

THE BACKCAST



THE BACKCOUNTRY FLY FISHING ASSOCIATION OF
BREVARD

www.bffa-brevard.com

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**January 3rd, 2023
BFFA Club Meeting
at the Italian American Club
1471 Cypress Ave
Melbourne**

**Unraveling Florida's Snook Story
Dr. Zack Jud is our January Speaker**

Dr. Zack Jud, Director of Education at Florida Oceanographic Society, is a marine ecologist whose research focuses on human disturbance in coastal ecosystems. Zack holds a Ph.D. in biology from Florida International University and an M.S. in marine biology from Florida Institute of Technology. Much of his research has been carried out on the Indian River Lagoon estuary and its tributaries - a system that has suffered from massive environmental degradation in recent years. Zack has worked extensively with a number of economically and recreationally important gamefish species in an attempt to identify, protect, and restore the habitats they rely on throughout their lives. From snook and snapper, to tarpon, bonefish, and permit, he has used a variety of tagging and tracking techniques to learn how, when, and why fish move, in order to better protect their homes. Zack has been a fly angler since the age of 12 – a passion that led him to a career studying and protecting gamefish.



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President's Message

2022 was a quick year and as this article is being written on Christmas Eve, by the time of our next club meeting we will be fully into 2023. We are closing this year on a cold note, about 41 degrees outside right now as I write this on Christmas Eve and not much for the fishing opportunities today. Of course, some of us might hesitate to even think about fishing on the day before Christmas but I tend to play that one by ear. Now, there should be a good chance the lagoon water clears up with this cold snap today and tomorrow. So once that lucky old sun comes out and warms up the water again the fishing could be really good in the following days. I still remember a few years ago, after a hard cold snap, after the sun came out the next day that I took out on my kayak and saw more trout on the flats than I had seen in years. It was so good that I called my brother, and he towed his boat up to my home in Cocoa Beach. I paddled back home to meet him and jumped in his truck. When we arrived on the flats again, the fish were still in the area. We were totally blown away for the next few hours at the number of large trout we saw on the flats. Better yet they were easy to approach (at least easy for our trout, which are typically never easy) and willing to hit on small white flies. There was only one other boat out there and to no surprise, it was Frank Catino guiding a client just on the other side of the island from us.

As a reminder to those of you who come to the fly tying classes that Jeff Ward holds at the Melbourne Library that there will not be a January class due to the library being closed on January 16th for the holiday.

If you attended our last meeting, you should have heard Frank talk about our upcoming March auction and the change in location for the auction. The plan is to hold the auction on Billy Kempfer's property and we will be allowing one guest per member to attend. More information will be coming out soon and we will be updating everyone about it at the club meetings and via the newsletter.

Lake Washington Outing



Our Lake Washington outing drew out quite the crowd for an afternoon of brats and chips. It was a great time to be had and to enjoy a great day by the lake. Thanks again to Steve Stewart, our Outings Director for handling the food and putting this together.



So, at our Christmas Party the raffle ticket was pulled to see who would win the Enrico vice and the lucky winner was John Ratkowski. If you remember, John also won the last raffle item, which was a guided fishing trip down in the Everglades. I think we should ask John to buy lottery tickets for all of us! Happy fly-tying John.

Miscellaneous Information from FWC

Nowadays nothing is simple about the fishing regulations in Florida compared to what they were 30 years ago. Here below are a few items found on the FWC page that address licenses. It is always a good idea for anyone who fishes to go onto their website and keep current of the regulations. The below items are excerpts and not conclusive of all of the regulations.

Florida residents who only saltwater fish from the land or a structure attached to land, may get the no-cost resident recreational saltwater shoreline fishing license. This license does NOT cover anyone fishing from a boat or from an island that they arrived at by boat. Individuals who hold a recreational saltwater fishing license or any other license that includes recreational saltwater fishing privileges do not need a shoreline fishing license.

Non-residents are not eligible for this license and must purchase a 3-day, 7-day or annual non-resident saltwater fishing license when saltwater fishing in Florida unless covered by a charter or pier license.

Anglers who wade into the water to saltwater fish are considered to be fishing from shore as long as they can stand on the bottom and do not access or leave the area by boat.

The new shoreline saltwater license requirement allows exemptions for residents who are age 65 or older, all children under age 16, resident disabled persons who meet certain qualifications, active duty military personnel while home on leave, and all anglers who fish from a licensed pier. In addition, the license requirement includes exemptions for resident anglers drawing food stamps, temporary cash assistance or Medicaid who have proof of identification and a benefit issuance or program identification card issued by DCFS or the Agency for Health Care Administration, and anglers who use a pole or line without a line retrieval mechanism (such as a reel) in their home counties..

Why did the state pass this shoreline saltwater fishing license requirement?

At the request of the FWC, the Florida Legislature passed the shoreline saltwater fishing license requirement to head off a federal registration requirement that would have gone into effect Jan. 1, 2010, and would have had a \$15 to \$25 fee, beginning in 2011. The shoreline license makes Florida's resident anglers exempt from that federal fee.

Is there a similar shoreline license for freshwater anglers?

No. There never was a general exemption for fishing from the shore or a structure attached to shore in freshwater, so no new license was needed. In addition, the new exemption for anglers drawing food stamps, temporary cash assistance or Medicaid applies only to resident saltwater anglers fishing from shore or a structure attached to shore and does not relate to freshwater.

16. Do I need a Snook Permit if I have a shoreline saltwater license?

Yes, if you are not exempt and have a shoreline saltwater license you are required to have a Snook Permit to keep a snook in season.

Last Cast

I am sad to announce that one of our club members, Paul Rowgo, passed away on December 1st at home, in Palm Bay following a prolonged illness.

Personally, I never had the chance to get to know Paul, and after reading the obituary that his wife, Elaine wrote, along with the eulogy written by his daughter Juliet, I realized there is not enough room in this article to give justice to his accomplishments or even give those of you who did not know him a glimpse of his character.

Allow me to share a couple of excerpts from the information that was passed along to me - He was the son of a preacher, who went on to become a philosophy professor, a Princeton seminary graduate and a graduate of Michigan State. Paul was described in part as quiet, an excellent listener and smart. He wasn't outgoing and hated small talk. He was a student of fishing, tackle, and lures. He was a self-taught fly fisherman who started early in his teen years and loved to fly fish. He shared a birthday with the only mortal man he ever idolized, Lefty Kreh.

In my own words, pretty much those last few sentences, starting with the description of being quiet and dropping off the shared birthday information describe many people I know who like to fly fish!

I also took away that Paul was a deep thinking, highly intellectual person in search of the meaning of life. On his desk was a copy of 'The Road', which is a book that has nothing to do with any kind of fishing and certainly not one found in the uplifting philosophy section of the library. Yet, the last paragraph in the book, describes a brook trout in the water with a greater detail than that held by the physical senses. After reading that paragraph again, and learning more of Paul, it would have been a pretty interesting discussion to have had.

Our deepest condolences to both Elaine and Juliet.



BFFA January 2023 Events

Monthly Dinner Meeting:

January 3rd at 6:30PM
Italian American Club—
1471 Cypress Ave. Melbourne

Fly Tying:

Melbourne Library
January class canceled due to a holiday.

Outings:

Nothing scheduled but keep
an eye out for a shad outing
coming soon.

Board Meeting:

January 10th 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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