



Flies and Lies

Newsletter of the Fly Fishers of Northwest Florida

August, 2021

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

The Pres Says: The July clinic saw 5 first time visitors. Two joined the club on the spot and the others are likely candidates for membership. Once again, I was impressed by the warm welcome that club members provided. I can't tell you how much that means, but I believe that it is a defining characteristic of this group.

During lunchtime on clinic day we learned that Christmas tickets are now available. Probably not a better deal than a night out with fellow fly fishers, and at \$30 it's a real bargain. If the dog days of summer have kept you off the water why not consider tying a box of flies for Christmas Party gifts.

Education Chairman David Handley has us on track for the FF101 Class beginning September 13. The class will run for 8 consecutive Mondays from 6-8 pm. Please consider how you might lend a hand or how you can assist Steve Hofmann with the club auction on Saturday, October 23rd.

The auction: we have a donation from the family of the late Tom Birdwell (a past club president) which is being cataloged for the auction. Steve and Ellen are doing a great job, and it is a BIG job. Thanks, Hofmanns
See you on the water, in the water, or at the park! **Bob M.**

Club Meeting – Tuesday, Aug 3 7:00

Matt Wegener will present: "Florida Research on Local Freshwater Species (Alligator Gar, Gulf Sturgeon, Coastal Largemouth Bass) and Habitat Renovation/Restoration"

Fly Tying Bull Session – Thursday, August 12 6:30

Tie the EP Minnow... A fly Baz mentions every month.



Clinic – Saturday, August 21 9:00 AM

Jay Brykczynski will provide us with a **Real Polish Stew** made by a real Polish person.

And:



PHW is back in action!
more info follows!

Fishing with Capt. Baz July has been a tough month. Wind, rain, dirty water...you name it. All the inland waters are trashed at the moment. Don't even think about fishing in Pensacola Bay, and Santa Rosa Sound is "strong iced tea" well past the Big Sabine. Sight-fishing is possible on lower tides when there's plenty of sun, but I don't recommend it. It will probably be the end of August before our favorite spots are enjoyable again.

It's not the end of the world though...especially since the Gulf of Mexico has finally calmed down. We've been out there the past two days, and the water around the pass is pristine when the tide line is inside Pickens Point. There are plenty of species available including ladyfish, Spanish mackerel, bluefish, and redfish both east and west of the pass. If you're overly ambitious the false albacore are 6-8 miles to the SE. We chased after them today for a few hours and finally threw in the towel. Heat index must've been 110, and the fish wouldn't eat anything we threw at them including Matt's killer "slinky anchovy". Boy, can that be frustrating.



I'll leave you with some nice redfish photos. The last couple days have been terrific. Maybe it's a sign of good things to come...



Sincere condolences to Russ and family.
Capt Baz

News from Project Healing Waters Fly Fishing -



PHW is now meeting in person at the clubhouse. Meetings are conducted each month on the 1st, 2nd and 4th Monday mornings beginning at 1000. No-host lunch at Hot Spot follows (we're usually there by 1115-1130 or so). Check the calendar in each month's newsletter for that month's specific dates. Attendees to PHWFF events must first sign the PHWFF COVID waiver. Many PHWFF folks have done so, a few have not. Contact Jim White if you are unsure of your COVID waiver status. For August, we'll be focused on building out the fly rod kits we didn't get to last year. *Jim White*

July Meeting Presentation:



Member Wallace West presents “*Tamiami Trippin’ – Snook and Tarpon by Canoe*”.

In December 2020 Wallace traveled to Collier Seminole State Park outside of Naples for a shot at tarpon and snook in the Everglades. He learned a lot and had quite an adventure. Wallace caught a 28 inch snook and numerous 16-20-inch tarpon on the fly out of his fourteen-foot canoe while tent camping.

His best fishing occurred early and late in the day. On day one, his third cast got hung in a tree and he lost the tip section of his fly rod, but he had a backup rod with him. Fishing solo, he poled into narrow mangrove canals and shallow lakes of the beaten path. The best action was in the narrow mangrove canals.

At times the mosquitos were brutal. He told of an amusing



encounter with a couple in a canoe who frightened a gator of a mud bank and scared them half to death. His fly selection was simple. The EP minnow fished just under the surface and a top water gurgler with a forty-pound tippet drew the most action.



Unlike largemouth bass fishing, Wallace kept his fly moving in the water all the way back to the canoe and many of his fish hit right there. Wallace fished from dawn to about nine and then late in the afternoon to dark. The bite the rest of the day was nonexistent.

A floating line with a 6-8 weight rod worked perfectly. The dry season from December to late April is prime time. The fish move with the salinity deeper into the estuary and he learned time of day was more important than tidal movement.



Thanks, Wallace for telling us about the Everglades adventure. We sure enjoyed it.

Notes by George Norton



Auction Highlights #3

This month we are once again highlighting various fly reels being offered up in this year's auction. In addition to the "premium" class Tibor reels highlighted back in June, we have more to come this month.

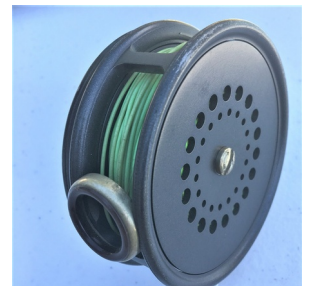


First, we have two reels manufactured by Bauer Fly Reel Company out of Twin Bridges, Montana. I wasn't too familiar with this company or these reels so I did a little



research. The company launched its first line of reels in 1995 which they called the **M-Series**. We have available for the auction, the **M3** (6-7-8 weight) and the **M4** (7-8-9 weight). These reels early on embraced the large arbor concept and were noted for their relatively rapid retrieve (i.e 3 turns on the spool would retrieve more than 2 feet of fly line). Reviews that I could find on these reels were very positive. The **M-Series** reels are no longer in production but back in their heyday, they were valued in the \$300-\$400 MSRP range. Each reel comes with a spare spool which is valued somewhere near \$100. It should be noted that these prices go back more than 10-15 years and that a NEW model Bauer reel today costs >\$600-\$700. That price range would place Bauer reels in the "premium" category along with Tibor, Nautilus, Hatch, Abel and a few others. These two reels are in "nearly new" condition as you can see.

The next offering is for any collector, purist and aficionado of vintage fly fishing equipment. If you're looking for the perfect reel to match up with your classic bamboo or fiberglass rod, we have just the ticket for you!! Available for your purchase, we have the Hardy "**PERFECT**" model vintage fly reel (7-8 weight) manufactured by the Hardy Reel Company out of Alnwick, England. While the "Perfect" model reels have been manufactured for more than 100 years (and are still made today), the reel being highlighted in our auction is the Hardy Perfect "Taupo" 3-7/8" wide-spool reel. This particular design was only manufactured between 1958 and 1962 making it somewhat of a *limited production* reel. The most notable feature of the Taupo is the nickel line guide (see photo) which is absent on all other versions of the reel. These reels were designed primarily for Spey, Switch or larger (up to even 9-10 weight) rods intended for catching the monster rainbows, browns and salmon of England and New Zealand. Prices for these reels on eBay, other auctions and various dealer websites range from \$500 - \$750. This particular reel also comes with 2 additional spools worth another \$100 each.



FINALLY.....our last highlight for this month is a Redington A/S (5-6 weight). The Redington line of reels is not considered to fit in the "premium" reel category but is rather more for the "entry level" or "value" shopper. I chose to list it this month because it is actually a beautiful reel in "like new" condition and extremely good looking with its gold finish. This would be a good buy anywhere below \$100.

Well that's it for now.....MORE next month!

Mick

More Auction News! We have received a large donation of fly fishing equipment from the estate of Dr. Tom Birdwell, a former president of our club, including 24 fly rods. Starting at 3 weights and ending with a 12 weight. Some of the brand names were: Orvis, Sage, Thomas & Thomas, LL Bean and Cabela's. Plus there are 5 very nice "Tenryu Fates" Japanese designed fly rods. So, between the Tom Birdwell, the Klaus Gohrbrandt donation and several other club members donations, we have over 140 items to auction off this year on October 23.

Steve Hofmann, Auction Chair



News from FFI - The 2021 Florida Council



Expo will be held October 1-2, 2021 at the Mission Inn in Howey-in-The-Hills, Florida (roughly between The Villages and Orlando off the Florida Turnpike - about seven hours from here). All interested fly fishers are invited whether a pro or beginner. General programs on fly casting, fly tying, and other related topics are being arranged. Small group sessions for fly casting and fly tying will also be available as well as a reception and an auction. Go to <http://ffi-florida.org/events> for more information. Note: FFNWF is not part of the Florida Council of FFI, however we have been invited to attend as desired. Our club is aligned in the Gulf Coast Council (GCC). Information regarding the GCC can be found here - <https://gulfcoastcouncilffi.org>. **Jim White**

Notice: If you do not receive the FFNWF Newsletter by email, please contact FFNWF Membership by email at ffnwfmembership@gmail.com. **David Handley**

Dear Friends,

On Saturday July 17th after a four-month, intense battle with an aggressive form of Squamous cell cancer, we lost the remarkable woman who was my love, companion and inspiration for the 54 great years we had together.

It was Irene, I called her Rene to differentiate her from her aunt Irene whom she was named after, who saw an ad in the newspaper in 2002 about a fly fishing course to be taught in the evening at what was then PJC. We had just recently moved from Pensacola to a house on the water on the north side of East Bay and she thought I might enjoy that class. That, of course, started everything that I became involved with: The FFNWF and Project Healing waters Fly Fishing. She took real pleasure in watching my childlike joy at tying my first flies and learning how to cast a fly rod! Mostly willingly, she endured my frequent fishing trips to North Carolina and Tennessee and she really enjoyed talking with the members of our club and the Healing Waters veterans at our get togethers. She gave me the freedom to become involved in all my "extra-curricular activities" and only occasionally reminded me that perhaps I could take some time to do a few chores around the house!

Rene was truly involved with life and living; she was liked and respected by everyone she met. Many of you may know that after I retired from the Navy, she volunteered for almost thirty years at three different hospitals in the areas where we lived.

I am grateful for all the condolences and offers of support sent my way this past week. I already do, and will continue to dearly miss her loving presence in everything I do. She was truly my inspiration and very much the "wind beneath my wings". **Russ**

Fly of the Month -EP BAITFISH

MATERIALS:

HOOK: MUSTAD 3407 #1. GAMA KATSU SC15 1/0 THREAD: WHITE 140d
GILLS: RED KRYSTAL FLASH FLASH: PEARL FINE FLASH A BOU
BODY: GRAY OR TAN CONGO HAIR (FLY TYERS DUNGEON)
BELLY: WHITE CONGO HAIR EYES DOME YELLOW 6MM

INSTRUCTION:



De-barb hook, wrap thread base from hook eye to hook bend. Invert hook, secure 8-10 strands of Red Krystal Flash @ bend. Fold clump each side hook, trim length to hook bend. Reverse hook, tie-in 4-6 strands Pearl Flash- A-Bou, center of clump. Fold tag end over and secure.

Secure a very sparse clump of body fibers over top shank and fold tag back add add'l wraps. Advance thread.



Belly fibers, invert hook and secure sparse clump, same size as 1st clump, fold clump around hook shank and secure clump fold each side of hook. Rotate hook, advance thread a few turns and repeat body and belly clumps until you are 1/8"- 3/16" from hook eye. Wrap smooth tapered thread nose and whip finish.

Remove fly, comb fiber to rear and shake out. Trim fly carefully to a bait fish profile. Add eyes, each side fly, just behind thread nose.



TYING TIPS FOR EP MINNOW:

1. Use very SPARCE clumps of material. Important, you want your fly to be slim and sleek.
2. Be consistent with size of each clump. You will want to maintain same size thickness of each clump.
3. Lots of repetitive steps. Be patient.
4. Before starting to trim your fly comb out fibers to a fan like profile.
5. When trimming, take small cuts at a time. Easy to cut off more, not so easy to add back.
6. This pattern is a fly with proven success in catching fish along our waters.

Pat Murphy

Fly Tying at the Clubhouse



FFNWF Club Meeting 6 July 2021

The Minutes *George Norton*

Call to order: 1900 **Pledge of Allegiance.**

President Comment: Live meetings, tying, and clinics are once again the standard and the monthly schedule has returned to some sense of normalcy. Your individual participation in these gatherings is important in the life of a vibrant club. Come on out and share your knowledge. It means a lot to newcomers to the area and newcomers to the sport.

Minutes of May Meeting were approved.

Financial report: President presented for Treasurer. Current and forecasted financial numbers are in good shape. Financial balances exceed forecasted expenses.

Old Business: There was no Old Business to discuss at the board meeting.

New Business:

1. Several of the Klaus Gohrbandt donated reels are high dollar items. The BOD recommends setting a minimum starting bid at the auction. The designated items that do not receive a

minimum bid will be made available for post-auction eBay sale to maximize their value to the club.

2. The Board discussed and approved a variety of methods for receiving annual dues.
3. As a follow-up to our club's designation as a 501c organization there will be a By Laws Review Committee. The committee is tasked with determining whether non-profit status necessitates any changes in the current by laws and submitting change recommendations to the Board for review. After Board review of recommended changes procedures would be up for approval by voting membership of the club. (Voting members are members in good standing, i.e., paid up dues.)

Committee Reports:

Education: Dave confirmed the fall class is full. Next year's class will be held in the spring.

PHWFF Jim: We will meet under the club's banner for fly tying the first, second, and fourth Mondays at the clubhouse at 10 AM. You don't have to be a veteran to participate or help as a volunteer.

Christmas Party: Jim expects another great event at Scenic Hills CC, including more meat on a stick.

Social Media Cliff: We now have 224 members worldwide on Facebook.

Club Outings George (also a member at Red Stick Fly Fishers of Baton Rouge): reported on outings open to our club with Red Stick. Red Stick runs trips five weekends a year. They go to a freshwater Oxbow Lake Spring and Fall and take three Salt Water trips to Leesville, Louisiana in the marsh south of Baton Rouge. Our club is invited to participate and you don't have to be a member of Red Stick. They feed you like a king and you just have to get your own motel room and bring your own watercraft or book a guide. PS: If you have a club trip idea like to a private lake outside of Pensacola let George know.

Regarding proposed club trip to the Chandelier Islands (25 miles offshore of Biloxi), see George to sign up. We need a minimum of ten to twelve "club members" to book the boat. It is a three-night trip with an estimated cost of \$700 a piece plus tips. The boat provides showers, bunk beds and all the food. Steak one night and fresh trout another night. No date has been set until, we see how many want to go. October and May-June are prime times for wading for trout and reds over grass flats.

A Gulf Coast FFI Conclave is scheduled at Percy Quinn State Park in Mississippi on the 17-18th of September which includes fly tyers, casting instruction and a fishing tournament. FFI Gulf Coast includes clubs from Lake Charles Louisiana to Destin. Percy Quinn is a four and half hour drive from Pensacola. Call Percy Quinn State Park 601-684-3938 to reserve a rustic cabin on the lake.

Fishing Reports: Oleta and Tony caught bass and bream on the Perdido River using poppers. Terry did well on Spanish and bluefish early in June. George trolled with the club's flies outside the Pass and picked up bluefish and ladyfish.

Adjournment Motion by: George Seconded by: Bob Time:2040