



Feels like Spring already!



February 2018

In This Issue...

Pay Your Dues
Page 1

Catchy Comments
Page 5

Presentation & Exped Schedule
Page 9

The Tailgate - Member Story
Page 7

Conservation & Legislation
Page 3



NEXT MEMBERSHIP MEETING – FEBRUARY 27, 2018 7:00 pm

Doors open at 6:30 PM
Meeting Starts ~ 7:00 PM

VDGIF HEADQUARTERS BUILDING
7870 Villa Park Drive
Henrico County



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

NEXT-UP ANGLING ACTIVITY ALERT

- February Membership Meeting:
-February 27, 2018 – The VAC in Review.
-Scale Certification Available At Meeting
- Shad Fishing Expedition –
-Saturday, March 31, 2018 – Leader Glenn Carter
- March Membership Meeting -
-Wes Hodges - Fly-fishing for Muskie and
-Smallmouth Bass on the New River

VAC ANNUAL DUES ARE NOW DUE – PLEASE PAY PROMPTLY

Annual Dues for the Virginia Anglers Club are now due. Payment deadline is midnight, February 28, 2018,

To pay Resident Member Dues (\$60) now, click here:
<http://tinyurl.com/vacdues>

To pay non-Resident Dues (\$40) dues now, click here:
<http://tinyurl.com/vacdues-nl>

(Why not pay now while these links are now front of you??)

* COUNTRY STORE – MONSTER SALE - \$5.00 BARGAINS *

The Country Store is holding a **HUGE SALE** at the **February 27th Membership Meeting** to make drastic reductions in current inventory. T-Shirts @ \$5.00 ea.! Hats @ \$5.00 ea.! Many other items on sale also. Carter Clevinger will open the doors early so you can pounce of these bargain items. Please bring exact change.

DONATIONS OF FISH NEEDED FOR THE APRIL FISH FRY

The cooking crew desperately needs donations of fish from members for the April Fish Fry. Please earmark your catches for the Fish Fry and freeze the fillets for this very popular annual event. There has been a discouraging drop off of donated fish in the past few years.



FIRST MEMBERSHIP MEETING OF 2018 – FEBRUARY 27, 2018

A DISCUSSION ON OUR FUTURE ACTIVITIES & LEADERSHIP

By Mike Ostrander

Doug Moran will facilitate the February Membership Meeting which will be a group discussion on the future of the Virginia Anglers Club. Topics can be wide spread, so please have questions to ask, and be ready to share your thoughts during the discussion.

Here is a list of the subjects that the Discussion will cover. Subjects not covered in items 1-8 below will be collected as noted in item 9. for future discussion.

1. What prompted you to join the VAC and is the club living up to your expectations?
2. What would you like to see the VAC do in the future that we are not already offering/doing? Programs? Events? Other?
3. The VAC currently has about \$17,000 in our general fund. If we committed to spend \$1000 a year for the next three years, what should we spend it on?
4. Are entry cards, club ratings and club records important to you? Why? Why not?
5. What interest is there in leading an Expedition or becoming involved in the leadership of the VAC?
6. Why are the Fish Fry and Banquet not as well attended as they used to be?
7. Does the club communicate well? What can we do to improve communications?
8. What keeps you coming back? Why have members been involved for 20 years or more?
9. Are there any topics that we have not covered that should be talked about in the near future?

If you have any questions about this meeting, please contact Program Chairman, Mike Ostrander at Mike@Discvoerthe-James.com or 804-938-2350.

SHAD EXPEDITION WILL BE FISHED ON SATURDAY, MARCH 31, 2018

(April 7th High Water/Flood Date)

By Glenn Carter

The VAC Shad Expedition will be fished on March 31, 2018. This typically is about prime time for the shad and is also a very good time to catch the larger White Perch. The most numbers of perch will be a little later. We should have an outgoing tide for the morning with low tide being 11:50 AM at city locks. I have usually had all the fun I can stand by the end of the falling tide. With that in mind, let's all meet at Legend Brewing Co. at 1:30 PM for a burger and glass of Ice Tea or whatever beverage you prefer!!! We can also discuss what worked and what did not work with regard to the shad fishing.

High water and or flood date will be April 7th should the river not be fishable on March 31st.
Ancarrow's Landing

Glenn Carter Contact Info:
E-mail: glennfishes@gmail.com
Cell: (804) 543-5349

1200 Brander St, Richmond, VA 23224

Legend Brewing Company
321 W 7th St, Richmond, VA 23224
(804) 232-3446

Free Fishing Days – June 1-3, 2018 (Friday – Sunday)

June 1, 2 and 3, 2018 have been designated as Free Fishing Days in Virginia. No fishing license of any kind will be required for rod and reel fishing in freshwater or saltwater on these days. Plan some time to go fishing and boating; take the family fishing and boating or learn to fish and boat. Check out Where To Fish section on the DGIF Fishing website at: <https://www.dgif.virginia.gov/fishing/>

ANGLING AWARDS FOR THE 2017 ANGLING YEAR PRESENTED AT THE ANNUAL BANQUET

Danny and Buddy Noland presented the VAC's awards for the 2017 Angling Year at the Annual Banquet. For a listing four noteworthy awards presented, please turn to page A-A of this issue of The Angler. A complete listing of the 2017 awards can be found on page 8 of The Angler.



New Member Suzanne Lucas has stepped forward to accept the office of 3rd Vice President Conservation and Legislation (also the chairperson of the Conservation and Legislation Committee). If you know of any regulatory or environmental issues effecting recreational angling, please feel free to direct these issues to Suzanne. Contact information for Suzanne is found in the Member Roster in the Member's Area of the VAC Website.

FEBRUARY 2018 CONSERVATION AND LEGISLATION REPORT

(By. Suzanne Lucas)

Virginia General Assembly Legislation Update

Listed below is a synopsis from current Bills posted on the LIS (Legislative Information System of the General Assembly) that may be of interest to VAC Members. Please keep in mind these bills are still in process unless it is no longer moving forward or it is amended in the CODE of VA. Here is the link to the DGIF webpage where this information was researched: <http://www.dgif.virginia.gov/legislation/>

HB 635: Free Fishing day

Permits the Board of Game and Inland Fisheries to designate a substitute free day in the event that a free day is canceled as a result of inclement weather.

Status: 01/30/18 House voted (99-Y 0-N)

02/15/18 Senate: Reported from Agriculture, Conservation and Natural Resources (15-Y 0-N)

HB 1151: Nonresident youth fishing license, exemption

Authorizes a nonresident under age 16 to fish without a fishing license when accompanied by a person possessing a valid license to fish in Virginia. Current law allows a resident under age 16 or a nonresident under age 12 to fish without a license.

Status: 02/13/18 House voted (96-Y 3-N)

02/14/18 Senate: Referred to Committee on Agriculture, Conservation and Natural Resources

HB 1404: Snakehead fish; certified restaurants and retail markets

Authorizes a Hazard Analysis and Critical Control Point (HACCP) plan certified restaurant or retail market to purchase from an HACCP certified dealer or sell processed snakehead fish of the family Channidae.

Status: 02/13/18 House voted (100-Y 0-N)

02/14/18 Senate: Referred to Committee on Agriculture, Conservation and Natural Resources

HB 1075: Poaching; revocation of hunting, trapping, or fishing license and privileges.

Bill is no longer moving forward

EARLY SCALE CERTIFICATION AVAILABLE AND ENCOURAGED

Weighmasters Ryan and Danny Noland are willing to do early certifications of scales between now and the February Membership Meeting.

If you and a couple of fellow Anglers can come up with a group of scales for early certification, please contact Ryan and Danny Nolan. They will work out with you a convenient place and time for your early certifications.

Contact Ryan at: (804)-658-1955 (H), (894)-896-4178 (C) or ryan.n.noland@usa.dupont.com

Contact Danny at: (804) 514-0650 (C) or danny6749@aol.com

Please remember to be sure your scales are in working order and the barrels are oil free so the certification stickers will adhere.

REMINDER - THE VAC HAS A FACEBOOK PAGE NOW – GO TAKE A LOOK

You can visit the VAC Facebook page for a look by clicking on: <https://www.facebook.com/vaanglers/>

ANNUAL BANQUET – SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 3RD, 2018



The 34 members and guests attending the 2018 Annual Banquet gave the new venue, food and service very good rating. A dedicated wait staff of two took orders for the cash bar and dinner beverages from Members in the banquet room, which was a first for an annual banquet in recent memory. A smoked rockfish was again generously donated by Stuart Lee and was a treat to have as a lead in to the dinner. The assorted pastries provided by Cesare's Ristorante Italiano was supplemented by a special Virginia Anglers Club sheet cake.

Thanks to a very popular and well patronized selection of raffle items, the Annual Banquet ended up financially "in the black". Banquet Chairman Gary Green's efforts supplemented by Buddy Noland provided a most enjoyable banquet to those who enjoyed the function.



2018 DIRECTORS AND OFFICERS SWORN IN AT ANNUAL BANQUET



VAC President Bobby Broughton swears in newly elected members of the VAC Leadership Team Shown

Left to Right: Directors Fred Cousins and Fred Murray, Webmaster Johnny Wetlaufer, Director and Newsletter Secretary Carter Clevinger, Recording Secretary Karen Anderson, 1st VP- Programs Mike Ostrander and President Bobby Broughton

ANNUAL BANQUET RAFFLE WINNERS

Four raffle winners at the 2018 Annual Banquet went home with three hand crafted award items and one item that was donated: Glenn Carter won the coveted Shadow Box of Bill Gallash flies (photograph unavailable) created by Eddy Johnston.



Gary Green holding the framed speckled trout Gyo-taku print created and donated by Rob Choi.



New Member Jacob Nixon holds the hand carved and painted striped bass donated by friend-of-the-club Art Wolz (personal friend of Bob Brown).



Fred Murray won this Temple Fork Outfitters 5 wt. 9 ft. 4 pc. Lefty Kreh Professional Series II fly rod, Redington reel with backing and floating line included. Generously donated by GreenTop Hunt Fish.

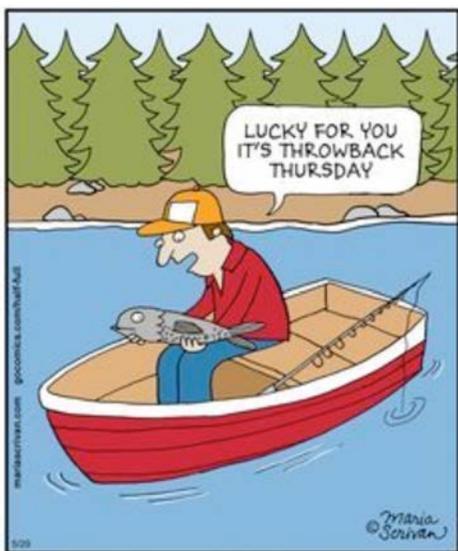


EXPEDITION REPORT – YELLOW PERCH – FEBRUARY 18, 2018

The first 2018 expedition was a Yellow Perch trip lead by Mike Cline on Sunday, February 18th. The Expedition was rescheduled from the 17th to the 18th in anticipation of high water and weather forecast for a cold, rainy day on the 17th. Seven Members fished the Expedition and found fishing was slow. The largest yellow perch weighed in at 1 -4 and Jeff Doughty had a 6-12 bowfin on 2# plug.



HUMOR FROM THE TACKLE BOX



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



“Catchy Comments”
By Fred Cousins

It appears that the 2018 fishing year is off to a good start. Even though there were no entries from late December to late January, there have been 24 entries so far this year. Frozen lakes and rivers do make fishing difficult!

Twelve members have submitted entries for a total of 12 different species. All but 2 entries are for freshwater species, which is typical for this time of year. The most popular species have been crappie (5), yellow perch (4), chain pickerel (3), and rainbow trout (3). Included in the entries so far are some notable catches: a 1 lb.- 12 oz. crappie by Rob Choi; a 4 lb.-12 oz. rainbow trout by Carter Clevinger; a 19 lb. muskie by Rob Choi; a 5 lb.- 11 oz. spotted seatrout by Larry Allen; and a 11 lb.- 8oz. gar by Fred Cousins.

While members have been fishing all over the state, over half of the fish (15) have been caught either in the Chickahomony Lake/River or Piscataway Creek. Check out the Catch Database on the Club website for the details.

-Fred





Rob Choi - 36" Musky



Rob Choi - 43" 19lb Musky



“The Tailgate” – Member Stories

My first goal since joining the VAC has been to earn “Division Expert” in the Fly division. The requirements are 4 freshwater and 4 salt waters species. The total combined pts must be 1600 or greater and no fish can be less than 150 pts. This 3lb 6oz bow (191 pts in 4lb class) makes the 3rd species I’ve been able to catch towards my goal. I now have a brown (156 pts), Carp (315 pts), and this bow. I need one more freshwater species and then I will focus on the salt.

This has been a very fun goal for me as I never focused on light lines or measuring fish before joining.

I feel all these challenges have led me to be a more efficient Angler.

Thanks,

– Jacob Nixon





**NOTEWORTHY ANGLING AWARDS FOR
THE 2017 ANGLING YEAR**

President's Award Freshwater

Eddy Johnston

16-0 Gar on 2 Spin – 581 Points

President's Saltwater Award

Bob Shepherd

36-0 Red Drum in Surf – 257 Points.

Pete Pajchak – Most Billfish

Brendan Strum

White Marlin Release on 20 General – 189 Points

New Member

Grant Alvis

8-12 Largemouth Bass on 12 Plug – 206 Points

1-14 Hickory Shad on 2 Fly – 267 Points

Total Points 437

SNAKEHEAD ON THE GRILLE – YUM OR YUCK?

Kevin Ambrose of the Capital Weather Gang prepared the snakehead several different ways: grilled with an Italian dressing marinade, baked with olive oil, salt, pepper, and garlic, and beer-battered then deep-fried. He also cooked three other fish for comparison: tilapia, flounder, and cod. Check out the result of Kevin's test at: the following link.

https://www.washingtonpost.com/news/capital-weather-gang/wp/2015/05/20/snakehead-taste-test-can-a-fish-this-ugly-really-taste-that-good-photos/?utm_term=.ca0c25490d08

If any VAC Member takes on the challenge of cooking the snakehead, please share the results and pictures with the membership. (Rob Choi has eaten snakehead and thinks it's delicious)

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**



2018 MEMBERSHIP MEETING SPEAKERS AND PRESENTATIONS

Month	Presentation	Presenter
February 27	VAC Future Direction Panel Discussion	Moderated by member Doug Moran
March 27	Fly-fishing for Muskie and Smallmouth Bass on the New River	Wes Hodges
April 24	Fish Fry (<i>tentative, otherwise in May</i>)	n/a
May 22	Fly Tying Seminar (<i>tentative, otherwise in April</i>)	TBD
June 26	Fly-fishing for Snakeheads	Member Grant Alvis
July	No meeting	
August 28	Fly-fishing for False Albacore in North Carolina	Member Andrew Campbell
September 25	Fishing the Suffolk Lakes	VDGIF Biologist Chad Boyce
October 23	OPEN	
November 27	OPEN	
December	No meeting	

2018 EXPEDITION SCHEDULE AND LEADERS

Expedition	Leader	Date
Shad Fishing	Glenn Carter	3/31/18
Rockfish River Float Trip	Tyler Shands	4/21/18
South River	Eric Webster	4/28/18 (tentative)
Chickahominy Lake	Art Conway	6/2/18 (tentative)
Small River Wade Fishing	Mike Ostrander	6/30/18 (participation is limited.)
Kid's Day	Bobby Broughton	June 2018 (?)
?	Josh Dolin	TBD

ANNUAL AWARDS 2018

President's Award Freshwater

Species	Name	Weight	Line	Division	Points	Date	Location	Bait
GAR, ALL	F COUSINS	11lb-8oz	2	PLUG	418	2017-12-22	JAMES RIVER, VA	Grub

President's Award Saltwater

Species	Name	Weight	Line	Division	Points	Date	Location	Bait
SEATROUT, SPOTTED	LR ALLEN	5lb-11oz	8	SPIN	189	2017-12-22	CORROTOMAN RIVER, VA	mirrolure

Division Awards Freshwater

Species	Name	Weight	Line	Division	Points	Date	Location	Bait
GAR, ALL	F COUSINS	11lb-8oz	2	PLUG	418	2017-12-22	JAMES RIVER, VA	Grub
PERCH, YELLOW	DN NOLAND	1lb-2oz	2	SPIN	296	2018-02-15	PISCATAWAY CREEK, VA, VA	Grub
PICKEREL, CHAIN	DL NOBLES	2lb-14oz	2	GEN	230	2018-02-21	CHICKAHOMINY LAKE, VA	minnow
TROUT, RAINBOW	J NIXON	3lb-6oz	4	FLY	191	2018-01-28	SOUTH HOLSTON, VA	Size 18 rainbow warrior

Division Awards Saltwater

Species	Name	Weight	Line	Division	Points	Date	Location	Bait
SEATROUT, SPOTTED	LR ALLEN	5lb-11oz	8	SPIN	189	2017-12-22	CORROTOMAN RIVER, VA	mirrolure

"Highest Point" Species Awards Freshwater

Species	Name	Weight	Line	Division	Points	Date	Location	Bait
BASS, LARGEMOUTH	DL NOBLES	2lb-3oz	2	GEN	116	2018-02-21	CHICKAHOMINY LAKE, VA	minnow
BOWFIN	SC LEE	6lb-2oz	4	SPIN	232	2018-02-15	PISCATAWAY CREEK, VA	Hair jig
CATFISH, BLUE	W THOMPSON	13lb-0oz	8	PLUG	136	2018-02-18	CHICKAHOMINY RIVER, VA	Blade bait
CRAPPIE, ALL	R CHOI	1lb-12oz	2	GEN	224	2018-02-11	PISCATAWAY CREEK, VA	Minnow
GAR, ALL	F COUSINS	11lb-8oz	2	PLUG	418	2017-12-22	JAMES RIVER, VA	Grub
MUSKELLUNGE, ALL	R CHOI	19lb-0oz	20BR	GEN	115	2017-12-07	JAMES RIVER, VA	Hellhound Lure
PERCH, YELLOW	DN NOLAND	1lb-2oz	2	SPIN	296	2018-02-15	PISCATAWAY CREEK, VA, VA	Grub
PICKEREL, CHAIN	DL NOBLES	2lb-14oz	2	GEN	230	2018-02-21	CHICKAHOMINY LAKE, VA	minnow
TROUT, BROWN	J NIXON	3lb-8oz	6	FLY	156	2017-12-17	SOUTH HOLSTON RIVER, VA	Brown Prince nymph (gold beaded)
TROUT, RAINBOW	C CLEVINGER	4lb-12oz	4	SPIN	215	2017-12-21	BULL PASTURE, VA	Joe's Fly

"Highest Point" Species Awards Saltwater

Species	Name	Weight	Line	Division	Points	Date	Location	Bait
BASS, STRIPED	SC LEE	11lb-0oz	6	SPIN	169	2017-12-22	JAMES RIVER, VA	Bucktail Jig
SEATROUT, SPOTTED	LR ALLEN	5lb-11oz	8	SPIN	189	2017-12-22	CORROTOMAN RIVER, VA	mirrolure

"Heaviest" Species Awards Freshwater

Species	Name	Weight	Line	Division	Points	Date	Location	Bait
BASS, LARGEMOUTH	J DOUGHTY	2lb-4oz	4	SPIN	112	2018-02-16	CHICKAHOMINY RIVER, VA	plastic grub
BOWFIN	SC LEE	6lb-2oz	4	SPIN	232	2018-02-15	PISCATAWAY CREEK, VA	Hair jig
CATFISH, BLUE	W THOMPSON	13lb-0oz	8	PLUG	136	2018-02-18	CHICKAHOMINY RIVER, VA	Blade bait
CRAPPIE, ALL	R CHOI	1lb-12oz	2	GEN	224	2018-02-11	PISCATAWAY CREEK, VA	Minnow
GAR, ALL	F COUSINS	11lb-8oz	2	PLUG	418	2017-12-22	JAMES RIVER, VA	Grub
MUSKELLUNGE, ALL	R CHOI	19lb-0oz	20BR	GEN	115	2017-12-07	JAMES RIVER, VA	Hellhound Lure
PERCH, YELLOW	SC LEE	1lb-2oz	4	SPIN	244	2018-01-26	PISCATAWAY CREEK, VA	Hair Jig
PICKEREL, CHAIN	DL NOBLES	2lb-14oz	2	GEN	230	2018-02-21	CHICKAHOMINY LAKE, VA	minnow
TROUT, BROWN	J NIXON	3lb-8oz	6	FLY	156	2017-12-17	SOUTH HOLSTON RIVER, VA	Brown Prince nymph (gold beaded)
TROUT, RAINBOW	C CLEVINGER	4lb-12oz	4	SPIN	215	2017-12-21	BULL PASTURE, VA	Joe's Fly

"Heaviest" Species Awards Saltwater

Species	Name	Weight	Line	Division	Points	Date	Location	Bait
BASS, STRIPED	SC LEE	11lb-0oz	6	SPIN	169	2017-12-22	JAMES RIVER, VA	Bucktail Jig
SEATROUT, SPOTTED	LR ALLEN	5lb-11oz	8	SPIN	189	2017-12-22	CORROTOMAN RIVER, VA	mirrolure

New Member Award

Species	Name	Weight	Line	Division	Points	Date	Location	Bait
CRAPPIE, ALL	C CLEVINGER	1lb-10oz	4	GEN	162	2018-02-21	CHICKAHOMINY RIVER, VA	Alive Minnow
TROUT, RAINBOW	C CLEVINGER	4lb-12oz	4	SPIN	215	2017-12-21	BULL PASTURE, VA	Joe's Fly

Total **377**



RVA



BUGS & BREWS

**@LEGEND
BREWING CO.**

**FIRST TUES EVERY
MONTH** *RVA Bugs And Brews @ GMAIL*

Robert Thomas

Fishing Adventures

Fly Casting & Fly Tying Instruction
Equipment: Rods, Reels, Lines, etc.

Fly Tying Materials & Tools
Hosted Trips

MattyJ Saltwater Flies

(804) 266-5458

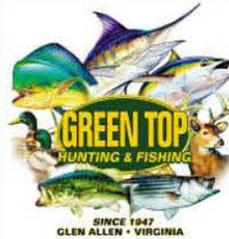
rtphotography@comcast.net

Virginia Anglers Club Special

20% OFF First Order

10% Off other orders

Bulletin Editor: Johnny Wetlaufer, 647-4042



GREEN TOP SPORTING GOODS

*Serving Virginians
by Virginians Since 1947*



10150 Lakeridge Parkway
Ashland, VA 23005
(Just off I-95-Exit 86B; Exit 43C off I-295)

(804)550-2188
info@greentophuntfish.com

**Visit Our
New Website!**
www.greentophuntfish.com

We Appreciate Your Business!

Design and Layout: Rob Choi

Next Membership Meeting at DGIF - February 28, 2017

RICHMOND VA 23294-1494
P.O. BOX 31494

