

# Flies & Lies

NEWSLETTER OF THE FLYFISHERS  
OF NORTHWEST FLORIDA  
JUNE 2005

THE FLYFISHERS OF  
NORTHWEST FLORIDA  
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**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

**BOARD MEETING**  
4TH TUESDAY, 6:30PM

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**AUCTION JUNE 7TH!**

# President's Message ....Milt Mays

**Well**, we had a really great month in May for fishing. Lots of good reports from the salt and fresh water contingents. The Spring Picnic was a success, despite having to relocate at the last minute to the Live Oaks Gulf Island Seashore Park. Those swamp boats were really loud, blowing dust and donuts everywhere at Shoreline. We also had a fairly good turnout for the fishing outing, preceded by donuts and coffee. Thanks to Pat, Art and Jerry for getting this all organized. It allowed for some good fishing, and most caught a few. I know Pat caught some nice specs around the docks. Travis and I even caught some blues on the flats.

At the bull session, we also learned to tie one of the best all round go-to flies from Jerry Aldridge, the Cone- Head Wooly Bugger. If you haven't fished this fly in the spring on the Tukasegee in N.C., then you haven't lived. I remember last year just getting tired of catching a fish on every cast. I was using a Kevin Cohenour variation of this same fly. I'd tell you what the variation was, but then Kevin would have to kill me. So, you'll just have to ask him. And if he won't tell you, just fish the Nantahalla. It's more of a challenge to your skillful fishing. I won't be there for the casting clinic, but I understand in advance that Tom Regina's Girdle Bug is a fly we should use a lot more.

Next week I'll be scouting out houses around Fort Collins, Colorado. I know that Bill Locher wants me to get a house for the club members to stay in when they visit, and a room out back for me. I'll see what I can do Bill, if you or the club will pay the rent! Seriously, I hope to have an extra bedroom for visitors. I'll let you know the address. And there will be priority time-share for whoever buys or sells my boat! Meanwhile, don't forget to bring all your goodies, and money to the auction on 7 June. **We should be deciding the next president and the new secretary before the auction starts.** So, make sure you're on time. See you there....Milt

## AUCTION JUNE 7TH!

The time is now for you to get together all those great things you have to sell at our annual auction. I don't remember exactly which year of this function this is, its all a blur to me.

The thing I do remember is how important this is to our club. We have many fun things that we do together, and those things work well because of the wonderful people we have in the club that volunteer to put them together and the money we raise at the auction.

**So, what can you do?** The first thing you can do is **SHOW UP!** This is very important to make this a success. It is a fun event, and the more people present contributes to the overall good atmosphere and therefore active bidding.

**The next thing is to bring something to auction.** It doesn't have to be fishing related, just something that can bring in a few bucks.

**Be prepared to bid!** There is always some stuff of questionable value, but there is always some really, really, great stuff as well. There is going to be some very well tied flies, 2 donated fishing trips with professional local guides of the highest quality, tying supplies, and rods and reels as well as lots of other sundry items. You never know what might show up.

I look forward to seeing you there. Remember, your attendance is a contribution. If you have items or questions call me or email me at: 474-9691 or [travisfly7@aol.com](mailto:travisfly7@aol.com). Thanks, **Travis Akins**

## FLIES & LIES

If you still get your copy of the newsletter by regular mail, please consider receiving it by e-mail only. This will save your club money for mailing costs and your editor lots of time that he could use for fishing! Contact Jerry [jamayfly@yahoo.com](mailto:jamayfly@yahoo.com)

## *Lessons Afield... Don Lupone*

Drift angle...windage...depth...sounds like a navigational or gunnery exercise, doesn't it? Actually, these are some of the fundamentals observed in fishing with nymphs. After seeing a premiere showing at Black Bear Lodge of Andy Kim's newest video on nymph fishing, everyone was anxious to see it in action on the Tuckaseegee river in North Carolina.

The "crew" for the first week of May included Jerry Giles, Joe Higgins, Tom Regina, Art deTonnancourt, Jay Williams, and myself. Art is always willing to demonstrate the art of nymph fishing. While most individuals know the fundamentals of nymph fishing, it is helpful to have each aspect of the technique demonstrated by a person who has mastered it. The three "J's"...Jay, Jerry, and Joe took the opportunity to have those aspects reinforced under Art's tutelage.

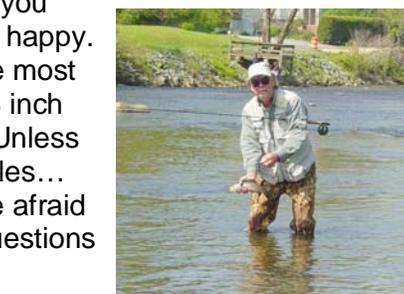
Meanwhile, I was fishing with Tom Regina upstream of a deep pool. I had a 3wt with floating line and a 7 1/2-foot, 5x leader, and was fishing a streamer. Standing side by side, I had no action while I watched Tom pull lunker after lunker out of the pool. What was I doing wrong? Tom finally told me he was using a 6wt sinking tip line with three feet of 2x leader. **THREE FEET OF 2X??!!** This went against everything I have read about trout fishing! His rationale was to get the streamer down deep. A 7 and 1/2 foot leader would tend to drift upward, thus negating the use of sinking tip line. Hence, he used a short leader. Stripping quickly, the lunkers weren't concerned if the leader was 2x or 5x. He also suggested I hold the tip of my rod down and pointing directly downstream with the line. In that way, I could lift the tip when I felt a strike and more easily "set" the hook. Seeing that I was not getting any strikes, he invited me to use his rig. Once I got the hang of casting a sinking tip, I hooked a fish on the first attempt! You sold me, Tom!! Now I will order a spool of sinking tip line for my new reel to use with my 5wt rod. For those of you who are interested, the sinking tip line for my 5wt is Orvis WF-5-F/S Mini-Tip. Some of you may suggest that I could have used split shot to get the streamer down, but it would be difficult for me to cast a 3wt with all that paraphernalia attached. I need to ask John Brand for help in casting my 3wt without tangling my leader, which I did several times on the wind swept river.

At the lodge, I observed Joe Higgins tying flies and forming leader using a unique tool that did several knots nicely. His nail knot gave the leader a factory finished look.

Over coffee that evening I was listening to Joe, Tom, and Art discussing speck fishing and I learned some things about ocean fishing, wire tippet, and other interesting factors. I mentioned I lost several wooly buggers on fish strikes on the Tuckaseegee and Tom, et al, reminded me that trout do have teeth. Catching several trout on the same fly can eventually fray the tippet. Also, bottom snags can fray the tippet very quickly. Thus, it behooves one to periodically re-tie the fly to avoid losing a fish and a fly that is working well on the stream. DUH, why didn't I think of that?!

The point of this article is that many "veteran" fishers have honed skills that they are willing to share. Watch, listen, and ask questions. Swallow your pride and ask for some sage advice and help on the stream. The "helper" will be flattered you sought him or her out, and the results of catching more trout will make everyone happy.

Speaking of catching more trout, Art said this fishing trip was, overall, the most productive he can remember for all participants. Everyone did well and Jay's 18 inch Brown had him "stutter stepping" in the river. Oh, one more lesson to mention. Unless you want to be humbled, do not shoot pool with the "cue stick man" aka Jerry Giles... especially if he suggests you play for money. Keep your lines tight, and don't be afraid to ask questions! After all, a big part of our club is INSTRUCTION and asking questions is the precursor to instruction.



## *North Carolina Ice Fishing?... Kevin Cohenour*

As I waded into the chilly waters of North Carolina's Tuckaseegee River this past March, I found it hard to believe a year had passed since my last visit to this tailwater river and her bounty of willing trout. It was mid-afternoon and the river had receded from the higher flows of the day's earlier power plant generation; it was very wadeable.

I carefully crossed the rocky river bottom to an area above a hole I refer to as the "Woolly Bigger" hole, because of its depth. Since I saw no insect activity on this March afternoon, I tied on a black chenille woolly bugger with pearlescent sparkles in it. The fly had a heavy tungsten head and krystal flash in its marabou tail.

I cast my weighted fly across the river, then let it swing downstream. As it neared the end of its arc a fish slammed my fly hard. A minute later I had a nice 14-inch, fat rainbow to hand. I released it carefully, and cast again. A couple more casts and I had on an 18-inch brook trout, again a fat specimen. These fish seemed to be eating well. I had only one hour to fish, but this stroke of good fishing continued until dark. On the walk back to join my fishing partner, Terry McCormick, I reflected back on the dozen nice fish I had landed, and the 12 or so I'd missed.

I'd broken off that first woolly bugger on a submerged rock (the tippet really did break...no curly cues from a slipped knot). Then I tied on another black woolly bugger, without the flash, and went fishless for 20 minutes. I looked in my box and found a bedraggled specimen from last season, which had the flash in the body and tail. I switched to this worn fly, cast, and immediately caught a trout, then another. Seems they liked 'em flashy. Back at the tying table that night, I tied up a dozen pearlescent black woolly buggers. Half of them found their way into my friends' hands; the others I kept for me.

The next morning as I walked past Art deTonnancourt, who was standing in the cold waters of the Tuck, he waved briefly as he set the hook on another fine fish. Art can pull more fish from the Tuck on his nymph rig than anyone I have seen. Terry McCormick and Bryan Hudson (an associate club member from Tallahassee) had already dropped into the cold waters and were catching fish, and Tom Regina was just beginning to wade and cast. I walked upstream to the island and began fishing my way down.

In the river, my rod guides iced over in the 30-degree March mountain morning temperatures. Dry fly fishing was very slow, with occasional hatches that sparked little interest from the fish, although we did take a few on dries on the Tuck.

Over the course of the six days we spent fishing on the Tuckaseegee and Nantahala rivers, I used this "bugger" pattern with exceptional success. A second streamer I tried, the "Featherhead," also fished very well. It had been featured on the cover of a recent "Fly Tyer" magazine. The hot color was ginger.

The "Nan" and "Tuck" are known as "Delayed Harvest" rivers. From October to the first Saturday in June all fish are to be released from artificial lures only. From June to October the locals clean them out. Every October, the state stocks the rivers, frequently with their brood stock, and delayed harvest begins again. This assures lots of fish to catch. Catching a big 24-inch hen is not uncommon. I hooked one this trip, but she got off 10' from my reach. I need to get a longer net I guess, or longer arms maybe.

All in all, it was a great week. I saw both Art and Tom catch lots of fish, Terry had some bountiful days on both the Tuck and the Nan, Bryan also had great fishing. And we had a cameo appearance from club member Mitch Abernathy, who joined us one morning to fish on the Tuck. We enjoyed good fishing, good friends, and lots of good food. If the weather wasn't all that good... at least we were fishing!!



## June Quick Ties with Tom Regina...Drowning Ant

Most ant patterns are tied for fishing on the water surface (dry fly). The Drowning Ant however is tied as a sinking (wet) fly. For its size the Drowning Ant is relatively heavy. Once it hits the water it quickly sinks below the surface even in tumbling riffle water.

As with most of our "Quick Ties" the Drowning Ant is quick and easy to tie and another *new* tying material is introduced (glass beads).

### Tying Instructions

<b>Hook</b>	Mustad R70 size 12
<b>Thread</b>	6/0 Black
<b>Body</b>	One medium black glass bead, two small black glass beads, one medium black glass bead and one small red glass bead
<b>Legs</b>	Small black number 2 grade saddle hackle



1. De-barb the hook. Slide one medium black, two small black, one medium black and one small red bead onto the hook. Fix the hook in the vise and slide the beads forward to the hook eye. Using a jam knot tie the thread on the hook behind and tight against the back of the red bead. Build a small thread bump that will prevent the beads from moving back on the hook shank. Whip finish the thread bump and cut away the thread.



2. Using your finger nail or other suitable tool, force the two small black beads apart moving the three rear beads back about 1/16 inch. Again using a jam knot tie the thread onto the hook between the two small black beads.



3. Tie in a small black hackle for the legs and advance the thread forward slightly staying between the two small black beads. Take two or three turns of the hackle forward between the two small black beads. Tie off and cut away the excess hackle.



4. Whip finish the thread just in front of the legs and cut away the thread. *Note: Do not build a thread head at the hook eye.* Apply a small amount of head cement to the rear thread bump and at the hackle tie off point. Be careful not to get cement on the legs.

## Trout Clouser... Jerry Aldridge

<b>HOOK</b>	Mustad 3366, size 8 or equivalent
<b>THREAD</b>	Uni 8/0, red and tan
<b>EYES</b>	Hourglass 1/8" nickel colored brass or lead
<b>BELLY</b>	4-6 strands rainbow crystal flash, 15-20 strands each yellow and tan unique hair
<b>BACK</b>	15-20 strands each light pink, olive and brown unique hair



1. Bend down barb, attach red thread, lay thread base from eye to bend and return thread to 1/4" behind hook eye. Attach eyes there with 10-12 figure 8 wraps followed by 10-12 horizontal wraps, under the eyes but over the hook shank. Coat eye wraps lightly with super glue.

2. Tie in the 4-6 strands (about 3" long) of crystal flash atop shank and behind eyes. Cover flash with wraps back to bend and return thread to just in front of eyes. Cut 15-20 strands (about 2-2 1/2" long) yellow unique hair and tie in behind hook eye back to hourglass eyes. Bring thread under the hook to just behind hourglass eyes and secure the yellow hair with 10-12 thread wraps. Repeat process with tan unique hair. Bring red thread forward to just behind hook eye and tie off there with half hitches or whip finish. Trim crystal flash about 1/4 to 1/2" longer than unique hair.



3. Turn hook over in vise so that hook point is up. Attach tan thread behind hook eye. Cut 15-20 strands light pink unique hair (same length as yellow and tan) and tie in from hook eye back to hour glass eyes. Repeat process with olive and then brown unique hair. Whip finish or half hitch and cut thread.

4. Apply head cement or epoxy to exposed thread wraps. When dry, comb out back and belly with hair comb. This causes the colors to blend rather than remaining separate.



**NOTES:** (1) The red thread is used to imitate gills. To simplify the fly, tie it entirely with tan thread and eliminate the yellow and light pink hair. (2) This fly is virtually transparent when tied properly. Tie sparsely! (3) Keep thread wraps to a minimum to reduce bulk. (4) Other color combinations could be used. I chose this combination to represent colors often found in minnows. (5) I chose unique hair because each filament is so fine. Super hair or bucktail could be used if very sparse portions are used.

**BOY SCOUT CAMP**...2005 Dates for camp at the Spanish Trail Reservation in Defuniak Springs are June 12-16, 19-23 and 26-30. We will once again teach the Fishing and Flyfishing Merit Badges plus flytying. We need your help to teach or assist in teaching. The Scouts love our classes! If you can help, even for a day or two, please call Vick Vickery at 478-3584.

### CONCLAVE!

The 2005 SE FFF Conclave and Fly Fishing Show will be in Callaway Gardens, GA June 3 & 4. We are putting together a great show which will feature some of the best Fly Tiers in the country, Commercial Exhibitors, Programs and Workshops.

The Programs and Workshops cover a wide range of topics from "Small Stream Tactics" to "Methods of Fighting Tarpon". There should be something for everyone, whether your interest are in warm water, cold water or saltwater.

I have the Registration Form as well as a list of programs and specialty workshops. General registration for the 2-day event is only \$20 if you register before May 1. The schedule of fees for specialty workshops is included in the registration form. There will also be a series of free programs and casting demonstrations that will be running during the 2-day event.

I also have the Registration Form for lodging at Callaway. They have put together a great package of \$89 per night and that includes the entrance fee to the Gardens. To get the reduced rate, reservations need to be made by May 3.

Jerry Aldridge e-mailed all the forms to everyone a few days ago. However if you need a form or have any questions give me a call. Karen Brand, Commercial Exhibits Chair, 850-516-1852 (Cell), KBrand@SantaRosaMRI.com

### MOVING, MUST SELL! ONE OWNER, LIKE NEW! NO STORM DAMAGE!



Milt Mays. (850) 479-4036. 17.5 ft 2000 Action Craft Special Edition 1720 Fly Fisher, Flats boat.

Center console. Outboard Yamaha 80 HP 4-stroke, less than 200 hours, serviced every 25 hours. Very economical engine, with 30 gallon gas tank, can run two days without a fill-up.

Hydraulic steering. "Qui-Dri" hull is exactly that, quiet and dry. Poling is easy and quiet for even spooky redfish. Floats in nine inches of water, and cuts through two foot chop smooth and dry at 25 knots, tops out at 37 knots. Tested sea-worthy even in 5 foot seas in the Gulf.

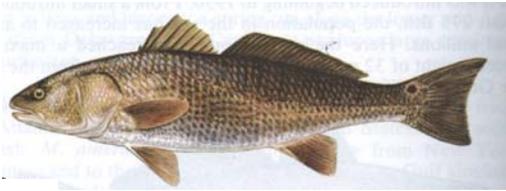
Extremely stable, a 250 lb man can stand on the one foot walk around side wall and it hardly moves. With two large live wells, and plenty of storage, including eight rod holders, all the gear stows easily. Extra-wide poling platform, with tarpon/cobia site fishing leaning tower extension that takes literally 1 minute to put up or take down and stows under the seat.

**EXTRAS INCLUDE** Bennett Trim Tabs, Minn Kota trolling motor, Hummingbird fishfinder, GPS and VHF, push pole, large sea sock to slow down drifts, fluke anchor for the gulf, mushroom anchor for canals.

Drive-on, all aluminum, springless torsion axle trailer makes loading and unloading a breeze, and is maintenance free with a spare tire.

One owner, bought package in 2000 new, and it still looks new.

Currently they sell for over \$30,000 new without trolling motor, tarpon leaning tower, and accessories. I'm asking \$15,000, which is about \$3000 below NADA blue book.



# JUNE 2005

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
AUCTION AFTER BUSINESS MEETING JUNE 7TH! SEE DETAILS PAGE 2			1	2	3	4
5	6	7	8	9	10	11
	Business Meeting 7 PM			Bull Session-Tying & Tall Tales 6:30		
12	13	14	15	16	17	18
					Clinic - Casting, tying gourmet lunch 9 AM	
19	20	21	22	23	24	25
26	27	28	29	30		