

Flies and Lies

August 2024



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NEWSLETTER

The Prez Sez:

It is now the Dog Days of August and I hope at least some of you were able to brave the heat of July and get out to put a bend in your fly rods. Bob and I are still in Birmingham at UAB. Bob is slowly improving and I hope to be home in the not too distant future. Tight Lines, **Cyndi**.

I am filling in for Cyndi and again, with a lot of help from Paul Wargo, putting together this August 2024 Newsletter.

Following the presentation by Casting for Recovery in June, Wolfgang volunteered to collect flies tied by our members to give to Casting for Recovery for their two retreats this year. One in September in Mississippi and later in October in Florida. He will attend both retreats and represent our club. If you have or will have some simple freshwater or saltwater flies, please contact Wolfgang and pass them along. wolfgangszutie@gmail.com

At our June Clinic, Mick and his wife Ellen served a wonderful Shrimp Creole lunch that was very much enjoyed and appreciated. The fly of the month for June was Jerry Giles' Sparkle Spider and Jerry did a great job presenting it at the Bull Session and the Clinic.

For the July Clinic lunch we feasted on grilled marinated mullet fillets with Hot Spot baked beans and their coleslaw. We tried out our new table-top grill and we used a flame thrower gun to broil the tops of the fillets while the bottom of the fillets were being grilled. That worked very well and reduced the cooking time. We had seventeen folks for lunch and everyone liked the mullet and fixin's. Several people who had never eaten mullet before were surprised at how good it was.

Jerry Giles brought his daughter, Pam, to the clinic for some casting instruction from Richard. I watched from the gazebo as she picked it up in a very short time and was casting some very nice loops. She also helped out at the grill as her picture with her dad shows.

Capt. Richard Montgomery was out on the water in July. His report follows:

The fly of the month is the Summer Caterpillar. We will tie it as shown in the pattern sheet and add a couple of variations. It is a cool fly and very easy to tie. Should be lots of fun to fish as well. I hope you all take care during this awful heat and humidity and stay hydrated, especially if you are out on the water.

George Norton's excellent minutes for the July meeting follow below.
Tight Lines and happy fishing. **Russ**

Club Meeting – Tuesday, Aug 6 6:30

Mick Milo will take us on the PHW South Holsten River trip last winter

Fly Tying – Thursday, Aug 8 6:30 The Summer Caterpillar

(same week as meeting)

Clinic – Saturday, Aug 17 9:00 AM

The famous delicious Polish Stew by Jay Brykczynski

Fishing Report Capt. Richard Montgomery

July was hot, both in terms of temps and fishing. Bluefish started to show and then got thick on the typical grass flat and around the Pass. Take a look at Terry Mc's Instagram post! Cruise the west side of the Pass for 1-3-pound snapper blues. Much larger bluefish have been found further down the beaches (in both directions) daisy-chaining. Look for the small bluefish finning on the surface or just lined up near the beach. Use anything chartreuse and shiny with 30# tippet. Even with that size tippet be prepared to lose a few flies. For the larger fish, same flies just LARGER and tippet in the 50-60# class. We also found, for one day at least return of Spanish to Pickens Flat. We land this nice size fish and lost two of what I would say were monsters. Typical Clouser minnow patterns.



False albacore showed up in the Bay throughout the Turning Basin and along the tide line. They are not grouped up in large schools yet, but they are here. Use a trolling motor to get close or get out in front of the school then kill the big motor and hope they come to you. Outboards will drive the fish down almost instantly. Small flies, light brown, copper and 12-16# tippet. If that doesn't work, go with 8# but know again you're going to lose some flies. Long casts and rapid strips are key right now.

Sight fishing for reds and trout is still happening, but with the 4th of July and Blues show, boat traffic has made it difficult. Funny, but pics of my clients' redfish don't look near as big as Baz's.



July Clinic Flame broiled grilled mullet!



Real Flame Broiled Mullet

Russ is our Fisher King

Have it Your Way (but really His Way)

Fly of the Month – **THE SUMMER CATERPILLAR**



As the water temperatures rise, largemouth bass and bream will invade the shallows looking for an easy meal before they begin to spawn, plop this tasty morsel in front of them and you will surely experience some rod-bending action. As well as a fine meal for yourself. (The fish, not the caterpillar)

TYING MATERIALS:

HOOK: MUSTAD 94831 OR SIMILAR 2-1/2X #4-#8

THREAD: FLAT WAXED NYLON, BLACK

BODY: CLOSED CELL FOAM OR ULTRA CHENILLE
GREEN OR YELLOW

LEGS: BLACK HACKLE.

TYING INSTRUCTIONS:

1. Tie in a jamb knot, wrap smooth thread base to hook bend. At this point tie in black hackle by tip.

2. At same tie in point, secure a 3" length of ultra-chenille. Leave hackle in place. Advance thread to hook eye.



3. Wrap ultra- chenille forward to just short of hook eye. Secure chenille. Remember to leave room for hackle and thread head.

4. Pull hackle fiber backwards as you palmer hackle forward to tie-off point. Hackle wraps should be in segment wraps of chenille.

5. Tie-off hackle. Wrap small neat thread head and apply head cement.

NOTE: Use narrow tip of hackle for caterpillar legs.

Length of fibers should be approximately equal to 1-1-1/2X hook gape.



Fly Tying Bull Session – July



FFNWF Meeting: Minutes July 2, 2024 by George Norton

1830 Meeting Opened by our Vice President with the Pledge of Allegiance. Rex updated us on Bob Myers' recent heart surgery in Birmingham and he noted his surgeons were pleased with the results and the positive improvements. The Myers plan to come home within a week. Keep Bob and Cindy in your prayers for his healing.

Last months' minutes were not published since a newsletter was not expected, but George reviewed his notes. The minutes given orally were approved by Russ and Wolfgang.

Treasure's Report: Larry reported we had revenue from the auction and from two new members less payments for a new grill and table and Saturday's clinic food and pastries. We have a healthy balance in checking. The report was approved..

Old Business: Russ will provide the meal for the monthly clinic with fried mullet (marinated in lemon and soy sauce) and asked how many planned to attend so he could buy the right number of fish. Beans and coleslaw will be from Hot Spots. Wolfgang volunteered to help set up.

Jay updated the attendees on the "Memorandum of Understanding "with the City Parks Department which highlights our responsibilities in our club building. So far the City has not signed it. Jay will follow up in a week. Thanks Jay for stepping up for Dave H. who is dealing with health issues. Each club using the clubhouse pays \$50 a year, and is required to hold liability insurance. Jay also said we need supplies for the building. Wolfgang offered to pick up hand soap, a new vacuum cleaner and paper towels.

New Business: Wolfgang gave an update on helping "Casting for Recovery" which is an organization that mentors and encourages breast cancer survivors with free fly fishing events. Wolfgang proposed that the club donate some club freshwater flies for their next two events this fall in Poplaville Ms., September 27-29th, and at Live Oak near Tallahassee October 25-27th. If anyone is interested in helping mentor fly casting at an event, see Wolfgang or visit the Casting for Recovery website which has an application and information. Some suggested flies to donate were small gurglers, clousers, and woolly buggers.

Presentation by Tarpon Bob Korose: "Peacock Bass in the Amazon Basin"

Bob gave a beautiful slide presentation on his two trips to the Amazon Basin with his favorite outfitter, "Fishing with Larry," in 2014 and 2015 to the Aqua Boa Amazon Lodge.

I was amazed by the diversity of species he caught in the backwaters of the Amazon jungle.

Peacock bass were the main objective but they also caught a variety of colorful catfish, piranha, pacu and a saber tooth fish called a payara.

There are at least three distinct recognized species in the peacock bass family. The butterfly peacock bass is the smallest, and Bob has also caught them in south Florida's canals. The spotted and the tuck peacock bass are larger. Bob had beautiful slides of each. Bob's biggest peacock on the trip was a staggering fifteen pounds, but a twenty pounder was caught on this trip by his buddy, Dr. Tedesco.

Bob was voted the outstanding fisherman award for the week with his big red tailed catfish. As the winner, he dined at the head of the table in the dining room wearing a full Indian headdress. His guide told him only two red tailed catfish were caught on the fly in the history of the lodge.

A variety of wildlife was observed on the trip such as freshwater dolphin in blue and yellow colors to large tapirs and monkeys. A variety of birds were everywhere such as parrots and pink flamingos. The standard fly rod is an 8-9 weight rod with a straight forty-pound mono leader. All kinds of flies

like poppers and streamers will work, but a size that closely matches the baitfish was essential and success came after trimming off some feathers.

At the time of his trips, there was a non- stop flight from Miami to Manaus that only took 5-6 hours. Today you have to fly to the east coast of Brazil to make a connection to Manaus which makes the trip longer and more complicated.

The outfitter met Bob and his group in Manaus after they spent the first night at the Tropical Hotel and flew him to the lodge in the jungle. If the non- stop trip to Manaus is ever restarted, Bob is ready to go again. The fishing is too good to pass up. Thanks Bob for sharing your wonderful trips to Brazil.

Fishing Reports: Gerry Giles field tested this month's featured fly on Thursday evening "the Sparkle Spider" in a local pond and a big bluegill charged it on his first cast. The Sparkle Spider sounds like a winning fly!

Tarpon Bob reported on his recent tarpon fishing trip to Campeche, Mexico, famous for baby tarpon to thirty pounds in the mangroves. Bob had previously been to Campeche and loved that trip so why not repeat it. He plans to go back next year in May. He booked his trip with "Fishing with Larry" and had a great time though the fishing was tougher than his previous trip due to strong winds, which made casting and catching challenging but he did land some beauties. The surprise catch was a big speckled trout. He loved the new lodge and felt safe in Campeche which is an old wall city. The new lodge was walking distance to restaurants and everything during non-fishing hours. The Mayan ruins are close to Campeche.

George traveled to the northwest corner of Connecticut in early June to see family. He landed a dozen nice smallmouth bass on poppers floating the Housatonic River including his best all time smallmouth at 18 inches. He also caught bluegill, largemouth bass, yellow perch and rock bass fishing streamers in local ponds. Back in Pensacola, George fished the beach east of the pass and caught a Spanish Mackerel, blue runners and ladyfish. The Bay was full of grass and not productive due to north winds.

1945: The Meeting Adjourned