

Flies & Lies

NEWSLETTER OF THE FLYFISHERS
OF NORTHWEST FLORIDA
JUNE 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

President's Report....Karen Brand

2

Fishing Report
Captain Baz Yelverton



2

Parachute Hopper...Tom Regina



3

Casting & Tying at the Club
Tom Regina



June Clinic....Art deTonnancourt

5

Yellowstone Report....Travis Akins



6

Around the Bay...and Further Away



7

Auction! Auction! Auction
Art deTonnancourt

7

Calendar

8

President's MessageKaren Brand

Summer is in full swing and the Fly Fishers of NW FL has special events planned for the summer!

June 3 – Auction – For those that have not attended your yearly auction it is great fun! Bring your donated items and your checkbook and help support the club. This is your chance to pick up fly fishing gear at reasonable prices, as well as custom salt and freshwater flies created by some of the best fly tiers in the club!

June 21 – Saturday Fishing Clinic Art de Tonnancourt has invited all club members to come out and enjoy a morning of fishing, casting and tying at his home on Gulf Beach Hwy. Join other club members and boat, kayak and wade areas of the intercoastal and Big Lagoon. Tom Regina and John Brand will be offering tying and casting instruction and lunch will be served at 11:30.

August 5 – “Feather Talk” Jerry Aldridge is one of the premier fly tiers in our club and he will be giving his highly acclaimed “Feather Talk”. For those interested in fly fishing and fly tying this is a presentation you do not want to miss. Jerry will educate us on all of the feathers and materials used to create flies for both fresh and saltwater.

Hope to see all of you at an upcoming club meeting!

Karen Brand

Fishing Report... Captain Baz Yelverton



May has been a lot of fun with the fly rods. We had a ball all month with Spanish mackerel on the grass beds by Fair Point. The fish are still there but not in the quantity as earlier in the month. Here's a shot of local ER Doc Tom Zavoral with his first saltwater fish on fly...a nice Spanish. Later while casting a Clouser minnow with 40# fluorocarbon tippet Tom landed this pompano. Go figure. And finally later in the day Tom put the fly right in front of a small school of jacks. Not a bad first day of saltwater fly fishing! At the end of the day Tom said "Baz, is it always this good?". How can you answer a question like that...

There are still a few pompano running the beach, but you have to be patient. The pompano will be right up on the beach. A little farther out are the ladyfish, so blind-casting pompano flies on light tippet is dangerous. I enjoy pompano fishing this time of year. Having to identify the species before casting elevates the challenge a notch. Roy Cooley, Syracuse, NY, screened out all the ladyfish and dropped the fly right in front of this lovely pompano. Just as we were preparing to pull the anchor after stowing all the rods a school of about a hundred jacks appeared heading for the boat. Roy was able to retrieve the rod from the rod holder, strip out enough line and make the cast. As soon as the jack grabbed the popper Roy handed the rod to his wife Jan to fight her first big fish. Jan brought the sixteen pounder to the boat in just under 25 minutes.

The slot reds are on the sand and grass flats, but you have to look hard for them. Roy Cooley caught two on May 18 using a tan/white Clouser minnow. With the west wind behind me I poled the shoreline from the Big Sabine almost to Opal Beach with Roy hitting all the sand spots along the way. It was overcast, so sight-fishing was not an option. Five hundred casts and two redfish...sounds like steel-head fishing.

One final comment, we got our first shot at a tarpon May 11...

Capt Baz

Parachute Hopper... Tom Regina

Grasshoppers become lively and fly around fields and meadows on warm summer and early fall days. Populations of adult, winged hoppers peak in August and September and become especially active on days with a warm dry wind.

Grasshoppers are poor fliers and windy conditions can blow them onto the water where they become a big meal for trout. The wind will also blow them from streamside vegetation onto the water. Most hoppers that end up on the water will land along and close to the stream edge and tumble along in the water close to the shore. Cutbanks and overhanging stream vegetation provide trout with shade from the sun and protection from overhead predators. Add the element of food and cutbanks and overhanging vegetation areas become prime feeding lays and ambush points for trout seeking a big meal of hoppers.

To fish a hopper along and close to a stream bank cast the hopper imitation close to the bank and “splat” it down softly. Or cast onto the bank then pull the fly onto the water with a natural soft splat. In either case dead drift the fly along with the current while imparting some “kicking and swimming” action to the fly to mimic the action of a real hopper and to attract the trout. Hoppers that get blown onto the water farther from shore will usually kick toward shore. On small streams hoppers will be blown onto the middle of the stream with some regularity. Cast to mid stream and retrieve the fly with a series of two or three very short, one or two inch, jerky strips. Rest the fly for a few seconds and repeat the jerk strip. Keep in mind however, the vast majority of hoppers on the water will be close to shore and this is where trout will be holding for them.

Tying Materials

Hook	Mustad R52S, dry fly, 2XL
Thread	6/0 tan
Wing Post	Gray Polypropylene Yarn
Body	Burnt orange Antron Yarn
Wing	Mottled turkey feather section sprayed with Krylon
Workable	Fixatif (can be purchased from art supply stores).
Legs	Rainy's Knotted Hopper Legs
Hackle	Grizzly rooster saddle feather



Tying Instructions



1. Debarb the hook and fix it in the vise. In neat touching turns wrap a thread base over the hook shank from the hook eye to a point directly over the hook barb. In a few spiral turns return the thread forward to a point one-third the hook shank length back from the hook eye thus establishing the front thread hang point. Cut a two inch length of Polypropylene Yarn from the skein. Split the piece of yarn in half lengthwise. At the front thread hang point use several figure eight thread wraps to tie one half of the split wing-post yarn perpendicular to and on top of the hook. Stand the wing post up by taking 10 to 15 tight thread wraps up the post about 3/16-inch then back down to the base of the

post. Cut about a 5-inch length of body yarn from the skein. Tie the body yarn onto the top of the hook about 1/16-inch back from the wing post. Bind the yarn to the top of the hook with several spiral thread wraps to a point directly above the hook barb. Return the thread to the space between the body yarn tie-on point and the back of the wing post.



2. In neat touching turns wrap the body yarn forward to the base of the wing post and tie it off but do not cut away the yarn tag end as it will be used to build the head of the fly. Cut a barb section one hook gap wide from a turkey feather that has been treated with Fixatif. Fold the feather section in half lengthwise. Round the thicker or back end of the feather section by cutting away the corners. Measure the feather section to equal the length of the hook. Cut away the excess feather from the front of the wing... not from the end you rounded. With the feather section folded in half lengthwise tie it in on top of the hook between the front of the body and the back of the wing post. The sides of the

wing should extend over the sides of the body.

Parachute Hopper.... Tom Regina (continued)



3. Over the wing tie-on thread wraps, tie in one knotted leg to the far side of the body. Repeat the process on the near side for the second leg. While tying in the legs manipulate them so the knot or leg "joint" of each leg extends slightly above the wing and the front and rear leg sections form about a 45 degree angle to the wing. The legs should also flare out slightly to help hold the fly upright on the water. Place a small amount of head cement over the leg/wing tie-in thread wraps and allow it to dry before proceeding.



4. Select and prepare a rooster hackle feather with barbs equal in length to about 1 ½ hook gaps. Tie the feather on behind the hook eye and in front of the wing post, by its bare stem section. The inside, or concave side, of the feather should be either facing up or toward you at this time. Lift the feather up so the bare stem is touching the wing post. Wrap the thread around both the thread post and the bare stem up to the top of the post then back down to the base of the post, thus binding the stem to the wing post. Make an "anchor" thread wrap around the hook in back of and adjacent to the wing post. At this point there should be about 1/8-inch of bare hackle stem exposed above the

thread post. Make the first turn of hackle at the top edge of the thread post in a counterclockwise direction. Make successive turns of hackle directly under and butting up against preceding hackle wraps for a total of about 6 to 8 wraps or to the base of the wing post. Pull the hackle feather down on the near side of the hook and in back of the post. Pick up the thread bobbin and make two or three counterclockwise thread wraps around the base of the wing post trapping and securing the feather to the post. Pull the thread forward and up on the near side of the hook directly behind the hook eye. Cut away the excess hackle feather. Hold the hackle feather barbs in front of the wing post up and out of the way and continue to wrap the body yarn forward to just short of the hook eye to form the hoppers head. Tie-off the "body" yarn and cut away the excess. Build a neat thread head. Whip finish the thread head two or three times. Cut away the thread and apply a small amount of cement to the thread head. Trim the wing post to desired length.

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



At the Thursday June 12 Bull Session starting at 6:30 PM, we will tie a Chernobyl Ant. See page 5 for the schedule at the Saturday, June 21 Casting and Tying Clinic at Art's House. Most everyone will probably be interested in fishing but if there are any die-hard tyers we will tie the parachute hopper. If necessary, we can reschedule the hopper for a later clinic or bull session.

New at the Library.... Bill Parrish

New DVD in the library: Fly Fishing The Great Smoky Mountains National Park; a 2008 production by Angie and James Marsh. A two Disk set on fishing the streams of the Park. Details on streams and fishing methods. Run time about 4 hours. Ref #95

Special Saturday Clinic Scheduled June 21st!

Wade/Kayak/Boat Fishing/Fly Tying/Casting Instruction

Food and Refreshments ... Come one, Come all....

Art de Tonnancourt... Event Coordinator

Circle your calendar and plan to attend this month's Saturday Clinic scheduled for June 21st that will be held at Art de Tonnancourt's home located at 10455 Gulf Beach Highway, Pensacola on the intracoastal waterway on Big Lagoon. Here are the essential facts:

Dates: Saturday June 21st.....*Jerry Aldridge will sent out an email cancelation notice between 1200 noon and 3 PM on Friday June 20th in case of inclement weather and the event will be postponed until Saturday June 28th.*

Scheduled times: 5:00 AM.....Coffee and doughnuts

5:30 AM.....Briefing on Big Lagoon's fishing spots for wading, kayaks, and boaters

5:45 AM.....Boats launch....Waders wade..Fishing starts....(All who fish)

9:00 AMFly tying and Fly casting classes begin (Tom Regina & John Brand)

11:30 AM.....Food and refreshments (Russ and Jerry Giles)

Driving directions: Go South on Blue Angel Parkway until you come to the traffic light at (Old) Gulf Beach Hwy . Be sure you can easily see the West (rear) gate of the Naval Air Station. Turn right (west) on Gulf Beach Hwy for about 1.3 miles and check on the south side (left)for long concrete driveway at mailbox #10455....directly across from Freeboard Blvd which is the entrance Estates at Emerald Shores. If you get lost call Art at 516 4076 for directions. Please do not park on the circular driveway in anyway that would block anyone in. Please keep the space between cars close to allow maximum convenient parking for as many members as we can. There is room for 3 vehicles near main house on the concrete pad, room for about 4 vehicles on the lawn parallel and north to boat trailer, room for 2 in front of small green guest house near GB Hwy., room for 2 on county ROW on road, room for overflow across the street on Freeboard Blvd shoulder.

Details: There will be limited boat owners who will donate a space on their boat at the June 3rd auction. Be sure to attend and bid for these spaces. Those with Kayaks can launch at the site. There are 3 boat ramps nearby; one at Sherman Cove at NAS for those with base privileges, a ramp at the Big Lagoon State Park about 2 miles west, and one ramp at Galvez Landing about 6 miles west . There is good wade fishing with good grass flats and docks for cover in front of and 1000' both east and west of the site, as well as good wade fishing across the Big Lagoon on Perdido Key by way of Johnson's Beach Road. All participants are urged to bring their own folding chairs that will help them to spend a comfortable morning socializing. Waders may want some foot protection and long pants (some jelly fish around as of this writing), plenty of sun screen, a towel and dry clothes. Plan to wade waist deep. There is a room with toilet at the beach level that will be available to change clothing.....as well as a water hose to rinse....All who wish to fish should be there by 5 AM for coffee and doughnuts and a briefing at 5:30.....Fishing success dramatically drops off after 8 or 9 .

Fly tying and fly casting classes are scheduled to begin at the usual 9 AM. Refreshments and lunch are scheduled for 11:30 AM. We need a head count in order to have adequate food and drinks. Please contact Russ Shields by email rkshields@bellsouth.net or Jerry Giles flyfisherman1942@aol.com (Clinic Committee) by June 16th if you plan to attend.

Let's all come and make this a memorable event for the year!

Yellowstone Report... Travis Akins



Hi Guys, doing fine. Working a lot. I'm still at Old Faithful, will go over to Lake Yellowstone the first of next week. My store will open on June 10th. Winter continues to hang on here as you can see from the photos. If you don't already recognize them they include: the Lower Falls in the Grand Canyon of the Yellowstone River, a frozen Yellowstone Lake, a picture looking at the Old Faithful Snow Lodge from my dorm on the morning of May 12th, the Grand Tetons overlooking a mostly thawed Jackson Lake, the Tetons from Jackson Hole, and the Lewis River near the park's south entrance (this is the section we explored some years back).



Fishing season opens this Saturday, at least for a good portion of the park. I won't be fishing, as the rivers and streams are all over their banks and even the Firehole is muddy. It'll be a while before this situation improves as it just keeps snowing. It snowed all day yesterday and are expecting 4 to 6 inches tonight. No break until next Wednesday.



The upside to all of this is the water that continues to cling to the mountains in the form of snow, promising good water flow for a long period of time this summer. I was in Blue Ribbon Flies a couple of days ago and was talking with Craig (my new buddy Craig Matthews) about the situation and he is optimistic for the season. Of course optimism is a duty of any good fly shop.



This has been a hard winter for the critters. They all look skinny and tired, we have lost a significant number of bison, and I suspect elk and others have fared about the same. Another effect of this is the almost overwhelming presence of grizzlies in the Upper Geyser Basin (Old Faithful Area) and elsewhere. The boardwalks here are often posted with signs and section closures due to bear activity. I have heard stories of witnesses to grizzlies chasing bison right out in front of the boardwalk and witness to a take-down of a bison calf in the same area. I've heard that there have never been this many grizzlies here.



I was reporting to work one morning to the Old Faithful Inn and as I entered the lobby I noticed people gathering in the northeast corner watching something out the window. It turned out to be a park ranger driving right along the walking path, trying to herd a grizzly away from the Inn. She (the grizzly) decided to turn and go the opposite direction of the rangers car and started running towards a good sized group of tourists taking pictures. Mayhem ensued, as tourists scattered and ran. Luckily, she decided she didn't like the looks of things in that direction and took the rangers advice and moved on. I got a big laugh out of it anyway.



I've been here for a month now and have been having a blast. The work is hard and challenging, but I love it. Yellowstone is really a special place and its a good feeling being a part of it. I hope you are doing well and I think of you often. Keep in touch. Travis

Around the Bay... and Further Away



From Don Lupone....my son and I fished the Tuck on 14 and 15 May at the Fish Tales or River Laurel houses that club anglers often rent. I was happy with this 19 inch Rainbow. (Hmmm....that rock does look familiar).

From Dane Law....Our tailwaters have fished very well for spring. As May rolls around everything becomes more predictable. Here is a snapshot for the next 45 days.

Hiwassee River - TVA will begin summer recreational flow schedules on the river beginning Saturday, May 24th. This means that we will begin drift fishing from the powerhouse to Reliance daily. This is our favorite section through the national forest and the quality fishing zone. All three of the major reservoirs that feed our river system are in great shape. TVA has told us to expect plenty of cold water this season. We are anxiously awaiting the start of the sulphur hatch. Our crystal ball says that the next few months should be very good here.

Cumberland River - USACE is holding the reservoir at or near the constant level of 680 ft. They currently have the lake at the prescribed level and we are now seeing good, fishable flows. We have begun drift trips here. We should see a lot of good flows throughout the rest of the year. If heavy rain events pass through the watershed, the Corps will release in an effort to keep the lake level constant, then return to low flows. The Cumberland is a world class trout fishery within driving distance of Atlanta and surrounding cities. Most of the fish have not seen any flies in six months. The fish are aggressive on large nymphs fished under an indicator, and streamers. The grannom caddis are in full swing and we are seeing some sulphurs and Blue wing Olives. We are set up with two boats to fish the river, permitted by Kentucky Fish and Wildlife, licensed by the USCG.

Holston River - The river is in great shape and we are seeing good action from the Dam to Nances Ferry. Flows are favorable for drift fishing. We're currently working all over the river as each section has it's own characteristics. We're seeing a good amount of bug activity ranging from midges in the morning to caddis, crane flies, and some mayflies in the evenings. Small flies work better in the morning, larger flies for the afternoons. Emerger patterns are best for rising fish. We fish them a few inches under the surface behind a visible dry fly. Dane law - Southeastern Anglers, 423-338-7368 or 770-655-9210.

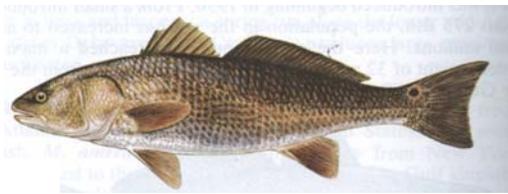
Annual Club Auction

Tuesday, June 3, 7 PM, Art de Tonnancourt, Chairman

Everybody come and bring your "stuff" and your offers for services for the club to auction and bring your check book to buy bargains of a lifetime....Come join the fun at our auction that will following a very short business meeting at 7 PM. We expect there will be a lot of fly fishing equipment, flies, and boat trips to be auctioned as well as other miscellaneous items that go for a bargain.

Committee members, Bob Willice, Terry McCormick, and I will be at the club by 5:30 PM to receive any donations of saleable items and prepare for the auctions. Early arrivals are welcome to come and browse the inventory, socialize and partake of refreshments with 50 cents soda pop and \$1 beers available.

This is one of the best attended events of the year that generates a good amount of income for your club....See you there.



JUNE 2008

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
1	2 Auction! Auction! See page 7 7 PM, June 3	3	4	5	6	7
8	9	10	11 Bull Session-Tying & Tall Tales 6:30 PM	12	13	14
15	16	17	18	19	20	21 Clinic - Fishing, casting, tying, gourmet lunch at Art's house. See page 5
22	23	24	25	26	27	28
29	30					