



March 2005

*Next Meeting:
March 22nd at Skillagallee.*

*March Membership Meeting:
"Dead Zones" of the Chesapeake Bay*

Date & Time: Tuesday, March 22, 2005 – 7:00 PM

Location: Skillagallee Restaurant
(west side of Glenside Ave, just north of Broad Street).
Come early and enjoy dinner from the menu.

Presentation:

John Paige Williams with the Chesapeake Bay Foundation and a staff biologist will present "Dead Zones in the Chesapeake Bay". Much of the Chesapeake Bay is under stress from many forms of pollution, grass bed defoliation and the like. This report will give us summary of what negative impacts are imposed on the Bay and what can be done to bring this important angling resource back to proper health.

Backlash

(Commentary from the Board of Directors)

Unpaid Membership Dues for 2005 Are Past Due – Entry Cards Will Be Voided

Unpaid Membership Dues for 2005 are now considered past due. Any members whose dues are now unpaid will have any entry cards for any catches made on or after March 1, 2005 voided. Their catches will not receive credit for individual catches, the 2005 intra club tournament or any other club related credit until the date the dues are paid. The rejection of entry cards also applies to spouse and youth entries made by members whose dues are in arrears. As of the March 8th Board of Director's Meeting, the dues of fifteen (15) members have not been received by the Club. Thanks to the ninety-six (96) members who have renewed in a timely manner.

The Rescheduled 2004 Angling Awards Banquet Was A Complete Success

The Awards Banquet for the 2004 Angling Year was a complete success. Due to the weather related cancellation of the Banquet in January, the Banquet was rescheduled to be the "program"

for the February 22, 2005 Membership Meeting held at the Skillagallee Restaurant. Approximately 70 members attended the Banquet and well-earned pewter ware was awarded to acknowledge noteworthy catches. Four items, held over from the cancelled Banquet, were raffled. Jim Dirks won the \$50 gift certificate redeemable at the Stony Point Shopping Center. Past president Fred Murray won a duffel stuffed with fishing gear and gadgets generously donated by Green Top Sporting Goods. David English was the winner of the shadow box of flies tied by Capt. Ronnie Sides and Stuart Lee held the lucky ticket for the shadow box of flies tied by Bill Gallash. Special thanks to Tony Horsley who crafted the two handsome shadow boxes. Thanks to all who bought chances for the raffle tickets? The Club realized about \$200 more than the normal amount garnered by the Club at the regular Awards Banquets. Congratulations to the award winners honored at the Awards Banquet. Catches thus far in the 2005 Angling Year have set some bars pretty high already.

Raffle, Raffle, Who Got The Gift Certificate Raffles?

The regular raffles of two gift certificates were not held at the February Membership Meeting. The leadership made this decision so that attention to be focused on the four raffle prizes noted above and that were held over from the postponed Awards Banquet. The gift certificate raffles will resume with the March Membership Meeting.

Member's Comments on Meeting at the Skillagallee Restaurant Needed

Moving the Monthly Membership Meetings to the Skillagallee Restaurant is not yet quite a done deal. The leadership needs know your thoughts on the Skillagallee being selected as the permanent meeting site. The subject of the relocation will be discussed at the March Membership Meeting. Please have your comments ready to pass along to during the open discussion. Don't forget that a tasty dinner and soothing beverages are available from the menu before the meeting. You can stay in your dinner seat for the rest of the evening and enjoy a drink or coffee during the meeting.

Scale Certification Continues at the March Membership Meeting

Weigh Master Larry Allen and the his two apprentii will be

Continued on page 2.

Backlash

(Continued from Page 1)

set up again this month to certify member's scales during the March Membership Meeting. Please present your scales in a Ziploc or similar bags with your name on a card inside the bag or written on the bag. Scales will be certified during the meeting and be ready for pick-up at the close of the meeting.

Dues Increase For 2006 Passed at February Membership Meeting

VAC members present at the February Membership Meeting qualified as a quorum and approved increases in annual dues, which will go into effect on December 1, 2005. Dues increased from \$50 to \$60 for members residing in Virginia. Annual dues for members who do not reside in Virginia increase from \$35 to \$40. The By-Laws of the Virginia Anglers Club will be changed to reflect this increase in dues. Thanks to all members who included an extra donation when they paid their 2005 dues. This generosity will help the Club expand its support of enhancements to the angling resource.

For the Leadership of the Virginia Anglers Club,

John Wetlaluffer, Sr.

For What It's Worth...

Stories and notes on fishing from our members

I've been fishing Trice's Lake at Lakeside Village in Cumberland County for about 25 year now with my best friend. My buddy has a cottage there and I frequently have the privilege of fishing the lake. It's a 165-acre private lake and has largemouth bass, bluegill and crappie. April has proven to be a consistently good month for bass and bluegill.

One Saturday morning in April 1992 I was fishing by myself at the lower end of the lake near a creek bed. Using a plastic worm I hooked and landed a 7 pounder. Not quite a citation ... but a big bass. I looked around and there was no one to show and tell. Everyone who was there that weekend had either slept in or gone looking for turkeys in the nearby State Park. I didn't even have a camera!

I released the fish, and have a great memory. The other guys at the cottage that weekend looked at me with doubt when I told them the fish story. The great thing is I know it's true. I still fish the lake frequently with my friend and we still talk about that bass.

Tight lines,

Quent Corbett

CATCHY COMMENTS

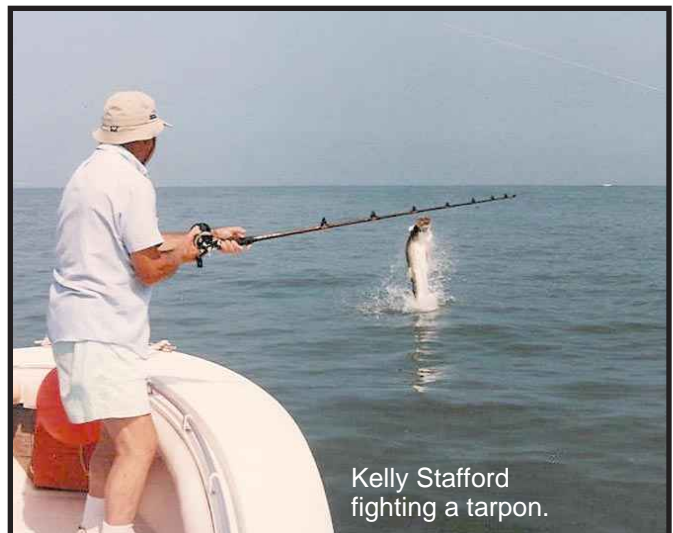
by Dennis Cline



So, you want the winter weather to go away? Or are you just happy to sit by the fire and watch someone else catch fish on ESPN or OLN? **Quentin Corbett** and **Bill DuVal** found a way to put our gnarly, nasty weather on the back burner. They call it Key West. Quentin found a smorgasbord of species that would chomp on jigs and live baits. In an action packed day, he landed cobia, cravelle, gag grouper, yellowtails and ladyfish. His 2-8 ladyfish on 8-spin is a new club record. Bill worked on Spanish mackerel on his trip, setting new club records on 8-spin (3-0) and 12-general (4-0).

Bill took advantage of some recent changes in our saltwater species list. If you look at the club record sheets in your new membership package or the Lunker List in this newsletter, you will see some open (blank) spaces just waiting for your name to be entered. New species eligible for club entries, awards and records include SPOT, GAG GROUPER, CERO MACKEREL, and RED SNAPPER. Also, old club records were retired for SPANISH MACKEREL because they were contaminated with cero and narrow-barred mackerel entries. The "Grouper, all" category was also retired and replaced with gag grouper and GROUPER, OTHER. That makes six new species categories you can target for club recognition.

A few hearty souls have taken advantage of the calm between the storms to fish the Chickahominy, Yarmouth Creek and East Lake. **Elly Robinson** released a 12-8 carp on 2-spin and a 1-0 yellow perch on 2-plug at Yarmouth. But Elly's best Yarmouth entry was his 29-4 blue cat on 2-spin that earned him 450 points! **Robbie Robinson** matched Elly's yellow perch and added a 0-14 white perch from the Chick. **Mike Cline** also released a 1-0 yellow perch on 2-spin on Yarmouth. **Tony Horsley** battled a 2-6 chain pickerel on 4-spin on the Chick. **Mickey Kodroff** tried some crappie fishing on East Lake, NC and entered a 1-0 on 2-spin.

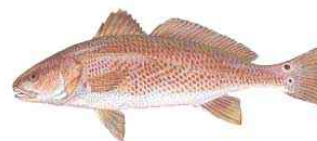


Kelly Stafford fighting a tarpon.

Virginia Anglers Club

VIRGINIA ANGLERS CLUB - 3/9/05

<u>SPECIES</u>	<u>ANGLER</u>	<u>WEIGHT</u>	<u>LN</u>	<u>DIV.</u>	<u>DATE</u>	<u>LOCATION</u>	<u>PTS</u>	<u>BAIT</u>
<u>2005 SPECIES LEADERS - SALTWATER</u>								
BASS, STRIPED	J.P. ROUNTREY	19-0	2	GEN	12/07/04	OREGON INLET, NC	380	EEL
BLUEFISH	S.C. LEE	14-0	16	FLY	12/06/04	OFF CURRITUCK, NC	155	DECEIVER
SEATROUT, SPOTTED	F. COUSINS	3-1	2	SPIN	01/16/05	ELIZABETH RIVER, VA	204	GRUB
<u>2005 SPECIES LEADERS - FRESHWATER</u>								
BOWFIN	E.S. ROBINSON	3-14	2	PLUG	02/05/05	YARMOUTH CREEK, VA	193	SILVER BUDDY
CARP	E.S. ROBINSON	12-8	2	SPIN	02/15/05	YARMOUTH CREEK, VA	390	POWER GRUB
CATFISH, BLUE	J. FARRELL	36-8	4	SPIN	01/02/05	JAMES RIVER, VA	486	PLAST. GRUB
CATFISH, FLATHEAD	F. MURRAY	21-8	4	FLY	01/09/05	JAMES RIVER, VA	455	HALF & HALF
CRAPPIE	ROB ROBINSON	1-6	2	SPIN	02/02/05	CHICKAHOMINY RIVER, VA	218	POWER GRUB
PERCH, WHITE	ROB ROBINSON	0-14	2	SPIN	02/16/05	CHICKAHOMINY RIVER, VA	230	GRUB
PERCH, YELLOW	E.S. ROBINSON	1-0	2	PLUG	02/15/05	YARMOUTH CREEK, VA	263	CRAZY BLADE
PICKEREL, CHAIN	F. COUSINS	3-5	2	SPIN	01/13/05	LEE HALL RESERVOIR, VA	331	GRUB
TROUT, RAINBOW	E.S. ROBINSON	6-8	2	FLY	01/07/05	JOHNS CREEK, VA	866	WOOLY BUG'R
<u>2005 DIVISION LEADERS - SALTWATER</u>								
STRIPED BASS	G.N. CARTER	16-0	8	FLY	12/30/04	DUCK, NC	266	CLOUSER
STRIPED BASS	J.P. ROUNTREY	19-0	2	GEN	12/07/04	OREGON INLET, NC	380	EEL
SEATROUT, SPOTTED	F. COUSINS	2-12	2	PLUG	01/16/05	ELIZABETH RIVER, VA	183	STRM WILDEYE
SEATROUT, SPOTTED	F. COUSINS	3-1	2	SPIN	01/16/05	ELIZABETH RIVER, VA	204	GRUB
STRIPED BASS	D. CLINE	36-0		SURF	12/12/04	MYRTLE ISLAND, VA	360	LIVE EEL
<u>2005 DIVISION LEADERS - FRESHWATER</u>								
TROUT, RAINBOW	E.S. ROBINSON	6-8	2	FLY	01/07/05	JOHNS CREEK, VA	866	WOOLY BUG'R
CATFISH, BLUE	D. CLINE	39-0	6	GEN	01/11/05	JAMES RIVER, VA	366	CUT SHAD
CATFISH, FLATHEAD	F. MURRAY	22-8	4	PLUG	01/02/05	JAMES RIVER, VA	381	SILVER BUDDY
CATFISH, BLUE	J. FARRELL	36-8	4	SPIN	01/02/05	JAMES RIVER, VA	486	PLAST. GRUB
<u>NEW CLUB RECORDS - SALTWATER</u>								
STRIPED BASS	S.C. LEE	25-8	16	FLY	12/06/04	OFF CURRITUCK, NC	255	DECEIVER
STRIPED BASS	J.P. ROUNTREY	19-0	2	GEN	12/07/04	OREGON INLET, NC	380	EEL
LADYFISH	Q. CORBETT	2-8	8	SPIN	2/15/05	KEY WEST, FL	166	JIG
MACKEREL, SPANISH	W.B. DUVAL	3-0	8	SPIN	2/23/05	KEY WEST, FL	136	BUCKTAIL
MACKEREL, SPANISH	W.B. DUVAL	4-0	12	GEN	2/23/05	KEY WEST, FL	114	BALLYHOO
<u>NEW CLUB RECORDS - FRESHWATER</u>								
CATFISH, BLUE	J. FARRELL	36-8	4	SPIN	01/02/05	JAMES RIVER, VA	486	PLAST. GRUB
CATFISH, FLATHEAD	F. MURRAY	21-8	4	FLY	01/09/05	JAMES RIVER, VA	455	HALF & HALF
CATFISH, FLATHEAD	F. MURRAY	22-8	4	PLUG	01/02/05	JAMES RIVER, VA	381	SILVER BUDDY
TROUT, RAINBOW	E.S. ROBINSON	6-8	2	FLY	01/07/05	JOHNS CREEK, VA	866	WOOLY BUG'R
TROUT, RAINBOW	D.N. NOLAND	7-13	4	FLY	01/07/05	JOHNS CREEK, VA	723	FLY
<u>2005 HIGHEST POINT NON-LOCAL CATCHES - SALTWATER</u>								
COBIA	Q. CORBETT	REL.	20	GEN	2/15/05	KEY WEST, FL	134	THREADFIN
CRAVALLE, JACK	Q. CORBETT	8-0	8	SPIN	2/15/05	KEY WEST, FL	114	JIG
LADYFISH	Q. CORBETT	2-8	8	SPIN	2/15/05	KEY WEST, FL	166	JIG
MACKEREL, SPANISH	W.B. DUVAL	3-0	8	SPIN	2/23/05	KEY WEST, FL	136	BUCKTAIL
<u>2004 HIGHEST POINT NON-LOCAL CATCHES - FRESHWATER</u> (no entries yet for 2005)								
<u>2005 TOP SPOUSE CATCHES - SALTWATER & FRESHWATER (LOCAL)</u> (no entries yet for 2005)								
<u>2005 YOUTH CATCHES - SALTWATER & FRESHWATER (LOCAL)</u> (no entries yet for 2005)								



C.V. KINNARD AWARD COMPETITION - 2004

<u>ANGLER</u>	<u>FIRSTS</u>	<u>SECONDS</u>	<u>THIRDS</u>	<u>PLACES</u>	<u>POINTS</u>	<u>AVERAGE</u>
ELLY ROBINSON	1	0	0	1	866	866
FRED COUSINS	0	1	0	1	866	866
BUDDY NOLAND	0	0	1	1	775	775
TOTALS	1	1	1	3	2507	836

The Luncker Club (heaviest fish)

VAC 2003 Angling Year Club Historical Record

Species	Angler	Weight	Angler	Weight
BASS, LARGEMOUTH	Dr. Mickey Kodroff	10-12		
BASS, ROCK & ROANOKE	Eric McDuffie	1-7		
BASS, SMALLMOUTH	Bob Shepherd	5-8		
BASS, STRIPED HY	Bill Ross	6-10		
BASS, STRIPED LL	Gary Anderson	23-6		
BASS, WHITE	John Wycoff	2-12		
BOWFIN	W.H. McCarthy	12-11		
CARP	Fred Cousins	25-8		
CATFISH, BLUE	Dennis Cline	55-0		
CATFISH, CHANNEL	Fred Murray	12-4		
CATFISH, FLATHEAD	Lynn Spurlin	27-8		
CATFISH, HISTORIC	D.N. Jones	22-12		
CRAPPIE, ALL	Gary Donahue	2-14		
GAR, ALL	Dick Goode	17-8		
MUSKELLUNGE, ALL	Bob Shepherd	28-7		
PERCH, WHITE	Eric McDuffie	1-7		
PERCH, YELLOW	Robbie Robinson	1-13		
PICKEREL, CHAIN	Reggie White	7-10		
PIKE, NORTHERN	L. Kesteloo	17-8		
SALMON, ATLANTIC	H.A. Claiborne	19-0		
SALMON, CHINOOK	Scott Johnston	34-0		
SALMON, COHO	P.W. Hughes	16-8		
SHAD, AMERICAN	P. Dasher	7-4		
SHAD, HICKORY	Dr. Mickey Kodroff	3-4		
SUNFISH, ALL	Roy Jones	2-4		
TROUT, BROOK	Joe Brooks	8-0		
TROUT, BROWN	Bill Barnett	28-0		
TROUT, CUTTHROAT	H.O. Mather	3-12		
TROUT, LAKE	Mark Sosin	30-0		
TROUT, RAINBOW	Danny Noland	7-13		
TROUT, STEELHEAD	Stamford Niou	15-0		
WALLEYE	Steve Luterek	9-0		
WARMOUTH	Lynn Spurlin	0-13		
AMBERJACK, GREATER	Bill Rewalt	91-2		
BARRACUDA, GREAT	Reggie White	48-0		
BASS, BLACK SEA	Jim Sheffield	7-4		
BASS, STRIPED	C.V. Kinnard	48-0		
BLUEFISH	Paul Richie	22-0		
BONEFISH	F.W. Lawrence	13-14		
COBIA	Bill DuVal	77-0		
CROAKER	Dr. Jim Wright	4-0		
DOLPHIN	A.M. McCarthy	60-0		
DRUM, BLACK	Robbie Robinson	82-8		
DRUM, RED	Dennis Cline	62-0		

VAC 2003 Angling Year Club Historical Record

Species	Angler	Weight	Angler	Weight
FLOUNDER, SUMMER	Pat Dudley	10-5		
GROUPER, GAG	none			
GROUPER, HISTORIC	Bill DuVal	63-8		
GROUPER, OTHER	none			
JACK, CRAVELLE	Quentin Corbett	8-0		
LADYFISH	Quentin Corbett	2-8		
MACKEREL, CREO				
MACKEREL, KING	Bill DuVal	62-0		
MACKEREL, SPANISH	Bill DuVal	4-0		
MACKEREL, SPANISH (HIST.)*	C.O. Mather	18-3*		
MARLIN, BLACK	F.D. Gottwald	1075-0		
MARLIN, BLUE ATL & PAC	Steve Hutchins	691-5		
MARLIN, STRIPED	C.O. Mather	266-0		
MARLIN, WHITE	C.O. Mather	113-7		
PERMIT	Bill DuVal	42-0		
POMPANO, AFRICAN	Ely Robinson	33-0		
POMPANO, COMMON	Parks Rountrey	1-8		
ROOSTERFISH	W.C. Askew	50-8		
RUNNER, RAINBOW	Pat Quisenberry	20-5		
SAILFISH, ATLANTIC	C.O. Mather	86-3		
SAILFISH, PACIFIC	J.F. McNeace	140-0		
SEATROUT, SPOTTED	Virgil Hughes	11-14		
SHARK, MAKO	C.O. Mather	486-0		
SHARK, OTHER	L. Kesteloo	500-0		
SHEEPSHEAD	Dr. Jim Wright	14-0		
SNAPPER, CUBERA	Bill DuVal	48-8		
SNAPPER, MUTTON	Herb Ratner	18-12		
SNAPPER, OTHER	Bill DuVal	32-0		
SNAPPER, RED	none			
SNOOK	Dick Stephenson	29-0		
SPADEFISH	Ely Robinson	11-15		
SPOT	none			
SWORDFISH	Stuart Lee	363-0		
TARPON	E. Dunham	120-0		
TAUTOG	J.C. Wright	15-8		
TRIGGERFISH	Bill DuVal	10-0		
TUNA, BIGEYE ATL	F.C. Willson	215-0		
TUNA, BLACKFIN	Ronnie Hogge	38-0		
TUNA, BLUEFIN	R.L. Gilliam	1080-0		
TUNA, SKIPJACK	Bill DuVal	18-0		
TUNA, YELLOWFIN	Bill Rewalt	231-0		
TUNNY, LITTLE	Buddy Noland	19-8		
WAHOO	Bill DuVal	98-0		
WEAKFISH	Bill Gallasch	15-6		

* Includes Cero and Narrow Barred Mackerels

Meet the "Experts"

Kelly Stafford, Danny Noland, Gary Donahue and Dennis Cline are the latest crop of "experts" who were honored at the awards banquet. Kelly earned club expert ratings in the Spin, Plug, Fly and General divisions and became the club's twenty-first Saltwater Expert. Danny earned the Fly Division Expert rating. Gary and Dennis earned the Freshwater Expert rating. They join a distinguished list of club members who have completed part of the journey to Master Angler status. This list and the requirements for each rating are included in your new membership package, which you should have received this month.

Kelly Stafford has a long list of excellent catches, which qualified him for his expert ratings. Here is a rundown of his accomplishments: Plug Division – 3310 points; 45-0 amberjack on 12, 57-0 black drum and 19-0 African pompano on 8, 14-8 little tunny on 4, 9-0 largemouth bass on 6, 5-4 chain pickerel, 4-14 smallmouth bass and 4-12 American shad on 4. Spin Division – 2813 points; 32-0 barracuda on 8, 23-8 striped bass on 6, 5-0 spotted seatrout on 2, 15-12 little tunny on 4, 4-12 largemouth bass, 5-1 American shad, 2-10 hickory shad and 1-3 yellow perch on 2. General Division – 2238 points; 34-0 cobia on 8, 2-6 croaker on 2, white marlin and tarpon releases on 20, 19-0 flathead catfish on 6, 9-10 bowfin, 10-2 gar, and 6-8 American shad on 2. Fly Division – 2638 points; 27-0 amberjack on 12 tippet, 14-0 little tunny and cobia release on 8 tippet, 1-8 croaker, 3-15 largemouth bass, 3-4 American shad, 2-12 hickory shad and 3-6 brown trout on 2 tippet. In addition to several of the above listed fish, Kelly's Saltwater Expert rating included entries for a 32-4 king mackerel on 8 general, a 14-4 cravelle jack on 12 general, a 21-3 bluefish on 8 plug and a 45-0 red drum and 16-8 little tunny from the surf. WOW!! Congratulations Kelly!

Danny Noland compiled 2630 points to earn his Fly Division Expert rating. His saltwater entries were: 14-0 striped bass and 8-6 spadefish on 8, 11-8 bluefish on 6, and 2-8 triggerfish on 4. Danny's freshwater entries were: 28-0 Chinook salmon and 10-0 brown trout on 8 tippet and 6-12 rainbow trout and 2-6 brook trout on 4 tippet. Congratulations Danny!

Gary Donahue earned the club's fifteenth Freshwater Expert award in May. His entries were listed in the May 2004 newsletter.

Dennis Cline became the club's sixteenth Freshwater Expert. His list of entries included a 3-12 smallmouth bass on 4 plug, a 9-2 bowfin on 2 general, 4-3 American shad on 2 fly and 2 plug, a 11-14 landlocked striped bass on 2 spin, a 7-2 northern pike on 2 general, a 2-10 chain pickerel and a 2-6 hickory shad on 2 fly, a 1-5 yellow perch and a 5-0 largemouth bass on 2 spin, an 8-2 muskellunge on 12 plug, a 55-0 blue catfish on 4 general and a 12-8 gar on 2 general. Congratulations Dennis!

Upcoming Angling Events

Virginia Waters Gar

Sat-Sun, May 7 & 8, 2005

Location: ALL VIRGINIA WATERS

Time: Sunrise May 7th to Sunset May 8th

Awards: 1 cup highest point Gar (100 pts. min)
1 cup highest point gar on Fly (100pts.min)

Report in: Call chairman within 5 Days.
Chairman: Bob Brown - Cell: 804-833-2786
Home: 804-746-1934

James River Hickory Shad/White Perch

Sat-Sun, April 9 & 10, 2005

Location: James River: Ancarrow's Landing

Time: Sunrise April 9th to Sunset April 10

Awards: 1 cup highest point Hickory Shad,
(100 pts. min.)
1 cup highest point Hickory Shad on Fly,
(100 pts. min.)
1 cup highest point White Perch,
(100 pts. min.)

Weather Date: APRIL 16 & 17, 2005
CHAIRMAN WILL MAKE THE WEATHER
DATE CALL....

Comments: ***** NOTE: NO HICKORY SHAD CAN
BE COUNTED WHEN CAUGHT ABOVE
THE 14 ST. BRIDGE *****

Report in: Call chairman within 5 Days.
Chairman: Bob Brown - Cell: 804-833-2786
Home: 804-746-1934

FOR SALE

FISHING BOATS AND ACCESSORIES

For Sale: Matched set of four (4) trolling rods . Penn International reels. 12 lb., 20 lb., 30 lb., and 50 lb. \$850. Contact Jim Dirks 784-3842

For Sale: 1997 150 horsepower Saltwater Yamaha engine. \$3100. Contact Stuart Lee (O) 788-5645 (H) 541-1833

SO, YOU WANT TO BE ANGLER OF THE YEAR?

You never know what it will take to win AOY honors in a given year. Sometimes it's easy, and, sometimes it's really hard. Let me explain. To win, you must earn the most cumulative points for five different species, each caught in separate angling divisions in saltwater or four separate divisions with one duplication of division in freshwater. The easy way, if you can call it that, is to catch a gazillion point fish in any division and coast to victory. Sometimes that happens. The harder route is to submit a list of moderate to good entries and hope no one else catches a gazillion point fish. But sometimes, even that gazillion point fish isn't a guarantee.

In 2002, Fred Murray coasted into the last month of the angling year with a 1200-point blue catfish in his pocket. It was the highest point entry in club history! Was Fred a shoe-in for freshwater AOY? You would think so considering he also had a 537 point flathead to boot. No way, Jose said Bob Shepherd! Seems that Bob had a 600 and a pair of 516's in his pocket. On the next to last day of the angling year, Fred had to catch a 287 point chain pickerel to win by 271 points! Fred had to have the most points in club history (2524) to win the freshwater AOY that memorable year. The closest freshwater AOY margin was 14 points in 1995 when Fred Cousins edged out Dennis Cline.

This past year was a different story. There was only one application for the award in 2005. Dennis Cline captured the title with a paltry 1562 points, replacing Glenn Carter with low point honors! He did it with a 339 point hickory shad on fly, a 333 point largemouth on spin, a 335 point American shad on plug, a 395 point landlocked striper on spin and a measly 160 point chain pickerel on general!

Saltwater AOY is distinguished with a fifth division, surf, which proves to be a high hurdle for some members. The point range for winners in this competition has been 1124 to 2264. The closest race was in 1997, when Elly Robinson won by 132 points

over Dennis Cline. That year, Elly had two big point fish (725 and 608), while Dennis had one (533). But, Elly needed two November entries (108 and 221) to seal the win. His 2024 points that year was second highest under the current AOY format.

This past year, as in freshwater, there was only one application. Dennis Cline captured Saltwater AOY with a respectable 1718 points. His entries were: a 333 point little tunny on fly, a 187 point spotted seatrout on spin, a 340 point cobia on plug, a 487 point flounder on general and a 371 point red drum in the surf.

To win the Joe Brooks AOY Award, you simply add freshwater and saltwater AOY points. The range of winning scores is from Bob Shepherd's low of 2348 in 2003 to Elly Robinson's high, under the current 10 fish format, of 3917 in 1996. The closest contest was in 1999, when Glenn Carter edged out Parks Rountrey by 15 points! Other close races were in 2003 (85 point margin) and 2002 (118 point margin). With only one application this year, the winner was Dennis Cline with 3280 points.

Here are some tips to help you out. For freshwater, the key is to make the most of the winter and spring seasons, in other words get an early start. Many of those gazillion pointers come in cold weather. Keep your eye on the newsletter to see what you are up against. Study past newsletters to get the when and where of good entries by species. Don't give up. There are still ways to pull a rabbit out of the hat in the fall if you think you are behind in points. Saltwater presents unique problems. There, the weather can really play havoc with a strategy. You will need to plan ahead for each entry. Get that surf entry out of the way early. The best bets are red drum in the spring and stripers in November and December, but don't forget speckles on the outer banks in the fall. Plan for your fly entry. Good bets are croaker, speckles and little tunny. Be prepared for anything. Carry a variety of tackle on your trips.

Member Bio

Member: W.Scott Johnston **Age:** 69

Spouse: Joan

Address: 3544 Falstone Rd

Home Phone: 804-743-7809

Work Phone: I don't work

Cell Phone: 804-743-7809

E-mail: w.scott1@comcast.net

Background: Retired DuPont Chem Eng.

Boats: 18' Egret Flats Boat.

Specialty: Fly Fishing.

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**NEXT MEETING:
Tuesday, March 22nd at Skillogalee Restaurant**

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