

# Flies and Lies

May, 2025



## FFNWF

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## President's Corner

Spring is here and hopefully more fishing opportunities for everyone. With May just around the corner, there will be some great bargains at our annual fundraiser on Saturday May 17th. Read below for additional information.

The FF101 is winding down and the club looks forward to welcoming the new members.

**Cyndi Myers**  
**President**

## Club Meeting – Tuesday, May 6 6:30

In addition to the business meeting, Certified Casting Instructors, through Fly Fishing International, Dr. Tom Dempsey of Gulf Coast Fly Fishing School and Richard Montgomery will be demonstrating common casting faults and cures. This demonstration will be conducted outside, so please be prompt to the meeting so that everyone will be able to see the loops and the effect of various errors to the cast.

## Fly Tying – Thursday, May 8 6:30

Bob Korose will lead us in tying the Flash Fly Variant tied on a long hook.

## Fund Raiser – Saturday, May 17 9:00 AM

Join us for an auction-style fundraiser this Saturday. This will replace the May Clinic.

There's a lot of high-quality gear that will be put up for auction. This includes a number of rods, some from Orvis and TFO, a Sage fly reel, books, vests, fly tying materials, and several vises.

There are two guided trips up for bid, as well. One half-day trip from Captain Richard and one half-day trip from Captain Baz.

Come with money and be ready to bid!

## Replacement for FFNWF Head Chef

We are looking for a head chef to organize the meals for the Saturday clinics. Joe Higgins has told Cyndi that he cannot continue to carry out the head chef duties. Simply put, the head chef purchases the utensils and beverages that are used for the lunches and stocks the fridge with beverages. The head chef also recruits folks to prepare lunch for the clinics. All the funds are provided by the club.

## Business Meeting

The April business meeting featured an informative presentation from Steve Gramos on fishing New Mexico rivers. The presentation is summed up very well in the minutes.



## Project Healing Waters

By Mick Milo



Here is the May schedule.

- Friday/Saturday, 2-3 May - Gulf Coast Classic
- Monday 5 May - Local Pensacola meeting cancelled
- Monday 12 May - Local Fly-Tying Session: Wolfgang will lead in tying the Brooks Blonde Fly
- Monday 19 May - Off day. No meeting
- Monday 26 May - Local Fly-Tying session. Wolfgang will lead in tying the Bucktail Deceiver

## Fly Tying and Clinic

Bob Korose led us through the Flash Belly Clouser during the Bull Session and again at the Saturday Clinic. Both days kept us so busy, no one thought to take pictures!

## Gulf Coast Classic Fly-Fishing Festival

FFI GCC in Gulf Shores State park is on the first Friday and Saturday on May. Clubs in our region extend from Lake Charles, Louisiana to Destin. There is a film festival Saturday night. See the [FFI website](#) for further details.

Both the FFNWF club and Project Healing Waters will have representatives at the festival. Please make plans to come!





# Fly-Fishing 101

The class has concluded after eight information-packed weeks. Fly tying has consisted of a Woolly Bugger, Clouser Minnow, and an Elk Hair Caddis. Thanks to the instructors for demonstrating how to tie each of these flies. Casting has also progressed well. The class has practiced basic casting, as well as double-haul and quick cast techniques. Thanks also go to the fly-casting instructors for their work.

The last class was held on Monday, April 28. We concluded with Russ Shields leading us through a Gartside Gurgler fly and a Matt Wegener presented an overview of local fresh water fishing, as well as the nearby lake and river ecology.



# Fishing Report

**By Captain Richard Montgomery**

Well, was March a fun fishing month? Not really no! The Bay and gulf didn't warm quite soon enough to make it a memorable one. However, that said the last week to week and half have brought warm days and some fish on the flats.

Bob Korose and Steve Hoffman went out loaded for everything and sure as heck, they landed everything, everywhere in the Bay. Spanish mackerel, speckled trout and even pompano ended up on their menu. The one was using Bob's creation, the Flash Fly (to be tied by Bob in May) and the other one used the newly demonstrated Bob Clouser's new fly, the Flash Belly Clouser (just demo'ed by Bob this month). Steve said he out fished Bob but there were no pictures of Steve's fish, hummmm? Apparently, they caught fish on grass flats all around the Bay, so take your pick. Just remember you want moving water. On any of these flats you need current to bring the fish over the grass. Wade fishing the shallows of the grass flats is still good, although no fish have been brought to hand.

Terry McCormick through his Instagram @flycastsgt, reported the same type of fishing one week after Bob and Steve's fishing.



You can expect the same type of fishing next month as long as the Bay doesn't warm too fast in May. Remember flashy flies and move them quickly.

I heard Captain Dan Storey found a nice trough in the sand bar in the Gulf of Mexico and sight fished a large school of pompano, landed 6 during one trip. I talked with Sam @ Community Fly Supply (Orange Beach), he reported the same thing, good numbers of pompano in the surf.

If you're interested in sight fishing, earlier this month Basil caught some nice Reds at his secret spots. He took a week off to do some "research" fishing in Palmyra. Go to his Instagram @bazyelverton, to view the release of his 75# GT! What a beautiful place. Continue to watch his Instagram for addition Pensacola Bay reports.

Looks like things are picking up!

Richard



# Fly of the Month: The Flash Fly Variant

By Bob Korose

The flash fly has proven to be a very effective and popular fly that is easy to tie and catches many kinds of fish. The variant version is tied differently from the original. It has a collar which improves the shape and action of the fly. It is also tied on a long shank hook to make it more durable and limit the bite offs from the Spanish mackerel, bluefish, and others. It can be tied in many sizes and color combinations depending on the species and water conditions but the one tied in pearl with a red collar is my favorite for the Spanish mackerel in the Pensacola area waters.

## Ingredients:

**Hooks:** Mustad S74SNP (Formerly Mustad 34011) Size 1 or 2

**Eyes:** Dumbbell eyes size medium

**Thread:** Flat waxed nylon (as desired). Use Hot red (FI Fire Orange) for head.

**Tail:** Flash material of your choice (I like FT Dungeon's Pearl Web, Northern



Lights or Shadow Flash in various colors) You could use Flashabou too.

**Body:** Flash type chenille medium or large (Estaz, pearl chenille, cactus chenille)

**Collar:** MFC Sparkler Minnow Brush, color red.

## Steps:

1. Start the thread at the middle of the hook and wrap back 1/4 inch and tie in the eyes with figure-8 wraps.	2. Take some tail material about two times the length of the hook and tie it in behind the eyes then wrap over it to the bend of the hook then return the thread to behind the eyes.	3. Take a length of flash chenille and tie it on top of the tail material and to the bend of the hook. Take the thread forward to slightly behind the eyes.
4. Wrap the chenille around the hook in touching wraps forward to the thread and tie off.	5. Tie in the red collar brush. Wrap three turns while stroking the fibers to the rear. Tie off the brush then bring the thread in front of the eyes.	6. Form a nice head and whip finish. Apply head cement, UV or epoxy and your Flash fly is ready for action

# The Minutes

**FFNWF Business Meeting Minutes: April 1, 2025**

**George Norton, Club Secretary**

1835: The President opened the meeting with the Pledge of Allegiance

Last Month's Minutes were approved by Bob and Russ as published.

Treasurer's Report: Dues, class tuition, hats and beverage brought in a surplus for the month less expenses for fly tying materials, Saturday clinic food, beer and beverages, donuts, new member applications, and fees for nonprofit status with the state and the IRS. The checking account has a healthy balance. TR report was approved by George and Steve H.

New member Rancey Green joined the club. Rancey is a long-term resident of Pensacola. He has a background guiding in the Smokey Mountains, and has taught fly tying. He is a great addition to the club. Welcome aboard Rancey.

101 Class: picked up four new members taking the class.

Membership: Dave H confirmed we have forty-four paid members, nine associate members and five honorary members for a total of fifty-eight members. Dave is updating the membership list.

Annual Club Fund Raiser: Steve G, our new chair commented that "he had seventy-five items including two Orvis rods for May 17th. Special thanks to Tarpon Bob who made a big donation. The clubs used TFO rods and reels that were replaced will be sold at the event at a very guide price. Don't miss the fund raiser and buy buy buy which helps the club. Please don't donate anything at the auction.

Fishing Report: George got into the Spanish near the piers close to the Gulf Breeze boat launch at the end of March. The water temperature was 66 degrees. The Spanish just happened to be caught on the popping shrimp which was the fly he had on at the time for specs. They were not big Spanish but on a six weight Recon fly rod gave a great fight. The action was fast and furious and the Spanish were located as they porpoise in the chop.

FFI Conclave in Gulf Shores State park is on the first Friday and Saturday on May. Clubs in our region extend from Lake Charles, Louisiana to Destin. There is a film festival Saturday night. See the FFI website for further details. Don't miss it. It is a short drive from Pensacola.

A Drawing for a free guided trip for paid members with Richard M will be held at the May fund raiser. Approved by George and Cliff.

## **Presentation Fly Fishing Northern New Mexico and Southern Colorado by Steve and Ellen Hofmann**

Steve and Ellen have made a number of trips to the region. Their last trip was in 2019. The San Juan in New Mexico is one of the top destinations for big rainbow and brown trout. It is a tail water fishery with average size brown and rainbow of 17 inches but many twenty plus inch fish are taken.

The San Juan is a world class fishery. The number of trout per acre are phenomenal due to the abundant feed coming through the dam. The negatives are the crowds, indicator or bobber fishing and the need to slap off the algae every cast that accumulates on the leaders called snot by locals. Drift boats

are everywhere but the trout are used to the crowds and literally swim between your legs while wading. Catching these trout is another matter. It requires tiny flies. Size 20-26 are most effective with very fine tippet sizes. It is a technical fishery as they say in the trade. Steve mentioned BWO and WD-40 as two good flies along with an assortment of midges fished two inches above the bottom with a split shot dragging the bottom. Anytime the indicator moves set the hook.

Steve and Ellen have made four trips to the San Juan. Their club hosted some trips with the Wounded Warrior organization. In addition, they fly fished the Cimarron River's private water and did very well on dry flies. The Cimarron trout average 14-16 inches. They also fly-fished rivers in southern Colorado such as Los Pinos. If you are interested in going to the San Juan or leading a club trip to the area, see the Hoffmann's for additional information. Thank you, Steve and Ellen, for an informative presentation on this famous fishery.

1945: GN and Dave H adjourned the meeting.

## Last Minute Stuff...

### Here's a Fishing Report from George Norton...

The fish in the pictures were caught in Lakeville, CT. on a variety of streamers.

