

Happy
New Year!



January 2018

In This Issue...

Annual Awards Banquet

-Page 7

Early Scale Certification Info

Page 3

Presentations and Expeditions

Page 10

Catchy Comments

Page 5

1st 2018 Membership Meeting

Page 4



No Membership Meeting in January.

The Board of Directors will next meet on February 13th. If you have an item for the BOD to consider during this meeting, please bring it to the attention of any VAC Director or Officer.



BACKLASH

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

INTRODUCING THE 2018 MEMBERS OF THE VAC LEADERSHIP TEAM

The Leadership Team of the VAC will be again be headed by Member Bobby Broughton (a three-peat for Bobby). Some members from the 2017 Team have agreed to continue serving and some new faces have stepped forward to join the Team. Please turn to page 9 of this issue of The Angler for a complete listing of the Officers, Directors and Committee Chairs for 2018. Thanks to the 41 members who participated in the voting.

NEXT-UP VAC ANGLING ACTIVITY ALERT

- Awards Banquet: Saturday Evening, February 3, 2018, Bar Opens 6:00 PM
- Membership Meeting: February 27, 2018. Scale Certification Available At Meeting
- Expedition: Yellow Perch – Leader Mike Cline – Saturday Feb. 17, 8:00 AM

2018 MEETING PROGRAM AND EXPEDITION SCHEDULES ANNOUNCED

Program Chairman Mike Ostrander and Angling Activities Chairman Eric Webster have released their current schedules of Membership Meeting Programs and the Expedition Schedules for the 2018 Angling Year. Thanks to the individual Members of the VAC who assisted Mike and Eric in working up the content of these schedules and whose names appear as presenters or Expedition leaders in the schedules. Both schedules are found on page 10 of this issue of The Angler.



Cesare's Ristorante Italiano
13301 Rivers Bend Blvd.
Chester, VA 23836
804-530-1047

<http://cesaresrestaurant.com/>

(On Route 10 Between I-95 and I-295)

Cesare's will open for us at 6:00 PM with a cash bar; dinner will start at 7:00 PM.

Complete Banquet meal and raffle prize details are found on page 7.

BANQUET RESERVATIONS – ONE CLICK OR MAIL A CHECK

For payment by PayPal, please enter Member's Area of the VAC Website www.virginiaanglersclub.org, scroll down to bottom of first page and click on "Annual Banquet" - \$40" PayPal Payment Box.

For payment by check, please make checks payable to The Virginia Anglers Club and send the check, along with the names of those attending to:

Virginia Anglers Club
POB 70520
Richmond, Virginia 23255

VAC ANNUAL DUES ARE NOW DUE – PLEASE PAY PROMPTLY

Annual Dues for the Virginia Anglers Club are now due. Payment can be made by PayPal as follows:

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??)

FIRST EXPEDITION OF 2018 – YELLOW PERCH – FEBRUARY 17, 2018

(By Eric Webster)

The first 2018 expedition will be the Yellow Perch trip lead by Mike Cline on Saturday, February 17. The group will meet at the Rock-a-Hock Campground boat ramp at 8:00 AM (NOTE: this is a boating trip, not a wading or bank fishing trip). Trip members will fish until 4:00 PM when they will gather back at the boat ramp to swap stories.

Please contact Mike if you plan to attend the trip. If Mike is able, he will fish for yellow perch prior to the expedition and give a report at the boat ramp the day of the trip. Mike can be reached at any of the following:
E-mail: mike.cline.chf@advansix.com, Personal Cell: 804-712-0575, Work Cell: 804-836-2128

Boat Ramp Information:

Rock-a-Hock Campground
1428 Outpost Rd, Lanexa, VA 23089
804-966-2759



Former Virginia Anglers Club Member (Oct. 2015 thru Dec. 2017) passed away on Sunday, January 7, 2018. As the result of a catastrophic fall while in college at Florida Southern College, Steve suffered a spinal cord injury. After surgical correction and rehabilitation, Steve relied on his wheelchair for mobility. Steve did not let that wheelchair diminish his ability to fish. Steve fished waters from local ponds to the Florida Keys. He was equally at home fishing while on a center console to fishing a pond or a stream from the bank. Steve shared many photographs of his catches with the VAC. In 2017, Steve had to have some surgery on his “casting” shoulder, a surgery that resulted in some complications. Citing his inability to cast a rod, Steve submitted his resignation on December 11, 2017. He said he would rejoin when he could again cast properly. Steve has pulled lines for the last time. Those of us that knew Steve will miss his magnificent smile and his always positive and energetic attitude.



Steve’s obituary that appeared in the Richmond Times Dispatch is at:
http://www.richmond.com/obituaries/fetrow-stephen/article_857a68f7-592d-54f3-8ddc-03f039381e32.html

GENERAL ASSEMBLY CONVENED ON JANUARY 10, 2018 **TRACK BILLS THAT ARE OF INTEREST TO ANGLERS**

You can view bills related to the mission of Department of Game and Inland Fisheries at
<http://www.dgif.virginia.gov/legislation/> .

For all the information on the work of and a way to contact your local members of the General Assembly go to the Legislation Information System web page at <https://lis.virginia.gov/>.

For total information about the General Assembly, the link is <https://viriniageneralassembly.gov/>.

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/>



FIRST MEMBERSHIP MEETING OF 2018 – FEBRUARY 27, 2018
(By Mike Ostrander)

“Virginia Anglers Club: A Member Discussion for Our Future”

On Tuesday, February 27 at 7:00, the Virginia Anglers Club will coordinate an open discussion on the future of our club. VAC member Doug Moran, an award winning author on inspirational leading, will “lead” this discussion. The last time the VAC had a meeting dedicated to the future of the club was in 1982.

What is your part? Think about the Virginia Anglers Club and what you like about it, and how you may enhance those things through ideas and/or actions. Think about programs, Expeditions, special events, the leadership, and what roles you may enjoy (if not already doing so of course). Write those thoughts and ideas down, and come to the meeting ready to share and be involved.

Most importantly, if we run out of time, share the ideas and thoughts with a Board Member, or Committee Member that night, or send an email soon afterwards so they can be discussed at the next Board of Directors meeting, which meets on the second Tuesday of the month.

Thanks in advance and if you have any questions about this meeting, please contact Program Chairman, Mike Ostrander at Mike@DiscvoertheJames.com or 804-938-2350.

HUMOR FROM THE TACKLE BOX



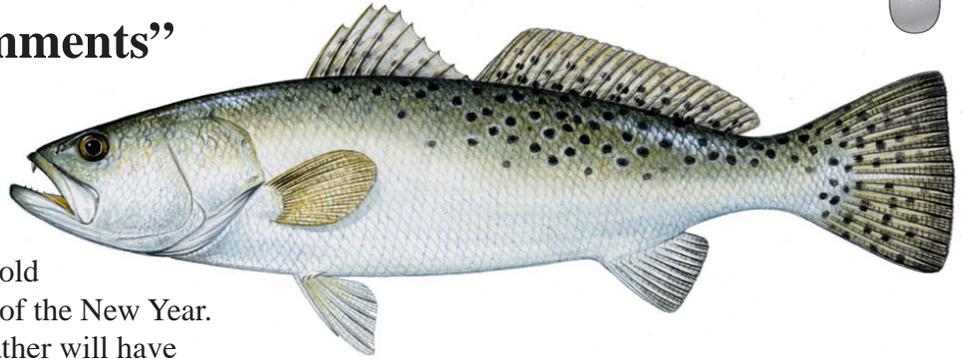
“You’re late for work again, Hayes. What’s your lame excuse this time?”

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



“Catchy Comments”

By *Stuart Lee*



We all suffered through the bitterly cold weather that we had around the start of the New Year.

For speckle trout fishermen, that weather will have

consequences long after that miserably cold weather has been forgotten. Super cold weather and rapid drops in water temperatures result in what is called cold stunning which leads to large die-offs in speckle trout. Unlike many other fish, these trout winter in relatively shallow water. In North Carolina, they congregate on the western side of the sounds. The water in these areas is typically 20 feet or less. It seems to me that the fish in North Carolina are even more susceptible to these kills than in Virginia, and this could be that wintering trout in Virginia waters have access to some close-by deeper water.

While these episodes do not kill all of the trout, they do have a significant impact on the population. On January 3, 2018, the North Carolina Division of Marine Fisheries closed all recreational and commercial fishing for Spotted Sea Trout until June 15, 2018. The proclamation stated that their intent was to allow the surviving fish to spawn before being targeted by fishermen. In 2014, a similar proclamation was made, after a significant cold stun event, and the fishery was allowed to open on June 15.

My log reveals that in 2016, I caught 718 trout, and in 2017, 696 trout, but after the cold stun in 2014, I caught 205 fish. This is a very small sample, but it explains why a speckle trout fisherman fears the dramatic fall in winter temperatures about as much as an IRS audit.

I have always heard that the larger fish were the first to die in these cold stun events, and the smaller fish were impacted less, which is the opposite of what one would suspect. As a rule of thumb, a speckle trout grows about one pound per year; that rate slows some in the upper ranges of age. In North Carolina, we had been seeing an increase in the size of fish for the last two years, but there were very few larger fish, which would point to those fish being killed in the 2014 freeze. Looking forward to this year, I would expect to see fewer and smaller fish than we have seen in the last two years.

For those of you who may be interested in trying the Platypus Pre-test Braid line this year, I have good news. The folks at Platypus Fishing Lines – USA have offered our club a 25% discount on their Pre-test Braid, which is now allowable in the Club’s line classes with monofilament. The lightest line available in this Pre-test Braid is 8Lb (4kg).

To get the discount, you need to purchase through their website: www.PlatypusFishing.com and enter this code at checkout: VAC2018.

While even with the discount, this line remains expensive, I am guessing that some of you are thinking about applications that may justify the expense, I know I am.

I hope to see you at the banquet.

Stuart



Mason Slaughter- 28 Degrees in Waynesboro





ANNUAL AWARDS BANQUET – SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 3RD, 2018

VAC annual banquet will be held at:

**Cesare’s Ristorante Italiano
13301 Rivers Bend Blvd.
Chester, VA 23836
804-530-1047
<http://cesaresrestaurant.com>**

(On Route 10 Between I-95 and I-295)

Cesare’s will open for us at 6:00 PM with a cash bar; dinner will start at 7:00 PM.

MENU

RAFFLE ITEMS

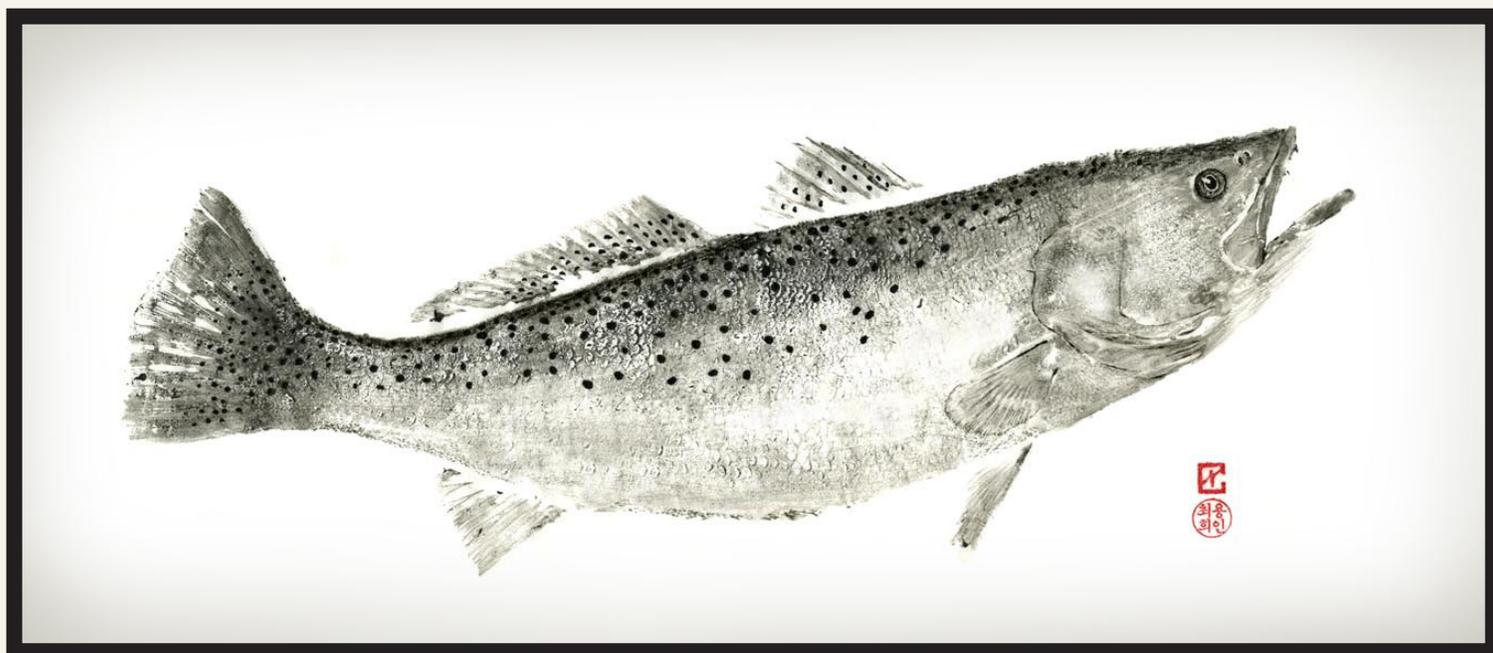
**Smoked Rock Fish During Cocktail Hour
(Thanks again, Stuart)**

[Raffle tickets priced at \$1.00 each or six (6) for \$5.00]

**Entrees: Ziti Marinara and Fettuccine
Alfredo w/Shrimp.
Salad
Bread**

- Bill Gallasch Fly Shadow Box
- Framed Gyotaku Print by Rob Choi (Speckled Trout)
- Carved and Painted Wooden Fish
- (4th Item Being Selected – To Be Announced)

**Dessert: Sheet Cake and
Cheesecake Sampler**



[Make Your Banquet Reservations Now!](#)



COLD WEATHER TRIGGERS SPECKLED TROUT **‘MASS MORTALITY EVENT’**

(From the Chesapeake Bay Magazine’s 1/10/18 Bay Bulletin’’)

Hundreds of speckled (or spotted) trout are turning up dead in Virginia waterways, after the recent stretch of freezing temperatures in the Bay.

The cold-stun event appears to be worst around the Lynnhaven Inlet and Little Creek. Dr. Pat McGrath, a marine scientist at the Virginia Institute of Marine Science, tells Bay Bulletin that when the water temperature drops between about 41 and 44 degrees Fahrenheit for more than a day or two, speckled trout start to die. The Chesapeake Bay is already the northern border for the fish’s population, so they are living at their thermal limit even when the Bay isn’t gripped by cold for days on end.

Dr. McGrath, along with VIMS professor Eric Hilton, have been tagging and tracking speckled trout since 2016 to find out more about these cold-stun events. So far, 74 fish have been tagged, but Dr. McGrath says there is good possibilities that just about all of his tagged fish are now dead.

The VIMS researchers are finding that smaller speckled trout behave differently in cold weather than the larger speckled trout. Almost all of the fish under 14 inches leave the rivers when the water gets dangerously cold, heading to the mouth of the Bay or the ocean, where temperatures are more stable. But the larger fish do the opposite, and actually head up farther into the shallow parts of the rivers, hoping the shallower water and mud may help them warm up more quickly. But that’s not usually the case: these larger fish are the ones that die.

Anglers despair when they see cold-stunned trout floating on the surface, because it usually means the recreational fishery won’t be good in the coming year.

Dr. McGrath acknowledges the impact, saying, “The fall of 2018 is probably going to be a good year to take off from speckled trout fishing. Maybe...focus on rockfish next fall.”

But, Dr. McGrath points out, all hope is not lost for future speckled trout fishing. The smaller fish, which leave the river and typically survive these cold water events, will continue to grow and thrive in the coming months and may make for a good season two years down the road.

North Carolina has also seen a high mortality rate this winter, and just announced it is suspending all speckled trout fishing until June 6th. Virginia hasn’t imposed any limits of its own.

INTRODUCING THE 2018 MEMBERS OF THE VAC LEADERSHIP TEAM



Officers

President	Bobby Broughton
1st VP - Programs	Mike Ostrander
2nd VP - Angling Activities	Eric Webster
3rd VP - Cons. & Legislation	(Open)
Treasurer	Bill Butler
Recording Secretary	Karen Anderson
Newsletter Secretary	Carter Clevinger
Webmaster	Johnny Wetlaufer

Directors

Class of 2018	Class of 2019	Class of 2020
Bob Brown	Art Conway	Carter Clevinger
Gary Green	Buddy Noland	Fred Cousins
John Wetlaufer, Sr.	Eric Webster	Fred Murray

Committee Chairmen

Angling Rules Chairman	Fred Cousins
Angling Activities Chairman	Eric Webster
Banquet Chairman	(Open)
Country Store Chairman	(Open)
Conservation & Legislation Chairman	(Open)
Membership Chairman	John Wetlaufer, Sr.
Orientation Chairmen	Bob Brown
Programs Committee Chairman	Mike Ostrander
Scale Certification Co-Chairmen	Larry Allen
	Ryan Noland
Special Activities Chairman	Don West
Surf Team Captain	Danny Noland
Webmaster	Johnny Wetlaufer
Website Assistant	Eric Webster

Many thanks to these volunteer members who have agreed (some again) to give of their free time and talents to the betterment of the Virginia Anglers club.

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
January	No meeting	
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	

Expedition	Leader	Date
Yellow Perch	Mike Cline	Sat. Feb. 17, 8:00 AM
Shad Fishing	Glenn Carter (?)	TBD
Rockfish River Float Trip	Tyler Shands	4/21/18 (confirmed)
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 (confirmed)
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
MUSKELLUNGE, ALL	R CHOI	19lb-0oz	20BR	GEN	115	2017-12-07	JAMES RIVER, VA	Hellhound Lure
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

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
CRAPPIE, ALL	F COUSINS	1lb-3oz	2	SPIN	188	2017-12-18	BUGGS ISLAND LAKE, VA	Bucktail Jig
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
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
CRAPPIE, ALL	F COUSINS	1lb-3oz	2	SPIN	188	2017-12-18	BUGGS ISLAND LAKE, VA	Bucktail Jig
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
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 Club Records Freshwater

Species	Name	Weight	Line	Division	Points	Date	Location	Bait
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New Club Records Saltwater

Species	Name	Weight	Line	Division	Points	Date	Location	Bait
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Non-Local Award Fresh or Saltwater

Species	Name	Weight	Line	Division	Points	Date	Location	Bait
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New Member Award

Species	Name	Weight	Line	Division	Points	Date	Location	Bait
TROUT, BROWN	J NIXON	3lb-8oz	6	FLY	156	2017-12-17	SOUTH HOLSTON RIVER, VA	Brown Prince nymph (gold beaded)
TROUT, RAINBOW	J NIXON	2lb-4oz	4	FLY	127	2017-12-17	SOUTH HOLSTON RIVER, VA	Gold Ribbed Olive Scud (size 12)

Total **283**

Robert Thomas

Fishing Adventures

Fly Casting & Fly Tying Instruction
Equipment: Rods, Reels, Lines, etc.
Fly Tying Materials & Tools
Hosted Trips

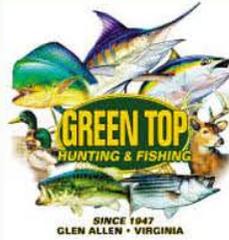
MattyJ Saltwater Flies

(804) 266-5458

rtphotography@comcast.net

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Bulletin Editor: Johnny Wetlaufer, 647-4042



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**Visit Our
New Website!**
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We Appreciate Your Business!

Design and Layout: Rob Choi

**BANQUET:
SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 3RD, 2018 at Cesare's Ristorante Italiano**

RICHMOND VA 23294-1494
P.O. BOX 31494

