



# Flies and Lies

Newsletter of the Fly Fishers of Northwest Florida

March, 2022

## FFNWF

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Business Meeting  
1ST Tuesday, 7 PM

Bull Session - Tying  
2ND Thursday, 6 PM

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

**Our club is MARCHING right along. Get into step and pay your dues. It's late but your money is still good.**

**Send a check - \$30.00 – payable FFNWF to  
Larry Sisney - 3610 Baisden Rd. -Pensacola, FL 32503**  
**You can pay your dues by credit card via our website:**  
[www.ffnwf.org](http://www.ffnwf.org) (\$2 extra)

## **Club Meeting: Tuesday, March 1 at 7:00 pm**

George Norton will do the program: "Fly Fishing SW Colorado"

## **Fly Tying: Thursday, March 10 at 6:30 pm**

Tarpon Bob is back from Florida and will be tying the **Rubber Legged Dragon**.  
(Regardless of the legs it still breathes fire; just ask Shrek)



## **Clinic: Saturday, March 19 at 9:00 am.**

Lunch will be served by Cyndi and Bob Myers - **Irish Stew and Irish Soda Bread**. There were 17 hungry fly fishers chowing down on the chicken, sausage, white bean and spinach soup at the February clinic thanks to Joe Higgins.

**At the clinic we will also have an Honorary Cast In** in loving memory of **Art DeTonnencourt**. More information follows

## **Fly Fishing 101 Class begins March 14**

We have full enrollment already and all the 'mentor' slots are covered. Welcome to all of our new members!!!

## **Save the Date:**

**Our annual Auction will be Saturday, May 21**  
after the Clinic.

**Prez Sez:** Greetings anglers!! I have my fingers crossed as it looks like the worst of the cold snaps may be astern of us. So, it's time to finish tying up this season's flies and leaders and get your gear in order and be at the ready for when those "blue bird", (somewhat) balmy days start to arrive with more regularity.

But for the immediate future, the club will be focused on the upcoming FF101 course which begins on March 14th, opening up with Cap'n Baz's renowned overview of Pensacola fly fishing. This will be my first opportunity to see the FF101 course first hand so I am looking forward to it.

At last month's meeting, I passed around a sign-up sheet for volunteer mentors for the casting and fly tying portions of the course. The response was overwhelming and we were able to fill all the mentor slots from that single sign-up. Thanks to all who are giving up your time. Fish on..... **Mick**



## 2022 Fly Fishing 101

14 March Week 1	6:00 7:00	Remarks by FFNWF Club president Introduction to Local Salt water fly fishing	Mick Milo Capt. Baz Yelverton
21 March Week 2	6:00 7:00	Casting Instruction Introduction to Fly Rods and Reels	Richard Montgomery Russ Shields
28 March Week 3	6:00 7:00	Casting Instruction Introduction to Fly tying Knots	Richard Montgomery Bob Korose
4 April Week 4	6:00 7:00	Casting Instruction Introduction to fly Tying Tools and Materials	Richard Montgomery Terry McCormick
11 April Week 5	6:00 7:00	Casting instruction and practice Fly tying -- Wooly Bugger	Richard Montgomery Bob Korose
18 April Week 6	6:00 7:00	Casting review and practice Fly tying-- Clouser Minnow	Casting Committee Cliff Newton
25 April Week 7	6:00 7:00	Casting review and practice Fly tying-- Elk Hair Caddis	Casting Committee Gerry Giles and Brad Heun1
2 May Week 8	6:00 7:00	Fly Tying -- Gartside Gurgler Introduction to Local Fresh Water Fishing	Russ Shields Matt Wegener

**David Handley and Club Education Committee**

# In tribute to our friend: *Art deTonnancourt*



Photo by Larry Sisney

On Monday, February 7, we lost one of the very early members of the FFWF. Art celebrated his 90<sup>th</sup> birthday on January 7 of this year.

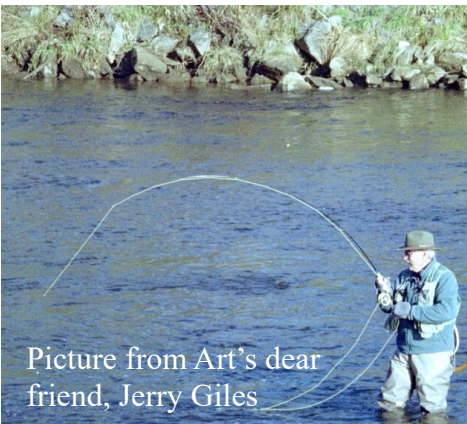
He retired after career as a US Naval flight officer ( he flew P-2's). His last assignment was in Pensacola, where he retired as a Commander. He immediately went into the real estate business just as Pensacola was beginning to rapidly grow and with his honesty and integrity he had a very successful second career.

Art was a fly fisherman from a very early age where he grew up in Rhode Island. After he retired from the Navy, Art became one of the very early members of what became the Fly Fishers of North West Florida soon after the club was formed in 1983 or 1984. He loved the sport and its ethical rules of behavior on the water. He decried those who misbehaved or mistreated the fish: Catch and successful release was the only way to go on a trout stream in his view.

Art fished all over the eastern and western United States. He was one of the first people in our area to sing the praises of North Carolina streams and he led groups of friends on expeditions to the Nantahala and Tuckasegee rivers for a dozen or more years. Art was famous for his "High Sticking" method of nymph fishing for trout and for his ability to stand in one location for several hours on the Tuck and catch 75 to 100 trout in a day. Sadly, those days are long gone as word got out about the great fishing there.



Art fishing with Capt. Baz 2010



Picture from Art's dear friend, Jerry Giles

Art was always friendly and more than willing to share his techniques and methods when asked but he never criticized one's ability unless asked for help and he was very patient in his explanations and demonstrations. Art was good story teller, with colorful language from his navy days. He was a good fishing camp mate and a treasure to be around. That is much to be admired.

All those who had the pleasure of knowing Art on the water or elsewhere will miss him. We wish him Fair Winds and Following Seas. Farewell my friend. **Russ Shields**

## *Memorial "Cast In"*

I propose we do a Cast-In in Art's honor. As part of this several good remembered stories and personal sentiments would be presented by those who have fished with him. I'm sure we would want to invite Art's wife to this event. I would propose the March 19 Saturday Clinic. **David Handly**

**Instructions will be announced at the clinch. Everyone welcome!!**

## Fishing with Capt. Baz

February is a terrific month for redfish sight-fishing, but you either have to be patient or just get lucky with the conditions. For out-of-town clients booking in advance, it's a bona fide crap shoot. I fished



Carl Huhnke from Lander, WY, last winter for one day, and we killed it. He had so much fun that he booked a condo this year for 6 weeks and wants to fish when conditions are right. That's the way to do it, especially if you live somewhere that has "hard" winters. Carl and I have been out there numerous days so far, and he had a 5-fish day on February 11. My other February client is Jennifer Holbrook from San Diego who hit the weather jackpot last October when she picked February 9,10. Turned out to be the best 2 days of the month so far. She also had a 5-fish day on Feb 10.



Of course I'm looking for clear, flat water in the Gulf with northerly winds in the morning that either die or clock around to the south in the afternoon. To make it more complicated we need a good push of incoming water to clean everything up around Pensacola Pass. Neap tides are suboptimal. Weekends are out due to spin-fishing guides trespassing on *my* water. I have names for those lead-chunking guides that I don't share in mixed company... Beach pompano anglers will be problematic starting next month. Oh boy! So far we've had five "Grade A Choice" days in February, and I've been fortunate to fish them all.

I carry two 8 or 9wt redfish rods on the boat during the winter. One has a floating line with a 10'x16# fluoro leader. The other has an intermediate line with a 9'x20# fluoro leader. Both are "coldwater" lines. We throw clousers on the intermediate line and baitfish patterns on the floater. I also carry a 10wt with a full sinking line and a tan/white clouser in case we find some black drum, but we haven't seen them this month.

The jack crevalle and pompano will start arriving next month, and I'll switch the 10wt to a "Coldwater Outbound Short" floating line with either a popper or large streamer. Also, I'll start carrying another 8 with a floater and 10-11'x12# fluoro leader for pompano. Beach anglers are already catching a few pompano, and the annual migration will be in full swing by the end of March.

Our wonderful, cool winter days are fleeting, so get out there and enjoy them before the heat arrives. In a few months we'll be dreaming of them! I'll leave you with some more nice February shots of Jennifer and Carl. **Capt Baz**



# Fly of the Month – *The Rubber Leg Dragon* by Bob Korose

The RLD was developed years ago by Callaway guide and fly fishing manager, Carter Nelson. Designed originally for bream & bass in the still-water ponds, the RLD has caught also trout, carp, & catfish in still & moving water. I personally have caught many bream and small bass on this fly in lots of different places. It is my favorite bream fly. It can be fished singly, in tandem, and under a popper. Best fished near the bottom where nymphs are found. Preferred color is black but can also be tied in olive or brown. This information was obtained from Kent Edmond's (a Georgia guide) web site: [http:// www.flyfishga.com/](http://www.flyfishga.com/) . There is a lot of very useful information about fishing and fly tying there. Take a look. The Tying instructions are from Ward Bean at [http:// www.warmwaterflytyer.com/patterns6.asp?page=13](http://www.warmwaterflytyer.com/patterns6.asp?page=13) . This too is a great website with lots of good information and patterns.

Materials Hook: Mustad 9671 or other 2XL Size 10  
Eyes: Medium Bead Chain Gold  
Body: Small Chenille Black  
Collar: Hackle Feather Grizzly

Thread: 6/0 Uni-Thread Black  
Tail: Rabbit Fur Black  
Legs: Round Rubber Yellow  
Head: Dubbing Black



Before you clamp the hook in the vice, bend it to this shape with your pliers. This helps the hook right hook-point up and prevents snagging.

Clamp the hook in the vice and crimp the barb. Attach the thread behind the eye and lay down a base to the bend.



Attach the bead-chain eyes with several figure-eight wraps of thread. Some super-glue on the thread helps lock the eyes in place.

Butt a piece of chenille to the eyes and bind it to the shank back to the tail. To make the tail, clip a small bunch of fur from a Zonker Strip and attach it at the hook's bend.

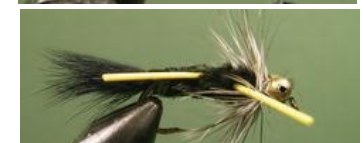


Attach the rubber strands, for the legs, to the hook "Madame X" style. Attach one strand to the far side of the hook's shank and the other to the near side. Trim the legs so that they are about one-half inch long.

Wrap the chenille forward, with one turn through the legs, to the bead chain eyes and tie it in. Taper the body from the legs back to the tail. A curved scissors works best for this job.



Select a feather for the collar. The tip will be tied in before the collar is formed. Tie the feather in behind the eyes with the cupped side facing the hook. Take two or three turns of the feather to form the collar.



Apply dubbing to the thread. Make several figure-eight wraps around the bead chain eyes until a head appears. Tie off the thread with a couple of half-hitches or a whip finish.

## Captain Chip's Quick Tips

Imagine if you will, clear blue skies, light Northerly winds, crystal clear water and a call of "left 10 O'clock 40feet, facing away.". What's your first move? Cast wildly to 2 O'clock? Unhook your fly from the trolling motor? Point the rod to where you think is the target is?(correct answer, by the way.) The clock is ticking and you need to make the cast. There's a ton of information to take in and process before that cast is delivered. Here's some things to be aware of and adjust to during that one second of processing information before the cast.



**Wind-** remember that light wind out of the North? It just moved East and picked up 8 knots. Now your 10 O'clock shot needs to adjust for the wind.

**Shadows-** Where is the sun in the sky? Is my fly line going to cause a shadow moving in the vicinity of the fish? Or my rod?

**Current-** Is there a current? Do I need to land the fly up current to present the fly to the fish "downstream"?

**Orientation-** Which way is the fish pointed? The fly needs to land with out the fish seeing or hearing it hit the water and then be able to slid it into the feed zone.

**Movement-** Moving fish need careful placement of the fly. A predator's prey never swims at a predator. If the fish is moving away the shot is going to be in front and to the side. Coming at you? Land the fly outside of the heading and slide it into its path.

**Refraction-** Due to the light bending as it enters the water, the fish's apparent position will be off from its actual position. The fish is deeper and farther away than it looks. Adjust your cast accordingly.

Got it? Now shoot your shot and feed that fish! *Capt Chip Smith*  
For more Quick Tips go to :  
<https://bylandandbyseacharters.com/quicktips>



## March Clinic



## Minutes from February 1, 2022 BOD and General Meeting by G. Norton

### Call to Order 1900 Hours by the President

January Minutes Were Accepted

**Treasurers report:** A line by line review of the 2022 budget was presented by Larry. The general meeting attendees approved the budget. The club's checking account has a surplus and our revenue minus expenses forecast is positive for all of 2022. 501 C nonprofit reports were filed with the IRs and the Florida DDIC as required by law. We paid \$165 of dues to FFI as required for our affiliate status. Treasurer's Report accepted; Motion by Dave H and second by Cyndi.



**Membership:** We see an increased interest in fly fishing and forecast a modest increase in membership for 2022 to seventy members. We currently have 65 members on the roster and the deadline for 2022 dues is end February.

**Auction:** An auction after the Saturday clinic on May 21<sup>st</sup> was approved. We plan on having additional items for the Christmas Party and a possible second auction in September or October.

**New Business** Our FF 101 class starts March 14<sup>th</sup> with a presentation by Capt. Baz on where, when and how to catch in our local waters. The club will need two experienced fly casters to support the four teachers. The class will have one casting teacher for every four students. We need mentors for the fly tying classes to monitor people who need extra help.

The President proposed we budget \$350 for purchasing club hats. Due to cost uncertainties we will hold off ordering until we get firmer numbers on costs per hat.

**The Program** on George's September Trip to Southwest Colorado was postponed until the March meeting.

