



Flies and Lies

Newsletter of the Fly Fishers of Northwest Florida

June, 2017

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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



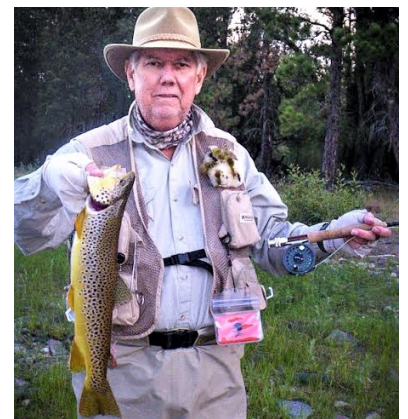
The Auction was a great success. Again. Thanks to Terry. Again. And thanks to all who donated and to all who bid – and bid again – and bid more. Again

Club Meeting – Tuesday, June 6 7:00 PM

Jerry Giles will present: "Methods of reading a trout stream. How and what trout see. Tactics for approach and presentation of the fly." Wild Blackfoot River brown trout. No trout are stocked in any Montana streams

Tying Bull Session – Thur June 8 6:30 PM

This is one of those months we have two events in the same week. Twice the fun!! **The Furry Dragon**



Clinic – Saturday, June 17 9:00 AM Lunch will be cheese burgers and hot dogs, potato salad and bacon to put on the burgers plus some **BIG** pickles.

Project Healing Waters Trip to the Chattahoochee River.



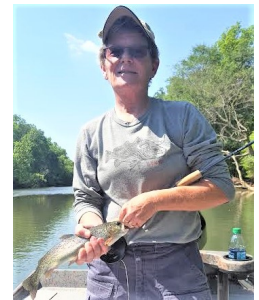
First Hand Account of the Action

Joe caught the biggest rainbow on the blue/purple assassin, 16 inches, Oleta caught the most, Jay caught the only brown that got boated and released. Joe and I caught doubles both days. Sheer delight. Weather was ideal; sunny not too hot, water temp was 55 and not to high. Yesterday we were catching rainbows, average size 9 inches. They were biting to the left of the boat from the right of the boat, they were biting, bumping and spitting the hook. They loved the San Juan worm and the stone fly. A Pure Joy. *Jay*



First Hand Account of the Action

Jay, Joe and I smashed the Rainbow this year. This year on the Hooch was insane for catching fish. A few Browns where boated but more were missed. I gave several a sore lip by being too excited and gave slack line. To busy to take many pictures of me with fish lol. *Oleta*



Project Healing Waters meeting in June:

Mondays, June 5, 12, and 26

Fishing with Capt. Baz

The water was clear in May for the first time in a few years, and the jack crevalle fishing on the inside flats has been outstanding. There were days when hundreds of fish came by Town Point, and we found them regularly running the sand bars as far east as Opal Beach. Of course just because the fish are there doesn't mean it's easy to catch them on fly!



Greg Speer put it all together and landed this first fish on May 10. It was a glassy-calm morning, and we were heading to the Gulf. I like to run along the north side of the island looking for "nervous water", and we found a bunch of it about halfway to the Ranger Station. We pulled closer to check it out and found about 300 jacks pushing big wakes as they cruised along the shore. We got well ahead of them and watched their approach...high, happy, and hungry. Greg dropped the popper in

front of the school on his workhorse Sage RPLXI 10wt and strip-set with precision as this fish crushed the fly. Twenty minutes later he boated his first leg of the *Emerald Coast Grand Slam*, and the game was on...

Bob Jenkins landed the next fish the following afternoon at the Big Sabine. We were sight-fishing for redfish close to shore, but the jacks kept interrupting us. Eventually we stowed the 9wt and focused on the jacks. It was so shallow even the jacks were spooky, but Jenkins hit paydirt late in the day. Jonas was fishing the same area that day and witnessed jack crevalle "tailing" on the shallow grass beds!

Imagine that...big forked tails sticking up out of the water! Sorry to have missed it... We landed and released numerous other jacks in May, but they were all on spinning tackle. Most of the action was earlier in the month; we haven't seen a decent school since May 17. My guess is they've moved up to the headwaters of the bay.



The Gulf calmed down for a couple days mid-May and we found good numbers of pompano down Johnson Beach. Once again it was Greg Speer landing the first fish of the month on May 10 followed by Bob Jenkins on May 11. Greg landed his pompano before noon and with two legs down had a good shot at



the *Slam*, but we were having so much fun we kept pompano fishing for an hour or so and caught four more. We lost our light later in the day and the elusive Grand Slam slipped away. Bob caught his pompano early, and we came back inside and ran all the way to the Big Sabine looking for redfish. My plan was to get the redfish and then come back to Town Point at the end of the trip and wait on the jacks. But as mentioned above we couldn't catch a redfish for all the doggone jacks at the Big Sabine! Of well, Jenkins already got his *Slam* last year...



Redfish flats-fishing is always tough this time of year, but there are still some fish around. Richard Stewart and I had fished seven hours the day before and for six hours on May 19 catching nothing but ladyfish and small trout. I decided to try a "Hail Mary" at the end of the second day, and we ran through the waves to one of my favorite flats on the north side of the island. It was overcast and the wind was blowing about 15 from the east creating a 1' chop. I was trying to keep from getting blown off the poling platform, and Richard was on the bow battling to keep the fly line in the boat when I saw a shadow 10' from shore at 11 o'clock 40' from the boat. Richard

quickly flipped the EP baitfish out there, and this 27" redfish inhaled it! Talk about a miracle!! Thirteen hours of hard fishing **and the magic happens in five seconds!** The moral to the story is when the fishing gets tough just keep on fishing...

There are plenty of ladyfish in all the usual places, and word is the Massachusetts is "loaded" with Spanish. I've been avoiding the Mass because the spin-fishing guides are taking positions over the wreck with their trolling motors and chumming with bay anchovies or "greenies". Just about have to "take a number" to fish out there. Once red snapper season gets underway it'll be a lot easier to fish the Mass.

The false albacore have arrived the past few days in huge numbers. We found acres of them on May 27 due east of the Sea Buoys. These are smaller fish in the 3-4# range, but man are they a lot of fun on 8wt tackle! Here's John Earll, Missoula, MT, with his first FA on fly which took him into the backing on its first run! Conditions look pretty good in the Gulf for the next few days. You ought to get out there and have fun with these "bad little dudes" before they disappear.

Capt Baz



TarponBob IS Tarpon Bob again!!!



I just returned to Miami from my trip to Mexico where I fished Scorpion Atoll and Campeche. I had a wonderful time and was successful in catching a grand slam of tarpon, permit and bonefish along with the elusive trigger fish, all on flies I tied myself. I also caught quite a few barracuda and mangrove snapper which provided several delicious meals on our 42 foot live-aboard boat. For more info see the article "Brand Staples Trip" on this link: (and pictures of Bob)

<http://www.scorpionatoll.com/expedition/vessels/#>

Bob Korose



Closer to Home We all know how tough the weather has been and I thought that I would have a better "Spring" photo to send, but that's why we call it fishing right? This photo is from a reconnaissance for a May ESFF (Eastern Shore fly fishing club) trip which still hasn't found a calm weather weekend to call home. Good sized pompano and speck which just missed a beach slam, but I hear that some of you guys are doing much better on the Florida Beaches

Jeff Deuschle



Here in the Bay (Sound)



My dad, Glenn, fishing last week in Santa Rosa Sound. The 32" jack was caught out of a massive school we saw cruising down a sandy shore. This fish crushed a white Bob's banger popper off the surface. He needed every bit of the 12 wt rod that I won in the auction several years ago. The 26" redfish chased down a gray & white baitfish pattern stripped over a grass flat. There were also plenty of nice speckled trout on the flats that were much more cooperative than the redfish that week.

Matt Wegener



Fly of the Month - Furry Dragon...by Matt Wegener (photos by Erika Zambello)

Last month, I had the pleasure of guiding a local outdoor writer, Erika Zambello, as she was writing an article on fly fishing our Northwest Florida Rivers. We launched my skiff early in the morning on the Yellow River with the hopes of showing her and her husband how wonderfully scenic these rivers are, as well as tempting a fish or two into taking the fly. When I have guests on my boat that are sharing their experience with the media, I like to make sure they catch fish. And when faced with muddy waters, like we were that



day, my fly of choice is the furry dragon. The rabbit tail and rubber legs provide plenty of movement and the bead-chain eyes in combination with a sink-tip line ensures it gets down to the fish, even in fast river current. We ended up catching 5 different species of fish that that day on the furry dragon, 11 fish total. We caught pickerel, 3 species of bream and even sight fished a 3-pound bowfin in 6 inches of water. Join me at the bull session or the Saturday clinic as we tie this great fly that can easily be fished on a 5 weight rod in your favorite warm water honey hole.

How to Train Your **FURRY DRAGON**

Hook: #4-#8 streamer hook
Thread: 6/0 chartreuse or fire orange
Tail: Chartreuse rabbit strip
Anti-fouling loop: 40# monofilament
Body: Chartreuse medium Estaz
Collar: 6 strands of rubber legs and hackle
Eyes: Large bead-chain eyes
Head: Loon UV clear fly finish: thick



Save the Date:

2017 Gulf Coast Council Fly Fair

Ocean Springs, MS will be held Sept. 15th and 16th, 2017

Again this September, the GCC Fly Fair will host many of the best tyers from Alabama, Louisiana, Mississippi, western Florida and beyond; showcase the very best casting instructors on the North Gulf Coast and for leagues & leagues; have wonderful programs by presenters and fabulous guides that will keep folks spell-bound; be a fun party with great food; and allow attendees the opportunity to take home fly fishing and tying related art, equipment and materials (i.e. items like rods, reels, tying materials, mounted flies, tying stations, vests, a kayak and more) from a marvelous set of auctions and raffles!

Minutes – There was no meeting in May. These are the minutes from April 2, to be approved for the record at the June 6 meeting:

Fly Fishers of Northwest Florida Club Minutes April 2, 2017

Board Meeting: In the absence of the President, the Club Treasurer called the meeting to order at 6:00 PM. There were 11 board/committee members present. March Minutes were read and amended to reflect one item missing. That item being to auction off the old projector. As adjusted the Minutes were approved. Club Treasurer presented the April

financial report, motion to accept and carried by all present. Jay further reported 53 members have paid their 2017 membership dues.

Old Business: Concerning future management of the current website, Jerry Barkley presented an outline detailing management and future expectations of the club website. A motion was made and seconded to approve goals as set fourth in Jerry's outline. Early in the evening Kent Reagan sent an email stating due to family health issues he needs to step back from web administrator duties. Jerry Barkley has volunteered his services to fulfill the duties in overseeing the website. Jerry reported that the old website will continue to be on the internet and will officially shut down in the year 2022.

New Business: Motion was made to nominate Bob Korose as Vice President. Motion was seconded and approved; Bob Korose is our Vice President.

Rex Straughn stated that the IFFF is encouraging fly fishing clubs to use their insurance plans. Jay stated we have a good plan with a local insurance; however would look into what options are available with IFFF and compare options. It was stated that several of the clubs that use the building have not paid their maintenance fee for the current year. Russ Shields said he would notify them and report back. There being no further business to discuss the meeting was adjourned at 6:45 PM.

General Membership meeting: Club Treasurer called the meeting to order at 7:05 PM. There were 16 members present. The amended March Minutes were read and accepted by all present. Treasurer reported the monthly treasurers report and approved by all present.

Old Business; as reported at the board meeting all items were presented and approved by membership.

New Business: Motion was made and carried before the membership to approve Bob Korose as Vice President. Terry McCormick reported about the Anglers Night Out, in that it was not vigorously attended as in the past.

The Club Auction is Tuesday May 2, 2017. Terry McCormick is this years auctioneer. All members are encouraged to continue to donate items and bring a friend with lots of money. Auction will open for review at 5:00 PM with bidding starting at 7:00 PM. Captain Chip Smith has offered up Tarpon fishing trips at a reduced rate to all club members in the May/June timeframe subject to availability. You can contact Captain Chip Smith at [\(404\)693-2953](tel:4046932953).

In that the first Tuesday in July is the Fourth of July, a motion was made to move the Board/General membership meeting to the second Tuesday, July 11, 2017. Motion was carried and approved.

Fishing reports; Speckled Trout were scattered as well as Spanish Mackerel.

Presentation: Bob Korose gave a colorful power point of his Alaska fishing trip from a few years ago. Thank You Bob for an informative and interesting presentation. There being no further items to discuss the meeting was adjourned at 8:15 PM.
