

# THE BACKCAST



THE BACKCOUNTRY FLY FISHING ASSOCIATION OF BREVARD  
*An Active Member Club of the Federation of Fly Fishers™*



[www.bffa-brevard.org](http://www.bffa-brevard.org)

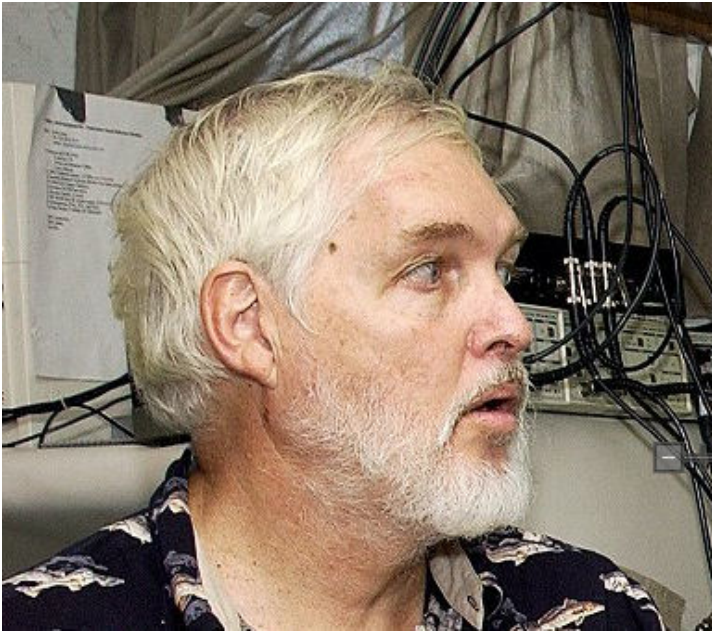
Volume XXII Number XII

September 2011

## Monthly Dinner Meeting

Thursday, September 1, 6:30 PM  
Memaw's Bar B-Q  
Eau Gallie Blvd.  
Indian Harbour Beach

## Famous Scientist to Speak on the Indian River Lagoon



Grant Gilmore in the lab

Our program for September will be presented by Dr. Grant Gilmore. Grant is a Senior Research Scientist for Estuarine Coastal and Ocean Science Inc. in Vero Beach. He has done research in aquatic science for 43 years, and is credited with 82 scientific publications, and 10 book chapters. He writes a column for Florida Sportsman Magazine, and has participated in 19 TV programs, for Discovery Channel, National Geographic, New Zealand Network, and NPR.

He will speak on "A Forty Year Perspective on Fishes of the Indian River Lagoon: What's Happening Today?"

This promises to be another in our recent run of very interesting programs.

We are honored to have such a distinguished speaker.

## **BFFA Officers and Directors**

**President/Shogun Don Davis**  
(Home)321-254-5062  
alligatordond@cs.com

**Vice-President Frank Catino**  
777-5706  
Fcatino@cfl.rr.com

**Secretary/Treasurer Ron Winn**  
(Home) 321-777-3341  
ronwin@bellsouth.net

**Conservation Director Sherry Parker**  
(Home) 724-2075  
Pparkerjr@cfl.rr.com

**Education Director Paul Parker**  
(Home) 724-2075  
Pparkerjr@cfl.rr.com

**Outings Director Ronda Gunn**  
(Home) 321-960-0080  
RondaGunn@aol.com

**Chairman of the Board Mike Reynolds**  
(Home) 321-409-5669  
Reynolds123@Bellsouth.net

**Membership/Auction Chairman Doug Lorimer**  
(Cell)321-508-9728

**Newsletter Editor Frank Perkins**  
(Home) 321-676-0863  
fap1217@cs.com

**Webmaster M.E.DePalma**  
(Work)800-879-5645  
DePalma@Depalma-Enterprises.com

## **PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE**

### **Observations of a not so**

### **Observant Outdoorsman**

Over the years, I have had the opportunity to observe many notable outdoorsmen and have come up with a short list of do's and don'ts to help you become a better sportsman or at least not die trying.

- DO try to fish as much as possible.
- DON'T try to fish in Ozzie's pond stocked with trophy sportfish. (call for address).
- DON'T arrive at the boat ramp late.
- DO follow Paul and Sherry Parker around and tell me their secret spot locations.
- DO learn to cast close to docks when fishing for snook.
- DON'T try to break off when you get too close and hook the dock. You may break your fly line and make a 9 ft 4 piece a 7 ft 3 piece. See Dominic A. for details.
- DO take a kid fishing.
- DON'T take the kid to the watering hole later.
- DO hire one of the many great guides in the club.
- DON'T follow a guide to their hot spots. Observe them with binoculars from afar.
- DO try to snorkel for lobster and stone crab in the Keys. It's great fun.
- DON'T confuse the words "closed season" for the words "open season" in the regulations as one of our members did.
- DO try to fish the Banana River NMZ.
- DON'T go with Dominic in his boat that rows easier than a kayak. Trust me on that one.
- DO enjoy the BBQ at Memaw's several time each month.
- DON'T split a feast for four with Shogun. You'll lose.

And finally..

DO thank the members who volunteered to serve as an officer or board member of the BFFA.

DON'T miss the opportunity to serve in the future. It is rewarding and great fun.

DonD

Shogun

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## EDITOR'S RAMBLING

I normally much prefer reading from paper to reading from a computer screen. However, I recently tried out Adobe Digital Edition on my lap top and was favorably impressed with the reading experience. Adobe Digital Edition is available for free download at <http://www.adobe.com/products/digitaleditions/>.

You can try out the reader with a sample of my fly fishing book at

<http://www.smashwords.com/profile/view/FrankPerkins>, or buy the full copy there.



## NEW OFFICERS

The new slate of officers is as follows:

Chairman of Board: Don Davis

President: Frank Catino

VP: Mike Badarack

Treasurer: Ron Winn

Education: Dominick Agostini

Outings: Mike Reynolds/Brant Davenport

Newsletter: Frank Perkins

Conservation: Ronda Gunn

Auction: Doug Lorimer

Webmaster: M. E. DePalma

We appreciate these people's willingness to serve the club.

We also appreciate the time and work of our retiring officers.

## LAGOON HOUSE

Rodney Smith asks us to participate in LAGOON HOUSE VOLUNTEER DAY.

Brevard clubs and organizations come together October 22, to work together to help make the Lagoon House (3225 Dixie Hwy./US 1) a cornerstone of the community and a Historical & Environmental Showcase of Brevard. Join Anglers for Conservation and many other community groups for an ECOSCAPE DAY October 22, 2011. Bring: Shovels, Rakes, Gloves, Wheel Burrows, and a Good Attitude

We'll supply Plant Materials, Music, Food, Drinks and Fun.

Together we'll create a Community Landmark.

Come enjoy food, drink and the Sykes Creek Band for a fun filled day on the Indian River Lagoon.

## FISHING REPORTS

Local fishing is in the summer doldrums.

Paul and Sherry Parker report a few bream and bass from freshwater, and a couple of fish from the Eau Gallie River on a recent evening.

Bill and Ronda Gunn caught a trout and a red at the recent club evening outing.

## LOOKING BACK

Remembering our past programs:

Month	Presenter	Subject
August	Camp Walker	Fishing in the Keys and Louisiana
July	Kathy Guindon	Tarpon DNA tagging
June	Frank Perkins	Fishing in the Seychelles
May	Skip Mackey and M E DePalma	Alaska
April	Don Thomas	Fishing and Photography
March	Chip Turknnett	Auction
February	Jay McGowan	Shad
January	Tom Pierce	Early days in the Keys

## NEW MEMBERS

Welcome to our new members  
 Jack Blasy of Indialantic  
 Jeff Ward of Melbourne

## FFF NEWS

**The Florida Council presents  
 Florida Fly Fishing Expo 2011  
 October 21-22  
 Worldgate Resort  
 3011 Maingate Lane  
 Kissimmee, FL 34747**

The Expo chairman is our own Bill Gunn.

The Expo will feature:

- Fly Tying Programs
- Casting Programs
- Casting Certification
- Presentations

Seminars

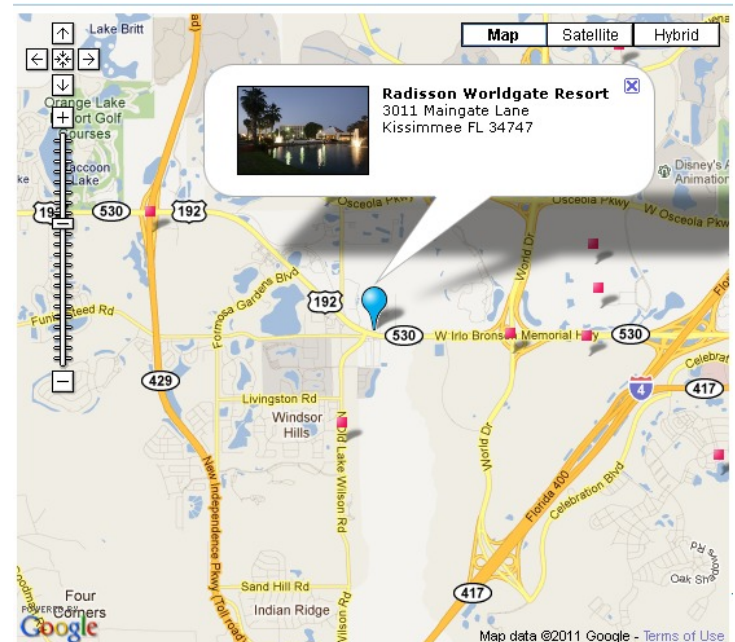
Banquet

Raffle

Registration is only \$10 both covering both days.

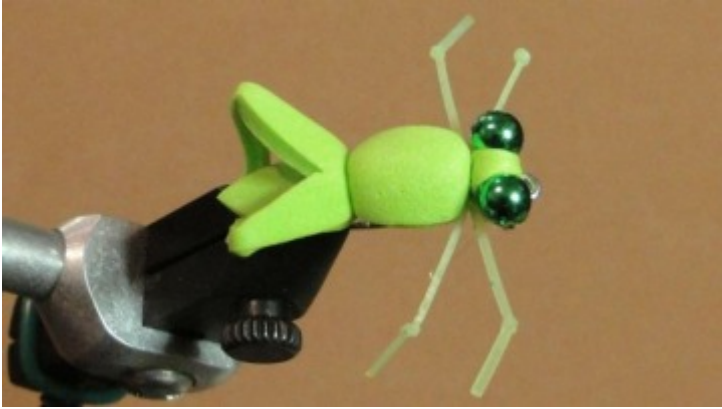
For further details, see

<http://fff-florida.org/expo.htm>



Map of Conclave location

**MONTHLY FLY TYING  
MONDAY, SEPTEMBER 19th,  
6:15 PM  
MELBOURNE PUBLIC LIBRARY**



This month, Jeff Ward will be tying the Wards Pan-fish Hopper. Jeff's fly fishing career started in Northern Maryland fishing for native brook trout using a three piece bamboo South Bend rod with an automatic reel. In 1975 Jeff moved to Florida and began fishing our abundant freshwater fishery.

**Materials:**

- 1) 10x70mm strip of 2mm chartreuse closed cell foam
- 2) 30mm of medium chartreuse/pearl tinsel chenille
- 3) 1 pair of 4mm green plastic ball craft chain
- 4) 1 strand of chartreuse flat sili leg cut to 30mm and knotted 5mm in on each side
- 5) Mustad hook C47SD size 6

Materials will be provided. We appreciate a dollar or so to reimburse the tier.

Bring your own tools and chemicals.



**ILLNESS IN THE CLUB**

Skip MacKay is finally out of the hospital after a marathon stay. He was admitted after experiencing severe bruising for no apparent reason. The cause was traced to a very low blood platelet count (as low as 4 from a normal count of about 200). Platelets are one of the major tools the body uses to control blood clotting, so low platelet counts can cause severe complications to injuries or strokes. The cause of the low platelet count proved difficult to diagnose. The original theory was some sort of auto-immune reaction, called ITP, but treatments aimed at this did not provide any lasting improvement. After 28 ineffective days at Holmes, Skip was transferred to M D Anderson in Orlando, and in a few days they decided the problem was MDS, a disorder of the bone marrow, causing low production of some or all types of blood cells.

One of the latest reports by M.E. DePalma on Skip's condition follows:

*Day 40*

*Our days have become Biblical.*

*Like Noah and his Ark, we have spent 40 days in turbulent water, and today we are going home.*

*Skip is doing well with his chemotherapy and suffering no side effects.*

*There is no cure for MDS, but it can be managed. With frequent blood tests, we can determine the need for blood transfusions, platelet packets and intermittent chemo.*

*Our boat is not grounded. We are just plotting a new course.*

*Each day we celebrate life - grateful for friends and family and our love for each other.*

*Later... We are going home today back to my house. I took him to Memaws on Thursday for his favorite sandwich then to the library pond to let him cast a few flies.*

*He caught a 12.5 inch bass and a blue gill in the first 15 minutes then crashed on the bank and had to sit down so I took him home. He had a nice smile on his face when he went to sleep.*

*Skip will be 78 on Monday August 29th.*

*We are having an open house on Sunday the 28th from 1 - 4 pm and welcome all BFFA members to come over and celebrate - just email me and let me know if you are coming so we can have some BAR-B-QUE for you. [depalma@depalma-enterprises.com](mailto:depalma@depalma-enterprises.com).*

# BFFA September 2011 Events

## Monthly Dinner Meeting

Thursday, September 1st, 6:30 PM  
Memaw's Bar B-Q  
Eau Gallie Blvd.  
Indian Harbour Beach

## Board Meeting

Wednesday, September 7th, 6:30 PM  
(Meet at 5:00 PM for dinner)  
Ron Winn's office  
2103 Grant Place  
Melbourne

## Fly Tying

Monday, September 19th, 6:15 PM  
(third Monday)  
Melbourne Public Library  
Fee Ave  
Melbourne

## Outing

No outing this month



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**Limit your kill, don't kill your limit !**

**Please practice Catch and Release.**