

October fishing on the grass beds of Santa Rosa Sound has been absolutely superb - probably the best of any October in recent memory. We retired folks don't get to fish as often as we would like so I have fished just 8 times this month (as of the 23rd). Those trips have yielded roughly 12 dozen speckled trout (all released), the largest 27" and many more over 20", a half dozen redfish to 24", uncounted baby groupers up to 17", and far too many pinfish, pigfish, needlefish, catfish, lizardfish and other assorted scuppers. Throw in a couple of small flounder, a few ladyfish and even a few baby jack crevalle to make a really diverse fish stew for the month. But yesterday was the topper. Tom Regina and I were fishing "Redfish Corner", not too far from the EPA, when my line started moving north at an astonishing pace with the drag literally screaming. Roughly 150 yards later, I managed to turn the fish - more accurately, the fish turned because it chose to. Another 10 minutes or so and a couple of shorter runs brought a beautiful king mackerel alongside. Tom netted the king twice only to have it escape from my small trout net. Tom then tried to "tail it" but the 2X tippet which had wrapped around the fish finally gave way and the 10 pound king made its escape with my green/white clouser firmly hooked to the corner of its mouth. What fun!

Art de Tonnancourt filed this next report from a little further away. *"The North Carolina delayed harvest season started on October 1st and with that news, several of our members as well as some members of the Gulf Coast Fly Fishermen club went to fish the Nantahala and Tuckaseegee in the Bryson City area of western N.C. from October 5th thru Oct 11th. Art de Tonnancourt organized the trip and with him, Mitch Pippin and David Bernard from our club as well as three members of the G.C.F.F club made up a party of six.*

Both the waters of the Tuckaseegee and the Nantahala were in ideal conditions and both had been stocked on or about the 2nd of October with over 8,000 fish each. They stayed at the Oconoluftee Lodge and had a great time. Everyone caught many fish every day. Trout were taking dry flies eagerly but the nymph fishing still proved to be the most successful. Dry flies with nymph droppers proved to be most productive and the results of these tactics underlined the fact that the 90% of the food that trout eat is under the surface.....not too surprisingly most of the fish were taken on the nymph droppers.

Great dinners were served with each participant being responsible for one evening meal each. Such delicacies as pork tenderloins, smoked salmon appetizers, spiral ham, and racks of lamb with appropriate wines and more were on each evening menu.

Several of the group were fishing the Nan and Tuck for the first time and none were disappointed. Daily catches of up to 49 trout and 39 trout were reported by some (of the more modest) participants for fantastic days on the rivers. The weather was great and Art is looking forward to the next trip when he and Jay Williams, Tom Regina, Mitch Abernathy, Terry McCormick, and Russ Shields depart on November 2nd for a repeat of the fine time that was had in October. "

"Bobber Man" Finkle reports, "A fishing trip in Maine snow produced icy guides and one very colorful Brookie in two hours fishing. My feet were numb! The rest of the day produced three nice partridge on a size 12 GA # 6s. " Hey Tom, you folks from Maine talk funny! In your language, isn't a "partridge" really a ruffed grouse?....Jerry Aldridge

**November 4 Business Meeting - Election of officers for 2004
And Member of the Year for 2003 - Come out and vote!**

President's Report

As we come up to November, which is best known for Thanksgiving, it seems most appropriate that I express for the club, its thanks to the multitude of members that have worked hard and consistently, so that we may all reap the benefits of

membership. Benefits which amazingly, cost us only \$30/year. I've never found a better deal than that, anywhere.

Just read down the list of officers and BOD members, for starters. Then take a look at the committee chairmen, and you'll know many of those to whom I'm grateful. Recall that not all the jobs are listed therein, e.g. **Tom Regina** buys and brings our liquid refreshments and our food for the Saturday clinics. The **Brands** and **Tom** obtain the drinks and food that we enjoy at the two picnics per year. **Karen and John** cook at the picnics and at other times, joined by **Art deTonnancourt, Joe Higgins, and Bill Locher**. This year **Russ Shields** worked his fanny off preparing our fish for cooking at the fall picnic.

Andy Housand collects the money at the picnics, gets some fair deals on equipment for us, and provides comic relief as only he can. **Kevin and Jerry**: well there's not enough space to go into everything they do for us. I know I have missed others so please accept my apologies for that oversight.

Finally, I want to alert you to a drawing we'll have at the Christmas Party, which will be for only 10 members to enjoy a fishing outing at the Zoo, in January. Only one fly is needed and it better look like a brown pellet! Fishing will be followed by a dutch treat breakfast and free tour of the zoo, on foot and on the train. All this at the courtesy of Dr. **Tom Birdwell**. Several of us did this 3-4 years ago and it was a lot of fun. You will have to be present at the party in order to win a spot. Tight lines....Jay

GALA CHRISTMAS EVENT!!

The Fly Fishers of Northwest Florida's *Christmas Party* will be held on Tuesday, December 2nd in place of the monthly business meeting. The party will be at Gus's Shuck Shack on Scenic Hwy with social hour from 6-7 and dinner served at 7. Club member, **Eric Lucas**, is head chef for Gus and the Skopelos group and he has promised us a great time! The buffet will include Shrimp & Crawfish Savannah, Glazed Chicken and Fried Catfish, along with garden salad, green beans, baked sweet potatoes and their famous banana pudding for desert. Dinner includes tea and coffee with beer and mixed drinks available from the cash bar. Price is \$20 per person and I will be selling tickets at each of the 3 club meetings in November. If you have any questions please contact me at 626-3303 #1006 or via email,

KBrand@SantaRosaMRI.com.

Kevin will once again be putting together a photo collection of club members fishing adventures during 2003. He is asking that those interested in submitting photos, get those to him soon as possible, with photos in a digital format preferred. As always, there will be great door prizes and the club will be raffling off some nice rods and reels and other fly fishing accessories!

The Fly Fishers of Northwest Florida

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COMMITTEE CHAIRPERSONS

AUCTION - Travis Akins

CONSERVATION - Terry McCormick

DIRECTORY/NEWSLETTER - Jerry Aldridge

EDUCATION - Tom Regina

FACILITIES - Jon Williams

FFF REPRESENTATIVE - Larry Goodman

LIBRARY - Kevin Cohenour

MEMBERSHIP - Karen Brand

**DIRECTORS AT LARGE - John Brand
Bill Locher**

MONTHLY MEETING SCHEDULE

BUSINESS MEETING - 1ST TUESDAY, 7 PM
BULL SESSION - 2ND THURSDAY, 6:30 PM
CLINIC - 3RD SATURDAY, 9 AM
BOARD MEETING-4TH TUESDAY, 6:30PM
FISHING TRIPS - AS SCHEDULED

Meetings at Miraflores Park, 17th Avenue between Belmont and LaRua St

Newsletter Editor - Jerry Aldridge
(850) 478-9255
jamayfly@aol.com

Quick Ties with Tom Regina

At the November 15th casting and fly tying clinic we will tie the Little Red Worm Beadhead. The tools needed are a vice, bobbin, and scissors. The materials needed are a Mustad 3906 wet nymph hook, size 16 or smaller, red glass bead, red 8/0 thread and red embroidery floss. Your club will provide the materials and tools.



INSTRUCTIONS: First bend down the hook barb. Place the bead over the hook point. Once the bead is on the hook place the hook in the vise. Start the thread with a jam knot at the back of the bead which should be hard against the hook eye. Take about ten touching thread wraps toward the hook bend then return the thread to the back of the bead. Cut a six inch length of embroidery floss from the skein. Separate the six strands of the cut off floss. Use the thread to tie in one or two of the floss strands at the back of the bead with about one inch of the strand(s) sticking out over the top of the hook eye. Take several thread wraps over the floss toward the hook bend stopping at the point where the first thread wraps ended. Pull the floss toward the hook bend until the short end sticking over the hook eye is under the thread wraps. This is easier than trying to cut the end of the floss next to the bead. Continue to wrap the thread over the floss to the hook bend. Return the thread to the back of the bead. Wrap the floss forward in touching wraps to the back of the bead. With the thread, tie off the floss and cut away the excess floss. Take a few thread wraps at the back of the bead to cover the tag end of the floss. Whip finish the thread at the back of the bead. Cut the thread and place a small amount of head cement at the tie off point.

Quick Ties with Kevin Cohenour



We will tie the RM Sting originated by Richard Murphy at the November 13th bull session. See Fly Tyer magazine, Autumn 03. Materials required are a size 2 saltwater hook (60 deg jig hook preferred), white flat-waxed nylon, black crystal flash, grizzly hackle, medium monofilament eyes, medium lead dumbbell eyes and 1/16" tan foam. The fly is a small shrimp imitation.

INSTRUCTIONS: Tie in several strands of black crystal flash for antennae, a set of monofilament eyes at the hook bend, and the lead dumbbells just behind the hook eye. Tie on a grizzly hackle at the hook bend and palmer wrap forward to the dumbbell eyes. Cut the foam to shape and tie on behind the dumbbells. Apply super glue to the bottom of the foam and press it over the palmered hackle. Wrap the tying thread back and forth in wide spirals over the foam to define the segmented tail.

Meeting Minutes, October 7th, President Jay Williams, presiding

General Meeting: Called to order at 7:00 pm

Old Business: Fall Picnic on Oct 19th at Shoreline Park charge will be \$5 per person. There will be casting contest, fish and shrimp. Please bring covered dish.

Bull session will be Oct 8, Sat. Clinic the 18th. Christmas party will be Dec 2 at Gus's Shuck Shack.

New Business: There will be a fishing outing on Escambia River on Oct 29th. Those interested will meet at Jim's fish camp around 7:00 AM. Contact Russ Shields for additional info.

Jay reported that BFA ask we make sure to clean up and lock facility after each meeting.

Jay ask for volunteer to replace Jerry as newsletter editor. Jerry says that it will take 2 to 3 days per month to do. Club owns hardware necessary to produce the newsletter except software and will get that if needed.

Program: by Tom Birdwell on Chezk Nymphing—a type of nymphing used in the Chezk Republic using several (usually 3) heavy nymphs drifted slowly downstream. Tom had several books of patterns from the Chezk Republic and said that it is a very effective method—especially for whitefish!

Fishing Reports: Numerous reports of specs in the sound. Milt May reported bluefish were in the pass. Bill Locker reported on trout he caught in Arkansas.

Door Prizes:

Many door prizes everybody got at least one prize-- included flies and plastic lures.

Meeting Adjourned:

Emile Lores, Secretary

“Tying One On” by Mike Huffman, Southwest Missouri Fly Fishers. Courtesy of the FFF Clubwire

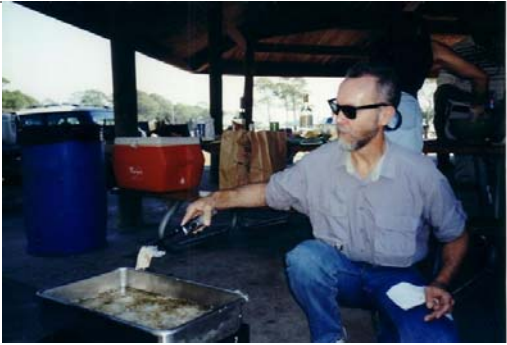
When I hear the term purist, the hackles rise on the nape of my neck. When I hear an individual apply the term to himself, I dive out of laughing distance and look for the least harmful direction to vomit. Purity, even as a concept, is heavily suspect at least in the latter part of this century. After all, even the driven snow has some hereditary acid rain content. So at best we are dealing with a relative issue and not an absolute.

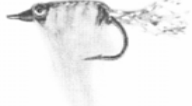
I won't use commercially raised worms. I won't throw a plug with more than six treble hooks. I wouldn't touch a spinning rod. I don't tie with any of those synthetics (except maybe nylon thread, mylar tinsel, and a few non-bone fish hooks). I only fish dry flies upstream. and only at certain times. "Are we to suppose that the purist of the pure simply false cast, waiting for a trout to leap free of the water and snatch their virgin undampened offering out of the air" Why not? Hell, that would go a long way toward explaining those days we got skunked.

Secretly, I believe self-proclaimed "purists" are retreating from some preexisting state of being they're embarrassed about. In their sleep they're tortured by visions of finding themselves naked, on opening morning, ankle deep in the most popular corn hole on the river with a tangled spin cast outfit in their hands, and without their pipe or even their Latin Thesaurus. An angry mob is closing in around them, including all the classmates they snatched on in school, threatening to pummel them senseless and leave the carcass for the crawdads and bluegill to pick clean.


The whole condition would be pretty humorous if it wasn't for the fact some newcomers to the sport are actually put off by such buffoons. I found myself amongst a few last year on the fly fishing only stretch of a Connecticut river. As luck would have it, I caught and released a couple of nice browns. When I arrived at the car, I was approached by two of these will appointed and expensively outfitted fellows. Recalling that I hadn't seen them catch any fish, I casually laid my vest over the keeper ring of my rod, and braced myself for some interrogation. Well, after engaging in some talk about the cost of their equipment, how the Fish and Game Department hadn't been stocking enough, in relation to the income and import of the "average" angler in these waters, they showed nymphs, and other assorted and quite trendy offerings. Then they dropped the question. What was I using? When I produced the somewhat mangled #6 bright purple woolly booger there was a spastic moment of silence, and a slight shifting of weight to their rear leg, as if it was Kryptonite or something. They just didn't quite know how to handle it. I could have only guessed what they were mumbling to each other as they ambled away, but I had the giggles all the way home.

PICNIC
PICS



FLY FISHERS

OF NORTHWEST FLORIDA

PO BOX 1041
PENSACOLA, FL 32591



November



2003

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						1
2	3	4 Business Meeting 7 PM	5	6	7	8
9	10	11	12	13 Bull Session Fly tying and tall tales 6:30 PM	14	15 Clinic-Casting, tying, more tall tales, lunch 9 AM
16	17	18	19	20	21	22
23	24	25 Board Meeting 6:30 PM	26	27	28	29
30						
			6			