

# Flies & Lies

NEWSLETTER OF THE FLYFISHERS  
OF NORTHWEST FLORIDA  
MAY 2008

THE FLYFISHERS OF  
NORTHWEST FLORIDA  
PO BOX 1041  
PENSACOLA, FL 32591  
www.flyfishpensacola.  
com

## PRESIDENT

Karen Brand  
(850) 516-1852  
kbrand@santarosamri.com

## VICE-PRESIDENT

Joe Higgins  
(850) 458-2533  
jhigpcola@aol.com

## SECRETARY

Jerry Giles  
(850) 994-9946, FlyFisher-  
man1942@aol.com

## TREASURER

Larry Sisney  
(850) 474-1433  
lsisney@cox.net

## NEWSLETTER

Jerry Aldridge  
(850) 478-9255  
jamayfly@yahoo.com

## MONTHLY MEETINGS

Meetings at Miraflores Park  
17th Avenue between  
Belmont and LaRua

BUSINESS MEETING  
1ST TUESDAY, 7 PM

BULL SESSION  
2ND THURSDAY, 6:30  
PM

CASTING & TYING  
CLINIC  
3RD SATURDAY, 9 AM

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## President's Message ....Karen Brand

One thing I've always enjoyed about our club is the interest that members have in all areas of fly fishing. Living on the coast, Saltwater fishing is all around us but club members also travel to multiple fly fishing destinations around the country in search of all of the cold and warm water species. I just returned from a fishing trip to the Tuckasegee River (The Tuck) in western North Carolina and had great time fishing with several other club members. There are many fly fishing opportunities out there but the challenge is to find out where they are! The upcoming **Fly Fishing Show and Conclave** is a great event where you can learn from the experts about fishing destinations all over the country. The 2 day event is May 30-31 in Callaway Gardens, GA. The show offers a multitude of different seminars on fishing for Tarpon in South FL, N Georgia fishing and opportunities on the Chattahoochee, fishing the Cumberland in Eastern KY, N Arkansas fishing on the White and Buffalo Rivers, Western fishing tips from Tom Travis, nationally known guide in Montana and Striper fishing on the east coast. Casting and tying instructions will also be offered by some of the best in the country. To get more information and to register for the event go to [www.fffsec.org](http://www.fffsec.org). I hope to see all of you at the general membership meeting, Tuesday May 6! ....Karen Brand

### General Business Meeting, Fly Fishers Of Northwest Florida, April 1, 2007, President Karen Brand, presiding

President Karen Brand called the meeting to order at 7:00 P.M. Jerry Giles was not in attendance so minutes were taken by Karen Brand. The treasurer's report was approved as submitted.

Old business: Russ Shields gave an update on options for the Christmas Party and Bob Holton gave a club website update.

New Business; discussion of a speaker exchange with the club, Panhandle Fly Fishers in Destin and their interest in helping out with the Boy Scout Camp.

Important dates this Spring were discussed; April 10, Bull Session; Saturday Clinic, April 19, SE FFF Conclave May 29-31 and the Auction, June 3.

Committee reports; Art requested items for the auction and Skeet shared details on the upcoming CCA Banquet. Club members shared local fishing stories and Bob Korose gave a report on his trip to Arkansas. Meeting was adjourned. Karen Brand, President

### *Casting & Tying at the Club.... Tom Regina*

At the Thursday May 8 Bull Session starting at 6:30 PM, the inshore and trout fly tying kits will be available for members and guests to tie the fly(s) of their choice. At the Saturday May 17 Casting and Tying Clinic starting at 9 AM, I will lead interested fly dressers in tying ant imitations. We will tie a fur ant, a Knot Sense ant, a foam ant, and a high-viz ant. Spring is here, summers' near. Fish eat ants and you will want some in your bug box so you can put some in your creel. All fly tying materials are provided by your club. If you have them, bring your vise and tying tools... or use the club's vises and tools.

If 3/0 John can keep his worm out of the water long enough he will be at the Saturday clinic to give casting instruction and tips. John has spent so much time on the water casting for trout this spring that one would think he's retired. But he ain't, and some of us hope doesn't for a long time... we need him to keep paying our social security. John is a highly skilled caster and a mighty fine instructor. He is delighted and more than keen to share his knowledge and skill with you. Want to learn casting skills and techniques that will get your fly to the fish? Want to learn something as simple as how to hold your rod?(Fly rod. Get your mind back on subject). Want to learn how to pick-up line, lay down line, get more distance from your cast, improve your back cast and forward cast? John can help. Want to learn how to change the direction of your cast, how to throw a curve cast, a tuck cast? See John.

As usual Russ Shields and Jerry Giles will feed us a mighty fine free lunch at the Saturday clinic. Drinks are also on the house. At the April clinic Russ was on his own to feed us. Seems Jerry had more important things to do, like fishing in North Carolina. Somehow Russ was able to pull it off and fed us hot dogs... not just hot dogs, but mighty fine hot dogs with his special hot dog "gravy".

As always guests are welcome at all our meetings, bull sessions, and clinics. So bring a fishing buddy, a friend, a kid, even your bride or your girl friend (but not both). We will welcome them and hopefully interest them in fly fishing and fly tying. And Russ and Jerry will also feed them at the Saturday clinic.

Ants in the river make mighty fine fish food. They end up in the water in one of two ways. Wingless ants tend to appear randomly when they fall onto the water. This is generally a sporadic occurrence, but at times you may find them in high numbers when they get blown off streamside vegetation on warm, windy, spring, summer, and fall days. Watch for fish feeding regularly underneath trees, bushes, and grasses overhanging the water, they may be feeding on ants. Wingless ants are usually very small, size 18 to 22, and are usually black or cinnamon in color. Wingless ants are frequently found on the water surface close to and along the shore.

More often we find a lot of ants on the water when a swarm of winged ants have been blown onto the water or their wings have fallen off as intended by nature. Winged ants typically range in size from 14 to 16 and are usually black or brown in color. Winged ants will typically be found on the water from shore to shore.

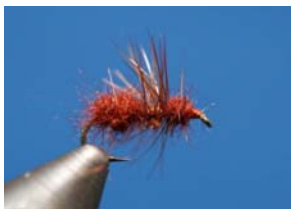
Your terrestrial fly box need not be packed full of ant patterns. You can limit your ant imitations to just a few patterns. Carry two or three pattern styles for both winged and wingless ants. Carry each style in just one or two colors and in a narrow range of sizes.

## Tying Instructions



### **Black or Cinnamon Fur Ant:**

Secure a size 18 or smaller dry fly hook in the vise and lay down a thread base of the appropriate color 8/0 thread from the hook eye to a point directly over the hook barb. Using the appropriate color dry fly dubbing, dub a relatively large abdomen on the rear one-third of the hook. Take the thread forward to the front one-third of the hook and dub a relatively small head. Take the thread back to the middle one-third of the hook. Select and prepare the appropriate color and size rooster saddle hackle and tie it in by the butt onto the middle third of the hook between the dubbed abdomen and head. Take three or four turns of hackle around the middle third of the hook for the ants legs. Tie off and cut away the excess hackle. Tie off and cut away the thread. If necessary, pick out the dubbing to give the ant a “buggy” appearance and to help it float well.



### **Knot Sense Ant:**

Secure a size 18 or smaller dry fly hook in the vise and lay down a thread base of 8/0 black thread from the hook eye to a point directly over the hook barb. Over the rear one-third of the hook build up a relatively large underbody thread bump abdomen. Take the thread forward to the front one-third of the hook and build up a relatively small underbody thread bump head. Whip finish or half hitch and cut away the thread. Using a bodkin, apply a relatively large amount of “Loon UV Knot Sense” to the rear underbody thread bump. You can control the application of the Knot Sense with your bodkin and by rotating the fly in the vise. When you have acquired the proper abdomen shape, shine the Loon UV light onto the Knot Sense for about 20 seconds to cure it. *Caution: Be sure the tube of UV Knot Sense is closed before turning on the UV light. If the UV light is allowed to shine on the open tube of Knot Sense the Knot Sense in the neck of the tube will cure.* Apply a relatively small amount of Knot Sense to the head thread bump in the same manner as for the abdomen. *Note: A second application of Knot Sense may be applied to the abdomen and head if required.* Tie the thread back onto the middle one-third of the ant between the abdomen and the head. Select and prepare a black appropriate size rooster saddle hackle. Tie the feather onto the middle of the hook by its butt. Make three or four turns of hackle around the middle of the hook to represent the ant’s legs. Tie off the hackle and cut away the excess. Tie off and cut away the thread. This ant imitation floats well and especially so when dressed with fly floatant. *Note: Loon UV Knot Sense and the Loon UV light can be obtained through most fly tying materials catalogs.*



## Ants.... Tom Regina (continued)



### Winged Foam Ant:

Secure a size 14 or 16 dry fly hook in the vise and lay down a thread base of 6/0 black thread from the hook eye to a point directly over the hook barb. Over the rear half of the hook shank, tie a 3/16 x 1 inch strip of black 2mm foam by it's tip to the top of the hook so the long end extends over the back of the hook. Take the thread to the middle of the hook shank and fold the foam strip forward to create a relatively large humped abdomen on top of the hook. Tie the foam strip down over about the middle one-third of the hook shank to form a segmented area between the abdomen and where the head will be formed. Take the thread forward under the foam that will now be extending over the hook eye. Pull the foam forward and parallel to the top of the hook shank and tie it down close to the hook eye to form a relatively small humped head on top of the hook. Cut away the excess foam close to the tie down thread wraps and cover the foam tag end with a few thread wraps. Take the thread under the hook shank and back to the segment between the abdomen and the head. Select and prepare an appropriate size black rooster hackle. Tie the hackle feather in by it's butt over the segment area of the ant. Make three or four turns of hackle around the segment section. Tie off and cut away the excess feather. Prepare a set or pair of wings from very thin white foam of the type used for packaging electronic equipment, or other suitable fly wing material. The finished wing length should be about equal to the length of the hook shank and each wing of the pair should be about as wide as the wide end of a flat



toothpick and about the same shape. Tie the wings on top of the hook between the back of the head and the hackle. The wings should flare out to the sides slightly. Tie off the wings and cut away the tag ends. Tie off the thread and cut it away. If the wings stand too erect cut some hackle out from under them.

### High-Viz Ant:

Secure a size 14 or 16 dry fly hook in the vise and lay down a 6/0 black thread base from the hook eye to a point directly over the hook barb. Return the thread forward to a point back from the hook eye that is equal to one-third the hook shank length. At this thread hang point tie on a High-Viz foam ant body to the top of the hook. Tie the body on so it overhangs the back of the hook and the white tip is above the hook eye. Make enough thread wraps over the body to create a distinct segment between the abdomen and the head. Select and prepare a proper size black rooster saddle hackle. Tie the hackle feather in by it's butt over the segment section. Make three or four wraps of hackle over the segment area to represent the ant's legs. Tie off and cut away the excess hackle. Take the thread under the hook shank and under the white tipped head. Half hitch or whip finish and cut away the thread. Apply a small amount of head cement to the tie off thread wraps. Trim the back of the body so it is even with the very back of the hook. *Note: Rainy's High-Viz Ant Bodies can be obtained through most fly tying materials catalogs.*



## Spring Clinic Photos



## Fishing Report... Captain Baz Yelverton



It's time for all you adrenaline junkies to string up the big fly rods because the jack crevalle have arrived. If you "don't know jack" now's the perfect time to meet him. The first schools hit the beach April 14, and there have been reasonable quantities of fish moving east to west every day. Your best bet is to catch a day with little or no surf and anchor close to the beach east of Pensacola Pass. Use a 10 or 12 wt outfit with floating line, eight to nine foot leader with 40# tippet, and the splashiest popper you can throw. The trick is to get the fly in front of the fish before they sense the boat and to start popping it as they arrive. Set the hook hard three or four times and hang on. These fish are all in the 15-30# range, and the fight usually lasts 30-40 minutes. Actually most fights only last a few minutes, because the jack wins by doubling back on the angler and putting slack in the line. The big poppers have so much flotation they dislodge easily when the line goes slack. Large arbor reels with good drag systems will improve your odds of landing one of these beauties. Here's a shot of Kansas City's Larry Green with a medium sized fish landed April 17.



While waiting for the jacks to arrive we like to sight fish for pompano and bluefish, keeping the big rod ready to cast with the line loaded in the flyline tamer tube. For the pompano my "go to" fly is a yellow #2 Clouser minnow with gold barbell eyes, red thread, and a little gold crystal flash or flashabou. Chartreuse/ white works well, too, and Capt Bob Quarles swears by pink. You can also use Travis's "pompano rocket".



The spring pompano run is running full speed at the moment. On April 15 conditions were perfect with a N wind,

clear water and dead flat seas. We saw more pompano that day than I've ever seen in a single day and landed ten on spinning tackle before moving on to other species. Here are a couple shots of Greg Catalano, Boston, MA, with fly-caught pompano and bluefish on April 22.

The final hot action at the moment is Spanish mackerel just to the east of Fair Point (Town Point, Peake's Point). The fish are pretty thick on the grass beds just beyond the ends of the docks a quarter mile or so east of the point. These are mostly big Spanish in the 2-4 pound range, and one of my fellow guides reported landing a six pounder. I've been using tan and white Clouser minnows with gold crystal flash and 40# fluorocarbon tippet. The best tactic is to drift until you find the fish and then drop anchor. This stretch of beach is one of the few "east wind" spots that holds fish at the moment.

The flats in the bay and sound continue to be plagued by tannin colored water. We didn't get much rain from the last couple cold fronts, but areas north of us did. The dirty water that came down river has once again discolored the bay and Santa Rosa Sound, and it will be a few weeks before the water clears up. Until then your best bets for sight fishing are the Big Lagoon and flats east of the Bob Sikes Bridge.

## Spring Clinic Photos



## *Fishing Report... Captain Bob Quarles*



It's been a while since I posted a report but the fishing has been wonderful so here it is ! We had so much success on Saturday's charter, I had to go back out on Sunday by myself with the fly rod. We have been doing pretty well with pink jigs, so I tied up some clouser minnows with a pink wing and some heavy eyes on #1 hooks, and that was the ticket for the "Pensacola Permit"...although I had to scale down to 15 lb. fluorocarbon leaders... not good with all the bluefish and spanish that are on the beach right now...I only caught 2 pompano on fly on Sunday, but it was really windy.

Anyway, I knew you flyfisherman would appreciate the pic and the report, they are out there in good numbers, go get 'em! Here's a couple more pics of some happy fisherman... each of them with the first pompano they ever caught!



Dr. Eric Mutz was thrilled with this beauty...



Jim Eanes his cousin Mike from Colorado with Mike's first pompano ever.. on Saturday's trip we caught sheepshead, spanish , specks and some nice flounder..... but all those were caught on light spin tackle....

Capt. Bob Quarles  
(850) 501-1530

<http://www.blueheronguideservice.com>

## *Prepare for Tuesday, June 3rd Auction... Art de Tonnancourt, Auction Chairman*

Find a large cardboard box and look around your house, garage, hobby corners ,etc. and consider taking all non used big man or ladies' toys, books, fly fishing gear and gadgets, tools, outdoor stuff, spinning gear and even deep sea fishing equipment, and put in all together to take to our Annual Club Auction on Tuesday, June 3<sup>rd</sup> . Members of our committee will arrive at the club house at 5:30PM to accept these donations.

Come early and browse while the committee organizes these donations for the auction. Members who have boats and would like to take this opportunity to offer part of a day to take out the winning bidder for a day of local fishing can contact a committee member . We hope that our professional guide members will again offer one of their trips to the high bidders as well.

There usually are some real fine salt and fresh water flies tied by several members of our club. These are some of the most popular items auctioned off in past years.....this is a real buying opportunity to get a lifetime supply of great flies.

All of us have had great fun at these auctions. The bidding is always robust, sometimes comical, and always a surprise. Join in the spirit and bring your check books.....there are always treasures to be had.

## *Around the Bay... and Further Away*

**From Milt Mays**....Hi guys, Recent trip to the Big Horn below Yellow Tail dam in Montana yielded me the fish of a lifetime: 7 lbs 25 inches of male rainbow, on a small BWO bead head nymph. Great trip, lots of fish, and later in the year, lots of dry fly fishing, so I'm told. Looking forward to Yellowstone probably for us 6-15 Sept, or in that window....Milt



**From Jerry Giles**....I just finished a book which I highly recommend, called "The Road", by Cormac McCarthy, about conditions during a nuclear winter. Most interesting to me was the book's last paragraph.

"Once there were brook trout in the streams in the mountains. You could see them standing in the amber current where the white edges of their fins wimpled softly in the flow. They smelled of moss in your hand. Polished and muscular and torsional. On their backs were vermiculate patterns that were maps of the world in it's becoming. Maps and mazes. Of a thing which could not be put back. Not be made right again. In the deep glens where they lived all things were older than man and they hummed of mystery."

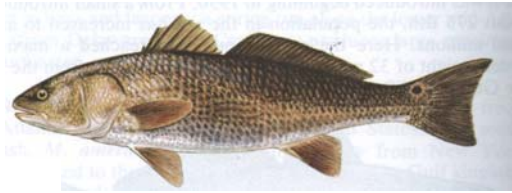
**From Dane Law**....We now have a solid month of fishing under our belts. I am very happy to see recent rains to the area. All of our reservoirs are at or above desired levels for this time of year. We are also fortunate to have been spared the flooding rains that are occurring to our west and north. March provided very good fishing and April looks to be even better. All of the comments made on the March report are holding true. It can be viewed on our website : [www.southeasternanglers.com](http://www.southeasternanglers.com). Here is a short update on what we doing.

**Hiwassee River** - So far spring 2008 is turning out to be a little wetter than the past few so it would be good to note here that the Hiwassee rarely suffers from clarity issues after a rain. It takes a multi – day gully washer to make the water murky. We had only three days of stained water in March. TVA is currently on a low water release schedule, and probably will be through May. We have three different drift fishing options below Reliance, depending on the daily flow rate. Fish are starting to eat on the surface, with the beginning of Mayflies and some caddis. This is a dependable trip. We have experienced several 30+ fish days.

**Toccoa River** - Our trips here have been very strong. Catch rates are high, fish size is good and we have released several fish over twenty inches. Insects include black caddis, quills, and the Hendricksons are starting. TVA is currently on a low water release. The days that we get here in April and May will be great. We do have clarity issues on the Toccoa. The river muddies easily after a moderate rain. It usually takes two days to clear. Since it is less than an hour drive over to the Hiwassee, I recommend flexibility when targeting this river. We can easily switch to the Hiwassee on short notice.

**Holston River** - Very good spring fishing here. Catch rates are good. Here is our best average fish size. This is a great river to work as a destination in the Knoxville area or as combo with the two rivers down south on a multi day trip. There are good motels and restaurants at Strawberry Plains near the river. Techniques are mixed between streamers, nymphs, midges, and caddis are beginning now.

**Cumberland River** - Kentucky is getting some of the recent heavy rains. Flows are way too high to fish. Stream flows will diminish as the rains do. Just wait, that is what we are doing. Dane Law, Southeastern Anglers - 423-338-7368.



# MAY 2008

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
				<b>1</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>3</b>
<b>4</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>6</b> Business Meeting 7 PM	<b>7</b>	<b>8</b> Bull Session-Tying & Tall Tales 6:30 PM	<b>9</b>	<b>10</b>
<b>11</b>	<b>12</b>	<b>13</b>	<b>14</b>	<b>15</b>	<b>16</b>	<b>17</b> Clinic - Casting, tying gourmet lunch 9 AM
<b>18</b>	<b>19</b>	<b>20</b>	<b>21</b>	<b>22</b>	<b>23</b>	<b>24</b>
<b>25</b>	<b>26</b>	<b>27</b>	<b>28</b>	<b>29</b>	<b>30</b>	<b>31</b>