

Flies & Lies

NEWSLETTER OF THE FLYFISHERS
OF NORTHWEST FLORIDA
JUNE 2012

THE FLYFISHERS OF
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

President's Message.... Terry McCormick

Auction June 5th **Vickery Center, 2130 Summit Blvd**

June brings us our annual auction and this should be a good one. We have some trips, rods, tying stuff, flies, books and other gear. We need more and we need you to be there. Because of building delays, this years auction will be held at the Vickery Center at 2130 Summit Blvd. That's near 12th and Summit Blvd. **The doors will open at 5 pm for donations and pre auction shopping. The auction will begin at 7 pm.**

On the building front, looks like typical government work is way behind. I don't know where or if we will meet for the tying or Saturday session yet. As soon as we know, a notice will be sent out.

Just like the weather, the fishing is getting hot. Many members have been out fishing and I can't wait to hear some good reports.

Tip from Gerry G., your V.P. " www.sexyloops.com" is one of the best fly tying sites I have found. Great tying recipes and amusing fly fishing stories galore.

From Russ Shields....More from "The World's Best Fishing Jokes" :

"There is a particular pleasure in catching trout in a place where nobody thinks of looking for them, and at an hour when everybody believes they cannot be caught." -----Henry Van Dyke

Board and Business Meetings, Fly Fishers Of Northwest Florida, May 1, 2012, President Terry McCormick, presiding

Board of Directors meeting....President Terry McCormick opened the meeting at 6:00 with 8 members present. He led a discussion of the pending move from our present meeting place at Mira Flores Park during the month of May. Motion was made and passed to suspend the Bull Session and Clinic for the month because of the available space at the alternate meeting place and the logistic problem with rounding up the fly tying tools and rods.

The auction will still be held June 5 Mira Flores Park.

The club received a bill for \$107.00 for the yearly cost of maintaining our website on the internet. The bill will be paid and we will renew our search for a webmaster.

Treasurer Jay Brykcznski reported that the club has \$4,983.41 in our bank account.

Education chairman Russ Shields reported that the fly fishing class had it's final meeting the day before and that it was one of the best classes to date primarily because of the volunteer efforts of the club members. The new member fishing trip was scheduled for Saturday, May 5. Feedback from the class included suggestions that we have targets for casting, and that we include casting heavier rods in the instruction. At the meeting it was also suggested that one class session be devoted to kayak fishing, but the class would have to be extended. Instead, it was suggested that we use a clinic meeting to go over kayak fishing.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned.

Business Meeting....President Terry McCormick opened the meeting at 7:00 with 22 members present. Fishing reports were given by George Bennett, Bob Korose, and Terry McCormick.

An interesting program was presented by Larry Goodwin on bird studies in the Blackwater Forest. Beautiful pictures! It was announced to the members that the May Bull session and Clinic will be cancelled. Jerry Aldridge will notify the membership in the newsletter.

The New Member Fishing Trip participants will meet at Ft Pickens on Saturday May 5 at 9:00 and Paul Wargo will transport them to Ft McRae. Everyone was urged to bring water and food since nothing is available at Ft. McRae.

Project Healing Waters had an article in Florida Sportsman and the club was mentioned. Member Kevin Gorby was made regional manager of Project Healing Waters. Two veterans were sent to Panama City for a fishing trip.

Karen Brand reported on the FFFSEC Festival held at Unicoi State Park on Apr. 27-29. Congratulations to Karen; she was selected as FFFSEC Woman of the year!

There being no further business the meeting was adjourned. John Fitzgerald, Secretary.

At last year's Auction, a "Mr. Meat Smoker" marked "Personal Property of Jay Williams" on a large attached tag, was accidentally sold. This item was a gift to Jay from his now deceased son, and he would like to regain possession. He will repurchase it from the individual who innocently received it. Please contact Jay at 572-2624.

Fishing Report... Captain Baz Velverton



Even though the water temperature increased almost ten degrees in the month of May there are still redfish and big trout on the sand/grass flats of Santa Rosa Sound. Greg Speer (aka Rocketman) of Ft Collins, CO, landed this 5# plus trout May 4 on my new fly... a tan EP fiber "suspending baitfish". We've been waiting until midday to trout fish after the fishing pressure dies down. It's easier to spot the fish and there are way fewer boats. We've been doing best close to high tide. As I've mentioned before the fish will be a lot closer to shore than you might expect. We are also seeing plenty of slot-sized and smaller redfish but haven't landed one big enough to merit a photo.



The large numbers of big Spanish mackerel have moved off the grass beds in the Sound, but we've been having a great time with them around the USS Massachusetts. Russ Shields and Jay Bryczynski had good success May 10 with the old faithful green weenie. Russ landed a few fish on his bead fly, too, but the "mighty wiener" was by far the most productive fly. Jay was pleased to land his first-ever Spanish on fly. Way to go, Jay!



The third shot is of Dave Gratson a trout fisherman from New Mexico who had his first saltwater fly-fishing trip on May 17. The trip with Dave Gratson started around noon, and we ran straight to the "Mass". I had been there that morning and knew there were plenty of Spanish to inaugurate Dave to the salt. When we arrived all the other boats were gone, the wind died, and the water was almost glassy. The clear water around the wreck was like an aquarium, and Dave was blown away by all the baitfish, spadefish, barracudas, remoras, and Spanish mackerel.



Since he had little experience with an 8wt we took some time working on line speed techniques, stripping the fly properly, etc. Dave started getting some takes and learned about strip-setting, clearing the line, and fighting the fast-moving Spanish. About an hour into the trip we noticed a big brownish mass moving toward the wreck. It appeared to be yet another school of bait, but when it reached the submerged bow turret the fish came to the surface and it was all bull redfish! In all my years out there I've never seen a school of redfish at the Mass. These fish were very pleased to be among all the bait, and they happily cruised around crashing the surface from time-to-time. You can imagine Dave's level of excitement! After the initial adrenaline rush subsided he relaxed and landed four of these magnificent fish on his 8wt. His largest redfish weighed 22 pounds. After a while two boats of spin-fishermen arrived and the fish dropped down out of sight, but it was a little slice of heaven for a couple hours.



For "big fish" enthusiasts, the hot ticket at the moment is in Pensacola Bay at first light when the shrimp boats cull through their catch and heave the bycatch overboard. The sharks and jack crevalle will be there feeding, and they'll take big poppers. You'll see the boats a half mile or so south of Joe Patti's. It's 10 or 12 weight action, and be sure to use a short piece of wire...



For those of you willing to venture out in the Gulf, we've been having some serious fun the past few days with amberjacks at the Oops Barge. The wreck is just 3.8 miles SE of the Sea Buoy, and it is loaded with amberjacks in the 5-8 pound range. Here's Dave Marino on May 29 with the first-ever AJ landed on my boat on fly. Dave landed this fish on a 10wt and a big popper. Later he switched to his 8wt and a baitfish pattern, and I threw a big, hookless top-water plug to get the fish excited. It was great fun, and on calm days I'll be taking my fly-casters out there. There were also quite a few pods of false albacore in the area, although we weren't successful hooking one on fly. Sure bodes well for June...Capt Baz

Around the Bay...and Further Away

From Russ Shields...Here are some pictures that I took on my recent trip to fish the Holsten River downstream from the damn at Cherokee Lake. The fellow with the nice Rainbow is Cooper Adams, a friend of mine and my son Mike. This was a nice stretch of the river that held some fat rainbows and pretty nice Smallmouth Bass.



From Milt Mays....Hey everyone. Hope you're get the fly lines wet. I just came back from camping the San Juan River, and stayed at Cottonwood-Navajo State Park campground. It's a bargain at \$14 per night with electricity, though there are not a ton of electric sites. Its \$10/night without electric.

The river was very wadeable at 500cfs, though it is going up to 5000 in the next few days for the runoff flush, which probably will last 1-2 weeks. After that flush it will come down and fishing should be fabulous. It can get pretty hot in the summer, so if not plugged in with AC you will need to pick a shady site. I didn't catch tons of fish, like we sometimes do at the Bighorn, but all but two were over 15 inches and fought like bonefish. The cold water allows them to fight hard and not use much energy. And they do. You have to fish with small flies, 22-28, and light tippet, 5-6x, so you lose a lot of fish, but it's still fun. Even so, I got two 20 inchers that weighed 5 lbs to the net. There are many 10-15 lb-plus fish in the upper reaches, but the crowds are there, too. I fished all three and a half days in the lower stretch, just before the "quality water" ends, and had a ball, with scant company, other than a wild turkey and lots of geese. I caught several nice fish on dry flies as well. Of course, I broke off one whale--reason to go back.

No pictures--fished all by myself, and I have too many lonely naked fish pictures. Next stop is the Yampa below Stagecoach in June. Mmmm!...Milt

Around the Bay...and Further Away



PHOTOGRAPHS

BY

LARRY SISNEY



From Russ Shields....Members of the 2012 Fly Fishing Class are enjoying their first outing casting fly rods in the water rather than on the grass at Mira Flores Park.

The waves and wind gave everyone a bit of trouble but they unanimously agreed that this was a great experience. Twelve 2012 Class members and six long time members who came to help out shared a fun morning. Many thanks to Paul Wargo who ferried the fishermen and fisher lady to the Ft. McRae side of Pensacola Pass and to our volunteer member helpers. This was a fitting close to one of the best classes we have had in many years. Perhaps we can do this again next year.

“LET
THAT
BROOKIE
GO!”



From Larry Sisney....Photos from a recent North Carolina trip

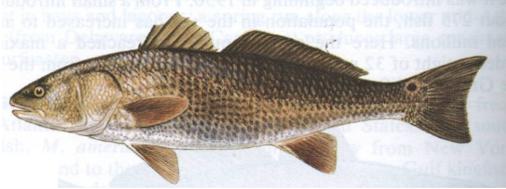
“THE
RELEASE”



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JUNE 2012

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
					1	2
3	4	5	6	7	8	9
		Annual Auction Front Page Details				
10	11	12	13	14	15	16
17	18	19	20	21	22	23
24	25	26	27	28	29	30