



Flies and Lies

Newsletter of the Fly Fishers of Northwest Florida

July, 2015

FFNWF

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MONTHLY MEETINGS at

Miraflores Park
17th Avenue between
Belmont and LaRue

Business Meeting

1ST Tuesday, 7 PM

Bull Session - Tying

2ND Thursday, 6:30 PM

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

Gulf Coast Council



Federation of Fly Fishers

Fly Fishing Fair

September 18-19

Ocean Springs MS

Friday Evening – Ocean Springs Yacht Club
Saturday – Gulf Coast Research Lab Campus

- Specialty classes, Vendor set up and get acquainted, Friday afternoon
- Bay front party, buffet, drinks, auctions & awards Friday evening
- Discounted lodging on the Gulf Coast Research Lab Campus
- Breakfast and awards at the GCRL Saturday morning
- Presentations, Classes, Raffles, Vendors, Fly Tiers all day Saturday

Don't miss this opportunity to make new fly fishing friends from all over the Gulf Coast! FFNWF was a huge supporter of the Fair last year and we hope to see you all there this year. Please contact me with any questions, or to tie, volunteer or participate in the Fair. Jeff Deuschle jeffcatfarms1@att.net

From the President At our July meeting we will be treated to a presentation by Bob Korose on his trip to Brazil fishing for Peacock Bass. Bob does a great job and I am sure everyone will enjoy the program. I am bringing this up because I am sure that many club members have had experiences that other club members would enjoy as a program. If you have fished on a vacation trip or in local waters and had a good time the other club members would love to hear about your experience. Pictures are nice but not necessary. Please contact Rex Straughn and let him know. Rex will work with you if you need the projector.

We need someone to take over the training chair from Russ Shields. Russ has done a great job at this task for many years now and it is the turn of someone else. Russ has found that club members will help teach the casting and fly-tying, but we need someone to organize this for next year.

There will not be a board meeting this month. The general membership meeting will be at 7:00 PM on Tuesday, July 2nd. *Cliff*

Please keep Cliff in your thoughts and prayers as he undergoes surgery next week, especially for the long road through rehab and therapy ahead.

2015 MEMBERSHIP DIRECTORY Please send your info to Russ rkshields@bellsouth.net
Name, (Spouse) , address, phone number, cell number, email address. Now

July Meeting : Amazing Amazon

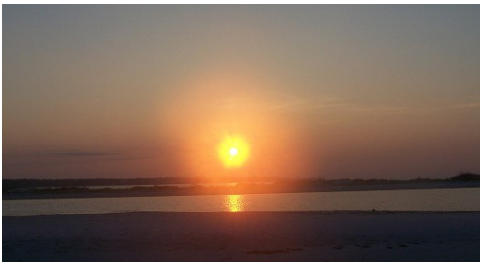
Fishing with Bob Korose – Our club meeting: Tuesday, July 7 – 7:00 PM
Another great trip with Bob. Just like being there yourself but without the mosquitoes or the piranhas. Nevertheless, don't go near the water. Just come to the meeting.



Dauphin Island Outing with the Hossfly Club June 6

Fishing was tough - but a beautiful day out there - caught a few trout under the lights then headed out on Sand Island around 4am - we actually fished the first point in the moonlight - I only caught a few big lady fish but one of our newer members caught a real nice speck

We did spot a nice school of bull reds out at the end of the island - they were really moving and I must have made quite a sight stripping line and hobbling down the beach with my bum foot - never got a cast! A beautiful day out there though - water as calm and clear as I have seen it - shore birds - ospreys feeding - dolphin crashing huge schools of mullet... *Jeff Deuschle*



Once again – the first, biggest and most. Apparently followed us here from Santa Rosa Sound

A Big Tarpon Overpowers the Equipment June 22, 2015

By George Norton

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 expecting speckled trout. 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 redfish. The run was too fast and too powerful. Finally the fish exploded on the surface and the line went limp. I had saved my fly line but the adrenaline left me exhausted. I left the rod and went back up to the apartment for my fly box. Back on the pier I cast and cast fruitlessly. The opportunity was gone. Somewhere in the bay a giant tarpon had moved on with a small irritant 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. The window of opportunity is narrow. Hooking up with a giant Silver King is one of fishing's greatest thrills.

We are happy to announce the return of Larry Sisney's fabulous photography:



The first is photo is of Jerry Giles holding this beautiful Cutthroat trout he caught on our Montana trip. Personally, this is among one of my favorites. I really like how the tail is slightly submerged in the water making the colors pop. I believe this is the smallest in size of the many that trout slayer Jerry landed on our last Montana trip - which also included Russ Shields and myself as Jerry's personal net boys. :)

The second photo was taken off of Ft McRee, Pensacola Beach. A black & white silhouette of a fly fisherman casting from atop of a rock. I took the photo as he was completing his back cast with the fly line displayed in front and behind the fisherman. Overall the image is complemented by the dramatic dark clouds in the background.



And Far Away



Minnesota.....
Bass weight, 4 lb, 2 oz, 19 inches
Caught on custom tied fly, TFO,
9WT Rod.

Rex Straughn

Michigan.....
Smallmouth bass
on a Clouser (tan
& white, of course)
TFO 8 WT

Paul Wargo





Fishing with Capt. Baz

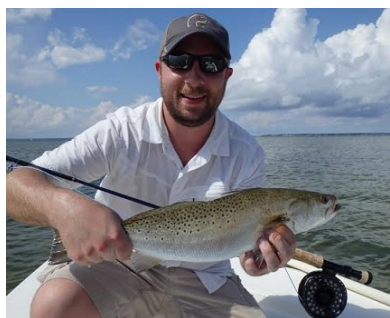
June was a very busy month, but I'm sorry to say most of my trips were targeting red snappers. Tis the season, but that will all be changing next year because I am tired of missing the beginning of the annual tarpon migration. The giant tarpon arrived earlier than normal this year, and there are more fish than anyone can remember seeing before. The fish are travelling outside the outer bar in 20-25' of water making them

prime targets for pier anglers. A friend of mine jumped 20 tarpon in one day off the pier week before last! All those fish cross shallower water east of the pass, and of course they have to come across the Caucas Shoal. I have two of the next four weeks blocked for tarpon fishing and hope to have some good stories in next month's report. If you want to try to hook a silver king, rig up your biggest fly rod with a floating line, straight shot of 40# fluorocarbon, and your favorite 5-6" baitfish imitation. Pick a day with gentle seas, and anchor on the big sandbar east of the pass 200-300' south of the outer bar. Another option is pretty much anywhere on the Caucas Shoal. Then you just wait and watch with your line coiled on the deck and fly in your hand...ready to cast. You may see one roll or even "free jump", but most of the fish are in schools moving silently and steadily along to the west. You have to see them and then cast so the fly intersects an individual fish. Don't cast blindly at a school; pick out one fish and try to strip the fly into the strike zone a foot in front of the fish and a little above it. When a 6' tarpon takes the fly it's the "Greatest Show on Earth" for a fly-caster, and the next three weeks are *Prime Time*. You'll have to get lucky to land one on 40# tippet, but you've got a better chance at a hookup. Add a couple feet of 60# if you want to improve the odds of landing one.

The other exciting news is that the false albacore are plentiful both inside the pass and out. Inside they are eating "snot bait", and matching the hatch is difficult. We landed a couple on #6 gummy minnows, but the fish were difficult. I haven't had a fly-caster on board to try for the schools around the Sea Buoys, but my spin fishermen have been catching them easily on spoons.

The Spanish mackerel bite is unpredictable. We've hooked a number of big fish on fly but never got one to the boat. The best day we had on spinning tackle was six Spanish all over 4 pounds with the largest an 8 pounder. It's been like steelhead fishing...lots of casts before the rod gets yanked out of your hands! You just have to *believe* and continue heaving it out there.

We were able to find trout and redfish on the flats in pretty good numbers this month. We've also been seeing a



few pompano in the mix. Here are some shots of successful anglers from June: Jason Porter June 2 with a nice trout and a lovely pompano,

Ted Calcaterra June 16 with an impressive trout and then his first redfish on fly (one of 7 landed and released that day), and Will Prascher June 17 with his first redfish on fly.



That's it for June. Be sure to drink lots of water while you're fishing in the heat. It's been brutal...

Capt Baz

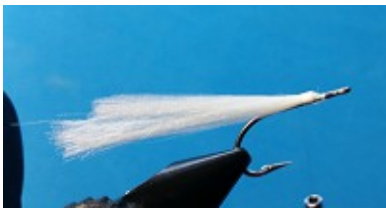
Fly of the Month: Florence Nightingale...by Matt Wegener

Dock lights provide a fantastic opportunity for fly fishermen in our area. Each night, hordes of hungry speckled trout and redfish position themselves underneath artificial light to gorge on unsuspecting prey. Whether the lights are in the form of traditional street lights or sunken “green” lights, there are no shortage of these fish magnets in the local area. Take a night-time boat ride from Fair Point in Gulf Breeze all the way down to Oriole Beach and you will find more lights than you can fish in a lifetime. And don’t forget about Pensacola, Bayou Chico and Texar have plenty of lights to choose from. Finding a light is not the hard part, staying quiet and matching the hatch is. Anchoring and stake-out poles are your best friend. The sound of an outboard or trolling motor will shut the bite down faster than the sound of Terry’s life jacket inflating after he falls out of the boat. As for matching the hatch, fish under dock lights are eating tiny anchovies, minnows and shrimp. That’s where this fly comes in. It lands softly, and imitates all three of those prey items. Plus it glows in the dark! Fish it with slow strips and long pauses. So dust off those flashlights and enjoy an evening of fishing where you can finally leave the sunscreen at home.

Tying Materials

Hook:	Mustad 34007, #6	Thread:	Monofilament, <i>Fine</i>
Tail:	Night Vision Fibers, <i>White</i>	Flash:	Wing-n-Flash, <i>Ice Blue Pearl</i>
Body:	EZ-Body, <i>Medium pearl</i>	Eyes:	Oohrah eyes, <i>3 mm Neon Yellow</i>

Tying Instructions



Crush the barb and attach thread. Cut a match-stick sized piece of Night Vision Fiber 2” long. Tie in at midpoint of the material ¼” behind the hook eye so that the 1st half of the material extends towards the hook bend. Fold the 2nd half of material over the first half and tie down. I like to trim the 2nd half slightly shorter to make a tapered tail.

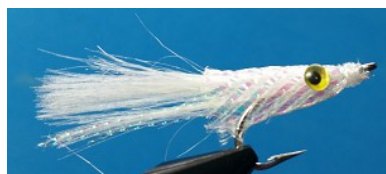
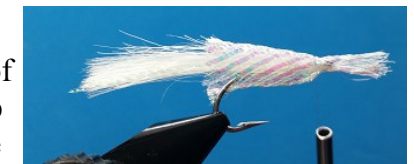
At the same tie point of the Night Vision Fibers, tie in a small clump of Wing-n-flash on the top and bottom of the hook shank to form a veil of flash around the Night Vision Fiber.



Whip finish and cut thread. Then cut a length of EZ-Body, slightly longer than the hook shank.

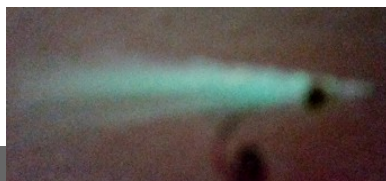


Slide the EZ-Body over the hook eye and towards the hook bend to form the body of the fly. Start the thread again over the top of the EZ-Body right behind the hook eye and use several tight lashes to hold material in place.



Trim away excess EZ-Body

With your thumb and forefinger, gently slide the body back towards the hook bend just a few millimeters. This will leave room to form the head.



Whip finish and attach eyes. Then cover entire body in 30-minute epoxy or glue of your choice.

Glows in the dark



Fly Tying – Florence Nightingale Thursday, July 9 6:30 *You, too, can glow in the dark*

Clinic - Saturday July 18 9:00 *Glow in the daylight, too*

And from our ace reporter.....

Fly Tying 101 *By George Norton May 19, 2015*

I've tried fly tying on my own with the help of library books, the internet and u tube videos but I'm old school. I like to take my classes in person rather than on line. I enjoy the interaction of the group in the old log cabin clubhouse in the city park at Miraflores and 17th Avenue.



There is an aged frig stocked with cold drinks and beer. The walls are covered with old black and white photos and a glass case with classic saltwater flies. The more veteran tiers are at ease with a batter of jokes and fishing tales that circulate around the table. Some of the newbies sit a little apprehensively. They are not used to intricate work with their hands like trying to put thread and feathers onto seemingly tiny hooks and their patience will be tried. Your inexperienced fingers do not work as they are supposed to.

Deer hair will shift from the top of the hook to the far side or the whole thing will unravel not once; but even two or more times when you thought you had it all put together. By the third or fourth time your frustration turns to success as you admire a reasonable facsimile of what you were supposed to have accomplished.

I can easily imagine a room full of frontier women at a quilting bee for the opposite effect. They talk about family and the older women keep the gossip under control. The fly tiers are predominately older males but there is a sprinkling of the younger generation and one female .

A lead tier sits at the head of a long table with about a dozen tiers listening and trying to keep pace with the instructions. Fly tying vices and materials such as hooks, tools, thread, feathers, and dyed synthetic and natural hair are spread all over the table. You grab a roll of hair, trim it and pass it down the line.

The learning curve to becoming a proficient fly tier is a little painful for some of us who realize how helpless we are. Why go thru this when you can go down to Wal-Mart or Academy and buy a packaged fly off the shelf? Because ancient primitive man made his own stuff for hunting and fishing and it must be in our DNA.

Cutting off a piece of fur from a deer, elk or squirrel, or a feather from a pheasant, turkey or duck's tail and tying them on a hook with the idea of fooling or deceiving a fish in their natural element is really satisfying. Yes we have the modern tools and materials but the natural material from a bird or deer you may have killed takes us back hundreds or thousands of years.



The June Clinic

Meet our Newest New Member: David Coward

I grew up in the Detroit area but raised my family in Buchanan near Lake Michigan. We lived on the St. Joe River so I fished it regularly. We caught mostly small mouth bass and walleye except in the fall when the steelhead were running up the river. I still belong to the Saint Joseph River Fly Fishers club. I joined because as a guest to one of its meetings I won a Sage fly rod in the raffle. I kind of felt obligated to put in the \$20 club fee to join.

Now I live in Littleton, Colorado and I belong to the Cutthroat Trout Unlimited club. We meet once a month on the 3rd Tuesday. I have attached the latest news letters for both clubs. The South Bend, Indiana club does not meet in the summer but they fish every Wednesday.

I have a fishing buddy in Colorado and we fish every week if we can.

The rivers in Colorado are currently blown out this month due to the heavy spring rains and the snow melt. Our only stream fishing is below dams or in reservoirs with our U-tubes and pontoon boats. Next month we will be back in the streams. My partner and I have already been to Montana on the Big Horn this spring. The fishing was really really good.

The smallest fish was a 17" brown trout. We caught between 30 and 40 fish each day but our friend landed 70 one day.



My girlfriend grew up in Pensacola and the reason we are here this time is for her mother's funeral. Sad times for sure but we do get to Pensacola about twice a year. I heard of your club through Mike Adkins my girlfriend's brother in law. He is a new member and was going to come to Colorado until the family situation. He has all the gear but has never been on a stream fishing. I tied up some Clousers for him but he just needs to get out on the water.

I was extremely pleased with the welcome I got last Saturday. It felt like home. I was set up with a vice and a tool kit and got a chance to tie a new fly. Wow. Thanks to everyone for the warm welcome *David*

FFNWF Board and General Meeting Minutes of June 2

Submitted by Gerald (Jerry) Giles, Sub. Sec.

The board meeting was called to order at 6:00 P.M., by president Cliff Newton. There were sufficient board members present for a quorum. The minutes of the May meeting were approved as published in the newsletter.

Treasurer Jay Brykczynski presented his report which was approved. He stated that we presently have seventytwo (72) paid members. He asked that those who have perhaps forgotten to submit their yearly dues to please do so.

President Newton asked that consideration be given to volunteering for a nomination committee, and also that we need a volunteer to lead the fly fishing course next year. If you are willing, please contact one of the club officers to volunteer. The meeting was adjourned at 6:30, P.M.

The general membership meeting was called to order at 7:00 P.M. The minutes of the May meeting were approved as published. Jay Brykczynski presented the treasurer's report and it was approved. He stated that the May auction was a record setter and very successful.

Various members reported good results fishing locally for lady fish, sea trout, and red fish. Rex Straughn told of his Minnesota, Canadian border fishing, which was excellent. Among the many they caught was his 4lb., 2oz., smallmouth bass. Robin Armstrong also traveled to Missouri, where they traveled by canoe and camped along the Current River. They caught trout, smallies, and rock bass. Oleta Webb said that the Project Healing Waters group had a very successful floattrip on the Chattahoochee River in Georgia. They took many fish on wooly buggers and blue assassin flies.

Russ Shields related that Navy Federal Credit Union, through their continued generosity, has made a much appreciated contribution to our local Project Healing Waters for the third consecutive year.

President Newton asked that the members give consideration to serving on the membership committee to nominate officers for 2016. The elections are in November. We also need a volunteer to lead the fly fishing course which we offer every year in the spring.

Barbara Albrecht, Director of Panhandle Watershed Alliance, gave a very enlightening presentation regarding local water resource issues. The origins, riparian area, topography, showed the importance of our creeks, rivers, and other drainage. Problems in those areas greatly effect insect, fish, and their habitat. She stressed the importance of club members involvement in effortsto educate the public and politicians as to the issues confronting our local environment. The meeting was adjourned at about 8:45, P.M.