



Flies and Lies

Newsletter of the Fly Fishers of Northwest Florida

March, 2019

FFNWF

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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

It's Time! It's Here!! It's Time! It's Here!! It's Time!

8 Week Fly Fishing Class

Sponsored by the Fly Fishers of Northwest Florida

BEGINS March 18 Monday Nights 6:00-8:00 PM

We have full enrollment. If you have a friend who wants to join the class and become a member of the club contact Russ Shields right away and see if there are any new openings. More information see page 4

Club Meeting – Tuesday, March 5

Capt. Dan Storey will present a program about Belize. Plans need to be made for the Auction. Lots going on. See you at the meeting!!!

Fly Tying – Thursday, March 14

The **Bumblebee Bluegill** Fly. **Transform** your ordinary fish hook into a **SUPER** bug (Volkswagen, get it?)



Clinic – Saturday, March 16

Once again this month the fly tying and clinic are the same week. The lunch will be Joe's famous All American chili hot dogs, with everything including the paper plates made in the U. S. A. Irish beer, however, is an option. See note from Jonas on page 3

Go Fishing! Friday, March 8 The Plan, weather permitting, is to go Stone Lake. Arrive in the morning and meet for lunch at the picnic tables. George will grill hamburgers but bring your own drinks and snacks. Email George if you plan to come so he has an idea on how much hamburger to bring. geonorton@gmail.com

Stone Lake is in Century, FL up Route 29. Once in Century take a left on SR 4 for 1.5 miles. The Lake is on the left side. There is a small admission fee for day use. You can call the office at Lake Stone at 850-256-5555 for further questions. Bass and crappie start moving in to the shallows to spawn at this time of the year. There is a pier and ample places for shore fishing but the best fishing is around shore line timber. You will need watercraft to reach it. Black crappies are especially fond of heavy cover while white crappies are suspended in more open water. Bluegill are deeper and harder to target at this time of the year. *George Norton*

Shad Madness Fishing in the Potomac River: (February meeting program)



Jim White lived in the DC and Northern Virginia area for many years. He has an in depth knowledge of shad fishing the Potomac along with trout and smallmouth fishing in Virginia. Jim told us about his recent trip with Terry and Dave to attend the Atlanta Fly Fishing show the first week of February. "The show was something special and we should all consider attending next year."

Back to the shad. The Potomac is deep (20-60 feet) in the DC area. The river runs high, muddy and fast in the spring. Sinking lines are a must to get the fly deep enough. Go with chartreuse or pink. The shad is a member of the Herring family. There are two species of shad in the Potomac.

The American shad is larger averaging 3-4 pounds and is good table fare. The Hickory shad is little smaller and is not edible. Jim said "the Potomac is full of nasty stuff so he would not eat any fish." He always rented a heavy wood rowboat out of Fletcher's Boat House which is right in the center of DC. He always rowed his brother-in-law upstream and anchored with a large rock in deep water (bring extra rope).



He used a six weight fly rod with a thirty foot sink tip line or a full sinking line with a 4-6 foot leader and a 10-15 pound tippet. Shad darts in bright colors in size 4-6-8 all work but shad are short strikers so the tail should not be too long. Jim also recommended finger guards as fifty fish days are not unusual. Shad are strong fighters and great jumpers. The spring weather can be miserably so dress appropriately. Shad swim up the slow water on the edge of fast water. The peak shad run depends on water temperature (55 degrees is usually the start) and it generally runs from mid-April thru May. Jim has also caught bass, white perch, carp, and striped bass in the Potomac. Florida has a shad run in the St. Johns' River. The Florida season runs from December to March. The best area is called "shad alley" between Sanford and Titusville. Shad run in rivers up and down the Atlantic Coast.

Jim we thank you for a most interesting presentation. *George Norton*

Time Marches On! Dues are Still Due!!

see Jay at all the meetings or send check to to

Jay W Brykczynski 4983 Prieto Drive Pensacola FL 32506

Dues: \$30.00. Make checks payable to FFNWF.

Fly Fishing Show – The annual Red Stick show March 2 in Baton Rouge.

More info: http://rsff.blogspot.com/p/blog-page_29.html?m=1 Free Admission. Contact Pete Sturgis for further information at 225-247-3129.

George Norton is going. Contact George if you would like to go along

From the VP's Corner Wow, two programs down, ten more to go. The year is flying by! At this point in the year we're all looking forward to the Spanish, the Bluefish and the Ladyfish to swim into the bay. Hopefully they'll be early and we can kick off what will be a great fishing season in 2019! To get us in the mood for the year's hot fishing action, we have a series of great programs, all by recognized experts in their respective fields. Show up early to get the best seats. Regarding the program schedule, thank you to Steve Hofmann for stepping up for the July program. It will be a very interesting presentation detailing the modern commercial construction techniques of the primary tools of our sport – rods and reels. The presentation is based in factory tours Steve has taken at Scott Fly Rods and Ross Reels. Don't miss it! The December program is still open. The club has 88 members and there have to be some great fishing stories just waiting to be told. Don't be shy, if you want to make a presentation please contact *Jim White*.

Mar – Capt'n Dan Storey presents "Fishing in Belize"

Apr – Officer McHenry (FWC Enforcement) presents "Fishing and boating in Pensacola"

May – FFNWF Auction!

Jun – Jim White presents "Trout fishing on the South Holston River"

Jul – Steve Hofmann presents "Modern fly rod and reel construction methods"

Aug – Bob Korose presents "The Golden Dorado in Argentina"

Sep – Jim White presents "Trout fishing on the Yellowstone River"

Oct – Matt Wegener presents "Hunting Bull Reds in Pensacola"

Nov – Dr. Jonas Magnuson – presents "Fishing in Iceland"

Dec – TBD

Casting at the March Clinic – March 17

For our next clinic we are working on casting faults and their cure. I will teach and define the following plus the cure:

1. Matching casting arc to rod bend
2. Creep
3. Quality rod acceleration. *Jonas*



February Clinic



Casting without Rods

(or hands)

One on One



February Clinic (continued)



Second month in a row no beer bottles. This is indeed getting serious.



Thank goodness Joe brought chili. Normalcy returns

Eventually, all conversations turn to fishing:



How big was that fish?!?!



2019 Fly Fishing Class. Mondays 6:00-8:00 Class Schedule

Week 1 Welcome by FFNWF Club president Dave Handley
18 March Local Salt water fly fishing Capt. Baz Yelverton

Week 2 Professional Casting Instruction Jonas Magnusson
25 March Introduction to Fly Rods and Reels Russ Shields

Week 3 Professional Casting Instruction Jonas Magnusson
1 April Introduction to Fly Fishing Knots and Tackle Rigging Bob Korose

Week 4 Professional Casting Instruction Jonas Magnusson
8 April Introduction to fly tying Tools and Materials Tom Finkle

Week 5 Casting instruction and practice Casting Committee
15 April Fly tying -- Woolly Bugger Matt Wegener

Week 6 Casting review and practice Casting Committee
22 April Fly tying-- Clouser Minnow Capt. Dan Storey

Week 7 Casting review and practice Casting Committee
29 April Fly tying-- Elk Hair Caddis Jerry Giles and Russ Shields

Week 8 Local Fresh Water Fishing Matt Wegener
6 May Fly Tying -- Gartside Gurgler Russ Shields

Fly of the Month **Bluegill Bee** ...tied by Matt Wegener

This classic fly is a must-have in your bream box. I remember wading the creek behind my house and catching plenty of spring-time bluegill on this pattern. The flowers were blooming, insects buzzing, and the fish were biting! Try it with a floating line using short, twitchy strips with an occasional long pause. The beadhead will be all the weight you need to get it down to the fish. Tie several in a couple of different sizes and be sure to bring them along on the club's trip to Lake Stone this month!

Materials:

Hook: Long-shank nymph hook, Mustad R73NP-BR #12-#14

Thread: 8/0 black

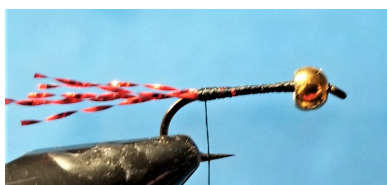
Bead: 1/8" gold bead, tungsten or brass

Tail: Red Krystal Flash

Body: Ultra Chenille, standard size, black & yellow

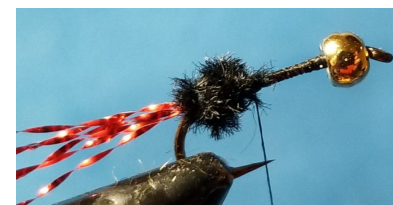
Legs: Yellow hackle

Instructions:

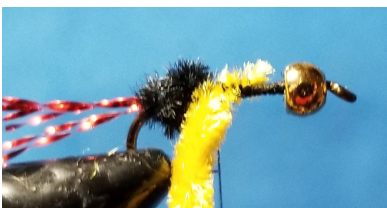


1. Mash barb and slide bead on the hook shank. Tie thread on with a jam knot and secure bead near hook eye

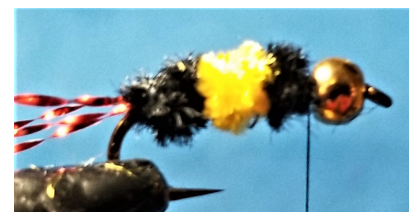
2. Add 4 to 6 strands of flash for the tail near the bend of the hook.



3. Tie in a short piece of black chenille. Move thread forward 1/8". Make two wraps with chenille and tie off. Trim excess.



4. Tie in a short piece of yellow chenille and repeat step 3.



5. Tie in another short piece of black chenille and move thread forward to bead. Make 1-2 wraps of chenille, tie off and trim excess.



6. Tie in hackle by stem and stroke fibers to separate them. Wrap hackle 5-6 times, tie off and trim excess.

7. Whip finish and cement to finish fly.



Fishing with Capt. Baz *(Capt. Dan Storey is out of the country but he will be back to do the program for our meeting. Instead we present from our newsletter archives Capt. Baz's article from **March, 2016:**)*

The thing about our sport is the magic can happen when you least expect it. On the first of February Mark Christopherson and his fiancée were on the boat visiting from Minneapolis. I told them all about the dirty water, paucity of fish, cool weather, etc, but they still wanted to go. Compared to Minneapolis in February it seemed nice to them, and it was a fine day with plenty of sun and relatively light winds. At least we weren't under Small Craft Warnings for a change.



It was just a 4 hour trip, so I had to decide which way to go. We could run east to Opal Beach where there are reasonable numbers of slot-sized redfish or head to the flats around Pensacola Pass where there are some big reds. The two areas are over 16 miles apart, and we didn't have enough time to do both. Mark had never thrown a fly at a redfish, and I thought just *seeing* a few big fish might make his day. So I elected to run west. If we couldn't find any redfish I could always show them some beautiful water a mile or so east of the pass...much nicer than they were seeing from their Gulf Shores condo.

To my dismay the water was filthy in the pass, but I ran on over to some flats and started poling anyway. The water was less than 3' deep, but even from the platform it was almost impossible to make out any bottom features. I pushed along hoping to see anything...a shadow, movement on the surface, *anything!* Finally, I gave up on the poling and slid the anchor over in an area that has been productive in the past. I thought if we stared at the same dark water long enough we might be able to pick up any slight change. My clients knew we were "big game hunting" trying for one shot at a big fish, and that they would have to be patient. They were good with it, especially since there were no other options.

So we sat there for **two hours** straining our eyes into the chocolate milk. Occasionally I thought I saw something, but wrote it off to wishful thinking or hallucinations. Since Mark was totally blind from the bow casting position, he "target-practiced" placing the fly where I directed. You know the drill "two o'clock, 40 feet"... And we continued to watch and wait. Finally I saw definite movement. There was a slow-moving shadow coming in from the SW about 60' from the boat. The light breeze was from the SW, and left-handed Mark had to try a backhanded shot. The fly fell short; the shadow turned and disappeared. A couple minutes later two or three shadows came in on the same path, and once again the cast was short. If we got another shot we decided to take our chances and let the fish get closer to the boat. A little later I saw a much larger shadow coming toward us more from the west. There was no doubt this was a school of fish, and we waited as planned. This time Mark made a beautiful cast right where directed, the leader turned over perfectly, and the fly dropped directly on top of the fish. Miraculously they didn't spook, and I watched the fly disappear into the large shadow. Since Mark couldn't see anything he didn't know it was time to get really nervous. Instead he calmly let the fly drop and waited for stripping instructions. I counted to four, and told him to give it the long, smooth strip we had practiced. The redfish nailed it halfway through the strip! Mark executed a textbook strip-strike with the rod pointed directly at the fish and then cleared the line beautifully as the redfish exploded down-current.

With the fish over a hundred yards into the backing and running hard, I realized we could easily get spooled on the 9 weight. So I pulled up the anchor, hopped up on the platform, and started poling for all I was worth. The fish felt the change, did a quick 180, and charged the boat. It was pandemonium! I jumped down off the platform and heaved the anchor over. Trying to get tight to the fish Mark reeled like a wild man and finally grabbed the backing and pulled hand-over-hand until all the slack was out of the line.

I held the backing at the rod tip tight to the fish while he cranked the slack line off the deck. Incredibly the hook had not fallen out, but some of the loops of backing on the deck had twisted together, and Mark reeled a big knot of it onto his spool. I leapt back to try to untangle it just as the fish bolted down-current again. We watched in horror as the knot cleared the first stripping guide and then to our amazement click-click-clicked its way through all the other guides, and the fight was on once again. Mark turned the fish this time and regained enough backing to get the knot back on the reel. There were no more crises after that...just a long fight with a huge fish on 9 weight tackle. It took him over 30 minutes, but Mark finally brought the fish to the net. It was a bona fide monster that measured just shy of 45" and bottomed out my 30# bogagrip so solidly that I estimated it at 35 pounds. It's by far the all-time record redfish caught by any means on my boat. The fish ate a little size 2 tan/white clouser minnow tied on 20# tippet. This photo of Mark Christopherson says it all! *Capt Baz*



Club Minutes February 4, 2019 by George Norton

Board Meeting: President called meeting to order at 1800. All board members in attendance.

Financial Report: The Treasurer reported our finances are in good shape highlighted by an increase in membership. Forty eight members have paid their dues and we have eleven new members in our upcoming March class.

Old Business: The 2018 Christmas Party Committee has volunteered again provided we don't change the venue! We have three positions to fill: Auction, Membership, and Public Relations. See notes of the General Meeting where we are pleased to announce three volunteers stepped up and offered to take charge of our Auction and Membership. Thank you new volunteers.

Education: Russ said the printed syllabus for the upcoming March 18 class will be ready in two weeks. Russ and his team have made a number of additions and improvements to the syllabus. Russ also requested volunteers to help out for the March class to assist and mentor in fly tying and casting (must be able to follow Jonas' casting methods.)

Newsletter: The latest newsletter was not received by a number of people. If this was your case, please advise Paul Wargo.

Club Outing March 8th: George has arranged a trip. See article in this issue.

Jay presented the 2019 budget. Our expenses are carefully monitored but appear to be well under control. We decided to stay with our local insurance agent at a slightly higher (\$66) price than use FFFI's insurance due to communication with a local agent is much easier. Paul moved to stay local and Russ seconded.

New Business The flag box hanging on our wall was built by Russ and Larry. Great job! Rep. Matt Gaetz secured the flag from the Capitol to recognize our Project Healing Waters' program. A change to non-profit status will save us about \$300 a year starting in 2020. The filing fee is \$400

for status as a 501 C7 classified as a Fishing and Hunting Club. We voted to move ahead and file with the IRS for non-profit status.

We need to build a cage in the basement to store donated items for the May auction. The estimated cost for the secure storage is \$200 and we moved to approve the expenditure and project subject to approval at the General Membership Meeting.

1900: The BOD meeting was adjourned.

General Meeting President Handley called the General Meeting to order at 1910. Twenty three members were in attendance. Richard Montgomery and Bob Grey joined as new members. Welcome aboard! They immediately stepped up and volunteered take over the Auction duties from Terry. Thanks guys!

Program: Shad Madness on the Potomac – Jim White gave an excellent report on the unique fishing in our nation's capitol. See article in this issue.

Minutes from the December Meeting and Treasurer's reports were accepted.

Old Business: See BOD notes.

The President said “Critical Needs for the club are three positions with the first two as the top priority.” Fortunately new members Richard Montgomery and Bob Grey stepped up and will take over the auction which Terry M ran for so many years. Thanks guys. Dan volunteered to take over membership from Jay. Thanks Dan. The position of Public Relations Head has not been filled so if you are a person who likes hobnobbing with the public to raise the profile of our club in the community, we would love to have you use your God given talents. Please talk to the President.

Storage for the May Auction

Donations will be received at any time rather than just the night of the auction. This will give us more time to categorize the donations so we obtain more value from them. We need storage for donated items and we moved to approve \$200 for the construction of secure locker area in the basement of our building. We hope to get some help from a Boy Scout Eagle Project. Russ approved and Paul seconded this motion which passed the general membership meeting.

Move to Go Non- Profit 501 C 7 for 2020. : (See BOD notes.) Approved

Eight Week Fly Fishing Class starts March 18. Russ and Tom have updated the syllabus which will be ready from the printer in about two weeks. Eleven new members have already paid along with 5 existing members so we are already full (16 max). Any additional students will have to be considered on a case by case basis or take the class next year.

Pensacola Parks and Recreation Summer Camps Ages 9-14. Last summer's class on fly tying and casting was a big success and we are planning to again offer our club for two three hour sessions broken up into one and half hours of fly casting and one and half hours of fly tying. We will need volunteers for either June 4 & 5th or June 25 & 26th.

PHW Outreach to the VA Hospital. Russ, Tom and Jim recently set up a fly tying demo in the waiting room on the last Thursday of the month from 9-11 AM. The demo attracted a lot of interest and we all hope this outreach generates more attendance at our meetings and at PHW.

Flag display at our cabin. If you look on the wall you will see a display box of the American flag which was constructed by Russ and Larry. Russ donated the materials for the display box. The flag which flew over the Capitol was sent from Washington by Rep. Matt Gaetz in recognition of our club's work and support of PHW. Thank you Russ and Larry.

Facebook: Cliff reminded Facebook users to plug our club on Social Media. Post your big fish or share something on the club's activities.

Fishing Reports: Terry and Tom reported picking up specs in the canals but the poor weather and a lot of run off from heavy rains the last couple of months have slowed inshore fishing to a crawl. Another fly fisher reported he tried the grass flats but “there was no signs of life there.” Good inshore fishing is a ways away.