



March 2002

March Meeting

The March meeting will be held at the *Dept. of Fish & Game Building*, 4010 West Broad Street at **7:00 pm, Tuesday, March 26th**. The entrance and parking are at the rear of the building.

March Speaker

Claude Bain

Claude Bain, the Director of the Virginia Salt Water Fishing Tournament, will be the guest speaker at the March Membership Meeting. Claude is a long time friend of the Club and will give an update on the tournament and the direction it is taking. He will speak also on what state budget provisions that might impact the program. Claude is a skilled angler and can tell you good information about any fish that inhabits the Chesapeake Bay and tried and true ways of removing them from those waters. Get those questions down and bring them to the meeting. Claude will join those who come to Byrum's for dinner before the meeting. We usually gather between 5:15 and 5:30 PM. Byrum's is on West Broad Street just below the Channel 6 Tower.

Welcome to New Members

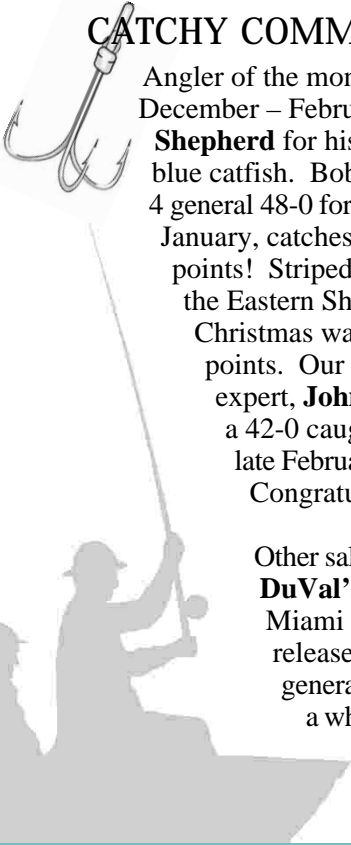
Since the last newsletter, 2 new VAC members have been voted in by the Board of Directors. **Rob Brown** expands the list of second generation VAC members. He lives in Mechanicsville and is currently working and finishing his education in law enforcement. **Captain William Seymour** takes charters part time in his 25' Carolina Classic. He is from Mechanicsville and is an officer in the local CCA chapter. Make a point to greet them!

In Memoriam

Mary Jane Burruss Kinnard

Mary Jane KINNARD, wife of long time club member C.V. Kinnard passed away on Monday, March 4, 2002. In the earlier days of the Virginia Anglers Club, Mary Jane was the Paid Secretary of the Club. She took hand written and typewritten copy and assembled it monthly into the *Angler*, the Club's newsletter. She also took care of mailing the letter to club members. We celebrate the memory of her husband "Kinny" Kinnard with our monthly angling award that bears his name.

CATCHY COMMENTS by Dennis Cline



Angler of the month honors for the December – February period went to **Bob Shepherd** for his pending IGFA record blue catfish. Bob's big cat was caught on 4 general 48-0 for 600 and weighed in early January, catches took second and third points! Striped bass My 43-0 caught in the Eastern Shore surf just before Christmas was second, scoring 430 points. Our new member and surf expert, **John Foster**, took third with a 42-0 caught in the Buxton surf in late February that scored 420 points. Congratulations to all!!

Other saltwater entries include **Bill DuVal's** two sailfish releases off Miami in February. Bill had releases on 6 general and 12 general, with the former scoring a whopping 625 points!! Both were caught on live threadfin. That had

Continued on page 2.

Virginia Anglers Club

CATCHY COMMENTS

(continued)

to be a real blast!! **Fred Cousins** has been working the hot ditch this winter, and so far has a 3-0 speckled trout on 2 spin for his top entry.

Freshwater action has been spotty to super, depending on the quarry and the location. So far, the Chickahominy River has produced a nice 3-8 chain pickerel for **Bruce Henderson**, but yellow perch action has been below par. Dragon Run produced a 1-0 yellow perch for **Parks Rountrey**. **Travis Ruddock** went to Kerr Lake for a nice 1-6 crappie. The James River gave **Scott Davis** a 2-8 smallmouth. Several blue catfish have also been caught on the James (reported separately).

The hot spot for the month turns out to be the Pamunkey River, where **Glenn Carter** found a hole the size of my Suburban that produced three club record

smallmouth bass!! Glenn released club record smallies of 3-7, 4-2 and 4-9 on 6 fly, 6 plug and 2 spin, respectively!!! All from the same hole! And several others were caught to boot! The bad news is that the bass seem to have moved on, since a return trip didn't produce any more. Bass, that is. Glenn and **LeRoy Houser** did find the mother lode of yellow perch while looking for more smallmouth. LeRoy had the top perch, which was a 1-8 on 2 spin. He also set a club record with a 1-7 on 6 spin! Glenn had a pair of 1-6's and a 1-4. One of the 1-6 perch is a new 12 spin record! And to think that all this time I figured Glenn was holed up in his office bustin' the books!!!



Don't Miss the CCA Banquet and Auction

The seventh annual CCA banquet and auction will again be at Jefferson Lakeside Country Club, Thursday March 28, from 6 :00 PM 'til about 10:00 PM. Single tickets are \$50 including a great meal and open bar. There is still room for a few more. Help VAC make a good showing at this very important fish conservation fundraiser. Call 346-1926 for reservations.

CCA Takes Lead on Changing VMRC

CCA is coordinating a statewide appeal to the new Governor for objective appointments to VMRC. (See the letter on the next page.) If you agree with the letter get folks to sign copies and bring them to the VAC meeting or drop them at Greentop or Flyfish the World. CCA will collect all the letters and deliver them to the Governor in early April (in bushel baskets).

GREEN TOP SPORTING GOODS

We Appreciate Your Patronage

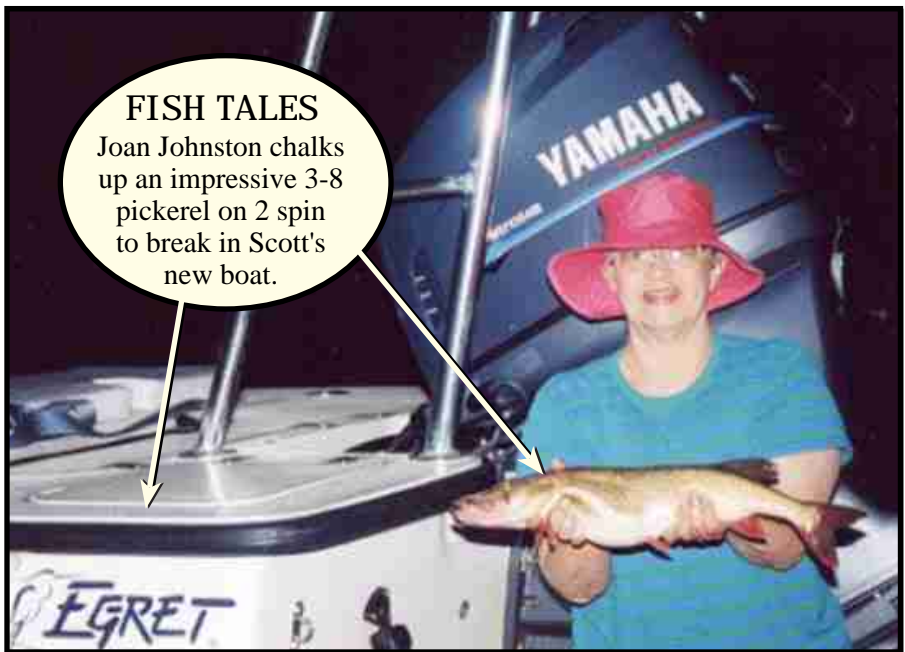


We carry over 50 models of G·Loomis Rods

Come See Our Greatly Enlarged Fly Tackle Department

FISH TALES

Joan Johnston chalks up an impressive 3-8 pickerel on 2 spin to break in Scott's new boat.



The Honorable Mark Warner
Office of the Governor
State Capitol, 3rd Floor
Richmond, VA 23219

Dear Governor Warner;

As a recreational angler, I am deeply concerned that the Virginia Marine Resources Commission (VMRC) has not been an effective protector of Virginia's finfish and shellfish. As the state agency charged with the protection of our marine resources, two tasks are key to fulfilling this mission. First, the commission must ensure important species are protected from over harvest from both the commercial and recreational sectors. Second, the commission should place a high priority on protecting and enhancing the entire complex of ecosystems that form Virginia's unique estuary and coastal environment. Unfortunately, there has been a long history of inaction and negative steps by the VMRC commissioners that have jeopardized our fisheries. Why has this occurred? Primarily, due to what appears to be the most important priority of the present group of commissioners --- **the short-term protection of commercial fishing jobs** --- at the expense of future fishing jobs, and in conflict with the long-term public interest.

The only way our important marine resources can be protected is to have a commission that is truly reflective of all concerned users/interests in Virginia. Thus, I urgently request your support in structuring the commission to more accurately and fairly reflect this diversity of interest groups. I am not seeking a commission "stacked" by recreational interests. Rather, I seek one that equally reflects commercial and recreational sectors in our economy and society. Additionally, at least one or two individuals should be appointed that have the professional, environmental and scientific perspective to provide unbiased insight on the sound management of our resources.

This letter is not written in response to any one action taken by the commissioners at the VMRC. However, the recent inaction in regard to **striped bass** serves as yet another in the long chain of questionable moves taken by a commercially oriented group of commissioners. In this case, as with so many before, the commissioners ignored the scientifically based recommendations of it's hard-working, over-tasked staff, and failed to implement any provisions to reduce the over harvest of large striped bass in our waters. Unfortunately, this inaction on the part of the commissioners will now very likely result in mandated federal regulations to solve the problem. In another shortsighted move, the commissioners permitted the dredging of **oysters**, some of which were critical brood stock, in the Rappahannock River for two months at a time when the state is spending several million dollars to restore the oyster fishery in that river. In a final example three years ago, against the advise of the VMRC staff, the commission granted an unprecedented number of license exceptions to allow several hundred additional watermen to enter the **blue crab** fishery. Now the commission is faced with having to reduce the harvest as a result of that increase in effort.

In conclusion, I am asking for your assistance to:

- (1) **Review the current make-up of the VMRC** -- does it's composition accurately reflect the various user/interest groups?
- (2) As the terms of various commissioners expire -- **approve the nomination and appointment of new commissioners with more diverse perspectives** to include individuals with sound scientific and/or environmental credentials.

Your attention to these important concerns will have the long-lasting effect of protecting and rebuilding our marine resources in such a way that all residents of the Commonwealth will have a coastal environment they may share with the rest of the nation and with generations to come. Thank you for your consideration.

Respectfully,

Signature

Name

Address

Virginia Anglers Club

VIRGINIA ANGLERS CLUB - 3/13/02

SPECIES	ANGLER	WEIGHT	LN	DIV.	DATE	LOCATION	PTS	BAIT
2002 SPECIES LEADERS - SALTWATER								
BASS, STRIPED	R.L. WHITE	34-0	4	PLUG	01/12/02	VIRGINIA BEACH, VA	680	BUCKTAIL
BLUEFISH	D.N. NOLAND	12-8	4	PLUG	12/23/01	RUDEE INLET, VA	312	BUCKTAIL
SEATROUT, SPOTTED	F. COUSINS	3-0	2	SPIN	01/26/02	ELIZABETH RIVER, VA	200	FIN-S
2002 SPECIES LEADERS - FRESHWATER								
BASS, SMALLMOUTH	G. CARTER	4-9	2	SPIN	02/25/02	PAMUNKEY RIVER, VA	456	SMOKE GRUB
BOWFIN	B. SHEPHERD	4-1	2	SPIN	01/27/02	YARMOUTH CREEK, VA	203	JIG
CARP	E.S. ROBINSON	7-4	2	SPIN	01/27/02	CHICKAHOMINY RIVER, VA	241	SILVER BUDDY
CATFISH, BLUE	D. CLINE	55-0	4	GEN	03/09/02	JAMES RIVER, VA	687	CUT SHAD
CRAPPIE	ROB ROBINSON	2-0	2	SPIN	01/31/02	JAMES RIVER, VA	320	TUBE JIG
PERCH, YELLOW	L. HOUSER	1-8	2	SPIN	03/02/02	PAMUNKEY RIVER, VA	400	ROADRUNNER
PICKEREL, CHAIN	B. HENDERSON	3-8	2	SPIN	02/09/02	CHICKAHOMINY RIVER, VA	350	SILVER BUDDY
SUNFISH	ROB ROBINSON	0-15	2	FLY	02/15/02	ELLY'S POND, VA	300	POPP'N BUG
TROUT, BROOK	B.L. NOLAND	2-9	2	FLY	12/02/01	MEADOW RUN CREEK, VA	410	WOOLYBUGGR
TROUT, BROWN	J.P. ROUNTREY	2-8	4	FLY	12/18/01	SMITH CREEK, VA	166	NYMPH
TROUT, RAINBOW	R. MATTHEWS	6-4	2	SPIN	12/22/01	CRIPPLE CREEK, VA	625	SPINNER
2002 DIVISION LEADERS - SALTWATER								
BLUEFISH	D.N. NOLAND	11-8	6	FLY	12/23/01	RUDEE INLET, VA	287	CLOUSER
BASS, STRIPED	R.L. WHITE	20-0	4	GEN	01/12/02	VIRGINIA BEACH, VA	333	BUCKTAIL
BASS, STRIPED	R.L. WHITE	34-0	4	PLUG	01/12/02	VIRGINIA BEACH, VA	680	BUCKTAIL
BASS, STRIPED	D. CLINE	14-0	6	SPIN	12/29/01	CBBT HIGHRISE, VA	215	CRIPPLHERRNG
BASS, STRIPED	D. CLINE	43-0		SURF	12/23/01	EASTERN SHORE, VA	430	LIVE EEL
2002 DIVISION LEADERS - FRESHWATER								
TROUT, BROOK	B.L. NOLAND	2-9	2	FLY	12/02/01	MEADOW RUN CREEK, VA	410	WOOLYBUGGR
CATFISH, BLUE	D. CLINE	55-0	4	GEN	03/09/02	JAMES RIVER, VA	687	CUT SHAD
CATFISH, BLUE	R.J. BROWN	14-0	4	PLUG	02/03/02	CHICKAHOMINY RIVER, VA	311	SILVER BUDDY
TROUT, RAINBOW	R. MATTHEWS	6-4	2	SPIN	12/22/01	CRIPPLE CREEK, VA	625	SPINNER
NEW CLUB RECORDS - SALTWATER								
BASS, STRIPED	R.L. WHITE	20-0	4	GEN	01/12/02	VIRGINIA BEACH, VA	333	BUCKTAIL
BASS, STRIPED	R.L. WHITE	34-0	4	PLUG	01/12/02	VIRGINIA BEACH, VA	680	BUCKTAIL
BASS, STRIPED	F. COUSINS	26-0	6	PLUG	01/12/02	VIRGINIA BEACH, VA	400	BUCKTAIL
BASS, STRIPED	L.J. SPURLIN	29-0	12	PLUG	01/09/02	RUDEE INLET, VA	241	BUCKTAIL
BASS, STRIPED	D. CLINE	43-0		SURF	12/23/01	EASTERN SHORE, VA	430	LIVE EEL
NEW CLUB RECORDS - FRESHWATER								
BASS, SMALLMOUTH	G. CARTER	3-7	6	FLY	02/25/02	PAMUNKEY RIVER, VA	250	CLOUSER
BASS, SMALLMOUTH	G. CARTER	4-2	6	PLUG	02/23/02	PAMUNKEY RIVER, VA	253	MODEL A
BASS, SMALLMOUTH	G. CARTER	4-9	2	SPIN	02/25/02	PAMUNKEY RIVER, VA	456	SMOKE GRUB
CATFISH, BLUE	D. CLINE	55-0	4	GEN	03/09/02	JAMES RIVER, VA	687	CUT SHAD
CATFISH, BLUE	R.J. BROWN	14-0	4	PLUG	02/03/02	CHICKAHOMINY RIVER, VA	311	SILVER BUDDY
PERCH, YELLOW	W.S. JOHNSTON	1-2	4	FLY	02/06/02	DRAGON RUN, VA	257	CLOUSER
PERCH, YELLOW	L. HOUSER	1-7	6	SPIN	03/02/02	PAMUNKEY RIVER, VA	230	ROADRUNNER
PERCH, YELLOW	G. CARTER	1-6	12	SPIN	03/02/02	PAMUNKEY RIVER, VA	157	ROADRUNNER
TROUT, RAINBOW	R. MATTHEWS	6-4	2	SPIN	12/22/01	CRIPPLE CREEK, VA	625	SPINNER
2002 TOP SPOUSE CATCHES - SALTWATER & FRESHWATER (LOCAL)								
PICKEREL, CHAIN	J. JOHNSTON	3-8	2	SPIN	01/29/02	DRAGON RUN, VA	350	SASSY SHAD
2002 TOP YOUTH CATCHES - SALTWATER & FRESHWATER (LOCAL)								
CATFISH, BLUE	G. SHEPHERD	25-0	12	GEN	12/02/01	JAMES RIVER, VA	178	SHAD
2002 HIGHEST POINT NON-LOCAL CATCHES - SALTWATER								
SAILFISH, ATLANTIC	W.B. DUVAL	REL.	6	GEN	02/02/02	MIAMI, FL	625	LIVETHREADFIN

C.V. KINNARD AWARD COMPETITION - 2002

ANGLER	FIRSTS	SECONDS	THIRDS	PLACES	POINTS	AVERAGE
BOB SHEPHERD	1	0	0	1	600	600
DENNIS CLINE	0	1	0	1	430	430
JOHN FOSTER	0	0	1	1	420	420
TOTALS	1	1	1	3	1450	483

Heroes and Happenstance

Do you ever wonder why things happen the way they do? I've had reason to contemplate that question the past several days. Yes, that's me in the picture with my hero, Bob Shepherd, and my potential IGFA record blue catfish! And yes, after several days I'm still wondering and still pinching myself, but I just about have the answers figured out. In the final analysis, I had so little to do with the catch that it is scary!

We wouldn't have even been on the James River for a catfish tournament that morning if it weren't for LeRoy Houser. His love for 'catfishin' and extraordinary success over the past several years has been an inspiration for us all. So much so, that what used to be an annual striper tournament at Lake Anna has now become a pair of catfish tournaments on the James. So much so, that a couple dozen club members have joined in the fun who otherwise would probably have fished somewhere else. The proof is in the record book, where LeRoy and Bob have posted two line class records and one pending record.

I wouldn't have even been there if it weren't for Fred Murray and Bob hatching a plan to get me a catfish before my pending surgery. Well, their plan really worked! I met Fred and Jim Farrell at Jordan Point early. Fred's enthusiasm was contagious, and made me even more excited to get the day started. As we waited for Bob, we launched Jim's boat and got Kelly Stafford and his buddy Woody on the water as well. Then Bob arrived for his maiden voyage of LeRoy's old boat, "Sellabration".

I will always remember the morning. It was misty and calm, almost foggy, when we caught up with Fred and Jim. They had been struggling to find bait for the three boats. We joined in the effort and Fred and Bob made countless throws, catching sometimes one, but more often none in the cast net. Fred's profile in the mist standing on the bow was worth a photo, but I didn't think to take one. After about two hours, Fred and Bob had to be worn out, but we finally had enough bait. Now we just had to find the fish.

We split up, with Fred stopping at one of his favorite spots and Bob searching downriver. The depth finder showed nothing

Continued on page 6.



**ACES
UP**

CHESAPEAKE BAY SPORT FISHING
Capt. Dave Compton (H) 804-730-7877
615 Harveys Neck Road
Heathsville, VA 22473 (Bay) 804-580-4337



*Denny with his whopping 55 lb blue cat,
and fellow fishing pal Bob Shepherd.*

Heroes and Happenstance (continued from page 5)

on the bottom most everywhere we looked. After what seemed like an hour, we still had not marked anything that looked like fish. We settled on anchoring above what looked like bottom structure and set out four baits in the current. It didn't take long. Bob was rigging another rod when we had our first bite.

This is where the what-ifs take over. We both watched as Bob's backup rod began to bow, and then the four-pound test line started moving out of the reel. That's when Bob, from the goodness of his heart, said go ahead and get it! I took the rod from the rod-holder and the fight began. The fish took off with the current and kept motoring until about half the line was off the spool. It was such a slow, steady pull that it seemed he wouldn't stop. Just when I was ready to say we should chase him, the fish stopped and turned into the current. It came about half way back and then turned away again. This went on for about 45 minutes, with the fish surfacing once about 40 yards from the boat. It was time to change tactics.

We decided to release the anchor and fight the fish from above. It didn't take long to get over the cat, but it still wanted to be near the bottom. I was beginning to make some progress when Fred and Jim showed up to watch. Bob had his hands full keeping over the fish using the trolling motor, so we asked Fred to come aboard and net the fish. As Fred and I watched, we got our first look at a real bruiser when it swirled off the starboard side. It was big!! Eventually the cat gave Fred a shot, and he skillfully slid the net under him and gathered himself to pull it into the boat. Fred's first comment was "this is the one!!"

A quick check of his weight in the net showed 57 pounds!! We knew we had a potential record fish, so we had to get to land to weigh it. A nearby dock provided a good platform, so away we went. As Bob and I tied up the boat, Fred kept the fish in the water to keep it alive. Our mission was then to get all the measurements and pictures quickly and revive and release the fish. Out of the net, the fish scaled out at a full 55 pounds!! The length was only 45 inches, but the girth was a whopping 30- inches!!

It was indeed the catfish of a lifetime! This was my lucky day! And yet, all I really did was wind in the fish. I am certainly proud of the catch, but the real heroes are LeRoy, Bob and Fred! I thank you all. What a great day for the Virginia Anglers Club!

Unbound! Charters, Inc.



CAPT. DAVID G. HOLSCLOW

USCG Licensed
Insured
36' Topaz

Office: 757-866-8600
Cell: 804-920-0158
www.unboundcharters.com



**Fly Fish
The World, Inc.**

5705 Grove Ave.
(new location)

(804) 282-5527

www.flyfishtheworld.com



New web
address.
Check us out!

Tournament Results

by Fred Murray

On March 9 at least 16 VAC members once again targeted big blue catfish on the James River. The day started out with Bob Shepherd entertaining us for two hours as he threw perfect circles with his big cast net trying to catch enough bait for the days fishing. one day he may actually catch some! As it turned out not much bait was needed since the catfish were not on a big feed but some quality fish were taken topped by one super fish. Kelly Stafford reported one fish of about 25lbs. Jim Farrell and I managed to get fish of 31, 28 and one in the upper twenties. New members Mike Baucom and Dave Harris landed a few fish and were joined by Mike's 16 year old daughter Kelly. Kelly showed them how it is done by landing a 44lber. on jungle tackle! Mike was heartbroken after losing a good fish after a two hour battle on 2#. Dennis Cline laid down his surf rod for a day to sample the blue cats and managed an unbelievable 55lber. on 4# general. At present we most likely have the best blue catfishing in the world right at our doorsteps. Our last two catfish tournaments that have each produced pending world record catches.

Upcoming Angling Events

Hickory Shad/White Perch

April 6, 2002

(Bad weather date: April 13)

Location: James River

Species: Hickory Shad/White Perch
(Note: no Hickory Shad can be counted from above the 14th Bridge)

Chairman: Eddy Johnston (355-3877)

Awards: 1 Cup for highest point shad on fly
1 Cup for highest point shad other tackle
1 Cup for highest point white perch

Report-in: Call Eddy within 5 days.

Hot Tips from Eddy: Hickory Shad- use shad darts or small spoons in gold or chartreuse on spin and plug tackle. On fly tackle use a sinking line with a short leader. Good fly colors are pink, orange and chartreuse. Eddy revealed his secret hole as the area from the 14th Bridge to Ancarrows Landing.

White Perch- 1/16-1/8 oz. grubs in chartreuse or white depending on current speed.

Boat Ramp: Since 9/11 the City Sheriff's Office has placed a guard at the entrance gate to the Ancarrow's boat ramp. Be prepared to stop and show identification and fishing license.



Map to shad fishing on the James



Beaverdam Swamp Reservoir

April 13, 2002

Location: Beaverdam Swamp Reservoir

Species: Largemouth Bass,
Other club recognized species.

Time: Daylight till 5:00 PM

Chairman: Eddy Johnston (355-3877)

Awards: 1 cup for the highest point Largemouth Bass
1 cup for the highest point other species

Report-in: Call Eddy within 5 days.

Directions: Beaverdam Reservoir is located just off of Rt.17 at Gloucester Courthouse. From Richmond take I-64 east to the West Point exit. Head toward West Point. Approximately 5 miles past West Point exit. Exit here and head east to West Point. Approximately 5 miles past West Point you will take a right on Rt. 14. This will take you to Rt. 17 where you will take a right and be heading south toward Gloucester. Continue south on 17 to the second stoplight (Business 17). Take a left here. You will now be in the town of Gloucester and heading to Gloucester courthouse. You will go just a little way and take a left on Rt. 616. (This is before you get to the Courthouse). Follow route 616 for about one half mile where it ends at the Ranger Station at the lake. This is electric motor only. Launch fee is \$6 daily or \$60 for an annual pass. Boat, motor and battery are available for rent of \$16 daily. The telephone number for the Ranger Station is 804-693-2107.

Beaverdam Reservoir is 635 acres with an average depth of 14-16 feet to a maximum of 28 ft. Coves have abundant standing timber. This is a great lake for a trophy largemouth bass. Try crankbaits, jig and pigs, and plastic worms.

Fishing on the Internet

Ever wish you could go to one online site and get realtime reports of the key wind, tide and temperature data from all of NOAA weather stations around the bay? Well now you can.

http://www.co-ops.nos.noaa.gov/ports_screens/cbscreen.shtml

Note the high water temperatures for this time of year.

Spring is prime time for wreck fishing, so if you need to add to your list of waypoints or increase your understanding about some of your favorite sites try this link. It is a dive site with history, photos, details and numbers in TD's.

<http://www.mikey.net/aue/wreckinfo.html>

If you act fast you may also be able to glean some good Lat Lon numbers from this recent thread on TidalFish.com

http://www.tidalFish.com/boards2/viewthread.asp?page=1&pagesize=14&forum=AMB_AP934078799&id=20132

J&W SEAFOOD OF VIRGINIA, INC.
BAIT AND TACKLE



Deltaville, Virginia Phone (800) 322 – 9740
Call Ahead for Weather and Fishing Reports

**Official
Weigh Station**

Live Bait

**All of Your Tackle
Needs for the Bay**

STOP Wildlife Crime!

Keep these numbers handy to report violations you see on the water.
Put them in your cell phone and be prepared.

VDGIF Crime Line 1-800-237-5712
VMRC Crime Line 1-800-541-4646

Bulletin Editor: Parks Rountrey, 730-2875.

Design and Layout: Michael Havranek

**NEXT MEETING:
March 26th**

P.O. BOX 31494
RICHMOND VA 23294-1494

