

# Flies & Lies

NEWSLETTER OF THE FLYFISHERS  
OF NORTHWEST FLORIDA  
APRIL 2005

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**MONTHLY MEETINGS**  
Meetings at Miraflores Park  
17th Avenue between  
Belmont and LaRua

**BUSINESS MEETING**  
1ST TUESDAY, 7 PM

**BULL SESSION**  
2ND THURSDAY, 6:30  
PM

**CASTING & TYING  
CLINIC**  
3RD SATURDAY, 9 AM

**BOARD MEETING**  
4TH TUESDAY, 6:30PM

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Travis Akins with  
nice early spring  
Pensacola reds**

# President's Message ....Milt Mays

March was a little chilly, though I heard there was some good fishing to be had. The clubhouse now has central heating and air conditioning! The era of having Andy Housand start the fire about 30 minutes before our winter meetings is now over. I guess that should be considered good, but I miss the crackling fire on a cold winter night. There is something about tying flies by a warm fire that pulls at the heartstrings and the roots of fly tying. Sometimes technology takes away from ambience

At the last business meeting we heard about some of the new businesses of old members. Of course "old" is relative, but one of the really old members, Travis Akins, now has a web site, [www.freewebs.com/beachflies](http://www.freewebs.com/beachflies) and is developing new flies even as we speak. Travis has been doing more salt-water fly-fishing since his retirement from the post office. He has been fishing a lot with another local guy, Basil Yelverton, who is a new guide on the local waters. If you get a chance, go to his Travis' web site or e-mail him and learn about some new and successful salt-water flies.

At the bull session we had a guest, Spencer Johnson, from the Fairhope, Alabama fly-fishing shop, give up some great secrets on how to tie more effective Clouser minnow patterns. Bob Clouser himself imparted these special fish catching secrets to Spencer at the last conclave. Basically they were...well I can't really say on paper. That would be like giving up a special spot! But, just ask me or any of the members that were there and you might get a less evasive answer.

And then there was Tom Regina , giving us a quick tie lesson at the Saturday clinic. He taught us to tie a rock fly. You know, it looks like an appendage from the Rock-eater on the movie "The Never-ending Story". Actually it was called the Cased Caddis. The great part about the fly is that if you can't catch fish with it, and you still need something for supper, then you can take three or four and load them in a sling shot and get a bird or squirrel instead!

Sadly we did not have enough students for the PJC class. Since PJC did not advertise in their usual newspaper catalog of classes, we did not get much exposure. I think clean up after hurricane Ivan also put the skids on extra time and money needed by many to even consider going to a class. A big thanks goes to Tom Regina for putting together a great curriculum. I am sure we can us it for next year.

Hope someone got out to do some fishing and will write about it this month. I have finally moved from Gulf Breeze to Pensacola, now living off Ten-Mile road. It has been a hectic six months for me after Ivan, so I look forward to finally getting back out to feel the fly line unfurl and fighting something besides insurance adjusters and contractors. Hope any of you who were in the same boat (or floating house to be more accurate) are nearing the end of your struggles to regain your lives and your property.

Here's to living high, and dry, with no big trees close by!...Milt **(Editor's Note: Please correct Milt's entry in your directory. 1138 Camaree Place, Pensacola, 32534, phone 479-4036, e-mail [Lmilt@cox.net](mailto:Lmilt@cox.net)**

**Thanks to Spencer Johnson for a fine demonstration at the March Bull session of sparsely tied, small clouser minnows for use as fresh water streamers. Spencer is the owner of the Fairhope Fly Shop located in the "Church Mouse" at 31 South Section St. in Fairhope, telephone (251) 928-1619.**

**FLIES & LIES....If you still get your copy of the newsletter by regular mail, please consider receiving it by e-mail only. This will save your club money for mailing costs and your editor lots of time that he could use for fishing! Contact Jerry jamayfly @yahoo.com**

## *A River Runs Through...Atlanta? Terry McCormick*

Yes a river runs through Atlanta and it's the Chattahoochee. This river supplies the water for the 4+ million residents of metropolitan Atlanta. It also holds some great trout fishing. The river is dam controlled, stocked by the Georgia DNR with rainbows, and has wild brown trout.

I recently spent a few days in Atlanta with the family. My wife and I had taken our daughters and a couple of their friends for some spring break shopping. I had heard of a guide service called River Though Atlanta that offered drift boat fishing on the Chattahoochee. I had one day that I could go fishing and decided to give them a try. A few weeks before my trip, I called them to book a day of fishing. I talked to Chris Scally who was very helpful and friendly and booked the day I wanted. They required a deposit of \$100 by check or credit card. A few days later I received my conformation letter and some brochures.



The night before my fishing date, Chris called me with directions and told me to meet my guide, Kyle Burrell at 8 a.m. We were to meet in Roswell, a suburb just north of Atlanta at the Waffle House (my kind of place). With Atlanta's notorious traffic I left early, although I was staying close by. I arrived at 7 a.m. and took advantage of the situation and ordered a little breakfast. Kyle must have had the same idea, arriving just a few minutes later. So we had breakfast and got to know each other a bit before we started. Kyle is a young man in his early thirties. He is a full time guide and spends July and August guiding in Wyoming. He also said he works at the Orvis store part time (probably for the discounts).

I followed him to the place that we would end our day and parked my truck. I got my gear and got in his vehicle. We drove a few miles up the road to the Bob Jones National Recreational Area. The National Park Service manages 40 miles of the river. We launched his Clack-A-Craft drift boat about 8:30 a.m. and began our day of fishing. The weather was overcast and drizzly and the water was somewhat murky from the previous night's power generation. Kyle assured me it would clear up soon. He started me out throwing woolly buggers, but nothing was happening, so he rigged up a y2k bug with a weight, a pink san juan worm and a strike indicator. A lot for me to cast. Kyle was very professional, knowledgeable and friendly. He also had a sense of humor, because on my second cast the pink worm caught his nose. Luckily I didn't set the hook and it popped right out (always go barbless). A few casts later I started catching fish mostly in the 12" range, the average size on the "Hooch". As with any good guide they teach you something. As this was my first time on a drift boat, Kyle taught me the water haul cast and after a few tries I had it down and was able to cast it pretty good. Kyle kept the boat where I didn't need to mend my line much. Just as Kyle predicted about an hour later the skies started to clear and so did the water. We went back to the woolly buggie this time with a nymph trailer called a lighting bug. The fish started hitting both flies. After a dozen or so fish we moved on, caught more fish and had lunch. You can bring your own lunch or they will put together one for you for a small fee.

After lunch, Kyle said to sit back for a few minutes as he was taking me to the secret spot that they don't take locals and I swore not to reveal. The sun was out and it was warm for March. The only other fisherman I saw was another of their guides with a client, otherwise we had the river to ourselves. It was a Monday, but I was told not too many people fish the "Hooch". Too bad for them, good for me. I sat back in the boat wondering if I was still in Atlanta or the middle of nowhere. It was quiet, had abundant wildlife and except for the multi million dollar homes along the bank, seemed a long way from civilization. We arrived at the secret spot and since there was no hatch going on, Kyle suggested that he tie on a couple of red larva lace worms with some weight and a strike indicator. Soon I was catching rainbows and browns, some in the 16" range. We fished there a couple of hours until the water started to come back up from generation. I had fished about seven hours and caught several dozen fish so we called it a day.

Kyle took me back to my truck and I made the short drive back to the big city thinking about the fish I had caught, the lessons learned and the friend I had made. As with any day fishing this was a good day but this one will always be special.

You can contact River Though Atlanta at (770) 650-8630 or at [www.riverthroughatlanta.com](http://www.riverthroughatlanta.com). Prices run at \$245 for one angler or \$295 for two. Maybe you can't go out west to drift boat fish, but in 5 hours you get the next best thing. I'd do it again. Wanna go?

## *Spring Fishing Trip . . . Art de Tonnancourt*

**May 15<sup>th</sup>** is going to be a full FFNWF day combining our annual spring club picnic AND the spring club fishing trip! Here is the chance to be on the water fishing at the crack of dawn and be back to enjoy the picnic together. Here are the details for the fishing trip (more on the picnic to follow):

**Place:** Shoreline Park in Gulf Breeze

**Date:** Sunday, May 15<sup>th</sup>

**Time:** "Crack of dawn" , 5:55 AM

**Scenario:** Rendezvous for coffee and doughnuts "a la Pat Poloski" at ?? AM. Pat will have a sign up sheet at the May 3<sup>rd</sup> meeting and/or contact him at 453-9829.

Jerry Aldridge will have chart handouts of the bay and gulf hot spots as well as briefing us on fly patterns, techniques etc. Don't miss the briefing.

Beach Master Tom Regina is asking all boat captains to keep him informed of available space for those who need a boat ride for the fishing trip. Members needing space on a boat please communicate with Tom Regina and all efforts will be made to accommodate you.

Launch at dawn or shortly thereafter, about 6 AM. Catch and release a lot of fish and return for the picnic at 1 PM.

Unfortunately, I will miss this day of FFNWF fun as we will be in Virginia celebrating our granddaughter's college graduation.



### **Carolina Crowd!**



## Zonker Strip Bass Worm... Kevin Cohenour

<b>HOOK</b>	<b>Stinger Bass Hook</b>
<b>WEIGHT</b>	<b>Cone or Bead, Large or Medium</b>
<b>THREAD</b>	<b>Black 6/0</b>
<b>WEEDGUARD</b>	<b>Hard leader material</b>
<b>TAIL</b>	<b>Rabbit Strip Zonker</b>
<b>BODY</b>	<b>Ice Chenille or Estaz</b>
<b>HACKLE</b>	<b>Black Rooster Saddle</b>



1. Slide cone onto hook up to the eye. Attach thread behind the cone; wind down shank, halfway down bend, and then back up to bend. Attach weedguard material ahead of bend with long end pointing rearward. Wrap thread halfway down bend. Wind thread back up to the bend.

2. Cut a 3 - 4" piece from the zonker. With the hairs laying rearward cut or strip fur from the front 1/4", leaving a bare strip of leather. Attach at the bend.



3. Attach the chenille or estaz at the bend. Wind the thread to behind the cone. Coat the hook shank with head cement. Wrap the chenille in tight wraps to the cone. Stroke fibers rearward between wraps. Secure behind cone and cut excess.

4. Select a rooster saddle and strip fuzz. Attach directly behind the cone. Make two or three hackle wraps. Secure and cut excess. Make 2 to 3 snug wraps over the chenille/hackle tiedown area. Make 3 half hitches or whip and cut thread. Coat with cement.



5. Attach the thread at the eye in front of the cone. Pull the weedguard forward and through eye, leave about 1/4" between guard and hook point. Measure about 1/4" beyond eye and cut excess guard. Melt a small ball on end of mono and secure at side of eye in front of cone. Securely wrap thread over the weedguard tiedown making a small cone shaped head. Whip finish, cut thread and cement liberally.

Note: Try fly in different colors such as black, purple, olive, tan, brown. You can add rubber legs to sides of fly prior to securing weedguard for more movement. For faster and deeper sinking use tungsten cones or beads.

## *April Quick Ties with Tom Regina.... Red Palomino Midge*

This Red Palomino Midge is designed to be fished beneath the surface as a rising pupa. When used as a dropper about eight to 14 inches behind a dry fly the *Quick Descent* dubbed thorax quickly gets the fly below the surface. Quick Descent Dubbing is a brand name for an all aluminum dubbing similar to very fine steel wool.

Tools needed to tie this Red Palomino Midge are a vise, bobbin, bodkin, scissors and cigarette lighter. The materials used are hook, thread, standard size ultra chenille, polypropylene yarn (poly yarn), Quick Descent Dubbing and head cement.

At the Saturday April 16 casting and tying clinic, when the moon will be in the first quarter phase, your club will provide instruction and all materials and tools needed to tie this Red Palomino Midge. If you have your own tools please bring them. If you (or a guest(s)) don't have tools they will be provided. Club members are encouraged to bring guests - and don't forget the next generation of fly fishers. Adult beverages and soda pop along with a mighty fine lunch are also provided at no cost. As an added bonus, John Brand, Bill Locher, Milt "Cutter" Mays and others will be on hand giving casting lessons. You say you or your guests don't have a fly fishing pole or a reel with fly string? Not to worry - we got em - ya'll can use em.

### Tying Instructions

Hook	Mustad C49S size 16
Thread	6/0 gray
Abdomen	Red standard size ultra chenille
Wing Case	Light gray poly yarn
Thorax	Gray Quick Descent Dubbing
Antennae	Butt end of wing case



1. Debarb the hook and secure it in the vise. With a jam knot tie on the thread two hook eye distance behind the hook eye. In tight touching turns cover the hook shank with thread back to a point just above the hook barb.

2. Cut about a two inch piece of chenille from the skein. Using a fire stick (coffin nail lighter) carefully melt one end of the chenille to form a neat taper. Tie in the chenille at the rear thread wrap with the melted tapered end hanging past the end of the hook about one to one and a half hook gape distance. At a shallow angle, cut away the forward (butt) end of the chenille. Wrap the thread forward over the chenille butt to form a neat taper down to the thread tie on point. Do not encroach the hook eye.



3. From the poly yarn skein, cut off a piece about two inches long. Using a bodkin, separate the poly yarn in half lengthwise. Set one half aside for use in another fly. At the thread tie on point, tie in the poly yarn wing case on the top of and parallel to the hook shank with about one half inch of the poly yarn wing case fiber extending over the hook eye. Use touching thread wraps to bind the wing case down rearward to about one half the hook length distance.

## *April Quick Ties with Tom Regina... Red Palomino Midge (continued)*

4. Dub a thick fibrous thorax of Quick Descent Dubbing forward to the thread tie on point. Again, don't encroach beyond the two hook eye distance behind the hook eye.



5. Pull the poly yarn wing case forward over the thorax and tie it down with about six thread wraps to a one hook eye distance behind the hook eye. Whip finish the tie down threads, cut away the thread, apply head cement to the tie down threads and cut away the extended antenna leaving about a two hook eye distance in front of the hook eye.

Wine corks used in the photos provided by Art & Linda deTonnancourt.

## *What's Happening... Jerry Aldridge*

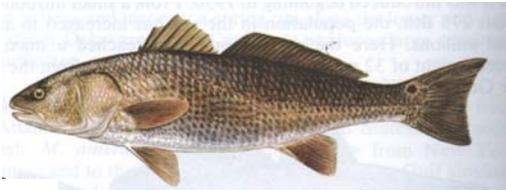
**APRIL BUSINESS MEETING PROGRAM**....Do not miss Dr. Skeet Lores and his program on conservation issues in Escambia Bay. Learn about the goals of the Coastal Conservation Association and commercial shrimp fisherman.

**BOY SCOUT CAMP**....2005 Dates for camp at the Spanish Trail Reservation in Defuniak Springs are June 12-16, 19-23 and 26-30. We will once again teach the Fishing and Flyfishing Merit Badges plus flytying. We need your help to teach or assist in teaching. The Scouts love our classes! If you can help, even for a day or two, please call Vick Vickery at 478-3584.

**MAY 15th FISHING TRIP AND PICNIC**....Shoreline Park in Gulf Breeze has recovered enough to again be the site of our 2005 picnics. See page 4 for details.

**FLY TYERS NEEDED**....The Southeastern Council Conclave Is scheduled for June 2-4 at Callaway Gardens Resort in Pine Mountain, GA. Tyers, **especially trout fly tyers** are needed to demonstrate their skills. We have several fine tyers so lets show up in force! Karen will tell us how to apply at the April business meeting.

**ANNUAL AUCTION**....The annual fund-raising auction will be June 4th at the Business Meeting. We have had some nice donations already so things are starting to shape up. Travis suggested a replacement auctioneer but found himself outvoted by the rest of the board. So start looking through your "stuff" for donations and start saving those pennies and be prepared to have a great time.



# APRIL 2005

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
					1	2
3	4	5 Business Meeting 7 PM	6	7	8	9
10	11	12	13	14 Bull Session-Tying & Tall Tales 6:30	15	16 Clinic - Casting, tying gourmet lunch 9 AM
17	18	19	20	21	22	23
24	25	26	27	28		