

# Flies and Lies

March, 2025



## FFNWF

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## President's Corner

To all new members, welcome. Please join us for any and all events. Stay informed by going to our Facebook page, FlyFishers of NorthWest Florida or our website, [ffnwf.org](http://ffnwf.org)

It's time to pay your annual dues. Payments can be made online or by check at any club function.

Our annual Auction is a great way for our club to raise funds. It will be held on the clinic Saturday in May. Steve Gramo is our new auction chair. If anyone has donations for the auction, please bring to a club gathering NLT the week prior to the auction.

**Cyndi Myers**  
**President**

## Club Meeting – Tuesday, Mar 4 6:30

In addition to the business meeting, David Buckner will be joining us for the March club meeting. David will present a collection of fly-fishing electronic resources that will aid in our tying and fishing efforts. Also, David will discuss the upcoming FFI Gulf Coast Classic fly-fishing expo and a new FFI saltwater fly-tying award program. David is from Ocean Springs, MS and is a FFI Gulf Coast Council board member.

## Fly Tying – Thursday, Mar 13 6:30

Russ Shields will lead us through the Klinkhammer Special.

## Clinic – Saturday, Mar 15 9:00 AM

Join us to perfect your casting and tie the Klinkhammer Special. The March clinic lunch will be the Milo's Red Beans and Rice.

## Fly-Fishing 101 Class

There's still time to sign up for the Fly-Fishing 101 class. If you know anyone that would like to explore fly-fishing, this is the place! Contact David Handley if you're interested.

## Membership Dues for 2025

The dues are 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.



PO BOX 1041  
PENSACOLA, FL 32591



**SPECKLED TROUT**

***8 Week Fly Fishing Class  
Sponsored by the  
Fly Fishers of Northwest Florida  
BEGINS***

***March 10, 2025***

***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, 17<sup>th</sup> 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 FFWF for the remainder of 2025. Register early, class is limited to 15.**

## Business Meeting

Our business meeting this month featured a presentation by Officer Chris Lugg of Fish and Wildlife Conservation. He emphasized boating safety and answered a number of questions on state fishing laws.



## Project Healing Waters

By Mick Milo



### Float Trip

The February trip for the PHW Program was to the South Holston/Watauga Rivers (Tennessee). Our members participated in a 3-day float trip from February 17-20 in search the rainbows and browns



native to those waters. The trip was very successful. Ninety-nine fish were caught and no one got frostbite.



Congrats Oleta Webb for catching the first and most. Congrats Cliff Newton for the biggest.



## Fly Tying

Russ led us through tying the Stealth Bomber fly. The press that Russ uses to cut foam is featured in a couple of the photos. It's really a work of art in itself.





## Saturday Clinic

The weather on Saturday was nice enough that we could get outside and get some casting practice, as well as another stab at the Stealth Bomber.





# Fishing Report

**By Captain Richard Montgomery**

Well hopefully the cold weather in January and most of February used up all of real cold weather for the rest of the year! That said, the Bay water temp is still in the low 60's so most species are still hanging in deep water for more consistent water temps.

Baz always says cold water temps bring clear water in Gulf, which means walking the beach watching for cruising redfish and pompano would be perfect about now. Look for breaks in the innermost sand bar, because those deeper troughs can become feeding troughs for those silver speed demons. Look for the redfish to be cruising along the outer edge of the bar, but don't be surprised if you find them just hanging out in the troughs as well. For pompanos use the Rocket, tan/white Clousers, or sand flea/shrimp style flies. For redfish stay with EP minnow patterns. If you do go be prepared for fish like the black drum below. While caught on a boat these bruisers love to cruise the beach.



Staying with the Gulf, Sam at Community Fly Supply in Gulf Shores has about the same report, walking the beach (when possible) can result in cruising redfish and pompano. Also, he said there are a few redfish being caught inside as well.

So that brings us back to fishing inside. The Gulf Breeze canals for speckled trout have turned off in a big way. I'm not sure if it is the bitter cold temps or fishing pressure that has driven them out, but I do know there are reports of some nice fish being caught in the fingers of the Escambia River basin. Wade fishing (burrriiiiiiiii) in the Sound produces some very nice redfish, but it takes the patience of Job to catch these fish, slow and quiet is the key. Soft landing flies are needed, not to mention waders! Here are a few pics of fish caught around the area while wading.



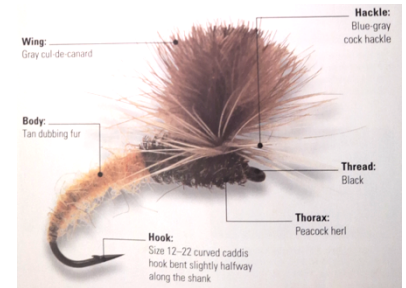


# Fly of the Month: The Klinkhammer Special

By Russ Shields

Hans van Klinken is a notable fly tier who now lives in a small town in Holland. He has fished extensively in all the Scandinavian countries and developed his own fly patterns to suit his needs; mostly parachute fly patterns for salmon. He is also a veteran instructor and teacher for the Dutch army. He developed the "Klinkhammer Special" in the late 1990's to mimic the emerging phase of the caddis fly. The pattern shown here is from 2002-2003. Since then, there have been many new fly tying materials developed and we will use some of them in our fly tying. Specifically, peacock micro sparkle braid for the thorax and orange Antron yarn for the hackle post. This is not a particularly difficult fly to tie. The most troublesome part is the hackle post and then the parachute hackle, but it is not really that hard to learn and it is a really good skill to have in your "tool box".

When fished, the fly floats with the rear of the hook down in the film, supported by the parachute hackle, very much like the emergent Caddis fly it imitates.



## Ingredients:

Hook: TMC 200R size 14

Thread: 6/0 Black

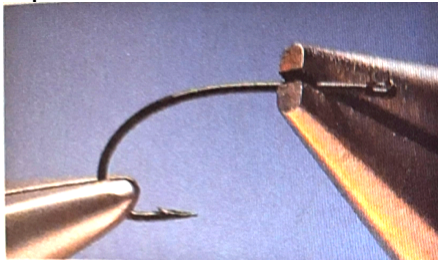
Body: Dark Tan or Light Brown Dubbing

Thorax: Peacock Midge Diamond Braid

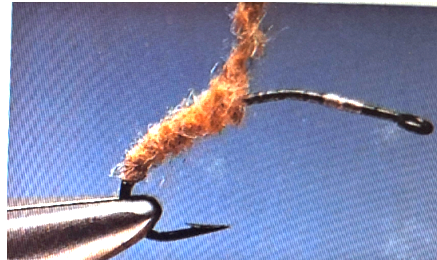
Post: Orange Antron Yarn

Parachute Hackle: Light Brown, sized for #10

## Steps:



1. Fix the hook in the vise and use fine-nose pliers to bend down the front section of the shank by a few degrees.



2. Run on the thread just short of the eye. Carry it down the shank and around the hook bend. Dub a pinch of tan fur onto the thread. Wind the dubbed thread around the shank to form a slim body, stopping at the new bend made in step 1.



3. Take the thread back toward the eye and catch in four gray cul-de-canard plumes that have been placed together so that their tips are level. Wind the thread around the base of the feathers to bring them upright.



4. Catch in two strands of peacock herl in front of the body and gently twist them together to form a rope. Wind the rope up to the wind base. Do not remove the ends at this point.



5. Prepare a blue-gray cock hackle, leaving a short length of bare stem and catch it in at the base of the wind. Using hackle pliers, make three or four turns of the hackle just above the turns of peacock herl



6. Secure the hackle point with thread and remove the excess. Stroke the fibers back and wind the remaining peacock rope to the eye. Secure the loose end and remove the excess before stroking the hackle into position. Cast off.

## Feather Craft Anniversary

By Paul Wargo

Feather Craft Fly Fishing is celebrating their 70th Anniversary. Over the years they have done a lot for our club, notably donating top quality rods for our auctions and Christmas party raffles. Established in St. Louis, Missouri, the company was founded by Ed Story, an avid fly fisherman and enthusiast, whose passion for fly fishing was the driving force behind the store's success. Feather Craft began in the early 1950s as a small operation out of Ed's home. He was particularly focused on providing quality fly-tying materials, such as feathers and hooks, which he sourced meticulously. Throughout the 1960s and 70s, Feather Craft continued to grow, expanding from a catalog-based business to a physical storefront. The shop quickly became a gathering place for fly-fishing enthusiasts in the St. Louis area and beyond. Anglers looked forward to receiving Feather Craft's catalog, which included descriptions written with Ed's enthusiasm and knowledge. The catalog became a staple in the industry, offering a mix of essential equipment, unique products, and Ed's own humorous and informative commentary. Ed Story was an innovator. He introduced and popularized various fly patterns and tying methods that are still in use today, most notably the Crackleback.

Feather Craft adapted to changing times in the 1980s eventually launching a website and online store to serve a broader audience. This move allowed Feather Craft to reach an international customer base. Ed Story passed away in 2008, but his legacy lives on through the company and its dedication to the sport he loved. Feather Craft continues to operate out of St. Louis, inspiring new generations of anglers to take up the sport and providing seasoned fly-fishers with the gear and expertise they need.



*Bob Story of Feather Craft*

## The Minutes

**FFNWFL Club Minutes General Meeting February 4, 2025**

**By George Norton, Secretary**

1835: Cindy opened the meeting with the Pledge of Allegiance

### **Presentation by Florida's Wildlife and Fisheries Conservation Officers**

The role of Conservation Officers is to enforce and encourage safety by boaters and enforce state hunting and fishing laws.

Some of their tips were: Check your life jackets as the foam can go bad and fail when they are left in the elements. Always wear a life jacket so if you fall overboard unexpectedly you won't become a statistic. Have the appropriate size life jacket for the weight of each individual on board. A whistle is also required for inflatable boats and kayaks. Check the Florida wildlife and fisheries website for complete information on boating and fishing regulations. A good App for saltwater which FWC is



partnering with is called "Fish Rules." Freshwater rules are coming later this year in that app. The App will also help with fish identification.

Fishing updates. Harvesting speckled trout in February is prohibited. A discussion followed with a few members expressing frustration with the lack of speckled trout in local waters. Mr. Lugg said "the dedicated trout fishermen are the ones who are successful with trout. Flounder populations have rebounded nicely from a low of a few years ago and a closed harvest season on flounder probably helped. There are lots of white trout around the three-mile bridge on the bottom. For offshore bottom fishermen a venting tool or better yet a descending tool is the best option and is free."

"A sounding gun is required outside of the pass on boats. Night lights that work to 360 degrees are required for night. Check the expiration date for your flares. All boating and fishing rules can be found at the state of Florida [fwc.com](http://fwc.com) Federal fishing rules nine miles offshore are different than state rules."

Check if your bilge pump works to avoid sinking. Idle speed means no wake. Slow speed means don't get up on plane.

Current fishing suggestion target striped bass in the lower Yellow river basin. The Swamp House on the Escambia River and Brown's fish Camp are good locations in the delta. May's Landing on Exit 28 has had some break ins of vehicles. The Apple 15 and 16 phones have free satellite communication.

Thank you, Wildlife and Fisheries Conservation, for an informative presentation.

**Treasure's Report:** Our club finances are in excellent shape. We had income from Dues and the 101 FF class. We are thankful for an anonymous donor who gave the club \$2,000. Expenses were for the web site, fly tying materials rounded out the TR.

**Christmas Party 2025:** Russ's update confirmed the advantages of changing from SHCC to the Holiday Inn North. We will have a sit down three course meal with better food at a lower cost along with dedicated bartender. The club overwhelmingly supported this change. One topic of discussion was the price. Some members advocating an increase in the ticket to \$35 due to a lower forecast for the auction revenue. Several members staunchly wanted to keep the price at \$30. A decision will be postponed until after the auction.

**FF 101 Class** currently has two signed up and would like to fill the class. Get out the word.

**Auction Update:** May 17th. Steve and Ellen, co-anglers of the year for 2024 have retired. Thank you, Hoffmann's for your years of hard work, which helped the club financially. Steve Gramo is our new chair for the club auction. Please look through your inventory and donate your extra equipment as we don't have an estate donation this year. Please don't donate on the day of the auction.

**New Members** attended the meeting. Dave Walbert a Navy retiree and Nick and his wife ReAnn along with their two-year-old well-behaved son were welcomed into the club.

**Fly Fishing Events:** Terry and Tarpon Bob went to the Atlanta FF show and said it was great and encouraged everyone to attend next year.

**March 8 Saturday** at Waddell Wildlife and Fisheries Refuge in Baton Rouge. George reported that the Baton Rouge FF Club (Red Stick FF) is holding their annual show. A great event for anyone interested in learning about FF in Louisiana. They will have a lunch, raffles, free seminars, fly tying, and kayaks to try out on a pond.

**May 2, 3** is the two-day FFI Gulf Coast Region Classic Festival at the Learning Campus in Gulf

Shores State Park. The region extends from Destin to Lake Charles Louisiana. Our club will have a table. Don't miss it. Fly tyers, seminars, prizes etc. Google the show for further information.

**May 18-** Club FF trip for baby tarpon on an eight-weight rod in the jungles of Campeche, Mexico with Tarpon and George. See Tarpon for information or google "Fishing with Larry" for the details.

**Fly Tying:** the Stealth Bomber in February. This is a great warm water pattern which is great for bass and bluegill. Russ will tie the Klinkhammer in March for trout. If you have a favorite pattern and would like to lead a session, see Tarpon Bob.

**Fishing Reports:** in early February George caught and released lots of small specks in the Gulf Breeze Canals on Clouser minnows. The canals are a good place to practice your roll casting. These trout will move out as the weather warms up and hopefully will grow up. He fished all over Santa Rosa Sound but found nothing on a warm glass calm day and nothing wade fishing in back of Johnson Beach. 68 degrees is the magic number for the big Spanish to show up according to Tarpon. Freshwater is a good option on warm days in February and March for bass and crappie which are shallow and spawning. Golf course ponds are another option late in the day. If you have access to a private pond let George know.

2020 Russ and George Adjourned the meeting