



Flies and Lies

Newsletter of the Fly Fishers of Northwest Florida

September, 2017

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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

2017 Gulf Coast Council Fly Fishing Fair September 16 9:00 AM – 4:00 PM Ocean Springs, MS Civic Center

The main events will all be on Saturday: casting, tying, seminars, workshops, raffles, and auctions. Tackle company representatives will be there with stuff. Lots of stuff.

No admission charge. No cost except meals, raffle tickets, etc. Our own Jeff Deuschle has been working hard to bring this together and hopes to see lots of us. We will have the clinic at the club that day for those who can't make it to Ocean Springs. Car pools can be arranged at the September meeting.

Bob Korose Our friend and vice president, Bob, has been very sick for a long time and has suffered injuries from falls at home. He has been in the hospital but the doctors can't find what is causing the problem. Please keep Bob in your prayers. We will have updates on his condition at the meeting.



Club Meeting – Tuesday, September 5 - 7:00

Oleta will be telling us about her trip to Montana – see page 3.

Fly Tying Bull Session – Thursday, September 14 - 6:30

Russ Shields will be the leader this month presenting his Improved Clouser (yes, if the Clouser can be improved, Russ can do it.)

Clinic – Saturday, September 16 **RSVP!!** We will have the clinic for those not going to Ocean Springs. Another gourmet lunch is on tap. However RSVP is required so Chef Joe will know how much of his famous **White Bean Chicken Chili** to prepare. Contact Joe at jhigpcola@aol.com or 850- 458-2533. If not enough make reservations we will be back to hot dogs. Yum yum anyway.

What's gonna work??? Teamwork!!!

*If you have children or grandchildren who watched the Wonder Pets you know what it takes.
If not, watch the video. <https://youtu.be/UdkgWxdIs5U>*

On July 28, I got to check one off my bucket list. One of my goals for the last two years is to be able to catch and land a BIG Jack . Because of the bay being trash due to all the rain, I ventured out to the Mass. I had been out there for about an hour catching a few nice Spanish when Tom Finkle pulled up in his boat. Tom was about 75 feet away to tell me when there was a splash between us, then another. I made a cast with my 10 wt. to the first splash about 65 feet away. I made two strips and felt the take, a strip set and it was on. The fish took off and I was into my backing in a matter of seconds, not to see my fly line for another 20 minutes. I played



the fish not wanting to horse him in. I yelled to Tom that I thought I was going to have to crank the boat and chase him because I was running out of backing. He said for me to hang on and pulled up beside me. He told me to get in his boat and tied my boat to his. So here we go chasing this fish towing my boat. After a couple of minutes I started getting the upper hand and as it was circling I was jumping from Tom's boat back to mine and back to Tom's. Finally back in my boat I got the Jack in and Tom pull along side and netted him for me. After a victory yell and a few quick pictures, he was released to give someone else a thrill. I have to thank Tom for being out there for the help, as it will be one of my best fishing memories. **Terry McCormick**

Editor's note: This story is important for several reasons, including the fact Terry jumped from boat to boat and back to boat – keep in mind just a couple years ago Terry was falling out of boats.....

New Member Welcome

I've had the pleasure of fishing with the club's newest member, Brian Whalen, on my last two outings in August. He's a great caster and always willing to try out new flies, two great reasons to invite him along as I'm always trying out fly patterns for the fly of the month. We had the best luck recently using large, brightly-



colored baitfish patterns along the deeper grass flats of the sound. Brian caught this nice Spanish on the bendback "Bushwhacker" we tied a couple of months ago, along with several feisty bluefish. I caught this 23" Speckled Trout on a



chartreuse and pearl baitfish we tied back in October 2016, that I believe was called the Midnight Mullet. We also took advantage of the light seas and found acres of False Albacore and the biggest Blue Runners I've ever seen about 5 miles straight out from the Pensacola Pier. The trick was to find the clear water, but once we did it was non-stop action with



a #6 green & white Hoo Fly we tied way back in January 2013. It may be hot, but there are plenty of hungry fish out there so grab some water and your fly rod and go make a trip to remember! **Matt Wegener**

From the Pres The FFI Conclave in Livingston Montana was a great experience. Met some wonderful fly tyers and several guides from several different states. Yes, I will be calling them. Several were instructors in the Women's University. I took the first time offered Women's Fly Tying for 2 days then the 2 day Women's University. We fished the Yellowstone river and DePuy Spring Creek, fish were everywhere. After the Conclave I started my camping fishing adventure. I had the opportunity to fish the Eight Mile Creek with Kevin.



In the Yellowstone national park fly fishermen can fish almost anywhere .. just getting to the spot is adventurous in itself. After 5 days in Yellowstone I

went on to the Great Teton. Snake river is something else. Then fished the Snake river outside of Cody Wyoming. Continued on to Colopaxi and fished the Arkansas river. Used a hopper dropper and had a blast. Heading to Cortez I ran across the Blue river. What a great river that is. Need to come back up and fish it for several days. There is Salmon in it. In Tennessee now looking for a place to fish. Now I understand why so many people travel to fly fish these incredible rivers. I see a RV in my future, camping in a tent has aged me a tad bit. **Oleta** More on this trip at the September meeting.

Congratulations to our intrepid treasurer.



Jay finally caught a fish. Actually two. Without going too far off shore. Actually very close to home. Picture is big so you can read the shirt. Happy Birthday, Old Man

Jay also provided the Polish Stew for the clinic in August.



And just like that it was gone.....



Fishing with Capt. Baz

August has been a challenging month as usual. The inside waters continue to be iced tea colored making for difficult redfish and trout sight-fishing. We haven't landed a photo-worthy trout or redfish in the past two weeks. There are plenty of small trout on the grass beds west of the EPA if you want to have some fun throwing poppers and gurglers.



There have been a few big Spanish mackerel around, but you have to be patient and make lots of casts. We landed two 3-4 pounders on fly August 13 by the toll booth and then a few more on spinning tackle later in the month. I expect the big fish to start congregating next month in the usual spots as the water clarity improves. The "schoolie" Spanish are as thick as I've ever seen them in the "East Pass" area between the Ranger Station, Pickens Pier, and the Turning Basin. These are small 12" fish with occasional "keepers" in the



mix, and there are thousands of them feeding on bay anchovies. Here's a photo of Kent Gilliland with a typical catch August 24 on a #6 Cowen's "Albie Anchovy". You'll also find huge schools of big ladyfish closer to shore between the campground and Pickens Pier. The ladyfish have been there later in the afternoons on strong outgoing water. These are big fish in the 2-4 pound range, and they are a total blast! It's

best to use a small section of wire in case a Spanish mackerel beats the ladyfish to the fly. Two inch bay anchovy imitations are your best bet. Here's Kent again with an "average-sized" ladyfish from a couple days ago. You'll enjoy this short YouTube video of the hot action that day: <https://youtu.be/6bM8ufN5pNE>



We've been catching good numbers of flounders on tan/white clouser minnows, and some of the fish have been very nice. Check out this flounder landed by Stephen Miller on August 14. If you want to target flounders on fly it's all about identifying the right habitat. You want to be fishing sand spots in 3-5' of water close to grass beds and deeper water. A 15-20' diameter sand spot surrounded by grass beds on the edge of a dropoff would be perfect. Be sure to let your clouser minnow get to the bottom and then strip so the fly drags and hops along in the bottom foot of the water column.

There has been some off-and-on excellent false albacore fishing in the Gulf from 2-6 miles SE of the pass. I usually run out to the sea buoys and then head east toward the Three Barges. Many times I'll hit the FA within a half mile, and other times they've disappeared completely. We found them in large numbers last Friday, August 25, but had to run all the way out to the Casino Rubble 5-6 miles SE of the pass. A few days earlier on August 21 Stephen Miller ran all the way to the Russian Freighter, but all we could find were blue runners (hardtails). Check out this 4 pound hardtail!



Mike Rothfarb from Atlanta was in town August 19 for his first-ever saltwater fly-fishing experience. He picked up a fly rod for the first time in January and had only fished freshwater streams in northern Georgia. I picked him up at Navy Point, and we spent a half hour working on his casting before heading out to the Gulf. It was glassy-calm and we ran out east of the Sea Buoys looking for albies. There they were right where they

were supposed to be, and I stopped well short of the school so Mike could get prepared with 50' of line coiled on the deck and the #6 gummy minnow in his hand. Imagine his excitement as I idled closer and the FA were crashing the bait and leaping out of the water. I tried to describe what would happen when a fish grabbed his fly...that the line would be flying up off the deck trying to find something to wrap around, the



reel handle would be spinning with incredible velocity trying to bruise and tear the skin off his knuckles, the fly line would be burning and cutting his stripping fingers as the fish exploded away from the boat... But the action was too intense for him to listen as he started frantically false-casting and then dropped the fly in the midst of the school. Immediately a fish inhaled the fly and nearly yanked the rod out of his sweaty hands as it accelerated at lightening speed running off a hundred yards of backing. Mike was shell-shocked but quickly regained his composure and fought the fish like a veteran.

After numerous circles around the boat the fish came to the surface and we landed it...his first saltwater fish on fly! He was hot to get another one, so we cruised over to another school, and he landed another one. It was about then that I noticed what looked like a boat wake fifty yards away, but there weren't any boats around. I had a big hookless "teaser" plug tied on a big spinning reel and heaved it out there in the vicinity of the "nervous water". It was a school of big jacks, and they all tried to eat the plug as I raked it back to the boat. Mike was coming unglued trying to crank in his 8wt as I was telling him to "DROP YOUR ROD AND GRAB THE 10WT!!" I quickly secured the spinning rod, handed him the 10wt which was rigged and ready, and stowed his 8wt. Of course he'd never held a 10 weight fly rod, but his casting form was good and I was sure he'd find a way to get the fly to the jacks if I could find them again. Another long cast with the teaser, and here they came...50 jacks tearing up the surface trying to eat the teaser. Mike backhanded the fly 30 feet from the boat right in their path and this big jack crevalle crushed it! You talk about exciting! Mike was all business fighting that fish, and the Tibor Riptide worked its magic. Half an hour later we boated the jack...his second-ever saltwater fish on fly! The poor guy is ruined for life!



Sure would be nice if all my half-day charters went that way... **Capt Baz**

PROJECT HEALING WATERS On September 4 we will have our 2nd annual Pot Luck and Low Country Boil lunch for all our participants, volunteers and their families.

Following that we will meet on the 11th and 25th for casing and tying. We have two new participants, Aaron Davis and Lou Orrie and we welcome them to the "Fold".

In other news, Oleta has been selected to go to the National Destination trip to the Florida Keys from the 19th to the 22nd of September. **Russ Shields**

Fly of the Month *Russ' Improved Clouser Minnow*

Hook: 34007 #1

Dumbbell Eye: Medium, yellow with black pupil

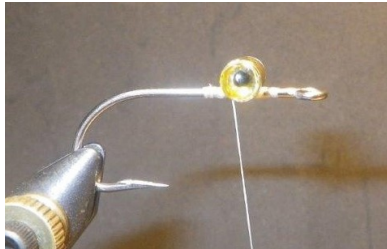
Thread: White Flat Waxed Nylon 210 Den

Body: Medium Holographic silver tinsel overwrapped with clear 30# Mono.

Lower wing: White Steve Farrar Flash Blend

Upper Wing: Chartreuse Steve Farrar Flash Blend

Head: Overwrap with Chartreuse thread or use permanent marker



1. Bend down the hook barb and insert hook in the vise. Wind on a thread base and attach dumbbell eye about a 1/3 in. behind the hook eye.
2. Continue to wrap a smooth thread base to the bend of the hook and back to just behind the dumbbell eye.



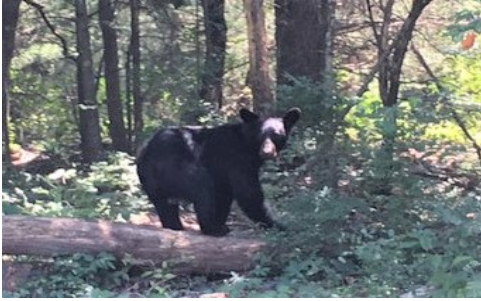
the dumbbell eye. Cut a piece of 30# mono about a foot long and tie it on the top of the hook shank just behind the dumbbell eye. Use smooth touching wraps all the way to the hook bend and back the dumbbell eye. Tie in the tinsel and make smooth touching wraps all the way to the start of the hook bend and then back to the starting point. Whip finish the thread and let it hang behind the dumbbell eye. Wrap the mono in very tight touching turns up to the dumbbell eye and secure it with several thread wraps.



3. Advance the thread to just behind the hook eye and tie on the lower white wing in front of and just a few turns behind the dumbbell eye. Use tight thread wraps. The wing should be a thick match width and hook length long behind the rear of the hook.

4. Turn the hook over in the vise and tie on the chartreuse upper wing with tight thread wraps in front of the dumbbell eye. Build up a smooth thread head without crowding the hook eye. The upper wing should be just slightly longer than the lower, white wing and the same fairly small bundle.
5. Over wrap the white thread head with chartreuse thread or use a permanent marker. Cover head with thin UV cured cement or 30 min. epoxy.





Fishing Pics from Gary Pheabus and George Norton on the Shenandoah River in VA. There is nothing like fishing in the bare.

Fly Fishers of Northwest Florida Meeting Minutes: August 1, 2017

By George Norton

Our August 1st meeting started at 1900 hours. There were ten members present and Treasurer, Jay Bryczynski called the meeting to order since our President was on a Western trout fishing trip.

Jerry Giles put on a fine presentation about how to read trout water from a river he has fished many times in North Carolina. His key points were a trout's field of vision only extends to a two and half foot window which is why he favors nymph fishing and the importance of getting the nymph to the bottom. Other important basic points were "don't stand on rocks" (trout can see you) and "don't fish and wade in the middle of the pools." He told us how trout hang on the current edge and only use the minimum effort to feed and to fish the tail outs of pools.

The old business issue of whether to hold or reschedule our September Saturday clinic which is in conflict with the annual Ocean Springs fly fishing show on September 14-15th. The Ocean Springs show is about fly tying, seminars and casting instruction and many regional experts attend. About six of our members plan to attend the Ocean Springs event but it was decided to **not** cancel and reschedule our Saturday clinic. The old business and the treasures reports were accepted by the members.

New business concerned an Estuary Program which will be funded by the BP Oil Spill. Our club has been asked to write a letter supporting a Technical Advisory Committee to research the habit quality in the West Florida Estuaries. Russ agreed to write a brief letter endorsing this research program. This is in line with our club charter which is supposed to be supportive of conservation efforts. The motion to support the program with a letter of endorsement was carried and it should be noted that other regions are competing for the same monies.

Terry McCormick encouraged club members to consider attending the Atlanta fly fishing show on the first weekend of February and called it "outstanding." There will be more to follow on this show.

Fishing reports: The Sound is starting to slowly clear but most efforts have been around the Massachusetts where some big Spanish and King Mackerel have been caught by club members on the fly. Terry gave a very entertaining fish story of a battle at the Massachusetts with a big Jack Crevelle which almost spooled all his fly line and backing. However, Tom Finkle who was also fishing the wreck in his own boat, helped save the day by hitching their two boats together and with Terry leaping from boat to boat Tom was able to follow the giant fish in his boat. After a bruising thirty minute battle Terry's forty four inch Jack Crevelle was in the net.