

Minutes of the Meeting of October 4th, 2005. Fly Fishers of Northwest Florida. President Jerry Aldridge presiding

General Meeting: Called to order at 7:00 pm. Previous meeting was Sept. 6. Minutes were approved without reading. Two new members were present, George Bennet and Larry Sisney.

Old Business: Don Lupone provided a treasurer's report – balance 2890.84 in bank, but with 3 new memberships and expenses not yet included, actual balance is 2882.38. Treasurer's report approved.

Committee reports: No Board meeting to report, next meeting Nov. 6. **FFF-Karen** - no report.

Conservation- Skeet reported that CCA banquet would be on Oct. 20 and encouraged members to attend. Also reported on CCA actions to stop reduced limits and seasonal closure of grouper fishing.

Nomination Committee- Travis asked for volunteers or nominations for officers since we will be voting for new officers in November at the next regular meeting. Members are also encouraged to think about their choice for angler of the year, which will be selected at the November meeting.

Fishing Trips- Jerry reported that the fall fishing trip will be in conjunction with the fall picnic at Shoreline Park. Fishing will start at 6:30 with coffee and donuts and a briefing. There will be a contest for biggest Speck caught, no limit on type of fly used. **Library-** Kevin - we will need a new librarian next year since Kevin will be moving to Colorado. Christmas Party - Party will be held on Dec. 1st at the Pensacola Yacht Club (Thursday).

Program: Travis and Russ gave a program on rod building. They discussed materials and options available and pointed out that it is relatively easy to do. Building your own rod gives you the flexibility to build a rod to suit your specific preferences.

Fishing Reports: Bill Locher reported catching specks in Hoffman, Larry Sisney reported on fishing in Arkansas. Jerry has been catching reds, pompano and ladyfish. Travis reported that the new cuts in Pensacola beach were very productive and caught reds, whiting, pompano and black drum.

Door Prizes: Several flies were raffled.

Emile Lores, Secretary

Tying Inshore Flies - Where Do I Start.... Jerry Aldridge

Northwest Florida has been blessed with a great variety of inshore fish species, some abundant year around such as the speckled trout, some more seasonal such as bull reds marauding our bays and beaches in the fall and winter. Ladyfish, blues, Spanish or king mackerel, pompano, flounder and jack crevalle are always a possibility. So....what flies does a newcomer buy or tie to have a good chance to partake of this bounty? Salt water inshore anglers are just as opinionated as their fresh water counterparts so you won't be troubled with a shortage of recommendations. Once again, I will jump into the fray with my short list of flies to tie. These work for me and others and will serve well as a starting point. For around \$125 you can fill your inshore box with flies proven to catch just about species likely to be encountered.

You should have flies in your inshore box that will cover the water column from the surface to as deep as you can reasonably expect to fish with a fly. The fly I choose to cover the deeps is (big surprise) the **Clouser deep minnow**. This is a proven fly that has probably **Continued next page-**

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caught more salt water fish than any other. It is easy to tie and is very durable if properly tied. Clousers can be tied in any size from huge to miniscule but sizes 2 and 4 hooks will be enough to begin with. Some of my favorite color combos are pale orange and brown (especially in autumn and winter), smoke and black, tan and olive, chartreuse and white, and tan and yellow. Lots of other colors work but we will start with these to keep costs of materials down.



Lefty's Deceiver is a fine fly to work the water column from just below the surface to 3 or 4 feet down (more if you weight the hook). This is probably the second most popular salt water fly and has caught just about anything that swims. A little more difficult to tie than clouser but a must have fly. We will start with all white (Lefty's original), chartreuse and white, yellow and orange (a good color for redfish), and red/white/grizzly. Deceivers can be tied with artificial wing material but bucktail makes a more eye-appealing fly.



Jack Gartside's Gurgler is my first choice for a noisy fly on the surface. Poppers of many sorts will work well also but the gurgler is easy to tie with readily available materials; \$5 worth of foam at Hobby Lobby will make your gurgler bodies for the next 10 years. We will start with white, red, yellow and orange.



Material List. The materials required to tie our flies is listed below. Substitute materials are sometimes used to keep costs down For example, flashabou is used in place of spooled mylar for the bodies of our deceivers. You can certainly use original material if you want to spend a little more. Total Material cost is about \$125,. Costs were taken from the catalogue of a single supplier except for the foam (locally available at Hobby Lobby for around \$1 per sheet). Other suppliers might be cheaper on individual items.

1. Hooks, Mustad 34007, sizes 2 and 4, 2 boxes of 50 at \$6.25 per box, \$12.50.
2. Thread, Danville 3/0 waxed, white, red, orange, beige, \$0.95 per 100 yard spool, \$3.80.
3. Spirit River Dazl-eyes, nickel, 5/32/ 3/16, \$2.75 per 25 pack, \$5.50.
4. Unique Hair, tan, olive, chartreuse, white, smoke, black, yellow, \$2.50 each, \$17.50.
5. Flashabou, copper, gold, silver, pearlescent, \$2.95 each, \$11.80.
6. Krystal flash, orange, root beer, chartreuse, pearl, yellow, \$3.50 each, \$17.50.
7. Bucktail, pale orange, brown, white, yellow, red, chartreuse, \$4.50 each, \$27.00.
8. Saddle hackle, white, yellow, grizzly, red, \$2.95 each, 11.80.
9. Marabou, white yellow, orange, \$1.50 each, \$4.50.
10. Foam, white, yellow, orange, red, \$1 per sheet, \$4.00.
11. Ice Chenille, pearl, yellow, orange, red, \$2.50 each, \$10.00.

Total Material Cost = \$125.90

A box or two filled with these flies, a few of each size and color listed will catch a lot of inshore fish. You will add other kinds and colors and sizes as you gain experience but these are a helluva start!