

THE BACKCAST

THE BACKCOUNTRY FLY- FISHING ASSOCIATION OF
BREVARD



Volume XXXV Number XII



September 2025

Sept 2nd Club Meeting

**6:30 at the Italian-American Club
1471 Cypress Ave
Melbourne**

September's speaker is Dave Lambert.



David Lambert is a working fly-casting instructor, outdoor writer and editor from Atlantic Beach, Florida. His program for our September meeting is fishing for Redfish in the marsh grass of Northeast Florida and Southeast Georgia. Lambert has fished in the marsh grass flats of Northeast Florida since he was 14 years old. In this program you'll learn virtually everything you need to know to fish this intriguing shallow water/wading fishery, including how to locate walkable flats, what flies, equipment, access points, danger points, equipment, boats and paddle craft, times of year, tides and more.

David Lambert is an FFI certified master fly casting instructor and examiner who has taught fly casting clinics/schools/classes for 29 years. He edits and writes for fly fishing, fly casting and outdoor oriented books and publications. He recently retired after six years as managing editor of *The Loop*, *The Journal for Professional Fly Casting Instructors*, and he is the author of *Smart Casts: A New Approach to Efficient Fly Casting and Practice (in DVD)*.

He has taught fly casting and fly fishing schools and clinics for fly shops, fly fishing organizations, fly clubs, and corporations, including Fortune 100 execs, Chrysler/Jeep, Pfizer Group, Chase Bank, Orvis, American Lung Association and others.

If time allows, Lambert will take questions about fly casting issues and concerns and will discuss The Four T's in Fly Casting.

Below is an excerpt from a fly-casting challenge that Dave put together. The verbiage below is his introductory to the challenge and if you click on the link it should take you to the file which illustrates and explains his challenge.

**Smart Casts Smart Casts™ Casting Challenge Casting Challenge
Course and Casting Practice Fence Course and Casting Practice Fence
By: David Lambert**

“A few years ago I went searching for a casting practice-course for clinics and my local club, First Coast Fly Fishers in Jacksonville, FL. After finding little of interest, I put together a few ideas and designed my own, the nucleus of the Smart Casts™ Fly Casting Challenge Course.”

[The Loop_2009_Winter_final.pmd](#)

Bill Sargent, one of our founding members and a retired sportswriter, occasionally writes a piece for our newsletter reflecting the club's history. For many of us outdoor enthusiasts who grew up here in Brevard, Bill's articles were widely read and greatly appreciated. The Florida Today paper was never the same when he retired. The following article about Frank Perkins was generously contributed by Bill.

Our club includes folks from all walks of life, among them engineers, judges, and CPAs to mayors, ranchers, and fishing guides.

One longtime member I remember fondly doubled as a book author. Actually he was an electronic engineer, beginning in the early days of Radiation Inc. in Melbourne, which later grew into Harris Corp. But he also had a talent for telling those first-hand travel stories. His name was Frank Perkins, a small, quiet man who never missed a meeting when he was in town and was always giving of himself for the club. Frank died on September 15, 2017, at age 87.

Through the years Frank's job took him around the world many times and from those countless miles of adventures and misadventures he wrote three books: Travels and Adventures on the Company Nickel; Whales, Termites and Dragons; and lastly Rainbows, Cutthroats and the Prince of Bhutan: Fly Fishing Adventures Around the World. Ron Winn is among a few of us with print copies, and they are hard to find from book supply houses. I found the Rainbows and Cutthroats available in eBook for \$3.99 from Barnes and Noble. Frank asked me to write the Forward to his Rainbows and Cutthroat, and I considered it an honor.

Here is the Forward:

Those of us who call ourselves fishermen dream about adventurous and faraway places of the world where we'd give just about anything to fish and explore. Costa Rica, Australia, Belize, New Zealand, maybe even the Seychelles are at the top of many lists. Unfortunately, few ever get the chance to so much as wet a line at such distant destinations. But we keep dreaming.

Frank Perkins is the exception. He is a quiet, friendly, small-statured man with a passion for fly fishing who made up his mind years ago that he would travel and fish the world. A career as an electronic engineer with assignments in multiple countries -- and helped by the fact that he was an Earthwatch Institute volunteer -- took Frank to many beautiful and exotic places. Frank never left home without his fly rod. Come to think of it maybe a half dozen fly rods! He made it a point to fish a lot. Over a period of many years, he traveled to 25 countries on all seven continents and caught practically every fish in the book, from the black waters of the Amazon to the waterfalls of Iceland.

Ever hear of a mud skipper? It's a fish in Australia that walks up the riverbanks on its pectoral fins and low and behold Frank became perhaps the first fly fishermen to catch a mud skipper out of the water. I wondered how he was working the fly across the sand, so I asked him.

“Oh, just twitching it along, making it look like a crab,” was Frank’s reply with a sly grin showing under his beard.

It wasn’t long before Frank had volumes of notes, diaries and pictures. He was in demand as a speaker at fly fishing clubs and tackle shows. And he never went away without someone telling him he should write a book. By Frank’s own admission this isn’t a guide book or for that matter a how-to or where-to-go book. Frank leaves those writings to the Lefty Kreh’s of the world. “I like to think of it as a collection of fish stories that just happens to take place around the world,” Frank explains.

Around the world indeed. Australia, Argentina, Botswana, Canada, Chile, Croatia, Gabon, Indonesia, Mongolia, Morocco, Papua New Guinea, Russia, Slovenia, Zimbabwe to name some of the chapters. In all he made four trips to the Amazon, three in Brazil and once in Peru.

Every chapter outlining every country is stacked with Frank’s observations, adventures and many times novel experiences. Like the fishing trip with the Prince of Bhutan, His Highness Namgay Wangchuck. Frank rode to the river in Wangchuck’s Land Cruiser, complete with a gold crown in the flag standard in the front. It was first class all the way.

Frank slept in every type of hotel room and lodge imaginable. Most were clean and comfortable, some not so clean and comfortable, but it seemed that the food always was good, even those times he wasn’t sure of the origin of the meat he was eating. It may be best that he didn’t know.

“The lodging that stands out in my mind over all the others,” says Frank, “actually wasn’t a lodge but instead it was the home of Adrian Dufflocq in Chile. It was Adrian’s retirement home and it was a fantastic place with gracious hosts and good fishing.”

Frank found the Falkland Islands to be the most remote of all the places he visited, outside of a trip to Antarctica, the only continent where he didn’t fish. Frank’s primary mission in the Falklands was to study Southern Elephant Seals as part of an Earthwatch expedition, but he made it a point to take on some of the brown trout that had been introduced to the Falklands in 1939 and again in 1947 from Chile. The winds blow strong in the Falklands, so Frank’s best advice in the book is to bring an 8-weight rod.

Papua New Guinea was an amazing place, said Frank. He went there twice studying moths and other insects. No doubt he picked up some novel ideas for new fly patterns, assuming the fish were interested in some of the moths.

Frank actually made a bit of history in New Guinea when he fished a small stream, becoming the first white man to fish the stream and the first fly fisherman to ply the waters.

The “fishing stories” never stop in this one-man’s travelogue. It goes without saying that Frank’s book is a must read for us dreamers.

The list below is the tackle that belonged to Kenny Wells from our club who passed away. His wife gave it to the organization below. For more information on the Florida Wildlife Hospital click on [Wildlife Rehabilitation – Florida Wildlife Hospital & Sanctuary](#) which should take you to their website. Amanda Aitken, Rehabilitation Manager for Florida Wildlife Hospital, will be setting up a table at our next club meeting with the items below for sale.

Reels:

- Hardy Flyweight reel and extra spool
 - L.R.H. Lightweight Reel **\$107** **x2**
- A.F. Meisselbach Rainbow #627 **\$50**
- Pflueger 1494AK Medalist **-\$25**
- Pflueger Sal-Trout No. 1554 **-\$20**
- Pflueger Medalist #1495 **\$30**
- Orvis Battenkill BB II - **\$65**
- Gayle Simplicity No. 5 Frankfort, KY **-\$15** **x2**
- STH #567 and extra spool **-\$75**
- JB Walker Newcastle on Tyne
- Beaulite Shakespear Noris trout reel - **\$20**
- Redington AL 9/10 **-\$100**
- Cortland Magnum 200D **-\$40**
- Lamson LP 3.5 **\$100**
- Lamson Litespeed **-\$100**
- Southbend OREN-O-MATIC No 1140 Model D **-\$10**
- Meek No. 56 - **\$200**
- Shakespear True Blue 1956 **-\$15**

Rods:

- Southbend #47 9'3/2 7/8wt **\$100**
- Mike Shay Dickerson 8013 8'2/2 5wt
- St. Croix Line 4 9' model IF904 Imperial **\$75**
- St. Croix Line 2 7'6" model U762.4 **\$75**
- Loomis Premier 9' 6wt **\$75**
- H.I. Queen Tonka Prince 7'4" 211 #4 (broken tip) \$175
- G Loomis FR 1089 9' #9 **\$100**
- Diamondback Saltwater 9' 9010 **\$75**
- Southbend Banty 6'212 #5
- SIERAQV 7'6" 5wt #50
- Grange favorite 8642 5wt *restored by Dennis Stone \$160
- Montague Rapidan 8'6" 312 **\$150**
- Heddon 9' 312 Jay Harvey Jackson #7R 5wt **\$75**
- Penn IMS 6129 FG Graphite 9' #12 line **\$75**

BFFA Officers and Directors

President—Frank Catino
321 223 7700
fcatinol@me.com

VP/Programs—Alec Buchness
alecbuchness@gmail.com
Facebook Manager

Secretary/Treasurer—Ron Winn
321 723 3141
ron@winnaccounting.com

Conservation Director—Bill DeLuccia
321 729 8818
deluccias@hotmail.com

Fly Tying—Jeff Ward
321 242 2815
cojeward@gmail.com

Outings Director—Steve Stewart Sr.
Aka the Braut-Meister
Capt.IndianRiverSteve@yahoo.com

Auction Chairman—Chip Turknett
William.Turknett@gmail.com

Rambles

September is finally on our doorsteps and hopefully so does the arrival of some cooler weather along with our annual mullet run. In the last week we have already seen some cooler winds and larger waves from the effects from the last hurricane, Erin. Even though it is still early in the year for the mullet migration it doesn't hurt to keep an eye out for beach activity. Diving birds and high-tailing mullet usually are signs of bigger fish following the migrating schools.

September is the time to renew your annual membership so check in with Ron Winn at the next club meeting to get current on your dues. Single membership is \$20.00 and family membership is \$30.00

Blood drive--- No not the Red Cross blood drive so relax. But some fresh blood to participate on the Board of Directors would be great so if you are interested in joining the board or coming to the board meetings to participate then let Ron, Frank or myself know. We encourage members to come to the board meetings anytime they want to.

Fly Tying with Jeff Ward:

September's fly is a "Fire Flash Glass Minnow"

Recipe:

Hook: FTD ST5500 #1/0

Thread: 210

Belly: FTD Fire Flash Pearl Fire

Back: FTD Fire Flash Light Chartreuse or Light Turquoise

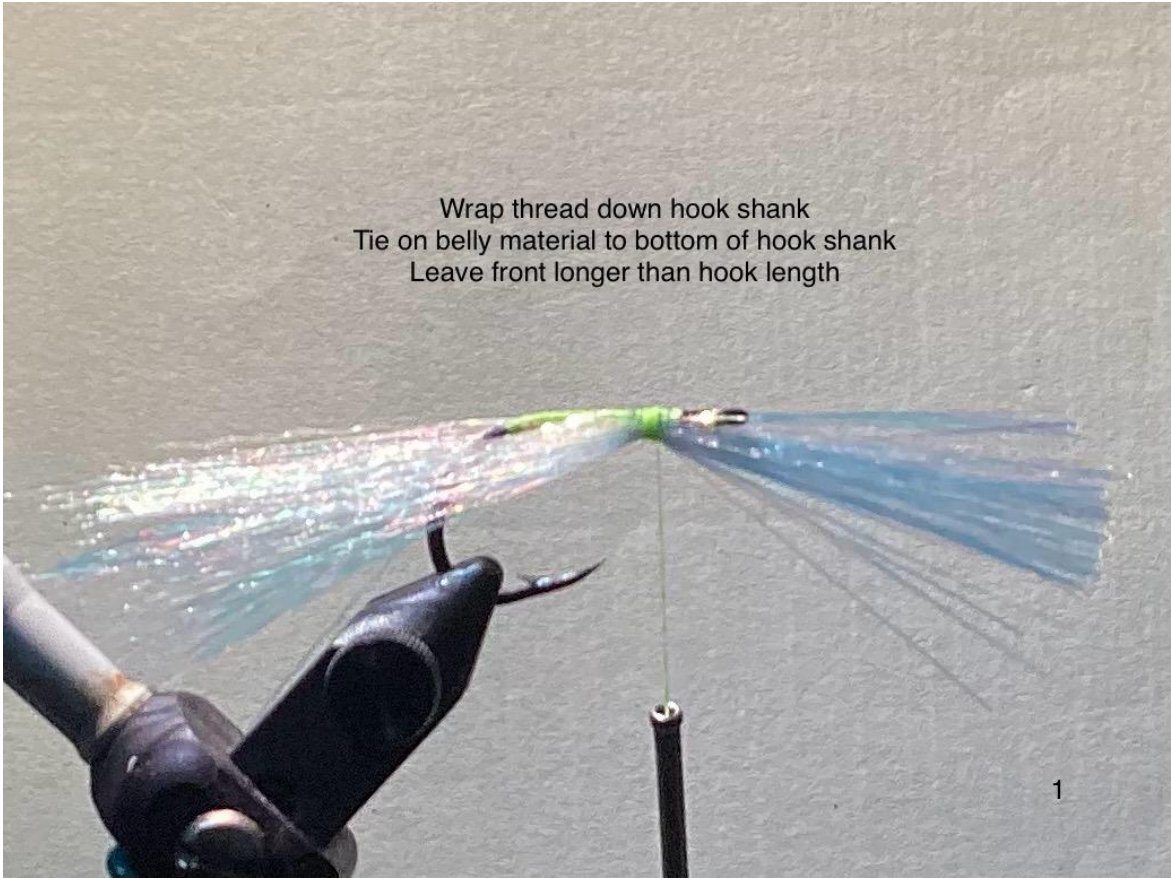
Head: #5 Fish Skull

Eyes: 5mm Chartreuse

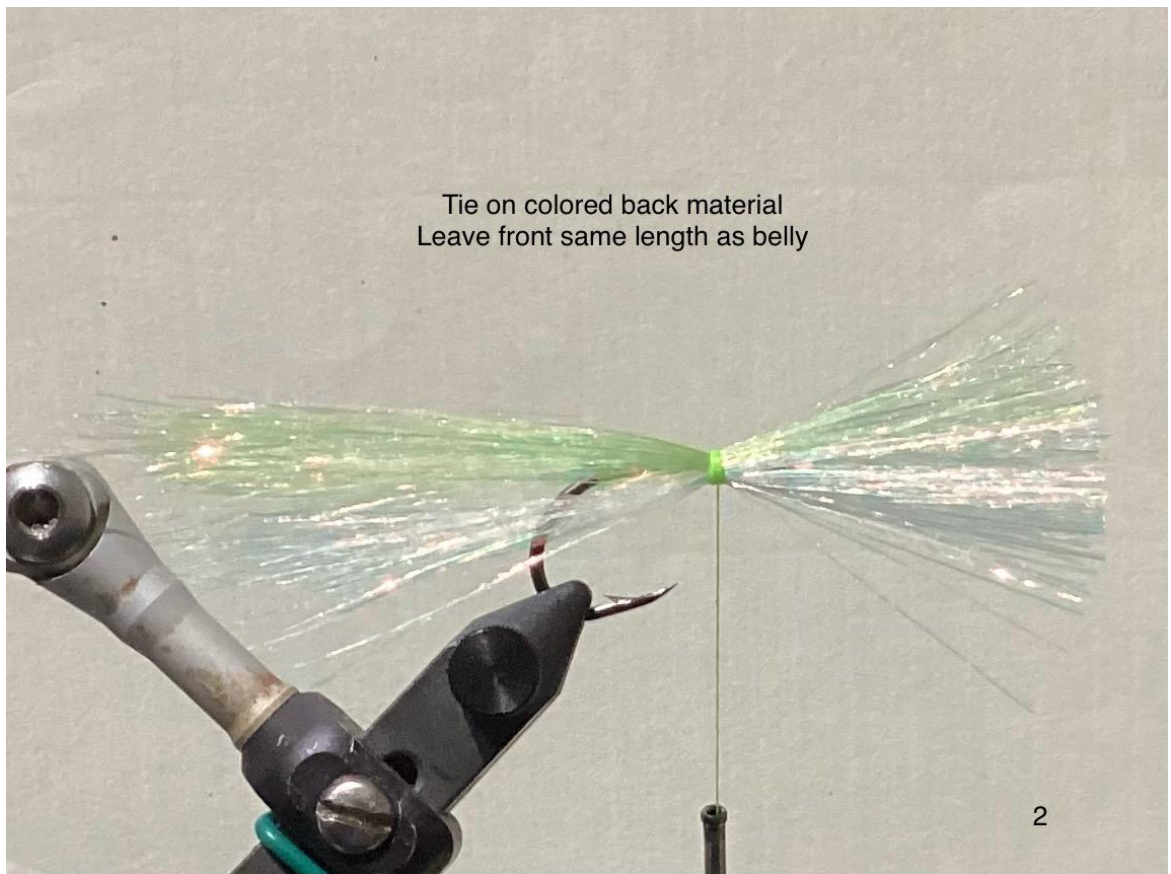
Fire Flash Glass Minnow

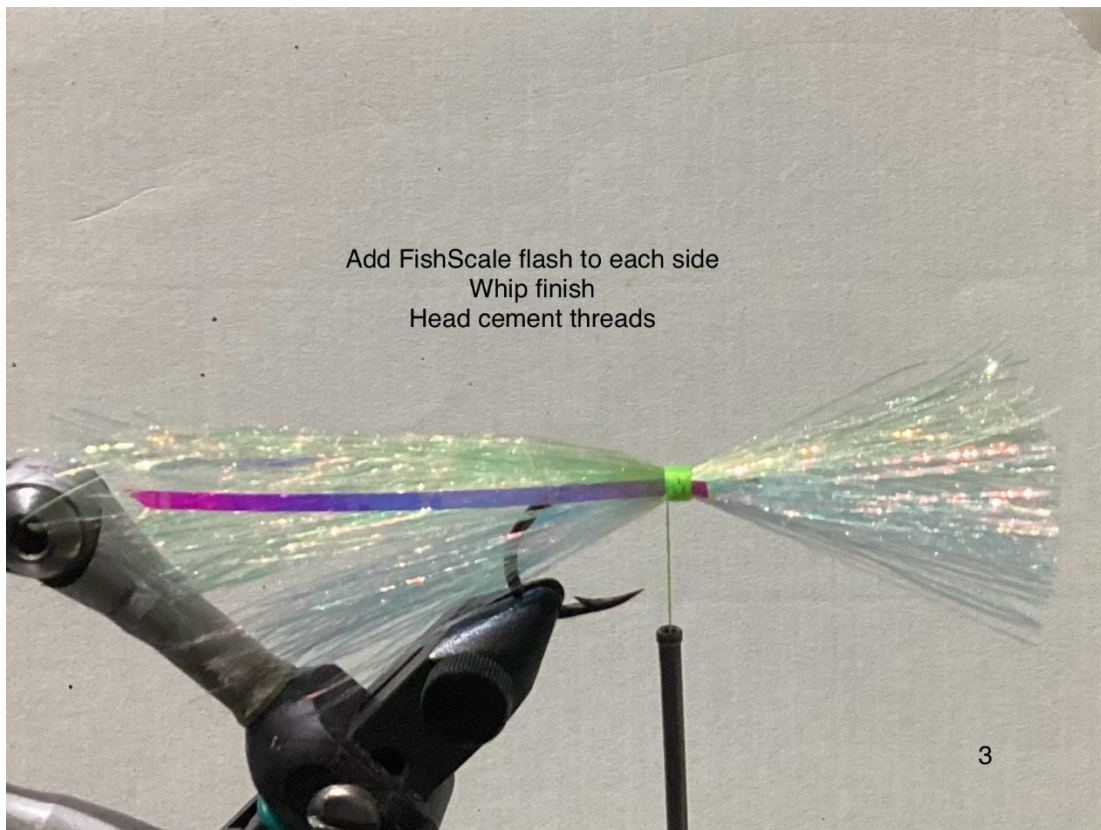


Wrap thread down hook shank
Tie on belly material to bottom of hook shank
Leave front longer than hook length



Tie on colored back material
Leave front same length as belly





BFFA September 2025 Events

Monthly Dinner Meeting :

**September 2nd 6:30
Italian-American Club
1471 Cypress Ave
Melbourne, FL**

Fly Tying:

**September 15th
Melbourne library 6:15 p.m.
Everyone needs to bring their own fly-tying
tools. Jeff will have the materials and hooks
for the fly.**

September Outings

**September 20th we will be having a beach
outing at Bon Steele Park in Melbourne
Beach. Fishing will start at dawn and then
we will meet up around 11:00 afterwards
at the South Beach Community Pavilion
for Chef Stewarts famous Brats.**

Board Meeting:

**September 9th--5:00 We meet at Ron
Winn's office at 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 for the club meeting.**



**Backcountry Fly Fishing Assoc. of Brevard
P.O. Box 524
Melbourne, FL. 32902-0524**

