



Flies and Lies

Newsletter of the Fly Fishers of Northwest Florida

April, 2021

FFNWF

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MEETINGS now
being held via Zoom

Business Meeting
1ST Tuesday, 7 PM

Bull Session - Tying
2ND Thursday, 6 PM

Clinic -Casting, Tying,
Lunch - Will resume
TBA

The Wait Goes On

Watching and waiting continues. Plans are being made for Fly Fishing Class and the Auction to be held this fall. Meanwhile, Zoom meetings and fly tying sessions and the Saturday Casting Clinic will continue. And there is nothing to stop us from going fishing.

Zoom Club Meeting – Tuesday, April 6 7:00

Jim White will provide the program, bring us up to date about the FFI Learning Center

Zoom Fly Tying – Thursday, April 8 6:00

We will tying the Nylure - and the Pompano are out there



Casting – Saturday April 17

Outside, bring your lunch, have fun. Together!!!!

The Prez Sez: It looks like April will truly see some improved fishing conditions. Our local guides have continued to do well in some challenging circumstances. Our Saturday casting events have offered an opportunity to improve skills and exchange information. Our clubhouse has not yet received approval for opening but it seems that the possibility is certainly much closer now that it has been the past 11 months.

My personal prognostication: a class beginning late summer and completing in time for an auction shortly after Halloween. The auction group will gladly receive your gently used equipment on the third Saturday each month. I wish that I could tell you a specific date when in clubhouse meetings and fly tying sessions will resume but I can't yet. I can tell you that when it happens you will know about it by email, phone calls, and posts to our website and Facebook page. Thanks again to Paul, Kent, Cliff, and Lou for being the glue that holds us together these days. *Bob M*

The Gohrbandt Collection

When Chris Patton, stepdaughter of the late Dr. Klaus Gohrbandt reached out to the club website contact link she unknowingly kick started the drive for collection of auction items for the 2021 edition of the FFNWF Auction. Klaus passed away last March. His widow Gisela wanted to donate much of his collection of fly fishing equipment. She said, "we hope that Klaus' equipment can benefit Project Healing Waters."

Meeting Gisela and Chris was a real treat. Gisela fondly recalled Klaus' love of fly fishing and particularly the camaraderie that the sport provided for them. She told of visits to the Golden Gate casting ponds in San Francisco and highlights of fishing trips around the globe. Most importantly, Gisela wanted to express to the club her gratitude for the work that the club does in sponsoring Project Healing Waters and the Boy Scouts. *Bob Myers*



Chris Patton (L) and Gisela Gohrbandt (R) at the Gohrbandt residence in Gulf Breeze.

Gisela Gohrbandt lovingly holds a picture of her late husband and FFNWF member Dr. Klaus Gohrbandt doing what he loved best.



VEEP's Corner

April is finally upon us which means warmer water and increased fish activity. I'm ready!! I thought I'd get a head start and spent 4 days this past week in the Everglades. Unfortunately, the fishing was still pretty slow there too and was a disappointment to say the least. We managed to catch some small Snook and I caught a 15/20 pound Goliath Grouper which bent my rod a good bit.

Jim white will be our program presenter at this month's general meeting and will provide an overview of the FFI Learning Center. Hope to see many of you at the general meeting. *Mick*

Fishing with Capt. Baz

I am happy to report that the Spanish mackerel have descended upon Pensacola Bay with a vengeance. For the past two weeks the spin-fishing guides have been hammering them along "Lighthouse Beach" and between Pickens Pier and the Ranger Station. About a week ago I started seeing them in good numbers around the Bob Sikes Bridge, and two days ago on March 29 there were as many Spanish as I have ever seen at Town Point. The fish were jumping as far as we could see. We landed one on the first cast and the explosive action continued for the next hour. I finally got tired of releasing fish, tying on new clousers, and wiping the blood off myself and the boat. I think my clients were relieved when I told them it was time to move on to something else. We were lucky to get out of there without somebody getting hurt. Like me! Here's a shot of Evan Thread from Illinois with his first-ever saltwater fish on fly. This was a little guy, but there were some nice fish in the mix. We landed a few in the 2-3# range. Russ Shields is going to be salivating...



The other new entry in the lineup are the jack crevalle. After seeing a school of 500 fish yesterday in the Big Lagoon I can announce that they are officially here! We were fishing the edges for redfish in windy, cloudy conditions when the school appeared a hundred feet away. My client put an EP baitfish in their midst, but they weren't at all interested. By the time we got the 10wt out they had disappeared in the cloud cover. The school had been moving easterly, so I ran out and down that way for a few hundred yards and we waited for them. After 15 minutes we gave up and returned to the redfish. The school probably pulled a "Crazy Ivan" and went back to the west. Or they could've moved into deeper water.... Who knows? It was for sure a fabulous and welcomed sight, and I highly recommend carrying your big tackle on the boat.



I never caught a good day all month for the Gulf, so we spent most of our time poling the inside flats for redfish. Since my last report we landed two fish over ten pounds and had a few shots at 20+ pounders. First up is Carl Huhnke from Wyoming with a beauty. Carl connected with a bona fide submarine later in the trip but lost it at the boat when the fish charged to the stern and wrapped the leader around the darn trim tab. Morale of that story is when you hang a really big redfish in shallow water *get out of the boat and fight it to the beach*. That's the second one this year I've lost one like that, and I hope it's the last.



Brian Boutchard had a casting breakthrough March 22, and the extra distance paid off with this impressive flats' redfish. It was the first day he had been able to get the fly 60-70' to our most finicky fish. And finally here's my good client Jay Lanier with a couple nice fish from yesterday. Jay was a little off his game landing just two of six takes. Every redfish landed in March was on the EP grey/white baitfish.





I'll close with a shot of Jeff Nall with a pretty little trout caught and released in one of the Santa Rosa Shores canals on a cold, overcast day. Awww!! Fortunately there are still a few trout up there when you need them.

Capt Baz

Tributes to Fly Fishermen Part II

Near the town of Carbondale, Colorado three famous fly fishing rivers converge. Those rivers are the Crystal River, Roaring Fork River and the Frying Pan River.



While visiting Carbondale's "Alpine" fly shop many years ago we had to walk several blocks from our parking spot to the shop. As we were walking we noted that on every street corner there was a carved statue in a living tree of a fly fisherman with a fish on his line.

You know you're prime fly fishing area when the lamp posts are carved fly fishermen. *Steve Hofmann*



FFI Corner - Happy April! We're all looking forward to the imminent return of some of our favorite gamefish - Spanish, pompano, bluefish, bonita, ladyfish to name a few. To aid you FFI has added new information to the Learning Center portion of the Education tab on their website. Membership not required to access the information. Presentations provide information on topics such as rig setup, knots, entomology, targeting saltwater species, all aspects of fly casting and fly tying. There are hours of great viewing ahead of you. Go to <https://flyfishersinternational.org/Education/Learning-Center> - to get started. April's program will be an overview of the various sections of the FFI web site. *Jim White*



**FLY FISHERS
INTERNATIONAL**

Project Healing Waters - With the arrival of COVID-19 all in-person Project Healing Waters (PHW) programs were suspended. Thankfully, we discovered the Zoom video application and were able to reconvene meetings virtually. During the past 12 months we conducted 31 virtual sessions utilizing nearly 200 volunteer hours. Sessions included fly tying, fly education presentations, or sometimes just general bull sessions. Thank-you to the club members who serve as volunteers supporting the disabled veterans in our local PHW program. Our Pensacola program would not exist without your service to this mission. Moving forward in 2021, PHW HQ is finalizing the plans to re-engage in-person activities. It is very much a crawl-walk-run plan and things won't change quickly or in the near term. The timeframe to again meet in-person inside the Scout House (with lunch afterwards at Hot Spot!) is not known. That said, we're hoping to re-start a few small group outdoor activities, casting or beach/wade fishing, in the very near future. More to follow as the plan is finalized. *Jim White*



Trip Destination: The Chandeleur Islands

George did some research in the hope of stirring up some interest in a trip:



The Islands start 38 miles south of Biloxi, Mississippi and run for another 20 miles south like a crescent moon towards Louisiana. Shallow grass flats for speckled trout and redfish are the general target, but other species also show up on a regular basis.

The season runs from late March to mid November. The best time is late April to June. The standard way to get

there is via a mother ship that has bed bunks, showers and skiffs.

I spoke with the owner of Chandeleur Island Charters in Biloxi. He would love to host our club. The mother ship can take up to 16 anglers, but 10-12 is ideal. A typical two-day trip leaves Biloxi at Midnight and anchors up at 4:30-5 AM. Fish and relax is their motto. They feed you like kings. The all-inclusive trip costs \$650 plus \$30 for the Louisiana license. *George Norton*

We also asked Jeff Deuschle for information:

It is about 25nm from the Ocean Springs ramp to the northern tip of Chandeleur and the fishing there can be very good - another ~ 5nm to "first anchorage"

I would put the best seasons as:

Specks - May-June and Oct.-December Reds - March-June and Oct- December

I have 56 trips logged to the Chandeleurs over the past 10 years. The Pelican, where the Ocean Springs club has fished for decades could likely be done much cheaper with more like 3 days of fishing if the club could put together 2-3 bay boats for the round trip. You really want some time out there to allow for the weather if you can swing it,



The new owner out there is the current HOSSFLY president, one of the best fly fishing guides around and a good friend. Attached a few Chandy shots to get you going.



The red is from March 2019 - four of us released HUNDREDS that weekend! That 47.5 inch Jack is from August 2019 - hooked on a dad gum 7wt. while targeting pecks and ladyfish - chased him almost 3miles for 2 hours! **Jeff**

Fly of the Month: NYLURE FLY

When I first moved to Pensacola, I fished off Beach Pier for Pompano and Cobia. The number 1 lure for Pompano off Pier and along surf was a lead head jig colored yellow and red Nylure. I have tried to duplicate that jig lure to a fly that can be used along beach holes and drop offs for pompano. With the Pompano season already upon us, this fly may give a different look to cruising Pompano. *Pat Murphy*



MATERIALS:

HOOK: GAMAKATSU SL11-3H #4 THREAD: FL. RED 140d & YELLOW 140d
EYES: SMALL LEAD DUMBBELL TAIL FLASH: PEARL KRYSTAL FLASH
TAIL YELLOW SUPREME HAIR ACCENT: RED SUPREME HAIR
BODY: YELLOW FLAT DIA. BRAID WING: YELLOW SUPREME HAIR

INSTRUCTION:



1. De-barb hook, lay smooth thread base to bend. Tie-in d/b eyes at hook eye, leave room for wing and accent tie-ins.

2. Tie-in 3 pair k/flash strands doubled extending from bend. Add clump of yellow supreme hair over flash tie-in. Extend 1x hook shank.

3. At tail tie-in, add body Dia. Braid and palmer to d/b eyes. Add small pinch red supreme hair each side body, secure to body w/ mono creating a stripe each side.



Extend stripe hair to just short of tail fibers. Overcoat with body braid and stripe hair w/UV resin or clear coating.



4. Just in front of d/b eyes add yellow wing of supreme hair, extending back over body. In center tie-in pinch of red supreme hair accent to create a red stripe same length as yellow wing.



5. Switch to red thread and wrap smooth tapered nose. Whip finish and coat with UV resin or clear coating.

FLY TYERS TIP:

Having trouble with your tail feathers rolling over at tie in and not aligning? Cut length of feather allow for bare shank to tie end. Strip fibers and fluff from stem, lay bare stem on top of hook shank. Hold in place with fingers and wrap down with smooth flat thread wraps. Feathers should lay vertical with matching length. *Pat*

Fly Fishers of Northwest Florida Part 2 by Jim White

Editor's note: *Ron Bloomquist, a director of Project Healing Waters in Florida and member of the Membership Council of FFI asked the leadership of our club to list the things that have led to the success of FFNWF. Jim White wrote this up and I think the club should see it: This is Part 2*

6. The second Thursday of each month to tie whatever is the fly. Materials are provided by the club (a budget line item approved each year by membership). That same fly is also tied on each third Saturday when we host our casting clinic. Those folks not interested in "casting-on-the-green" muster in the clubhouse for tying instruction on the chosen fly. We also serve a fabulous lunch at that Saturday meeting (another budget line item for the club).

7. The newsletter also advertises upcoming schedule of presentations we make the first Tuesday each month. These are great presentations on topics from exotic fly fishing trips to bamboo rod making to beach fishing to FFI. One meeting we hosted an officer from FWC to learn how not to get arrested while out and about fishing and boating in the area. Good stuff. The newsletter provides a synopsis of the previous month's presentation so folks can keep up with the crowd.

8. On, and did I mention that we have a clubhouse! How many fly fishing clubs have their own clubhouse in which to meet? My past experience with fly fishing clubs included meetings at someone's home or at a local bar and grill. Nothing wrong with those locations, however with our own dedicated space we have plenty of secure storage to keep tying materials, practice rods/reels/lines, handouts, our fly fishing library, etc. We don't have to schlepp gear from one location to another. The actual building is owned by the City of Pensacola but FFNWF manages it for them and although we share it with several other fishing-related clubs, over these many years we've resolved the scheduling issues and, generally, each club co-exists in harmony with the others.

9. Social media. A number of years ago we established a presence on Facebook (<https://www.facebook.com/groups/1266369516829296/about>) (thank you Cliff!). Currently, we enjoy over 200 members on our FB page. Again, great advertising for the area and for the club. During the fishing season (the warmer months when the "more mature" fly fishers like to fish) we get a lot of great content that has proven successful in bringing the clicks.

10. Fly Fishing 101. Each spring we offer an eight-week fly fishing course held on consecutive Monday evenings. Students are provided a textbook (which we wrote and published - another budget line item), loaner practice rods/reels/lines, loaner fly tying equipment and all necessary tying materials. Over the eight-weeks, the two hour classes include casting instruction (we have an FFI CI), instruction on gear and equipment, detailed discussion on the saltwater and freshwater fly fishing scene in our area, and we teach students to tie four fly patterns. The course costs \$60 and it includes one year membership (itself a ridiculously low cost of \$30) in the club. So folks are actually paying \$30 for 16 hours of personalized fly fishing education and instruction. That's crazy! It is the best deal in fly fishing, anywhere! In addition to our website and FB pages, we advertise on the Pensacola Fishing Forum (<https://www.pensacolafishingforum.com/forums/> - scroll down to see the fly fishing section). Several of our club members try to stay active on PFF (mostly during the warmer portion of the fishing season) and while I don't have statistics, I know several students learned of our class through PFF.

Jim White, PHWFF Pensacola, Program Lead

CLUB MEETING 2 March 2021 – The Minutes Call to Order: 1900

President's Comments: It has been a cold, bleak February but warmer days are just around the corner. Reminders:

1. PAY YOUR DUES! Mail check, payable to FFNWF to Larry Sisney, 3610 Baisden, Pensacola FL 32503 or bring \$30 cash to Miraflores Park on Saturday, 20 March.
2. Let Steve Hofmann know if he can count on your help for the FF101 Class and/or the Annual Club Auction (dates TBA). Regarding the auction, Chris Patton, stepdaughter of the late Dr. Klaus Gohrbandt reached out to the club website contact link and kick started the drive for collection of auction items. Klaus passed away last March. His widow Gisela wanted to donate much of his collection of fly-fishing equipment. She said, "we hope that Klaus' equipment can benefit Project Healing Waters."
3. If you can, reach out to the chairs of committees to offer your assistance.

Presentation: Mick Milo "Fly Fishing Slough Creek in Yellowstone Park: The Third Meadow by Horseback." Mick took us on a 14 mile horseback ride up Slough Creek on quite an adventure. His party camped with an outfitter and fished for three days for native cutthroat in one of America's most storied scenes.

In the third canyon the trout readily struck large hoppers on top. His favorite fly was a Dave's Hopper. Prior to the trip Mick purchased every conceivable type of hopper, but he didn't change flies for three days. The action was steady for 14-16" fish, and beginners like his wife and nephew did very well. There were no trees to frustrate casting. Mick reported larger trout are in the first and second meadows, but they are much more selective because day hikers have pressured them unlike in the third meadow.

Fly rods are 3-5 weight and hoppers run hook size 6-10. Late in the season, ants and beetles size 12-14, work well.

Day one after a 4 hour horseback ride he caught a trout on the first cast. They had a solar powered bear fence and the living quarters had cots and a wood stove. On day two he fished up the third meadow, while his friends fished the canyons. They reversed that on day three, and on day four they fished a half day, before packing up for the return trip. The cost is \$500 per day and is all inclusive with good food. Guides do not accompany the fishing but are available to pick you up by horseback if you make pre- arrangements.

I went on a similar trip to the third meadow about fifteen years ago but my outfitter had to set up and take down camp. Mick's outfitter is "Slough Creek Outfitters" and they have the only licensed semi-permanent camp which would be nicer for sleeping arrangements and camp life. The season in Slough Creek runs about eight weeks from early to July to Labor Day. Mick's outfitter takes parties of 4-6. Mick was very pleased with the service they provided. Thank you Mick for sharing this trip with the club.

Financial report: Treasurer's update. Few activities to affect our books. The checking account is in good shape. We are about 50% behind in membership dues.

Old Business:

2021 FFNWF Budget was presented and approved.

Auction Committee announced that they are accepting donations at the clubhouse on 3rd Saturdays. Steve H will catalog the items. Please bring your donated items on the third Saturday or make arrangements with Steve.

New Business:

PHWFF Timeline. Jim White reported that the national PHW requires certain stages (1-5) in order to conduct PHW activities. They forecast it will be 2022 before a normal resumption of

activities can occur.

Stage two will be in Mid-March with very limited outdoor activities but paperwork (waivers and disclaimers) are first. Phase three would be 10 participants outdoors with one instructor.

Phase 4 would be indoor core activities while phase 5 would be national outings. At this time no boating activities are allowed.

Status of city parks/facilities. (Facilities Chair, Dave Handley) We can continue to do our third Saturday outdoor activities in Miraflores Park. It is unknown when indoor activities can resume.

Fishing reports: George will plan a club outing (wade fishing or kayak) for the second half of April to Johnson Beach (National Park) at Perdido Key where we can fish either the Gulf Side for pompano or the Bay side for trout and reds based on wind direction. Dates TBA.

Meeting adjourned at 2100