



Flies and Lies

Newsletter of the Fly Fishers of Northwest Florida

December, 2020

FFNWF

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MONTHLY MEETINGS
at Miraflores Park

Business Meeting
1ST Tuesday, 7 PM

Bull Session - Tying
2ND Thursday, 6:30
PM

Clinic -Casting, Tying,
Lunch
3RD Saturday, 9 AM



*Dear Santa,
Please come back next
year. That's all we want
for Christmas. And we'll
be good. FFNWF*

We will have a Club Meeting via Zoom for on Tuesday, December 1 at 7:00 PM.

Emails with links to the Zoom meetings are sent out by Lou Orrie.
Send him an email to be on the list. tazgunr@hotmail.com.

From Our President

With the end of this year comes the change of the Fly Fishers of Northwest Florida Board of Directors (BOD). It has been an honor and pleasure being at the helm of this wonderful organization. Our club has had some ups and downs but in the end we have come through stronger. Without the BOD and our Committees the job would not have reached the success we have enjoyed.

Currently we have 87 paid regular and associate members, a club record. I will be moving into the position of Past President and will be the Lead on our Membership Committee. Bob Myers and your Board of Directors are ready to hit the deck running. 2021 membership donations of \$30.00 regular and \$10.00 associate may be mailed to Larry Sisney at FFNWF 2021 Treasurer, 3610 Baisden Rd. Pensacola, FL 32503
Sharon and I wish everyone the Merriest Christmas and the hope for a wonderful New Year.

Dave

On behalf of the entire club, we take this opportunity to thank David for his years of service as President. We are especially grateful for his work with the City of Pensacola securing the Clubhouse and all of the improvements he accomplished. Thank You, David!!

Fishing with Capt. Baz If the annual *Running of the Bulls* extravaganza is going on this year I haven't found it. There were fish on top in the turning basin area for a few days early in the month, but I missed most of it. Capt Dan experienced the full-bore action early on November 3 and called me to join him. Unfortunately I was already sight-fishing between the points and didn't want to make the run across the bay. When I finally got over there an hour later it was done. We went back the next morning and found the fish, but in all the excitement my client had trouble getting the fly out of the boat. He did make one good cast, a redfish grabbed the fly, and he tried to "trout set" with the usual result. And that was that. The only other time I found good numbers of fish was on a day with a spin-fishing client. He was also mesmerized by the surface-feeding action and had a hard time casting. We would've caught a few fish that day if I had had an experienced fly caster onboard. I knew it must be easy when I looked over and saw Matt Wegener hooked up on fly...



So instead of spending my time and my clients' money running all around the bay looking for the bulls I've been sight-fishing the flats both inside and out with some pretty darn good results. First up is Tim English on Nov 3 with an impressive redfish that charged and inhaled a tan/white clouser minnow close to Pensacola Pass. Next is associate club member Bruce Trumbull on November 9 with a nice fish caught around the docks between

the points. It's technical fishing in there. There are plenty of redfish and trout, but stealth, patience, and accurate casting are key. It's not for everybody.



I had new client Bo Herrera on the boat on November 16. Bo is a 61 year old Optometrist from New Mexico who lives on the San Juan River. He told me in advance that he spends most of his



time catching trout but felt he could probably cast adequately to have success with our redfish. Of course I was skeptical and even joked to his local friend who arranged the trip that the BS would stop when I watched his first practice cast... Imagine my surprise when this guy could put it out there 90'! Accurately, too. I was in "Guide's Heaven" as we showed those finicky fish between the points who's boss! Bo hooked five fish including this flats brute, and landed four. I can't publish the other photos without giving away my special little spots. Let me just say the one that got away was bigger than this fish and we were never in water deeper than 2 1/2'.

Bob Jenkins was back on the boat on November 17 and 18. On his first day the Gulf finally calmed down enough for us to pole the inner sandbar. Dan had told me there were lots of "stupid" redfish out there, and he was right. We found numerous schools of fish coming down the bar, and they climbed all over





each other trying to eat Bob's clouser minnow. He landed four before a mullet fisherman clued us in that the FA were up on the beach east of the Ranger Station. We ran down there and found school after school of albies in the 4-6# class feeding on bay anchovies. Here's Bob with an average sized catch landed on a #6 clear gummy minnow. It was a treat finding FA that were so happy to eat the fly. Nothing technical about it. I was hoping to find them in a foot of water, but all the schools we found were farther out in the draw. There is so much bait that the albies may be with us for a while...at least through Thanksgiving.

By the next day the Gulf was kicked up with a big SE swell, so Jenkins and I spent the day between the points. Bob hooked two nice redfish and a lovely trout but only landed this single fish. He wasn't at the top of his game, and we quit earlier than usual. We broke down his tackle and were sitting on the dock at 3:35 when the call came from my brother that the big redfish were on top at Buoy 26...

And that sums up my experience with the *Running of the Bulls 2020*. Maybe it's just not my year. Anybody else ready for 2021?
Capt Baz



Fly of the Month: **DOOFUS: STAINED WATER REDFISH FLY**

We were unable to do this fly via Zoom last month but we will have a fly tying session on Thursday, December 10 at 6:00 PM

The contrast of natural and bright between the chartreuse and brown coloration make the fly easily visible in cloudy water and low-light, while making it inoffensive on brighter days.

MATERIALS:

HOOK: GAMAKATSU SC15 #1/0

THREAD: BROWN 140d

EYES: BLACK BEAD CHAIN X-LG.

EGG SACK: ESTAZ AMBER ORANGE

TAIL #1: CHARTREUSE X-TRA SELECT CRAFT FUR

TAIL #2: ORANGUTAN RUST X-TRA SELECT CRAFT FUR

ANTENNA: STRIPPED HACKLE STEMS, RED GRIZZLY

BODY: EP MINNOW HEAD BRUSH 1.5" EVERGLADES



INSTRUCTION:

1. Debarb hook. Add bead chain eyes just behind hook eyes. Move thread to hook point. Tie-in estaz at hook bend w/ 3-4 wraps.
2. Behind b/c eyes, add tail #1 wrap down to egg sack. Length 2-1/2X hook shank, regular size clump. Over top of tail #1 add tail #2 same procedure as before, a bit larger clump. Add three brown bars along tail.
3. Strip two hackle stems tie-in in front of tails, angle downwards, parallel with hook bend. Use two loose wraps to position stems, flair outward and secure w/ tight wraps.
4. With a small gap at tails secure body brush, palmer to b/c eyes and tie off. Pick outtrapped fibers and comb to rear. Trim top to a tapered shape and expose some of the estaz. Trim sides to a taper reward. Trim bottom flat, so fly will sit upright at rest. Trim antenna just short of tail length.

Crawling of the Bulls – by Matt Wegener

Birds, bait, and bulls. Normally that's what you find when on the water in early November. One thing is missing this year, and it's not the birds or bait. This has been the slowest annual redfish blitz that's I've seen in the last 5 years. As a professionally trained fisheries biologist, I can say confidently that I have no idea why. Heavy fishing pressure, bridge construction, warm water temperatures, an over-active tropical season and many other reasons have been suggested as to why our fish schools are a bit light in the britches this year. Now I don't want to alarm anyone, and as a scientist, I would caution against drawing rash conclusions. Our redfish stocks are robust and long-term trends are overall positive. Dips and valleys in catch rate happen, and we are probably in a valley right now.



Even if we are in a valley, Pensacola Bay still offers world-class redfishing. Case in point, my Dad has landed 18 bull redfish this fall. Granted, we have been chasing them several days a week since Halloween, but there are still fish to be caught. There are still massive schools of redfish crashing menhaden right now somewhere in Pensacola Bay. They just aren't there in the numbers that allow you to confidently target them on a daily basis. With that being said, if you are fishing in the coming weeks, I would look around Deer Point or in the middle of Pensacola Bay, just off of

Town point. Mid-morning and mid-afternoon have been the best times, and a fast sinking line with a big flashy fly rigged on a 9-12 weight fly rod. If you have a side-scan sonar, keep your eyes glued to that screen when the fish go down. This piece of equipment has been very valuable this year and lead to several fish that we would have otherwise not known were there, including the fish in the picture with Luke.



As with everything, the Pensacola Bay fishery is always in balance. Even though the bull redfishing hasn't been as good as in the past, there are plenty of other fish biting right now. Slot redfish and speckled trout are on the flats in the Sound in good numbers and they are hungry. The bite in the canals is also starting to heat up. Target the mouth or junctions (where multiple canals come together) and use a sink tip line or floating line with a long tippet to help get your fly down deep. Fish are generally in the center of the canal, although we have pulled a few flies from the shore or under docks. As for flies, natural colored clousers on a #2 hook or a chartreuse & white deceiver on a larger 1/0 hook has been working well. If toothy critters are on your list, the Spanish mackerel game may be over after this last cold front, but there are plenty of bluefish still around the Bob Sykes Bridge and EPA island. Use a sink tip line with a bite tippet and that same deceiver you were using for trout.

Fishing Reports

Tarpon Bob Korose took veteran Jordan Perry fishing on Veterans Day. They got into a hot Spanish bite (and the day got warmer as time went by). Jordan also got his first pompano on the fly.

Bob and Don Smith did a trip together. Each got two pompano and Don got a flounder.



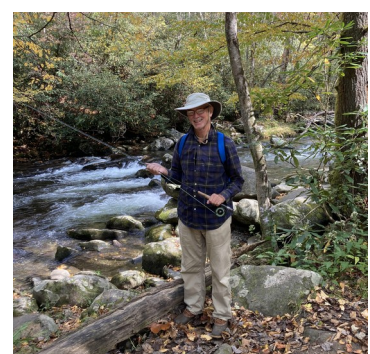
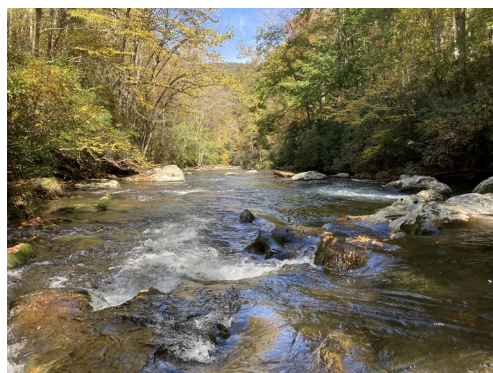
Bob did OK by himself as well, with a big Spanish on the inside along the road to Ft Pickens, and a slot red wade fishing at Naval Live Oaks



Jeff Deuschle sends these pictures from a trip with friends to the Chandeleur Islands last week: The wind was brutal and we had some pretty empty days, but the guys kept at it. We released most of the fish but did keep a few stringers for the freezer. Many thanks to Chuck for these photos. *Jeff*



George Norton sends these pictures from Mirror Lake and Hazel Creek, NC





The Minutes Combined from BOD meeting of 29 October and General Meeting of 3 November 2
-BOD Meeting called to order at 6:07 pm on 29 October with Pres. Dave Handley, Bob and Cyndi Myers, Russ Shields, Joe Higgins, Cliff Newton, Steve Hofman, Jay Brykzynski, Pat Murphy, George Norton, Jim White, and Lou Orrin in attendance.

-The President recapped the club auction that was held outdoors on 17 October at Miraflores Park. Of particular note were the organizational skills of Steve and Ellen Hofmann, who also served as auctioneers with Terry McCormack. Russ Shields and Cyndi Myers kept track of bidders and selling price information, Larry Sisney helped in the screening and registration process, and Lou Orrin for setting up the ZOOMcast for the auction.

-Treasurer Jay B. presented a positive report, noting the boost from the auction proceeds. He reported 83 paid members and discussed the turnover status with his successor, Larry Sisney. Russ proposed/Cliff seconded approval of report. Passed.

-Old business recap: 1) status of nominating committee 2021 slate of candidates 2) no Angler of the Year for 2020 due to Covid 3) recap of auction process and success

-New business:

1) discussed donation amount and allocation of a portion of the FFNWF Auction proceeds to PHWFF

2) Pres. Handley proposed development of a procedural SOP for future auctions

3) discussed the desire of continuing ZOOM once we return to in person clubhouse meetings and the equipment requirement for same

4) normally the club has had no activities in December after the club Christmas Party but with the absence of a party this year adding a ZOOM fly tying evening was considered

5) UWF is currently conducting a watershed survey through 23 December. The link for participation is www.uwf.edu/watershedsurvey

6) PHWFF Program Lead Jim White reported the gift of \$1,000 to our club supported veterans group from Florida House District 1 Congressional Candidate Michelle Salzman

Motion to adjourn made by Cyndi Myers, seconded by Joe Higgins, and the BOD meeting closed at 7:25pm.

The November general meeting of the club was convened by President Dave Handley at 7:07 p.m. on 3 November via ZOOM. There were 16 members attending online. The President welcomed attendees and handed off to the November program presenter Terry McCormack.

The presentation by Terry was "Fishing From the Shore". Terry began his presentation commenting on how blessed we are to live in an area with so many saltwater and warmwater fishing opportunities. He stressed that boat ownership was not a requirement for getting out and pursuing saltwater species locally. He talked about locations, including Johnson's Beach, Perdido Key, Navy Point, Ft. Pickens, Naval Live Oaks, and the area in the vicinity of Portofino.

Terry provided equipment, fly line and leader tips, and information regarding recommended accessories. He gave a roundup of target species and seasonal strategies, and you know that tan and olive Clousers and tan and white Clousers with yellow eyes were at the top of his list of favorite flies to use. This presentation was a valuable reminder of some things to give thanks for this Thanksgiving.

Jay B presented the **Treasurer's report** as in the BOD Meeting Minutes. The report was accepted by the members in attendance. Larry Sisney will assume the duties of Treasurer in January.

Old Business was reviewed and included:

- Status of Nominations Committee slate of officers for the 2021 BOD
- No Angler of the Year for 2021
- Auction recap and Kudos for auction setup volunteers, auctioneers Terry, Steve, and Ellen, recordkeeping by Russ and Cyndi, and ZOOM guy Lou Orrin who extended participation in the auction to those unable to attend in person.

New Business included:

- approval of previous meeting minutes
- Mick Milo's wife took pictures of auction events and they will be available soon
- President opened the floor for nominations for 2021 BOD officers. None being put forth the Nominations Committee presented the following slate: Bob Myers, Pres., Mick Milo VP, George Norton, Secretary, Steve Hoffman and Cyndi Myers for Member At Large. Larry Sisney was previously elected to become Treasurer. Cliff Newton motioned to approve the slate as presented and it was carried.
- Dave spoke about formalizing auction procedures and suggested an Auction Committee take for action. Also discussed was the desire for a May auction. Consensus seemed to favor having an auction in May as a fundraiser and holding it outdoors, on the 3rd Saturday of May 2021.
- Dave reported that Russ Shields had made known a watershed survey being conducted by UWF. The link for participation is www.uwf.edu/WatershedSurvey .

November fishing reports: Bob Korose boated pompano and Spanish mackerel in the usual spots. Bob Myers had the opportunity as Bob K's guest to land a few Spanish as well. Terry abandoned his Clouser favorites in October and pursued brook trout in Tennessee. #18 Elk Hair Caddis and March Brown dry flies were the ticket. He recommended checking with local fly shops for local knowledge, Little River Outfitter Fly Shop in Townsend in particular.

The meeting adjourned at 8:16 pm.

Minutes submitted by B. Myers for G. Norton