



Flies and Lies

Newsletter of the Fly Fishers of Northwest Florida

July, 2021

FFNWF

PO Box 1041
Pensacola, FL 32591
www.ffenwf.org

PRESIDENT
Bob Myers
Myers.w.robert@gmail.com

VICE-PRESIDENT
Mick Milo
vectorfl@aol.com

SECRETARY
George Norton
geonorton@gmail.com

TREASURER
Larry Sisney
2021 FFNWF Treasurer
3610 Baisden Rd.
Pensacola, FL 32503.

MEMBER EMERITUS
Russ Shields
rkshields37@gmail.com

NEWSLETTER
Paul Wargo
586-943-3155
flyfishersnwf@gmail.com

Business Meeting
1ST Tuesday, 7 PM

Bull Session - Tying
2ND Thursday, 6 PM

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

OLD FASHIONED ALL AMERICAN JULY

Just like the Good Old Days: We will get together at the club and celebrate the grand old American past time of

FLY FISHING

Club Meeting – Tuesday, July 6 7:00

Wallace West will present the program: “*Tamiami Trippin’ - Snook and Tarpon by Canoe*”

Fly Tying Bull Session – Thursday, July 8 6:30

You are sure to be tickled to be back at the club. Celebrate by tying the *Redfish Tickler*. Note: Same week as the meeting

Casting Clinic – Saturday, July 17

Lunch by Chef Joe: **OLD FASHIONED ALL AMERICAN** Hot Dogs with Baked Beans and Cole Slaw.



The Pres Says Kept inside by yet another rainstorm has got me thinking about some of the better ways that I've found to spend indoor time over the past year. When I haven't been able to check out resources from the club's library I have been fishing for helpful aids on YouTube. For many people, visual teaching is helpful and there are a lot of good resources available. I'll mention a few of my favorites shortly.

If you have the opportunity, seek out an FFI certified casting instructor. When those opportunities don't exist make use of the resources at hand. Come out to the 3rd Saturday clinic. While we presently do not have a CCI or MCI certified instructor on hand each month we do have hundreds of years of experience just waiting to be tapped. Clinic days are a good time to observe and practice your casting and tying skills.

Linked here are a few of my favorite practice videos:

Casting About "Practice" From the Chesapeake Council of FFI Casting Instructor Jim Rainey shows you practice drills to help you improve your fly-casting skills.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=hpKqX8nz-Co>

Fly Fishing: How to Practice Fly Casting at home (and break bad habits) from CCI Capt. Chris Myers https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=db28F_Zu9Go&t=42s and

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ym09p-k7Pq8&t=168s>

Sexyloops Fly Casting Masterclass 7 - Circles Eights and Straights (a drill I use with the yarn practice rod to teach myself to cast with my off hand) <https://vimeo.com/238452423>

I would be remiss if I didn't point out that our own Capt. Baz Yelverton has some excellent YouTube videos teaching the Across the Chest cast. (see if you can identify the cameraman's voice.) Tight knots, tight loops, and tight lines! **Bob M**

Bob Korose's Presentation: "Big Fish Fly Fishing"

From the June meeting - Notes by G. Norton

Big fish have captivated Bob's audience at our club for some time. Bob has led us around the world fly-fishing for tarpon in Mexico and Florida, billfish in Guatemala and Panama, peacock bass in the jungles of Brazil and giant pike in the Great Northwest Territories. "Tarpon Bob" is always willing to share his experience and knowledge. His presentations are highly anticipated.

For billfish Bob uses an 8' 6" TFO (13-15 weight) while friend Ted, from Louisiana fished an 8' 16-17 weight rod with Ross or Tibor fly reels. The west coast of Guatemala has countless billfish, bull dolphin, and tuna, which all take large flies. The #1 fly is pink and white which imitates squid.

Bob described the technique of "attract and switch" for sailfish and marlin. They troll with conventional rigs to attract sailfish and marlin to the surface. When a billfish surfaces behind the bait or lure, they reel in the rigs and follow with a short cast with the fly rod. Sometimes the bait and switch game works and a thrilling tail walking sailfish or marlin takes the fly.

Bob's fish story of how he hooked and fought a blue marlin was fascinating. The marlin sounded so the captain circled the fish with the boat, and the fish came to the surface to continue the fight. The crew grabbed the leader and released the fish. Bob was one of the earliest anglers to land a marlin on the fly.

For tarpon Bob used a 10—12 weight rod with a Tibor Gulfstream reel. In south Florida May and June are the best months as the Palolo worm hatch occurs in 3-6 feet of water and recommended forty to fifty pound backing with an Air Flow line.. **Thanks Again for Another Great Presentation!!**

Fishing with Capt. Baz The June fishing started out with some excellent redfish sight-fishing and a hot run of jack crevalle. We even had schools of false albacore in the bay, but everything tapered off when the heavy weather hit. The good news is that Tropical Storm Claudette was moving fast and dumped less rain than forecasted. Now, two weeks after the storm there's plenty of clear water for sight-fishing, and we're catching Spanish mackerel at the usual Town Point spot. The FA moved to the SE but are only a couple miles offshore. There are "millions of them" according to my good snapper-fishing sources. Once the seas finally calm down the summer albie run should be in full swing.



The jack crevalle are in the neighborhood, and I highly recommend being prepared for them. We're seeing schools on most trips both in Santa Rosa Sound and the Gulf. If you're fishing with a friend bring a big spinning rod with a hookless "teaser" topwater plug. When the jacks catch you off guard you can sometimes bring them back to the boat by heaving the big teaser plug out there and cranking it in as fast as you can reel. Your fishing buddy will thank



you. Here are a couple thrilled anglers each with their first jack crevalle on fly. Megan Nellen on May 27 and Kevin Howard on June 2. Megan is the first female angler on my boat to land one of these beasts on fly.

The redfish get very sensitive as the water warms up, and the sight-fishing becomes more "technical". It's not for everybody but sure is sweet when it all comes together. Check out these shots from the first two weeks of June. It doesn't get much better. **Capt Baz**



September 18 - Gulf Coast Sweetwater Classic BANK DIVISION

Percy Quin State Park, McComb, MS

<http://ianglertournament.com/bank-division-2021-gulf-coast-sweetwater-classic>

George Norton



Everything is back to normal except there is no beer on the table!



On a more sad and serious side, we got this note from Larry Sisney:

"As we are starting to get out to fish and enjoying our beaches and rivers I want to remind folks to be aware and help protect our fish and wildlife.

When walking along the beach or a river bank and you see discarded fishing line Please pick it up and dispose it properly. Discarded fishing line is not only an environmental hazard - it can kill fish and wildlife as did to this Blue Heron. (This Heron was so weak from malnutrition it was unable to recover and died a couple days after I took this photo.)" - Larry

Auction Preview Highlights Part 2

As promised, here is installment 2 of my *Auction Highlights* blurbs which will appear in all the coming newsletters leading up to the annual fundraising auction in October. As you will recall, last month, I highlighted some of the premium fly reels that will be available at the auction. This month, I want to change course a bit and preview some of the excellent fly rods being offered.

This month's blurb will discuss 3 fly rod brands which I would consider to be firmly positioned in the premium fly rod category. Those who weren't able to attend the casting clinic in June missed a great opportunity to try these rods out. The 3 brands are **Sage**, **Scott** and **Thomas & Thomas**.

First, is **Sage**. The rods being offered are:

RPLX Series: 12 weight, 9', 3-piece (with case and sock, excellent condition)
 10 weight, 9', 3-piece (with case and sock, excellent condition)
 9 weight, 9', 3-piece (with case and sock, excellent condition)
 8 weight, 9', 3-piece (with case and sock, excellent condition)
 7 weight, 9', 3-piece (with case and sock, excellent condition)

The RPLX was the flagship model in the Sage line from its launch in 1986 and running through the 90's and into the early 2000's. It was eventually replaced by newer models but the RPLX in its heyday was the standard of modern saltwater fishing. The rods being offered are virtually "like new" and would be a great addition to anybody's arsenal. Since the RPLX model has been out of production for such a long time, offering an estimated price point for these rods is difficult. However, current model Sage rods in this category retail north of \$800-\$900. I would consider it an excellent buy to get any of these for 50-75% off that mark.

Next is **Scott**. Rods offered are:

"G" Series: 8 weight, 9 ½', 4-piece, (with case, PERFECT condition!)
 7 weight, 9', 3-piece, (with case and sock, excellent condition)
 5 weight, 9', 2-piece (with case and sock, excellent condition)
"STS" Series: 6 weight, 9', 3-piece (with case and sock, excellent condition)

The Scott G Series rods were first introduced in 1976 as Scott's premiere, medium action, freshwater line of rods. The G Series has undergone numerous running improvements in design and materials over these many years but is STILL the backbone of Scott's freshwater line. So, if your fishing preferences are the many local lakes, rivers and creeks or the vast trout opportunities throughout the US, you couldn't do any better than to include the Series G in your collection. The latest price point for the newest Series G rods is \$950 MSRP. Again, anything in that 50-75% price range would be a very good buy.

Finally, we have one **Thomas & Thomas** fly rod offering this year.

Model H59085: 8 weight, 9', 4 piece (with case and sock, excellent condition)

I must admit that I know nothing about Thomas and Thomas rods, except that, like Sage and Scott, they are among the "Cadillacs" of the industry. The company has been handcrafting rods since 1969 which actually makes this company older than both Sage and Scott. They also offer a line of bamboo rods so one can certainly assume that the quality and craftsmanship are there. Like Sage and Scott rods, Thomas and Thomas rods are priced in that same \$800-900 MSRP range.

Mick Milo

Fly of the Month **REDFISH TICKLER** by Pat Murphy

This is a variation of the traditional Redfish Crack Fly that has been a staple fly along the Gulf Coast. Originated in Texas and proven successful along Texas and Louisiana Gulf Coast. A fly pattern for any sight fishing .



MATERIALS:

HOOK: 3407 MUSTAD #2

EYES: SMALL YELLOW DUMBBELL

LEGS: SAND BROWN/GOLD TIP

COLLAR: EP FOXY 1-1/2" BRUSH SILVER FOX

THREAD: BROWN 140d

TAIL: CRAFT FUR SAND

SKIRT: PALMER CHENILLE MED. ROOT BEER

INSTRUCTION:



1. De-barb hook, wrap smooth thread base to half shank and return thread to ¼" hook eye. Wrap in dumbbell eyes.
2. At hook bend wrap craft fur tail 1-1/2 X shank. Mark tail with 3 brown bars.
3. Next, in front of tail tie-in wrap pair rubber legs ea side. Extend full length.

4. Secure skirt just past legs tie-in and wrap 8-10 wraps forward to about center hook shank. Secure.



5. Secure foxy brush forward of skirt and palmer to D/B eyes. Pull fibers back as you wrap brush forward, achieving a collar that is laying toward rear of fly.



6. Wrap in smooth tapered nose, whip finish and cement.

NWFFF June 1, 2021 Meeting Minutes

Call to Order: 1900 The President welcomed the attendees in the Boy Scout Cabin.

President Comment: After not meeting in person since March of 2020, the club held its 1st indoor monthly meeting. We look forward to reconnecting with once familiar faces and a chance to welcome new members at Fly Tying on June 10th and the clinic on June 26th.

Treasurer's Report: Larry. Current and forecasted financial numbers are in good shape and exceed forecasted expenses.

Old Business:

- Set FF 101 class dates for 13 September-1 November 6-8 PM. (18 paid.)

- Auction date: 23 October (lunch provided.) This year we will have some outstanding high-end fly rods and reels.
- Cyndi assumed the website administration position replacing Kent. Thanks to both.

New Business: None

Committee Reports:

Education: Steve: classes are full. Fly tying resumed in the building last month.

Membership: David reported on the status of paid members. Please pay your dues if you haven't yet.

PHW: Jim felt by the end of July we should be "up and running" or back to normal with in person activities.

Christmas Party: Jim. All going well for the event.

Trip Coordinator: George is looking for feedback on outings. The wade-fishing trip on June 9th to Johnson Beach had no attendees but George. Maybe a late afternoon trip rather than early morning would generate some interest.

Fishing Reports: Bob fished the White River in Arkansas and found high water tough. He and a friend from St. Louis landed some good size rainbows, browns, hybrid trout and a brook trout. They float fished with guides.

George caught some big ladyfish around the grass flats on Crazy Charlie's. The Crazy Charlie is a traditional bonefish pattern but works better around shallow grass than clousers with lead eyes because Charlies are lighter (bead chain eyes.). Big ladyfish on a fly rod are a great game fish with strong runs and jumps.

Motion to Adjourn at 1900 Made by Cyndi and Seconded by George.

NOTICE

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