

Flies & Lies

NEWSLETTER OF THE FLYFISHERS
OF NORTHWEST FLORIDA
MARCH 2005

THE FLYFISHERS OF
NORTHWEST FLORIDA
PO BOX 1041
PENSACOLA, FL 32591

PRESIDENT
Milt Mays
(850) 934-3913
Lmilt@mchsi.com

VICE-PRESIDENT
Russ Shields
(850) 983-9515)

SECRETARY
David Bernard
(850) 435-0529
saltwatrflyfishr@aol.com

TREASURER
Don Lupone
(850) 477-9085,
djbigwolf@access4less.net

NEWSLETTER
Jerry Aldridge
(850) 478-9255
jamayfly@yahoo.com

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

BOARD MEETING
4TH TUESDAY, 6:30PM

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**PICK UP YOUR 2005
MEMBERSHIP DIRECTORY
AT ANY OF THE MARCH
MEETINGS**

President's MessageMilt Mays

What a nice February we had. Guess we didn't need that central heat after all! The fishing has been slowing down some, but there are still some rat reds to be caught in the canals and bayous. Specks are there too. Haven't been able to get out into the gulf, but I have heard that you can occasionally get into the big reds, in small numbers.

At the last business meeting we had quite a few names still missing from the "paid dues" column. I think that has dwindled to only a few. If you still haven't paid by the end of February, you will not be on the current roster. If you still want to join, or know of a new member that wants to join, you will need to pay Karen Brand, and notify Jerry Aldridge so you can get the newsletter.

Speaking of new members, we had one of them, Jerry Giles, give a great talk on fishing the Little Red River in Arkansas at the business meeting. If you are into nymphing there are some really big browns to be caught there. Or, you could catch some big rainbows, cutthroat, or even some brook trout in this cold water, exceedingly well-stocked, tail-water fishery. I believe there is already an April trip getting together for a week of fishing to this picturesque area only a day's drive away.

We also had a great bull session, learning another great dry fly, the Parachute Caddis, taught by our own Orvis fly tier, Kevin Cohenour. I for one, really appreciate the parachute type fly, because it is easier to see, floats well, and, of course, catches a lot of fish! Hoot also donated a few of his medicine bottles to store the flies that were done. Thanks Hoot!

Then, at the taco-eating Saturday clinic, we had another expert fly tier, Tom Regina, teach The Brassy. This is a simple, quick, yet effective nymph that I can't wait to try out. And if you are being an effective nymph, and bouncing it off the bottom, you might lose a few. But, with this fly, you could tie up about 10 in 20 minutes, so you can bounce the bottom without worries.

The PJC class is due to start soon, but last I heard we didn't have anyone signed up. Please advertise by word of mouth, and try to recruit someone for this great class. A lot of work has gone into making this the best class yet. So, get the word out!

Also, it is that time of year to start planning for the fishing trips of your dreams. We are only hours away from some great saltwater fly-fishing for record sized specks, or schools of reds in Port St. Joe Bay, Louisiana, or tarpon fishing in Carrabelle. Of course, March is cobia month in Pensacola, and these too can be had on a fly. So, get those calendars out and keep those great stories coming in. Also, start planning now for the 15 May picnic, with a great fishing outing to get it started right....Milt

Join us at the Bull Session on March 10th with Spencer Johnson, noted tyer and owner of the Fairhope Fly Shop located in the "Church Mouse" at 31 South Section St. in Fairhope, telephone (251) 928-1619. He will teach a clouser minnow he learned from Bob Clouser himself. Tying materials and tools if you need them will be provided by your club.

FLIES & LIES....If you still get your copy of the newsletter by regular mail, please consider receiving it by e-mail only. This will save your club money for mailing costs and your editor lots of time that he could use for fishing! Contact Jerry at jamayfly@yahoo.com

What's Happening... Jerry Aldridge

PJC CLASS CANCELLED....At press time, not a single person had signed up for the Fly Fishing class scheduled to start on March 2nd. PJC did not send out their usual list of offerings this term so potential attendees probably knew nothing of the class. If there is a last minute rush to sign up, we will notify you at the Business Meeting on March 1st or by e-mail.

ALL YOU EVER WANTED TO KNOW ABOUT HACKLE....The Program for the Business Meeting on March 1st will feature Jerry Aldridge and his chicken feathers.

BOY SCOUT CAMP....2005 Dates for camp at the Spanish Trail Reservation in Defuniak Springs are June 12-16, 19-23 and 26-30. We will once again teach the Fishing and Flyfishing Merit Badges plus flytying. We need your help to teach or assist in teaching. The Scouts love our classes! If you can help, even for a day or two, please call Vick Vickery at 478-3584.

TRAVEL CORNER....Did you know that a mere 3-4 hours from Pensacola, you can catch over 100 lb. tarpon in Carabelle, and on the way back, sight-fish for redfish and monster speckled trout in pristine clear waters of St Joe Bay? Did I fail to mention eating at the nationally rated Donut Hole in Destin on the way, either way!. Ask any of the board members how to get there....Milt Mays

CONSERVATION CORNER....Project GreenShores, off Bayfront Parkway, started in 2001, is the longest man-made reef in the world and is working so well filtering out the runoff that juvenile red snapper were on it after six months. In December 2004, the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency's Gulf of Mexico Program honored Project GreenShores with the First Place Gulf Guardian Award, which recognizes outstanding projects that restore and protect the nation's Gulf of Mexico coastal environment...Milt

TRAVIS AKINS WEBSITE....Take a look at www.freewebs.com/beachflies to see Travis' new website. Great looking flies! It looks like Travis is trying to turn his considerable skill at tying from a hobby into a real job!

MAY & OCTOBER PICNICS....Shoreline Park in Gulf Breeze has recovered enough to again be the site of our 2005 picnics. We probably will have fishing outings along with the picnics. Stand by for dates and more info from Art deTonnancourt, our Fishing Trips Chair.

FLY TYERS NEEDED....The Southeastern Council Conclave Is scheduled for June 2-4 at Callaway Gardens Resort in Pine Mountain, GA. Tyers, **especially trout fly tyers** are needed to demonstrate their skills. We have several fine tyers so lets show up in force! Karen will tell us how to apply at the March business meeting.

Guide Speak... Tom Regina

When planning to fish a new and unfamiliar water it may be a good idea to hire a fly fishing guide to help you get acquainted with the new river, creek, stream, still water, etc. A professional guide wants you to catch fish - lots of fish and big fish. Because his livelihood depends to a great extent on repeat clients and word of mouth referrals, a guide will usually take anglers to the *honey spots* where chances of success are most probable. Thus with the knowledge gained from the guide we can fish the new water on our own and with confidence.

When we hire a fly fishing guide we realize, or at least we should realize, not every guided fly fishing adventure will ensure lots of fish or trophy fish caught. However we will learn from the guide. Maybe a new knot, a new fly, a new tactic, etc. And we should get a better knowledge of the new water.

On those guided fly fishing trips when the fishing is less productive than we anticipated or hoped for we can be assured of comforting coun-

sel from our guide in the form of "Guide Speak". Simply put, guide speak is a collection of excuses given by a guide when the fishing was lousy or the guide inept or just a jerk. (A professional guide can be a jerk? Yep. Ask Art).

Following is some topical guide speak: *You were close to catching lots of fish. The moon was full. There was no moon. The water was too muddy. The water was too clear. The water was too cold. The water was too warm. The water was too high. The water was too low. The air temperature was too cold. The air temperature was too warm. The sky was too cloudy. The sky was too clear. There was too much wind. There was not enough wind. The rain put the fish down. If it had rained the fish would have been on the bite. The humidity was too high. The humidity was too low. The barometric pressure was too high. The barometric pressure was too low.* But the best and number one guide speak is - YOU SHOULD HAVE BEEN HERE YESTERDAY (or last week, month or year).

MORE CHRISTMAS PARTY PICS



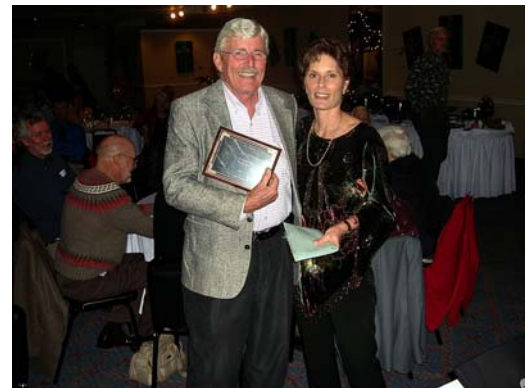
Head Table

What are you so surprised about, Karen?



Tom and Jay finally agree on something!

2004 "Angler of the Year" Art deTonnancourt



Brook Trout in the Smoky Mountain National Park

Compiled from non-copyright sources by Tom Regina

The brook trout is the only trout native to the Southern Appalachian Mountains. The brookie, once widespread throughout Appalachia inhabited small, fast, high elevation mountain streams and larger rivers down to elevations of about 1600 feet. Within what today is the Great Smoky Mountains National Park (GSMNP) the wild and natural brook trout vanished from about 75 percent of its historical range in the early part of the 20th century.

The initial loss of wild brook trout in the park (before it was a national park.) was caused by large-scale clear cut logging right down to the stream banks. After clear cutting and subsequent fires, rain and snow melt lead to soil run-off from steep mountain sides and caused stream and river siltation. Because trees had been cut from stream banks more sunlight reached the water and caused water temperatures to rise above the brookie's tolerable temperature of 68 degrees Fahrenheit during summer months. With high summer water temperatures the brookie could not survive below about 3000 feet elevation and much of the fishery was lost.

In an effort to reestablish the streams of GSMNP as a trout fishery, non-native rainbow, brown and non-native brook trout from the northern United States, were planted in the streams of the park. The Appalachian brook trout is a distinct subspecies differing from the northern species. Planting non-native trout in the park streams continued from about 1910 to 1975. Competition from non-native fishes lead to further decline of the brook trout populations.

In an effort to restore the native brook trout populations to the park some streams have been, and many are still, closed to any fishing. Some of the closed streams have been electroshocked and the non-native fishes removed. Today no non-native trout are planted in GSMNP waters. In 2002 eight of the previously closed streams in the park were reopened to fishing.

Fishing regulations and information for GSMNP are published in a pamphlet "Great Smoky Mountains Fishing Regulations" available free from any ranger station or visitor center in the park. A valid Tennessee or North Carolina fishing license is required to fish in the park. A trout stamp is not needed. Daily possession limits are in effect for rainbow and brown trout. However, possession of brook trout is prohibited.

FLY RODS/OUTFITS FOR SALE

1. Cabela's Stowaway, 8', 7 piece, 5 weight, appears almost new. Cabela's 567D reel with WF5F line and backing. Rod/reel case. \$60
2. Cabela's Stowaway, 8 ½', 5 piece, 5 weight, appears almost new. Cabela's Prestige reel with level line and backing. Rod/reel case. \$40
3. Cabela's Three Forks, 7 ½', 3 piece, 3 weight, appears unused. \$25
4. Loomis GL3, 8 ½', 2 piece, 5 weight with reel and WF5F line and backing, appears little used, rod/reel case. \$120
5. Silstar GV86FL, 6weight, 2 piece, with Cabela's 789D graphite reel and WF6F line and backing. Rod/reel case. \$25
6. Berkely fiberglass, 9', 2 piece, original, fair condition, Martin reel with WF7F line and backing, Mountain Cork rod/reel case. \$20

Contact Darren Hohaus, 438-2086 or dhaus_1@cox.net

EDITOR'S NOTE: Darren's father was a student in our flyfishing class in 1997 but did not join our club. He recently passed away and Darren would like to pass on his dad's outfits (at a very reasonable price) to someone who would appreciate them. I inspected them all and cast several so give me a call if you have technical questions about the rods and reels. Jerry Aldridge, 478-9255 or jamayfly@yahoo.com

March Quick Ties with Tom Regina... Cased Caddis

For most of us, tying the cased caddis will involve using at least one new material - model railroad ballast. Model railroad ballast is the “rocks” model railroaders use for track ballast and landscaping. The ballast comes in an array of colors and sizes. For about \$4 to \$6 you can buy, from a hobby shop, a lifetime supply of ballast for yourself and all your fly tying buddies. Don't. I already did and will be happy to share my ballast with y'all.

Tools needed to tie the cased caddis are a vise, bobbin, bodkin, scissors, cigarette lighter and sticks (tooth picks, etc.) to mix and apply epoxy glue. Hackle pliers and an electrical test lead clip are handy tools for this and other flies. Electrical test lead clips can be purchased from Radio Shack for about \$1. The materials needed to tie the cased caddis are hooks, beads, thread, head cement, antron yarn, partridge feathers, epoxy glue, UNI-Stretch and model railroad ballast.

At the Saturday March 19 casting and tying clinic your club will provide all the materials needed to tie the cased caddis. If you have your own tools please bring them. If you don't have fly tying tools, your club will provide them to you. Bring a guest(s). We will treat them as guests and provide your guests with materials, tools and instruction. Young'uns are especially invited. And we will feed your guests a free lunch.

Tying Instructions

| | |
|------------------|---------------------------------------|
| Hook | Mustad 9672 size 10 |
| Thread | 6/0 black |
| Bead | 1/8" black tungsten |
| Hackle | Partridge feather (with dark marking) |
| Underbody | Chartreuse UNI-Stretch |
| Glue | Five minute epoxy |
| Body | Model railroad ballast |



1. Crush the hook barb, place a bead onto the hook and mount the hook in the vise. Slide the bead away from the hook eye toward the vise jaws. At the hook eye, tie on a thread bump. Whip finish the thread bump, cut away the thread and coat the thread bump with head cement.



2. Slide the bead over the thread bump right up against the hook eye.



3. Reattach the thread in back of the bead and lay down in close touching turns a neat thread base to the hook bend. Cut a length of antron yarn about 2 inches long. With a fire stick (cigarette lighter) melt one end of the yarn to form a *black* cased caddis head. Lay the caddis headed yarn on top of the hook shank with the black head hanging over the hook bend about 1/8 inch. Starting at the back of the hook (the head of the fly) tie down the yarn with a few tight thread wraps. Keeping the yarn on top of the hook, tie the yarn down to the bead. Cut away the excess yarn and wrap the thread back to the yarn tie-in-point at the back of the hook.

Continued... March Quick Ties with Tom Regina... Cased Caddis



5. Select a nicely marked partridge feather with short barbs. Strip the soft fuzz from both sides of the base of the feather then strip the barbs from one side of the feather. Tie the feather in by the tip at the hook bend, right behind the head of the bug. Cut away the excess feather tip and wrap the partridge hackle around the hook two or three times. Take a few thread turns in front of the hackle to force it back over and around the head of the fly. Wrap the thread forward to the bead, whip finish and cut away the thread.



6. At the bead, using a jam knot, tie in the UNI-Stretch underbody material. Wrap several layers of underbody to build up bulk. However, don't build up too much bulk at the head (hook bend) of this fly as it will reduce the hook gap. And that ain't good cause fish won't get hooked and you will have only a fish tale to tell about the big one that got away and we ain't gonna believe it. KEEP A WIDE HOOK GAP. When the desired tapered underbody (larger at the bead end) is attained, tie off the underbody material with a whip finish and cut away the material.



7. Mix a small amount of five minute epoxy glue, about enough for two flies. Apply a liberal coat of epoxy to the underbody of the cased caddis. Allow the epoxy to get tacky. Then plunge the fly into the model railroad ballast. Use your fingers to force the ballast into the epoxy. Keep the hook eye clear of epoxy and stones. Hang the finished flies to dry overnight.

*This space reserved
for your fish stories,
photos and tall tales in
general. No tall tale
to tall to tell.*

COMMITTEE CHAIRS

AUCTION - Travis Akins

CONSERVATION - Skeet Lores

DIRECTORY/NEWSLETTER - Jerry Aldridge

EDUCATION/CASTING - John Brand

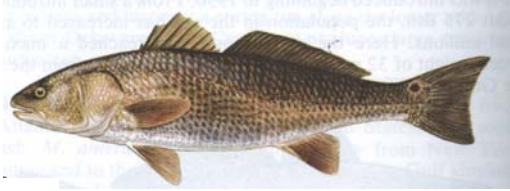
EDUCATION/TYING - Tom Regina

TRIPS & OUTINGS - Art de Tonnancourt

FFF REPRESENTATIVE - Larry Goodman

LIBRARY - Kevin Cohenour

MEMBERSHIP - Karen Brand



MARCH 2005

| Sun | Mon | Tue | Wed | Thu | Fri | Sat |
|-----------|-----------|--------------------------|-----------|---|---|-----------|
| | | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 |
| | | Business Meeting 7 PM | | | | |
| 6 | 7 | 8 | 9 | 10 | 11 | 12 |
| | | | | Bull Session-Tying & Tall Tales 6:30 | | |
| 13 | 14 | 15 | 16 | 17 | 18 | 19 |
| | | | | | Clinic - Casting, tying gourmet lunch 9 AM | |
| 20 | 21 | 22 | 23 | 24 | 25 | 26 |
| 27 | 28 | 29 | 30 | 31 | | |

