

Flies and Lies

November, 2024



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President's Corner

Election day for new BOD and members at large will be held at our November business meeting. If you are interested in serving in any of these capacities, please be sure to attend this meeting.

We will also be voting on our "Angler of the year" if you know of someone deserving of this honor, be prepared to nominate them at the November meeting and read the reasons behind why you feel they are deserving. This does not necessarily need to be someone that does the most fishing, it could also be someone that has contributed greatly to the club.

Christmas Party, Tuesday December 10th, Scenic Hills Country Club. Cash bar at 5pm, dinner at 6pm. This event is for paid members and their guest.

Tuesday, November 5th will be the last day to purchase Christmas party tickets in person at \$30 each. Monday, December 2nd will be the last opportunity to purchase Christmas party tickets in advance on-line at \$32.00 each. This event is always lots of fun with great door prizes, raffles, food & fellowship.

Hope to see you all on November 5th.

Cyndi

Club Meeting – Tuesday, Nov 5 6:30

In addition to the business meeting, Bob Korose will be giving the presentation on Nov 4. He will be talking about his most recent trip to Alaska catching big salmon.

Fly Tying – Thursday, Nov 14 6:30

Bob Korose will be tying the Glass Minnow this month.

Clinic – Saturday, Nov 16 9:00 AM

Join us to perfect your casting and tie the Glass Minnow. The November Clinic Lunch will be Red Beans and Rice provided by Ellen and Mick Milo.

From the Editor

I want to take a couple lines to introduce myself as the new editor of *Flies and Lies*. I'm very lucky to be following Paul Wargo, who did a tremendous job of editing and publishing this newsletter since 2014. I say lucky, because Paul is happy to answer my questions and give me advice.

I've lived in Pensacola for the last six years, but I've only been fishing again since this last summer. That was when I finally discovered the club and started attending meetings. I learned to fly fish from a friend, while I was stationed in Monterey, CA and continued to fish the smaller trout streams in North Georgia. I am enjoying the transition to saltwater fishing and I appreciate all the help I've received from club members.

Now, let's get on with what we opened this newsletter for...Fishing!

Tight Lines!

Dave

A Word from Chef

Club members, I've been supervising the club's monthly clinic lunch for a number of years. But I've reached a point where I have difficulty doing some things. The biggest one is beverages especially the cases of water & beer cartons. I need a couple of volunteers I can call on to purchase water and sometimes beer. All purchases are reimbursed by the club so there no out of pocket cost.

The second thing is the monthly clinic lunch. We've had some great meals put on by chefs like Russ Shields & Gerald Giles, Bob & Cyndi Myers, Mick & Ellen Milo, Jay Brkcznski, Don Smith and myself. The club provides 10 lunches a year. The two exceptions are the Auction (May) & Christmas party (Dec). I'm looking for some old and new chefs for 2025. Especially the first 4 months. Cyndi Myers has signed up for January. I need 3 chefs to cover. Feb, Mar, & Apr to start. The number of people staying for lunch is usually between 17 and 24. They don't have to be elaborate meals; things like stews, chili, soups to hamburgers or hotdogs well make folks happy. If some new chefs want to volunteer, I'll be happy to assist them in planning the lunch. And again, there are no out of pocket expenses, just keep the receipts and the club will reimburse you. If you're interested in helping my email is jhigpcola2@aol.com. At the moment 2024 is covered so no pressing concern yet, it's 2025 I'm concerned about.

Chef Joe Higgins

Oktoberfest





Fishing Report

By Captain Richard Montgomery

The weather is changing, fishes are thinking about leaving the Bay or heading to their winter haunts but wait NOT so fast there. Spanish are still on the prowl around “the” grass flats. Just make sure there is plenty of tidal movement. Baz’s client landed this nice Spanish and next day I went there, nothing. I was a bit early, there was no flow and there were no Spanish. The next day I got it right, tidal movement made all the difference. Flies of choice are still chartreuse streamers and tan over



Olive and chartreuse over White Clouser’s. I guided Rex and Jerry this last week and I afraid to report both areas were off (off tide!) Terry is headed out, so we’ll see how the master does.



The storms have made sight fishing a little tough, because of the wind not water clarity. It’s hard to push around a 20-foot boat (even a flats boat) in a 15-20 mph wind. The redfish have been holding along the shoreline and even ready to eat a fly. EP pinfish and grey and white minnow flies seem to be the key. If you head to Big Lagoon, watch for manatees. I had 7-8 cruise within 10’ of the boat in Fort McRee no motor zone.



The big boys of fall have arrived. With a snap of the fingers the Bay has started loading with big Bull Redfish. We can say the “running of the bulls” Pensacola style has started early. Rex was able to lay out a Big Fish Deceiver in path of this “little” guy and spent about 15 minutes fighting it. I think he enjoyed it. Use big flies, Big Fish Deceivers, XL Clousers, Go-Meaux...



Project Healing Waters

By Mick Milo



Ft Pickens

Last month I reported that Fort Pickens was selected by the National Parks Trust to host a fishing day for Project Healing Waters. The event took place on Saturday October 12th and was FANTASTIC! There were approximately 34 Participants and Volunteers from the Pensacola and Eglin programs. PHW provided lunch, wonderful giveaway items and a great opportunity to get together to meet with PHW Headquarters folks and our counterparts from Eglin...We also managed to catch a few fish.



Fly Tying



Rod Building



Casting for Recovery Retreat

By Wolfgang Szutie

I arrived at the Running Creek Ranch in Poplarville, Mississippi at 8am on Sunday after a three-hour drive from Pensacola for the orientation of what to expect of the fishing guides for this Retreat. Susan Brooks and her group prepared the 10 guides of the medical condition of the 10 ladies who were invited to learn about fly fishing during a three-day event which was the first retreat being held in the state of Mississippi



George Norton was assigned to Carolyn and I was assigned to Shilo (she was named after a Neil Diamond song!). I was happy to see Tom Dempsey also there, since he has been an instructor in casting at various events held by the Gulf Coast Fly Council (4 guides from Louisiana, 4 from Florida and 2 from Alabama). Introductions and assignments (along with lots of photo taking) were made and the group proceeded to a banked large pond on the property. Susan informed everyone that the pond was stocked with Bluegill, Bass, Bream and a large assortment of Catfish.



The ladies were given either 5 or 6 wt donated Orvis fly rods with Battenkill reels with 4x tippet leader attached. From around 9:30 until 12:30 the ladies casted in the pond and a large percentage were able to successfully cast and catch many fish. The guides tied many different types of flies and were instructed to dehook and release any fish caught, so that no lady's medical condition and treatment would not be endangered by a cut or a barb in the finger!



Shilo and I worked on the static roll cast (since the group only were taught the day before of the various aspects of fly fishing). Shilo was having her difficulties and two other guides (Andre Davis and

Angela Terry) came over to help her in the casting techniques. We all made certain that everyone continued to be hydrated with ice cold water bottles since the temperature increased during the morning hours.

Towards the end of the fishing session, Shilo was happy (with Andre's assistance) in hooking and successfully netting a huge catfish. Shilo was so happy in catching her first fish and each lady was very pleased to have worked with her assigned guide in catching and releasing.

At 1230 the entire group drove over to the "Stables" of the ranch where a delicious catered buffet lunch was served. Each table consisted of three ladies and their assigned guides. After dessert, Susan began a short ceremony in which the donors of the retreat were recognized (Flyfishers of Northwest Florida was included).

Certificates of Accomplishment along with pins were presented to each lady. The guides also received a Certificate for contributing to make the retreat a success. Each lady and their guide gave a short account of their fishing that day! Everyone associated with the retreat was greeted with a round of applause. The three-day event concluded at 2 pm with happy faces and smiles all around as we left the "Stables" dining room for the drive home



As a aside, in speaking with Angela and Andre, I learned that both participate in another charity program that I did not know about. It is called the Mayfly Project/Mentoring <https://themayflyproject.com>. From what Angela and Andre told me that it is a program to promote and to mentor foster children to learn about fly fishing. Apparently, the closest location is in St. Petersburg but it is huge throughout the nation! With everything that I am doing, I am unable to pursue this, however I bring this up since perhaps one of the members may want to reach out to this organization.

Thanks to everyone who contributed

In conclusion, I tried my best to make this a fun and enjoyable event for Shilo and the other ladies who have been through a difficult time with Cancer treatment and the long and difficult recovery!

Fish Trip Report

By Steve Hofman

FFNWF Club members Ellen and Steve Hofmann Fly fished on Sept 23 on the Davidson River in North Carolina near the town of Brevard. We used *Davidson River Outfitter's* guide, Walker Parrot, for a 1/2 day of wade fishing on their private section of the river near the fly shop. It was a great day of wade fly fishing. The fall weather was perfect and the water was clear and the fish were biting.



We each caught ~ 12 fish each ~16 to 18 inches. We used a “Hopper dropper” set up for flies. i.e. a “Dave’s Hopper” and a “Squirmy wormy” as the trailing fly. Fishing method was the usual stream style, i.e. cast upstream of a riffle and mend accordingly to produce a drag free drift. Ellen did it perfectly. She had a case where she caught 2 fish on one cast. We were supposed to fish another 1/2 day on Sept. 25, but because of the incoming hurricane, we cancelled and headed home. Safety First! This was a duplicate fly fish trip from the Fall of 2023. Davidson River Outfitters are highly recommended if you are in and around the Brevard area of North Carolina. Note, I was using my “home-made” Bamboo fly rod all morning and it performed beautifully.



Fly of the Month: Glass Minnow

By Bob Korose

I was taught this fly by Carl Hansen of St Petersburg, Fl. in 1991. He created the glass minnow fly by snelling mono on the hook to create the body and then using bucktail for the wings. By the time he taught me the fly he had added bead chain eyes and was using "poly duster" fibers instead of bucktail and he also added krystal flash. He used size 2-8 Mustad 3407 hooks to match the size of the bait fish. I later tied some on 34011 size 2 hooks to give it a longer profile and I bent it back so it would fish with the hook point up to make it semi-weedless over grass flats. Since I started using the glass minnow flies, I have caught over 40 different species of saltwater fish on them, from pinfish to tarpon. Depending on its size, color, and how it is retrieved, this fly can imitate small baitfish (glass minnows) or shrimp or just be an attractor fly.



Materials:

Hooks: S74SAP-TX (34011) size 2 or S71SAP-TX (3407) sizes 2, 4, 6 or 8

Eyes: Hour-glass or bead chain eyes or no eyes

Body: Aluminum foil, covered by 20# mono

Threads: Clear 6/0 Mono thread for tying on the body material. Flat waxed nylon: Fluorescent Fire Orange or Red for the head, eyes and wing.

Flash: Krystal flash

Wing: Poly duster fibers or FTD Water silk or any other synthetic fibers in any color combination, as desired.

Tying Instructions:



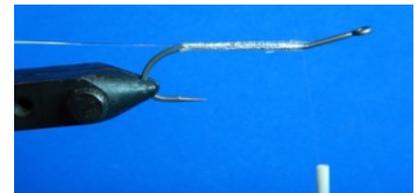
1 Bend back the hook then debarb and place it in the vice with the hook point down.

2 Wrap the hook with aluminum foil (shiny side out) from the bend to above the hook barb.

3 Start the mono thread at the bend. Tie on the 20# mono and wind the thread over it back to above the barb and tie down. Return the thread to the bend.



Wind the 20# mono forward to the bend with touching wraps. Tie it off and double whip finish at the bend. Cut off the excess mono and the thread.



4 Start the red thread behind the hook eye and wrap back to the bend. Tie on the eyes in the bend with figure 8 wraps. (Super glue, if desired). Take the hook out of the vice and turn it upside down with the hook point up in the vice.



5 Take a sparse amount of lighter colored fibers and tie them in first. Then tie on a few strands of Krystal flash.



6 Finally, tie on a sparse amount of the darker colored fibers. Form a nice head and whip finish. Cover the head with clear nail polish, head cement or UV (as desired).

October Fly Tying



Material Bins

By Russ Shields

After several unsuccessful attempts by several people to sort through and be able to use, all the donated fly-tying material, I made a pitch to our Board of Directors that we make some sort of an individual item or group of items, storage system so we could actually find and use all our stuff. The Board approved the idea and gave me the go ahead and work with Mick and Larry Sisney (if he was available), and design and build a storage system.

Mick and I looked at several types of plastic storage boxes that we could aggregate into a larger system and I came up with the covered plastic food saver containers from Wal-Mart. They were cheap and just the right size. So, I designed a combination of two, ten shelf storage units, that could be attached together and put on casters so that it could be moved around to use. Mick helped me make and attach the two units and put it on some very good casters.

Mick took it home and stained and put the finish coat on it. He delivered the unit at our Saturday Clinic! Looks very good! We have a work party set up for Saturday October 26th to sort through and separate the stuff into 20 different bins and label them all! Then, on to some fun fly tying!



As Russ said, "You can never have enough clamps."



Member Fishing Reports

George Norton reports catching some Spanish, Ladyfish, and some Bluefish at the pass. He also reports that Rex Green and his grandson caught some Gag Grouper off of Town Point.

Thanks for the reports, George!

The Minutes

FFNWFL October 1, 2024 General Meeting by George Norton:

1830: The Club President led the club in the Pledge of Allegiance. She welcomed Dave Handley back to the club who has been absent while dealing with health issues for the last year and half. Welcome back Dave. We missed you!

Last month's minutes as published were approved by Tarpon Bob and Russ.

Treasures' report: The club finances are in excellent shape. We had Income from beverage sales and a new member's dues less minimal expenses for pastries and fly tying supplies.

Old Business: Casting for Recovery. Wolfgang and George participated as fly casting instructors and mentors to women breast cancer survivors at Orvis' Running Creek Ranch outside Poplaville, Mississippi on September 29. Eight participants caught channel catfish from 20- 22 inches, bluegill and even a turtle on a variety of flies such as brim spider flies, wooly buggers, and a salmon fly in a heavily stocked pond. See the catfish photo. After three hours of fly fishing everyone enjoyed a catered barbecue lunch and a recognition ceremony. If anyone is interested in volunteering at a future retreat, see Wolfgang who is the club's liaison with the organization.

New Business: Fly of the Month will be led on October 10 by Tarpon Bob.

Clubhouse Field Day Clean Up after the New Year will be held on Saturday to spruce up the facility. Russ will start on his organizer project for our fly tying materials now that the weather is cooler.

Club's 2025 Officers will be up for election in November. President, Vice President, Secretary, Treasurer and three open Board of Director Positions. Please contact an officer if you would like to run.

Angler of the Year Please nominate a club member for Angler of the Year which is the person who

doesn't necessarily catch the most fish, but has made a significant impact to helping the club. The Angler of the Year will be voted on at the November meeting and recognized at the Christmas Party.

Christmas Party Tickets are available for \$30 at a meeting or \$32 on line. Please donate a door prize at the party. Some suggestions were a bottle of wine, a fly fishing book, or a box of flies.

Presentation by Rex Green on his recent PHW Trip to Michigan

Our Vice President, Rex had a great time fly fishing for king salmon and smallmouth bass. Eight PHW participants were guided on the Pere Marquette and the Muskegon Rivers. Rex hooked some monster king salmon and he landed some beautiful smallmouth bass on poppers. Rex enjoyed Oak Heart lodge which kept everyone together with their large warm living room. The accommodations, guides and food were excellent. They were located 40 miles upstream from Lake Michigan. The fly rods were nine foot eight weight TFO's with twelve pond tippet. A brown damsel fly worked best on the salmon.

Rex fished two days for salmon and one day for bass with a different guide each time. When I asked which trip he favored he didn't hesitate to say, "King salmon of 25 pounds!" The Kings weren't feeding but they either took the fly in their mouth unaware or out of irritation.

Fishing reports: Tarpon Bob will present on his Alaskan trip at the November meeting. Don't miss it. There were no other fishing reports. Cooler weather and better fishing is around the corner.

1910: The Meeting Adjourned approved by Russ and Steve H.