

THE BACKCAST



THE BACKCOUNTRY FLY- FISHING ASSOCIATION
OF BREVARD



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**June 4th 6:30 Meeting
Italian-American Club
1471 Cypress Ave
Melbourne, Fl.**

Dr. Aaron Adams is our featured speaker



The recent public meetings hosted by the Saint Johns River Water Management District about a proposed habitat restoration project at Mullet Creek (near Honest John's Fish Camp) was a red flag for the need for better community engagement by SJRWMD and DEP/State Parks. This meeting was the first that most in the community had heard about the project, which contributed to the strong opposition to the project.

Aaron Adams, Director of Science and Conservation for Bonefish & Tarpon Trust, wants to use this proposed project as a first step to developing a better system of communication between SJRWMD and the fishing community. With better communication, SJRWMD and the fishing community can collaborate to identify better future projects to positively impact Indian River Lagoon health and to improve the fishery.

Improving IRL habitats and water quality is best accomplished by working collaboratively. People in the fishing and ecotourism community have extensive experience on the water, so can provide input on possible locations for impactful restoration, as well as on areas important to the fishery. Scientists from the SJRWMD have the scientific and technical expertise to design and conduct successful restoration projects. Aaron's premise is that the best results for the IRL will come from combining these areas of expertise to create a collaborative process, and to move away from an antagonistic relationship.

The meeting on June 4 will be the first step in this process. Aaron will provide a brief overview of how this process works (similar work is being done elsewhere), followed by staff from SJRWMD providing an overview of their agency and their approach to habitat and water quality issues. This will be followed by Q&A and discussion.

Aaron received a bachelor's degree from St. Mary's College in Maryland, a Master's degree from the College of William and Mary, and a Ph.D. from the University of Massachusetts Boston, and also holds a Coast Guard Captain's License. He has lived, worked, and fished on both coasts of the US, and in the Caribbean, where he has been conducting fish research for more than 25 years. His pursuit of effective fish and habitat conservation is rooted in his years growing up near Chesapeake Bay, where he witnessed the decline of the Bay's habitats and fisheries.

As Director of Science and Conservation, Aaron is responsible for formulating, overseeing, and implementing BTT's science and conservation plan, and applying scientific findings to conservation and management via interactions with resource management agencies and other non-governmental organizations. Aaron has been an author or co-author on more than 70 peer-reviewed scientific publications, has authored three books, and contributed chapters to four books. In addition to his scientific focus, he spends considerable effort translating fish science into angler's terms.

Aaron has been an avid angler since the age of five, and was even known to skip school in pursuit of fish. Also at a young age, the why and how of fish and their habitats became a passion. The career of fish conservation scientist is a perfect combination of these passions. You can see his scientific publications on his Researchgate page: https://www.researchgate.net/profile/Aaron_Adams

Summer Heat

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For those of you who are new to the area and are looking for boat ramp locations check out Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commissions website and look under [Florida Boat Ramp Finder \(myfwc.com\)](http://myfwc.com). It is quite a detailed listing of boat ramps located in the state of Florida with some detailed information. and we just cannot keep up with the regulations. So recently I noticed on the FWC website "FWC approves modifications to two freshwater fisheries permits.govdelivery.com)"

The summer is on us with a vengeance and fishing in the Lagoon is taking on an early morning or late evening hours schedule for getting out on the water for most of us. Remember to drink plenty of water while you are outside. Also, as I have just been to the dermatologist this week where he commenced to whittle away on my ear for skin issues, I would recommend using sunblock lotion, a hat and long sleeve shirts. Nowadays it seems that I wear more clothes to go fishing than I wear going out to eat.

The second seasonal snook closure takes for the Florida East Coast which includes our own Indian River Lagoon area. Starting June 1 and going until August 31 the possession of snook are off limits in our areas. The Florida West Coast has their own seasonal closures for snook which are different than ours.

We will have an outing at the Donald McDonald Park located on the Sebastian River on June 22nd. Steve Stewart Sr. will be grillin his famous brats around 10:30 or so which should leave the early morning open for those of us wanting to fish. Hope to see you there.

Last but not least, it was great seeing Dick Pettit at the last club meeting.



Below is part of an article that was in our May 2018 newsletter that Capt. Patrick Smith wrote . The information in the article is just as relevant today as it was back then

Grab some coffee and make sure your navigation lights work, because chasing snook under the stars is one of the most addicting ways to spend a night. With the amount of dock lights and bridges with perfect shadow lines, there are almost endless fishing opportunities. Imagine pulling into the ramp and seeing a couple of boats, or even better, no other boats. This is the norm especially if there is any kind of unfavorable weather. However windy, rainy, and even cold conditions have actually proven to be some of our best nights of fishing. In this article I'm going to lay out some of the tips, tactics, and tackle that I use with great success on these beautiful fish that will absolutely tear up your gear and sometimes leave you wondering what just happened. But no matter what, they always seem to leave an ear to ear smile on your face.

Equipment

A 6 weight with a floating or a clear intermediate line, a tapered leader, and a 20 lb. [bite tippet](#). This is my go-to size rod for dock light fish that average 24-28 inches. The lighter line allows for quiet casting and is more forgiving to new anglers that might make a cast right on top of the fish. You will lose some battles, but to me that's ok and all part of the game.

Flies

When it comes to flies for snook around docks at night, it's good to remember the phrase "elephants eat peanuts". Smaller is better. #6s, #4s, and #2s are normal as long as you choose a strong hook. You will be able to catch a lot larger fish than you might think on flies this small. The most productive patterns for us are [Whats Up Docks](#), Schminnows, [Gummy Minnows](#), [Eat Mes](#), [Midnight Minnows](#), [Mini Minnows](#), and [EP Micro Minnows](#). Pretty much anything that imitates tiny shrimp and small glass minnows will work. If you live in an area that has a shrimp flush on a certain tide, then a shrimp or crab would be a great pattern to start with. Around bridges you will mostly want to throw bigger baitfish and shrimp patterns that move more water.

Tides

Tides are probably the most important part of this article. You have to understand tides and what they do for the fish. In my area I can catch fish on moving water. That means fishing is good on both the incoming and outgoing because there is nothing significant happening on either tide. Some areas have back bays and rivers that might flush shrimp or crabs on an outgoing tide, which will make a difference in what you use and how it's presented.

Types of lights

The type of light makes a difference. I personally love an overhanging incandescent street light style light, because it seems to attract more bait and snook. I tend to get a lot more cooperative fish in these lights.

New technology has led to more underwater LED lighting, which are great for watching fish but the snook seem to be a little warier around these docks.

Jeff's Corner

June's fly is a Spawning Shrimp

Recipe:

Hook: FTD OS700 #2

Thread: 210 Orange

Weight: Med SS Beadchain

Eyes: Stonfo Shrimp/Crab Eyes

Antenna: Barred Tan Silicone

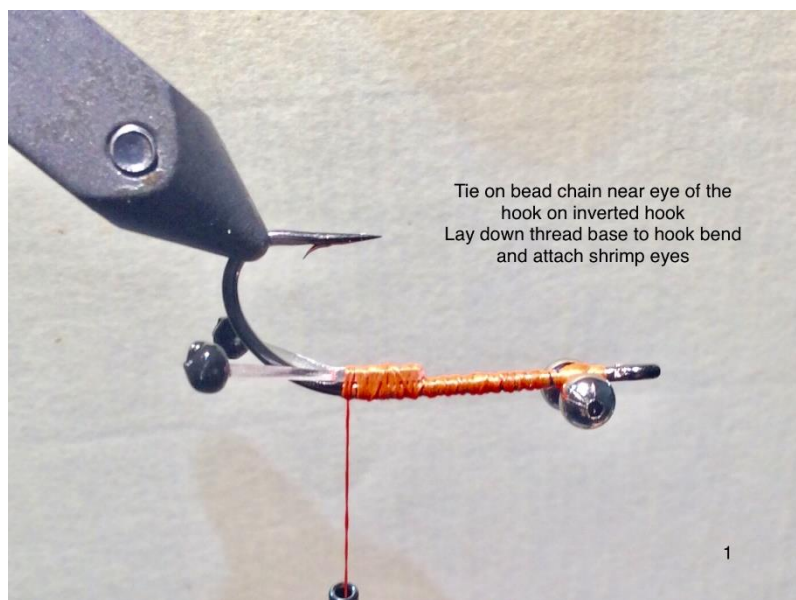
Rainbow Crystal Flash

Horn: Orange Brushed Yarn

Body: EP Tarantula Brush



Spawning Shrimp







BFFA June 2024 Events

Monthly Dinner Meeting:

Meeting starts at 6:30 pm.

This month's meeting is June 4th

at the Italian-American Club

1471 Cypress Ave

Melbourne

Fly Tying:

Melbourne Library-June 17th

6:15 pm

Day Event:

June 22nd at Donald McDonald Park, 12315
Roseland Rd. Sebastian, Fl. Fish early in
the morning and Steve will start firing up
the grill around 10:30 or so.

Board Meeting:

June 11--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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