



Flies and Lies

Newsletter of the Fly Fishers of Northwest Florida

January, 2020

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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

Happy New Year!

We get off to a busy start in the new year with our meeting and fly tying bull session the same week:

Dues are due. Just Due It! - see page 3

Club Meeting – Tuesday, January 7 7:00 PM

The program will be presented by Steve Hofmann about Fishing in Wyoming. Steve also has our “Favorite Rod” article this month.

Fly Tying – Thursday, January 9 6:30

We will be tying the Spring Glass Minnow with Pat Murphy. Great way to get ready for spring in the new year!



Clinic – Saturday, January 18 9:00 AM

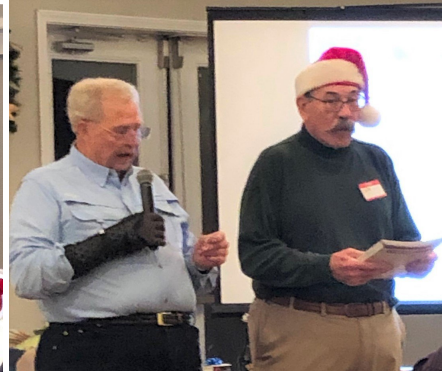
Time to get busy – limber up that casting arm and stock up that fly box with new flies. Fulfill those new year resolutions! Lunch will be Russ' Famous Seafood Chowder!!

Exceptional Leadership Award to Russ Shields

The highlight of the Christmas Party were the awards given to Russ Shields by the national Project Healing Waters organization and by our club. Russ is passing the torch of leadership to Jim White, but not without being recognized for his years of service. More about this on page 4



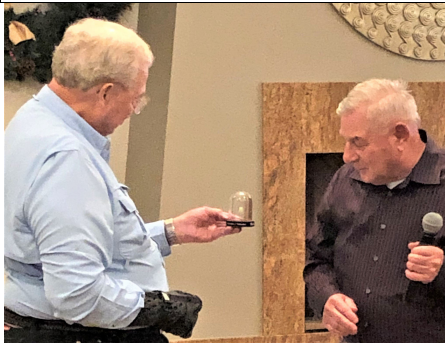
2019 Christmas Party



Anglers of the Year –
Dave Handley and Terry McCormick

Jay passed the Energizer Bunny on to Jim White

Santa and his Elf handed out the prizes



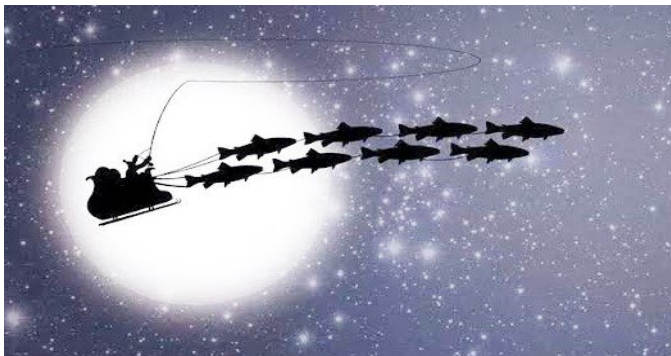
Bob Korose awarded the annual Cook's Critter Fly (under glass)

Cyndi Myers awarded her Safari Hat (complete with flies) and canteen on the eve of her MWR assignment to Africa.

Merry Christmas to All.....



It was also our 35th Anniversary



And to all a great time! Again!!



See you all next year.

Just Due It

And now it's January: January is club membership drive. Pay your dues in January and get the newsletter free for the entire year. Jay will be available at all meetings, or mail in or pay via credit card.

The Phil Johnson Exceptional Leadership Award

Presented to **Russ Shields**

"For serving disabled military members and veterans through Project Healing Waters Fly Fishing with encouragement, enthusiasm and leadership by example" by Stewart Mitchell - Florida Regional Coordinator for PHWFF and Ron Bloomquist- Florida Deputy Regional Coordinator



Dear Friends

For all you FFNWF and PHWFF Members and Participants, I have difficulty finding words to express my appreciation for the accolades given to me at our Christmas Party.

I guess it was obvious that I had no idea of what was going on and that it was a total surprise for both the Club and Healing Waters awards. Unusually, for me, I was almost speechless.

After a couple of days thinking about things, I have some thoughts I would like to pass along:

First, No one ever gets good things done by themselves. That is certainly true here. I have always had the willing help that was needed to accomplish anything that I thought was necessary, on the FFNWF or PHWFF side of our activities. I should have also pointed out that my wonderful wife of 50 years, gave me the latitude to do things with the Club and PHWFF when things at home needed to be and were not being done!

Secondly, with regard to our PHWFF Program, I have frequently been told that I have saved persons lives. I respect and appreciate those comments but I have an alternative view.

Our PHWFF Program gave, and gives, our participants the physical, intellectual and moral support to improve their own situations. We were always there to help, but they, by their own efforts saved themselves and that needs to be understood by everyone involved. While I am immensely proud of our PHWFF Program and what we have accomplished together, our participants have done the "heavy lifting".

We have a wonderful group of folks and I am indebted to you all. Thank You. Russ



PHW participants

Fishing with Capt. Baz

Not much to report this month from our local waters. The big redfish are still popping up from time to time in Pensacola Bay. Capt Dan found them December 24, and there was a school of big fish on the surface in one of the Santa Rosa Shores canals on the 26th. I just missed them, but the kayakers who told me about it were still buzzing. Had to be insane for a few minutes.



The highlight of my month was a terrific trip to Costa Rica chasing tarpon in the Jungle Tarpon Reserve. I jumped a dozen fish in 6 days, and 4 of them were in the 150 pound range. They kicked my butt every time but once. Here are some photos and a link to the outfitters for those interested. https://www.flywatertravel.com/destination/Jungle_Tarpon_Reserve

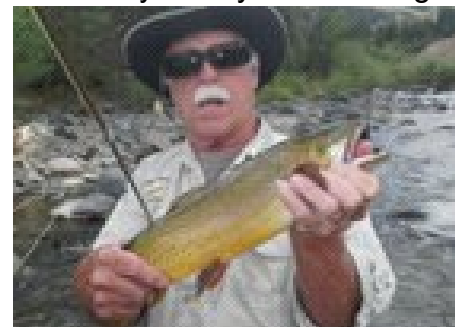
Here's to everyone for a happy holiday season and a prosperous and healthy 2020. **Capt Baz**

My Favorite fly rod..... By Steve Hofmann

My favorite fly rod **'was'** a 2005 SAGE model **'Launch'**. It was an entry Level 2 piece, 8 foot, 4 weight, and gold in color. It was listed as a smooth progressive power curve with very high strength to weight ratio. It was purchased from a Cabalas store in the **"Bargain cave"** area for \$80. I used the rod when I was just getting started in fly fishing. I used many times in lakes and small streams in Northern Arizona. It also made several trips to Montana, Idaho, Wyoming and Colorado where it caught many native cutthroat trout. It seemed like when-ever I used this rod I always caught a lot of fish! i.e. a lucky rod. I also used the rod to teach my granddaughter "how to cast". (See pic)

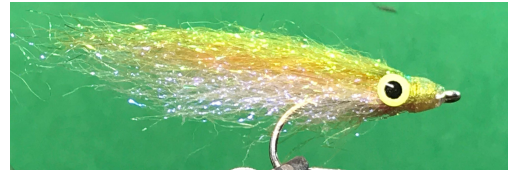
I eventually bought more expensive rods, but the Sage rod always seems to be the best and a dream to cast. Unfortunately, I never got to see the **"end of life of this rod"**.... i.e. it ended up by mistake at the bottom of **"Railroad Cove of Big Lake"** in the **White Mountains of AZ**. I replaced it with a nice Winston rod, but it was never as lucky as the Sage rod I lost in Big Lake, AZ.

The end of life part of the story: My wife and I were fishing out of my aluminum boat at "Big Lake in Railroad Cove" one autumn day. I was in the bow; she was driving from the stern. She was using my favorite Sage rod with her own reel. I was using a new St. Croix rod and reel. I hooked and was playing a large fish. She set her rod (My Sage) down in the back of the boat to help me net my fish. Then next thing we realized is that her outfit (my Sage rod) was going over the stern and into the water. It floated for a few seconds and then it sunk. Glug! Glug Glug! "Good By" to my favorite Sage rod!!



Fly of the Month - **SPRING GLASS MINNOW**

by Pat Murphy



MATERIALS:

HOOK: #4 MUSTAD 3407DT **THREAD:** MONOFILAMENT

GILL: SHRIMP PINK DIAMOND BRAID or PETITE ESTAZ

OVER BODY: LARGE PEARL MYLAR TINSEL

UNDER WING: MINNOW BELLY ICE DUB

OVER WING: TAN ICE DUB

TOP WING: OLIVE ICE DUB

EYES: 4MM NEON YELLOW DOME EYES

INSTRUCTION:



1. Debarb hook. Tie in mylar tinsel at bend of hook, move thread 2/3 way forward and tie in and wrap gill into a ball.

2. In front of gill ball, tie in prepared minnow belly Ice dub. Fold tag end back over underwing and secure.



3. Tie prepared 2nd tan Ice Dub wing over under wing. Fold tag end over back and secure.

4. Tie prepared 3rd top wing of Olive Ice Dub over mid wing. Again fold tag over back and secure.



5. Install dome eyes each side head just behind thread wrapped nose.

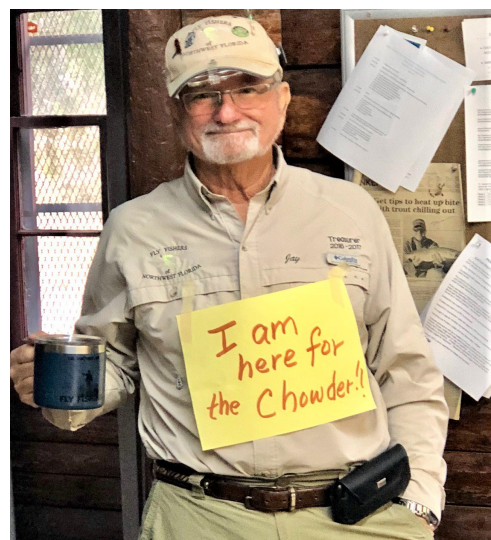
6. Finish fly head with uv resin or favorite head cement.

Note. In preparing Ice Dub wings, select thin bunch of material and pull and layer material to align fibers. Thin clumps will help maintain a tapered body shape. When finishing fly head, pull all fibers back together as you place head cement over nose and eyes. Maintain fibers until cement dry.



Reminder:
Meeting and Fly Tying the same week: January 7 and 9

Clinic on January 18
Russ' Famous Seafood Chowder



V.P. Corner Happy New Year! Hoping your fish spotting vision is 2020 in the year ahead. These past days I have been savoring the memories of another wonderful Christmas Party with our extended family. That's really what our group is to many and is a big plus in leaving a welcoming impression on new members. The collective knowledge that you all possess is a real treasure. That you so willingly share your experience with others reflects well on our club. Thanks to Jim White for laying the foundation for an informative collection of presentations in the months to come:

Jan – Steve Hofmann presents “Fishing in Wyoming”

Feb Cap'n Dan Storey presents “Fishing the Okefenokee”

Mar – Hugh Smith presents “Fishing Montana's Famous Rivers”

Apr – Tarpon Bob Korose presents “Catching Monster Pike in Canada”

May – FFNWF Auction!

Jun – Oleta Webb presents “Fishing in Montana” *

Jul – Steve Hofmann presents “Fly Fishing Northern New Mexico and Southern Colorado

Aug – TBD Sep – TBD Oct – TBD Nov – TBD Dec – TBD

**(by this time, we'll all be ready for the FFI conclave 21-25 July in Bozeman!)*

*Thanks again for your willingness to share your knowledge and experiences. Please contact Bob Myers at (850)207-2070 to schedule your presentation. **Bob***

FFNWF MEETING MINUTES December 2019

The President welcomed us at 1900 hours. 21 were present including two visitors (Sarah Holm and Tony Moore). The evenings' program of “Fishing in Montana” was postponed.

Financial report: The Treasurer reported we on track with finances and budget. Our club has 71 paid members and 4 honorary members. We sold 63 tickets for the Christmas Party with 38 members and 25 guests attending. Jay reported the party costs and the raffle prizes are within budget and we will enter the year 2020 with a healthy bank balance. Gerry Giles moved and Russ seconded and the Treasurer's report was approved.

Minutes of 5 November Meeting were accepted.

Old Business: The President thanked the 2019 Board for their service. Our current President, Treasurer, and Secretary will continue to serve for another year, and two new Members at Large, Steve Hoffman and Cyndi Myers, came on board for 2020, as did Bob Myers as the new VP. Jim White takes over PHW from Russ.

New Business: Paul reported the Corbett Davis family greatly appreciated the sympathy card sent by the club after Corbett's recent passing.

Club Outing: George reported outing to Stone Lake was poorly attended. Next year a spring wade fishing trip to Johnson Beach and a new freshwater site will be announced.

No Saturday Clinic and Fly Tying in December.

Newsletter: Paul needs short stories with a photo on your favorite fly rod for future newsletters.

Auction: it is not too early to start to bring your donations to the club. We have storage.

Education: The spring class starts in March and runs for six weeks. Your knowledge and expertise on fly tying and fly casting is needed at these classes to help the students. Contact Don if you have any questions or would like to help.

Fishing Reports: The annual November bull red run was poor to fair according to several club members. There were several theories for the lack of bull reds, especially bridge construction. Terry

reported the specs have not schooled up yet in the bayous. Nick reported one good trip for trout. Russ and his son fished for bull reds with Baz on one of the coldest and windiest days of the year and struck out. Baz's brother, Captain Dave, is also guiding. Russ challenged the club to come up with a sheepshead fly. Sheepshead feed on small crabs and live shrimp and are a very rare catch on the fly.

Christmas Party Reminders: The doors at Scenic Hills CC open at 6 PM and food will be served starting at 6:15 PM. Door prizes and the raffles drawings will finish the evening. A slide show will run continuously. Angler of the year will be presented to both Terry and David. Congratulations and well deserved.

1950 the President adjourned the meeting.