

THE BACKCAST



THE BACKCOUNTRY FLY- FISHING ASSOCIATION OF
BREVARD



Volume XXXVI Number VIII

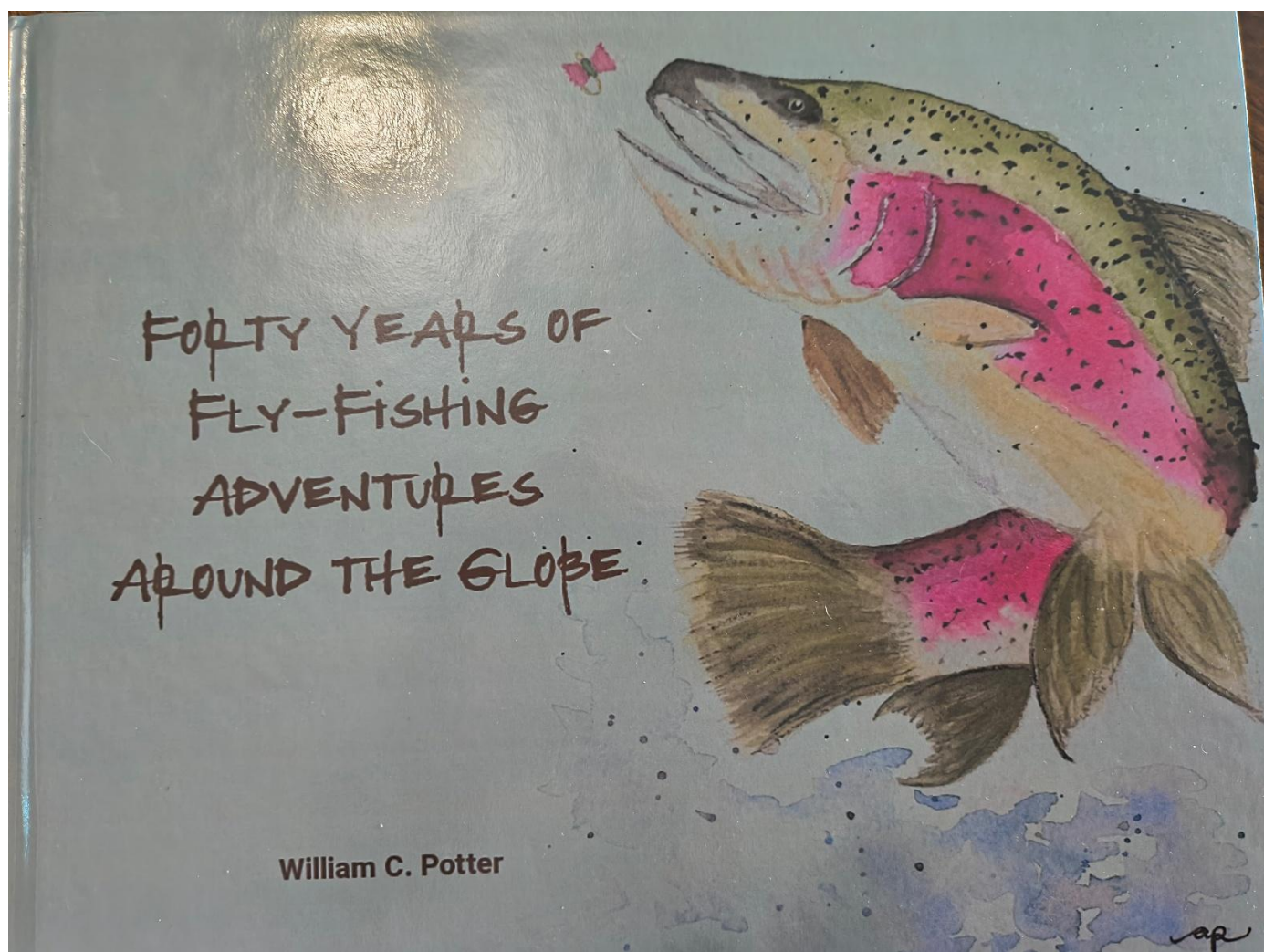
May 2026

May 5th 6:30 Meeting:
Italian-American Club
1471 Cypress Ave
Melbourne

William (Bill) Potter



This month's speaker is one of our own, long-term BFFA member Bill Potter. Bill is a graduate of Brown University and the University of Michigan Law School. Mr. Potter practiced law in Florida for more than 40 years. He also served in the Florida Air National Guard for more than 30 years and retired as the Judge Advocate General for the State of Florida. He served on numerous boards of directors including the boards of banks, health care systems, universities and aerospace-defense companies. From 2002 to 2005 he served as head of the Rule of Law Department of the Office of the High Representative in Bosnia and Herzegovina where he managed a department which included more than 200 lawyers, judges and criminal investigators tasked with establishing the rule of law in that country following the brutal war of the early 1990's. So, when and how did Bill get time to fish in so many areas with this schedule is testimony to the power of wanting to go fishing and certainly in this case, Bill's dedication to flyfishing. Bill will be presenting a slide show on some of the travels at our meeting that led to him writing this book. This is the 4th book he has written as well as another book he co-wrote. Bill's photographs are exemplary throughout the book and hopefully he will give us pointers on his photography methods as well.



Jeff Ward's Fly of the Month

Fly Tying class is held on the 3rd Monday of the month
at the Melbourne Library at 6:16.

Mays fly is a BendBack Baitfish

Recipe:

Hook: 34011 #1 modified

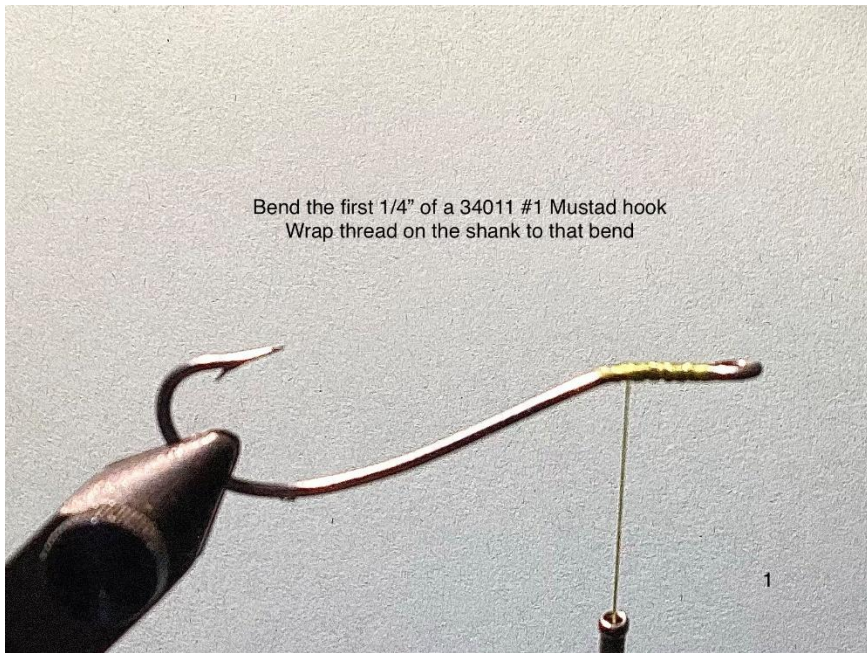
Thread: 210 back color

Belly: Clear Crystal Web

Flash: Holoflash

Back: Crystal Web Color Choice

Eyes: 5mm



Tie on white belly material



2

Add some Holoflash on top of the white



3

Finish tying by adding back color
Build a good sized head
Whip finish and cement



4

Glue on eyes
Coat head with UV epoxy
Trim to length



5

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May or Maybe

Our April outing at the Long Point campground was well attended by around 12 people and the pavilion there worked out well. Steve once again did a great job of cooking up the brats and I think we might have hit a new record of how many were eaten. Picture below of the crew at the pavilion.



The below article first appeared in the Florida Times Union May 26, 2026.

The latest bid to remove the 58-yearold Rodman Dam on the Ocklawaha River came up dry after the Florida Legislature ended its session without the Senate voting on legislation the House overwhelmingly supported. The House backed the bill by a 107-3 margin and it appeared to have momentum in the Senate as well when it sailed through three committees in January and February by votes of 8-0, 10-1 and 17-1. But the bill never made it to the Senate floor before the regular session ended Feb. 13.

“There was tremendous progress this session,” said state Sen. Jason Brodeur, a longtime supporter of opening the dam who sponsored the bill (SB 1066) in the Senate. But he said the Senate typically will not bring a bill for a vote on the Senate floor “unless it is clear there is enough support to pass the bill.”

“Unfortunately, this year there was not support in the Senate to pass SB 1066 off the Senate floor.” State Sen. Jason Brodeur Longtime supporter of opening the dam who sponsored SB 1066 in the Senate.

“Unfortunately, this year there was not support in the Senate to pass SB 1066 off the Senate floor,” Brodeur said. The Kirkpatrick Dam, also known as the Rodman Dam, was built in 1968 for the abandoned Cross Florida Barge Canal. The federal government stopped construction of the canal in 1971 but the earthen dam stayed in place.

The legislation called for creating an opening in the dam so the Ocklawaha River would flow freely from Silver Springs all the way to the St. Johns River. The restoration would have drained the 9,500-acre Rodman Reservoir created by the dam. Supporters of the bill said gradually drawing down the reservoir by the end of 2032 would send billions of gallons of freshwater down the Ocklawaha to the 310-mile St. Johns River, improving the health of the state’s longest river. Opponents doubted whether the environmental benefits would happen as predicted and said the loss of Rodman Reservoir would take away a tourism generating asset from Putnam and Marion counties where generations have fished.

Gov. Ron DeSantis vetoed a \$6.25 million line item last year in a budget bill that would have directed removal of the dam over the next decade. He said March 5 during an event in Nassau County that he represented Putnam County when he was in Congress and saw what Rodman Reservoir meant to many residents. He said rather than “just kind of pull the rug out” from the community, he wanted to see if there’s a way to help the river without doing something in a “rash way.”

“So that was why I vetoed the line item appropriation because I thought it was going to lead to something where they (residents) weren’t going to necessarily have input into what happens going forward,” he said. He did not say what his position is on this year’s stand-alone legislation sponsored by Brodeur and state Rep. Wyman Duggan. The bill would have created a 19member Northeast Florida River and Springs Recreation and Economic Development Advisory Council. The council would have developed a strategy for recreation and economic development financed by state grants to offset the impact of losing Rodman Reservoir. Brodeur said as chair of the Senate’s Appropriation Committee on Agriculture, Environment and General Government, he worked to “dedicate significant funding to these efforts.” He said he remains “fully committed to the restoration of the Ocklawaha River” after working several years to “bring all stakeholders to the table to reach a solution that will enhance resiliency and recreation benefits.”

Rodman Dam looking south to where it eventually runs into the St. Johns river.



BFFA May 2026 Events

Monthly Dinner Meeting:

May 5th 6:30

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

Board Meeting:

May 12th –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 Jeff will have the material needed to tie the fly(s).**



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