

THE BACKCAST



THE BACKCOUNTRY FLY- FISHING
ASSOCIATION OF BREVARD



Volume XXXVII Number XI

August 2026

August 4th 6:30 Meeting:
Italian-American Club
1471 Cypress Ave
Melbourne

Ron Winn-fishing the surf with a fly rod

Board member, past treasurer for the National FFF group and one of the founders of our club, Ron Winn, will be discussing flyfishing from the beach at our August meeting. Ron has been a long-time fixture of those who started flyfishing off of the beach around here in Brevard and one of the earliest users that employed shooting heads. He will be discussing fly rods, flies and other tools of the trade, such as stripping baskets, that he uses when the mullet run is going off, as well as other times of the year. With our annual fall mullet run coming in to play soon this presentation comes at a great time. If you have questions during the presentation, please feel free to ask them. The picture below is one of the flies that Ron has always liked to tie.



Our fly tying classes are held on the 3rd Monday of the month and located at the Melbourne Public Library. The address is 500 E. Fee Ave, Melbourne Florida. Classes start at 6:00.

Fly of the Month

Capt. Tom Dimatteo will be hosting the our August 17th class. This month's fly is a Marabou Tarpon fly.

Marabou Tarpon Fly

Recipe:

Hook: Size 2 Umpqua

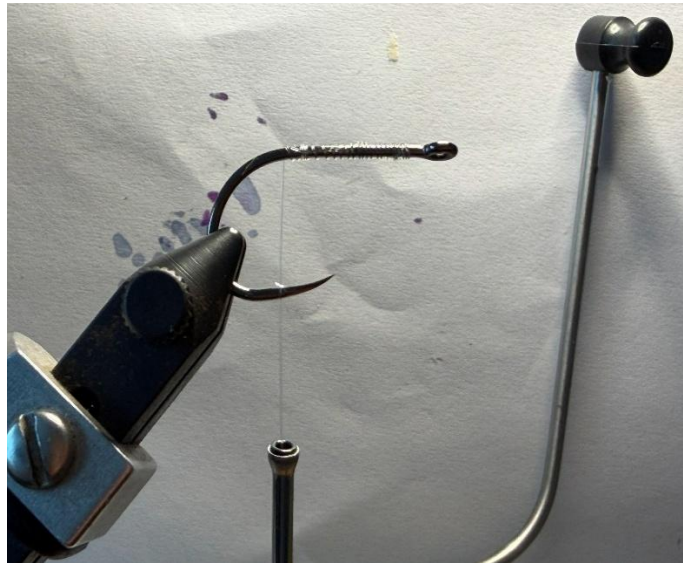
Thread: Any color you choose

Body: Strung Marabou Purple

Collar: Strung Rooster Saddles-Black

Eyes: Bead Chain

Tie thread on hook and stop at the barb.



Tie in the maribou for the tail



Lift marabou and back wrap a couple of wraps behind the marabou and then back over the hook shank. Advance your thread about halfway between the hook eye and the point of the hook then tie in a small bead chain for eyes.



Bring your thread back to the tail, tie in a hackle or saddle feather and then palmer forward up to the beach chain with thread. Whip finish and go fishing.



The fly below is another of Tom's favorite flies to use. Other than the change in color and the use of the small collar of dubbing just behind the eyes it is tied similar to the previous purple fly. Time permitting Tom may end up tying both flies.



Even though we are still early in the season for the annual fall mullet run the beach conditions have been favorable for with the ongoing light west winds we have had as well the calm seas. Steve Morgan has been grabbing onto some snook in the troughs down towards Vero Beach as of late. Below are some pictures he sent over of the fish as well as the flies he has been using.



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August Rambles

For the last week of July the ocean conditions have been great for those of you fishing off of the beach. The light west and south-west winds have cleared up the inshore areas and waves have been non-existent of late.

Areas down south from Melbourne Beach to Vero have been seeing small pods of baitfish which has led to some recent snook hookups. The troughs have been productive in the early mornings during high tide from Bonsteel all the way to Wabasso and beyond. I would venture that the fishing is probably good during mid-day as well, but between the heat of the day and the daily afternoon storms we have been getting preference is to go during the morning. The water down south is free from the pesky seaweed we had for awhile and should stay that way until we get some adverse weather.

September is coming up and if there is anyone that would like to join our board, please let us know.

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 August 2026 Events

Monthly Dinner Meeting:

**August 4th 6:30
Italian American Club—
1471 Cypress Ave. Melbourne**

Board Meeting:

August 11th—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:

We will be having our annual beach outing sometime in September. Stay tuned.

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 Tom will have the material needed to tie the fly(s).**



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