

Flies & Lies

NEWSLETTER OF THE FLYFISHERS
OF NORTHWEST FLORIDA
APRIL 2009

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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

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General Business Meeting, Fly Fishers Of Northwest Florida, March 3, President Larry Goodman, presiding

President Larry Goodman called the board meeting to order at 6:40 pm. All members of the board were present. Plans for the spring clinic to be held Saturday March 28, 2009 were discussed. Karen Brand announced that Pat Poloski and several members from the kayak club would attend and display Kayaks and kayaking gear. Karen volunteered to invite Chris Phillips co-owner of the newly opened Hot Spots Bait and Tackle Shop in Gulf Breeze. Russ Shields volunteered to invite Spencer Johnson from the Fairhope Fly Shop. Russ suggested that because of the slow economy it might be more helpful to the dealers if our club would suggest to them that they offer discounts on their merchandise rather than donating a specific door prize. Russ announced that Mesquite chicken breast would be the entree for lunch at the clinic.

Captain (retired) Rosy Lyons was introduced as our guest speaker for the evening. Ninety-four years young Rosy told us how he began fishing at age 4 and how he developed his passion for dry fly fishing. He advised us to keep it simple. Accuracy and gentleness in laying the fly down on the water determines success or failure. As far as fisherman's luck Rosy believes intuition as to where to place your fly on the water has a lot to do with it. Some of us just have more intuition than others.

The general business meeting was called to order at 7:25 pm with 19 club members present. The minutes of the February 3, 2009 Board of Directors and Business Meeting as published in the March 2009 newsletter were approved. Treasurer Larry Sisney reported the taxes for 2008 had been paid. Tom Regina announced the PJC fly-fishing class would begin as scheduled. Karen Brand announced the Southeastern Conclave would be held May 29 -30, 2009 at Callaway Gardens, Georgia. The Florida Council is planning a conclave during October 2009 and will be more focused on saltwater fishing. John Brand is putting together information needed for the club business cards. Russ Shields, Karen Brand and Larry Sisney volunteered to be contact people on the cards. Jay Williams reported that the fall picnic date has been moved from October 17 to October 24, 2009 at the pavilion in Shoreline Park because the pavilion was not available on the 17th. The meeting was adjourned at 7:45 pm.

Bob Willice secretary

President's MessageLarry Goodman

Spring officially arrived on March 20 and the environment is responding accordingly. The dogwoods are blooming, trees are putting out new leaves, weeds are sprouting, and lawns are turning green. Some resident species of birds are beginning to nest and some others that migrate are passing through on their way north.

On the piscatorial front, fishing should improve rather dramatically as the water warms during April. Cobia will be migrating along the beaches and pompano will be in the surf zone. In the bays, Spanish mackerel, spotted seatrout, bluefish, and ladyfish should be more willing to strike our flies. In local rivers and lakes, bass and panfish such as bluegills and shellcrackers should begin bedding and will be more available to anglers than during colder weather. Let's go fishing!

Pensacola Junior College (PJC) Fly Fishing Class 2009

Again this year the Fly Fishers of Northwest Florida in conjunction with PJC will conduct the PJC Fly Fishing Class. Classes will be held on Wednesday evenings from 6-8 PM at the PJC Pensacola campus, building 4, room 442 beginning March 4 and ending April 29, 2009 with the exception of March 25 - spring break.

We will teach the basics of fly fishing, including equipment selection, fly tying, fly casting, knots, leader construction, and practical application of fly fishing techniques. The lead instructors will be Jerry Aldridge, John Brand, Karen Brand, Jerry Giles, Capt Bob Quarles, Russ Shields, Bruce Vail, and Capt. Baz Yelverton. Again this year, Bill Parrish has volunteered to get the fly rods and reels to each class session. A volunteer is needed who will get the fly tying materials, tools, and vises to each class session. The PJC classes will be held each Wednesday evening from 6 PM to Other club members are needed to serve as assistants for casting, knot tying, and fly tying instruction. If you are willing to volunteer please contact Tom Regina at 458-2978 or tomregina@bellsouth.net.

Brown Owl... Tom Regina

Photos by: Larry Sisney

The Brown Owl was originally tied by Bob Broad to be fished as a dry fly imitation of a stonefly struggling on the water surface. With a short heavy leader on a sink tip line, I have successfully used the Brown Owl as a streamer to catch landlocked salmon and brook trout on the East Outlet, Kennebec River in Maine. Using the Brown Owl as a streamer has also proven very effective on the Tuckasegee River in North Carolina. I have not used it as a dry fly.

Tying Materials

Hook: Orvis Muddler/Stonefly, 1526, size 8
Thread: 6/0 Brown
Body: Embossed gold tinsel
Underwing: Deer hair
Overwing: Teal flank feather
Thorax: Peacock herl
Throat: Grizzly hackle barbs
Head: 6/0 orange thread

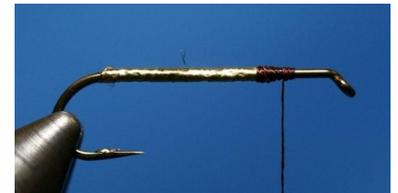


Tying Instructions



1. Tie the thread onto the hook one-fourth hook shank length back from the hook eye. Build a neat thread base with touching thread wraps back to a point on the hook shank directly over the hook barb. Return the thread to the thread tie on point. *Caution: Throughout tying steps 1 through 4 do not encroach the hook eye. Brown thread wraps should not be placed forward of the thread tie on point until step 5.* Cut about a 4-inch length of embossed tinsel from the spool. With the running end of the tinsel extending back over the hook bend, bind the tinsel to the top of the hook with neat touching thread wraps to the point directly above the hook barb. Return the thread to the thread tie on point.

2. In 50-percent overlapping turns, wrap the tinsel forward to a point about 1/8 to 1/6-inch back from the thread tie on point. Tie off and cut away the tinsel tag end. Build a short thread segment at the front of the tinsel body as shown in the photo. This thread segment will serve as the base onto which the butts of the underwing and overwing are to be tied.



3. Rotate or invert the hook in the vise. For the underwing, cut a small quantity of deer hair from the hide. Remove the underhair from the bunch of cut hair and even the hair tips by hand or in a hair stacker. Select a sparse amount of the evened or stacked hair. Tie the butts of this sparse amount of hair to the underside of the thread segment at the front of the tinsel body. *(Note: With the hook inverted, the "underside" is up.)* The underwing should extend back into the hook gap. Cut away excess hair butts and cover the butt ends with a few neat thread wraps. Rotate or invert the hook in the vise to its upright or normal position.

4. Select an appropriate size teal flank feather for the overwing. The finished overwing should extend back over the rear of the hook a distance about equal to the hook gap. Tie the butt end of the wing to the top of the thread segment at the front of the body. Cut away the tag ends of the overwing and bind the ends down with a few neat thread wraps.



5. Select two or three peacock herls and even their tips. As a unit stroke the herls to ruffle the barbs. About 1-inch forward of the herl butts, tie them onto the thread segment at the front of the body. Cut away the 1-inch herl tag ends. Twist the herls into a loose rope and wrap them around the front thread segment to form the thorax. Tie off the thorax and cut away the herl tag ends. Tie off the brown thread with a few half hitch or whip finish thread wraps in the bare hook area between the thorax and hook eye.

Brown Owl.... Tom Regina (continued)

6. Rotate or invert the hook in the vise. Tie on the orange thread in front of the thorax and over the brown thread tie off wraps. Select an appropriate size grizzly feather with barbs greater in length than half the length of the hook shank. Stroke the barbs so they stand out perpendicular to the feather quill. As a unit strip away a bunch barbs from about ½- inch of the quill. Tie the stripped barbs to the underside of the hook in front of and adjacent to the thorax. (Note: With the hook inverted, the "underside" is up.) Cut away the barb butts. Rotate or invert the hook in the vise to its upright or normal position.



7. With the orange thread, build a relatively large neatly tapered head. Half hitch or whip finish the thread head. Cut away the thread. For lasting durability, apply epoxy to the thread head, or as an alternative apply several coats of head cement.

Black Herl Midge.... Tom Regina

Tying Materials

Hook: Mustad Signature R30, size 22
Thread: 8/0 black
Tail: Black hen saddle feather barbs
Body: Fine black ostrich herl



Tying Instructions



1. Start the thread on the hook one hook eye distance back from the hook eye. Lay down a neat thread base back to a point directly above the hook barb. As a unit, strip about 4 or 5 barbs from the quill of a hen saddle feather. Tie the barbs to the top of the hook directly above the hook barb. The tail should be equal in length to the hook shank. Take the thread forward to the thread tie on point while binding the barb butts to the top of the hook.



2. At the thread hang point tie a single ostrich herl to the top of the hook. Bind the herl to the top of the hook back to the base of the tail. Take the thread forward to the thread tie on point.



3. Palmer the ostrich herl forward in neat touching wraps to the thread tie on point. Tie off and cut away the excess herl. Form a neat tapered thread head. Cut away the thread and apply a small amount head cement to the finish thread wrap.

Library Update... Karen Brand

The Fly Fishers of NW Florida's library recently received generous donations of books and videos from the families of Andy Housand and Maggie Gray. For our newer members who did not have the pleasure of knowing Andy and Maggie, they were long time members of the club and passionate about fly fishing. When John and I first took the PJC class back in the mid-90's Maggie was club president and Andy was the PJC class coordinator. I want to thank Shannon, Maggie's daughter and Cynthia, Andy's wife for their generous donation of tying materials that will be part of the auction on June and books and videos that are now a part of our library.

I hope that the next time you come to the clubhouse you will take a look at our new library. Since I had quite a few new books I thought it would be the perfect time to reorganize! Books have been arranged in different categories to hopefully make it easier to locate books of interest. Categories include Saltwater, warm and cold water fishing, tying, casting and fictional titles. I also decided to move the library out of the back room so it will be more accessible to the members. Right now the only items in the library are the books. I am in the process of going thru the videos and having many of them converted over to DVD. We are missing several books that have been checked out and not returned. I hope all of you will check around and see if you have any of the club's books or videos. If you check out books please enter your name and the date which the book was checked out in the Library Catalog. See you all at the next club meeting. Karen Brand, Librarian

Bamboo Fly Rod Makers... Tom Regina

A fly rod *builder*, so I am told, puts the components; reel seat, guides, tip top, thread wraps, and epoxy on a previously manufactured fly rod blank. A fly rod *maker* on the other hand constructs the blank and assembles all the components onto the blank.

Recently five of our club members; Mitch Abernethy, Bob McKay, Russ Shields, myself, and associate member Norris Heckel from Fountain Hills, AZ along with Mike Stewart from Phoenix, AZ attended Bill Oyster's Bamboo Rod Making Class at his shop in Mineral Bluff, GA.

Under Bill's expert guidance and instruction we each crafted a mighty fine bamboo fly rod. We each started with a Culm of Tonkin bamboo six feet long by about 2 1/2-inches in diameter. We flamed the bamboo, we split it, filed it with a wood rasp, heated it with fire, squeezed it in a vise, scraped it, sanded it, planed it, and glued the resulting sticks into the familiar hexagon shape of a traditional bamboo fly rod.



The ferrules, hook keeper, stripping guide, snake guides, and the tip top were then applied to the blank. The rod with the hardware attached was dipped three times into a vat of varnish with several hours of dry time between dips. Finally the reel seats were glued to the rods with epoxy.

At each step of the way, Bill gave exact and detailed instruction. Whenever anyone had a problem or question Bill was there to provide guidance and an encouraging word.

Bill's bride Shannen made sure we all ate well. Shannen provided us with a continental breakfast each morning, and a hot lunch and supper each evening. She made snacks and drinks available throughout the day.



The class was six days long... and I don't use the term long lightly. We worked twelve or more hours each day. It was tedious yet very fulfilling and enjoyable work. Russ I and enjoyed it so much we have made arrangements to return to Bill Oyster's shop in March of 2010 to make another bamboo fly rod.

Russ will give a PowerPoint presentation of our bamboo fly rod making experience under instruction from Bill Oyster at the May 5 club meeting. If you have an interest in bamboo fly rods or bamboo fly rod making you may want to view the DVD



"Trout Grass" Karen Brand has added to the club library. Trout Grass takes the viewer from the growing and harvest of Tonkin bamboo in southern China to crafting a bamboo fly rod... with some fly fishing scenes intertwined. Also check out Bill Oyster's web site at www.oysterbamboo.com or call Bill and Shannen at 678-455-9113.

Fishing Report... Captain Baz Yelverton



March has been terrific for redfish sight-fishing in the Gulf of Mexico. We caught bull reds between Pickens Point and the Fire Tower every day the weather allowed us to be out there. I'll attach a couple photos of the "normal" sized fish we've been catching. The first is Mike Bailey on March 12 followed by Paul Wargo on March 19. As you can see the fish are huge, and the water color is outstanding. Too bad all the big reds we caught in March were on spinning tackle...



Since the second week of March my fly-fishing clients have been enjoying the best inside flats fishing for redfish in years. I first found large numbers of fish on my favorite flats on March 8. The gulf was blown out, and I was forced to do some early scouting. To my surprise and delight the fish were there in spades. My good client Kevin Maxey from Atlanta came to town March 9

and landed and released five beauties. The biggest was 32". The fish were a little boat shy, so we got out and stalked them on foot. At one time we had so many fish around us in two feet of water we couldn't move without spooking them. Kevin on two occasions hooked fish after the leader was in the tiptop guide. Water temp that day was 70 degrees...very warm for early-March. It was the single best day I've ever had wade-fishing for redfish. Here are a few photos of Kevin from March 8. Sorry about the background (or lack of background). Let's just call it "Location X".



I didn't have another fly-fishing client until March 17, and the flat was loaded with reds when we got there. Here's a very happy Bill Johnston, Belton, TX, with his first and second ever redfish on fly. I think that second shot could be the cover of *Fly Fishing in Saltwaters*. It was a magnificent fish in a magnificent location.

The next client I took there insisted on using his own flies and got skunked. I think that would be scored as a zero with an asterisk for style points. What these fish want is the standard tan/white Clouser minnow I've been buying from Fly H2O. Jerry Aldridge knows the fly and ties it beautifully. You guys ought to focus on it at an upcoming clinic.



To prove the point I took a beginning fly-caster there on March 26, and he landed three fish in the 26-28" range on guess what??...the tan/white Clouser. This is Matt McQueary with one of his three fish.

The message here is to get out there and start hunting for reds in shallow water. Look for sand flats with patches of grass. We've been catching fish from Opal Beach all the way to the Big Lagoon. The only fly you'll need is the Clouser minnow. We're seeing some big trout, too, but we haven't gotten one to eat...yet.



The other hot news is the big Spanish mackerel showed up today, March 29, on the grass beds just S of Fair Point. Here's a photo that will provide the exact location. There were lots of fish out there, and they were eager to eat the same Clouser minnow. Jerry tied up some for me using artificial materials. They sure last a lot longer than bucktail. I use 40" fluoro as a bite tippet, and it works well...much better than wire.

The sheepshead bite is going full speed. All my spin-fishing clients have been loading the cooler. We're starting to see jack crevalle on most trips both in the gulf and Santa Rosa Sound. Plus, as soon as the gulf calms down the pompano fishing is going to be outrageous. Let's face it...we live in fishing paradise.

Capt Baz

Casting & Tying at the Club.... Tom Regina

The April Bull Session will be held Thursday April 9 at 6:30 PM. We will tie a simple Black Herl Midge. The Black Herl Midge is tied with only four easy to use materials... a size 22 hook, 8/0 black thread, a few feather barbs, and ostrich herl. Bring your fly tying tools and tie along with other club members and guests. If you are not in to fly tying then come to the bull session and just shoot the bull and join in for some good hearted jawing and lying.

The April Casting and Tying Clinic will be held Saturday April 18 from 9:00 AM until about 1:00 PM. starting at 9:00 AM Jerry Aldridge will lead us in tying the Brown Owl streamer fly. The materials list and tying instructions for both the Black Herl Midge and the Brown Owl are included in this newsletter. Your club will provide all materials needed to tie both of the flies. If you have them, bring your fly tying tools. If you need, your club has tools for both you and your guest. Speaking of guests, please do bring a guest or more.

3/0 (John) Brand will be fly fishing in north Georgia or North Carolina on April 18. The casting clinic however, will continue in John's absents. Other skilled and knowledgeable fly casters will be available and happy to help us refine and improve our casting style and technique.

Russ Shields and Jerry Giles will fix us a mighty fine lunch at the Saturday clinic. We will have a delectable feast of Perros calientes de chili with fixins. If you don't want to tie flies; don't want to take advantage of the casting instruction; at least join us for lunch.

As always, you are encouraged to bring guests to all club functions. If you or your guest need fly rods or fly tying tools your club is ready to provide them for use during the clinic and guests are more than welcome to partake in our free food and drink.

AUCTION JUNE 2ND

We are looking for donations of all things flyfishing. Please hold your items until the day of the auction if possible. I will have the club house open by 5:00 pm the day of the auction for donations and browsing. If you will not be able to attend, I will take you items early. Remember everyone can help. Make a dozen or so flies, make a fishing trip if you have a boat, bring or buy a book, if you've graded your equipment let us have you old stuff. Come early and stay late, spend some money and have fun....Terry McCormick

Fishing Report.... Captain Bob Quarles



Well.. I just got home from a very long diving job in USVI. I will be posting some dive pics later on....

I picked up the boat on St. Patrick's Day (after having a drink and some lunch at McGuires in Destin) from The Ship's Chandler after having a ton of work done on it. Basically, I had every little thing that was broken or damaged replaced or repaired and then had the boat detailed. They did a great job on everything, the service and quality of the work they did really impressed me. If you didn't know it was a 2004 Maverick, you would swear it's a brand new boat...check out the pics....of Course, I do take it to the car wash after every trip and then wash it again when I get home....



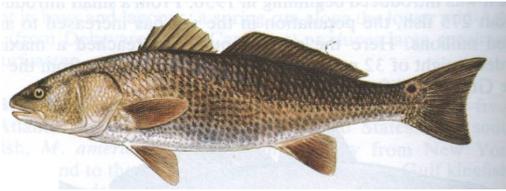
As for the fishing, the annual sheepshead fishing and catching is in full swing.. Please only keep the fish you need as these fish are spawning and it's up to us to protect these fish for the future..... They are so much fun to catch on light tackle and they are delicious to eat.. get down there to the pass and catch some...now is the time to take the kids and the ladies...what a blast.

There are still some big redfish around, lots of trout and slot reds are being caught in the sound, the white trout are still at the three mile bridge.... Basically , the fishing is going off right now. I anticipate next week we will have swarms of pompano, jacks, cobia, and spanish mackerel after we get these next 4 days of onshore winds.. get ready... I'll be out there....

BTW.. thanks for the great turnout and feedback from all of you that came to the Hook, Line and Sinker seminar series.. I only found out that night I was going to talk.. that was a blast.

Enjoy the pics.... especially the one of all the neighborhood kids washing the boat!





APRIL, 2009

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
			1	2	3	4
5	6	7 Business Meeting 7 PM	8	9 Bull Session-Tying & Tall Tales 6:30 PM	10	11
12	13	14	15	16	17	18 Clinic - Casting, tying, gourmet lunch 9 AM
19	20	21	22	23	24	25
26	27	28	29	30		