

Flies and Lies

October, 2025



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President's Corner

Cooler weather is on the way and hopefully the fish will be biting. In the mean time we have lots to do! The Christmas Party will be on Tuesday December 9. This is always a great time with lots of door prizes and raffle prizes. Tickets are \$30.00 purchased from me or \$32.00 purchased on line. We need volunteers! Please see a club officer.

Donations for door prizes are always welcome! A box of flies you tied, a book, a bottle of wine or something you might fancy.

Elections are coming up in November, along with selecting the Angler of the Year. If you would be interesting in serving on the Board of Directors please see a club officer. The election will take place at the November Business meeting so plan to be there!

Cyndi Myers

President

Club Meeting – Tuesday, Oct 7 6:30

In addition to the business meeting, Sam Sumlin, co-owner of "Community Fly Supply" located in Gulf Shores, AL, will be giving the month's presentation. This month, Sam will be discussing "Shore Fishing".

Notice that the business meeting and fly tying are in the same week.

Fly Tying – Thursday, Oct 9 6:30

Tarpon Bob will lead us in tying the Spoon Fly. The gold Johnson Silver Minnow spoon has been a great producing lure for redfish and lots of other species for many decades. A smaller, but just as effective version has been developed for use with a fly rod.

Clinic – Saturday, Oct 18 9:00 AM

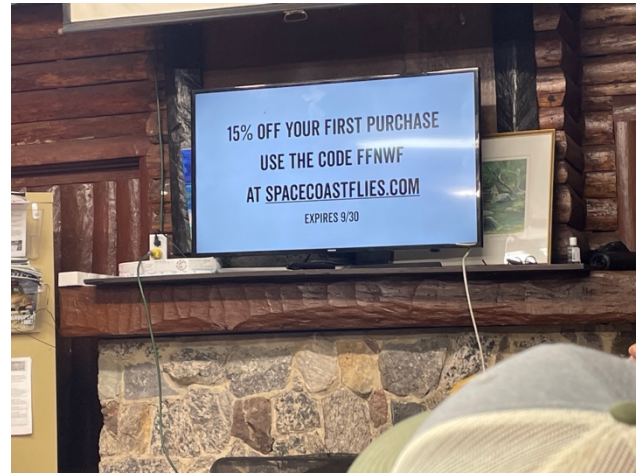
Join us for casting practice and another chance to tie the Spoon Fly. The lunch will be Gumbo, provided by George Norton

Replacement for FFNWF Head Chef

We are looking for a head chef to organize the meals for the Saturday clinics. The head chef purchases the utensils and beverages that are used for the lunches and stocks the fridge with beverages. The head chef also recruits folks to prepare lunch for the clinics. All the funds are provided by the club.

Business Meeting

The September business meeting featured Sam Sumlin and his presentation about his fly shop, Community Fly Supply in Gulf Shores. Read an excellent recap of the presentation in the Minutes.



David Handley pointed out the need for nominees to fill several positions. This year we need the following positions filled,

President

Vice President

Members at Large (2)

If you have interest in any of the positions, please make your interest known to a member of the Nominating Committee,

Dave Handley, dmhandley@gmail.com (850) 417-9233

Larry Sisney, lsisney@cox.net, (850) 380-1547

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

Congratulations to **Oleta and George** for winning the second pair of guided fishing trips.

Project Healing Waters

By Mick Milo



October is loaded with activity within the PHW gang. October meeting sessions will be devoted to rod building. Participants will hand-build their own rods from rod blanks, thread, guides and their own sweat and tears.

In September, we raffled off 2 guided trips with Captain Richard Montgomery to 4 of our members to try and take advantage of the increasing fish activity of this time of year in Pensacola. Congratulations to the winners, **Jeremy Anderson, Robbie Wragg, Coby Lappin, and Jay Brykczynski**. Hopefully we'll see some photos of some nice Spanish and maybe a monster Bull Red or two.

Finally, 4 of our members will be travelling to North Carolina from October 15-18 to participate in the annual "Albie-Fest" where they will be chasing the False Albacore. The first day of the event, they will be tying local Albie flies and taught the intricacies of casting to these elusive fish. The next day is spent all day on the water with local and celebrity guides such as Blaine Chocklitt and Rob Fordyce. Everybody who has ever been agrees that the trip is an absolute BLAST. If the reports come back positive, it is my hope to make this an annual event."

Fly Tying and Clinic

This month, JoJo Bulan led us through tying the Ugly Duckling fly in the Thursday night Bull Session.



The Saturday clinic featured another shot at the Ugly Duckling and some practice casting in the field.



After the morning activities, the group was treated to an terrific Oktoberfest lunch by Cindy and Russ.

(photo credit: Jay and Cyndi)



Fishing Manners

Wolfgang Szutie

I get this newsletter from Cattaraugus Creek Outfitters which is in northern New York State by Buffalo. (Ed: The URL for this site is www.ccoflyfishing.com/index.html)

I am not a fresh water fisherman...but perhaps this would be an excellent re-enforcement for those who fish in streams....

Streamside Manners

As our steelhead season is about to begin, here are some helpful reminders about streamside etiquette. If everyone follows these simple, common-sense rules the overall angling experience will remain positive and our area will continue to be known as a great place for true anglers and sportsmen to enjoy.

When you are walking down a stream and another person is fishing ahead of you, walk on shore so as to not disturb their fishing area, or walk as far behind them as possible. Take a minute to observe their fishing actions to make sure your route is the best choice. Feel free to ask them if they are moving up or down stream etc.

If on a small or medium stream, where the holes are generally small, if someone is in the hole or run you would like to fish, find another one. Don't walk up and crowd them. Some walking will always find new water. If you really want to fish a particular run, be the first one there, otherwise respect those who did arrive first. First come, first served.

On larger streams like the Catt , there is more water to fish, and a little walking will go a long way. Of course this depends on the crowds. If you are on a section of the Catt and there are very few people around, don't even consider fishing a hole where someone is already fishing, unless you strike up a conversation and ask them. Otherwise, move on to the next run. When there is a lot of open water, there is absolutely no need for crowding. Nothing is quite as annoying as guys moving in to fish a run you are working, when upstream or down there are no other anglers in sight.

If the river is a bit busy, and other anglers are fishing a run and you are considering fishing the same run, pay attention to how they are fishing. If they are swinging streamers, they work downstream. So, don't cut in front of them on the downstream side. They were there first. Again, a friendly word and a smile will always

be helpful and they may invite you to fish the run from upstream of them.

If the anglers are nymph fishing with indicators, they may work up or downstream. Say hi, and ask if they mind if you jump in somewhere to fish, being mindful not to get too close to them.

Stay at least 100-150' from any other anglers on busy, larger streams with long runs. Obviously, this distance does not apply to some of the more crowded, short streams below dams, where it is the norm to fish within 20-30' of other anglers.

FIGHTING A FISH

Give the right of way to someone who is fighting a fish. Take your line in so it does not get tangled in theirs. Do not move into their fishing spot when they move up or downstream to fight the fish. Offer to help them net the fish and the favor might really pay off when you hook a nice fish and need some help.

CONFRONTATION

If someone is using improper stream etiquette it is best to politely explain your views and opinions to them. This will have greater results than harshly complaining or making rude comments. Setting a proper example is probably the most effective way of getting the point across and it can be very contagious. Often times some people just don't know any better, and need to learn, or be reminded of what is acceptable behavior. If a person persists to act disrespectful it is best to just move on to another spot instead of getting to angry and affecting your fun day on the river.

HANDLING FISH

Please respect these fish. Handle them properly.

*Do not drag them up on the rocks where they can flop around, which can injure them and also removes their protective coating of slime.

*Do not use Boga grips, which can damage their jaws and internal organs.

A rubber net is helpful of course. If you use a net, once netted keep the fish in the water. If you fish without a net bring the fish into the shallows so that it turns on its side. Then you can unhook the fish and take a few quick photos, all the while holding the fish above the water.

*Don't squeeze a fish's stomach.

*Don't stick your fingers or any object into the fish's gills.

*If you can't remove a hook from a fish, cut your tippet and release the fish before the fish becomes overly stressed.

*Quickly photograph a fish and immediately return the fish to water.

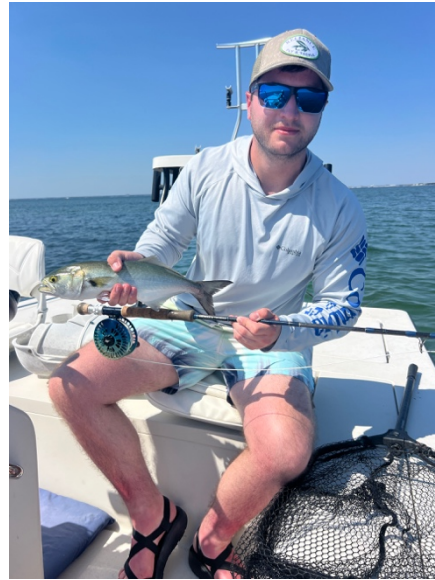
*In warmer water conditions try photographing fish in a net that's held partially in the water. Don't fish if water temps rise above 70 degrees.

*Use barbless hooks.

Fishing Reports

By Captain Richard Montgomery

Hope everyone had a great summer and has been enjoying the early Spanish season. Wait y'all haven't heard, there are Spanish mackerel pretty much everywhere and they are destroying flies. That is if you can get your fly past the ladyfish and bluefish! Six and seven weights should be loaded with chartreuse and flash fly or the tan and olive Clouser with wire bite tippet. However, when one of those knuckle-busters comes calling, it would be nice to have an 8wt. My client Chandler's first saltwater species may not have been monsters but for him the ladyfish and bluefish that day did the trick.



You know if the flats are producing so is Pensacola Pass as well as the Massachusetts. I had reports of herds of jack crevalle west of the Pass. After several trips covering water down to Perdido produced ZIPPIO, I figured they must have moved on. If I hadn't seen the pics I would have called that report a big fish tale. Just the same I would suggest you have a 10 wt ready to go if you venture anywhere near the Gulf of Mexico.

Much like the jack report, I've reports big speckle trout in special holes, but no one has produced any pictures. My clients have caught a few smallies but nothing to scream about.

Capt. Baz has reported there are still redfish in the shallows. Again, his favorite flies EP P'nut Butters of various colors as well as tan and white Clousers as long time and returning member Lance Davis show with this nice beauty.



Paul Wargo

Paul sends us this from his summer place in Michigan. This is Harsens Island on Lake St. Clair, across the lake from Detroit and across the river from us is Walpole Island, Ontario, Canada.



(Photo Credit: Paul Wargo)



George Norton and Wolfgang Szutie

Wolfgang and George got into big ladyfish, Spanish and leather jackets, as well as a Zebra fish out of the Pass. George slow trolled a Tarpon Bob lightbulb fly and Wolfgang did great on a Tarpon Variant flash fly.

(Photo Credit: Wolfgang)



Fly of the Month: The Spoon Fly

By Bob Korose

The gold Johnson Silver Minnow spoon has been a great producing lure for redfish and lots of other species for many decades. A smaller, but just as effective version has been developed for use with a fly rod. It should be in your fly box to be used locally for reds and many others. It is relatively easy to tie but must be done correctly to get the proper action. Special hooks and cut-outs are sold by Sight Cast Fishing Company. The tying information about the fly and the materials required are located at the website listed below.

www.sightcastfishing.com/tutorials/how-to-tie-a-spoon-fly

Ingredients:

Hooks: Spoon Fly Hooks SFH20 Size 2

Eyes: Easy Shrimp eyes (optional) transparent red

Thread: Mono 6/0

Tail: Krystal Flash (color as desired)

Body: Gold Flashabou, Holographic Flash or flat braid

Weed Guard: (optional): 30# Mason Hard Mono or wire

Coating: Epoxy or UV



Steps:

1. Start the mono thread behind the hook eye and wrap a base back to the middle of the hook bend. Tie in the Krystal flash tail.	2. If eyes are desired tie the shrimp eyes on top of the hook shank in line with the Krystal flash tail.	3. Paste two cut-outs together. Extend the cut-outs rearward with the tab on the wide end tied down on the bend on top of the hook.
4. Tie in 4 strands of Flashabou back by the tab. Bring the thread forward to behind the hook eye and tie in a couple of half hitches.	5. Wrap the Flashabou forward to the thread and tie down there.	6. Fold the cut-out forward to behind the hook eye and tie the tab down. Make sure it is centered over the hook without a gap. Make a thread head and double whip finish.
		7. Using a bodkin or brush, cover the entire area of the spoon with epoxy or UV. If epoxy, put on drying wheel, if UV, use the light to harden it.

The Minutes

FFNWF Business Meeting Minutes: August 5, 2025

George Norton, Club Secretary

1830 Meeting Called to Order by Rex, Club VP with the Pledge of Allegiance

Presentation: Community Fly Supply, Gulf Shores, Ala.

The new fly-fishing shop opened in December 2024 and is on a creek leading into Lake Shelby near Gulf Shores State Park. You can rent a kayak or a stand-up board and fly fish right out their back door. The shop features fly tying tables, classes, and a casting dock to test out fly lines and fly rods. Monthly tying sessions every Thursday from 6-8PM every two weeks and the shop provides everything except a vice.

Community is constantly expanding their fly selection. They represent fly tiers from South Africa. Go to Space Coast Flies.com for information as they produce custom flies. Use the promo code FFNWY for 15% off your first order. The shop is open from 10-6 daily and will offer fall classes so check with the store or their web site. One class will be on Spey fly casting.

Questions about fly fishing the Alabama coast. First snook have been caught in the backwaters and their numbers are increasing. Snook hang around blow downs and pier pilings. Lake Shelby is brackish and has trout, reds, sunfish and bass. Fort Morgan is excellent for trout in the surf during the warmer months. Tarpon numbers are up and down.

Stripping baskets for surf fishing are essential. The shop sells them for \$39.95 and you can get a 15% discount with the promo code. The shop promotes a friendly atmosphere where you can hang out, drink coffee and tie flies in a warm welcoming environment.

For further information, their phone number is 251-239-6533. Email is communityflysupply@gmail.com located at 824 Gulf Shores Parkway Unit B. Thank you Sam for driving over and telling us about your new business.

Treasures Report: Income from new members' dues, beverage sales, less minor expenses for clinic food, restocking the refrigerator, pastries and fly tying materials leaves a healthy balance in checking. George and Russ approved the report.

Last Month's Minutes as published were approved by Russ and Rex.

New Business: Russ reported on the fly rod building class for bamboo and graphite fly rods. The bamboo blanks are from Ye Old English Fly Shop and are varnished and ready to wrap. A kit is provided. Russ took orders for the bamboo rod blanks. The class will take place early next year.

The basement: The mess left by other club users is much improved. Rex's goal is to get the shelving straightened out. Steve and Ellen H graciously agreed to volunteer to inventory the basement. Where would we be without them.

Elections for Club officers and two members at Large will be at the November meeting. Now is the time to nominate someone at the October Meeting. See a board member with your nomination. Any member is welcome to serve. President, VP, Treasurer and Club Secretary are the positions along with the two member-at-large positions. Serving on the board has been very fulfilling experience for me.

The Surf Casting Class dates will be announced next month.

Drawing Winners of the last guided trip were Oleta and George. Congratulations and good luck. Jay and Larry won the first drawing for a free guided trip.

The fall fund raiser will be canceled and selected items will be added to the Christmas Party.

Door Prizes for the Christmas Party: Donations can start now such as a fly-fishing book, small box of flies, etc.

We still need a new Saturday Clinic Food Director.

Casting for Recovery: George updated the club on volunteer opportunities at this organization which hosts women breast cancer survivors at fly fishing retreats. See Wolfgang or George for further information.

Fishing Reports: specks, Spanish, ladyfish and bluefish were caught inshore and along the beaches and out at the Massachusetts. Flash flies, Clousers and Tarpon Bob's lightbulb were effective.

2050 Meeting Adjourned