hold just the butt ends. Pull out any short hair and then restack. After a second stacking, hold by the tips, then remove and trim the butt ends to be even - leaving as much length as practical. Stack the hair for the final time. For an average small stacker, it should now appear less than half full. Tip: Stacking the hair multiple times makes it easier to handle and create a much cleaner looking wing.	7a. Tie in the deer, like an elk hair caddis wing, hair just forward of the hackle tie in point. At this point, there are multiple variations on the wraps depending on how I want the wing to look.

		
7b. For a typical tilt wing, I do 5 wraps vertically and three in front of the wing. I follow this with 1-2 wraps around just the butt ends to bind them together. Finish this step with 3-5 horizontal wraps around the hair wing base. Finish with the thread hanging on the far side of the hook just in front of the wing. I often use a little head cement on the wing wraps at this point to make a more durable fly	8. Optional: Lightly dub the thorax with crossing wraps to cover the thread holding the hair wing finishing on the far side of the hook in front of the wing. I find the fish don't care at all if I skip this step.	9. Grab the hackle and wrap it around the entire base of the tilt wing parachute style (counter clockwise if viewed from above). I usually use 3-5 wraps for most dry flies (more for hoppers, etc.). Leave the hackle hanging off the far side of the hook just in front of the wing after last wrap. The weight of your hackle pliers will hold it in place.
		
10. Leaving the hackle hanging with the weight of the hackle pliers, wrap the thread around the same direction as the hackle at least three wraps. Add 1-2 half hitches after the last wrap and trim the tag hackle.	11. Take a piece of Scotch tape and cut a small slit on the bottom edge at the half way mark. Slowly slide this over hook eye using the slit to guide you. This will function as a temporary hackle guard while we finish the thread head and whip finish.	12. Create a small thread head and whip finish.

		
13a. Use a bodkin to separate the tip ends from the butt ends.	13b. Grab the butt ends of the tilt wing as a clump, slide your scissors down to trim the wing to suit.	14. Apply your favorite thread cement to the head and the middle of the hair clump.

Once you have the basic technique down, there are multiple variations to use to create lots of different looks. Some of my favorites are:

•I use 8-10 wraps when tying in the hair wing if I want the wing to lay more horizontal, or only 3 if I want it to stand more vertically. Try this with traditional stimulators to turn them into easy to see parachute stimulators.

•I stack some flash or calf tail in with the deer hair for patterns that are hard to see. Consider adding 5-6 strands of crystal flash to make this stand out on the water.

• Use a 1mm or less foam strip tied in from underneath to create a 'life jacket' that makes for a very buoyant fly. Great for hopper patterns and emerger/cripples.

• Tie the hair facing backwards and trim the butts at an angle to create cripple/emerger wings.

• Using CDC instead of traditional hackle can create a deadly fly akin to a CDC X-caddis.

• Use EP fibers/Antron/wool yarn to create very sculpted wing using this exact technique.

• Add a wing case and split the hair wing prior to hackle to create a divided wing. This creates really unique variations for duns and spinners.

• So many more….

FFNWF October 16, 2026 General Meeting Minutes
by George Norton Club Secretary

1830: The President called the Meeting to order with the Pledge of Allegiance. We had 20 in attendance.

Treasurer's Report: Our bank account is in excellent shape and we had minor expenses for food and fly-tying materials along with restocking beverages in the refrigerator. We had minimal income from beverage sales and membership dues. The TR report was approved by George and Russ.

The Fund Raiser which was set for October 17th was canceled due to Hurricane Isaias. A new date is to be announced (TBA).

Christmas Party: 45 tickets will be issued at $35 each. Tickets will be sold up to the cutoff date of November 23rd. Please bring one or two door prizes. There will be plenty of good stuff like rods and reels, gift cards, and a rod cabinet.

November Clinic: Come enjoy fellowship, fried mullet, fly tying and fly casting which is on the third Saturday in November at nine AM.

Elections for 2027 club officers are at the November meeting. The Board of Directors or BOD has two at large BOD positions, President, Vice President, Secretary and Treasurer are all up for election. Come and nominate someone at our next meeting the first Tuesday of November at 630 PM and vote. New blood is welcome and needed!

(Ed: A summary of the presentation at the business meeting was moved to that section.)