

THE BACKCAST



THE BACKCOUNTRY FLY- FISHING
ASSOCIATION OF BREVARD



Volume XXXVI Number
IV

June 2026

June 2nd 6:30 Meeting:
Italian-American Club
1471 Cypress Ave
Melbourne

William (Bill) Kiene



Bill Kiene's
FLY FISHING FORUM



Bill Kiene was in the fishing tackle business in Sacramento, California for 50 years. In 1975 he opened the first "fly fishing only store" in Sacramento. He was born in Sacramento on March 25, 1945, right at the end of WWII. His interests as a youngster were fishing, hunting, boats, motorcycles and cars.

He also had a fly-fishing travel agency where he and his staff hosted group trips to great destinations. He now lives in Sebastian and at our meeting he will be talking about his favorite 10 fly fishing trips of his life.

Bill still has an active website under billkiene.com which is where I grabbed a lot of the above information. Check it out as it has a little bit of everything on it.



Jeff Ward's Fly of the Month

For the next two months various people will be hosting the Fly of the Month for our newsletter. This month's fly is from

Ron Winn and a favorite of mine, his mullet fly.

Fly Tying class is held on the 3rd Monday of the month
at the Melbourne Library at 6:15.

June's fly is a Mullet fly

Recipe:

Hook: 2-0

Thread: Any color you choose

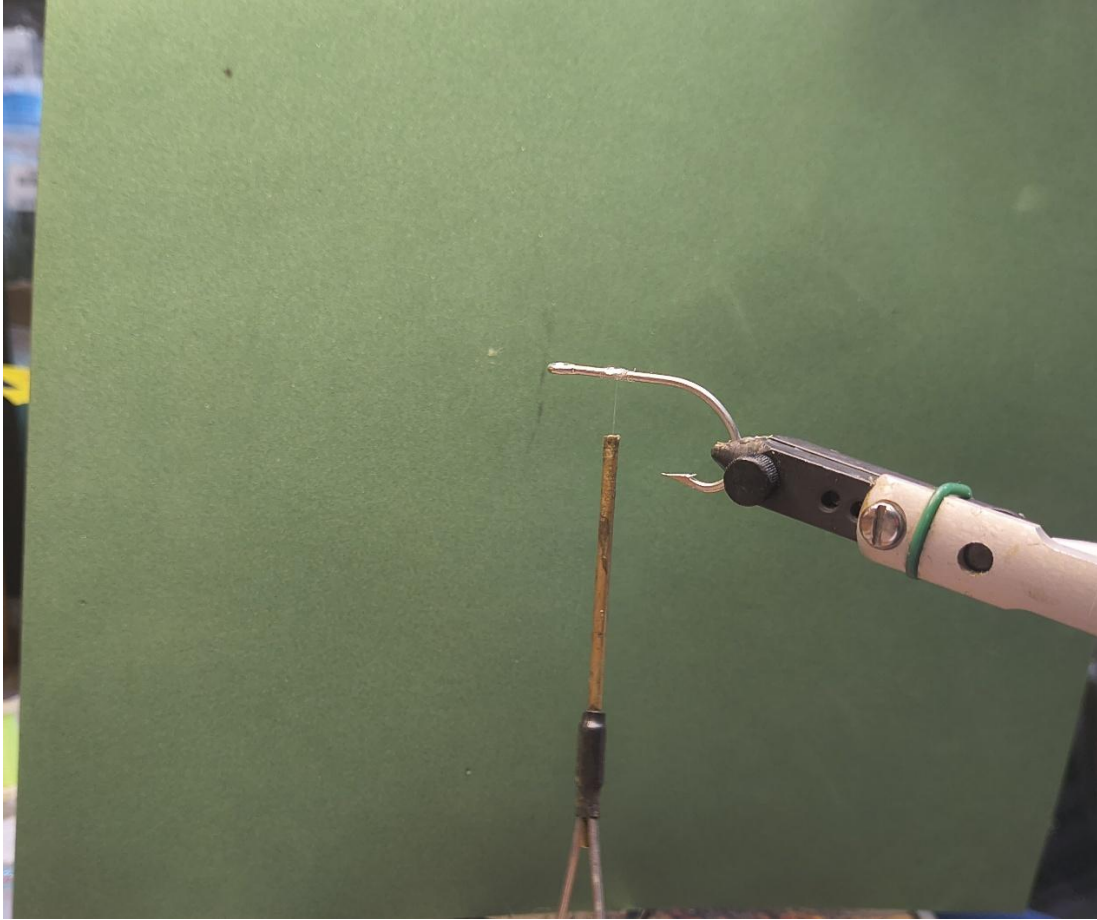
Body: White/Beige Macrame yarn

Flash: Crystal White

Eyes: 5mm



Tie in thread about a ¼ inch from eye.



Tie in a 6-inch brushed out macrame yarn with about 1/3 towards the back. Tie in your flash at this point.



Fold over the macrame yarn and tie it off.



As an alternative you can tie in another color of yarn as well.



Glue on your eyes at this point and work the head of your fly with a soft-tex material or similar product.



Add in a throat if you like. Remember that when tying this fly, colors are based on what baitfish you are trying to imitate as well as the size of the overall fly based on hook used.



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June Rambles

It is best to get out and fish before summer really heats up. Yep, I know it's hot now but July and August with a bit of September are notoriously hotter still. Early mornings, late evenings and nights around the docks with lights become the go to spots for me in the lagoons.

As you will have heard Jeff Ward will be taking a break for a couple of months from our monthly fly-tying class. Jeff has tied 150 flies for our newsletters and classes which is an amazing volume and as he said, there are more flies to tie. We look forward to his return but in the meantime, Ron Winn has offered to do a couple of the classes and will start off this month with his mullet fly. The mullet fly is a go to during our annual mullet migration as well as an excellent fly in our own rivers and lagoons. The posted pictures show the fly in various stages but there is not enough space to show how he brushed and sorted out the macrame cord so you may want to go to the monthly class for those details.

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 June 2026 Events

Monthly Dinner Meeting:

June 2nd 6:30
Italian American Club—
1471 Cypress Ave. Melbourne

Board Meeting:

June 9th –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).
June 15th this month.



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