

Fall Fishing
is here!



September 2015

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**NEXT MEMBERSHIP MEETING –
TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 22, 2015 7:00 pm**

-----NEW LOCATION!!!-----

**VDGIF NEW HEADQUARTERS BUILDING
7870 Villa Park Drive**

(Enter thru the door to the left of the main entrance)



BACKLASH

*Commentary from the
Board of Directors*

-By John Wetlaufer, Sr.

SEPTEMBER AND OCTOBER PROGRAMS A FLY FISHING SYMPOSIUM

Program Chairman Art Conway has rounded up two speakers, one of each who will present at the September and October Membership Meeting. Both presentations will be devoted to angling in Appalachian trout streams in the Commonwealth with emphasis on the South River. In September, the VAC will welcome guide Tommy Lawhorne who will present the guide's view of the South River. In October, VDGIF Fisheries' Biologist Steve Reeser will discuss biological aspect of the Appalachian trout streams with emphasis on the effect of acid rain on the St. Mary's River and its ability to, so far, to accommodate this intrusion.

AUGUST MEMBERSHIP MEETING PROGRAM REPORT "ART'S SUMMER ARSENAL FOR THE CHICKAHOMINY LAKE"



VAC Member Capt. Art Conway from Conway's River Rat Guide Service presented a very factual and nicely illustrated program that covered summer season fishing in the Chickahominy Lake". Thanks, Art, for the information you shared and the time you spent preparing this wonderful program.



SEPTEMBER PROGRAM – TROUT GUIDE TOMMY LAWHORNE



Tommy Lawhorne, fly fishing guide and co-owner with Kevin Little, of the South River Fly Shop in Waynesboro, VA, will share with us his knowledge of fly fishing in general and particularly, fly fishing the South River. See page 8 of this issue for contact information for the South River Fly Shop and some of the fly tying classes they are holding in October.

South River Fly Shop co-owners Tommy Lawhorne and Kevin Little met while fly fishing the South River in downtown Waynesboro in 2001. Over the following 10 years they dreamed of opening a fly shop on Main Street and had many long conversations about just what they wanted the store to be. Tommy and Kevin wanted a comfortable atmosphere with products and services that focused on fly-fishing. In their opinion, too many fly shops had become high-end clothing stores and did not have the items that fly fishers and fly tiers needed. The South River Fly Shop is the culmination of that dream. A fly shop with a country store atmosphere and gear to suite every level of interest in fly-fishing and fly tying.

Tommy Lawhorne grew up in nearby Nelson County and moved to Waynesboro in 1992. He grew up fishing Stony Creek, Tye River, Rockfish River, and the Moormans River. He began guiding and teaching fly fishing and fly tying in 1990 while working at Stoney Creek Tackle Company at Wintergreen and then later for Hassett's Outdoors in Waynesboro. Tommy has spent over 20 years learning the trout and smallmouth bass waters of Virginia and loves to share that knowledge with other fly fishers.

Having a fly fishing program near the beginning cooler weather may seem a little out of place seasonally speaking. Tommy's program is spot-on (no pun intended) as a "how to" meeting those Members of the Virginia Anglers Club planning to participate on October 24 in the "Trout Fishing the South River in Waynesboro, VA" Expedition being led by VAC Member Eric Webster (see details below – "Next VAC Expedition...").

Going further into the colder weather, you might not think of December & January as not being fly fishing times. Richmond Times Dispatch Outdoor Editor Tee Clarkson shared his comments on winter fly fishing the South River in an article at the below link. Maybe a look at Tee's article might get your curiosity up a little about winter fly fishing. Here is the link:

<http://www.richmondoutside.com/2014/01/road-trip-south-river-trout-just-a-mountain-pass-away/>

SEPTEMBER TOURNAMENT - CATFISH TOURNAMENT RESULTS FLATHEADS & BLUES

(September 12 & 13, 2015)
(No Entries Received)

NEXT VAC EXPEDITION – TROUT FISHING THE SOUTH RIVER IN WAYNESBORO, VA

Web Assistant Eric Webster will lead a day of trout fishing on the South River in Waynesboro on Saturday, October 24th. The fishing times will be from 10:00 AM thru 3:00 PM. Eric Plans to have all participants gather at the Parham Road Park and Ride (North Parham Road and Fordson Drive – Just South of Exit 181 on I-64) at 8:30 AM and car pool up to Waynesboro.

OFFICER NOMINATION TIME IS COMING

The VAC Nominating Committee for 2015 leadership positions for the Virginia Anglers would like members to start thinking about VAC Members who would be good candidates for the Committee to consider for the 2015 slate of officers. Members can nominate other members or themselves for voted positions of Directors and Officers of the VAC or ask to be considered for appointment as Committee Chairman. Please pass you're nominations along to President Bob Brown (mrbbrownjr@comcast.net).

OUR LARGEST MONEY RAISING PROJECT NEEDS YOUR HELP PLEASE OFFER CALENDARS TO FRIENDS AND COLLEAGUES AT WORK

Sales of the VDGF 2016 Outdoor Calendars are our major fund raising activity. Our price of \$8.00 each which is \$2.00 cheaper than their cost at local tackle shops. Our sales this year are lagging previous years, so you help is needed to sell calendars. We have paid for 250 calendars, so we are committed to sell this many calendars this year.

Special Activities Chairman Don West will have 2016 DGIF Outdoor Calendars for our annual calendar sale at the September Membership Meeting. The selling price remains the same as last year... \$8.00 each. Please have your customers lined up and see Don for however many calendars you need. Generous terms are available for multiple copy "orders". Pay by cash, check or word of honor.

HOME CALENDAR DELIVERY AVAILABLE!

Don West will personally deliver to you any number of 2016 DGIF Outdoor Calendars you will need for your sales. Contact Don at 897-8723 (H), (804) - 572-8268(C) or donaldleewest@gmail.com, and let him know how many copies of the calendars you will need. Don will gladly deliver the number of calendars you need to your home, your business or where ever else it will be convenient for you to pick calendars up from Don.

READ A REAL FISHING STORY

116 LB. BLUE CAT CAUGHT IN KERR/BUGGS ISLAND LAKE

How about a real fishing tale for a slow evening's read. Check out page 9 of this issue of The Angler for a first person story by Tim Richardson who hooked and brought this fish to gaff. There are pictures of this heavy-weight included.

ATTENTION NEW MEMBERS - SCALE CERTIFICATION AVAILABLE

Scale certifications will be by appointment only. To request an appointment for scale certification, please contact:

Ryan Noland at ryan.n.noland@usa.dupont.com or at (804)-658-1955 (Home) or at (894)-896-4178 (Cell)

Danny Noland at danny.n.noland@usa.dupont.com or at (804)-858-0650 (Home) or at (804)-383-3736 (Office)



Paul Krawiec: Paul is a retired Army officer who served in the Gulf War and now is serving as the Chief of Staff at the U. S. Army's Training and Doctrine Command at Fort Eustis, VA. He, his wife Petra and son "CJ" (a candidate for Membership in the VAC) live in Providence Forge, VA. Paul is fairly new to Kayak fishing having started that type of angling two years ago. His angling time is spent on salt water. Paul also devotes a good bit of time as Scoutmaster of the kayak savvy Boy Scout Troop 815 of New Kent, VA. Paul want to share his current angling knowhow and new angling knowledge gained as a Member of the VAC with the members of his Boy Scout Troop. Paul included in his Membership Application a nice selection of salt water fish caught. His best catch to date is a 42 lb. rockfish. His troop is ready to join any VAC Expedition that involves fishing from kayaks.



Ned Monroe: Ned retired from Motorola as an engineering group leader. Ned and his wife, Betsy, live in the Winterpock Area of Chesterfield County and have a second home in Mathews County. Ned's preference is fishing in salt water. He fishes mostly in the middle bay from the cut channel to Cape Charles from his 20 foot Grady White which is kept at Gwynns Island. He fishes the more secluded waters of Mobjack Bay and the East, North and Ware Rivers in his 17 foot Carolina Skiff. His favorite hours on the water are spent teaching his grandson (pictured on the right) how to fish while having fun and being safe on the water.



Max Moran: Max is quite the talented young angler and took two of the three 1st places in the casting contests held as part of the VAC Fish Fry in April at the Maymont Nature Center. He is 16 years old and a high school student. "Max" has been fishing as far back as he can remember and received a junior angler award at age 8. His angling is done mostly in fresh water, but he has at least one snook catch. His best remembered catch is a 47 lb. citation blue catfish. His favorite angling pastimes are fly fishing and fishing from his kayak, a Hobie 14 foot long Pro Angler (see illustration – page 7.. "Max" brought to the attention of the Board of Directors of the Virginia Anglers Club that there were young anglers that were totally qualified for VAC Membership but were excluded by the membership age threshold of 18 years. The Board of Directors quickly voted to remove the age restriction. "Max" was elected to membership on June 22, 2015 as the youngest member at admission in the 64 year history of the club.



CJ Krawiec: "CJ" is now a second generation member of the Virginia Anglers Club, joining his father, Paul Krawiec, also a New Member of the VAC. He lives in Providence Forge with his parents and is a 15 year old high school student attending New Kent High School. He is a Boy Scout Leader in the troop of which his father is Scout Master. During the past five years, "CJ"'s has caught a nice balance of fresh and salt water fish including rainbow trout, SM and LM bass, rockfish and red drum. "CJ" enjoys tying flies (they work for him, too) and fishes almost exclusively out of a kayak. "CJ" is a true example of young angler totally qualified for Membership in the VAC.



Tyler Shands: Tyler Shands is a practicing attorney and lives with his wife, Chris, in Henrico County. He is the father of three "mostly grown" daughters. Tyler has not problem being excused to fish, because, he reports, his artist wife is more creative when he is out of the house. His angling interests are varied and his preference is using ultra light tackle (a good fish with the VAC) in fresh water at any time of the year. Tyler fishes small streams, river, and ponds and enjoys float trips. He has done some fly fishing, a skill he wants to hone. He has also dabbled in fly tying and wants to improve his technique. Tyler has three kayaks and a canoe from which he fishes. He is also a wade angler. It takes very little to convince Tyler that today is a good day to fish.





JAMES RIVER WADE FISHING EXPEDITION REPORT

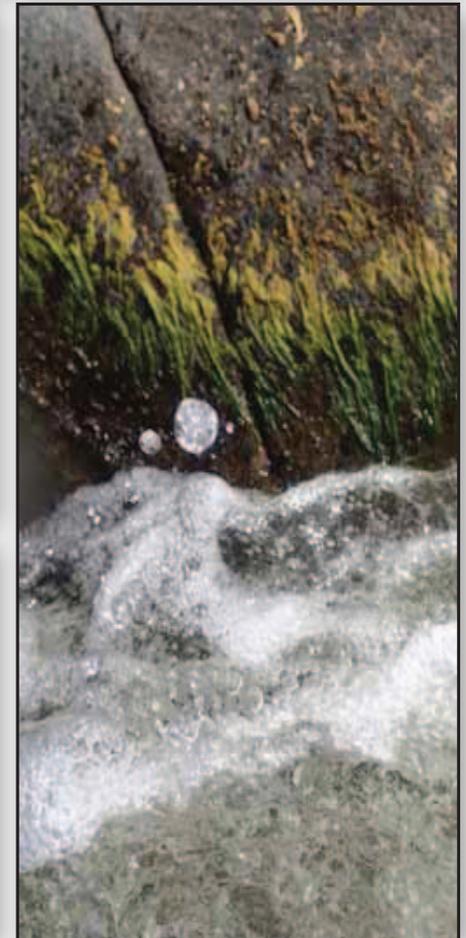
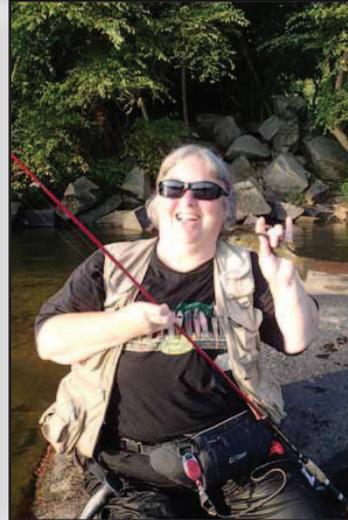
Wade Fishing at Pony Pasture on the James River

(By Mike Ostrander, Expedition Leader)

On Saturday morning, August 29, around 6:45am, Virginia Anglers Club members and friends began to gather in the Pony Pasture parking lot for a morning of fishing the shallows of the James River. Ten people participated in the fishing. Afterwards, the group was joined by a couple of additional VAC members, who didn't fish the event, at a local restaurant for a great lunch.

Overall, the day was a success as all in attendance had fun, caught fish on fly and spin, and enjoyed the banter around a couple of tables during a fine meal. Smallmouth bass, redbreasted sunfish, bluegill and suckers were caught, along with a couple rock bass and striped bass. I don't think there were any citation fish caught but there sure were some citation memories.

After fishing with the group, I soon began to look forward to the next VAC Expedition on Saturday, October 24, which will be a trout fishing trip on the South River in Waynesboro, Virginia led by Eric Webster. This is sure to be a fun outing with the fishing and fellowship to be had. Interested parties should begin to inquire with Eric, who can be reached at the following email address: mtn_trout@hotmail.com.





A GREAT DAY OF DRUM FISHING IN THE PAMLICO RIVER

(Information and photos submitted by Jim Sheffield)

Virginia Anglers Club Members Fred Cousins, Mickey Kodroff and Jim Sheffield spend a day fishing in the Pamlico River with Capt. Richard Andrews, owner of the Tar-Pam Guide Service. Capt. Andrews operated out of Bath, NC. on the Pamlico River. The catch they report is 13 red drum releases, 3 large skate released and three large sharks cut off to save fingers. These drum enter the Pamlico River in August and September for their annual spawning ritual.

If you are interested in contacting Capt. Andrews, you can reach him at the Tar-Pam Guide Service at 252-945-9715, richard@tarpamguide.com or www.tarpamguide.com.

Follow Tar-Pam Guide Service on Facebook:
<https://www.facebook.com/tarpamguide?ref=ts&fref=ts>

Jim sent along the following images of these successful anglers and one of red drum they caught.



WISDOM FROM THE TACKLE BOX

You must lose a fly to catch a trout. ~George Herbert

For The Leadership Team,
John Wetlaufer, Sr.
Membership Chairman

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

“Catchy Comments”

By Stuart Lee



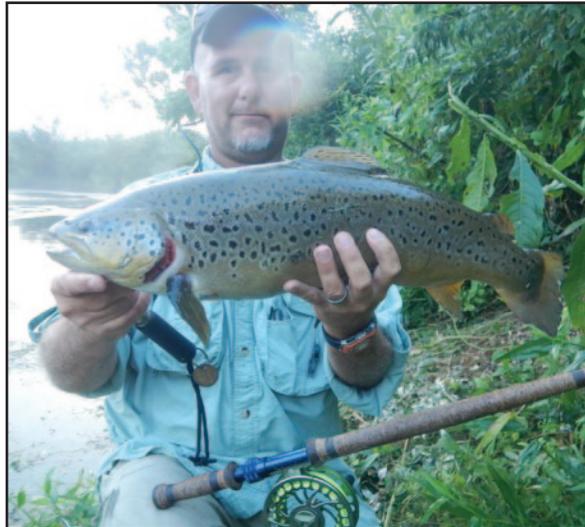
Members have entered some very nice catches in the past month in both fresh and salt waters. Andy Campbell ventured north to the St. Lawrence River for some smallmouth bass fishing and entered two very nice fish, a 4 lb. 8 oz. fish on 12 Fly, and a 5 lb. fish on 6 Fly, both of which are new club records. Fred Cousins fished the Pamlico Sound in North Carolina and caught a 45 lb. red drum while bait fishing with 12 lb. line.

I recently returned from a northern pike trip to the Yukon River drainage in Alaska which was very nice. I knew nothing about pike, having never caught one, and learned some things about them during my visit. The first few days were rainy and windy with low barometric pressure; we caught many pike but few of the larger ones. Our outfitter only keeps count of fish over 40 inches. Apparently during periods of low pressure, the bigger fish lie on the bottom and do not actively feed. As our weather improved, we began to catch some better fish. The larger fish seem to bunch up and in these places there are few, if any, smaller fish. The pike seem to use their lateral line to track their prey more so than other fish. Some of the strikes were unbelievable and most were visible. My partner and I had a very good day on the last day, catching 10 fish over 40 inches. My largest fish was 45 inches, but there was a 50 inch fish taken in our group, which is truly a fish of a lifetime.

There were six in our group, and I am sure we caught over 600 pike in our five days fishing. We all used fly tackle, 10 weight rods, floating lines and large flies that really pushed water. Bunny Strips and big 12-15 inch streamers (black and red and red and white) made out of yak hair were the big producers.

While the fishing was good, the wildlife viewing was better. We saw moose, black bear, wolf, otter, beaver, porcupine, fox, wolverine, musk ox, and an untold number of birds. We ran as far as 60 miles on the river, each way and saw one other boat with a single occupant all week.

Stuart



Andrew Campbell with a 7lb Brown Trout (left) and 5lb Rainbow Trout (below)



Stuart Lee with a 45” Alaskan Northern Pike (above)



Rob Choi with a 51” CBBT Cobia (Left)



**NATIONAL HUNTING AND FISHING DAY –
SEPTEMBER 26TH**

How a Good Idea Became a Great Tradition

Over 100 years ago, hunters and anglers were the earliest and most vocal supporters of conservation and scientific wildlife management. They were the first to recognize that rapid development and unregulated uses of wildlife were threatening the future of many species.

Led by fellow sportsman President Theodore Roosevelt, these early conservationists called for the first laws restricting the commercial slaughter of wildlife. They urged sustainable use of fish and game, created hunting and fishing licenses, and lobbied for taxes on sporting equipment to provide funds for state conservation agencies. These actions were the foundation of the North American wildlife conservation model, a science-based, user-pay system that would foster the most dramatic conservation successes of all time.

Populations of white-tailed deer, elk, antelope, wild turkey, wood ducks and many other species began to recover from decades of unregulated exploitation.

During the next half-century, in addition to the funds they contributed for conservation and their diligent watch over the returning health of America’s outdoors, sportsmen worked countless hours to protect and improve millions of acres of vital habitat—lands and waters for the use and enjoyment of everyone.

In the 1960s, hunters and anglers embraced the era’s heightened environmental awareness but were discouraged that many people didn’t understand the crucial role that sportsmen had played-and continue to play-in the conservation movement.

The first to suggest an official day of thanks to sportsmen was Ira Joffe, owner of Joffe’s Gun Shop in Upper Darby, Pa. In 1970, Pennsylvania Gov. Raymond Shafer adopted Joffe’s idea and created “Outdoor Sportsman’s Day” in the state.

With determined prompting from the National Shooting Sports Foundation, the concept soon emerged on the floor of the U.S. Senate. In June 1971, Sen. Thomas McIntyre, N.H., introduced Joint Resolution 117 authorizing National Hunting and Fishing Day on the fourth Saturday of every September. Rep. Bob Sikes, Fla., introduced an identical measure in the House. In early 1972, Congress unanimously passed both bills.

On May 2, 1972, President Nixon signed the first proclamation of National Hunting and Fishing Day, writing, “I urge all citizens to join with outdoor sportsmen in the wise use of our natural resources and in insuring their proper management for the benefit of future generations.”

By late summer, all 50 governors and over 600 mayors had joined in by proclaiming state and local versions of National Hunting and Fishing Day. The response was dramatic.

National, regional, state and local organizations staged some 3,000 “open house” hunting- and fishing-related events everywhere from shooting ranges to suburban frog ponds, providing an estimated four million Americans with a chance to experience understand and appreciate traditional outdoor sports.

Over the years, National Hunting and Fishing Day boasted many more public relations successes, assisted by celebrities who volunteered to help spotlight the conservation accomplishments of sportsmen and women. Honorary chairs have included George Bush, Tom Seaver, Hank Williams Jr., Arnold Palmer, Terry Bradshaw, George Brett, Robert Urich, Ward Burton, Louise Mandrell, Travis Tritt, Tracy Byrd, Jeff Foxworthy and many other sports and entertainment figures.

National Hunting and Fishing Day, celebrated the fourth Saturday of every September, remains the most effective grassroots efforts ever undertaken to promote the outdoor sports and conservation.



HOBIE PRO ANGLER – “MAX” MORAN’S FISHING KAYAK



FOLLOW UP INFORMATION – SOUTH RIVER FLY SHOP

Address:
323 W Main St
Waynesboro, Virginia

(540) 942-5566
<http://southriverflyshop.com/>



Sunday, One-Day Fly Tying Work Shops
Sunday Fly Tying Workshops!
October 11th - Woven Body Stonefly
October 25th - Articulated Sculpin
All materials provided and you can use our tying tools!
Instructors: Tommy Lawhorne and Josh French
\$15 per student - Limited to 6 students
(Contact South River Fly Shop For More Details)

TOURNAMENT NEWS



BY DREW CAMPBELL - ANGLING ACTIVITIES CHAIRMAN

**NEXT TOURNAMENT - FIRST ANNUAL VAC OPEN
ALL SALTWATER AND FRESHWATER SPECIES**

OCTOBER 17 & 18, 2015 LOCAL SUN UP TO SUN DOWN EACH DAY (NO BLOW DATES)

The VAC OPEN is a **points only tournament** with winners decided by the three highest point catches. Any species (fresh water or salt water) recognized by the Angling Rules of the VAC is eligible for entry. The VAC Open is **open to ALL VAC MEMBERS** no matter where you live or fish because there are not any water restrictions what so ever. Entries will be accepted from both resident and non-resident members. This is the chance this year for you “out of state” anglers to show the “locals” what real anglers can catch.

- Additional Tournament Details:
- Tournament First Place Awards for points (only) = Anglers Choice: Traditional pewter cup, \$40 Green Top gift certificate or a VAC Banquet ticket.
- We will recognize three places for highest point fish caught. First = 3 pts. Second = 2 pts. Third = 1 pt. These points will apply towards the annual Tournament Angler of the Year competition.
- Each fish entered must be entered as a points entry. There is no limit to the number of fish entered. However, each angler participating can enter only one fish per specie.
- The 2015 Tournament Chairman is Andrew (“Drew”) Campbell. To qualify, tournament entries must be sent to Drew within 24 hours of the end of each tournament.
- The preferred method of notification is the E-Card (electronic entry card) with the Tournament box checked. Andrew will automatically get your tournament entry E-Card if the Tournament box is checked.
- Tournament entries can be submitted to any via E-Mail to Andrew at campbellx2@verizon.net or phoned in at (804) 658-8297.



FROM RECENT EDITIONS OF THE VDGIF OUTDOOR REPORT

116# BLUE CATFISH CAUGHT IN KEER/BUGGS ISLAND LAKE

Well, it's like this, when you go fishing on Kerr/Buggs Island Lake, as the saying goes, it's like a box of chocolates, and you just don't know what she will have to offer.

I made my first fishing trip to Kerr/Buggs Island Lake in 1972. Little did I know then, that this lake would eventually become my home, and fishing here would become a way of life/passion for me. I started fishing exclusively for the Striped Bass (Rockfish) in this lake in the early '80's, and have stayed the course until present time. I have been gifted with the fishing knowledge of some of the best that ever put a line in the waters here for stripers, and will always be indebted to them (they will know who they are).

We have seen the proliferation of the Blue Catfish species over the last twenty years. I think they were stocked in our lake in the early nineties, but for sure we got a real dose of them when the Brookneal hatcheries upstream from the lake flooded in the mid nineties.

At the same time, the striper population has suffered a little, first from overfishing, then from a parasite, and also, it seems that the baitfish population isn't what it used to be.

Anyway, it's time to tell the tale of the number 3 Blue Catfish in Virginia! As we often do, neighbor Steve Dudzinski and I motor out in the 'ol Dixie, searching for schools of stripers. We live near the area around marker 4, but lately have been finding fish way up the lake in the marker 14 to 18 area. Lately, we have had a few "fire drills" on schools of stripers, we usually troll with four downriggers and two lead core lines, and it can happen that when you hit the school, you might have a fish on every rod!

However, this evening trip starts off a little slow, and we just decide to troll up the north side of the lake, in the marker 15-18 area. So, it's kind of slow, and we just motor along, looking for fish, and also birds. We both are in to bird watching, especially the Bald Eagles, which are becoming more and more common on our lake.

So, we are trolling along, watching the depth finder, marking lots of fish, stripers?, we hope so, they look like the typical arches we see so often, but no action on the rods. I tell Steve, sometimes they are up and moving around, but just don't bite, So we continue on, past marker 15, past marker 16, and then, a "side rod" trips out. If you have done this long enough, you know that the sound of downrigger cables in the water has a particular "tune" to them, and when one trips out, the pitch of the "tune" changes and alerts you that you may have a fish on the line.

I hear one trip out, look up from the driver's seat, and see the left (port) side rod trip out, and see the rod tip bounce a couple times. There are white and blue bucktails on that one. I feel sure there is a fish on the rod, Steve jumps up and grabs the rod, and says "I think we are hung up in a tree, the line is just peeling off the reel". I answered, "I am sure I saw the rod bounce a couple times, just tighten the drag a little and hang on". He does, and in a minute he says, "Whatever it is, it's coming with us".....

We realize that we have something big and alive on the line. I tell Steve "this has got to be one of those huge Blue Catfish, it may be one of those fifty pounders"!! As the fight goes on, I really see that we have something BIG on the line, so I steer the boat out to deeper water, and begin the process of getting the other lines reeled in and out of the way, while watching to keep the fish on line off the stern off the boat.



Continues on next page...

Continued from previous page...

Finally, everything out of the way, only one line in the water, and this rod is bent like an upside down fish hook. We are putting all the drag we dare to put on the 30lb test mono on this reel. It takes three or four times motoring back to deep water keeping the fish behind the boat, and finally this big cat begins to slow down. As we begin to think we have everything under control, here comes a Ski Boat driving right in on top of us, I am just about to lose it thinking what is this guy doing, then I realize it is one of my best fishing buddies, on the way back home from Clarksville, after a dinner date with his bride. Well, he sees we are in a little bit of distress, and pulls up to take a few pictures. What a great coincidence!! He is able to get some fantastic pictures, and I am comfortable with who it is, knowing he will give us plenty of room.

As the fight goes on, we get the fish right under the boat, maybe thirty feet of line left, then the worst possible thing that could happen, happens. With both of us trying to maneuver the fish and boat in the right position, we get together, and the free spool lever on the reel gets pushed in the wrong direction, resulting in a huge backlash in the line on the reel. STUFF HAPPENS!! I know from past experience to look for a loop of line over the level wind mechanism, it is clear so I tell Steve just wind it on top of the backlash, the fish is getting tired, and we should be OK.



After 20 minutes or so, we continue to gain line, and finally see the swivel attached to the 50lb leader. Steve has the rod in hand, now bent double, but it takes forever to get this big cat in to position to get a gaff into its jaw. First attempt fails, but the second time I am able to get the gaff into the soft part of the mouth of this fish. Steve grabs the other gaff, hands it to me, and I am able to get it deep in the lower jaw, then grab the first one and get a double bite into the jaws of this monster. It's a good thing, because it takes both of us to get this "CAT" in the boat with us!!

Now, it's in the floor of the boat, Holy Catfish! What have got here? Again, Steve and I both are really into striper fishing, and only occasionally catch a Blue Catfish, although we do get some good ones, I have had several over twenty lbs., and one or two over twenty five. But I do know that the Holy Grail of catfishing here is to break the 100 lb mark, and I'm pretty sure we have done it. However, I am also trying not to get too excited, remembering in May 2014 I witnessed a couple guys that have caught a lot of big catfish weigh in a one that they were sure was over the 100 mark, but it weighed in at 89 lbs. By the time we get in, it is too late to make the trip to Bobcats Store to get it on the scales, so we just get a few pictures and ice it down for the night.

Early Saturday morning we get loaded up and head over to Clarksville, soon to find out what we have. So we get it on the scale, and get a pleasant surprise, not just 100, but 116 lbs of Blue Catfish. This makes it number three in Virginia, and from the information I have gathered, number eight overall. What a fish!

Kerr/Buggs Island Lake has become a tremendous fishery for these big catfish, there has to be thousands over twenty lbs swimming around here. The striper fishing is also making a good recovery, bouncing back from years of over-fishing, and recently the copepod parasite that killed most of the larger ones in the lake. This lake has 50,000 acres of water and over 800 miles of shoreline. However, only about 30% of the shoreline will ever be developed, so it is never crowded with boat traffic. So get that boat loaded up and come on down!

By Tim Richardson

HOW TO FILLET A STRIPED BASS – A GOOD VIDEO

You are home from a successful trip on the Bay with a nice striper in your cooler. Now what? You now need to remove the fillets and cheeks from the fish and the skin from the fillets and cheek. Here is a link to an instructive video on filleting a striper and removing the skin from the fillet. The video was in the September 9th electronic issue of The Outdoor Report. The technique shown will carry over to other species of fish also. Check out the following link:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=nGlrVesob1I&feature=youtu.be>



PUBLIC INVITED TO COMMENT ON VIRGINIA STOCKED TROUT MANAGEMENT PLAN

The Virginia Department of Game and Inland Fisheries (VDGIF) and Virginia Tech's Department of Fish and Wildlife Conservation have initiated a process to develop a statewide Stocked Trout Management Plan. The Virginia Stocked Trout Management Plan is designed to provide broad guidance on policies for addressing the complex management challenges and issues related to producing desirable fishing experiences for stocked trout. The draft Plan can be found here: <http://www.dgif.virginia.gov/fishing/trout/management-plan/>

The VDGIF invites public input on the Virginia Stocked Trout Management Plan. Nine public meetings will be held across Virginia on the following dates:

September 23: 7-9 PM, U.S. Forest Service Office, 5162 Valleypointe Parkway, Roanoke, VA 24019

September 24: 7-9 PM, Mountain Empire Community College 231 Phillips-Taylor Building, 3441 Mountain Empire Road, Big Stone Gap, VA 24219

September 28: 7-9 PM, Izaak Walton League, 210 Conservation Lane, Madison Heights, VA 24572

September 30: 7-9 PM, Wytheville Community College – Carroll Hall, Room 118, 1000 East Main Street, Wytheville, Virginia 24382

October 1: 7-9 PM, South Board room at the Augusta County Government Center, 18 Government Center Lane, Verona, VA 24482

October 5: 7-9 PM, Central High School Cafetorium, 1147 Susan Ave., Woodstock, VA 22664

October 6: 7-9 PM, Mott Community Center, 12111 Braddock Road, Fairfax, VA 22030

October 7: 7-9 PM, VDGIF Headquarters, 7870 Villa Park Drive, Suite 400, Henrico, VA 23228

October 15: 7-9 PM, Virginia Cooperative Extension Office, 101 South West Street, Culpeper, VA 22701

NEW “MATCH THE HATCH” APP HELPS ANGLERS ID FLYS TO ENHANCE SUCCESS

The “Match A Hatch” app tells you what fly you’re seeing hatching on any river in the Eastern US, and suggests the correct artificial to use. Simply tap on the Mayfly, Stonefly, or Caddis images, and the app will do everything else. Touch the fly that looks closest to the one you see on the river, then slide the image over to reveal the correct artificial to fish and information about that fly. That’s it. You are now fishing with a lifetime’s worth of experience, letting you deepen your knowledge and enjoyment of fly fishing. Match A Hatch will enable you to:



- identify any fly you see on the river
- correctly pair that fly with an artificial
- learn the names of the flies in both Latin and English
- learn the characteristics of the fly
- highly detailed close ups of the natural fly – great for fly tying
- five star app on both Android and App Stores.
- all this for less than a dollar!

Here’s what they’re saying about the UK version:

“Fantastic app and a great way to learn about river flies and their ecology.

No excuses now for finding the right fly pattern” – Adam Lewins

“Marvellous, worked wonderfully yesterday on the Avon – great learning tool as well. Beautifully simple and great graphics.” – Stacktweed

Available at <http://www.matchahatch.com>

Editor’s note...

Experienced fly fishermen Matt Reilly [adventuresafield.blogspot.com] and Ed Felker [[Dispatches from the Potomac](#)] are currently trying the App on various streams and rivers and will be posting on their blogs their experience with the new App. We’ll pass on their reviews as they come in... check out their outdoor blogs for current adventures and tips on enjoying Virginia’s great outdoors. David Coffman, Editor TOR



ANNUAL AWARDS 2015

President's Award Freshwater

Species	Name	Weight	Line	Division	Points	Date	Location	Bait
BASS, LARGEMOUTH	F COUSINS	5lb-10oz	2	SPIN	375	6/5/15	Elly's Pond, VA	Art. Worm

President's Award Saltwater

Species	Name	Weight	Line	Division	Points	Date	Location	Bait
DRUM, RED	B SHEPHERD	46lb-0oz	30	SURF	328	5/23/15	Virginia Barrier Islands, VA	peeler crab

Division Awards Freshwater

Species	Name	Weight	Line	Division	Points	Date	Location	Bait
BASS, LARGEMOUTH	F COUSINS	5lb-10oz	2	SPIN	375	6/5/15	Elly's Pond, VA	Art. Worm
PERCH, YELLOW	R CHOI	1lb-2oz	2	GEN	239	3/8/15	Piscataway creek, VA	Minnow
SHAD, HICKORY	J DOUGHTY	1lb-3oz	2	PLUG	134	4/11/15	Nottoway River, VA	dart
TROUT, BROWN	A CAMPBELL	7lb-0oz	6	FLY	312	7/26/15	Bull Pasture River, VA	Prince Nymph

Division Awards Saltwater

Species	Name	Weight	Line	Division	Points	Date	Location	Bait
BASS, STRIPED	A CAMPBELL	12lb-6oz	8	FLY	206	12/28/14	Chesapeake Bay, VA	half and half Clouser
COBIA	MB KODROFF	27lb-0oz	16	PLUG	150	5/31/15	102 tower, NC	Jig
COBIA	W MOSLEY	42lb-0oz	12	SPIN	280	5/30/15	York Spit, VA	Bucktail
DRUM, RED	F COUSINS	45lb-0oz	12	GEN	321	8/30/15	Pamlico Sound, NC	Cut Mullet
DRUM, RED	B SHEPHERD	46lb-0oz	30	SURF	328	5/23/15	Virginia Barrier Islands, VA	peeler crab
DRUM, RED	BL NOLAND	42lb-0oz	50	BRAID	140	6/30/15	Hatteras Inlet, NC	Menhaden

"Highest Point" Species Awards Freshwater

Species	Name	Weight	Line	Division	Points	Date	Location	Bait
BASS, LARGEMOUTH	F COUSINS	5lb-10oz	2	SPIN	375	6/5/15	Elly's Pond, VA	Art. Worm
BASS, SMALLMOUTH	C MORRISON	1lb-12oz	2	SPIN	175	5/30/15	Petersburg, VA	Artificial worm
BOWFIN	A CAMPBELL	5lb-0oz	12	FLY	121	5/25/15	James river fall line, VA	Cone head bugger fly
CATFISH, FLATHEAD	A CAMPBELL	17lb-0oz	20	FLY	144	3/19/15	James river, VA	small Chartruese Clouser
CRAPPIE, ALL	C MORRISON	1lb-0oz	2	SPIN	158	4/11/15	Petersburg, VA	Artificial Worm
PERCH, WHITE	B BROUGHTON	0lb-9oz	8	FLY	110	4/11/15	James River, VA	Fly
PERCH, YELLOW	ROB ROBINSON	1lb-4oz	2	SPIN	328	3/23/15	Mattaponi River, VA	Jig / Grub
PICKEREL, CHAIN	W MOSLEY	1lb-4oz	4	SPIN	91	6/5/15	Little Creek Reservoir, VA	Popper
SHAD, AMERICAN	MB KODROFF	3lb-4oz	4	SPIN	194	4/8/15	Tar river nc, NC	Dart
SHAD, HICKORY	J BLANKENSHIP	2lb-4oz	4	FLY	267	4/11/15	James River, Richmond, VA	Fly
TROUT, BROWN	A CAMPBELL	7lb-0oz	6	FLY	312	7/26/15	Bull Pasture River, VA	Prince Nymph
TROUT, RAINBOW	A CAMPBELL	5lb-0oz	6	FLY	223	7/25/15	Bull Pasture river, VA	Bottle fly (dry)

"Highest Point" Species Awards Saltwater

Species	Name	Weight	Line	Division	Points	Date	Location	Bait
AMBERJACK, GREATER	B BROUGHTON	19lb-8oz	16	PLUG	108	7/3/15	Nags Head, NC	Bucktail
BASS, STRIPED	B SHEPHERD	23lb-0oz	30	SURF	230	5/15/15	Barrier Islands, VA	Peeler crab
BLUEFISH	F COUSINS	5lb-8oz	2	SPIN	183	4/27/15	Rudee Inlet, VA	Grub
COBIA	W MOSLEY	42lb-0oz	12	SPIN	280	5/30/15	York Spit, VA	Bucktail
DOLPHIN	DN NOLAND	31lb-0oz	30	GEN	103	6/5/15	Hatteras, NC	ballyhoo
DRUM, RED	B SHEPHERD	46lb-0oz	30	SURF	328	5/23/15	Virginia Barrier Islands, VA	peeler crab

"Heaviest" Species Awards Freshwater

Species	Name	Weight	Line	Division	Points	Date	Location	Bait
BASS, LARGEMOUTH	F COUSINS	5lb-10oz	2	SPIN	375	6/5/15	Elly's Pond, VA	Art. Worm
BASS, SMALLMOUTH	C MORRISON	1lb-12oz	2	SPIN	175	5/30/15	Petersburg, VA	Artificial worm
BOWFIN	A CAMPBELL	5lb-0oz	12	FLY	121	5/25/15	James river fall line, VA	Cone head bugger fly
CATFISH, FLATHEAD	A CAMPBELL	17lb-0oz	20	FLY	144	3/19/15	James river, VA	small Chartruese Clouser
CRAPPIE, ALL	C MORRISON	1lb-0oz	2	SPIN	158	4/11/15	Petersburg, VA	Artificial Worm
PERCH, WHITE	B BROUGHTON	0lb-9oz	8	FLY	110	4/11/15	James River, VA	Fly
PERCH, YELLOW	ROB ROBINSON	1lb-4oz	2	SPIN	328	3/23/15	Mattaponi River, VA	Jig / Grub
PICKEREL, CHAIN	W MOSLEY	1lb-4oz	4	SPIN	91	6/5/15	Little Creek Reservoir, VA	Popper
SHAD, AMERICAN	MB KODROFF	3lb-4oz	4	SPIN	194	4/8/15	Tar river nc, NC	Dart
SHAD, HICKORY	SC LEE	2lb-5oz	8	FLY	204	3/30/15	James River, VA	Murray Shad Fly
TROUT, BROWN	A CAMPBELL	7lb-0oz	6	FLY	312	7/26/15	Bull Pasture River, VA	Prince Nymph
TROUT, RAINBOW	A CAMPBELL	5lb-0oz	6	FLY	223	7/25/15	Bull Pasture river, VA	Bottle fly (dry)

"Heaviest" Species Awards Saltwater

Species	Name	Weight	Line	Division	Points	Date	Location	Bait
AMBERJACK, GREATER	B BROUGHTON	19lb-8oz	16	PLUG	108	7/3/15	Nags Head, NC	Bucktail
BASS, STRIPED	B SHEPHERD	23lb-0oz	30	SURF	230	5/15/15	Barrier Islands, VA	Peeler crab
BLUEFISH	F COUSINS	5lb-8oz	2	SPIN	183	4/27/15	Rudee Inlet, VA	Grub
COBIA	W MOSLEY	48lb-0oz	50	BRAID	117	5/30/15	York Spit, VA	Eel
DOLPHIN	DN NOLAND	31lb-0oz	30	GEN	103	6/5/15	Hatteras, NC	ballyhoo
DRUM, RED	B SHEPHERD	46lb-0oz	30	SURF	328	5/23/15	Virginia Barrier Islands, VA	peeler crab



New Club Records Freshwater

Species	Name	Weight	Line	Division	Points	Date	Location	Bait
BOWFIN	A CAMPBELL	5lb-0oz	12	FLY	121	5/25/15	James river fall line, VA	Cone head bugger fly
TROUT, RAINBOW	RL WHITE	17lb-8oz	16	FLY	377	12/12/14	Jurassic Lake, Patagonia, OTHER	Prince Nymph
TROUT, RAINBOW	RL WHITE	16lb-0oz	20	FLY	285	12/12/14	Jurassic Lake Patagonia, OTHER	Prince Nymph

New Club Records Saltwater

Species	Name	Weight	Line	Division	Points	Date	Location	Bait
COBIA	W MOSLEY	48lb-0oz	50	BRAID	117	5/30/15	York Spit, VA	Eel
SNOOK	JL WETLAUFER, JR	4lb-1oz	2	SPIN	135	4/5/15	Punta Gorda, FL	Beetle Spin

Pajchak Award

Species	Name	Weight	Line	Division	Points	Date	Location	Bait
MARLIN, WHITE	BL NOLAND	0lb-0oz	30	GEN	148	7/19/15	Norfolk Caynon, VA	Live Mackerel
MARLIN, WHITE	BL NOLAND	0lb-0oz	30	GEN	148	7/19/15	Norfolk Caynon, VA	Live Mackerel
MARLIN, WHITE	BL NOLAND	0lb-0oz	30	GEN	148	7/19/15	Norfolk Caynon Caynon, VA	Live Mackerel
MARLIN, WHITE	BL NOLAND	0lb-0oz	30	GEN	148	8/21/15	Washington Canyon, VA	Ballyhoo
MARLIN, WHITE	BL NOLAND	0lb-0oz	30	GEN	148	8/1/15	East of Cigar, Va. Beach, VA	Ballyhoo

Youth Saltwater

Species	Name	Weight	Line	Division	Points	Date	Location	Bait
DRUM, RED	Anna Maria Brink 13_17	41lb-0oz	20	GEN	215	6/29/15	Hatteras Inlet, NC	Menhaden

Non-Local Award Fresh or Saltwater

Species	Name	Weight	Line	Division	Points	Date	Location	Bait
SAILFISH, PACIFIC	SC LEE	0lb-0oz	20	FLY	500	3/10/15	Iztapa, Guatemala, OTHER	Cam Siegler Popper

New Member Award

Species	Name	Weight	Line	Division	Points	Date	Location	Bait
SHAD, HICKORY	J BLANKENSHIP	2lb-4oz	4	FLY	267	4/11/15	James River, Richmond, VA	Fly
Total					267			

HELP SUPPORT



The Virginia Wildlife Crime Line has become a valuable tool in the enforcement of the Commonwealth's game, fish and boat laws. Reward payments are approved and funded through the Virginia Sportsman Reward Fund, Inc. The Virginia Sportsman Reward Fund's mission is to promote the enforcement of hunting, fishing, and boating laws in Virginia by supporting the Wildlife Crime Line in cooperation with the Virginia Department of Game and Inland Fisheries.

Tax-deductible donations can be made to: Virginia Sportsman Reward Fund, Inc. P.O. Box 11104, Richmond, VA 23230-1104 or by calling (804) 367-1242



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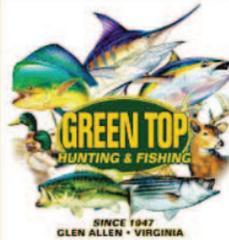
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NEXT MEETING:
Tuesday, September 22, 2015 at The New VDGIFF Headquarters

