

Happy
New Year!



January 2014

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**NEXT MEMBERSHIP MEETING –
TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 25, 2013 7:00 pm**
(Scale Certification)

**Virginia Department of Game and Inland Fisheries
4010 West Broad Street, Richmond, VA
(Eastern-Most Building – Enter At Rear –
DGIF BOD Meeting Room)**

No Membership Meeting in December or January.

ANNUAL AWARDS BANQUET JANUARY 25, 2013

We are back at Sam Miller's Restaurant again this year. The price is still \$35 per person. Complete details from Banquet Chairman Gary Green appear on page 3 of this Angler.



BACKLASH

*Commentary from the
Board of Directors*
-By John Wetlaufer, Sr.

CAMPBELL SWEEPS FIRST TOURNAMENT OF THE 2014 ANGLING YEAR

Andy Campbell swept all the awards in the VAC Striper VA-NC Tournament held Dec. 14-31, 2013. His 34 lb. - 6 oz. striper on 20 lb. fly caught on December 19, 2013 took first place. Pictures of Andy's catch, the only fish entered in the tournament are found on page 7 of this issue of The Angler.

2014 MEMBERSHIP DUES ARE DUE

(\$60 IN-STATE \$40 OUT OF STATE)

PLEASE PAY YOUR DUES PROMPTLY!

(How To Pay? See Page 3)



GUEST AUTHOR OF THE MONTH
LEE ROTHGEB

The Angler is always looking for fishing stories, believable or not, written by VAC members. If you have a write up of a special angling adventure please send it to John Wetlaufer, Sr. (jlwsr@rcn.com), MSWord format preferred (.doc). John will see that the story is included in the next issue of The Angler.

In this month's "The Tailgate", Guest Author, Lee Rothgeb, shares the story (with pictures to back it up) of his "BEST DAY OF FISHING EVER". Comments may be cast to Lee at Garbakk1021@aol.com.

GENERAL ASSEMBLY CONVIENS
ON JANUARY 8, 2014

There is a lot of legislative action scheduled this year on issues that may affect you as an outdoor enthusiast. You can view bills related to the mission of Department of Game and Inland Fisheries at <http://www.dgif.virginia.gov/legislation/>. Remember, the most appropriate way to express your opinion about these bills, or any other legislation, is through your local delegate and/or senator. For more information about your legislators and how to contact them, visit the Virginia General Assembly website. You may also contact the Virginia General Assembly's Constituent Viewpoint Comment line toll-free at 1-800-889-0229 (804) 698-1990 in Richmond.

WISDOM FROM THE TACKLE BOX

It has always been my private conviction that any man who pits his intelligence against a fish and loses has it coming. ~John Steinbeck

For The Leadership Team
John Wetlaufer, Sr., Secretary



Good advice to all anglers

HELP KEEP ANGLING LEGAL – REPORT VIOLATIONS

Freshwater

If you suspect or witness an angling or hunting violation, report it to
VADGIF Wildlife Crimeline at 1-800-237-5712.

Saltwater

If you have a need to report to the VA Marine Resources Commission any emergency,
boating accident or other violation, call the Marine Police Dispatch Center
toll free at 1-800-541-4646



PLEASE PAY YOUR 2014 DUES PROMPTLY

Your annual dues are due as of December 1, 2013. Members living in Virginia owe \$60 and all other paying Members owe \$40. No dues are collected from Life, Honorary and Complimentary Members (receive The Angler but are not VAC members). Dues can be paid by cash or check presented to Treasurer Bobby Broughton. Payment by PayPal can be made in the Member's Area of the VAC website. Payment by mail can be made at:

Virginia Anglers Club
P. O. Box 31494
Richmond, VA 23294-1494

VAC 2014 TOURNAMENT SCHEDULE

VAC Tournaments – 2014
8 Events

(See the December issue of The Angler for a complete list)

ANNUAL AWARDS BANQUET – JANUARY 25, 2014

**VAC ANNUAL BANQUET TO BE HELD AT
SAM MILLER'S RESTAURANT**

**1210 East Cary Street, Richmond, VA 23219-4116
(804) 644-5465**

Date: Saturday, January 25, 2013
Times: Cash Bar Opens at 5:30 PM
Sit Down Dinner by 7:00 PM
Cost: Thirty-five dollars per person (\$35.00)
(See "How to Pay" below)

[Call Gary Green, 804-955-9290, for last-minute reservation help]



SCALE CERTIFICATION STARTS AT FEBRUARY MEMBERSHIP MEETING

Scale certification will be offered for the first time at the February 25th VAC Membership Meeting, the first Membership Meeting of 2014. Please check out the following hints to make the Weigh Masters' job as easy as it can be.

Remember the following scale preparation pointers:

- Be sure your scales are operating freely and free of rust.
- Clean the outside of the barrel so certification stickers will adhere
- Gather your scales together in one or two Zip Lock type bags.
- Write your name on the outside of the bag.
- Leave your bagged scales on the certification team's table.

COMING OUTDOOR SHOWS OF INTEREST TO ANGLERS

- February 15-16 10th Annual Orange County Sportsman Expo, Orange County High School Hornets Sports Center, Orange
- February 21-23, 27th Western Virginia Sports Show, Augusta Expoland, Fishersville
- March 1, Rapidan Chapter Trout Unlimited Fishing Show Fauquier County Fairgrounds Warrenton. For info Chuck Hoysa 540-222-1728 email: choysa1@comcast.net
- March 15 Augusta County Fishin Expo Augusta Expoland- Fishersville

2014 FRESHWATER FISHING IN VIRGINIA BOOKS NOW AVAILABLE

The new 2014 Freshwater Fishing in Virginia (Fishing Regulations) book has been published and a copy can be obtained at the upcoming fishing and hunting shows, all license agents and Department offices. This publication not only contains the fishing regulations, but an extensive 'Let's Go Fishing' section, with information about major sport fish, public fishing lakes, major fishing rivers, and the trout stocking program. Also, you can find information about fish citations, state records, angling education programs, exotic species, and more." The Freshwater Fishing Regulations section, including the complete Trout Fishing Guide, on the DGIF website have also been updated for 2014.



“The Tailgate” – Member Stories

BEST DAY OF FISHING EVER

By Lee Rothgeb

Before I get into this, bear in mind I am no Shakespeare or Mark Twain. I wanted to share this with the club so hopefully it is not too boring. My fishing “career” this year took a sudden turn for the worse when I had to have surgery on one of my feet. The incision was large and went in deep and was going to take some time to heal. Imagine my dismay when the doc told me that I could not get into any body of water for a minimum of probably a month to two. This was the middle of the summer when this happened. Due to some complications with the wound not healing properly it did not fully close and completely heal for almost 4 months. My summer of wading the James for catfish was over. I could not even chance getting in a jon boat for fear water would get into my shoes and cause an infection. I was done. Imagine my glee and surprise when I received the unexpected gift of a fishing trip with some friends two weeks before Christmas. Santa had come early for me! With my foot back to normal I was ready to go.

My day started out on Sunday December 15. I was fearful that the rain we had gotten the night before was going to ruin the fishing. In addition, my friends were late meeting me as one had overslept so this further added to the anxiety. We dropped the boats in at Jordan Point, one of my favorite catfish spots and headed out for bait. Catching the gizzard shad only took about 30 minutes and I was getting antsy as I wanted to get the poles in the water. We found a good spot downriver and that’s when the fun began.

We dropped 10 rods off the back of the boat and almost immediately we got a hit. I only needed one more Citation sized Blue catfish to earn my DGIF Expert Angler rating for that species (10 citations are required for the rating). I took the first pull down. In the boat came a 30 pound Blue. I had my rating which I had been chasing for several years now. The Cheshire cat couldn’t have made a bigger grin than what I had at that moment. Then the rods started doing a dance. One fish, two fish, three fish....and more. Of the next five fish caught in that spot 3 registered as Citation size....one by weight and two by length. But it was short lived....we had to pull out because the starter on the other boat would not turn over so we had to go to the rescue.

After getting the other boat going we headed back to another spot. The first toss over the back of the boat did not even hit the river bottom before a 42 pound Blue hit and was hooked. We fished that spot a little longer then headed on to another hole.



This new hole we sat up on was an instant hit so to speak. We could not even get more than one pole in before it was getting hit...the other poles just sat silent for a while. These fish were vicious, hitting the bait as soon as it went in the water. I had the joy of fighting a 53 pound Blue that wrapped the line on a channel marker. I did not think I would get him in but I did. It took every ounce of finesse I could muster to get him out of that marker but out he came. As soon as he was boated and we were weighing him, another pole went down. Then another. Then another. We caught a number of fish off this spot...most in the 20 pound range but you wouldn't have known it while they were under the water. By now my arms and back were burning and yet more pain and joy was to come.

We took a lunch break and then headed over to another spot. We sat here for about 20 minutes before the first pole took a dive. I got on it and the fight was on. Ten minutes and one severe back ache later I had a 61 pound Blue in the boat. This would be one of two 61 pounders I caught that day. The day went on into the late afternoon with more huge Blue cats getting in the boat. At the end of the day I had caught 12 Citation sized Blue catfish. I laughed at myself as I had been chasing the Expert Angler rating for about 4 years now and had essentially "doubled" it in one day. This was without a doubt the best day of cat fishing I have ever had on any river.





TOURNAMENT NEWS

BY LEE ROTHGEB

NEXT TOURNAMENT

VIRGINIA YELLOW PERCH - MARCH 8-9 (BLOW DATES MARCH 15-16)



Andrew Campbell's tournament winning 34 lb. - 6 oz. striper on 20 lb. fly

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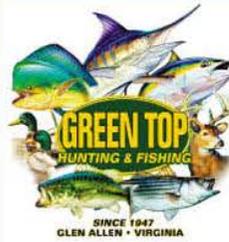
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Design and Layout: Rob Choi

NEXT MEETING:
Tuesday, February 25, 2014 at DGF Headquarters

