



Flies and Lies

September 2026

President's Corner

Well, here we are—mid-month brings the autumnal equinox, which will mark the official beginning of Fall 2026. I find it hard to believe we have already gone through three-quarters of the year, but time rolls on.

This means we are only a couple of months away from our annual fundraiser on October 17. You still have time to set aside a few extra dollars so you can participate! There will be over 100 items on the auction block, so I am sure everyone will find something they just can't fish without. Speaking of setting money aside, be sure to save enough for this year's Christmas Party, too. It cools me off just thinking about December!

Back to reality: it is still hot out on the Bay. Does anyone have any COOL ideas about where we can go fish—maybe a float/paddle down the Upper Blackwater? I talked with Sam at Community Fly Supply, and he has turned his attention to creek and river float trips north of the coast, where he's been doing quite well. Let's get a freshwater trip together!

Richard Montgomery
President

Casting and Tying at the Club

Club Meeting

Tuesday, September 1, 6:30

In addition to the business meeting, Frank Rawley will give a presentation on Tenkara fishing.

Fly Tying

Thursday, September 10, 6:30

The Fly of the Month is the Whistleduc. Bob Korose will lead us tying this pattern. The Healing Waters group will be joining us for this session.



Clinic

Saturday, September 19, 9:00 AM

Come to the clinic and get another chance at tying the Whistleduc. Casting coaching will also be available. Lunch will feature selections for Oktoberfest provided by Russ Shields and Bob Korose. Healing Waters members will also be joining us for this session

Upcoming Events

September 2026



Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
30	31	1 BOD Mtg 5 pm Business Mtg 6:30 pm	2	3	4	5
6	7 Labor Day Healing Waters Cookout TBD	8	9	10 Bull Session 6:30 pm Healing Waters 6:30 pm	11	12
13	14	15	16	17 Community Fly Supply Fly Tying Night 6:30 pm	18	19 Clinic 9:00 am Healing Waters 9:00am
20	21	22	23	24	25	26
27	28	29	30	1	2	3
4	5	Notes				

FFNWF

www.ffnwf.org

PRESIDENT

[Richard Montgomery](#)

VICE-PRESIDENT

[Bob Korose](#)

SECRETARY

[George Norton](#)

TREASURER

[Larry Sisney](#)

3610 Baisden Rd
Pensacola, FL 32503

MEMBERSHIP

[David Handley](#)

MEMBER EMERITUS

[Russ Shields](#)

NEWSLETTER

[Dave Kuechenmeister](#)

Annual Fundraiser

The auction-style fundraiser is scheduled for Saturday, October 17. This is a major source of income for the club and for Healing Waters. Put the date on your calendar today!

Here are a few of the 128 items that will be offered.

- Eighteen Fly Rods, varying from a TFO 3 wt up to a TFO 10 wt, with many sizes and models in between. A couple of these are bamboo rods.
- Several reels, plenty of materials and tied flies, and lots of apparel.
- Several stripping baskets, organizers, vises, spools of fly line, and mono or fluoro line.

Contact Steve Hoffmann, smanhof94@gmail.com, with any donations.

Christmas Party

It's a little hot to think about Christmas, but the planning for our party has begun. The Christmas Party will be on December 8 at the Holiday Inn North. Put it on your calendar. Also consider donating a box of flies or something fishing related as a door prize raffle.

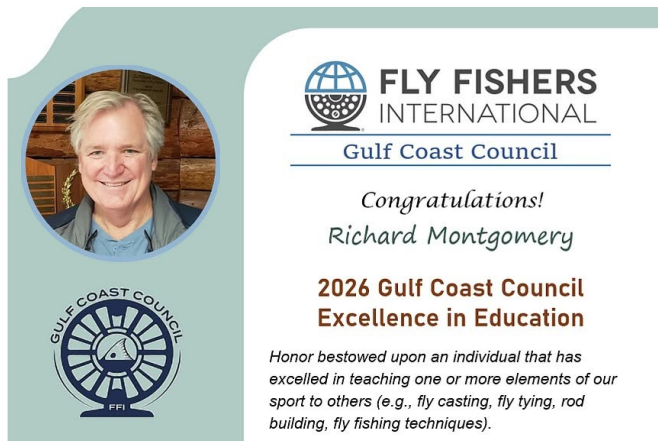
In Remembrance Cliff Newton



Clifford Newton passed away peacefully at home, surrounded by family, on August 4, 2026. He was 78 years old. Born in Appleton, WI, on October 2, 1947, to Don and Arlene Newton, Cliff lived a full life marked by service, curiosity, and a gift for connecting with people. He earned the rank of Eagle Scout in his youth and remained involved with Boy Scouts as a volunteer in later years, passing along the same values of service and adventure that shaped him. He proudly served in the United States Navy. Fishing was one of Cliff's lifelong loves, a passion he carried with him from his own youth through the rest of his life. In his mid-life years, he also discovered a passion for raising and showing dogs. Later in life, he found real satisfaction in community volunteering with the Project Healing Waters program, helping fellow veterans enjoy the outdoors through fly fishing, and in the friendships he built through the GOATS Ukulele Club.

Members Honored for Service

FFI Honors Richard Montgomery for Excellence in Education



For 2026, this recognition goes to Richard Montgomery. Richard is president of the Fly Fishers of Northwest Florida and Casting Director for the club. He loves to teach casting skills, whether he is guiding or supporting club and council programs. He regularly teaches youth classes to pass along skills to the next generation. He also facilitates the club's annual Fly Fishing 101 casting program. Richard also leads the Gulf Coast Council's education focus and regularly teaches fly casting skills at the Gulf Coast Classic.

Military Members Receive "Quilt of Valor"



The Santa Rosa Quilters Guild, FL presents handmade "Quilts of Valor" to Military Veterans. Mick Milo and Larry Sisney were nominated, selected and received a "Quilt of Valor" from the Guild. They have years of military service dating back to the Vietnam War, both decorated Veterans. Mick and Larry have years of membership/service with Flyfishers of Northwest Florida and Project Healing Waters which services our Active Duty and Veterans. Proud of them both.

Project Healing Waters

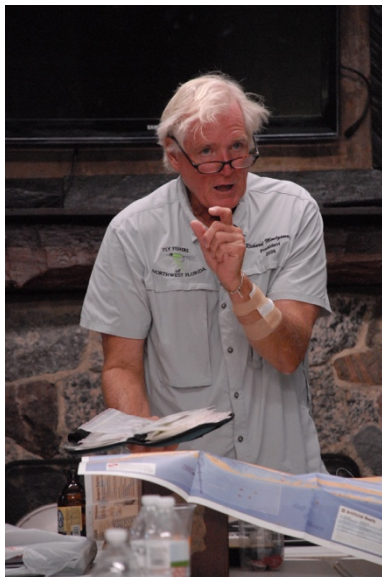
By Mick Milo



Project Healing Waters, as most are aware, has moved our meetings to coincide with the Club's Thursday Fly Tie session and the Saturday Casting Clinic. We are continuing to evaluate this schedule to determine if it works for our group. For September, we will be adding a Labor Day cookout on Monday September 7th for our Healing Waters members and their families. The menu Features Russ Shields' famous Low Country Boil. Then we will be back with the club on September 10th and 19th for the regular sessions.

Business Meeting

The August business meeting is documented in the minutes attached to this newsletter. The meeting also included a discussion, led by Richard Montgomery, about fishing spots and techniques in the panhandle. George Norton provided an excellent recap that is included a little later in the newsletter.



Fly Tying and Clinic

This month, Gary Pheabus showed us a couple versions of the Half and Half. This is a Clouser attached to a Deceiver, or vice versa... Thursday night was the introduction and we all learned that we were inclined to crowd the hook eye with the materials. Saturday, we tried to avoid that, while tying a second version of the same fly.



Our more experienced members were present at the clinic to help coach the casting.



The morning ended with Ellen Milo's delicious Shrimp Creole. Thanks!



Local Salt Water Fly Fishing: Useful Techniques for Success

By George Norton

Richard Montgomery is a local fly-fishing guide and club President. He grew up in Pensacola. The main species he targets are redfish, trout, bluefish, Spanish mackerel and ladyfish. He also fishes for bonito and pompano.

He passed around the flies he uses and told us how to fish them. Some of his favorite fly patterns are tan and white Clousers with bead chain eyes and sparsely tied EP minnows that imitate pinfish whose size depends on the time of the year. Currently his EP Minnow fly is about 3.5 inches. Earlier in the season they are smaller.

He recommended using a long twelve-foot tapered leader of five feet of 40 pound, four feet of 30 pound and three feet of twenty pound with a tippet of 16-pound fluorocarbon.

Richard recommends a floating line on an eight-weight fly rod when fishing the grass flats which is his bread and butter. Occasionally he drops down to a seven-weight rod. If targeting bull reds, he uses a ten-weight.

He poles from a platform and looks for sand patches and circles amid the grass flats which is where the reds and trout hang out waiting for an easy meal to come out of the grass. The water depth he likes to fish is typically from one and half feet to about six feet.

Presentation is key. Avoid big motions, don't rock the boat or make unnecessary false casts which spook the fish. If you spook the fish you can wait about twenty minutes and they will return and you can get a second chance.

A common misconception is redfish can't be caught in shallow water. His clients have had success with some big twenty-pound redfish close to the shoreline. Thank you, Richard, for a most informative presentation.

Fishing Reports

By Captain Richard Montgomery

August fishing was so-so. The water got hot, the west wind blew, and the fish disappeared. It wasn't all bad, though—the false albacore and ladyfish were around off and on, so you just needed to hit the right day. My client and his son-in-law were able to work ladyfish for a couple of hours, producing some nice-sized fish. You've just got to love ladyfish; they are so much fun to catch! Later in the day, I showed John some redfish, but we just couldn't get any takers, even on the “go-to” EP Peanut Minnow.



September should bring cooler temps, fewer thunderstorms, and hopefully fish. Capt. Baz mentioned he went on a personal trip and had to work hard to land one of the bigger Spanish, but as usual, he produced. I hope that's a good sign. I have a couple of charters next week, so we'll see!

In completely different news, I finished my August project of wrapping two 8-weight blanks from North Fork Composites (Gary Loomis' company) and look forward to everyone's feedback. I plan on being at the September Saturday Clinic, so come try them out.

Okay, all of that took place before Tropical Storm Bertha passed just south of us. I am very curious to see what effect she had on our Bay and the nearshore Gulf. What we should expect now are ladyfish, bluefish, and speckled trout crashing Clousers and other minnow patterns over the grass flats, along with redfish cleaning up in the shallows. The baby false albacore were already here—here's hoping the storm brought in some bigger and hungrier fish!

Cheers and good fishing!

The Arctic Expedition

George Norton and Bob Korose Head to Alaska

George sent me a bundle of pictures from their trip to Alaska. He reports that they caught nine different species on that trip, including three species of salmon, Rainbow Trout, Dolly Varden, grayling, a sucker and Northern Pike. Here are a few of the photos.



Here, George and Bob arrive in Anchorage and later display their catch of Dolly Varden.



Bob shows off his Rainbow Trout and George shows another Dolly Varden.

Fly of the Month: The Whistleducer

By Bob Korose

This fly was created by Vance Cook a founding father of the FFNWF and the designer of our club's logo fly the Cook's Critter. An original fly can be seen to the right. The Whistleducer is a blend of Dan Blanton's Whistler and Homer Rhode's Seaducer. Many in the club over the years have used it very successfully for skittish redfish around docks because its slow sink rate allows a very slow and tantalizing presentation. It can also be used for specks and others on and around the grass flats in the bay. It and the seducer itself are very effective for snook, specks, tarpon and others in saltwater and largemouth bass and peacock bass in freshwater.



Seaducer fly tying videos can be seen [here](#) and [here](#).

Materials:

Hook: S71SAP (Mustad 34007) Sizes 1-4

Thread: Red or White 210 denier Flat waxed nylon

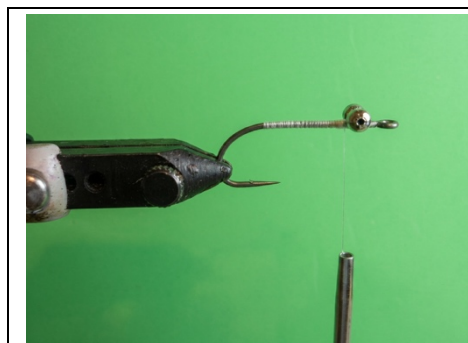
Under Support: Bucktail or FTD SB hair
(color as tail)

Eyes: Bead chain size large (or as desired)

Tail and Collars: Saddle hackle

Flash: Flashabou silver or pearl

Tail and Flash colors can be changed as desired.



1. Start your thread behind the hook eye and wrap a thread base to the bend then forward to behind the eye. An eye width behind the hook tie on the bead-chain eyes and put a drop of super glue to secure them.



2. Move thread back to the hook bend and tie on the bucktail anti-foul support.



3. Select and measure 4-6 saddle hackles matching their length and tie them on facing outward (splayed).



4. Select 4 strands of flash fold over the thread and tie on over the tail.



5. Select two hackles to palmer and tie them on at the base of the tail so the concave sides face back. Palmer forward in tight wraps forming a dense collar. Use more hackles as needed to go forward to just short of the eyes.



6. Select a contrasting feather and palmer it snug against the eyes. Bring the thread forward of eyes and make a neat head and whip finish. Use head cement or UV resin for protection and your fly is ready for action.

FFNWF August 4, 2026 BOD and General Meeting Minutes

by George Norton Club Secretary

1830 The President called the meeting to order with the Pledge of Allegiance.

We had 19 attendees. Eric Davis was introduced as a new member and Paul of Double D charters. We also were glad to see Jeff back. Welcome aboard.

Fishing Trips: Mick Milo is working on trips for PHW members and will update soon. There are no local FF trips yet scheduled. A day trip to Gulf Shores State Park was mentioned as a possible option. Anyone want to run with that? The Lake there has both fresh and salt water species and is excellent for bank and kayak angling. Wading at Naval Live Oaks would be another easy local option but we need a trip leader to schedule it. Sam at Community Fly Shop and Matt are good sources for fresh water trip sites. A fall freshwater trip with cooler weather would be a good option.

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

October Fundraiser is the third Saturday of the month. Bring your donations to a meeting or one hour before the event which starts at 9 AM.

Christmas Party Tickets will go on sale shortly. Start thinking who you can invite. Some suggestions for bringing a door prize so everyone gets something are a bottle of wine, a box of flies, or a book on fly fishing.

Fishing Reports: Ramsey reported good action for native trout in North Carolina at higher elevations. He only dry fly fishes with ants and terrestrials in the summer. "Hike up to at least 2,500 feet but 3,000 feet is even better with water temperature less than 62 degrees."

George reported catching a trash fish slam off his condo pier on club flies with ladyfish, pinfish, needlefish and his first hardtail catfish on the lightbulb. He also caught a small jack while trying to catch a mullet on a San Juan worm. In the Bay fish were scarce with only a couple of stray ladyfish. Terry M reported "the usual fish just up and left but they will be back as the water clarity improves and the baitfish come back."

Presentation by President Captain Richard Montgomery, "Local Salt Water Fly Fishing: Useful Techniques for Success". See the full recap on page 6.