

Social Distance by
Going Fishing!



May 2020

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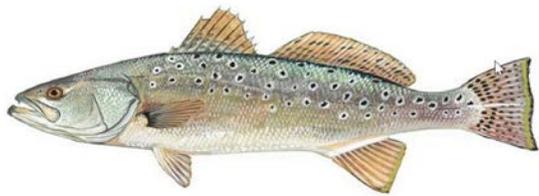


MAY

MEMBERSHIP MEETING

Tuesday, May 26th, 2020
VIRTUAL (ZOOM) MEETING
STARTS AT 7:00pm

April Program Report



Dr. Jan McDowell and Susanna Musick from VIMS presented a ZOOM video meeting on Speckled trout. The presentation started with Susanna discussing the data about Speckled trout and the VIMS tagging program. Here is some of the interesting info:

- Speckled trout can live to be 10 years old.
- Speckled trout can reach 40 inches and weigh 17 pounds.
- Speckled trout at one years old are 11 to 12 inches and are mature enough to reproduce.

- Virginia tagging program started in 1995.
- 93% of VA tagged Speckled trout are recaptured in VA.
- 5% of VA tagged Speckled trout are recaptured in N.C.
- 9% of N.C. tagged Speckled trout are recaptured in the Chesapeake Bay.

Dr. Jan McDowell discussed the genetic differences and similarities between N.C. and VA Speckled trout. She explained the tagging and genetic data from Florida to Virginia. Here is some of the data:

- Studies show that Speckled trout travel longer distances in the Spring and Fall.
- Some VA Speckled trout from Chesapeake Bay will travel to N.C. in the Fall and return north in the Spring.
- The larger Speckled trout can withstand the cold weather conditions better than the smaller trout. This is the reasons the smaller trout migrate south.
- Genetic studies show the Speckled trout in Chesapeake Bay and N.C. are distinct from S.C. and Georgia.
- Further study needed to understand the separation in populations between Cape Fear River and New river, NC and how this mixing zone (hybrids) is maintained.

The ZOOM meeting format allows VAC members to type in questions during the presentation. With two presenters this permitted one person to answer questions, while the other was speaking. We learned a lot about Speckled Trout and their spawning habits. If you are interested in the VIMS tagging program visit their web site for more information.



THE MAY FULL MOON



What did the May full moon mean to you? As a person that fishes, it means largemouth bass and sunfish begin to spawn. We search the shorelines by boat or by foot on local ponds looking for the well-maintained honeycomb beds. At this time, the largemouth bass and sunfish should be on their beds protecting their larvae or fry. We dust off that buzz bait tackle tray, look through our panfish tackle tray for our favorite lure with high expectations of a big catch, as we head out to the local ponds.

On the Saltwater front, the May full moon plays a large role in the blue crab molting cycle. During this cycle the blue crabs shed their hard shell to reach a larger size. You will start to see an increase in peelers and soft crabs several days before the full moon. This is a great time to catch or purchase soft shell crabs, the Chesapeake Bay's mouthwatering delight. Just dredge in flour and carefully place them in hot oil, fry for 2-3 minutes per side, enjoy them plain or on a sandwich!

We are fortunate to live in a state that exposes us to fresh and saltwater. I encourage everyone to go outside and take advantage of all the Virginia waters have to offer! The next full moon is June 5th!

Newsletter Secretary,
Carter Clevinger



HOW TO JOIN A ZOOM MEETING

Email link:

1. You will receive an **email invitation** from the meeting host
2. Click on the **link** in the email (join via PC, Mac, iOS or Android)
3. You will be taken to the meeting

FOR SCALE CERTIFICATION, PLEASE CONTACT:

Larry Allen at: (804)781-0907 (H), (804)241-3706 (C) or allenhouse75@comcast.net

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

Please remember to be sure your scales are in working order, the barrels are oil free and are placed in a Zip-Loc type re-sealable plastic bag with your name written on the outside.

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/>



President's Message

May 2020

I do hope most everyone is getting out to fish. From speaking with many members, some are busier than ever, while others have time on their hands, that is easily filled. It's been a challenge no doubt, and that challenge of living the new normal while remaining healthy is different for all of us. For me, it's been a time to retool, reflect (and fish) with my extra time.

Our club is one of great history and throughout that history, we have had, and currently have extraordinary anglers. Today it's an honor to listen to them whether on the phone, or at a membership meeting, but when we get the opportunity to have one present, well, that's about as good as it gets. This month, Stuart Lee, VAC Master Angler is going to present on fishing for Speckled Trout ... a follow up to last month's scientific presentation on the genetics and tagging program on Speckled Trout. Stuart is an extraordinary angler, has been a VAC member for 46 years, and has a storied history with the VAC, so on the evening of May 26, we get the best. I hope at some point, Stuart is (almost) overwhelmed with new members asking questions about rules and scale certification.

The Virginia Anglers Club has asked the following questions many times over the past few years. What direction are we heading? Where do we want to go as a club? The answers are always varied. We seem to be going in a positive direction, even without meeting in person, but these are still questions that need answers ... and actions.

One of the historical benefits we offer is our scale certification. It's a part of every challenge the VAC offers. Having your scales certified offers an opportunity to properly and honestly weigh your fish and release them, if you choose. It validates any catch to be recorded by weight and points to be used towards the various Angling Achievement Ratings. Catch and release is far more popular these days, and with VAC certified scales we can practice CPR&R ... Catch, Photograph, Release & Record. As a bonus, if you enjoy the DGIF Trophy Fish Program, they accept the weights from our annual certified scale program.

Digging deeper into our history, the VAC has developed many challenges for a member angler. Whether you enjoy saltwater, freshwater or both, for over 50 years now, top notch anglers discussed and debated what species of fish, what size and how many species an angler needs to catch to achieve a certain rating, trophy or other award. That's a lot of hours of debate and changes to make what we have today a very special opportunity for anyone wishing to put their skills to the test. It's pretty cool to think that many of these ideas were thought of and discussed over a pond fishing trip, billfish trip, or in a car on the way to just about anywhere fishing.

Regarding the questions posed above, I am of the opinion that as we boost the use of club certified scales, and card submissions of our catches using the online card submission (very easy to use), the history of this club will continue to flourish as new and old members discover the challenges developed since 1961. If our current and future membership can embrace some of these challenges, I believe everything else will flourish. Expeditions, Monthly Meetings, Programs and the Fish Fry will have a bit more flavor, but more importantly, the Annual Awards Banquet might have some new rivalries (and revive old ones) as anglers set out to best themselves (and others).

Most importantly, if you are not into weighing fish or recording your catches, that's ok. Our rules and achievements are in place for those who want them and everything else is there for those who don't. We are a diverse group of anglers, who respect the waters we fish, the fish we catch and the people who fish them. I am proud to be working with our BOD and committee heads as we head towards the summer of 2020 and the challenges that continue. Until we meet again, happy fishing and tight lines.

Mike Ostrander

Virginia Anglers Club, President



PROGRAMS



May 26th – VAC Master Angler Stuart Lee presenting on Speckled Trout fishing. This will be a virtual ZOOM meeting.

EXPEDITIONS

June 6th – Art Conway Chickahominy Lake fishing trip, this is a boat and kayak adventure.

CATCH STATISTICS 2020

Top Ten 2020 Submitters		
1.	C CLEVINGER	11
2.	M OSTRANDER	8
3.	F COUSINS	8
4.	R HART	7
5.	GN CARTER	6
6.	DL NOBLES	5
7.	RL WHITE	5
8.	M MASON	3
9.	SC LEE	2
10.	DN NOLAND	2

Top Ten 2020 Species		
1.	BASS, LARGEMOUTH	13
2.	CRAPPIE, ALL	6
3.	PICKEREL, CHAIN	6
4.	SUNFISH	6
5.	PERCH, YELLOW	5
6.	CATFISH, BLUE	4
7.	CARP	4
8.	MUSKELLUNGE, ALL	3
9.	PERCH, WHITE	3
10.	SHAD, HICKORY	3



REDEAR SUNFISH

David Nobles



The top two Redear sunfish are females weighing 1 pound 3 ounces and 15 ounces respectively and the bottom Redear sunfish was a male weighing 13 ounces. Notice that the characteristic Redear was only prevalent on the bottom fish (the male) while the top two fish only had a pinkish tint to the ear (hardly noticeable in this picture).



Summer Muskellunge Tagging Study



By Hunter Hatcher, DGIF Aquatic Biologist

Photos by Hunter Hatcher

Biologists with the Virginia Department of Game and Inland Fisheries (DGIF) and researchers from Coastal Carolina University are requesting the help of anglers. A total of 45 muskellunge fish in the upper James River have been implanted with tags to investigate the impacts of catch-and-release mortality on fish during the summer months.



Anglers who capture a tagged fish can report the tag to Cory Bauerlien of Coastal Carolina University via phone or text at 443-974-6171 in exchange for a \$50 reward during the June to September study period.



To claim the full reward, anglers will need the fish's tag number, a photo of the fish with tag visible, and the date, time, and location of their catch. Anglers are also encouraged to report the capture of tagged fish outside of the June to September study period. It is imperative that anglers **do not remove tags from fish.**

Understanding the impact of catch-and-release mortality on musky will allow DGIF biologists to better manage this unique fishery moving forward.

ATTENTION ANGLERS

MUSKELLUNGE TAGGING STUDY IN PROGRESS

DO **NOT** REMOVE TAGS

PLEASE RECORD & REPORT INFORMATION IN 24 HOURS FOR REWARD

Information to record:

1. Tag ID number
2. Picture of tagged fish
3. Date, time, and location caught

Report to:

Cory Bauerlien
Phone or text:
443-974-6171

\$50 rewards* made possible by generous donations from Muskies Inc. &

VA Tooth Tamers - Chapter 76 of Muskies Inc.

*Funding for rewards is limited and will be provided for fish angled during June - September only. Reports outside of this period are strongly encouraged and greatly appreciated. Decals and information on sex and age of angled fish will be provided for all fish reported.



Tagged Muskies are part of an ongoing catch-and-release mortality study. For more information, please contact Cory Bauerlien (cibauerli@coastal.edu).

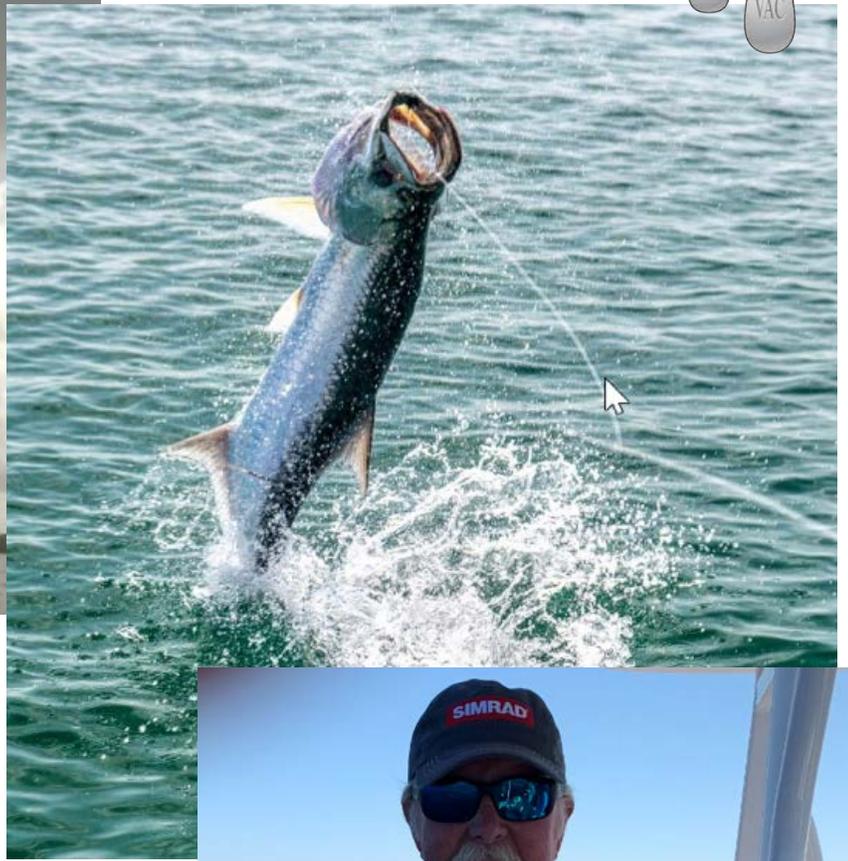


We thank you for your assistance.

Tag reports are vital to the success of this study.

Funding and support for this project provided by:





VAC MEMBERS
PICTURES









FOR SALE



I have a 10wt Sage fly rod with reel and line that I bought new in 2009, and I will never use them. I test/practiced casted with them on the lawn a few times when new, but I never used them. They have never been on/in water. This, they are in absolutely new condition. They have been stored in a closet this entire time, and have no mold, dirt, or any such. In the following paragraphs I will describe the individual items.

The rod is a Sage Xi 2, 1090-4, #10 line, 9'0", 4 1/2 oz. I bought it from Cabela's for \$532.50.

The reel is a Ross Momentum GLD 6. I bought it from Cabela's for \$275. I have the original brand-new condition box with warranty card, etc.

The line is Scientific Anglers Mastery Series Quad Tip Saltwater, WF-10-F/S Green. The tips are as follows. 15' AST Floating. 15' Type I clear tip (1.5 - 2 ips). 15' Type III Wet Tip (3-5 ips). 15' Type V Wet Tip (6-8 ips). The line to tip connections are built in loop to loop. It has a "breathable mesh quad compartment wallet." I have the original box with spool in it. I bought the line, tips, and wallet as a one item set, from Cabela's for \$139.95.

Contact Fred Cousins for more information.



ANNUAL AWARDS 2020

President's Award Freshwater

Species	Name	Weight	Line	Division	Points	Date	Location	Bait
GAR, ALL	F COUSINS	16lb-12oz	2	PLUG	558	2019-12-27	JAMES RIVER, VA	Grub

President's Award Saltwater

Species	Name	Weight	Line	Division	Points	Date	Location	Bait
DRUM, RED	B SHEPHERD	33lb-0oz	8	FLY	550	2020-05-13	CHESAPEAKE BAY, VA	Clauser

Division Awards Freshwater

Species	Name	Weight	Line	Division	Points	Date	Location	Bait
CATFISH, BLUE	F COUSINS	33lb-0oz	4	GEN	351	2020-01-31	JAMES RIVER, VA	Cut Shad
CATFISH, FLATHEAD	F MURRAY	24lb-0oz	8	FLY	331	2020-02-04	JAMES, VA	Fred fly
GAR, ALL	F COUSINS	16lb-12oz	2	PLUG	558	2019-12-27	JAMES RIVER, VA	Grub
PERCH, YELLOW	G ALVIS	1lb-12oz	2	SPIN	460	2020-02-29	MATTAPONI RIVER, VA	Grub

Division Awards Saltwater

Species	Name	Weight	Line	Division	Points	Date	Location	Bait
DRUM, RED	B SHEPHERD	50lb-0oz		SURF	357	2020-05-16	SMITH ISLAND, VA	Peeler
DRUM, RED	B SHEPHERD	33lb-0oz	8	FLY	550	2020-05-13	CHESAPEAKE BAY, VA	Clauser
SEATROUT, SPOTTED	F COUSINS	2lb-3oz	2	SPIN	145	2020-04-07	RUDEE INLET, VA	Grub

"Highest Point" Species Awards Freshwater

Species	Name	Weight	Line	Division	Points	Date	Location	Bait
BASS, LARGEMOUTH	DN NOLAND	4lb-11oz	2	PLUG	312	2020-03-26	WEST POINT, , VA	Jig
BASS, SMALLMOUTH	C CLEVINGER	2lb-1oz	6	SPIN	117	2020-03-09	JAMES RIVER, VA	Crank Bait
BASS, STRIPED (LL)	RL WHITE	4lb-2oz	4	SPIN	103	2019-12-06	BUGGS ISLAND, VA	Jig
BASS, WHITE	RL WHITE	1lb-6oz	4	SPIN	147	2019-12-06	BUGGS ISLAND, VA	Jig
BOWFIN	T MIDKIFF	8lb-6oz	4	GEN	255	2020-03-14	CHICKAHOMINY, VA	Minnow
CARP	F MURRAY	11lb-0oz	8	FLY	245	2020-02-04	JAMES, VA	Fred fly
CATFISH, BLUE	F COUSINS	33lb-0oz	4	GEN	351	2020-01-31	JAMES RIVER, VA	Cut Shad
CATFISH, FLATHEAD	F MURRAY	24lb-0oz	8	FLY	331	2020-02-04	JAMES, VA	Fred fly
CRAPPIE, ALL	RJ BROWN	1lb-10oz	2	SPIN	257	2020-04-29	MATTAPONI RIVER, VA	gub
GAR, ALL	F COUSINS	16lb-12oz	2	PLUG	558	2019-12-27	JAMES RIVER, VA	Grub
MUSKELLUNGE, ALL	M OSTRANDER	16lb-8oz	8	SPIN	275	2020-02-29	JAMES RIVER, VA	6" Jointed Hard Bait
PERCH, WHITE	GN CARTER	0lb-14oz	2	PLUG	203	2020-03-31	JAMES RIVER, VA	Blade Bait
PERCH, YELLOW	G ALVIS	1lb-12oz	2	SPIN	460	2020-02-29	MATTAPONI RIVER, VA	Grub
PICKEREL, CHAIN	F COUSINS	4lb-3oz	2	SPIN	418	2020-02-04	POCOMOKE RIVER, MD	Grub
SHAD, HICKORY	F COUSINS	1lb-10oz	2	FLY	232	2020-03-27	JAMES RIVER, VA	Shad Fly
SUNFISH	M OSTRANDER	1lb-3oz	2	SPIN	312	2020-05-13	COHOKE POND, VA	White Grub
SUNFISH, REDEAR	DL NOBLES	1lb-3oz	2	FLY	237	2020-04-29	PRIVATE POND, VA	black leech streamer
TROUT, BROOK	C CLEVINGER	3lb-0oz	2	SPIN	340	2020-04-11	SOUTH BRANCH POTOMAC RIVER, WV	Joe's Fly
TROUT, BROWN	C CLEVINGER	2lb-4oz	2	SPIN	140	2020-04-11	SOUTH BRANCH POTOMAC RIVER, WV	Joe's Fly
TROUT, RAINBOW	C CLEVINGER	5lb-10oz	4	SPIN	255	2020-04-11	SOUTH BRANCH POTOMAC RIVER, WV	Joe's Fly

"Highest Point" Species Awards Saltwater

Species	Name	Weight	Line	Division	Points	Date	Location	Bait
DRUM, RED	B SHEPHERD	33lb-0oz	8	FLY	550	2020-05-13	CHESAPEAKE BAY, VA	Clauser
SEATROUT, SPOTTED	F COUSINS	2lb-3oz	2	SPIN	145	2020-04-07	RUDEE INLET, VA	Grub



"Heaviest" Species Awards Freshwater

Species	Name	Weight	Line	Division	Points	Date	Location	Bait
BASS, LARGEMOUTH	G ALVIS	9lb-4oz	8	PLUG	308	2020-02-04	KING WILLIAM, VA	Suspending Jerkbait
BASS, SMALLMOUTH	C CLEVINGER	2lb-1oz	6	SPIN	117	2020-03-09	JAMES RIVER, VA	Crank Bait
BASS, STRIPED (LL)	RL WHITE	4lb-2oz	4	SPIN	103	2019-12-06	BUGGS ISLAND, VA	Jig
BASS, WHITE	RL WHITE	1lb-6oz	4	SPIN	147	2019-12-06	BUGGS ISLAND, VA	Jig
BOWFIN	T MIDKIFF	8lb-6oz	4	GEN	255	2020-03-14	CHICKAHOMINY, VA	Minnow
CARP	M OSTRANDER	13lb-6oz	6	GEN	222	2020-03-09	JAMES RIVER, VA	Part of a Ham sandwich
CATFISH, BLUE	S KNOX	42lb-0oz	20BR	GEN	216	2020-04-22	JAMES RIVER, RICHMOND, VA	Cut shad
CATFISH, FLATHEAD	F MURRAY	24lb-0oz	8	FLY	331	2020-02-04	JAMES, VA	Fred fly
CRAPPIE, ALL	DL NOBLES	1lb-10oz	2	GEN	208	2020-04-11	PRIVATE POND, VA	curly tail grub, trolled
GAR, ALL	C CLEVINGER	16lb-12oz	6	SPIN	335	2019-12-27	JAMES RIVER, VA	Finesse Grub
MUSKELLUNGE, ALL	R HART	19lb-4oz	16	PLUG	178	2020-02-29	UPPER JAMES RIVER, VA	Glide bait
PERCH, WHITE	SC LEE	0lb-15oz	8	FLY	183	2020-03-31	JAMES RIVER, RICHMOND, VA	Murray Shad Fly
PERCH, YELLOW	G ALVIS	1lb-12oz	2	SPIN	460	2020-02-29	MATTAPONI RIVER, VA	Grub
PICKEREL, CHAIN	F COUSINS	4lb-3oz	2	SPIN	418	2020-02-04	POCOMOKE RIVER, MD	Grub
SHAD, HICKORY	GN CARTER	2lb-5oz	8	FLY	204	2020-03-26	JAMES RIVER, VA	Fred's Shad Fly
SUNFISH	M OSTRANDER	1lb-4oz	4	SPIN	271	2020-05-01	COHOKE POND, VA	White Grub
SUNFISH, REDEAR	DL NOBLES	1lb-3oz	2	FLY	237	2020-04-29	PRIVATE POND, VA	black leech streamer
TROUT, BROOK	C CLEVINGER	3lb-0oz	2	SPIN	340	2020-04-11	SOUTH BRANCH POTOMAC RIVER, WV	Joe's Fly
TROUT, BROWN	C CLEVINGER	2lb-4oz	2	SPIN	140	2020-04-11	SOUTH BRANCH POTOMAC RIVER, WV	Joe's Fly
TROUT, RAINBOW	C CLEVINGER	5lb-10oz	4	SPIN	255	2020-04-11	SOUTH BRANCH POTOMAC RIVER, WV	Joe's Fly

"Heaviest" Species Awards Saltwater

Species	Name	Weight	Line	Division	Points	Date	Location	Bait
DRUM, RED	B SHEPHERD	50lb-0oz		SURF	357	2020-05-16	SMITH ISLAND, VA	Peeler
SEATROUT, SPOTTED	F COUSINS	2lb-3oz	2	SPIN	145	2020-04-07	RUDEE INLET, VA	Grub

New Club Records Freshwater

Species	Name	Weight	Line	Division	Points	Date	Location	Bait
BASS, LARGEMOUTH	G ALVIS	9lb-4oz	8	PLUG	308	2020-02-04	KING WILLIAM, VA	Suspending Jerkbait
BASS, LARGEMOUTH	DN NOLAND	4lb-11oz	2	PLUG	312	2020-03-26	WEST POINT, , VA	Jig
GAR, ALL	C CLEVINGER	16lb-12oz	6	SPIN	335	2019-12-27	JAMES RIVER, VA	Finesse Grub
GAR, ALL	F COUSINS	16lb-12oz	2	PLUG	558	2019-12-27	JAMES RIVER, VA	Grub
MUSKELLUNGE, ALL	R HART	19lb-4oz	16	PLUG	178	2020-02-29	UPPER JAMES RIVER, VA	Glide bait
MUSKELLUNGE, ALL	M OSTRANDER	16lb-8oz	8	SPIN	275	2020-02-29	JAMES RIVER, VA	6" Jointed Hard Bait
SUNFISH	M OSTRANDER	1lb-3oz	2	SPIN	312	2020-05-13	COHOKE POND, VA	White Grub
SUNFISH	M OSTRANDER	1lb-4oz	4	SPIN	271	2020-05-01	COHOKE POND, VA	White Grub
SUNFISH	R HART	1lb-4oz	4	GEN	215	2020-05-16	WEST POINT, VA	Popeye and wax worm
SUNFISH, REDEAR	DL NOBLES	1lb-3oz	2	FLY	237	2020-04-29	PRIVATE POND, VA	black leech streamer
TROUT, BROOK	C CLEVINGER	3lb-0oz	2	SPIN	340	2020-04-11	SOUTH BRANCH POTOMAC RIVER, WV	Joe's Fly
TROUT, RAINBOW	C CLEVINGER	5lb-10oz	4	SPIN	255	2020-04-11	SOUTH BRANCH POTOMAC RIVER, WV	Joe's Fly

New Club Records Saltwater

Species	Name	Weight	Line	Division	Points	Date	Location	Bait
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Youth Freshwater

Species	Name	Weight	Line	Division	Points	Date	Location	Bait
PICKEREL, CHAIN	MASON HELQUIST 7_12	2lb-6oz	4	SPIN	174	2020-04-28	TAYLORS POND, VA	Road Runner
SUNFISH	WINDSOR BROUGHTON 0_6	0lb-9oz	4	SPIN	122	2020-04-25	PRIVATE POND, VA	Squirt

Non-Local Award Fresh or Saltwater

Species	Name	Weight	Line	Division	Points	Date	Location	Bait
SAILFISH, ATLANTIC	BW STRUM	0lb-0oz	30	GEN	151	2020-02-04	ISLA MUJERES, MEXICO, OTHER	Ballyhoo

New Member Award

Species	Name	Weight	Line	Division	Points	Date	Location	Bait
BASS, LARGEMOUTH	M MASON	4lb-4oz	4	SPIN	212	2020-03-21	JAMES RIVER, VA	small crankbait
PICKEREL, CHAIN	M MASON	2lb-8oz	4	PLUG	183	2020-03-23	PRIVATE POND, VA	grub

Total **395**

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

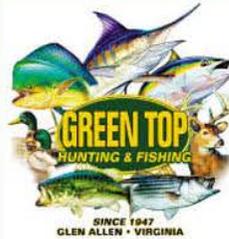
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Bulletin Editor: Carter Clevinger, 316-5002



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Design and Layout: Rob Choi

May Membership Meeting - Virtual Zoom Meeting



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