



# Flies and Lies

Newsletter of the Fly Fishers of Northwest Florida

May, 2018

## 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

## Auction Auction Auction



**Tuesday, May 1, at the club.**

Doors open at 5:00 for dropping off donations and browsing.

**Auction begins at 7:00**

Come early, stay late, bid early, bid often, spend money and have a great time.

Bring a friend. Friends (and their money) welcome!

Remember this is our big fund raiser of the year so

**We need You and Your Donations. You need Your Checkbook!**

**Bid on rods, reels, trips, stuff, and more stuff.**

**Brand new TFO Mangrove rod donated by Feather-Craft**

**Trip with Baz. Trips with club members.**

**Bugs and Brews (see page 4)**

**There will be no business meeting in May**

*Thank You! I would like to thank everybody in the club for all their thoughts and prayers. Brandon Pheabus, (my son and future member) has made a full recovery. Other than some permanent damage to the mobility of his thumb, he is in good health and back to work. He was boxing and teaching jujitsu within a week after intensive care. It's good to be young.*

*The Mayor of Pensacola wrote him a hand written get well letter, and his Assault Team all received a Meritorious Mast (Marine award certificate) for breaking the Okinawa Marine obstacle course record by 20 min. He was in first place when he got bit and continued as far as he could go before collapsing. Tough kid!*

*Thanks again,*

*I truly believe the power of prayer got Brandon thru this.*

**Gary Pheabus**

## The Class of '18: Through These Hallowed Halls Pass the Future of our Sport



The last class will be the night before the auction. Commencement contingent on buying something at the auction. *(Just kidding... They all passed with flying colors!)*



The real future of our sport....  
Ed Hamkens brought his son to class to tie the Wooly Buggie.

### Speaking of the Future of our sport....

**The Pres Says:** Our club is entering into an agreement with the Pensacola Parks and Recreation Summer Advance Fishing Program. Our involvement will be to

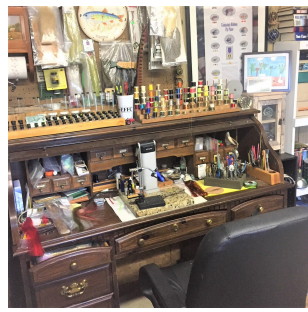
provide **3 hours of instruction in fly tying and casting to four groups of twelve young people,** ages 9 to 14. We will have one group in the morning then another the same afternoon. Parks and Recreation personnel will be on site to provide monitoring of youth. We need volunteers from our membership to provide instruction and mentoring of this effort. The materials for this course will be reimbursed by the Parks and Recreation. The dates are **June 6 and 27**. Picture is from our meeting with Paul Pipes, Outdoor Pursuits/Volunteer Coordinator from Parks and Recreation.

This is an excellent opportunity for our club to promote our sport and club. Some of these youth could be future club members and we must remember their parents, aunts, and uncles as possible new membership. **David Handley**



## My Fly Tying.....

There are fly tying stations. And there are fly tying desks. And there are fly tying corners of the room. And then there is:



My fly tying station is actually a fly fishing building. It is pretty much self contained with A/C, frig, TV with cable and a fake wood burning stove. I have a roll top disk with a

Renziti vice and an Omni light. It's my get away place for when I can't fish. Also the sofa is a sleeper for when it needs to double as a dog house. **Terry McCormick**

**We are on Facebook!** Our Facebook club page is up and running. We now have 15 members. To become a member search on Facebook for Fly Fishers of NorthWest Florida. Go to our page and request membership. I will approve the membership. We should probably put that in the newsletter. We have a number of members posing photos. The more the better, but I am pleased so far. **Cliff Newton**



## Book Report *The Fly Tying Bible* by George Norton

The "Fly Tying Bible" is a hard cover book in a binder that presents 100 Trout and Salmon Flies in step by step photos. The book is broken up into sections such as dry flies, nymphs, streamers, wet flies and hair wings.

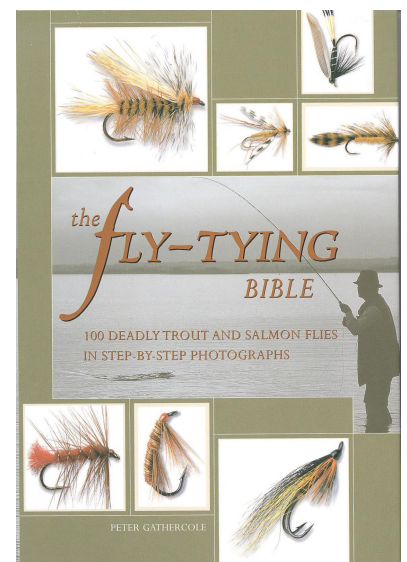
There is also a section that clearly explains in color photographs the different materials and techniques which are so confusing for beginners. Each fly is graded by difficulty. One star being the easiest to five stars the most difficult.

This is a nice book in our club's library that I ended up purchasing. The flies are used in the U.S and all over the world from Scottish and Irish lochs to New Zealand trout and salmon flies.

The book led me to try fly tying flies I would have never considered such as the Black Ghost which is a classic streamer for landlocked salmon.

The "Fly Tying Bible" covers the classic flies like the Adams, Clouser Minnow, Muddler Minnow, and Woolly Bugger while it opens up the horizon for tying flies used in other regions and countries.

I give it a five star rating.



## Capt. Baz is Back!

April has been an exciting month on the water, and I'm happy to have been "out there" enjoying it. Ran my first post-surgery trip on March 30 and have been back at it full time since the second week of April. The water temps have been cooler than normal which has made things interesting. I've been getting reports of pompano and jack crevalle being caught off the pier, but I've yet to see a pompano and all the jacks I've seen have been deep in the water column and moving fast. Of course there weren't many days in April suitable for poling the edge of the Gulf, but hopefully that will improve in May. So far we've dodged the proverbial bullet on the usual spring rains, and the water is clear and beautiful...both inside and out. A few more degrees in water temp and everything should turn on in a big way.

Most of my trips this month were sight-fishing for redfish and trout on the flats of Santa Rosa Sound. The best days have had south winds, and all the flats on the north side of the island from Navarre to Ft Pickens are holding fish. If you can find the mullet you'll find redfish and trout. Of course just because we've found them doesn't mean they'll eat! Man, the fish have been tough this year! Their menu is in transition as the water temperature warms, and I've had a hard time getting it right. The gray/white baitfish has been my most successful fly, and they're liking it more with a l-o-n-g, faster strip. All these fish were landed on that fly with the "fleeing baitfish" strip: Chicago Master Chef Stephen Miller with a beauty on March 30, Fay Rogers on April 11, club member Bruce Trumbull on April 17, and John Chanslor with his first "Pensacola" redfish on April 18.



The big Spanish mackerel are in the bay, but you'd better get after them soon. They always make an early appearance this time of year in the usual spots but then disappear until late summer. Best time of day is when the water glasses off during the wind shift from N to S. I don't know why that turns them on, but it does. We struggled to catch any Spanish last Friday on a morning trip, but my afternoon clients hammered them when the wind died. We landed a dozen fish over 3# and had one pushing 5#. It was a spin-fishing trip, and after experiencing the Spanish I took them out to the Gulf looking for redfish. We eased across the Caucus Shoal and spotted a lovely "brownish island" floating west of the shoal. Of course it was a school of bull redfish, and my clients landed 8 fish of this quality. Sure wish I'd had a fly-caster on the boat...

**Capt Baz**



**Fishing with Capt. Dan** April fishing has been great all month with the fly rods. All of the usual suspects are in town and for the most part cooperating with us. One of my favorite targets is the beach run Jack Crevalles, and we checked the box early this month and landed the first one on April 2. Kellan Lewis was in town from TX and put a double barrel popper in the right place at the right time for this fish.



They have been on and off since then and I think the cold fronts are to blame, but Chad and I had a pile of bites last week from real hungry fish. No hookups though. It's hard when they swim at you faster than you can strip!

The red fishing on the inside has been really good. We are seeing fish from Navarre to the Alabama line so no real secret spots to tell you about. There are some places that the fish will allow you to get close to them, and some places where they won't though. Just be mindful of how the fish react to what you are doing. Here's a few we caught on April 5th:



We have caught redfish on 5 different flies this month. I don't think they are keyed in on anything in particular, but I do notice some fish that are looking down and some that aren't. We watched a small fish swim to 10' from the boat the other day while I made cast after cast to him with an EP pinfish and couldn't figure out why he never even turned to it. Then we saw the fish

stop and stand on his head with half of his face in the sand! It was too deep for him to tail, but not by much. We took the hint and showed the next fish a clouser and he gobbled it up.

The Spanish are here, there and everywhere too. They are a welcome target for beginner fly casters and experienced old salts too. We haven't had a real big one yet on my boat, but club member Charles Hantz was on the boat with us last Thursday and he lost a screamer to the Massachusetts. Not sure if it was a King or a big Spanish. Here's some shots of this month's Spanish Conquistador's.



TK. Pope caught a pile of them on a super secret grass flat near Gulf Breeze on April 12. We saw some familiar faces out there that day! Rhonda Spedding with her first on fly the next day! Jonas taught her the switch rod in one lesson and she was bombing them out there 70 feet!



How about Charles Hantz with his first fish on the fly on April 19th. He had never cast on water before. Who knew? And finally the fish selfie is a "team effort" Redfish later that afternoon

*Capt. Dan Storey*



**Auction News: Capt. Dan is donating "Bugs, Brews and BarBQ with Capt Dan"**

Winner and three of your best fly fishing buds receive a personal fly tying and bull session with me. The flies will depend on what you want to learn, but one can expect a handful of essential redfish flies and a smattering of my own creations that actually work. Ribs, pulled pork, BBQ chicken, Cole slaw and baked beans are on the menu, along with a few beers (or more). Date and location TBA

## Fly of the Month The Schminnow..... by Pat Murphy

The Schminnow is a super snook and red fish fly. The Schminnow was developed by Norm Zeigler and designed to catch snook and red fish on Florida's Gulf Coast. It is tied as a small bait fish or minnow, but some would argue that it is a great shrimp pattern as well.



### MATERIALS LIST:

**Hook:** Mustad 3407 #2-#1 **Thread:** Chartreuse 140d **Tail:** White Marabou  
**Eyes:** 4-5MM Plastic Beads or Lg. Bead Chain Eye **Flash:** Pearl Krystal Flash  
**Body:** Pearl Ice Chenille Large **Option:** Pearl Estaz, Cactus Chenille



1. Lay in a smooth layer thread to hook point Apply a thin coat head cement.

2. Tie in 2 plumbs of Marabou at hook point. Tail to be 1-1/2X hook length.



3. At tail tie in, tie 6-8 strands K/Flash each side tail.

4. At tail tie in, tie Pearl Ice Chenille and palmer with close wraps. Each wrap pull chenille fibers back to keep from trapping fiber. Tie off chenille about 1/8" from hook eye. Leave enough room for a good threadbase to attach bead eyes.



5. Apply a nice smooth thread base for eye attachment. Do not taper thread, tie level thick thread base.

6. Clean up stay fiber and apply good coat head glue or UV resin.

**Matt Wegener** is given time off for good behavior this month. Sabrina is expecting their first child momentarily and Matt needs time to take care of his baby and take care of his wife and take care of the house and cook the meals and pay the bills and get up at night so his wife can sleep. That's a lot to think about. Perhaps someday he will have time to write his article again. And fish again. Perhaps. **Meanwhile: Thanks, Pat!**



**Club Meeting** – No business meeting in May (Auction)

**Fly Tying Thursday, May 10 6:30** – The Schminnow



**Clinic Saturday, May 19 9:00 AM** - Casting, Tying, Lunch. All American Hamburgers.



Jonas and Kent have everybody casting.

That's hauling!!!



**Project Healing Waters** – Back on regular schedule in May. Mondays at 10:00 AM May 7, 14, and 28. Wednesday, May 16 at 6:00 PM

**From our Friends at BFA** Our next general meeting is Wed. May 2nd 6 pm. Please join us in welcoming Dr. Mike Lewis, a scientist at the EPA Research Laboratory on Sabine Island. Dr. Lewis has been an environmental toxicologist for 40 years part of which (15 years) was conducting research in the Pensacola Bay System. He has authored numerous scientific publications on the health of Pensacola and Escambia Bays, Santa Rosa Sound and various bayous.

Last year, our May speaker was Jack Davis who wrote a book called *The Gulf; The Making of an American Sea*. Today, we learned that he won the **Pulitzer Prize** for his 'biography of the Gulf of Mexico'. He attended one of our meetings in 2014 and mentioned us in his book. **Barbara Albrecht**

*(Editor's note: the BFA newsletter will be included in the email with our newsletter. Barbara does a good job of explaining the situation involving the proposed Fish Hatchery in Pensacola with some amazing pictures.)*

**FYI The Fly Fishing Film Tour** will be at Shoreline Church in Fort Walton beach on May 11. We are invited. Sincerely **Kevin Gorby**

**FYI Delta Woods & Waters** - Eastern Shore Fly Fishers would like to invite area fly fishers to help out with the annual "Delta Woods & Waters" expo at the 5 Rivers Delta Resource Center on Saturday, April 28. <http://www.deltawoodsandwatersexpo.com/>

We tie flies and introduce fly casting to hundreds of young people every year and can use all the help that we can get! Lunch is provided and we have a really good time so come for an hour or stay all day! please contact Chuck Fisk at [c.fiskjr@gmail.com](mailto:c.fiskjr@gmail.com) if you can help. **Jeff**

**FYI Dauphin Island Trip** - HOSSFLY's annual Dauphin Island get together is planned for ~ Saturday, June 9 on Alabama's "Free Fishing Day" for which no license is required. Some of us plan to spend a couple of nights and fish "the lights" on Friday night followed by wade fishing on Saturday and a get together for lunch. Area fly fishing club members are invited to join in any or all activities. We have a few beds left in our rental house. Please contact Jeff Deuschle at [jeffcatfarms1@att.net](mailto:jeffcatfarms1@att.net) for more information. **Jeff**

## Meeting Minutes April 3, 2018

Vice President Ed Hampkins called the meeting to order at 1900 hours. 16 members present.

**Treasurers' report:** Our finances are in good shape. We have 55 paid members and Jay will call ten more who are expected to renew their memberships. With four honorary members we expect to have at least 69 members this year. We expect to meet the budget. Russ moved to accept the treasurers' report and George seconded.

**Memorials:** The club sent a donation to St. Jude Children's Hospital in memory of Honorary Life Member Jon Williams and to the Fisher House in memory of long time member Bill Parrish.

**Old Business: Fly Tying Station Articles:** we are featuring one article a month on a member's fly tying station. Terry McCormick said he would write an article for the April newsletter. Please consider writing a short article with a photo of your station and send to Paul Wargo.

**Auction: May 1.** Bring items to donate the night of the auction. Doors open at 5:00 PM and the auction gets rolling at 7:00 PM. There will be no business meeting. We will have a brand new TFO Mangrove 9 foot 8 weight rod donated Bob Story from Feather-Craft. The auction is for members and friends they invite. We do not have room in our small building to open it to the general public. .

**Christmas Party:** Jim White has contacted several restaurants that can handle a party for 50 guests. Jim will keep checking on additional sites. If you have any ideas let him know.

**Freshwater trip: April 18** Leon Brooks Hines Lake in Wing, Ala. George Norton reported the lake has everything from boat rentals with trolling motors to licenses and permits to fish the lake. There is a small tackle shop on site where they can take care of the paperwork. There is bank fishing access and a pier. If you have further questions the store's phone number is 251-809-0068. The plan is to gather at the picnic tables for lunch at noon and exchange fishing stories. See the previous newsletter for all the information about this lake and this outing. Hopefully some big bluegills and bass will be caught.

**Facebook page is now up.** Cliff has got it going. Please submit fishing reports, photos and comments on fly fishing only.

**Presentation:** Russ Shields gave a presentation about a class he took on making fine bamboo fly rods in Georgia from Bob Oyster. Russ has been interested in making bamboo rods since he was a child. He recommended a book on rod making from wood called "Rod Crafting" which details the history of rod building from the early 1800's. Russ has built and repaired many rods and is an expert on rod building and fly tying. He says casting a fine bamboo rod is far superior to graphite and contrary to popular belief bamboo is also superior in durability. His favorite bamboo rod he built was a 8 foot 6 weight. The class in Georgia lasts a full week and there is a waiting list and is limited to six students. Bob Oyster offers one class per month. See Russ for further details. Thank you for inspiring us again, Russ.

The meeting adjourned at 1943 hours. *George Norton*

## Looking Back.....

Some of our guys made a trip out west in 2008 and left their mark in Wyoming.

It's still there.

*(Editor's note: most of us would just pee on a tree)*

