

THE BACKCAST



THE BACKCOUNTRY FLY- FISHING
ASSOCIATION OF BREVARD



Volume XXXVII Number X

July 2026

**July 7th 6:30 Meeting:
Italian-American Club
1471 Cypress Ave
Melbourne**

Capt. James Cronk

With nearly 40 years of experience on Florida's Treasure Coast, I've dedicated my life to the outdoors—both on the water and in the woods. Born and raised in a commercial fishing family in Stuart, I learned the trade early, spending my summers working nets and developing a deep respect for the sea.

Introduced to fly fishing through the Boy Scouts in 1994, that simple merit badge grew into a lifelong passion and full-time career. Since 2012, I've guided anglers from all walks of life, specializing in fly and light tackle fishing for Snook, Tarpon, Jacks, and False Albacore throughout the inshore and nearshore waters of Stuart, Florida.



Fly of the Month

For the next two months various people will be hosting the Fly of the Month for our newsletter. This month's fly is from Ron Winn, The Pilchard Fly.

Fly Tying class is held on the 3rd Monday of the month
at the Melbourne Library at 6:15.

Pilchard fly

Recipe:

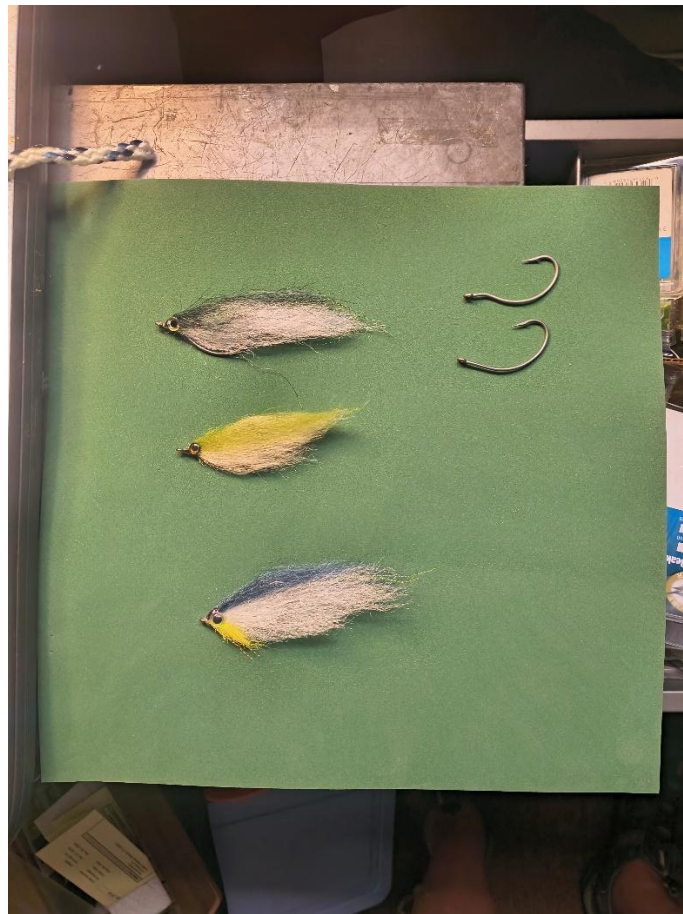
Hook: 2-0

Thread: Any color you choose

Body: White/Blue Macrame yarn

Flash: Crystal Blue

Eyes: 5mm



Note the one hook that has been bent to tie on the material. Also at the top left is the macrame yarn used before the colors have been separated and brushed.

Close up of the hooks showing the bend.



Tie on thread at the bend.

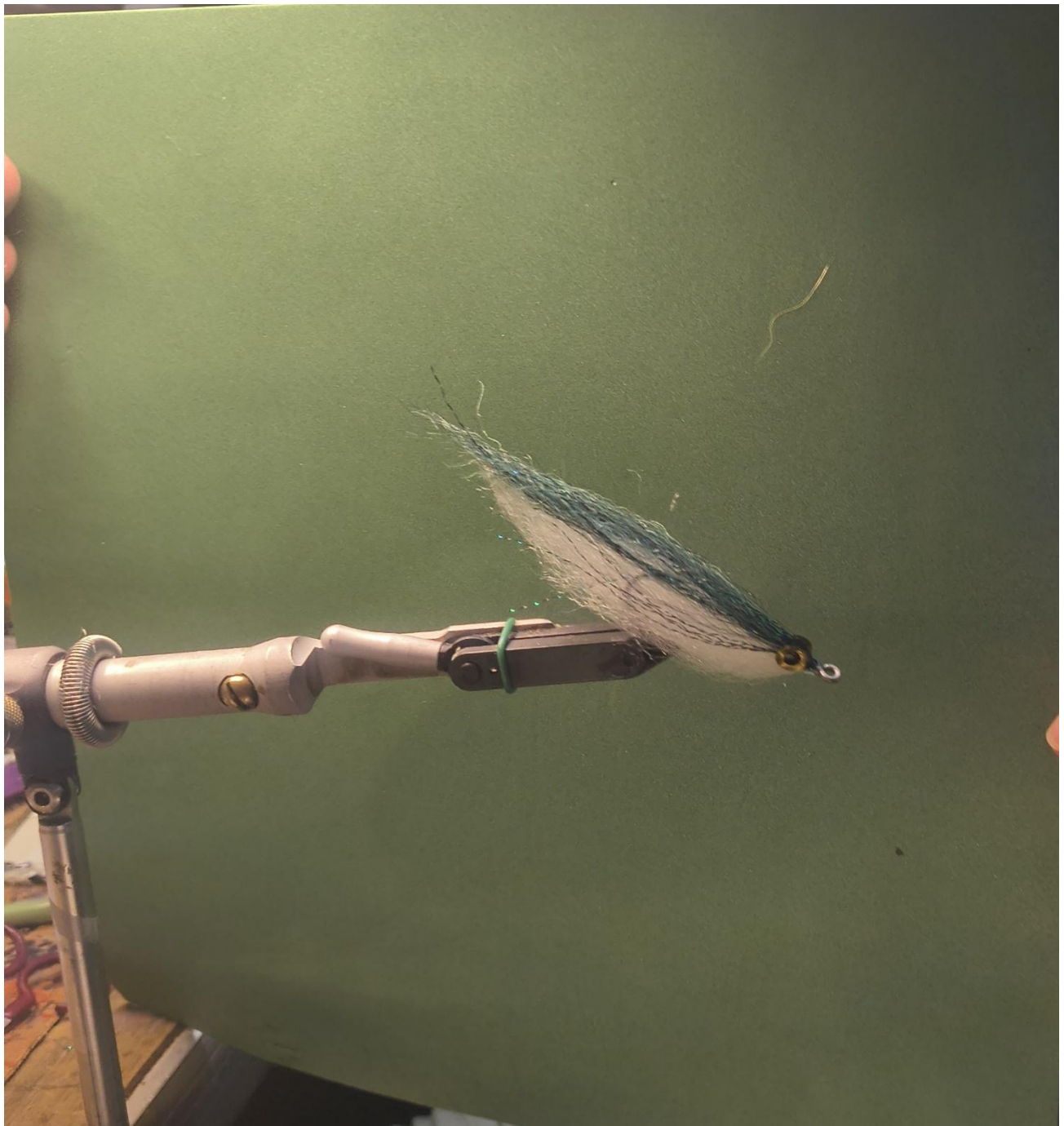


Tie in the first clump of fibers



Fold over the other part of the clump and tie it down as shown. Add in flash if desired at this point as well.





Add on the back color of your choice and then glue on your eyes. This fly's material is tied on with a flatter profile, as opposed to the way Ron's mullet fly is tied which uses a more traditional rounder body. Colors of all of these materials are your choice.

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July Rambles

It is best to get out and fish before the day gets too hot. The action off of the beach has been going on for awhile now. I have seen a lot of fish pods being busted by tarpon about a couple hundred feet or so off the shoreline. With the calm seas and lack of waves it is not unusual to see boats cruising along chasing these pods or looking for diving birds just south of PAFB..

Ron Winn has offered to do a couple of the fly-tying classes and this months' fly will be a pilchard fly, much in line with last month's mullet fly. Even though the pictures show the step's taken to tie the fly I would urge those of you who like to tie to attend the class as there is a lot of information given during the class that does not make it onto this letter.

Hope everyone has a safe and enjoyable July 4th.

As I was looking through the FWC website recently there was a notice about recent changes to spotted seatrout regulations which went into effect on April 1, 2026. The information appears to show that the changes were to establish nine regions in our state as well as make established regional regulations for recreational and commercial bag limits, slot limits and closed seasons. Regulations for these established regions are specific to each region now. I am not sure what changes were made for our own area, as I was more interested to see if the current information on their website matched a recent app I had downloaded on my phone which surprisingly it did. The below information on is what they showed for the website <https://myfwc.com/news/all-news/spottedseatrout-0226/>. For those of us who grew up here in the 60's the idea of using a phone to keep track of regulations much less how many regulations there now are, is boggling.

Indian River Lagoon

- Recreational
 - Open season: Jan.1–Oct. 31.
 - Closed season: Nov.1–Dec. 31.
 - Bag limit: Two fish per person.
 - Slot limit: 15-19 inches.
 - Over-slot allowance: None.
- Commercial
 - Open season: May 1–Sept. 30.
 - Closed season: Oct. 1–April 30.
 - Bag limit: 50 fish (1 SPL);100 (≥2 SPLs).
 - Slot limit: 15–24 inches.
 - Over-slot allowance: None.

BFFA July 2026 Events

Monthly Dinner Meeting:

July 7th 6:30

**Italian American Club—
1471 Cypress Ave. Melbourne**

Board Meeting:

July 14th—We will meet at the Texas Roadhouse at 5:00 for a meeting/dinner. The address is 941 E. Eau Gallie Blvd, Melbourne , FL. 32937. All members are invited.

Outings:

Nothing on the horizon.

Fly Tying:

Melbourne Library—6:15 p.m.

Classes are held on the 3rd Monday of the month. Bring your own fly tying tools and Ron will have the material needed to tie the fly(s).



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