



# Flies and Lies

Newsletter of the Fly Fishers of Northwest Florida

February, 2016

## FFNWF

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### MONTHLY MEETINGS at

Miraflores Park  
17th Avenue between  
Belmont and LaRua

### Business Meeting

1ST Tuesday, 7 PM

### Bull Session - Tying

2ND Thursday, 6:30 PM

### Clinic - Casting, Tying, Lunch

3RD Saturday, 9 AM



**Do the right thing. Just Due It.**

## Membership Dues are due!

\$30 pay Jay at any club gathering in February or mail a check payable to FFNWF to

Jay Brykczynski  
4983 Prieto Drive  
Pensacola FL 32506



(Sorry. Couldn't help it.)

## Coming in March – Spring Fly Fishing Class

This is one of our biggest projects every year and a great way for us to get new members. Gary Pheabus will head up the class with Russ' help but lots of us are needed to help out, especially with casting instruction. Classes will be on Wednesdays, starting March 9. See article on page 3.



## Presidential Update From your new President:

My carotid artery and knee replacement surgeries were successful and I am doing well.

The demanding physical therapy rehabilitation process is consuming most of my energies at this time. Thanks, to all for your support and stepping up to keep us moving forward. We have many projects underway that need your support, Now. Please step in and help keep our Great Club moving forward. I hope to be back in the groove soon and helping to guide FFNWF to the continued Excellence we are known for.

Remember, "The Tug is the Drug" and once felt will be always be craved and searched for by true fisherman the world over. Your President, *Rex Straughn*

*Please continue to keep Rex in your prayers as he deals with two(!) surgeries in a very short time, and rehab which can seem like a very long long time.*

**February Meeting** will be **Tuesday, February 2.** 7:00 PM. (Board meeting at 6:00) The program will be presented by Gary Pheabus. He will demonstrate the **Norvise**. Gary is new to the club but he is a very accomplished fly tyer. He also wants to get to know you (and he will be looking for your help with the classes coming up).

**February Fly Tying** will be **Thursday, February 11.** 6:30 PM. Once again Matt has come up with a fly we can all use right here right now... in fact, it originated with one of our own members. Could it be the next "Critter?" See the article on page

**February Clinic** will be **Saturday, February 20.** 9:00 AM. By then it will be spring. Limber up that casting arm and catch up with what all your friends are doing. Or catch some fish. The lunch: **Joe's Chili Extraordinaire.** Made for the Saturday clinic every February and it is unique because it is never made the same way twice. Meaning it is a living recipe and not fixed on paper. All the ingredients are fresh and canned products are from reliable canning companies. Everyone gets one large scoop the first time though then it's a free for all for what's left. **NO TAKE HOME**, any chili left will be used at the March clinic for chili hot dogs.  
*Joe Higgins, Fly Fishing Club head chef.*

## Going! Going!! Gone!!!

The holiday's are over and May will soon be here. I know you got some really cool new fly fishing gear for Christmas (because I am sure you were all good boys and girls ). Or, maybe you just need to clean out that closet. Well, anyway, start thinking about what you can donate or make for the annual auction. Also start saving some money to bid with. Remember this is our fund raiser and also a lot of fun. **Mark your calendar: May 3**

*Your Auctioneer, Terry McCormick*

## Auction Action !



## Auction Action!!



## January Clinic

We had a banner turn-out on Saturday, January 16.

24 members here!  
And one new member.

Russ's seafood chowder was a hit.

*Jay Brykczynski*

Now you see it.

Now you don't.



## Photography

by Larry Sisney



Jerry Giles netting a trout followed by the photo of the trout in the net. Photo's were taken on the Madison River in Yellowstone National Park this past October 2015

*pictures are copywritten*

## Closer to Home ( a little)

We've had some great trips out to the Chandeleur Islands this winter. Trout and pompano earlier, but mostly good ol' dependable red fish as the weather got colder. Todd Thomas from Eastern Shore Fly Fishers had a memorable morning on a remote shell bar with 4 big bulls sight cast to in beautiful clear water. Just like bonefish in the islands only much closer and the fish were 5x as big! Not many photos because we often hike/wade long distances and carry as little as possible! - *Jeff Deuschle*



# 2016 Fly Fishing Course Content

<b>Week 1</b> 9 March	Opening remarks by FFNWF Club president <b>Getting started and choosing your tackle:</b> Introduction to fly fishing knots	Rex Straughn Gary Pheabus/Russ Shields
<b>Week 2</b> 16 March	<b>Introduction to Local Fly Fishing:</b>	Capt. Baz Yelverton
<b>Week 3</b> 23 March	Casting Instruction and Practice <b>Introduction to fly tying tools and materials</b>	Casting Committee Matt Wegener
<b>Week 4</b> 30 March	Casting instruction and practice <b>Fly tying - Woolly Bugger</b>	Casting Committee Gary Pheabus
<b>Week 5</b> 13 April	Casting review and practice <b>Fly tying – Prince of Tides, Bend back</b>	Casting to Targets Kent Reagan
<b>Week 6</b> 20 April	Casting instruction and practice <b>Fly tying-- Elk Hair Caddis</b>	Casting to Targets Jerry Giles
<b>Week 7</b> 27 April	Casting instruction and practice <b>Fly tying- Clouser Minnow</b>	Casting to Targets Matt Wegener
<b>Week 8</b> 11 May	Casting review and practice <b>Fly Tying-- Gartside Gurgler</b>	Casting to Targets Roy Turner
<b>Week 9</b> 18 May	Casting Instruction and Practice <b>Fly Tying – Partridge and Orange</b> <b>Review of local fishing opportunities</b> <b>Discussion of Class Outing</b> <b>Welcome to club membership</b>	Casting to Targets Russ Shields Matt Wegener Gary Pheabus Rex Straughn

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

*A copy of the publicity poster is included in the email with this newsletter. If you know someone who might be interested in the class please print the poster and share it with them.*



Prof. Baz teaching where, when, how, with what, and why. All in one night.



## Fishing with Capt. Baz

The best words I can use to describe January are **GOOD RIDDANCE!** What a month! The river flooding totally trashed the inside waters all the way to the Bob Sikes Bridge. In the Gulf everything close to shore west of the pass has been unfishable. There has been clean water east of the pass starting somewhere between the Observation Tower and Battery Langdon depending on the tide, and of course the farther you run east the cleaner it gets. Problem is that's not where the fish are. I am sure they are in their usual winter feeding areas close to the pass; we just can't see them. I'm hopeful the heavy rains will stop, and the water will have a chance to get cleaner and cleaner as we move into February. The only silver lining I can think of is that the redfish have

been left alone for the past few weeks and might be a little easier to catch once the dirty water moves out.

All that said there are redfish in decent numbers on the flats east of Pensacola Beach on both the north and south sides of Santa Rosa Sound. We found a few small schools in the Opal Beach area around mid-January and even saw a trout in the 4# range. Plus, there are plenty of "rat" reds and small trout in the Villa Venyce and Santa Rosa Shores canals.

The false albacore have been AWOL so far this year most likely because of the water condition. I think there's still a chance they'll appear in February, but it will most likely be east of the pass close to the Pensacola Beach Pier. When I'm planning on being in the Gulf I always call the pier for a fishing report. [850.934.7200](tel:850.934.7200). There was one day in January when pier anglers caught over a hundred false albacore. Of course, I didn't hear about it until a couple days later after the fish had disappeared.

After cancelling seven trips since Christmas I finally couldn't take it anymore, so Jonas and I took off for a couple days fishing around Staniel Cay, Exumas. How do you spell relief? **B\_A\_H\_A\_M\_A\_S!** We got back last night. I'll include a few photos.



This too shall pass, the water will clear, and our migratory species will arrive in big numbers...

*Capt Baz*

## Fly of the Month Terry's Trout Taker (Triple-T)...

by Matt Wegener

Tan & white, olive & white...these are Clouser-minnow colors we often hear about in local fishing reports and amongst fellow fly fishermen sharing fish-catching tales at our monthly Bull Session. What if we took out the white and combined the other two colors? Olive & Tan...would it work? Throw in a dash of red on the belly and you have exactly what Jerry Aldridge created years ago and it's still catching trout to this day. But as fly tiers, it's in our nature to make modifications to an already proven pattern.

Terry McCormick showed me first-hand how these modifications could make a difference between catching fish and not catching fish on a recent fishing trip after the January Saturday Clinic. With a belly full of Russ' famous seafood chowder, Terry proceeded to wax my hiney with this "new" fly. I did manage to scrape out a couple of speckled trout that day, but nothing in my box worked as well as the Terry's Trout Taker, Triple-T for short. He took Jerry's basic concept of an olive and tan Clouser minnow and tied it on a #4 hook, which shortened the overall length of the fly to 2.5-3", compared to the original pattern that was tied on a #2 hook and had an overall length closer to 4". He also added yellow eyes, which seems to have given this fly mythical powers. Say what you want about the color of fly eyes, but most of our local fly fishermen have made the switch to yellow eyes and I may too after watching how many trout Terry sore mouthed last week on the Triple-T.



### Tying Materials

Hook: Mustad 34007, #4  
Thread: Flat-wax nylon, *Olive*  
Belly: Unique or Super Hair, *Tan*  
Back: Unique or Super Hair, *Olive*  
Gills: Unique or Super Hair, *Red*  
Flash: DNA Holo Fusion Flash or *Copper Krystal Flash*  
Eyes: Medium lead dumbbell eyes, *Yellow*

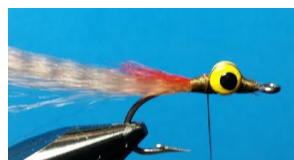
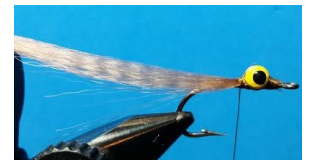


### Tying Instructions



Crush the barb and attach thread. Attach the eyes using crisscross wraps about 1/3<sup>rd</sup> of hook-shank length behind the eye of the hook.

Tie in a match-sticks width of tan unique hair between the dumbbell eyes and the eye of the hook. Secure the unique hair behind the dumbbell eye with a few more thread wraps.



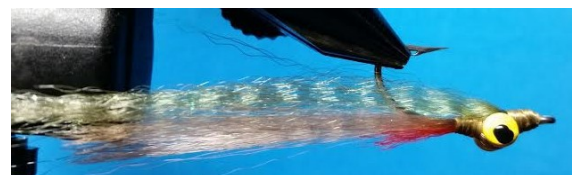
Tie in small bunch of red unique hair on top of the belly to simulate gills.

Rotate the fly in the vise and add 6-8 strands of flash material between the dumbbell and hook eye. Then secure the flash behind the dumbbell eye with a few additional thread wraps.



Tie in a match-sticks width of olive unique hair between the dumbbell and hook eye.

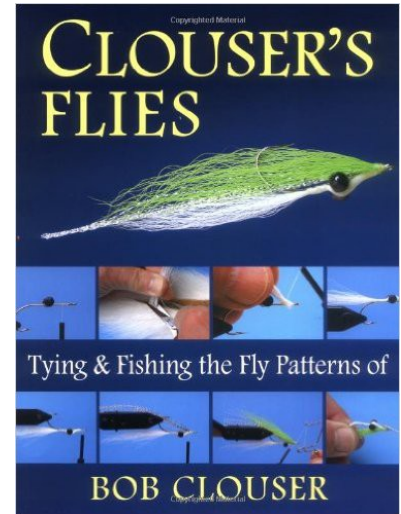
Trim so that the back material (olive) is slightly shorter than belly material (tan). Whip finish and cement the thread wraps.



## From the Library Corner

Of the many excellent books in the FFNWF library, "*Clouser's Flies*", subtitled *Tying and Fishing the Flies of Bob Clouser*, is one of the very best. The author provides detailed instructions and helpful hints on tying and fishing his series of Clouser Deep Minnow and related salt and fresh water flies. The artwork and photos are the best I have seen and leave no questions unanswered about how to tie his flies, in all of the many color variations shown.

The book details a total of seventeen flies that Bob Clouser developed for all kinds of fly fishing and for many species of fish from False Albacore and Stripped Bass to Rainbow Trout and Carp and of course the Small Mouth bass he is famous for.



Part Two of the book titled Baitfish: The Clouser Deep Minnow and Variations, covers eight different baitfish patterns and includes the Foxee Redd Minnow and the Purple Darter that I had not seen before.

Part Three covers subsurface freshwater fish food and includes Crayfish, Hellgrammite and swimming nymph flies.

Part Four, Surface Flies, contains six surface patterns from poppers to a very interesting heavily hackled dry fly Drake pattern for use when trout are keying in on surface insects.

Check this book out and I am sure that after reading it you will become a better fly tier and more successful fly fisherperson.

*Russ Shields*

## And from our intrepid reporter, George Norton

### A Big Tarpon Overpowers the Equipment June 22, 2015

I looked out our window at dawn and saw pods of nervous baitfish dimpling the water off the end of the dock. The water was calm and slick. I downed my first cup of coffee, headed out the door, and took the elevator down ten flights. My fly rod was rigged with a white marabou fly. I was hoping for a speckled trout.

*(Note: George lives on Pensacola Bay east of Bayou Grande)*

After a dozen casts from the end of the dock with not a touch, the line went tight and shot off. The reel handle spun like a blur as the fish quickly ran off the fly line and got deep into the backing. I tried applying additional pressure with my palm but could not stop the fish. I knew this fish was not a trout or redbait. The run was too fast and too powerful. Finally the monster exploded and leaped and the line went limp. I had saved my fly line but the adrenaline left me exhausted.

I left the rod and took the elevator back upstairs for my fly box. Back on the pier, I cast and cast fruitlessly. The window of opportunity was gone. Somewhere in the bay a tarpon had moved on with a small white fly stuck in his jaw.

Tarpon only migrate to the Florida Panhandle and the northern Gulf of Mexico during the heat of the summer in June when the temperature hits ninety plus every day and the water is in the eighties. Tarpon hightail it south with the first cold fronts of fall. Hooking up with a giant Silver King is one of fishing's greatest thrills.

# Memorandum for Record

**Subject:** Meeting minutes for 05 January 2016 General Membership Meeting

**Location:** Miraflores Park, 17th Ave. Pensacola, FL

**Time:** 1900 General Membership Meeting

For a list of participants please refer to the attendance record dated 05 January, 2016.

Rex Straughn, president, called the meeting to order at 1859 hours. Rex stated that he appreciated the confidence of members and hopes that he can hold up to the standards of past presidents.

Russ Shields made a motion to accept the previous month's meeting minutes as published and Oleta Webb seconded the motion. Motion passed. Jay Brykczynski announced the membership drive for 2016 has begun. As of the time of the meeting ten members had paid their dues. When renewing your membership please inform Jay if you are in current standing as a member of the IFFF. The amount we pay annually for dues is contingent upon the number of active IFFF members we have. Jay then gave the treasury report and discussed the meal served at the Christmas party. Jay approached the manager of the establishment about our concerns over the quality of food and service. The manager was appalled at what we received and promised that if our club gave them a chance again next year they would "blow it out of the water." The manager also stated that we could choose our own menu if we wanted. Jay Brykczynski will discuss this issue with membership again later in the year. Jay is also working on the new budget. He stated that we will need to reassess the budget for fly tying materials because we went approximately \$200 over budget last year so he will be seeking an increase in that area. The budget for fly tying materials for the spring course also needs to be reevaluated. Jay will submit the budget to the membership next month and it will be voted on in March. Cliff Newton stated that he had about 20 fly boxes with the club logo left over from the Christmas party. They cost \$9.00 to \$10.00 a piece so Cliff suggested we sell them for \$15.00 each with \$5.00 of it going back into the Healing Waters program. Russ Shields motioned that this be done and Don Smith seconded the motion. Motion passed.

Allen, a member of the club with terminal cancer, contacted Rex Straughn and requested to be made a lifetime member because of the expenses of his medical care. Terry McCormick apposed this because it would create a precedence for all members and Cliff Newton agreed with him. Larry Sisney suggested that it be presented to the board to continue to include Allen in the club's email listing, but not grant Allen a lifetime membership because that is only granted to a select few as an honor for all they have done for the club during their membership. Rex Straughn will reply to the request in a positive manner suggesting he be made a "Friend of the club" which would continue to include him in email listings, but he will not be granted a lifetime membership.

Rex Straughn asked for an update as to the status of the spring course. Russ Shields stated that he and Gay Phoebus are planning to meet to go over all aspects of the course and create an outline by the end of the month. There will be fliers made to pass out. We are looking for advanced RSVPs. Target class last year was 15, but was cutoff at 20 individuals. Russ Shields reiterated that volunteers will be needed from the club



to help teach both fly casting and fly tying during the length of the course. Robin Armstrong asked if you had taken the course previously could you take it again. The answer is yes.

Fishing reports were given and not much was reported. Terry McCormick suggested fishing a longer leader with a slow retrieve and using yellow eyes with your Clousers.

Russ Shields asked membership if anyone had a casting video that was in the library. Jay Brykczynski stated that he owned a copy of the video in question and would loan it to Russ. He also verified that the video was a part of the library. Please check to see if you have a copy of a casting video you borrowed from the club and return it at your earliest convenience if you do.

Committee reports: Joe Higgins stated that he had a list of dates he would not be available to cook the lunch at the Saturday clinic. January through March are covered. If you are interested in volunteering to cook in one of the open spots please contact Joe Higgins at your earliest convenience. People still need to RSVP for Russ's seafood chowder at this Saturday's clinic. Oleta Webb asked that if you park in the first handicapped parking place to pull as far to the left as you can and if you park in the second spot to pull as far right as you can. This allows room for a third vehicle to be parked between the other vehicles in a handicapped space as well. If you do get injured, have surgery or have some other special need arise please contact one of the club's officers and we will do all we can to accommodate you.

Oleta Webb and Kent Reagan gave a presentation concerning their desire have the club purchase a streaming camera, projector and necessary accessories that would allow us to broadcast a close up view of fly tying and other demonstrations. This would be incredibly useful when teaching the spring course so all the students can stay in their seats and have an unobstructed view of the fly being taught. Kent Reagan estimated that we should be able to purchase all the necessary equipment and accessories with discounts he could get for approximately \$650.00. Russ Shields motion that the club allocate \$650.00 to Kent Reagan for the necessary equipment and accessories to broadcast a live streaming image of fly tying or other demonstrations given at club events and during the spring course. Robin Armstrong seconded the motion and the motion passed with no opposition.

Joe Higgins gave a presentation on his fly fishing trip out west.

Gary Phoebus wanted to offer that he spearhead a swap meet once a year given by the club. Many present were concerned it would be competition for our annual auction. Gary Phoebus will readdress the topic at a later time.

Door prizes were given. Kent Reagan motioned to adjourn and Jay Brykczynski seconded the motion. Motion passed and meeting adjourned at 2023 hours.

The point of contact for this memorandum is the undersigned.

Kent Reagan, Secretary

Email: [usmcflyguy@outlook.com](mailto:usmcflyguy@outlook.com)