

THE BACKCAST



THE BACKCOUNTRY FLY- FISHING ASSOCIATION OF
BREVARD

www.bffa-brevard.com

Volume XXXIV Number VIII



May 2023

**Tuesday-May 2nd, at 6:30
BFFA Club Meeting
at the Italian American Club
1471 Cypress Ave
Melbourne**

Randy Richter is our May Speaker. See below in the newsletter for more information.
Fly Fishing Golden Dorado in the clear, freestone streams of Bolivia and Peacock Bass
In the Amazonian Jungle.



Ramblings and other news

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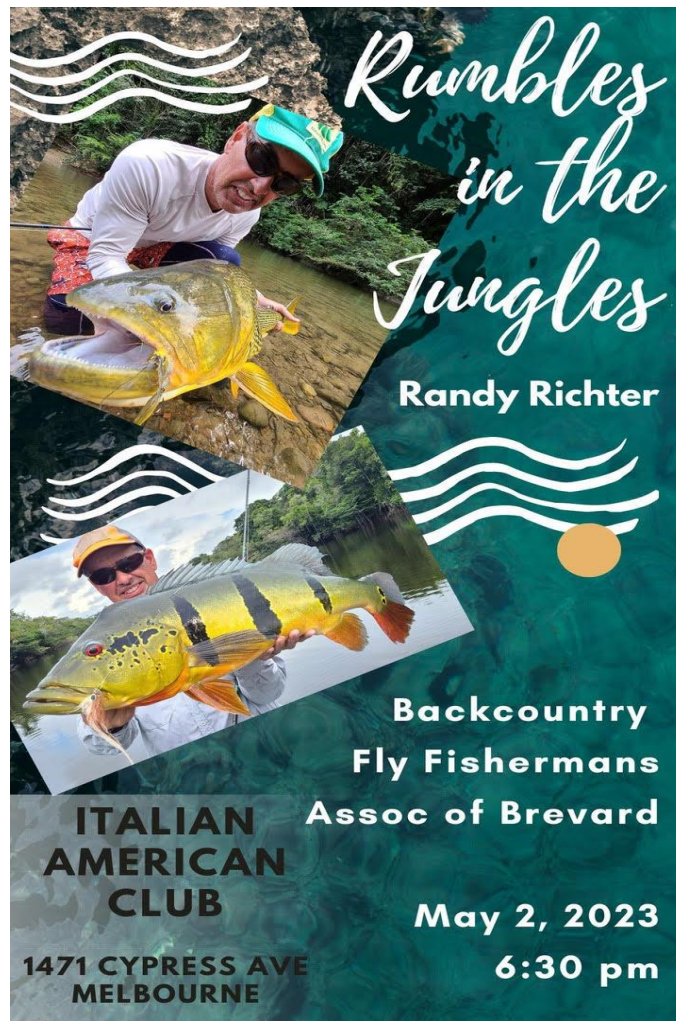


April has brought along its typical winds but the fishing in the Lagoons appear to be picking up lately. The schools of baitfish are abundant in the Banana River area lately with the typical predators of the ladyfish and trout keeping them company. Early morning and evenings have been the ticket lately.

As mentioned in our last newsletter we have added another member to the Board of Directors, as Alec Buchness has agreed to join in. Alec recently started a Facebook page for our club which is Backcountry Fly Fishing Association of Brevard. Check it out.

Gus Koerner, Program Assistant, 4-H Youth Development met with some of us at the directors' board meeting to discuss having fly fishing classes, knot tying classes and fly tying classes starting in May. More details will be announced at our club members' meeting on May 2nd. We will also post information on our Facebook and BFFA Website. Some of you may remember doing similar activities a few years back with the 4-H group. If some of the club members are interested in helping with these sessions, please get with Frank Catino and let him know.

The Bonefish & Tarpon Trust group have been actively involved in the recent Snook management plan being proposed by the FWC. There is further information at the back end of this newsletter that details some of the concerns as well as a stepwise strategic plan to properly manage snook:



Below is an excerpt from Randy's Blog. You can read the whole article at this:

[The Pull: Rumble in the Jungle - Anticipation and Tactical Planning \(randyrichter.blogspot.com\)](http://randyrichter.blogspot.com)

"I caught my first fish when I was five. I think every single nerve synapse in my body fired the moment it hit the bank, and I've been trying to catch more ever since. I bought my first flyrod with my very first paycheck, when I was fourteen years old. In my twenties, I discovered steelhead. Best thing ever. In my thirties, I discovered saltwater fly fishing (and I spent my forties casting to any snook that would pay attention). And in my fifties, I have discovered two other loves, the fish of the Amazon jungle, and freshwater stripers. Who am I kidding, I love to fish for everything. I've begun to keep a species list, and so far, an up to 206 species landed on fly. I've discovered writing about my trips enhances the experience even more. Hope you enjoy the blog."

Fly Tying with Jeff Ward

Mays fly will be a Schminnow Fly

Recipe:

Hook: Mustad 3407 #2

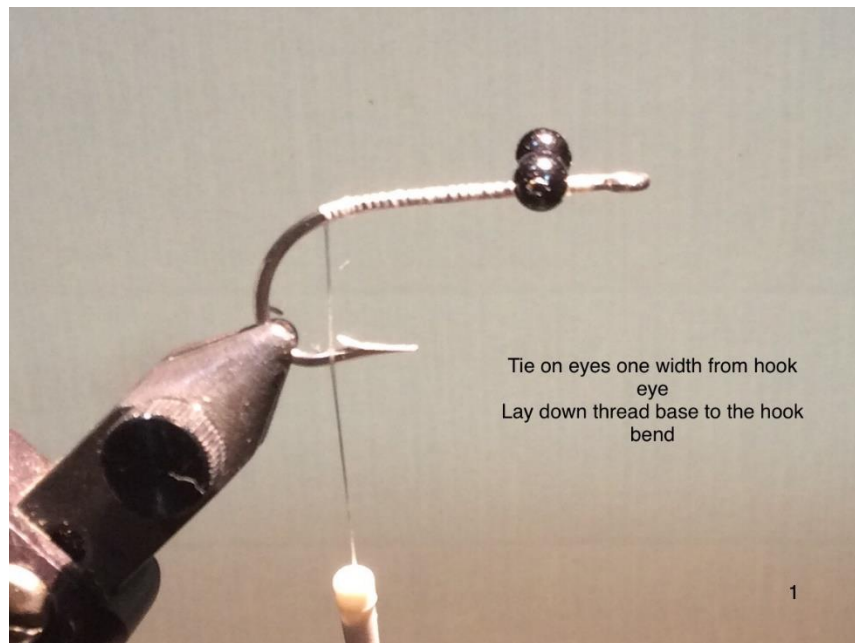
Thread: 210 White

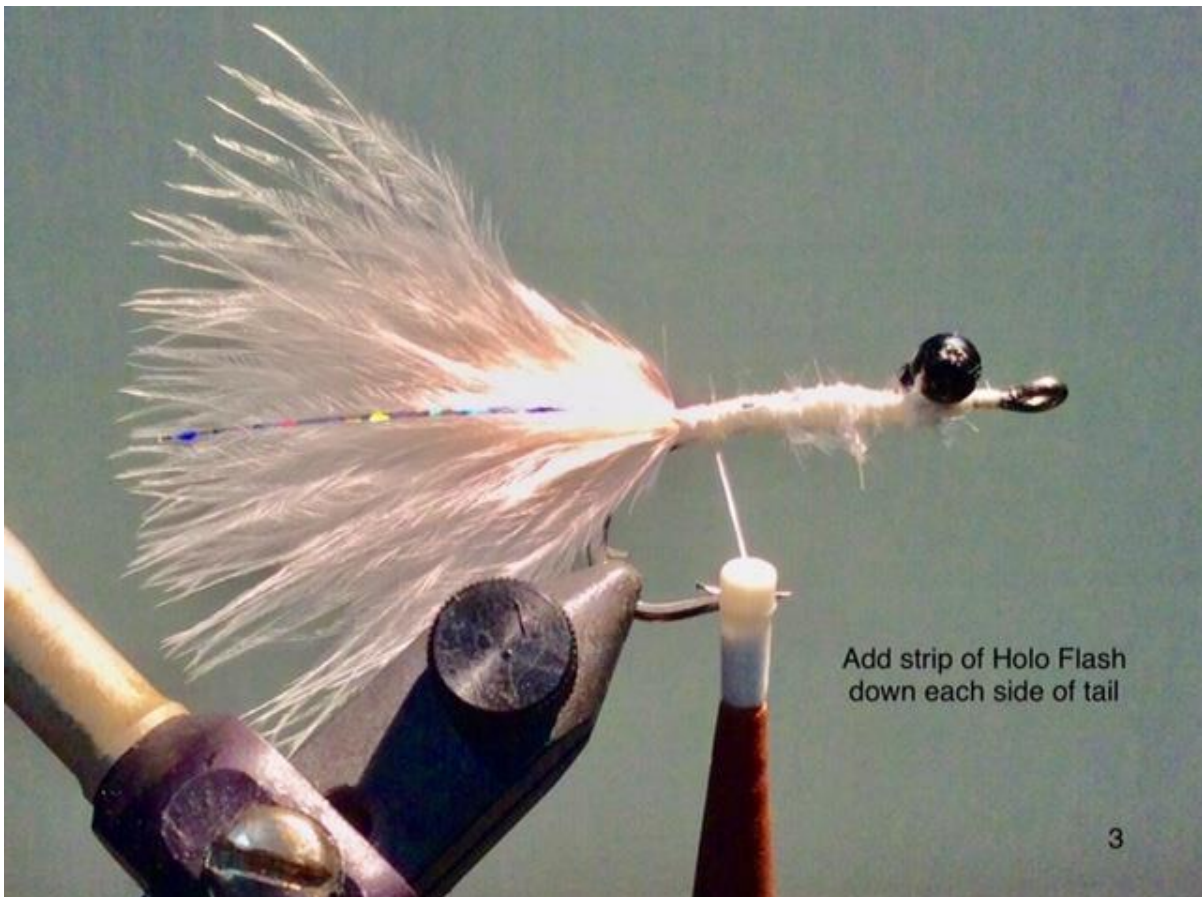
Eyes: Black plastic bead chain

Tail: White Maribou

Flash: Holo Flash

Body: Std Pearl White Estaz







Speak Up for Florida Snook! From the Bonefish & Tarpon Trust.

The Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission (FWC) recently released its draft approach to update fisheries regulations for common snook in Florida and is currently accepting public comment and recommendations. Bonefish & Tarpon Trust supports FWC's proposed addition of regional management that will be updated regularly using a suite of metrics. However, BTT is concerned about the lack of data available for assessing habitat conditions in the proposed management plans. Please help ensure that the snook fishery is properly managed by urging FWC to keep improving its management plans to adequately include habitat condition and other environmental factors. Below we outline a stepwise framework that you can reference in your message to FWC, as well as some helpful background information about the way Florida's snook fishery is currently managed.

Harvest regulations for snook have historically included two management regions (east and west coasts) and stock assessment outputs to meet Spawning Potential Ratio (SPR) goals set by the agency. The proposed harvest regulations are comprised of 10 management regions and seven potential metrics including SPR, relative abundance, habitat, harmful algal blooms, fishing effort, air temperature and stakeholder feedback. These regions and metrics are similar to those FWC is currently using to manage redfish. While we applaud the inclusion of factors outside of the stock assessment, FWC does not have enough usable data to fully implement these metrics. Most notably lacking is adequate and up-to-date habitat information. To address this issue, BTT recommends a stepwise strategic plan to properly manage snook:

1. Select metrics that are highly relevant to snook biology and harvest.
2. Determine what data are available for those metrics for each of the proposed management regions.
3. Highlight the data gaps existing in the metrics.
4. Collaborate with other agencies and entities to fill those data gaps.
5. For remaining data gaps, look at internal programs currently in place to fill those gaps (this may mean adjusting current or creating new programs).
6. Design a comprehensive sampling program that provides appropriate and sufficient data to fulfil the proposed habitat- and water quality-based metrics and take a lead role in a collaboration with other agencies and entities to ensure this sampling strategy is implemented.

If we wait until we see further declines in the adult fishery before taking action to address these data gaps, then it's already too late. We know from research in the Indian River Lagoon that reduction of healthy juvenile habitats will decimate the snook population.

We all have the same common goal: healthy stocks that enable anglers to keep fishing. Consistently restricting harvest is not the long-term solution to achieving that goal. Better habitat and better water quality to support productive fisheries is the answer. Help BTT improve snook management by submitting comments to FWC to let the agency know that its proposed regional, multi-metric approach is a good start, but that a strategic plan to collect and apply more and better data is needed to properly inform those metrics.

BFFA May 2023 Events

Monthly Dinner Meeting:

May 2nd at 6:30
Italian American Club—
1471 Cypress Ave. Melbourne

Fly Tying:

Melbourne Library
May 15th at 6:00 pm

Outings:

Nothing scheduled

Board Meeting:

May 9th 5:00 meet at Ron Winn's office
2103 Grant Place Melbourne
All members are welcome to join. We typically
eat at Megs first and then rejoin at Ron's office
around 6:00



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