

Flies & Lies

NEWSLETTER OF THE FLYFISHERS
OF NORTHWEST FLORIDA
OCTOBER 2005

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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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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

Yellowstone Park with Milt and Lynn Mays



Hey everybody. Here are the pictures from our Yellowstone trip. It was a great trip, but next time it will be longer ! On the way up to Yellowstone we saw herds of wild mustangs around Rock Springs, Wyoming. We also went through Grand Teton National Park where we saw a moose cow and calve. Got lots of pics of Yellowstone elk, one huge male with a big rack, coming within 20 feet of our campsite every morning and bugling as our wake up call. Also, buffalo were quite abundant.



The weather was quite nice most of the time. Luckily we had



planned on moving camp on Saturday, because that morning it started raining, and on our way up to Bozeman, Montana it snowed over one pass above 7,000 ft. We stayed one night in Bozeman, getting a shower and seeing the town, then went back into another area of the park, hoping to see wolves. It was quite cold the last several nights, getting down to mid 20's with hard frost and ice on the truck, and partially freezing a pitcher of water that was left in the bear proof storage container over night. We were quite comfortable in our mummy sleeping bags in the back of the Chevy Avalanche. But this lone buffalo was quite frosty on his back. You can also see the fresh snow on top of the mountains surrounding Yellowstone Lake. On the way out we did manage to hear a wolf pack howling back and forth to each other, and after waiting for an hour saw one wolf through binocs. It was too far away to get a good picture, but the terrain was similar to the below picture.



I managed to catch a few each day, fishing for only 2-4 hours each day, and driving with Lynn seeing the sights the rest of the day. One day was particularly good at the area of the confluence of the Firehole and Gibbon rivers where they form the Madison. I was nymph fishing and caught several browns, rainbows in the 12-15 inch, and one 24 inch fat brown. I got no pics of fish, as there was no one there but me! Another



day there was a BWO hatch and caught several 15-20 inch rainbow, and one 15 inch Yellowstone Cutthroat on dry flies. This was on the Lamar River, with wolf prints and bear prints all over the river edge.

Of course we did see some of the sites- like Old Faithful and the 308 feet



lower falls of the Yellowstone River that forms the Grand Canyon of the Yellowstone.

I'll miss the big saltwater fish, but I have to tell you that I am perfectly happy flyfishing on rivers and lakes. Tying flies has become much more purpose driven, so I am getting much better at it, and quite enjoy it. I hope to join a few fishing clubs here in the next few months. I'll close as the sunsets over the hills behind our house.

President's MessageJerry Aldridge

There is nothing like a western trip to remind one that fall comes a lot earlier in other parts of this great country. Thirty and forty degree nights followed by sixty or seventy degree days with 20% humidity is a welcome change - and the fishing was pretty good, too. I treated myself to a couple of days at Antelope Creek Lodge near Mt. Shasta in Northern California. A magnificent lodge, fine food, wonderful service and the rainbows are as long as your leg and hungry for dry flies. I saw the backing many times on my trusty 2 weight, and more than once, the arbor started to shine through before I turned the fish. Rainbows up to 10-12 pounds (not inches) didn't treat my 5 weight with any more respect. I have called this "Disney World" fishing in the past but it sure was a nice way to spend a couple days. Booking is through the Fly Shop in Redding, CA.

Speaking of fishing, our fall fish fry and fishing outing is Sunday, October 9th at Shoreline Park in Gulf Breeze (details below). Water temperature is still in the 80s so the speckled trout should still be eager for your topwater stuff. Kings and Spanish, skipjacks and blues are plentiful along the beach, pompano are showing and bull reds should make an appearance anytime now. The docks at Shoreline Park took another beating but the boat launches are functional and the facilities at the pavilion look OK (will these hurricanes ever leave us alone?). So limber up that casting arm and we will see you there. If you haven't already, RSVP to **Karen Brand** so she can order the right amount of fish.

Russ Shields and **Travis Akins** will present a program on rod building at the business meeting October 4th. Travis and Russ have put together some nice rods so come learn from two guys who know how to do it. Thanks Russ for presiding while I was out west and for arranging for last month's program on painted bream.

Hoot Gibson has been under the weather recuperating from abdominal surgery at Baptist Hospital but expects to be home around the first of the month. We wish him well.

Nominations for and election of club officers and at-large directors will take place at the November business meeting. Nominations will also be accepted from the floor. 2005 Angler of the Year will be selected by secret ballot. Election results will be presented at the annual Christmas party in December. May all your drifts be drag-free....Jerry Aldridge

FALL FISH FRY & FISHING OUTING

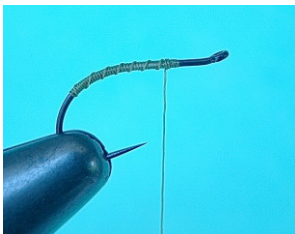
We will combine a fishing trip with the fall picnic that is scheduled for Sunday, October 9th. Plan to be at Shoreline Park at 6:30 AM for coffee & doughnuts, area briefing and to sort out boat sharing arrangements. We will fish until noon. There will be a prize (a small box of salt water flies) for the angler who catches the longest speckled trout on a fly. The speck may be released after being measured (not guesstimated). Other rules may be democratically ginned up at the briefing. We will regroup at noon for fish tales and fellowship followed by great food at 1 PM. Please bring a potluck dish and \$5 per person to cover the cost of the fish and drinks. Contact **Art deTonnancourt** (492-3833 or artdetonnancourt1@cox.net) or **Jerry Aldridge** (478-9255 or jamayfly@yahoo.com) for questions about the fishing. Contact **Karen Brand** (626-0642 or kbrand@santarosamri.com) for questions about the Fish Fry.

October Quick Ties with Tom Regina... Caddis Pupa

Caddisflies spend the larval stage of their life cycle in a cocoon called a case, in a spiderweb-like net which they spin, or free ranging, crawling along the stream bottom. When the larvae are ready to emerge they metamorphosis into pupae and use their wings, legs and bodies to swim to the surface. A pupa may drift long distances in the water column or trapped in the surface film before emerging as an adult. During the pupa stage the caddis is at its most vulnerable stage to be taken by trout.

Tying Instructions

Hook	TMC 206BL, Size 10
Thread	Olive 6/0, black 8/0 optional
Body	Hollow olive Larva Lace Nymph Body Material
Wing	Brown polypropylene yarn
Thorax	Dark brown Life Cycle Nymph Dubbing
Head	Tying thread or 8/0 black thread



1. Debarb and mount the hook in the vise. Using a jam knot, start the thread two hook eyes back from the hook eye. *Note: Do not crowd the hook eye. Maintain the two hook eye distance for the wing, thorax and head.* In touching turns lay down a thread base along the hook shank to a point about one half way down the hook bend. In quick spiral turns, return the thread to the thread tie-on point.

2. Cut about a four inch piece of Larva Lace from the skeen. Cut the end of the lace at a shallow angle as shown in the example.



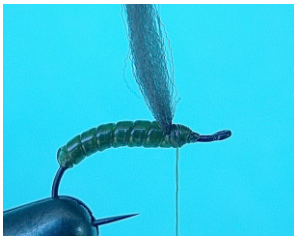
3. At the thread tie-on point position the lace with the shallow angle cut down - on top of and parallel to the hook shank. *Note: The lace can be tied on with the shallow cut up. However it is easier to tie it on with the cut down. The shallow cut end, tied on either down or up, provides a smooth transition from the body to the thorax. A squared-off blunt cut will not.* Tie in the shallow angle cut end of the lace with two or three moderately tight thread wraps.

4. Continue tying the lace on along the top of the hook shank with tight spaced thread wraps. When the thread wraps reach the hook shank mid point start stretching the lace and continue tying the lace along the top of the hook to a point about halfway down the hook bend. *Note: After you stretch and break the lace a time or two you will get a feel for how much you can stretch it.* In quick spiral turns, return the thread to the thread tie-on point and make one or two half hitch/whip finish wraps and hang the thread bobbin over the bobbin rest. **DO NOT CUT THE THREAD.**



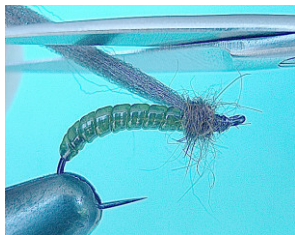
5. Stretching the lace, wrap it forward in seven to nine touching turns. Lessen the amount of stretch with each wrap of lace so there is virtually no stretch for the last two wraps. Use several tight thread wraps to tie off the lace. Stretching the tag end of the lace, cut it away at a shallow angle.

October Quick Ties with Tom Regina... Caddis Pupa



6. Cut about a two inch piece of poly yarn from the skeen. Separate this piece of yarn into thirds lengthwise. At the front of the lace body, and on top of the hook, tie in one of the separated pieces of the poly wing material. At a shallow angle, cut away the tag end of the wing material.

7. Dub a buggy thorax over the wing tie in point. Tie a neat thread head, cut away the thread and apply head cement. *Note: To make a neater thread head use 8/0 thread. After dubbing the thorax make one or two half hitch/whip finish wraps with the tying thread. Cut away the tying thread and with a jam knot tie on and build a neat 8/0 thread head.*



8. Holding your scissors parallel to the top of the hook shank and holding the poly wing at about a 45 degree angle, cut the wing so it's finished length is about 2/3 the hook length. If needed, use a dubbing teaser to pick out the thorax dubbing to give the fly a buggy appearance.



Fishing the Caddis Pupa... Because this caddis pupa was tied without weight on the hook it can be fished throughout the water column, from stream bottom to surface film, with or without a strike indicator or dry fly indicator. To fish the caddis pupa along the stream bottom add enough weight to the tippet, depending the water depth and flow, to get the fly down quickly. Remove some or all of the weight from the tippet to move the fly higher in the water column. To fish the pupa in the surface film, remove all weight from the tippet and dress only the fly body with a gel floatant. Dress the thorax with a dry powdered floatant. The powdered floatant traps air bubbles on the thorax for a more realistic appearance. When fished in the surface film the use of a dry fly indicator is recommended.

Minutes of the Meeting of September 6, 2005. Fly Fishers of Northwest Florida. Vice President Russ Shields presiding

General Meeting: Called to order at 7:00 pm. Previous meeting was Aug 2nd, brief minutes were read and approved.

Old Business: Don Lupone was not present, no Treasurer's Report.

Committee reports: FFF-Karen reported that FFF is looking at a site in N. Alabama for a future conclave and that 2006 would be at Calloway Gardens again. Nomination Committee-Travis asked for any volunteers or nominations for officers since we will be voting for new officers in November. Fishing Trips- Art reported that the fall fishing trip will be in conjunction with the fall picnic at Shoreline Park. Fishing will start at 6:30 with coffee and donuts and a briefing. There will be a contest for biggest Speck caught on a Gartside Gurgler.

Program: Chris Hickey gave a program on Hand Painted Bream in the Dead Lakes (Chipola River). He discussed the changes in the Dead Lakes since removal of the dam in 1987. He said water quality has improved and water hyacinths are gone, but people are finding it more difficult to catch bream because of changing water levels make it more difficult to locate beds. Fish diversity is as good or better since the dam was removed. As for the painted bream, they appear to be a color morph of the regular bream, possibly a subspecies.

Door Prizes: Prizes including flies and a couple books were raffled.

Meeting Adjourned: Emile Lores, Secretary

Tying Clouser Minnows for Speckled Trout... Jerry Aldridge

In Jackson Hole, Wyoming, the annual "One Fly" competition pits anglers from all over the world to see who can catch and release the most and largest trout (the fresh water variety). Hoppers, stonefly nymphs and dry flies, chernobyl ants and club sandwiches are just a few of the many different flies used. If a similar contest were held for speckled trout in the Pensacola area, the majority of anglers would use a Clouser Minnow. A few topwater enthusiasts would use their poppers and gurglers, others might try their Crazy Charlies, Gotchas, deceivers, epoxy minnows, etc. but most would stick with the Clouser.

So let's take a look at a possible winning Clouser starting with the hook. Standard length steel hooks such as the Mustad 3407 and 34007 fill the need nicely. The 3407 is cadmium steel that will corrode fairly quickly if you have to break a fish off. The 34007 is stainless steel that is shinier, less likely to corrode quickly and is a hook-eye longer for a given hook size. Other manufacturers produce similar hooks as good or better but probably more expensive. Whichever brand you choose, buy sizes 2 and 4 to start with. Those who would like to tie in a wider range of sizes could go as large as 1/0 and as small as 8. The size of the rod you fish with and your casting competence should be factors in choosing the right hook size. Yeah I know there are some who can cast a 2/0 clouser with heavy lead eyes 90 feet with a 2 weight rod. But for the average angler casting with a 7 or 8 weight, size 4 clousers are an excellent choice. Don't forget to sharpen the hook and bend down the barb!

Size 3/0 or 6/0 thread in white, black, red and brown will more than cover thread needs as far as the fish are concerned. The advanced or intermediate tyer will probably buy a wider range of colors to match or complement the color of wing material chosen.

The distinguishing feature of the clouser is the eyes tied on top the hook shank usually 1/3 shank length behind the eye of the hook. It is these weighted eyes that cause the fly to ride "hook point up" and to stream through the water with an up and down "jiggling motion" like a wounded minnow. Eyes can be light (bead chain) to fish fairly shallow or very heavy (lead or even tungsten) to fish deep. A look at a tying catalog will show lots of choices including bead chain, cast lead, machined lead, brass in hour glass shape, brass indented to hold decal eyes, etc., some finished or pre-painted in a variety of colors. My favorite is the silver finished brass eyes, hour-glass shaped and indented for decal eyes, either flat or 3- dimensional. The decals also come in many colors; I usually use silver or gold with a black pupil. An eye unpainted or without a decal may catch just as many specks but a tyer must tie to please himself as well as the fish.

Clouser wings may be tied with many natural and artificial materials. Bucktail and other tails (squirrel, calf, fox, raccoon, etc.) plus body hair (bear, yak, goat, etc.) will do for folks who choose to tie with natural material. Artificials include fishhair, ultra hair, super hair, unique hair, neer hair, craft fur, etc. Some of the artificials foul easily but are generally more durable, sink quicker, cost less per fly and are easier to work with. However, nothing artificial that I have seen will so accurately mimic the shape of a minnow as high quality bucktail with its tapered hairs. The material I use for most of my clousers is super hair.

These days, lots of accent materials are available to the tyer to add shiny stuff and flash to the wing. Brand names such as flashabou, holographic flashabou, crystal (or Krystal) flash, angel hair and sparkle flash, all available in lots of colors, are widely sold. My favorites are the simple, cheap and most widely stocked - flashabou and crystal flash. To start with, you don't need many colors; silver, gold and pearl will do just fine.

So, how do you tie all this together (and in what color combinations) to tie the winning fly? It would really be nice to be able to give an unqualified answer. If there really was one magic fly for specks or any other species for that matter, what would fly tyers do with their time and how would purveyors of tying materials make a living? If I had to choose one fly knowing nothing of conditions beforehand, it would probably be the red and yellow (see Kevin's article on front page). Shown below are some other favorites that are always in my tackle bag when I'm not in a one-fly contest.

Tying Clouser Minnows for Speckled Trout...continued

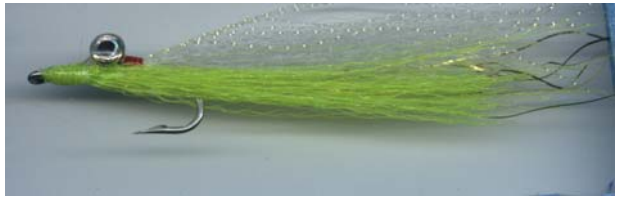
PUMPKIN - This one is tied with "fishair", the only artificial I can find the right shade of orange. I usually tie it with bucktail. The inner accent is copper (gold would work fine) flashabou; the outer is orange crystal flash. The eyes are brass with orange decal inserts. A great color for fall and winter.



TAN/OLIVE - "Super hair" is the wing material. The inner accent is copper flashabou; the outer is root beer crystal flash. The eyes are brass with pearl 3-D holographic inserts. A good all around color combo.



CHARTREUSE/WHITE - Super hair, gold flashabou, chartreuse crystal flash, brass eyes with pearl inserts, red thread "gills". The go to fly for summertime grass bed or "under the lights" fishing. For some reason, this color doesn't work as well in the winter, for me anyway.



OLIVE/BLUE/WHITE - Fishair, rainbow flashabou, blue rainbow crystal flash, brass eyes with silver decal inserts. A good all around combo. I would tie this one even if it didn't catch fish because it's so pretty. I think I first saw it tied by "member emeritus" Vance Cook;



SMOKE/BLACK - Super hair, silver flashabou, black crystal flash, brass eyes with silver inserts. The "go to" fly in deep or murky water or winter time.



Editor's Note: This article was written for the February 2003 issue. It is surprising how much preferences change in a short time. I now tie Clousers in a slightly different style, wrapping thread on the belly from behind the eyes all the way to the hook bend to lessen fouling. The eyes I use these days are simple brass hourglass without the decal. I haven't noticed the fish turning up their noses. The color I almost always tie on first is tan and olive, either super hair or yak. My second favorite is smoke and black, especially in winter. I rarely use red and yellow or chartreuse and white. Some of the colors in my current Clouser box are all of the colors above plus tan/yellow, dark green/white, light blue/dark blue, turquoise/white, tan/white and pink/white.

We will tie Clousers in my colors and your favorites at the Bull Session October 13th. There will be plenty of super hair, yak hair and bucktail plus all the trimmings so come on out.



OCTOBER 2005

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
						1
2	3	4 Business Meeting 7 PM	5	6	7	8
9 Fall Fish Fry and Fishing Outing - October 9 at Shoreline Park...See details inside	10	11	12	13 Bull Session-Tying & Tall Tales 6:30	14	15 Clinic - Casting, tying gourmet lunch 9 AM
16	17	18	19	20	21	22
23	24	25	26	27	28	29
30	31					

