



Flies and Lies

Newsletter of the Fly Fishers of Northwest Florida

September, 2020

FFNWF

PO Box 1041
Pensacola, FL 32591
www.ffnwf.org

PRESIDENT
David Handley

(850) 417-9233

VICE-PRESIDENT
Bob Myers
Myers.w.robert@gmail.com

SECRETARY
George Norton
geonorton@gmail.com

TREASURER
Jay Brykczynski
(850) 232-7504
jaybryk@yahoo.com

NEWSLETTER
Paul Wargo
586-943-3155
flyfishersnwf@gmail.com

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

Zoom Board Meeting Thursday Aug 27- 6:00 PM

Zoom Club Meeting - Tuesday, Sept 1- 7:00 PM

From President Dave: *A calm evening you have been looking forward to... Line dressed and leader secure, sufficient line is in the air, the rod makes a careful arc and the line shoots out in a narrow loop directly at your target..... a Perfect Presentation.*

You may have thought this was a sight fishing trip with one of our club's outstanding fly fishing guides. In fact this has been the work of your Board of Directors (BOD) and the Standing Committees in an effort to keep the club on an active schedule. The BOD and Committees have met virtually several times, but the first Tuesday of August was a FFNWF virtual General meeting complete with a presentation on the history of fly fishing by our own Jim White. This was followed up on the second Thursday evening Fly Tying of a Black & Purple Clouser by Pat Murphy. Both of these sessions were recorded by our Zoom Master Lou Orrie and are available for your viewing pleasure in the club's Dropbox.

We will continue this effort with virtual meetings on our normal schedule until we can meet again in person. Information on vaccines is circulating and our hope is they will be successful and become available in our area at the earliest possible date.

We will be having a gathering at 9:00AM on Saturday October 17, 2020 to honor our certified casting instructor Jonas Magnusson's departure with a Cast-In ceremony.

This will be followed with the club's annual auction held outside to meet the social distancing requirements.

Thank each of you for your membership in the club. It has been a difficult course to navigate during the COVIR-19 Virus pandemic. **Dave**

Emails with links to the Zoom meetings are sent out by Lou Orrie. Send him an email and he can put you on the list. tazgunr@hotmail.com

Fishing with Capt. Baz The typical "Summer Doldrums" arrived in August. Inside water temps got up in the low 90's, and the trout and redfish became lethargic. We saw plenty of fish but only caught a few. Here's a nice trout on August 6 caught on a yellow/white clouser and released by Connor Hogan. Connor hooked a bigger trout on an EP gray/white baitfish later that morning, but the barbless hook fell out. The next week Chicago client Robert Parker took a lesson from



Jonas and the following day landed this redfish...his first saltwater fish on fly. It blew his mind seeing that redfish run down and eat the fly! Poor guy is ruined for life. Later in the day he had a blast landing ladyfish and practicing his strip-set.



The doldrums only applied to trout and redfish as there were plenty of ladyfish, bluefish, Spanish mackerel, and especially jack crevalle around. All my fly clients caught ladyfish in the usual spots and a few of them landed mid-sized Spanish. No photos to share, as I didn't want to kill the Spanish or trash the boat with ladyfish excrement. The bluefish were thick down by Crane Cove. These were smaller fish in the 2# range with a few up to 4 pounds. I loaded up a 6wt with a straight shot of 40 mono and some old baitfish imitations, and everybody had fun. Of course the highlight for the clients was watching the dolphins eat our released catch...

Santa Rosa Sound and Pensacola Bay are loaded with jacks. We've been seeing them everywhere from the Garcon Point Bridge, to Bayou Grande, to Opal Beach. These are the big fish, too, up to 40 pounds. Unfortunately, the magic never happened for any of my fly clients in August. When I had a good caster the fish didn't show up. Or when we were overrun with schools of fish the client couldn't get the fly out of the boat. Man oh man was it frustrating. At least some of my spin clients got to enjoy the rush. Here's another shot of Robert Parker who picked up the spinning rod when the jacks showed up...



On August 16 I had new Dallas client Lee Spencer on the boat, and we began the day "staked out" at a favorite jack crevalle spot. Lee is a good caster, but his saltwater fly-fishing experience was limited to redfish fishing around Charleston. I was determined to put him on some jacks! We were set up by 0815, and the first school showed up within fifteen minutes. It was overcast, and I didn't see the fish until they were on top of us. Lee sent a Hail Mary in their general direction as they sped away, but we never really had a chance. You can imagine his excitement at just *seeing* them. I repositioned the boat, and soon another school came along out of reach for the 12wt. I had the big teaser plug ready and brought them to the boat as Lee made the cast. One of those monsters inhaled his fly 20' from the boat, and Lee snatched that rod tip back like he just got off the BassMasters tour! Of course the hook fell out... I motored well out ahead of the school, but in the low light we never found them again. We had one more missed opportunity before the boats and jet skis started showing up, and I decided to head to the gulf.



There was good intel that the false albacore were out there, and sure enough we found them just east of the sea buoys. These were small fish in the 2-3# range...perfect for Lee's 6wt. There were large schools of fish all the way past the 3 Barges, and half a mile farther we found



schools of mahi mahi in the mix. Lee had a great time catching numerous FA and mahi mahis, and then we ran west for more fun with the bluefish. After about an hour it was time to head back to the dock, but we decided to give the jacks one last try. We sat there for an hour and not a single fish came by. When a jet ski shot across my anchor line 25' from the boat we decided to pack it in. Don't you know when Lee stretched out in bed that night he was thinking about the big jack eating his popper...

CONGRATULATIONS to Capt Dan Storey for catching the first-ever Pensacola permit on fly! I saw the photo. **Capt Baz**

Fly of the Month: **CLEAR WATER REDFISH FLY**

This fly is intended to explore our sand flats and grass beds in mid summer. When the sun is high in a clear cloudless sky , low winds with little or no chop. Try hopping or dropping the fly in sand pot holes or holes in grass beds. GOOD LUCK

MATERIALS:

HOOK: MUSTAD 3407, GAMAKATSU SL11-3H #2

THREAD: HOT PINK 140D

FLASH: PEARL KRYSTAL FLASH

EYES: SMALL DUMBBELL LEAD EYES, YELLOW

TAIL #1: CRAFT FUR, PINK, SHRIMP PINK

TAIL #2: CRAFT FUR TAN, CAMEL. SAND COLORS

LEGS: GOLD METALLIC RUBBER LEGS/ YOUR CHOICE

BODY: KRYSTAL HACKLE PINK, (POLAR OR PALMER CHENILLE)

WING: LAVENDER ARCTIC FOX FUR

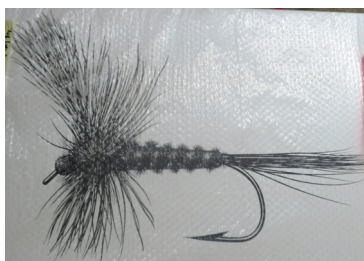


INSTRUCTION:

1. Debar hook, wrap smooth thread base to hook bend. Install lead eyes 1/4" +/- behind hook eye. Wrap in 1 strand flash, doubled, top of hook at bend.
2. Secure small clump tail #1 over flash.
3. Add small clump tail #2 over tail #1.
4. Secure body material in front of tail material and palmer with touching wraps to lead eyes.
5. Rotate vice and secure small clump arctic fox wing material just in front of lead eyes. Extend wing just past hook bend. Center of hook shark over top of eyes.
6. Wrap smooth tapered thread head, whip finish and coat with your favorite head cement. Trim flash just longer than tail fibers.

Auction – October 17

Some of the items coming in – just to whet your appetite.....



Live Chumming on the Fly by Matt Wegener

I can already feel your eyes rolling after reading the title. No, it's not the same as stalking redfish on the flats or making the perfect drift with a dry fly, but it's still fly fishing. The dog days of summer can be tough for fly fishermen. The water temps are about as unbearable as the air temps. The fish have been beat on by spinfisherman. The water is gin clear. All of these things can make for difficult fishing in September. Why not put some odds in your favor? Why not bring the fish to you? That's what I've been working on the past few months and guess what? It works. Not only in the Gulf, but also in the bay. I've caught Spanish mackerel, bluefish and ladyfish. I imagine in the right locations you could catch speckled trout in the bay or king mackerel and amberjack in the Gulf.



The price to play is cheap. I prefer a cast net with 1/4" mesh to quickly fill my livewell, but you could get by with the standard 3/8" mesh. If you using the larger mesh, avoid tossing it over small baitfish or you will spend the next 20 minutes picking out "gilled" minnows. And finding the bait is almost as easy as buying a cast net (throwing the cast net on the other hand may be a different story!). It doesn't matter what you call them, Alewives, "LY", white bait, they are everywhere right now. The docks in the sound, bayous in the bay, near the "Mass" in the Gulf; they are all covered in the these small (2-4") baitfish with green backs and silver sides. I like to get 4 to 5 dozen minimum.

Pick out your preferred spot and anchor up. I've done well near some of the near shore wrecks in 50 to 60 feet of water and also in the bay in 5 to 10 feet of water. In the bay I'm targeting drop offs and nearby structure in the form of breakwalls and docks. In the Gulf, I focus on public wreck numbers you can find on the Escambia County website. Fly selection isn't that important. As you can see in the picture, it just needs to barely resemble the bait you are throwing into the water. Most baitfish patterns from #1 to 1/0 will work. Live chumming gets the fish into a feeding frenzy, so timing and quick, accurate casting is more important than the fly you are throwing. For that reason, I like a sinktip line because it makes casting easier. This brings me to another point: because you are bringing the fish to you, you can dictate how you are setup relative to the wind. Point the boat in the direction for a nice easy cast, with the wind helping you get the fly away from your body and out in the water, not blowing in your face or causing your back cast to snag your shirt. Finally, choose a tippet size suitable for the fish are targeting. I like 60 pound mono in the bay when dealing with smaller Spanish mackerel and ladyfish. In the Gulf I upsize to 80 pound mono or wire, because cutoffs seem to happen more frequently out there relative to the bay.



Now that you have the right setup and your boat is positioned perfectly, it's time to start chumming. I like to scoop out 6 to 10 fish into a repurposed coffee container and give it a couple shakes. This action disorients the chum before being tossed overboard, making for an easier target. You can also get fancy with a modified whiffle ball bat. Load the bait into your dip net, whack with the bat, then give them a toss. Either way, you should see baitfish flipping on the surface and skimming just under the water. Repeat this process 2 or 3 times and then start casting. You may see fish hitting your chum on the surface or even a few feet down in clear water. I've done best casting into a heavily chummed area and retrieving with a fast strip, although certain circumstances may require a very long pause between strips. If you haven't had any luck after 15 to 20 minutes, move on to another likely spot. Don't waste all your chum in one spot, because there are fish out there somewhere and this technique will bring them right to your boat!



Fishing Report from Colleen and Wallace West: At the beginning of August Colleen and I had the opportunity to spend 10 days in one of my favorite places on earth: Beautiful western North Carolina.

Day 1: We were staying in Maggie Valley. This opened some new water in the Cataloochee valley. I'd never seen the Elk in the Smokies so we got up early and headed that way. The drive in on the gravel road was time consuming but not treacherous in the least. Got into the park and were immediately greeted by a herd of Elk. Very cool and even got to see a newborn.



Drove to where Rough Fork and Palmer creek meet. We hiked back on Palmer and eventually got to a ton of small brookies. We also hiked up Rough Fork for a little bit and saw some small rainbows. The area was gorgeous but the best looking water seemed to be close to the car and I much prefer water that is harder to get to.

Day 2: We headed for a creek where we hoped to find rainbows. We were greeted by 3 horse trailers and maybe 10 cars, one of which was festooned with fly fishing stickers. After a 3 mile hike we could see a big pool from up on the trail. A couple casts in and we got our biggest rainbow of the trip. We continued to pick up fish as we hiked up the creek. Had one rod with a double nymph rig and the other with a yellow neversink. 9 out of 10 fish came on the dry. Continued hiking to the 4 mile mark. A propane stove and the dehydrated meals are a life changer after a long hike in. We had two different types of chicken during the trip and they were both excellent with the chicken risotto getting the slight nod. Hiked up one of the tributaries and continued to catch feisty rainbows. Ended up with 10 rainbows between the two of us which is a pretty good day for me in the Smokies.



Day 4: I did a solo trip to a creek with a larger pool and put a cast down the middle of a current seam and was rewarded with a good take. A nice brown of 10 or 12 inches immediately takes off running downstream. I was a little slow and let him get out of the pool and down into the riffles below and immediately spit the hook. I've made the switch to pretty much only barbless flies for trout fishing but I would be lying if I said situations like that didn't have me reconsidering. Eventually caught my only brown of the trip out of a little pocket.

I hiked over to a well known brookie creek. Access was supposed to be poor but I didn't have any trouble getting to the water. It was a pretty creek and the plunge pools held good numbers of brookies. About 10 small brookies in and maybe a half mile up the creek I came to a dilemma. It was maybe 6:30 and if I could get back to the car quickly I had a pretty good chance of going to where I could pick up a rainbow for the slam. Google maps appeared to show an area where the trail got close to the creek so I fished up to that point picking up a couple more brookies. I was greeted by a cliff and no shot of reaching the trail. I see a route to what might be the trail so off I go bushwacking. Unfortunately I didn't make it and took a pretty good slip but that's how it goes sometimes. Eventually made it back to the trail at 7:45 dead tired but with a slam still on my mind. Booked it back to the car and fished until dark but it wasn't meant to be.

Day 8: After a couple days of recovery and some mountain biking I was jonesing to get back in the water. Colleen had been hiking in Pisgah with her friends during the week and saw some water that looked promising. She caught a good sized brookie on this creek that made the average brookie from the GSMNP look like a runt. I hooked one at a waterfall that was very nice as well. The Pisgah area is somewhere I definitely look forward to spending more time in.

Day 9: Got up early to mountain bike and clean the house so we left Maggie valley about noon, heading for the Blue Ridge Parkway. I'd heard rumors of a well known waterfall area with a ton of good sized brookies. Unfortunately for us this area was fairly close to Asheville and it showed. The parking lot and the shoulder for half a mile in either direction was stuffed full of cars. We break out the map and call an audible. We headed for a tributary with no trail access. Unlike the trails in the GSMNP these trails aren't on Google Maps. We see a trail that appears to head towards the water so off we go. It was steep and definitely enough to keep the average person out. I get to the creek but it is way too small for the river we're supposed to be on. We ended up following someone path marked by a red solo cup on a stick.

The fishing was great. It was a mixture of rock hopping and scrambling up the creek with brookies around every bend. I caught my personal best southern brookie and a couple other good ones. I think the fish that will stick with me the longest was after a tough scramble up a cliff you came to a big taylor of a pool. Almost like a plunge pool that was 6ft long and maybe 10ft wide. I threw a cast in and immediately had a brookie come up and miss the hook. I then proceeded to cast 5 more times with him striking and missing the hook everytime. Getting nervous that he would figure out the game was rigged I borrowed Colleen's rod that had a small light cahill on and he swung and missed at that fly twice. I sat down behind a boulder and tied on a dropper while Colleen watched him continue to chase down everything that came through his lane. I tossed in the dry-dropper and waited watching. He attacked the dropper with gusto and if you didn't know it was coming a big swing and a miss. Floated it through again and he ignored everything. Gave him a second and me a second to calm down and then floated it through again. This time it was on and I screamed like a little girl for the net. I'm hoping this memory sticks with me for quite a while. Quite different from redfish in Louisiana or a 20lb snapper offshore but no less valuable.

We were exhausted when we got to the car and rested the rods on the bike rack. As we pull out of the parking lot I notice the rods aren't in the car. Rushed back to the parking lot. The Orvis Superfine bore the worst of it and must have been backed over with every section crunched. The reel is bent and won't spin so if someone thinks they can fix that let me know. Luckily my custom fiberglass rod escaped with some hairline cracks that don't appear to have gone all the way through. We took the Superfine to the Orvis in Atlanta and they took care of us. I'll fish my custom until it breaks. It's mostly a brookie rod so as long as I avoid yanking on any trees or falling with it in my hand I think it will last a while longer. The trip ended on a high note and a low note at the same time but if I had it to do over again I don't think I would skip the day on the creek. Equipment can be replaced but days in the backcountry where you hardly see another soul come way too infrequently.

A Note on Flies and Equipment:

For the GSMNP creeks I prefer a 4 or 5 wt. On the larger creeks a 9 ft is fine but I much prefer something in the 7ft range for the majority of the water we fish. I fish a 2wt at times but you lose out on the ability to throw a dry dropper well and I don't know that the fight differs significantly between a fiberglass 4wt and a graphite 2wt especially with the fish being on the smaller side of things.

The majority of fish we caught on this trip came on a neversink caddis. This has become pretty much the only dry I fish up there. It's not for choosy fish but it floats like a cork and is easy to see. Also, it is a very simple tie. I tried some tied with antron instead of the typical elk and I think I will be using this variant from now on. The BHPT produced all of the larger brookies on the last day and I like as a dropper. You will lose flies to the trees and attractor patterns work well so I usually fish flies that are quick to tie. I typically fish the neversinks in 12-14s and the droppers in 14-16s.



Fishing Report and Breakfast Menu

from Rob and Cyndi Myers

Bear Lake, FL. Fishing, not catching



FFNWF BOD & Committees Zoom Meeting 23 July 2020, Minutes

1907 Called to order: President welcomed attendees The President's remarks: "The Zoom meetings have been good for the soul and maintaining lines of communication."

Financial Report: The Treasurer reported \$1289.51 in checking. Pending expenses for a plaque, our IRS non-profit application, and insurance with FFI will leave a forecasted balance end July of \$551.34. We have 73 paid members and expect another 12- 15 will renew which will bring in more revenue. This number does not include our fall auction, which is our main fundraiser. Late Breaking News! Our non-profit application has been approved by the IRS, the club will pay no taxes in the future. Most attendees for the fall class have already paid. The Financial Report was proposed by Bob M and seconded by George N, vote to accept was unanimous.

Nominations for Treasure. Jay will relinquish his position as our Treasurer after many years and he will be missed. Fortunately, a very capable long-term member offered to take over next year. Larry Sisney has been nominated as relief of Jay. If we have others who would wish to be nominated for this position, please make yourself known. The president will send to all members this information, if no other nominations are forthcoming, the motion will carry.

Our Fly Fishing Course The Introduction to Fly Fishing class is tentatively scheduled to start 8 September and run through 29 October. The class will be split into two groups due to COVID19. This limits the number of participants including the club's mentors/volunteers. Currently 17 paid for the classes and a few have expressed interest and could be added. At this stage, it is too early to cancel classes. After discussion of the pros and cons of going forward, a consensus was reached to hold off until late August any final decisions to cancel or not until guidelines from the city and state firm up.

The President stressed that the club's volunteers will need to commit to attending the entire schedule as a surplus of helpers will not be available unlike at our past classes. We will need a maximum of four volunteers outdoors for casting and 3 volunteers inside for the casting. How to prep and sanitize the room and equipment for everyone's safety is a key issue to be addressed. In sum. It is not yet clear whether we can go forward. Jim White suggested sending an e mail to the attendees to communicate our current status.

The Christmas Party: Jim White reported that we have until October 15 to decide yes or no for the December 8th Party at SHCC. He confirmed our deposit is nonrefundable but could be pushed forward to next year. The Christmas Party depends on a successful auction.

Auction Cyndi Myers submitted a plan to hold the auction on line to the board. Steve and Ellen Hofmann have been collecting and cataloging the auction donations. A proposal for an outdoor auction was discussed. It was also discussed about placing pictures and description of high value items in newsletter and state a purchase now price for that item.

The building: The Boy Scout House has been placed on the Historical Register. We need to consider the short- and long-term effects on our club operations.

Jonas Magnusson Departure. As most know Jonas is moving to the Tampa area. We will be losing our cast instructor and friend. The COVID 19 has stopped all of our meeting and get togethers. This has prevented our club to bestow upon Jonas thanks and accolades. We propose we have a Cast-In similar to the surfers tradition of honoring one of there group. This Cast-In would be held in the open field next to the club house where the casting instruction is held. A large circle would be formed around a table in the center. Everyone would have a fly rod, wear their mask and maintain the social distance. Jonas would be invited to the center to receive the momentos prepared for this occasion. The president will check with Jonas for a Saturday date.

The meeting closed out at 2010 by Zoom since we had utilized out allow time.
Minutes submitted by George Norton, Secretary and Bob Myers, Vice-President