



# Flies and Lies

Newsletter of the Fly Fishers of Northwest Florida

June, 2024

## FFNWF

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Business Meeting  
1T Tuesday, 6:30 PM

Bull Session - Tying  
2ND Thursday, 6:30

Clinic -Casting, Tying,  
Lunch - 3RD Saturday  
9 AM

## Auction Report

The 2024 Club Auction was held May 18<sup>th</sup> in the Miraflores Park club house. Despite the inclement weather outside, the enthusiasm of the members on the inside was fantastic. "All in all" the auction was a huge success, especially if one can define success by "**All items in the club's inventory were sold**" . . . even all the non-fly fishing items. A big thank you to all who donated items!!

A big thank you also to Gary Pheabus and his son for conducting the auction. A final thank you to Russ Shields, Cindy Myers and Larry Sisney who took care of the accounting. Financially this year's auction turned out like other years--A good time and a success. **Steve Hofmann**  
**2024 Auction Chair**



## Club Meeting – Tuesday, June 4 6:30



The program will be "Casting for Recovery" by Susan Brooks. Casting for Recovery (CfR) is a national nonprofit that provides healing outdoor retreats for women with breast cancer at no cost to the participants. Our retreats are open to women of all ages, in all stages of treatment or recovery. Described as life-changing, our unconventional retreats empower women and bring hundreds to the sport of fly fishing each year.

## Fly Tying – Thursday, June 13 6:30

Gary Pheabus will take us back to a fly we tied years ago – the Tan and White Clouser Minnow.



## The Clinic – Saturday, June 15 9:00

Mick & Ellen Milo will take us back to the great lunch they served two years ago: their version of Shrimp Creole. *Note: same week as Fly Tying!*

### **From the Editor:** Fellow Fly Fishers,

*This will be my last newsletter. Age (83) didn't make much difference until this spring, but now Judy and I are both experiencing health problems and we are slowing down. I have been able to do the newsletter for years without actually being at the club very much, and most of you know we are in Michigan for 6 months each year. It's time for someone closer to what's going on to take over the newsletter. Baz told me to join the club as soon as we came to Lillian in 2009 and working with Baz on the newsletter has been what kept me going all these years. I will still be there during the winter and we will see you for sure at the Christmas Party. May the Lord bless and keep you! Paul*

## Project Healing Waters



A typical gathering of veterans hard at work at our club.

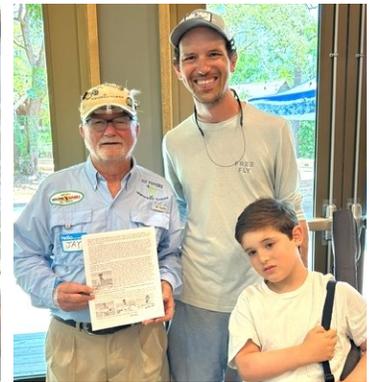
Pictures from Joe Higgins



## Gulf Coast Classic Fly Fishing Show



Our club and Project Healing Waters were well represented



Jay met Kyle Purnell of Grand Slam fame (see May issue) at the show

## Fishing with Capt Baz

May has been an exciting month for both the Gulf of Mexico and the inside flats. The Gulf gave us a few days with “Trifecta” conditions...calm seas, clear water, and abundant sunshine. It was great having charters on those days, and we made the most of it with a few shots at tarpon and plenty of thrills with the jack



crevalle. Dog House Bar and Grill owner Nate Holler got it going May 21, and his buddy Kyle Herman quickly followed suit. Nate took a video of the action and posted a reel on Instagram which got 2000 views in 24 hours. I posted a version @bazyelverton which added another 2000 views. Here is a link to the video:

[https://www.youtube.com/shorts/8DX\\_Kbqqr2c](https://www.youtube.com/shorts/8DX_Kbqqr2c)

There's a lot of action along the beach. Plenty of ladyfish and Spanish mackerel, plus we've found a few schools of the smaller FA between the inner bar and the shore. We've been looking for pompano and have seen a few but never got a take. We also never found any schools of redfish east or west of Pensacola Pass. My brother Dave reports scattered schools of large FA 5-6 miles offshore, and we're all hoping they make their way into the bay as usual in June. There's also dependable Spanish mackerel action at the USS Massachusetts. When the water's clear you might try heavy mono leaders instead of wire. A sinking line works best at the “Mass”.



The water temperature on the inside flats was 82 yesterday, and the trout and redfish are plentiful. Of course, just because they're there doesn't mean they'll eat!

With the redfish, it takes a stealthy approach coupled with accurate and delicate casting. That's part of the challenge, and my clients love it. The trout are a little easier, and there are lots of them much closer to shore than

you'd expect. Here's a nice shot of Chef Dave Dawson from Denver on May 2, and another of Emerald Coast Grand Slam holder Matt Smith on May 3.



Some of the most exciting shallow-water sight-fishing of the month was for big black drum feeding and tailing in 2-3' of water. The sight of that giant tailing waving in the air is mind blowing. Brian Boutchard landed the boat record drum May 26 after an hour fight on his 8wt. His fishing buddy Rick Hochstetler took this photo. It was lunchtime, so we all climbed back in the boat and had sandwiches. While enjoying lunch, Rick looked out and said,

“Is that the school of fish coming back?”. It was, and he dropped the fly in their midst hooking up immediately with this more reasonably sized drum. It only took him 15-20 minutes to land it.





If anybody wants to know where the pompano are, there are at least a few roaming the inside flats. Jeff Nall landed this one two days ago. The fly was sitting on the bottom 30-40' from the boat while Jeff got a knot out of his fly line. He got the knot out, started reeling in, and the line came tight. It's a crazy game we play.

*In closing, I want to thank Paul Wargo for all the work he's done over the past many years putting the newsletter together. Paul has pushed and helped me every month, and I will truly miss working with him. Most of you have no idea the time and effort that goes into making the newsletter award-winning, and my hat's off to Paul.*  
**Capt Baz**

## Fly of the Month – The Tan and White Clouser.

Otherwise known as **Capt. Baz's Favorite Fly**. This fly was presented by Russ Shields in 2006. Gary Pheabus will lead the tying this month.

### MATERIALS

<b>HOOK</b>	Mustad34007,size 2
<b>THREAD</b>	White3/0 or 210 denier flat waxed nylon
<b>EYES</b>	Nickel plated brass hourglass, 3/16", painted red with black pupil
<b>BELLY</b>	White bucktail
<b>WING</b>	Copper flashabou and tan bucktail



### INSTRUCTIONS



Place hook in vise. Lay thread base from eye of hook to barb. Return thread to ¼" behind eye. Attach eyes there with series of figure 8 wraps followed by 6-8 horizontal wraps (under brass eyes but over shank). These turns will lock eyes in place. Return thread in front of eyes.

Cut a swatch of white bucktail about a kitchen match thick or a little more. Stack the bucktail so the fine ends are near the same length. Cut the blunt ends square to form a belly about 2 ¾" long (shorter for smaller hook, longer for larger hook). Place bucktail atop hook with blunt ends aligned just behind hook eye. Take 3 "soft wraps" around bucktail and then apply firmer thread pressure by pulling bobbin up from bottom. This upward pressure will keep the bucktail from spreading around shank. Cover the bucktail with a series of wraps between eyes and eye of hook. Also cover the bucktail behind the eyes with a series of wraps all the way back to just above hook barb. Return thread to just behind eye of hook with several wide wraps. Trim loose ends of bucktail around the hook eye.





Turn hook over in vise with hook point up. Cut 3-4 full length strands of flashabou. Double flashabou around tying thread and tie in the strands (now 6-8) with a few thread wraps while holding strands so that half are on each side of hook. Don't pull hard on flashabou or it will curl. Cut and prepare a swatch of tan bucktail the same as the white. Tie in the same way between eyes and eye of hook. NOTE: Do not tie the tan bucktail behind the brass eyes. Wrap a neat, tapered thread head and coat with head cement or epoxy.

Notes: Many of the redfish you see in Captain Baz's Fishing Reports are caught using this Clouser Minnow. The copper flash is a must as are the red/black eyes. I paint my own with red and black nail polish and a simple foam jig. Gulf Breeze Bait and Tackle carries a product called "Fire Fly" that also works well in place of the flashabou.

## **General Meeting May 8, 2024 Minutes** recorded by Wolfgang Szutie

1830 The President called the Meeting to order with the Pledge of Allegiance. There were a total of 10 members and 2 visitors present.

**The Minutes** from April were approved.

**Treasurer's Report:** Larry reported at the Board meeting all of the incoming and outgoing payments. Larry reported there is still a healthy balance in our checking account. The motion to accept the report was passed.

**New Business:** Russ Shields brought up the need for improvements to our facility. Russ reported that repairs need to be performed by the parks and recreation department of the city of Pensacola. Russ distributed copies of the Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) signed in 2016. Russ stated that money was in the city budget to make the necessary repairs. Barbara Albrecht (Bream Fishermen's Association) is involved to get these improvements addressed.

Then a discussion among the members of what repairs were needed to be performed and how to accomplish this. Russ suggested that a member be appointed to coordinate the efforts between the club and parks/recreation department. Pat Murphy volunteered along with Jay Brykczynski assistance to reach out to make contact with the appropriate member(s) of parks and recreation, get assurances that the needed repairs would be performed to bring the facility back to the way it was originally designed by the CCC for the Boy Scouts in the 1930's. The motion to accept Pat and Jay to represent the club in dealing with parks and recreation was approved.

Jay reported that he spoke with Kyle Purnell (Emerald Coast Grand Slam - see May 2024 newsletter) during the Gulf Coast Fly Festival in Gulf Shores and congratulated him on his accomplishment.

There was a motion to make Kyle an honorary member and to present him with a plaque. This motion was not approved by the members, since earlier Emerald Coast Grand Slam winners were not made honorary members for this accomplishment. Cyndi offered to contact Kyle and invite him to visit the club during a Saturday clinic and urge him to join the club. The motion to accept that Cyndi would contact and invite Kyle to the club was approved.

Wolfgang passed out a booklet of the Optimist Family Fishing Rodeo for saltwater fish from May 18-19, 2024 which would be held at Shore Line Park in Gulf Breeze. Russ mentioned that this was an annual event held for over 30 years in which adults would pay \$25 to be part of the open division and children 14 and under would fish free in the junior division. There are numerous

prizes for all groups for the biggest fish caught and weighed in at Shoreline Park (2-5pm each day). After 5pm there would be a free fish fry, Ticket sales close at 9am on May 18th. Tickets can be purchased at Gulf Breeze Bait & Tackle or online at [www.gulfbreezeoptimistclub.org](http://www.gulfbreezeoptimistclub.org). The next day, members of Project Healing Waters were made aware of this.

Two new visitors: Jason Lasure and Steve Grammo were welcomed to the meeting. Jason has seen members casting outside in the park and was interested in learning more about fly fishing since his experience has been in spin fishing. Steve is originally from Massachusetts, fishes from a kayak using a spinning reel and wants to join to learn more of fly fishing. Steve paid the membership dues and did join the club

**Old Business:** Gulf Coast Fly Fishing Festival in Gulf Shores, Alabama that was held on May 3 and 4. Gary Pheabus, Terry McCormack, Rex Green, Wolfgang Szutie, Jay, and Bob (TarponBob) Korose were representatives for Fly Fishers of Northwest Florida and Project Healing Waters at demonstrating tables.

There were many positive interactions made by attendees of the fair on the contributions of the club and Project Healing Waters. Terry mentioned that a positive "Shout Out" to Project Healing Waters of Pensacola was in the podcast of "Tailor Trash Fly Fishing in episode 102 in speaking to one of the participants at the festival.

Cyndi reminded everyone's the Annual Fly Fishing auction that would be held inside the club on May 18th. Cyndi asked for help to assist Steve and Ellen Hoffman @8:am in setting up the tables of the items to be auctioned off. Russ and Larry agreed to accept the responsibility of collecting the funds from successful bidders. Gary Pheabus would be the auctioneer and the time would be from approximately 9am-12 noon. Members were asked to bring any friends since other items besides Fly Fishing equipment would be sold.

Cyndi mentioned that Project Healing Waters would return to its former meeting on Mondays at 9:30am, since the Fly Fishing Course has been completed.

Fishing Report: Terry reported that fishing was "hot" during the past week. Spanish, and Jack Crevalle were in the bay. Pompano was being caught on the beach by surf fishermen. Redfish were abundant in Bayou Grande.

The previous week TarponBob and Mick Milo caught Spanish at Townpoint observing Tom Finkle. TarponBob stated that Spanish would return when water temperature was 68 degrees and Ladyfish at 75 degrees.

There were few fish on the grass flats and most Speckled Trout that were caught were small.

George Norton was fishing in Arkansas rivers, lakes and streams. Caught this trout in the Norfolk River, Arkansas on a white bead head wolly bugger in ankle to knee deep water.



**Presentation :** Steve Hofmann presented "Fly Lines" - selection, maintenance and up-keep Steve made an excellent, concise and technical presentation on this from when he was a member of the Arizona Fly Fishers group 5-6 years ago. He covered the following: Myths, Different Tapers, Accuracy in casting, warm/cold water, loop failure and when the line needs to be replaced, etc. He covered the points of History, Construction Density, Floating versus Sinking Line. All in all it was an excellent presentation covering all of the bases. The newsletter May 2020 contains a detailed summary of how to clean and care for your fly line written by Steve.

1956 the Meeting was adjourned