



# Flies and Lies

Newsletter of the Fly Fishers of Northwest Florida

March, 2015

## FFNWF

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### MONTHLY MEETINGS at

Miraflores Park  
17th Avenue between  
Belmont and LaRue

### Business Meeting

1ST Tuesday, 7 PM

### Bull Session - Tying

2ND Thursday, 6:30 PM

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

**Fly Fishing Class starts Monday, Mar. 9** at 6:00. The first weeks are important and we want to make a good first impression on our new members.

You are welcome to come and help – be a mentor to someone in the class or just hang out and show them how much fun it is to be part of our club. See page 6

**News Flash – 15 are enrolled. 1 seat left**

**Dues are due.** Please see Jay or send \$30 check payable FFNWF to **Jay Brykczynski**  
**4983 Prieto Drive**  
**Pensacola FL 32506**

## COMING SOON TO A CLUB NEAR YOU.

Rated G for all Audiences  
The auction is just two months away. Time to clean up your closet and make some donations. Everything is needed, rods, reels, flies, books, gear, trips and just about everything in between. Start now getting ready and save up to spend some money. Your Auctioneer,  
Terry McCormick  
PS Buy a rod, catch a tarpon  
(see page 7)

## Presidents Message March 2015



**Good news!** I was notified by the IFFF that our request to align ourselves with the Gulf Coast Council has been approved, effective immediately. There is an opportunity for a few members to serve on the Gulf Coast Council Board, and I am sure they will welcome any help on the fly fishing fair later this year. I will learn more about this as I talk more with Kyle Moppert, President of the Gulf Coast Council. There are several club activities coming up this Spring:

**March 9 is the start of our annual fly-fishing course.** Russ Shields is organizing this but he will need lots of help from our members to assist with casting and fly-tying.

**May 5 is our annual auction.** Not only is this a fun event, it is an opportunity to get some great gear at a good price. Also an opportunity to empty your closet of underutilized fishing gear. This is a big money maker for the club. Come participate and have fun. This takes the place of our regular meeting in May.

**Also in May we will have a club outing** at Naval Live Oaks in Gulf Breeze, more details to follow.

There will **not** be a board meeting this month; the membership meeting is at 7:00 PM on Tuesday, March 3rd.

## February Meeting – Feb 3 -

Karen Brand and John Brand, Joe Higgins, and Friends out where the buffalo roam (really) and the deer and the trout play. A great attendance welcomed our adventurers home.



Joe reports, “Yes, I found water (and the fish).”  
(see February issue)



Karen and John report on flies, technique, snakes, and weather – lots of everything.

## March Meeting – Tuesday, Mar 3 7:00 PM

For the program we will look at some short fly casting videos done by Capt. Chris Myers of Central Florida Sight Fishing Charters. Along with the basic steps needed to put together a good casting stroke and tight loops, there will be a couple of simple tips to improving casting that you can practice yourself whenever you pick up a rod. This will be the last meeting before the Spring Class starts so it will be your last chance to sign up to help. And a good time to pay your dues for 2015. Or Jay will be coming looking for you.....

## February Fly Tying



Tying the Shrimp Fly with Semper Fi-ber

## and Bull Session

Feb 12



“It was *THIS* big” (notice how excited everyone was)

## March Fly Tying Thursday, March 12 6:30

The Whitlock’s Red Fox Squirrel Nymph. *See page 5*

## February Clinic – Feb 21

Greg Saunders “The Fly Lipp Guy” gave us a true seminar on fly tying, especially using his famous Fly Lipps ([www.flylipps.com](http://www.flylipps.com), also available from Feather Craft). Famous all over the country.... and he's right here in Pensacola. He will be back for more fly tying in coming months.



Joe brought his Famous Chili. Didn't last long...

## March Clinic – Saturday, Mar 21 9:00 AM

So we will do it again. Lunch will be Joe's Famous Chili Cheese Burgers. Yum. Yum.

## Fishing with Capt. Baz



January and February are always the months when we catch the biggest redfish of the year, and this year was no exception. The "Running of the Bulls" is mostly over, and we hunt for these monsters along the beaches close to Pensacola Pass. In past years the fish have been relatively easy targets. But now they've been found by local spin-fishing guides and recreational anglers, and the word is out. They get bombarded regularly by amateurs who run their motors through the schools and heave heavy lead jigs right on their heads. It's not a pretty sight.

The best days are during the week when the wind is blowing out of the N or NE and it's sunny and cold. The colder the better to keep the beach fishermen at home. Even when we have it all to ourselves the fish are amazingly spooky. Any rocking of the boat, bumping the gunwales, anchor noise, or even the push pole touching the sand can send the fish into a frenzy. The only success we've had is when wind and tide conditions allow us to drift into range where we quietly anchor the boat and wait for the fish to come to us.

Jonas and I hit it right on January 28 and after an hour or so of trying we each hooked fish in the 25 pound range. Tan/white was the color that day. I got mine to eat a clouser, and Jonas showed how they do it in Iceland by landing his on a tan/white "tube" fly and size 4 (!) hook. Here's Jonas with the first big redfish of 2015.



The tube flies are very interesting, and I see them becoming an important part of my arsenal. The hookless fly is tied on a plastic tube which threads down your line to a small short-shank hook that is tied to the line. They are easier to cast than clousers and work as well or possibly better. Plus, flies last longer because there are no hooks to rust. I can't wait to try them on the false albacore, as it will be very easy to tie flies on very short tubes to mimic "snot" bait. More on that later as I learn more about using the tube flies.



January 29 the wind shifted to the S, and Bob Jenkins, Aspen, CO, and I spent the morning chasing more skittish fish on the north side of the island. After a few frustrating hours where we saw and cast with no success to dozens of fish we finally declared victory and headed to the Gulf. The wind had kicked up enough swell that it was impossible to sneak up on the fish out there, so we decided to try the Big Lagoon. As we were running across Pensacola Pass we noticed huge schools of bait moving in with the strong incoming tide through the shallow waters by Ft McRee. These were 20' diameter dense schools of 4-5" black-backed minnows, and the big redfish



were feeding on them. By the end of the afternoon Bob had hooked ten and landed seven, and the biggest fish bottomed-out my 30# Bogagrip. It was another epic January day. Here are some photos.



On February 10 we tried and tried for the bull redfish along the shore but were never able to get the fly in exactly the right spot. Seemed like the fish were running from the shadow thrown by the fly line with the fly still in the air! But late in the day we found a school of smaller fish inside the pass and Greg Esco made a perfect cast and landed one on a green/white clouser minnow.



The next day was perfect for the Gulf with light NE wind and a strong incoming current. Local cardiologist Jim Williams and I found a nice concentration of big fish in an area where we could slip into range and drop anchor from the stern with the casting platform pointing west. We patiently

waited as fish after fish came into range, and Jim drifted the fly to them. Jim had five follows, four takes, three hookups, and landed one fish...this beautiful 26 pounder. All but one of the fish took a chartreuse/white "half and half"... the other ate one tied all white. Here's Jim looking good with a fine catch on an 8wt.



March is just around the corner, and it's time to be thinking about the annual jack crevalle migration. Dust off your 10wt, and load it with a heavy weight-forward line like Rio's "Outbound Short". Tie up some big poppers, and practice casting. Many times it takes a quick delivery of 50' or more to properly deliver the fly in front of a fast-approaching school. And of course there's always wind...

I want to thank everyone for the cards, emails, and kind words regarding my mother's passing....very much appreciated during a difficult time.

I'll be looking forward to seeing you on the water.

*Capt Baz*

## **Around The Bay** will return when the bay thaws **And Farther Away**

Former member Corbett Davis, Jr. sends these pictures from Deep Water Cay in the Bahamas in February.

Corbett (visor) is fishing with Carl Hiaasen, a writer for the Miami Herald.

He also wrote the books "Strip Tease" and "Hoot" that they made movies from.



*It's nice to see they wear jackets and sweatshirts in the Bahamas, too.  
On second look..... Those are big bonefish!*

## Fly of the Month

### Whitlock's Red Fox Squirrel Nymph by Terry McCormick

This is one of my favored flies for hooking both cold and warm water fish. I have used this attractor nymph with great success on the cold water rivers and streams of Georgia, North Carolina, and Tennessee to take rainbow, brown, and brook trout. On local warm water ponds and lakes the Whitlock's Red Fox Squirrel Nymph has drawn many pan fish and bass to put a bend in my fishing stick. I tie this fly in a variety of configurations: With or without legs, bead head or thread head, rib or no rib, some with a collar, some without, a piece of flash representing a split wing case, or no flash, and so on. I tie it in sizes 16 through 8 and they all work well for me.

#### Materials

**Hook** Mustad 9671, 2XL, size 12, wet nymph.

**Head** 1/8" gold bead.

**Thread** Guidebrod 6/0 brown BCS 98

**Tail** Natural red fox squirrel tail fibers.

**Shuck** T Translucent Mylar tinsel.

**Rib** Copper wire.

**Abdomen** Whitlock Red Fox Squirrel Nymph Abdomen Dubbing.

**Legs** Pumpkin Sili Legs with green or black flake.

**Thorax** Whitlock Red Fox Squirrel Nymph Thorax Dubbing.

**Collar** Brown partridge hackle feather.



#### Tying Instructions

1. Debarb the hook and slide a bead onto the hook up to the hook eye. Place the hook in the vise. Lay down a thread base from the back of the bead to the hook bend.
2. Cut, clean, and stack a small bunch of fibers from the squirrel tail. Tie the fibers on top of the hook at the hook bend to form the nymph tail which should be about equal in length to the hook shank. At a shallow angle cut away the nymph tail butts and tie them down with forward thread wraps. Return the thread to the hook bend.
3. At the hook bend and on top of the hook tie in the Mylar tinsel so it extends back over the tail a length equal to the tail. Tie down the tinsel butt with thread wraps. Return the thread to the hook bend. At the hook bend tie in the rib wire. Return the thread to the hook bend.
4. Use the abdomen dubbing to dub a buggy tapered abdomen forward to just past the halfway point on the hook shank. In about 4 or 5 evenly spaced turns, wrap the rib wire forward to the front of the abdomen. Tie off the wire and cut away the wire tag end.
5. In the space between the front of the abdomen and the bead, but closer to the abdomen, tie in a pair of legs to each side of the hook shank. (Note: Trim legs to desired length after the fly is completed).
6. Use the thorax dubbing to dub a buggy thorax with one or two dubbing wraps behind the rear legs, several wraps between the rear and front legs and a wrap or two in front of the front legs.
7. In back of the bead tie in a partridge hackle feather. Take 2 or 3 turns of hackle to form the collar. Whip finish or halfhitch the thread in back of the bead. Cut away the thread. Cement the tie off thread wraps being careful not to apply cement to the collar fibers.

**2015 Fly Fishing Course  
March Highlights**

- Week 1      **Opening remarks by FFNWF      Club president Cliff Newton**  
9 March    **Introduction to Local Fly Fishing:      Capt. Baz Yelverton**  
Baz's presentation on where, when, and with what is worth the price of the whole class (actually it is truly *priceless*). And he has the pictures to prove it!!!!
- Week 2      **Getting started and choosing your tackle: Chris Vecsey and Russ Shields**  
16 March    **Salt Water and Fresh Water Fly Tackle      Introduction to fly fishing knots**  
Chris sells fishing tackle at Sam's Bait and Tackle in Orange Beach. You have to see the store to believe how much fishing and boating stuff can be packed into those aisles – all quality stuff. Chris is also a guide, teaches classes on fishing, and is a frequent contributor to the Fly Fishing page on the Pensacola Fishing Forum (where Rex has advertised our class).
- Week 3      **Casting Instruction and Practice      Casting Committee**  
23 March    **Introduction to fly tying tools and materials Matt Wegener**  
This will be the first week of casting instruction outside on the grass. Bill Locher will be the lead instructor but it would be nice to have our members mentor the new students one on one. Bill is a great caster and a certified instructor. We could all learn something(!).  
Matt will introduce tying. Probably won't say a word about his tarpon..... do you think?!?
- Week 4      **Casting instruction and practice      Casting Committee**  
30 March    **Fly tying - Woolly Bugger      Karen Brand**  
Karen needs no introduction to anyone who has ever been part of our club What a treat it will be for the students to meet her for the first time and learn from a “pro.” Especially since the WB is really the only fly you need to catch any fish anywhere.

**Classes will continue through April** and will end the night before the auction. And then comes the Outing. But before the students start fishing for the first time there will be the final exam (the snipe hunt).

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**FFNWF Board & General Business Meeting Minutes**

Miraflores Park, February 3<sup>rd</sup>., 2015    President: Cliff Newton presiding. Jerry Giles, substitute secretary

President Newton called the **board meeting** to order at 6:00 P.M. Nineteen club members were present, which also met quorum. Minutes of the last meeting were approved.

A budget review was presented by Treasurer Jay Brykczynski, and approved by the board.

Russ Shields presented a Fly Fishing Class flyer, which was approved for dispersal to the community. The class begins March 9<sup>th</sup>. After proper motions, the meeting was adjourned.

**General Business Meeting** President Newton called the meeting to order at 7:00 P.M.

Twenty three club members were in attendance. Visitors were welcomed to the meeting.

There was a very entertaining and educational presentation of a recent western fishing excursion to Wyoming and Utah. Initially, Karen Brand showed flies used on the trip. Ants of various styles and colors were the most productive.

Pictures of the beautiful trout of several types with some over twenty (20) inches were shown. Joe Higgins narrated some of their adventures before turning the story over to John Brand. John showed many pictures of fishing the high lakes, and then moving down into Utah, and the beautiful Green River. He told of the great fellowship enjoyed by him, Karen, Joe, Tom & Deb Finkle, Bill Locher, and Travis & Stella Akins, as they hiked and fished together. Neither rain, snow, nor rattlesnakes kept them from their adventures. If you weren't at the meeting, you missed a great tale!

The minutes and treasurer's report of the January meeting were presented and approved.

President Newton presented a proposal to change our affiliation with the Southeastern Region of the International

Flyfishing Federation to the Gulf Coast Council. After a call for discussion, a motion to approve the move was made by Paul Wargo, and seconded by Russ Shields. All votes shown by the members were for approval. None opposed.

Paul Wargo requested a volunteer to transfer old pictures from our library to a digital record. Oleta Webb agreed to do that job. Jim Morris volunteered to be the club librarian. Following proper motion, the meeting was adjourned.

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## Healing Waters Update

855 active PHWFFNWF Facebook page participants. Shooting for 1,000 by the end of March. Make sure you "like" the page and tell your friends!

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### And then there is the Tarpon

by Matt Wegener

A friend of mine called last week and said there was a school of tarpon wintering over in a spring near the Wakulla River, close to Tallahassee. After trying every lure in his tackle box and even live bait, he still hadn't caught one of these tarpon. I immediately told him I would like to try catching one on the fly and trip was set up for the following weekend. It was 47 degrees when we got to the ramp Friday afternoon, after a massive cold front had just swept through the area. We loaded my two fly rods, his spinning rod, and a bucket of live shiners into his 16 foot aluminum jon boat. We got to the spot and anchored on the edge of a 20 ft hole adjacent to the spring. Within 15 minutes, tarpon were rolling all around us. Most were only a foot or two long, but there were a couple of bigger fish as well. I was using a



black/red cockroach fly that Baz gave me in preparation for this trip. He called it a "traditional tarpon fly". It was rigged on a 12 wt rod I bought at the fly auction (Bob Korose donated it) with 350 grain Scientific Angler Streamer Express sink-tip line. I let it sink a few seconds and worked it back to the boat with 2 foot strips. About 20 minutes into the trip, something slammed the fly. I strip set, but didn't feel much weight on the end of the line. I started stripping like mad because I realized a tarpon had grabbed the fly, but the fish was heading straight for the boat, creating a giant bow in my line. About that time, my first silver king leaped out of the water but managed to throw the fly!

The trip was already a success in my book since I jumped a tarpon during the biggest cold front of the year...but the story gets better. A dozen casts later I felt something slam the fly again. I waited a split second longer this time before I strip set and then leaned into the fish with the rod. I remember knowing at that moment I had actually hooked my first tarpon. The fish took to the air within seconds of being hooked, but stayed hooked up this time. It jumped three more times before the 10-minute long fight ended with my fishing partner lipping the fish and bringing it aboard. We estimated the fish weighed 20 lbs and was 36" long. We snapped a few quick pictures and then watched my first silver king disappear back into the tannic-stained water. I tried to



make a few more casts, but my wrist was pretty sore from the battle so we decided to call it a day. On the way home, all my fishing partner could talk about was getting into fly fishing after I got two bites on a fly and he never got a bite on his live shiners!