

Flies & Lies

NEWSLETTER OF THE FLYFISHERS
OF NORTHWEST FLORIDA
APRIL 2012

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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

President's Message... Terry McCormick

Spring has sprung and the fishing is heating up! Bass and Bream are bedding, fish are moving onto the grass, and many members are heading to the mountains to fish for trout. Yes it's time to sling some string. I hope you find some type of water you like and do some fly fishing.

Our fly fishing school started March 12 with 17 enthusiast students. Many thanks to all of our members that have been showing up to help with casting, tying, and classroom instruction.

We have not been given a firm date as to when the building repairs will begin, but it will be in May. As soon as we have a date there will be a "moving party" to pack up and store our stuff until the work has been completed. So watch for the announcement.

Class Pictures... Wargo, Brykczynski



**Board Meeting, Fly Fishers Of Northwest Florida,
March 6, 2012, President Terry McCormick, presiding**

The board of Directors meeting was opened by president Terry McCormick at 6:00 on March 6th with 11 members present.

The Treasurers report was given by Jay Brykczynski. We have collected \$2,266 from memberships. We have 5 life memberships, 60 paid members, plus 14 who are taking the fly fishing class which includes the dues for 2012 (two regular members are taking the class making a total class of 16). This gives the club a total of 84 paid members. Forty eight of our 2011 members have not renewed.

Motion was made to drop the conservation committee and to combine the education and casting committees. Motion was passed. The suggestion was made to add members to the fishing outing committee to help the committee plan three outings for 2012.

The board meeting was adjourned.

**Business Meeting, Fly Fishers Of Northwest Florida,
March 6, 2012, President Terry McCormick, presiding**

The business meeting was convened at 7:00 on March 6th with 18 members present. Fishing reports were given by several members

Jerry Giles gave a very interesting presentation on then range of vision of various species of fish and how this knowledge can be used to the benefit of a fisherman.

The following items were approved by the membership: 1. To change the bylaws as printed in the February newsletter. 2. To discontinue proration of dues – new members will pay the \$35 initial dues regardless of when they join.

President Terry gave a report on Project Healing Waters. Several of our members attended a 3 hour session which included teaching casting and fly tying to disabled veterans. This is a very rewarding effort for the club and it is extremely helpful to the veterans. The club was reminded of the auction coming up in June and everyone was encouraged to donate items and that the fly fishing class starts Monday 12th and volunteers are needed for both fly tying and casting. Jerry Aldridge asked for a volunteer to help him with the newsletter.

President Terry met with city officials to discuss repairs to the meeting building. We will vacate the building in May and meet at East Pensacola Hieghts Community Center on Gonzales St. He will schedule the building. There being no further business the meeting was adjourned.



More Class Pictures...Wargo, Brykczynski



Foam Caterpillar.... Roy Turner

This fly is arriving just in time for catching fish in our local rivers and ponds. As the water temperatures rise, largemouth bass and brim will invade the shallows looking for an easy meal before they begin to spawn. Plop this tasty morsel in front of them and you will surely experience some rod-bending action. Follow along as Roy Turner shows us how to tie this month's fly.

Tying Materials

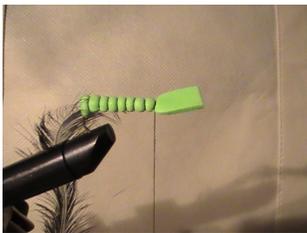
Hook: Mustad 94831, or similar 2X long-shank hook; sizes #4 to #8
Thread: Danville's Flat-Waxed Nylon, black
Body: Closed-cell foam, yellow or green
Legs: Black hackle



Tying Instructions



1. Tie on a jam-knot base and then tie in the hackle at the rear of the hook. Wrap the thread forward and tie in the foam strip 1/3 of the way back from the hook eye. Then wrap the thread back to the rear of the hook and then forward again, forming the base of the foam body.



2. To form the body, fold the foam over and anchor near the hook eye. Then wrap the thread towards the rear of the hook forming equally-sized bands (band width approximately 1/8") to form a segmented body. Bring thread forward over same segments and half hitch or whip finish. Trim the foam strip so that 1/4" remains.



3. Wrap hackle forward in same area as thread segments. To finish the head, fold the remaining foam strip back towards the rear of the hook and tie off with several half hitches or aw whip finish.



4. Trim the hackle to form the legs

The game warden approached the boy who was fishing by the lake. "Hey, son. Can't you read? The sign says 'No Fishing Allowed' "

The boy whispered, "I'm fishing very quietly, sir". (Anonymous)

From "The World's Best Fishing Jokes" courtesy of Russ Shields

Miami Peacock Bass... Tom Regina



Miami Florida is a long way from Pensacola. I try not to drive at night so I took two days to drive the more than 700 miles. Next time I will really torture myself and fly. The traffic on I-75 and the Florida Turnpike was bumper-to-bumper all the way from I-10 to Miami. The traffic in Miami was “bumper-on-top-of bumper” and it was going to be mighty fine to get on the water and just watch the traffic going by while casting a fly for beautiful butterfly peacock bass.



I met my guide at 6:30 AM and boarded his flats boat at a public boat ramp in downtown Miami. It was dark and the city lights shown brightly enough on the canal that navigation was no problem. In the dark no peacocks were taken... not even a pull. When daylight busted out so did the peacocks.

The Butterfly Peacock Bass (*Cichla Ocellaris*) has a body shape similar to a largemouth bass. They are usually a bright golden-yellow with black vertical bars, a black spot (false eye) at the base of the tail and a yellow-gold caudal fin.



In 1984 the Florida Wildlife Commission introduced peacock bass into the larger canals of southeast Florida. Because of their intolerance to low water temperatures (below 60F) and saltwater (above 18ppt.) the peacock has not become abundant outside the Miami-Dade and Broward county coastal areas. The native range of the peacock bass lies within the Amazon River basin of South America. In Florida, they thrive in warm, slow flowing canals and lakes and are frequently

found in shady areas around bridges and under docks. Florida's peacock bass typically spawn from about March through August. Both adults prepare a flat, hard surface near shore. The female lays between 4,000 and 10,000 eggs. Both parents, for as long as several months guard the fry. Males commonly develop a 'nuchal' hump on the forehead when reproductively active. Peacock bass feed primarily on fish and use great speed to capture prey. They typically feed during daylight hours. During a peacock's first 18 months of life it will grow to 12-14 inches. Thereafter they become much heavier with each inch they add in length. A 17-inch peacock will tip the scales at about three pounds; a 19-inch fish will weigh about five pounds.

The peacocks I caught, and released, were taken using the same tackle I use for small and largemouth bass. A six or 8wt. rod with a weight forward floating line works just fine. I had no luck with top water poppers but an orange-copper size 4 Clouser with lots of silver flash was the key to a very successful day. Casting only about 40-feet, I took (and lost) many colorful peacocks, Mayan cichlid, and sunfish on that one clouser. I also caught a few trees and docks but didn't lose the fly... thanks to my guide.

Fishing Report... Captain Baz Velverton

Every year in March when the Gulf water temperature reaches 70 degrees all heck breaks loose, and this year is no exception. Jack crevalle, pompano, Spanish mackerel, cobia, bluefish, sheepshead...take your pick. This year is even more special because of the big push of blue water that moved within a few miles of shore a couple weeks ago. With it came clouds of baitfish which have taken up residence around the near-shore wrecks, and the BIG king mackerel are right on their tails. I saw photos from last week of a *kayaker* with kings of 31# and 26# landed just outside the outer bar a couple miles east of the Pensacola Beach pier.



Seventy degree water temperature also means it's time for a shot at the Emerald Coast Grand Slam on fly! We're talking about a pompano, jack crevalle, and redfish all in the same day on fly, and it's never been accomplished on my boat. To have a reasonable shot at the slam you need good conditions with calm, clear water, manageable wind, plenty of sunshine, and of course the fish. The missing link has been the jack crevalle until just a few days ago when the first big schools arrived migrating westbound. We landed the first of the year March 27 on spinning tackle, and then on March 29 late in the day Matt Kail of Rockford, MI, landed this beast on a 10wt with a 3/0 white popper. We were hunting redfish on the Caucus Shoal when we spotted a huge reddish-brown mass a quarter mile out on the bar. I thought they were redfish because of the color, but when we got close enough to see the fish they were no doubt jacks...about 500 of them right below the surface! Matt was rigged for redfish with a 9wt, sinking line, and a "go-meaux", and he made a nice cast dropping the fly right in the school but they just swam around it continuing west. They wanted the big popper, so Matt pulled out the 10wt (rigged and ready), stowed the 9wt, and we ran hard to the west positioning the boat ahead of the advancing school. Later, Matt told me it was a visual that would be impossible to describe. We were facing east with the sun at our backs, the water was dark blue, and the school of jacks as big as a house was angling straight at us. The fish were in tight formation, and the angle of approach was such that the sun was reflecting off their sides, and their yellow fins seemed to glow against the blue background. Mesmerizing for sure, but Matt doubled hauled a beauty into the wind, and the fly landed in front of the school. One big strip and twenty fish exploded on the fly. It was a typically incredible jack crevalle experience, and I'm thrilled to have them in the mix for the next month or so. For those of you looking for big-fish excitement I highly recommend drifting around the outer bar from the Observation Tower to the Caucus Shoal during the month of April. Have your 10 or 12wt ready with a big popper and watch for a big, dark mass moving westward.



There continue to be schools of redfish along the edge of the Gulf, but they're getting harder to find. I haven't seen a school east of the pass in a couple weeks, but we've been finding some to the west. It's tough sight-fishing down there because the water's not as clear, but it's possible to see the fish if you've got good light. We landed six on March 26 a quarter mile west of the shoal and a 28 pounder on March 28...all on spinning gear. The last bull redfish landed on fly was March 19 when Bob Kelly landed this 25 pounder on an 8wt. It was a foggy Saturday morning, and we were poling the sandbar by Ft McRee when a school of about twenty fish appeared just below the surface. Even though there were boats all around us sheepshead fishing the fog closed them out, and we had the school all to ourselves. Bob had his 8wt, floating line, and one of my new EP fiber tan/white Clouser minnows. He cast the fly in the midst of the school, let it sink, and when he started stripping one big fish cut out of the school and followed the fly for a few strips before sucking it down. This was a big, hard-fighting fish, and it took Bob forty-five minutes to bring it to the boat. During that time I'm sorry to say the fog burned off and the sun came out exposing us and the fight to fifty "weekend warriors" who now know there are redfish up on that sandbar... Of well, what are you going to do??

Fishing Report... Captain Baz Velverton



March is my favorite month for redfish flats fishing. When the water temperature in Santa Rosa Sound reaches the high-60's you can bet the reds will be on all our favorite sand/grass flats. Matthew Vann and I found them in good numbers on March 14, and they were ready to eat my new EP Clouser. Matthew hooked four and landed three, and we've got the pictures to prove it! I do better on incoming water as close to high tide as



possible. When the tide's close to full the fish will be nearer shore than you'd expect. Many times you can cast to redfish from the beach without even getting your feet wet. Don't drop the fly too close to the fish. Get it well out in front and hope the fish doesn't change direction. It's also very important to be far enough ahead of the fish so the fly has time to sink to the bottom before the redfish gets to it. We are seeing a few big trout on the flats, too, but haven't gotten one to eat the fly...yet.



The other piece of good news this month is the big Spanish mackerel are already in the bay. There aren't a lot of fish on the usual grass flats yet, but there are a few big ones. Hobart McWhorter from Birmingham landed this Spanish yesterday, and the fish measured 24" to the fork. It took a tan/white bucktail Clouser minnow rigged on a 9' leader with the last section 60# test mono. There are a lot of Spanish in the 15-20" range around Pensacola Pass over on the Ft McRee side. Hopefully they'll continue to be there when we have our fly-class trip in May.

Around the Bay...and Further Away

From Milt Mays....Just back from the trip to the Bighorn. Weather was cold, rainy, and windy on day one, then I had bronchitis and had to stay in on day 2, then the rest of the week was high 60's to nearly 80--a bit warm for this time of year. The fish were off a bit, though I did hang one big rainbow that popped off just before the net. Took me almost to backing twice, and in relatively calm water. Lynn and I will be going to the San Juan in May. Fished it last September and really enjoyed it. Have a good spring. Hope the hurricanes pass you by. Milt

From Pete Foster....Fished Copper Lake in the yak. Bass are still biting.



From Tom Finkle....Nice slot redfish taken and released, Santa Rosa Sound grass beds in 2' of water.

2012 Fly Fishing Course Content

Here is the revised Fly Fishing Course schedule. Please note that it begins on Monday night the 12th of March at 6:00PM.

For all our active and not-so-active club members we will need lots of help in conducting this course. We simply cannot make it work without your help.

When we get into the fly casting and fly tying classes we will urgently need assistance in providing personal help to each of our new students.

In the fly tying sessions we will need "Monitors" to assist the students as they develop their skills in tying each of the five fly patterns that we will demonstrate.

For the casting instruction we will all be using the teaching guidelines developed by John Brand, that way we will all be on the same page. If you do not have a copy of John's guidelines let me know ASAP and I will send it to you.

I am looking forward to another successful course like we had last year, and with your help we will make that happen. Thanks in advance and Cheers, Russ

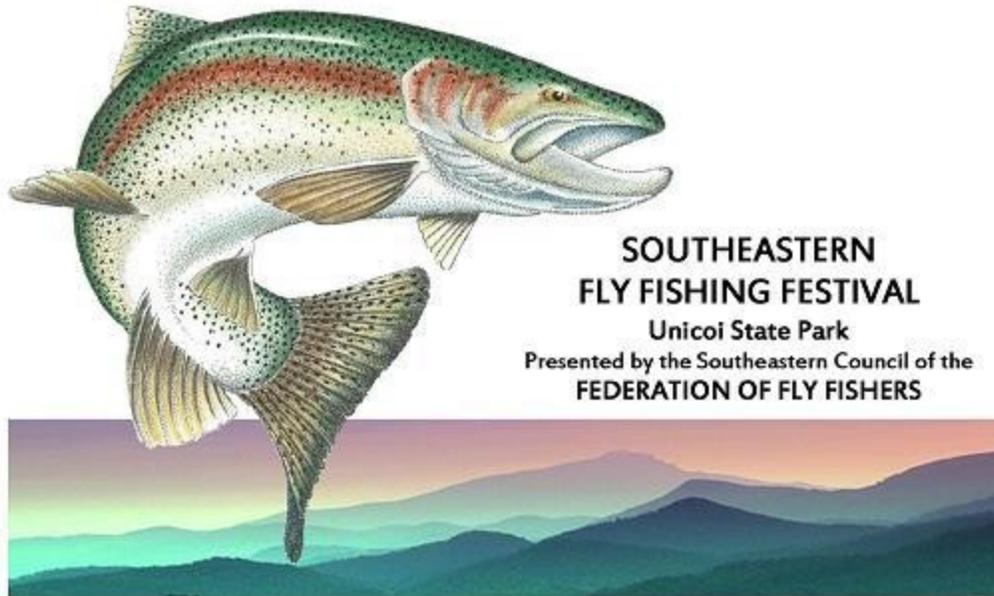
Week 1 12 March	Opening remarks by FFNWF Club president Introduction to Local Fly Fishing: Getting started and choosing your tackle Practicing Fly Fishing Knots	Terry McCormick Jonas Magnusson Russ Shields
Week 2 19 March	Local Fly Fishing opportunities Introduction to fly tying tools and materials	Capt. Baz Yelverton Jerry Aldridge
Week 3 26 March	Casting instruction and practice Fly tying - Woolly Bugger	Casting Committee Karen Brand
Week 4 2 April	Fly tying - Crazy Charlie Casting instruction and practice	Russ Shields Casting Committee
Week 5 9 April	Fly tying – Clouser Minnow Casting instruction and practice	Matt Wegener Casting Committee
Week 6 16 April	Fly tying - Elk Hair Caddis Casting instruction and practice	Jerry Giles Casting Committee
Week 7 23 April	Fly tying - Gartside Gurgler Casting review and practice	Jerry Aldridge Casting Committee
Week 8 30 April	Local fishing "round table" Welcome to club membership	Jerry Aldridge Terry McCormick

Classes are held at Mira Flores Park, 17Ave. and Belmont Street, Pensacola, from 6:00 to 8:00PM.

We are off to a real good start of the Fly Fishing Course this year owing in large part to the many club members who have volunteered to help with the casting and fly tying.

We seem to have a very adept group of students who are doing well this year. Let's keep up the good work and help them enjoy the course: Many thanks for your help and a big BRAVO ZULU to you all.

Russ



[OBJ]

2012 Southeastern Fly Fishing Festival

Hosted by the SEC FFF

Unicoi State Park, April 27,28 & 29, 2012

Unicoi State Park is the site of the *2012 South Eastern Fly Fishing Festival* Located just outside of Helen GA, Unicoi is one of Georgia's most beloved State Parks where outdoor enthusiasts enjoy hiking, biking and of course, access to some of the best fishing North Georgia has to offer. The Festival is a 3-day event featuring **Bob Clouser!** Saltwater anglers are all familiar with the Clouser and Bob is the innovator of the "Clouser Minnow" which is claimed to be the most effective underwater fly ever! Bob will be hosting numerous tying workshops, casting demos and educational programs.

Other guests include:

Tim Rajeff – Tim probably has more fly-casting competition trophies than anyone else in the fly-fishing world and he will be teaching casting workshops for both the beginner and advanced caster.

Jimmy Jacobs – Jimmy is the Outdoor Columnist for the Atlanta Journal-Constitution and we have several of his books in the club library on fishing North Georgia and the trout streams of Southern Appalachia. Jimmy will be giving several presentations on fishing all of his favorite streams in the region.

Tom Travis – Tom is a Fly Fishing guide from Montana and has been a featured Tyer at fly fishing shows all over the world. Tom will be giving several programs and hosting 2 Tying

Workshops.

In addition to our guest speakers the Festival will feature 25 of the best fly tyers in the southeast, numerous education programs, casting instruction for both beginners and experienced casters, on the stream workshops, photography programs and opportunities to fish some of the best streams in North Georgia. The Festival Exhibit Hall will be filled with over 30 commercial exhibitors representing most of the guides and fly shops in N GA, NC and TN, custom rod builders, manufactures, artists and we are also supporting several of the non-profit groups including Project Healing Waters, Fly Fishing for Vets and Casting for Recovery. To register on line and get a complete list of events, programs and workshops, as well as lodging and fishing options please visit the SEC website, www.secfff.org If you have questions about the event please give me a call. Karen Brand 516-1852 KBrand@SantaRosaMRI.com

The Fluke Junior.... Bob Blosi



I was fishing in the west end of the Little Lagoon a week ago and was dragging a new fly style on the bottom in about eight feet of water. Its part Zoom Fluke Jr. and then has a large set of Clouser Eyes finished off with Silver EP fibers. This fly is still in the beginning stages, but the Speckled Trout in Baldwin County like this Fluke Jr. Hopefully I can phase out the bait part to rabbit type hair or large white Plymouth rock rooster hackle feathers which I raise. I tried this in the Wolf Bay area and in four feet of water this fly sank to fast so I will have to go with a smaller eyes as they were hitting this new fly at about one to two feet after it hit the water under the lights last Sunday. Also, I got a new Kayak to go fly fishing in its a Freedom Hawk 12 foot model that I am buying from a member from the Hoss Fly Club in Mississippi. This is one of the best Kayaks I have seen for Fly fishing especially for older guys like me with poor knees who have a hard time standing up in a low sitting kayak. Bob Blosl Silver hill, Alabama



From Jerry Giles:

I have several BAMBOO fly rods for sale and will bring them to the April 3rd., business meeting. They are good to excellent condition and fishable. Those not sold will go on E-Bay.



APRIL 2012

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