

Flies & Lies

NEWSLETTER OF THE FLYFISHERS
OF NORTHWEST FLORIDA
JUNE 2009

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NORTHWEST FLORIDA
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MONTHLY MEETINGS

Meetings at Miraflores Park
17th Avenue between
Belmont and LaRua

BUSINESS MEETING

1ST TUESDAY, 7 PM

BULL SESSION

**2ND THURSDAY, 6:30
PM**

CASTING & TYING CLINIC

3RD SATURDAY, 9 AM

AUCTION JUNE 2ND

We are looking for donations of all things flyfishing. Please hold your items until the day of the auction if possible. I will have the club house open by 5:00 pm the day of the auction for donations and browsing. If you will not be able to attend, I will take your items early. Remember everyone can help. Make a dozen or so flies, make a fishing trip if you have a boat, bring or buy a book, if you've graded your equipment let us have your old stuff. Come early and stay late, spend some money and have fun.

Terry McCormick

President's MessageLarry Goodman

Hi....As you probably know, the road to Fort Pickens reopened to the public last week and shore- and wade-fishing are easily accessible again at the Fort. The roadway had only been open to public vehicles for a short time since Hurricane Ivan in September, 2004.

If you have never fly fished from shore on the Fort Pickens side of Pensacola Pass, you should give it a try. After parking at the northwest corner of the fort, fish westward along the shoreline beginning approximately 1/4 mile inside the pass. Before Ivan, fishing was best where deep water was nearest shore. Ladyfish, small jack crevalle, Spanish mackerel, hardtails and an occasional bonita could be caught on flies such as Clousers, Lefty's Deceivers, surf candy, etc. Because of currents and the depth of the pass, extreme care must be taken if wading. A reliable source said Spanish mackerel were hitting flies at the pass on May 24.

Good Luck, Larry

General Business Meeting, Fly Fishers Of Northwest Florida, May 5, 2009, President Larry Goodman, presiding

Items from the Board Meeting held at 6:00 P.M., are covered in minutes from the general membership meeting. Pres. Goodman called the meeting to order at 7:00 P.M. About 20 members were present.

The membership welcomed back Dennis Majewski, as he has joined the club again. Larry Sisney introduced his guest Dave Parsons, as a prospective member.

The Treasurer's Report was approved as submitted with comment by treasurer Sisney that anyone is welcome to review and comment at any time on his report. Minutes of the April meeting were also approved as submitted.

Members were reminded of the June 2, 2009, Club Auction. Donations from two estates will be offered at this year's auction, along with many items donated by active members.

Larry Goodman accepted the responsibility of the Club Directory. Larry Sisney took over the Membership Committee Chair.

Members discussed means of presenting a more friendly atmosphere to new and prospective members. It was voted to buy clip-on nametag holders to be worn at meetings.

Karen Brand reminded that the Southeastern FFF Conclave will be at Callaway Gardens, May 29th.-31st. Registration forms may be obtained at the Fly Fishers Federation web site.

Following discussion, Terry McCormick moved that we buy four pedestals for the new fly tying vises. The motion was approved.

Russ Shields requested that an e-mail be sent asking members to say if they plan to be at the club clinics. That will make it easier to estimate the food purchases for that function.

Russ Shields, with the assistance of Power Point Operator John Brand, presented an excellent review of Bill Oyster's bamboo rod school. The school has been attended by several members and they had beautiful rods on display.

Minutes by: V. P., Jerry G. (Secretary Bob Willice is Gone Catchin')

Casting & Tying at the Club.... Tom Regina

The June Bull Session will be held Thursday June 11 at 6:30 PM. Russ Shields will lead us in tying the Miss Iridescent Green Beetle. Bring your fly tying tools and tie along with other club members and guests. If you are not into fly tying then come to the bull session and just shoot the bull and join in for some good hearted jawing, bragging, and lying.

The June Casting and Tying Clinic will be held Saturday June 20 from 9:00 AM until about 1:00 PM. Starting at 9:00 AM Jerry Giles will lead us in tying the Tellico Nymph.

The materials list and tying instructions for the Miss Iridescent Green Beetle are included in this newsletter. The materials list and tying instructions for the Tellico Nymph are in the March 2009 Flies & Lies newsletter. Your club will provide all materials needed to tie both flies. If you have them, bring your fly tying tools. If you need, your club has tools for both you and your guest. Speaking of guests, please do bring a guest or more.

John Brand will conduct the casting clinic on Saturday June 20. John can teach you basic fly casting or help you improve your more advanced casting skills. Bring your long rod or use one of your club's sticks.

Russ Shields and Jerry Giles will fix us a mighty fine lunch at the Saturday clinic. On the menu will be tube steak with all the fixens... and as always Russ and Jerry will produce some mighty fine chow. If you don't want to tie flies; don't want to take advantage of the casting instruction; at least join us for lunch.

As always, you are encouraged to bring guests to all club functions. If you or your guest need fly rods or fly tying tools your club is ready to provide them for use during the clinics and guests are more than welcome to partake in our free food and drink.

Miss Iridescent Green Beetle... Russ Shields

While browsing through Roger Lowe's fly shop in Waynesville, NC I came across metallic green foam called LocoFoam. It was just the color I had been looking for to simulate the underside of a Japanese beetle I had captured. The only problem was the LocoFoam was too thin to float the finished beetle. I got the idea to use 2mm closed cell "sticky-back" craft foam or other closed cell foam and gluing an iridescent green fabric to the tacky side of it. I found the fabric I was looking for in a Jo-Ann's Fabric Store. The iridescent green fabric, called Tissue Lame, was a perfect color match for the real beetle. And so was born the Miss Iridescent Green Beetle".

Tying Materials

Hook: Mustad 94831, 2XL, 2XF, size 12 (R43)*
Thread: 6/0 black
Body: Black Hareline High Tack Adhesive Foam overlaid with Tissue Lame fabric
Underbody: UTC, peacock, MDG Sparkle Braid
Adhesive: Cyanoacrylate, i.e. Zap-A-Gap or Super Glue
Post: 1/8-inch yellow pre-split Larva Lace Dry Fly foam
Legs: Size medium, yellow, Spirit River Tarantu-Leggs



* O. Mustad & Son (USA), Inc. is in the process of changing the design and/or numbering system or designation of hooks. In this and future recipes published in *Flies & Lies* the number of the "Mustad Signature" hook that is replacing the specified "Classic" hook will be included in parentheses when it is known by the author.

Tying Instructions



1. Apply the Tissue Lame fabric to the tacky side of the foam sheet. Smooth out any air bubbles trapped between the fabric and foam. For each beetle, you will cut a body from the fabric-overlaid foam. Cut the bodies about 1-inch long and about 1/4-inch wide. Trim each body so one end is tapered to about 1/8-inch. Trim the wide end to a point as pictured.



2. Debarb the hook and fix it in the vise. With a jam knot start the thread on the hook about one hook eye distance back from the hook eye. In touching turns wrap a neat thread base back to a position slightly down the hook bend.

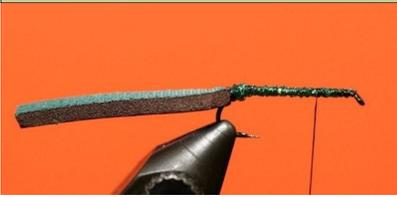


3. At the rear thread hang point, tie the fabric covered foam body to the top of the hook. Tie the foam on fabric side up by the tip of the point established in step 1. Take the thread back to the rear thread hang point.



4. Cut about a 3-inch piece of Sparkle Braid from the spool and tie it on the top of the hook directly over the body tie-on thread wraps. Take the thread forward to a point about two hook eye distances back from the hook eye.

Miss Iridescent Green Beetle... Russ Shields (continued)



5. In touching turns, wrap the Sparkle Braid underbody forward to the front thread hang point. Tie off and cut away the excess Sparkle Braid.



6. Apply a small amount of adhesive to the top of the Sparkle Braid underbody. Pull the foam body forward over the top of the underbody. While applying slight finger pressure to adhere the body to the underbody, slightly stretch the foam and take two or three tight overlapping thread wraps around the hook and foam to establish the body tie-down point. Move the thread forward under the foam tag to just behind the hook eye. At this point, tie the foam down again to begin forming the head. Allow the glue to set for a minute or so.



7. When the glue has set, move the thread back in several wraps to the body tie-down point. Pull the tag end of the foam back over the body. Do not stretch the foam this time. Your objective is to form a somewhat bulbous head. Tie the foam head down with two or three tight overlapping thread wraps directly over the body tie-down thread wraps. Cut away the foam tag behind the body/head tie-down thread wraps.



8. Cut two sets of legs each about 1-inche long from the rubber legs skein. Tie one set of the cut legs to the far side of the hook directly over the body/head/tie-down thread wraps. In a like manner, tie the other set of legs to the near side of the hook. Take two or three tight overlapping thread wraps directly over the body/head//legs tie-down thread wraps. Cut the legs to desired length or wait and cut them on the river.



9. Cut about a 1-inch piece of post foam material from the pre-split Larva Lace foam sheet. At its middle, tie the post to the top of the hook directly over the body/head/legs tie-down thread wraps. Cut the foam post to desired length. Take three or four half hitch or whip finish tie-off thread wraps over the body/head/leg/post thread wraps. Cut away the thread and apply a small amount of head cement all the way around the tie-off wraps.

BAMBOO ROD CLASS

For all you Bamboo Aficionados in our wonderful club, Tom Regina and Russ Shields have arranged with Bill Oyster to have a special class next March 7th through 15th 2010. The dead line for registering and forwarding a deposit is June 30th 2009.

There are four more slots available and two guest bedrooms, so you may want to get your reservation in early. The cost is \$1290.00 and that includes all your meals while you are there. The guest bedrooms are \$68.00 per night which is quite a bit less expensive that a motel in the area. Go to www.oysterbamboo.com or call 678-455-9113 to make a reservation or get more details.

Fishing Report... Captain Baz Yelverton

The good news is all the nasty spring weather appears to be behind us, and the water quality is getting better every day. Even better news is the reopening of the road to Ft Pickens. There are a few pompano and redfish in the surf if you can get the fly past the ladyfish. If you plan to fish the shores of Ft Pickens I'd do it soon, as the road isn't going to last long. Parts of it were covered up a few days ago at high tide. Imagine what any tropical activity will do to it. If you plan to fish Pickens Point try to time it to catch the last of the incoming water and fish until the outgoing tide forms an eddy just SE of the point. Sometimes the reds will appear in the eddy where the sandbar first starts to drop off. Use my favorite redfish fly and cast upcurrent letting the fly drift out with the tide. Start stripping as the fly goes over the dropoff. It'll be like steelhead fishing at Pensacola Pass! Watch out for stingrays, and don't get washed out to sea.

Another of my favorite spots close to the fort are the grass beds in Santa Rosa Sound out in front of the campground "pavilion". The pavilion is the covered area (includes bathrooms) visible by boat that's N of the campground store. For the past week or so on incoming tide the water along that stretch of beach has been outrageously beautiful, and those grass beds are always a good bet for trout, reds, and even pompano this time of year.



May was a tough month with more wind, rain, and muddy water than we've had in years. The highlight came on May 14 when Capt Bob Quarles called me from a dive trip at the Three Barges with the news that schools of false albacore were feeding on top. Ken (Cowboy) Shireman, from Arkansas, and I were staked out close to shore, and it took me about thirty seconds to pull the anchor and fire up the motor. When we arrived the fish were there, and Cowboy hooked the albie in the photo on his third cast while Capt Bob cheered in the background. This is the first FA of the spring season, and the fish inhaled a #6 clear gummy minnow.

Speaking of false albacore, the word from the pier is there have been more fish in the last couple weeks than we've seen since winter. I have a fly-fishing charter tomorrow and can hardly wait to look for them. There are also a lot of Spanish mackerel along the outside of the outer bar. Travis' "green weenie" Clouser minnow is hard to beat for the Spanish, and don't forget your bite tippet.

"Big fish" enthusiasts will be happy to hear the jack crevalle and sharks are feeding in the usual spots around the pass, and I saw the first tarpon of the year yesterday. My crystal ball has tarpon arriving in large numbers around the new moon in June...June 22. Time to start practicing Bimini Twists and Albright Specials. I can feel my pulse quickening just thinking about it...Capt Baz Yelverton, www.gulfbreezeguideservice.com, 261-9035.

Fishing Report... Captain Bob Quarles



Well, I had to share this day and these pics....Blue Heron Guide Service has been crushing the fish.

Mina fished with me back in early April with some friends and we had a terrible weather day..I wasn't satisfied with the trip so I offered her another trip at a deeply discounted rate, because she was such a pleasure to fish with and she really wants to learn the inshore light tackle game. So, her birthday came along last week and she called me back. So here we go...First she caught this trout....the fish weighed right under six lbs on the boga grip.



Then she caught a flounder, the fish hit three times before we finally got it in the boat, sight fished in 2 feet of water, no pics, about 2 pounds. Then she caught this 6 lb redfish.

Things slowed down for about 15 minutes and she noticed a school of mullet skipping out of the water frantically..I grabbed the big rod that is loaded with my jack killer and fire it over there and passed her the rod....fish on! She did a great job fighting the fish all around the boat, she is going to be my next lady tournament angler, watch out!



I told her we needed to run to my spot and catch a pompano to complete this perfect day and with about 10 minutes left in the trip she landed this beauty. How about that for a little five hour birthday trip?

I'll put Pensacola's fishing up against anywhere...I love showing people what we have and how to catch them....Capt Bob Quarles, www.blueheronguideservice.com, 501-1530

Fishing Report...Dane Law, Southeastern Anglers

It is with great pleasure that I can report all of our streams and rivers in north Georgia and east Tennessee have plenty of water and are fishing well. This should be the trend throughout summer. It also looks like the Cumberland will be returning to fishable levels very soon. Here is a snapshot of each of our waters. Call or email to book June and July trips.

Hiwassee River - Good flows and cold water. We are drifting the upper river daily from the powerhouse to Reliance. Trips start at 10:00 a.m. Sulfurs are hatching now. We are catching some on dry flies in the afternoons.

Toccoa River - We are able to drift here a few times a week. Weekend flows are the best. Good average size fish coming from deep and some on dries.

Tellico River - We are mainly chasing the wild fish and brook trout in the tributaries now. Water levels are great. Mostly dry fly fishing on the warmer days.

Holston River - We have enjoyed a great spring here with lots of caddis and good flows daily. We are beginning to catch a few more smallmouth on our floats. Trout fishing will remain good here through June and the small mouth will begin to pickup. Trips will begin earlier in the morning as TVA begins to generate in the afternoon.

Cumberland River - We are anxiously anticipating proper flow rates starting next week. If so, we will begin fishing there this weekend. I will send a short update to that effect. Dane Law....770-655-9210

Exaggeration – It's No Lie!

By Clay Gill - Taken from the Alamo Fly Fishers Club Newsletter

The Bill of Rights had an extra page that was lost. There was an amendment intending the virtual and basic right for all fishermen to exaggerate. Not lie,-- just exaggerate. It is all fishermen's basic fundamental right to expand fishing stories. For centuries loyal fishing fans have honed the fine art of embellishment re-counting their day outdoors. It takes time, skill, and practice to develop this prowess. All it takes is a little imagination and you too can conjure up some adventure.

I remember the great masters of olden days. By a campfire they could spin marvelous tales. You could almost smell the salt air and feel the fish slime on your hands. The truly great story tellers could conjure up a depiction so real and exciting that it was like a dream, and you were part of that dream. A large fish became behemoth and slight risk became grave danger. Calm weather evolved to life threatening proportions and each saga was a tale of Moby Dick. Electric excitement was thick in the air! You hear the drag scream--the line stretch! --You were on the edge of the seat!

I have been fortunate enough to have known some of these tale spinners and they all have one thing in common. It is the ability to stretch truth and common story telling to immense and outlandish dimensions. The ability to make the listener believe this concoction is a badge of validation for those who practice the art. It is even more fun under the stars by campfires.

You are truly good when young and old fall spell to the fiction, -take the bait and run. The one thing you must never do is admit the stretch. Captivated the recipient must look into your eyes and know it really happened. No wavering on facts. It happened, --you should have been there!

Now you know the best victim for a culprit of this inclination is the fledging fisherman interested in catching large fish but not sure what a monumental fishing battle might be like. They are gullible enough to have been fishing, but not yet pulled out of the boat by tight drag and monster fish. The refined skill to remove all doubt and make the audience believe the story teller is a polished product. You graduate with honors as they believe you hands down. It really happened!

A four pound Bass becomes seven, and surely the fish jumped dozens of times. Probably just a product of wishful thinking, a story is the by-product of an expanded imagination and propensity to stretch the limits of truth. All in fun, it is not a lie! It becomes the exciting adventure that brings so many back for more. As common as sunshine, fish tales are the grass roots of a post-fishing assembly to recount the adventures of the day. It is a chance to do it all again- vicariously.

People love a story. Accurate or not, a good story is worth a million bucks. You gotta love it! We all love to lean into a good tale spellbound and immersed in a saga so monumental and captivating you hope it never ends! That is really fun!

Who wants to sit by a camp fire silently watching it burn out. How can you waste it without a great story or tale. Kids need to learn to imagine. That is why it is ok to exaggerate. It really is good to teach then to dream and expound. Some day they will be in your shoes. A young sportsman will be enchanted by the amazing and embellished saga of the day. He may develop his own ability to enthrall others. That is how it starts and expands. They know the truth.

Truth and justice is the American way. But colorful outlandish fishing stories are an inalienable right. Everyone deserves the chance to tumble into an outrageous story of Academy Award proportions. A fishing story so outlandish it might spawn dreams or nightmares. Who needs mediocrity. People want to hear tall tales. Just ask them. You know it when they ask Pappy for more, --when it is way past bedtime! Nobody is sleepy and they say just one more story-please!

So--once upon a time, next time you have a young captive audience of fisher persons and a nice fire under the full moon, seize the moment. Remember the first rule of story telling. Never--ever--admit the stretch. Deny it to your death! That is the true mark of a professional. Fishing stories--must be so much larger than life! You know the magic is working. You see it in their eyes!

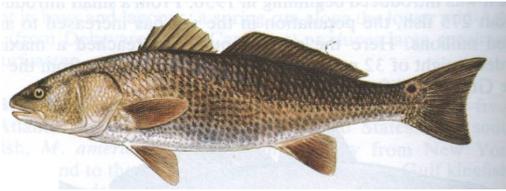
Blarney!--it matters not the quantity, quality or style of our travels. What really matters is we had big fun along the way. Should I give up this Fibber McGee role for Lent, spinning Loch Ness tales to our youth, -I think not! They depend on me! I'll just slight a little Irish Whiskey a few weeks.

The kids will take these tall tales to the sleeping bags to re-run them over in their dreams. And this, -- is where it all comes true! Just watch and see. They always come back for more. It keeps the expeditions very much alive and jumping! These little guys and gals deserve this! Life is too short not to! Top of the day to you all

FLY FISHERS

of NORTHWEST FLORIDA

**PO BOX 1041
 PENSACOLA, FL 32591**



JUNE 2009

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
	1	2	3	4	5	6
	Auction & Business Meeting June 2, 2009, 7 PM					
7	8	9	10	11	12	13
			Bull Session-Tying & Tall Tales 6:30 PM			
14	15	16	17	18	19	20
					Clinic - Casting, tying, gourmet lunch 9 AM	
21	22	23	24	25	26	27
28	29	30				