

Flies and Lies

November, 2025



FFNWF

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President's Corner

Election day for new BOD and members at large will be held at our November business meeting. If you are interested in serving in any of these capacities, please be sure to attend this meeting. We will also be voting on our "Angler of the Year" if you know of someone deserving of this honor, be prepared to nominate them at the November meeting and read the reasons behind why you feel they are deserving. This does not necessarily need to be someone that does the most fishing, it could also be someone that has contributed greatly to the club.

Christmas Party, Tuesday December 9th. Cash bar and social hour at 6pm, dinner at 7pm. This event is for paid members and their guests. Tuesday, November 4th & Saturday November 15th will be the last days to purchase Christmas party tickets in person at \$30 each. Sunday, November 17th will be the last opportunity to purchase Christmas party tickets in advance online at \$32.00 each. This event is always lots of fun with great door prizes, raffles, food & fellowship. Hope to see you all soon.

Cyndi Myers
President

Club Meeting – Tuesday, November 4 6:30

In addition to the business meeting, Ramsey Greene will present different aspects of trout fly design, "*Freshwater Fly Design: Going Past a Recipe – Tips, Tricks, and Musings on Tying Trout Flies*". Ramsey will emphasize a how to use a core technique to design and tie multiple flies in different variations to match the given fishing conditions.

Fly Tying – Thursday, November 13 6:30

Ramsey Greene will lead us through tying the Transformer Ant. This was the result of blending several techniques to make a quick and easy terrestrial pattern. The central technique for these types of flies is the 'hackle-stacker' method introduced by Bob Quigley. Come and learn some new techniques.

Clinic – Saturday, November 15 9:00 AM

Join us for casting practice and another chance to tie the Transformer Ant and practice hackle stacking. The Clinic lunch will feature homemade meatball sandwiches and coleslaw. The meatballs are courtesy of Rex Green's wife.

Christmas Party

Our great, annual Christmas party will be on December 9th in 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. Tickets will remain at last year's price of \$30.00 per person. If desired, alcoholic beverages can be purchased at the hotel bar near the lobby.

There will be some nice Orvis rods and reels as well as a silent auction of a fine bamboo 7ft-6in. 5wt fly rod. And, lots of other goodies including gift certificates for the ladies. So come and socialize with your fellow club members and guests.

Replacement for FFWF Head Chef

We are still looking for a head chef to organize the meals for the Saturday clinics. 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 October business meeting featured a presentation by Sam Sumlin of "Community Fly Supply. Sam discussed the techniques he uses in shore fishing along the Alabama coast. The presentation is described very well in the October minutes.

(Photo Credit: Cyndi)



Project Healing Waters

By Mick Milo



The Healing Waters group was busy in October. There was a weekend fishing trip to Atlantic Beach, North Carolina to fish for False Albacore. Four of our members made the trip and braved some rough conditions. It paid off for Ms. Oleta, as you can see in the photos.



The group was also fortunate to be able to tie with the father of the “Game Changer” and the “Gummy Minnow”, Blane Chocklett on their first day.



Locally, the month started off with a fly-tying session, but then the rod kits arrived!

The weekly meetings in October were occupied with the annual rod building project. Ten members are taking advantage of this activity and have progressed through wrapping the guides onto the rod blanks. The rod building process continues to be one of the favorite segments of our program and the participation amongst our members continues to grow each year.



(Photo Credits to Gary, Jay and Russ)

Fly Tying and Clinic

This month, Bob Korose led us through the Spoon Fly during the Bull Session and again at the Saturday Clinic. George Norton provided us with an authentic Gumbo lunch.



Fishing Report

By Captain Richard Montgomery

October began with a trip to Mississippi with fellow CI, Tom Dempsey of Gulf Coast Fly Fishing School. We conducted a group lesson for Magnolia Fly Fishers. We conducted a 4-hour seminar from the basics to double hauling. Fishing wise very hit or miss, the Spanish here one day gone the next, the redfish even worse.

A tale of two different days and two different bites proved the important of tidal movement for Spanish. A trip with a client from TX during neap tides was very nonproductive on either flat. Although we had good shots at redfish in the shallows they too were not on the feed. The next day Baz took Dave Handley and Bob Krouse and they both landed some nice fish. Turns out it was Dave's first Spanish on a fly. Two days later I fished with a different client he landed several Spanish and I even got into the act with a couple of redfish. Everyone should know by now, chartreuse and flashy, Flash Fly and its many variants, Clouser minnow, olive/tan, chartreuse/white and tan/white.



Our NWF “bonefish”, shallow water redfish, have been acting just the same as always, just never know when or what for that matter they will bite. I have found a crossover Redfish Crack and Backwater Flies Candy Corn Crawler to work on occasion and not the next. Baz’s EP minnow has been same. A major influence to a take is correct fly placement at the correct distance. As usual, it’s time to step and make the cast.



The big redfish apparently showed a couple of times with one appearance lasting several hours and moved from the Bay Bridge down to Fairpoint in GB. From what I have experienced the last week or so they have not come up again. But it could happen any time. Water temps are still warm and the menhaden are still in the Bay.

This coming month we can hope the big redfish show and stay. We should continue to see shallow water fish and the specks should still be on the grass flats and around docks.

Wyoming – North Platte River

George Norton

George sent these photos from a trip to Wyoming. This is one of the twenty rainbow trout he caught on streamers. Also shown is a Flounder caught with the Lightbulb fly at his condo pier.



Michigan – Grand River

By Bob Korose

I went to Grand Rapids Michigan to attend the FFI 2025 FlyFest. My nephew and I hired a guide to fly fish the Grand River for a day. The weather was great. The guide provided the 7wt fly rods and flies



The fishing was very enjoyable with each of us catching several smallmouth bass of various sizes. The largest was 18 1/2 inches.

Fly of the Month: Transformer Ant

By Ramsey Greene

This ant pattern came about by blending several techniques to make a quick and easy terrestrial pattern. The central technique in all of them is the 'hackle stacker' method introduced by Bob Quigley. It is an enormously versatile technique that lends itself to many different flies. This ant pattern can be tied in many sizes, and by adding or modifying a few steps, vary the pattern to different conditions. Using this core pattern, I tie ten different variations to match different ant species in different colors from black to brown to red to gray. It even makes a great wasp/hornet pattern by changing the colors. You can make it more like a flying ant, add rubber legs, or change the profile on the water. This pattern can be tied to be highly visible or completely wing-less. It presents a different profile on the water than other patterns like the Bionic Ant, Acid Ant, or Hi-Viz Ant. While not this specific pattern, this video does a great job walking using the hackle stacker technique on a dry fly. It is one of my favorite crippled emerger patterns, the Quigley Film Critic. If you start the video at about 10:45 minutes, you will see Tim Camissa, demonstrate the hackle stacker technique. Of course, you can start at the beginning and learn to tie the Film Critic too. It is a great fly that really catches picky fish.



[Film Critic Fly -- Hackle Stacker Technique](#)

Ingredients:

Hooks: Any dry fly hook Sizes 12-18. I generally never use below a 14. Today we are using Daiichi 1222 Size 14.

Body: Black super fine dubbing blend and 2mm black foam

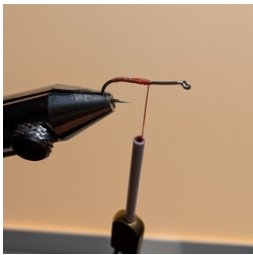
Thread: Semperfli Nano Silk 50D (12/0) Red. You can use any 6/0 – 12/0 in black, red, copper, or brown. I do prefer GSP thread for this fly.

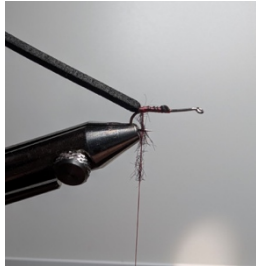
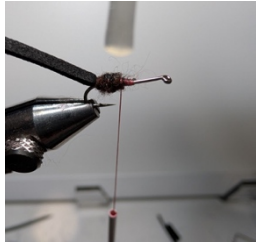
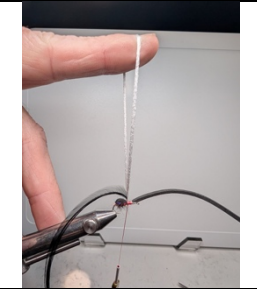
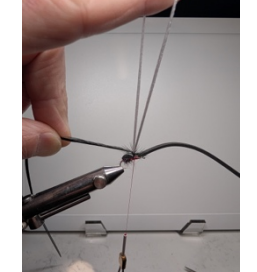
Coating: UV resin and head cement/super glue. Thin resin formulas will make this easy

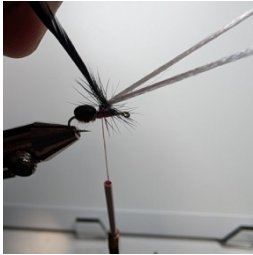
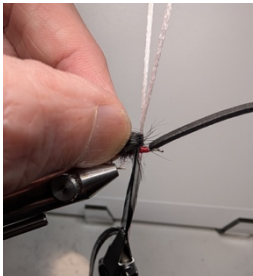
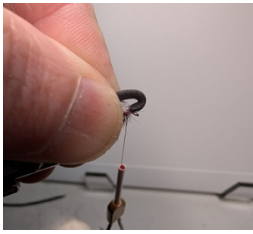
Wing/Post: Fulling Mill Ultra Dry Yarn in white (if doing wing), yellow (if doing indicator). You can use any synthetic yarn that you prefer or ~10lb mono if no wing.

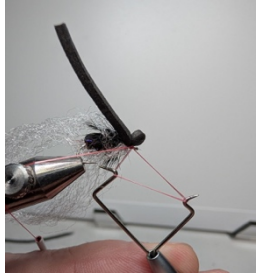
Hackle: size 14 brown/black dry fly hackle. Saddle hackle will make this much easier, longer feathers are easier to manipulate. You can use whatever color you prefer, I usually use black, brown or sometimes barred ginger.

Steps:

1		Start the thread at the middle of the hook and wrap back to bend then back to starting point. Apply head cement to thread base.
2		Tie in foam and wrap tightly to the back of the hook.

3		Dub the abdomen in an oval shape similar to a football ending just before the mid point of the hook. Let the thread hang.
4		Apply a thin coating of super glue or head cement across the top of the dubbing.
5		Pull the foam body over the top of the dubbed abdomen and secure with tight wraps. Prepare the hackle by stripping the stem about 3/8-1/2".
6		Tie in hackle (which side is up doesn't matter much in this fly). Take 4-5" piece of dry yarn and double it over. With the loop end facing the abdomen, wrap in the yarn and hackle tightly forward to about three quarters to the hook eye and then all the way back to the abdomen/hackle tie in. This creates the thread thorax of the fly. Let your thread dangle at this point. Trim tag end of yarn. Optional: leave tag end to make bigger post/wings later.
7		Place your left index finger through the loop and hold the loop up vertically like a post.
8		Take the hackle in your right hand and begin wrapping up the post by handing off the wraps between your right hand and the thumb/middle finger of your left hand.

9		You can size the length of wrapping by checking against the hook. While holding the hackle, lean the loop down against the hook shank. You want the length to be just a hair shy of where you have stopped the thread. Once at that length, then wrap back down to the base of the post. Do not worry about how clean these hackle wraps are, just be sure that the yarn is not visible through the hackle.
10		When you reach the base of the post, using some hackle pliers, let the hackle hang. Take your thread and wrap three wraps around the base. Take your left index finger out of the loop and let it stand free. Then wrap your thread to the 75% mark/end of the thorax, and let your thread hang.
11		Wet your fingers, and stroke the hackle fibers towards the back of the fly.
12		Fold the hackle loop forward over thorax and secure with 3-4 medium tension wraps.
13		Grabbing both sides of the loop, pull them up against the wraps to 'stack' the hackle. Tug on both sides independently to tighten the stack, then complete with a few more tight wraps and a few more tight wraps towards the hook eye.
14		Optional: If making foam head - fold the foam back toward the thorax and wrap thread towards hook eye.

15		You can create a head with a small ball of dubbing or thread head as well for a different profile.
16		Whip finish.
17		Optional: Holding yarn loop upright and lightly twisting, apply small amount of resin or cement to base of yarn post.
18		Trim yarn post to desired length. If used for an indicator (hi-viz), I trim short. If used more like a wing, then I trim a little longer.
19		Rotate fly upside down. Adjust hackle stack if needed, then apply very light coat of resin to whip finish and thorax. Trim foam head if needed.

The Minutes

FFNWF Business Meeting Minutes: October 7, 2025

George Norton, Club Secretary

1830. the President called the Meeting to Order with the Pledge of Allegiance.

Treasurer's report: Routine expenses and income from two new members left the checking account in great shape.

Christmas Party Update: The cutoff to buy your tickets is November 15th in person or the 24th on line. The party is Tuesday December 9th at 6 PM. Guests are welcome to attend with a member. Bring 1-2 door prizes. This year the party is at the Holiday Inn North. Don't miss it.

Tarpon Bob will pick out the fly rods and reels for the silent auction: a 4, 7 and 9 weight rods along with other items. There will also be a gift card to use at Community Fly Supply. Raffle tickets are six for \$25.

Last month's minutes as published were accepted by Terry and Russ.

New Business: The club needs a head chef for the clinic luncheons.

Ramsey proposed donating a box of flies to the American Fisheries Society and he also suggested putting out a club table to help promote the club on Saturdays at East Hills. See Ramsey if interested.

Presentation by Sam: Owner of Community Supply on "Fly Fishing the Surf"

Sam presented last month about his new fly shop in Gulf Shores. This month's presentation focused on surf fishing techniques to catch more species in the surf.

There is a common misconception that you need onto a sand bar and cast far to catch fish in the surf. Sam remarked that fish often cruise right at your feet which only requires thirty foot short casts.

Sam favors a seven weight fly rod with a full intermediate line and a twenty-pound leader. Wire is fine but will reduce the number of strikes. A stripping basket is essential and is available at Community.

Different flies and colors all work in the surf. Pompano favor bright colors like pink. Crazy Charlies, Neon Icons and Gotchas are good flies. Redfish crack in dark colors are good along with the surf candy, EP Minnows and poppers. Fish in the surf can be caught on any color from black to pink.

What to look for? Location like in real estate is key. Any structure, sandbar edge drop offs, holes (look for darker water), washouts and birds and bait are also indicators of good spots.

When to go in the surf? Right now flounders are holding in deeper holes close to the beach waiting to move offshore to spawn. Redfish September to December, pompano spring and fall, flounder October-November. An incoming tide early is ideal and low late conditions are best. Trout favor dirtier water in the surf like Dauphin Island and Fort Morgan. May's full moon is best for trout.

How to fly fish in the surf: Strip the fly and pause letting the fly sink to the bottom and puff up sand as it is retrieved. Getting the fly to the bottom and keeping it there is key to success. Thank you Sam for this very informative presentation.

Fishing reports: Terry was the club's fly fisher of the month and caught his first cobia on the fly in the Bay. Congratulations Terry!! Wolfgang and George did well on bluefish, ladyfish, and Spanish slow trolling flies off the outside beaches and at the Mass. Tarpon Bob reported on a good float trip for small mouth in Michigan including a four pound plus bass. George had a great trout fishing trip to South Dakota and Wyoming and caught a number of twenty plus inch rainbows using a double streamer rig on the North Platte River outside of Casper, Wyoming.

The bull redfish run in the Bay usually kicks off in late October and lasts about three weeks. Time to bring out your ten weight rods and fish poppers and the club fly the Geaux Meaux or any large silhouette fly.

1950: the meeting was adjourned by George and Steve