



Flies and Lies

August, 2026

President's Corner

Well, another month has passed by, it won't be long till summer has ended! That is what the calendar says, that just means it is time to get fishing. Speaking of fishing, the club is looking for ideas for a group fishing trip. August SHOULD bring calmer Gulf waters, so maybe a wade trip down 399 East or the Pass. Let's hear some ideas! With the passing of July that brings us one more month closer to two important events, the Annual Fund Raiser, October 17, and the Christmas Party, 12/8 (or a one-day late Richard's birthday party).

Professor Tom Dempsey says he is looking for new casters at our Saturday Clinic. It is a pretty good deal, free (with a club membership) casting lessons with one of the Gulf Coast great instructors.

I am to give next month's presentation after the business meeting on fly fishing in Pensacola. Please note, this will not be a Captain Richard tells all, I would like for this to be a discussion about places to fish in the Pensacola area. I will be happy to start things off, but plain and simple I am not the only one that fishes here. Newbies come learn a few things, experienced members bring a fly or two to add to the discussion.

Richard Montgomery
President

Casting and Tying at the Club

Club Meeting **Tuesday, August 4, 6:30**

In addition to the business meeting, Cap'n Richard Montgomery will start a discussion about local fishing spots. This is a group participation program, so tell us about where you like to fish!

Fly Tying **Thursday, August 13, 6:30**

The Fly of the Month is the Clouser Half & Half. Gary Pheabus will lead us with this pattern. The Healing Waters group will be joining us for this session.



Clinic **Saturday, August 15, 9:00 AM**

Come to the clinic and get another chance at tying the Half & Half. Casting coaching will also be available. Lunch will be creole, provided by Mick Milo. Healing Waters members will also be joining us for this session

Upcoming Events

August 2026



Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
26	27	28	29	30	31	1
2	3	4 BOD Mtg 5 pm Business Mtg 6:30 pm	5	6	7	8
9	10	11	12	13 Bull Session 6:30 pm Healing Waters 6:30 pm	14	15 Clinic 9:00 am Healing Waters 9:00am
16	17	18	19	20 Community Fly Supply Fly Tying Night 6:30 pm	21	22
23	24	25	26	27	28	29
30	31	Notes				

Annual Fundraiser

The auction-style fundraiser is scheduled for Saturday, October 17. This is a major source of income for the club and for Healing Waters. Please consider a donation of good, used equipment for the sale.

Contact Steve Hoffmann, smanhof94@gmail.com, with any donations.

Christmas Party

It's a little hot to think about Christmas, but the planning for our party has begun. The Christmas Party will be on December 8 at the Holiday Inn North. Put it on your calendar. Also consider donating a box of flies or something fishing related as a door prize raffle.

Fly Tying Night at Community Fly Supply.

This is always on the third Thursday of the month at 6:30 pm. Last month we tied a minnow pattern. Very easy, very quick, and looks good. These are what I tied. Plenty of room for improvement, but you get the idea.



FFNWF

www.ffenwf.org

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Project Healing Waters

By Mick Milo

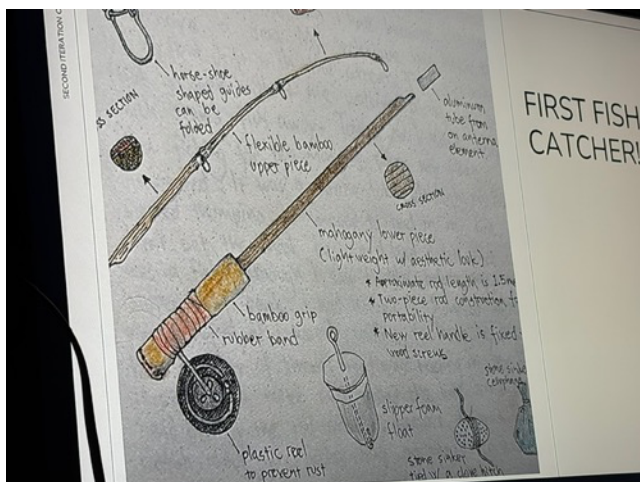


PHW has begun to meet with the FFNWF club on the Bull Session Thursday and the Clinic Saturday each month. We do not meet on Monday mornings, for the time being.

Business Meeting

The July business meeting is documented in the minutes attached to this newsletter. The meeting also featured a presentation by Jojo Bulan on the research and construction that went into his first fly rod. Read about this in much more detail in the meeting minutes.

(Photos from Jay B.)



Fly Tying and Clinic

This month, Bob Korose showed us how to tie the F.C. Sand Shrimp. This was created by Ed Story of Feathercraft and endorsed by Matt Wegner locally. This was another easy-to-tie and good-looking fly pattern. Exactly the right combination.



Dr. Tom Dempsey was there to work on casting with members, as well. As Cap'n Richard said earlier, this is a great opportunity to learn a little more from a great instructor.



The morning ended with lunch. JoJo brought a really terrific lunch of lumpia and pancit. Everyone filled their plates up a couple times and since JoJo was not allowed to bring any home, we did. Thanks!



From Typewriter Spools to Native Streams: JoJo Bulan's Fly Fishing Journey

By George Norton

(Ed: Originally, part of the minutes, this story was too good to leave at the end of the newsletter.)

JoJo grew up in the Philippines and is a twenty-year Navy Veteran stationed in Pensacola. He has been an active club member since 2024. JoJo was born to fish and started at a young age fishing for catfish and snakefish with homemade rods which he and family members spread around a small lake.

His early fishing memories were rising at 4 AM for coffee with his family and then going out in a farmer's field looking under cow dung patties hunting crickets for bait. Some of the patties were still wet!

JoJo became infatuated with fly fishing as a boy after buying a used fly-fishing magazine for 10 cents in a used bookstore. This led amazingly to building his own fly reel from spare parts he scavenged. His fly reel housing was a typewriter spool and the bottom section of his homemade rods were mahogany which was stronger and the top section was bamboo. For the connection he found a part from a sink.

His first fish was a ten-inch catfish caught on worm and he could barely contain his excitement. For his twelfth birthday he got 20 pesos or 98 cents and bought his first nylon line. One funny story was how he very carefully trimmed a cousin's favorite toy monkey for hair to tie with. She never discovered what was missing on the monkey.

He studied electrical and computer engineering in the Philippines and married a Peace Corps Volunteer which led him to relocate to Albuquerque, New Mexico where his fly-fishing journey began in earnest. JoJo got his dream job at Charlie's Sporting Goods working in the fly-fishing department. Several employees and the owners' son mentored him in rod building, fly casting and fly tying. He can even tie a fly without a vise. His work was a joy even though the pay was minimum wage at \$7 an hour.

His first trout on a fly was a six-inch brook trout but his trout got bigger from then on to some beauties. JoJo spent three and a half years at Charlie's. After a divorce, he moved back to the Philippines hoping to be a guide but there was no demand for fly fishing guides so he enlisted in the US Navy.

Regarding cultural fishing differences in the West, we use solid bamboo rods. In the Eastern culture they use hollow bamboo; their reels are a hollow tin can or cylinder while our reels are made of solid metal. Most western fly fishers practice catch and release, while Asians catch and eat. We focus on catching the biggest fish and they want to catch the smallest of whatever species. Western bamboo rod makers take years to master the art while in Asia the bamboo goes right over the open flame.

The top fish in the Philippines are the snakefish which is now invasive in Maryland and the milkfish which is bigger but comparable to the bonefish. Pacific tarpon are like our baby tarpon and they have giant trevally. Thank you, Jo Jo, for a most informative and interesting presentation.

Fishing Reports

By Captain Richard Montgomery

July started out great, but then came the rains. Southern Alabama and upper NW Florida experienced heavy rains for several days. This caused flooding in most of our river systems, which shut down in-shore and nearshore fishing. Even the offshore guides had a hard time locating clean water. That said, there were still fish to catch, like my client's very nice redfish. You can tell by the picture we were in some shallow water. There were days at the end of the month when the water cleared in the Pass and ladyfish were thick as well. The teasing "throw me a fly, I'll eat anything" false albacore arrived just off the beach. I had Brian and Jeremy on the boat chasing the blasted things, but we only had one take out of hundreds of casts.



Okay, all that took place before Tropical Storm Bertha passed just south of us. I am very curious to see what effect she had on our Bay and nearshore Gulf. What we should expect are ladyfish, bluefish, and speckled trout crashing Clousers and other minnow patterns over the grass flats, and redfish cleaning up in the shallows. The baby false albacore were here. Here's hoping the storm brought in some bigger and hungrier fish.

Cheers and good fishing!

Fishing at Lake St. Clair

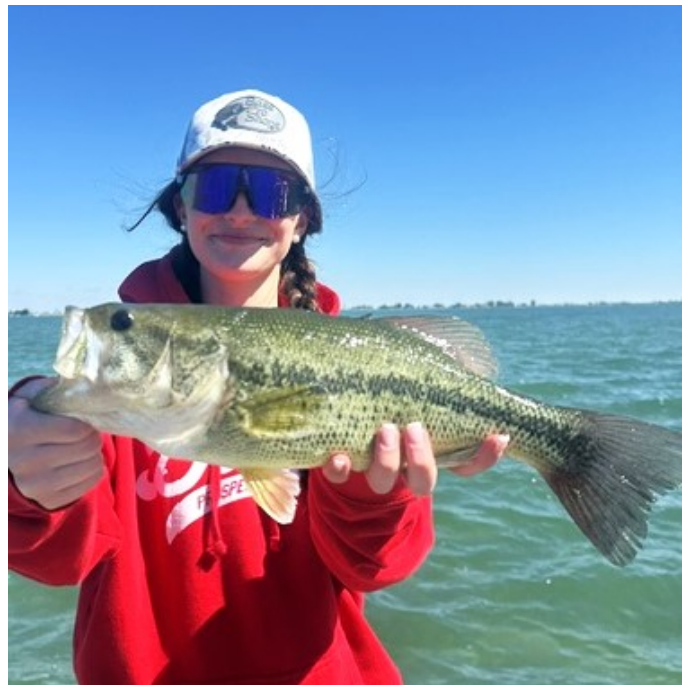
By Paul Wargo

Paul sent me a bunch of pictures from his summer home on Lake St. Clair in northern Michigan. Paul said it was actually right around Harsen's Island, which is across the border from Walpole Island. None of that was ringing any bells, even though I grew up in Ohio. So, I looked it up. It's just a little northeast of the Detroit-Windsor area.

He seems to have escaped the heat wave plaguing the rest of the Midwest. Reportedly, they run the AC in the daytime and heat at night. If the fish he's caught are typical, then there are quite a number of good things to be said about fishing the northern lakes!



Here are a couple pictures of Paul with a Walleye, (I've caught those in Ohio, but not that big!) and Judy with a Sheepshead.



Additionally, Paul's grandson and grandson's girlfriend landed nice-sized Largemouth Bass.

Fly of the Month: Clouser Half & Half

By Gary Pheabus

FFNWF acknowledges *The Fat Fingered Fly Tyer* for material in this fly recipe.

Bob Clouser's Deep Minnow and Lefty Kreh's Deceiver have long proven two of the most effective streamer patterns on the planet. Each has accounted for countless species across the globe and both have developed loyal followings as a result. It should come as no surprise then that Bob Clouser's eventual combination of the two is held in similar high regard.

Dubbed the Half & Half, Clouser's hybrid was developed with the intent of targeting the large bass that inhabited his home waters. Capable of preying on fall fish up to 12" in length, these larger fish were simply not interested in the 3-4" long, thin profile of the original Deep Minnow in certain instances. In contrast, the Half & Half, with its long hackle tail and broader baitfish profile, served to mimic the larger prey these fish sought while still maintaining the classic Deep Minnow's jig-like action.

The source material can be viewed at <https://fatfingeredflytyer.com/clousers-half-half-step-by-step/>

Materials:

Hook: Gamakatsu B10S (#2-6/0)

Thread: 140 Denier (White)

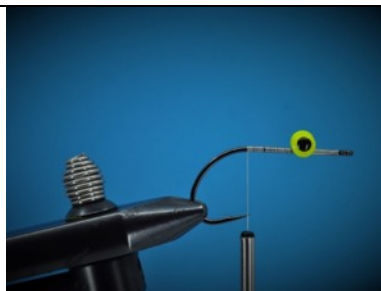
Body: Bucktail (Chartreuse over White)

Eyes: Dumbbell eyes (Medium or Large)

Tail: Streamer Hackle (White)

Flash: Flashabou (Silver)

Finish: UV Resin



1. Start by wrapping a thread base along the front 1/3 of shank. Then tie in dumbbell eyes with cross wraps. Extend the thread base to the hook bend.



2. Secure 4-6 Streamer Hackle Feathers of roughly equal length at bend of hook. Trim butt ends & wrap thread forward to rear of eyes.



3. Spread a bundle of White Bucktail (~2x shank length) across the top of the shank. Trim excess bucktail ahead of tie in point & wrap thread forward as shown.



4. Tie in a second bunch of bucktail (~3x shank length) along shank in front of dumbbell eyes. Pull bucktail back along shank & secure at rear of dumbbell eyes. Trim butt ends.



5. Rotate the fly in your vise & tie in 10-20 strands of flash in front of eyes. The rear-facing portion should extend ~1/2" beyond the tail. Pull forward-facing flash to the rear and secure with thread. This flash should extend just beyond the bend.



6. Trim a bunch of Chartreuse bucktail (~3x shank length) & secure with thread at front of eyes. Trim butt ends & build up thread head extending to hook eye. Whip finish & seal thread head to complete.

FFNWF July 7, 2026 BOD and General Meeting Minutes

by George Norton Club Secretary

1830: Vice President Bob Korose called the meeting to order with the Pledge of Allegiance.

We had 17 attendees of which 7 are in our veterans' program.

Treasurer's Report: Income from dues less expenses for club insurance, a guided club paid fly fishing trip and Saturday clinic food left a healthy balance in our checking account.

George and Russ approved the TR.

Membership: Jay B has temporarily taken over from Dave H who is dealing with health issues. Thank you, Jay, and get well Dave. Some past members have dropped out and non-payment of dues is a serious issue facing the future survival of the club. At the meeting several past club members rejoined the club which is a good sign. After much discussion about the decline in membership, we concluded the club needs to focus more on sharing the how-to and where-to catch local fish. We also need focus on the basic tips on which flies and how to fish them, and less on club members' trips to foreign countries. At next month's meeting, our club President and fly-fishing guide will present on the how and where to catch local fish to increase your chances of success. Second an effort needs to be made to develop local fly-fishing trips.

The Annual Club Fund Raiser is the third Saturday in October and there will be no clinic that month. Lots of fly-fishing equipment to pick up at good prices and keep donating.

Fishing Reports: Tarpon Bob K and George had a tough day landing one nice Spanish and a silver perch. The water in the Bay has been brown and very fresh due to the heavy June rains but is starting to clear. Best suggestion was head out early and go outside the Pass to areas like three barges offshore and look for kings, false albacore and Spanish.

Presentation by JoJo Bulan: "My Fly-Fishing Quest"

(Ed: This portion of the minutes was moved to an earlier section of the newsletter. It is just too good to leave on the last page.)