

March 2012

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### Next Membership Meeting

**Tuesday, March 27, 2012 - 7:00 PM**

**Skilligalee Restaurant**  
**Glenside Ave, just North of Broad Street**  
**Come ~ 5:30 PM and enjoy good company**  
**over dinner from the menu**



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

### MARCH MEMBERSHIP MEETING FEATURES VAC SHAD ANGLING ROUNDTABLE

The Shad Angling Roundtable will focus on tackle and baits to use to make the most of the annual Shad run into the James River and the potential for IGFA World Records coming from this run. We'll have three stations with a skilled VAC shad expert and IGFA World Shad Record Holder at each. Here is the line

*Parks Rountrey:* An IGFA World Record holder (flathead catfish, 4lb. line class, 29 lbs – 8 oz.), Parks, will set up a Station for discussing the hickory and American shad world records. Parks will dissect the WR book and show us which line classes have the best potential for setting an IGFA World Record. He will also explain how to fill out the IGFA paperwork correctly and what is needed as accompanying documentation.

*Andrew Campbell:* New member, Andrew, will set up shop to tie his favorite shad flies. Andrew, a die-hard fly fisherman and wonderful artist, gets to combine his two passions and show the club some of his techniques and designs. Andrew ties flies almost every day, if not every day.

*Fred Murray:* An IGFA World Record holder (blue catfish, 4 lb. line class, 53 lbs – 0 oz), Fred, will have his fly rod in hand to discuss the best ways to light line fish for IGFA World Record hickory and American shad. He will also have his spinning gear on hand for those that would like to see a classic light line shad set up. His main focus will be on fly fishing.



## VAC CLUB MEMBER DEAN WINSTEAD PASSES ON FEB. 7, 2012

Virginia Anglers Club Member Thomas "Dean" Winstead passed away on Wednesday, March 7, 2012 after a protracted illness. A "Lines Out" memorial to Dean appears on page 8 of this issue of The Angler.

## THREE ANGLERS VOTED INTO VAC MEMBERSHIP AT THE MARCH BOD MEETING

Ben Hebner, "Sal" Peluso and Eric Webster were voted into membership in the Virginia Anglers Club at the March 13<sup>th</sup> VAC Board of Directors Meeting. Please go to page 10 of this edition of The Angler where some brief bio information and pictures of each appear. In the "Membership Goals" section of their applications for membership, all three said "have fun". They came to the right place for that.

## KELLY STAFFORD MEMORIAL HICKORY SHAD & WHITE PERCH TOURNAMENT

Get that 2# and 4# tackle and tippet out of storage and into the boat. The Kelly Stafford Memorial Hickory Shad and White Perch Tournament is coming up on the weekend of March 31<sup>st</sup> – April 1<sup>st</sup> and will be fished in the James River. The Blow Date for this tournament jumps to weeks to April 14-15<sup>th</sup> to avoid a conflict with Easter, April 8<sup>th</sup>. Detailed information is found on page 14 in this issue of The Angler.

## MORATORIUM ON RIVER HERRING FISHING IS NOW IN EFFECT

### (RECOMMENDED READING FOR THE ABOVE TOURNAMENT)

On January 1, 2012, a moratorium on River Herring fishing went into effect. The VA Marine Resources Commission (VMRC) states that the purposes of the moratorium are to rebuild the Virginia stocks of River Herring and to comply with the requirements of the Interstate Fishery Management Plan for Shad and River Herring. It is unlawful for any person to possess any river herring in the Commonwealth of Virginia. Fishermen that traditionally fish for river herring with hook and line, dip nets, cast nets, gill nets or any other gear should be aware of this fishing closure and not purchase a gear license if only fishing for river herring. For additional illustrated information on this new regulation, please see page 7 of this issue of The Angler. Also shown are illustrations of American and Hickory Shad

## ANGLER OF THE MONTH AWARD – QUICKEST WAY TO SHOW WHAT YOU GOT

The only award that is presented each month and has monthly recognition with a trophy, is the C.V. Kinnard Angler of the Month Award. Recognition is made monthly for the highest point fish caught between Membership Meetings and must be submitted at Membership Meeting ending the catch period. The members seeking the monthly honor must also be in attendance at the Membership

Meeting to score. Normally a small number of members participate in the Angler of the Month Award contest. All Members are urged to submit catches for this monthly recognition. Imagine the great feeling that would come over you if you were able to wax Fred, Parks, Bob or another self-proclaimed holder of the monthly "hot rod" with a sleeper catch.

## ANNUAL SCALE CERTIFICATION CONTINUES AT THE MARCH MEMBERSHIP MEETING

Co-Weigh Masters Larry Allen and Ryan Noland will have their scale certification equipment up and ready to certify the scales of VAC Members. A properly certified scale (yours or one certified by a government agency) is needed to weigh any catch submitted for points or weight credit. Having your scale maintenance completed before the meeting is strongly recommended. Here are the standard, time tested steps to complete ready your scales for certification.

- Clean the outside of the barrel so certification stickers will adhere
- Gather your scales together in one or two Zip Lock type bags.
- Write your name on the outside of the bag(s).
- Leave your bagged scales on the certification team's table
- Your scales will be delivered to you when the certification process is complete)

## ANNUAL DUES ARE NOW PAST DUE

Membership Dues for 2012 were past due on March 1, 2012. Annual dues for Members residing in Virginia are \$60.00 and are \$40.00 for members residing outside of Virginia. No dues are collected from complimentary, honorary or life members. Dues may be paid by check by making the check out to "Virginia Anglers Club" and making the notation 2011 Dues on the memo line of the check. Send the dues to the

**THE VIRGINIA ANGLERS CLUB  
P.O. BOX 31494  
RICHMOND VA 23294-1494**

Dues are also payable on line via Pay Pal by connecting to the VAC Web Site. Go to ([www.virginiaanglersclub.org](http://www.virginiaanglersclub.org).) and click on "member's area". Then just click on the bar for in-state or out-of-state dues and provide the information requested. Anyone may make a donation to the club in the "member's area" also.

A Reminder: Entry Cards submitted by members whose dues are not current on or after March 1, 2012 will be disqualified and will not be honored after dues are caught up. Entry Cards are accepted only if the Member submitting the Card is current in their membership. The same holds true for placing in any VAC tournament.



### SPECIAL SPRING IGFA MOUNT RAFFLE FORMAT CHANGES

Life Member Bill DuVal has graciously donated two mounts that are from the extensive collection of IGFA World Records earned over the years by well-loved friend of the club and first lady member, Gene DuVal. Each mount is accompanied by the appropriate framed IGFA World Record certificates. Two separate raffles were reported in the February Angler. The format changes are (1) to have both mounts and accompanying IGFA World Record Citations raffled together and (2) sell raffle tickets at each Membership Meeting and at the beginning of the May Fish Fry. Two raffle tickets will be drawn at the May Fish Fry to determine the winner of each mount. See Eddy Johnston, Country Store Keeper, for you raffle tickets (\$1.00 each, six for \$5.00). All proceeds from the raffle go to the General Fund of the VAC

### CATCH ENTRY DATA BASE HAVE BEEN UPDATED THRU FEBRUARY 10, 2012

The data that comes up on your monitor when you select "Search All Catches (Catch Database)" under the section titled "Catch Entries" in the Member's Area of the VAC Web site comes from a very large database of catch information. The entry of latest set of information was completed on February 10, 2012. Catch information from all entry cards ever submitted is entered into this very large (11,380 entries as of Feb. 9) database that VAC has maintained since 1961. This information is entered in batches vs. in real time. Entering this data is tedious work and accomplished by members volunteering their personal time to the entry task. Batch entry has been found to be the most convenient method of data entry and has been practiced since the database was established. If you need information on submissions between batch entries, please get up with Buddy Noland.

### CCA CENTRAL VIRGINIA CHAPTER SPRING FUNDRAISER AND BANQUET

The CCA Central Virginia Chapter is again holding their annual Spring Fund Raiser and Banquet and this year it is right up here in Richmond. The function will be held on Saturday, April 28, 2012 at 6:00 PM at the Acca Shriners' Activity Center, 2712 Bellevue Avenue, Richmond, VA 23227. The Banquet will offer oysters, beer and wine starting at 6:00 PM with a barbecue diner to start at 7:00 PM. Reservation tickets are \$50.00 each and include a new or renewal of your existing CCA-VA membership. Multiple raffles and auctions will be featured. For more information and to reserve a ticket or a table, please call 804 380-7328 or email CCA.VA.Now@gmail.com.

For The Leadership Team

John Wetlaufer, Sr., Secretary



### CATCHY COMMENTS

by Buddy Noland

The advent of spring has brought 80 degree temperatures and boats out of winter storage. With the Yellow Perch fishery winding down, the word is out today that Shad can be found all the way up the James River to Richmond. On the saltwater side, the tuna have migrated off Oregon Inlet and down to Hatteras.

At the beginning of February, **Clint Peters** managed to land a nice 5 pound Largemouth Bass out of a pond on 4# spin for 250 points. **Clint** was using an artificial minnow for bait and the fish takes the "species" and "heaviest" leads.

**Bob Shepherd** had the largest catch of the past month. **Bob** was using 6# general and caught a 52 pound Blue Catfish worth 489 points. The catfish will lead the "general division", "species" and "heaviest" categories.

Several nice Yellow Perch were caught during the tournament last month. **Parks Rountrey** had a 1 pound, 2 ounce catch for 296 points, but **Robbie Robinson** takes the Yellow Perch lead with a 1 pound, 3 ounce, perch worth 312 points. **Robbie** and **Mike Cline** have been doing real well the last several years using a hair jig with Gulp.

**Art Conway** is still loading up on the Crappie on the Chickahominy River with his largest being a 1 pound, 3 ounce fish. **Robbie Robinson** was using a blade bait to land the largest Crappie, a 1 pound, 11 ounce fish on 2# plug. **Robbie** leads the "heaviest" and "species" categories with the 267 point fish.

**Jim Sheffield** couldn't wait for the Shad to come to Richmond, so he has been fishing the Weldon, NC area for the last several weeks whereas evident by the catches, the Hickories are the largest. **Jim** has entered eight different fish using spinning and fly gear from 2 pounds, 2 ounce, to the largest Hickory weighing 2 pounds, 9 ounces. **Jim** will be entering five of these entries for potential IGFA World Records weighing them on scales certified by the VAC. **Jim's** largest fish, the 2-9 on 4# fly, scored 305 points and leads the "fly division", "species", and "heaviest" categories. What is most surprising is that not one of the catches will beat any of our current Club Records! Best of luck to **Jim** on his IGFA entries.

May the luck of the Irish be with you in your fishing choices! Large Bass are being caught this time of year and the Shad, White Perch fishery is just beginning.

Keeping it reel,  
Buddy



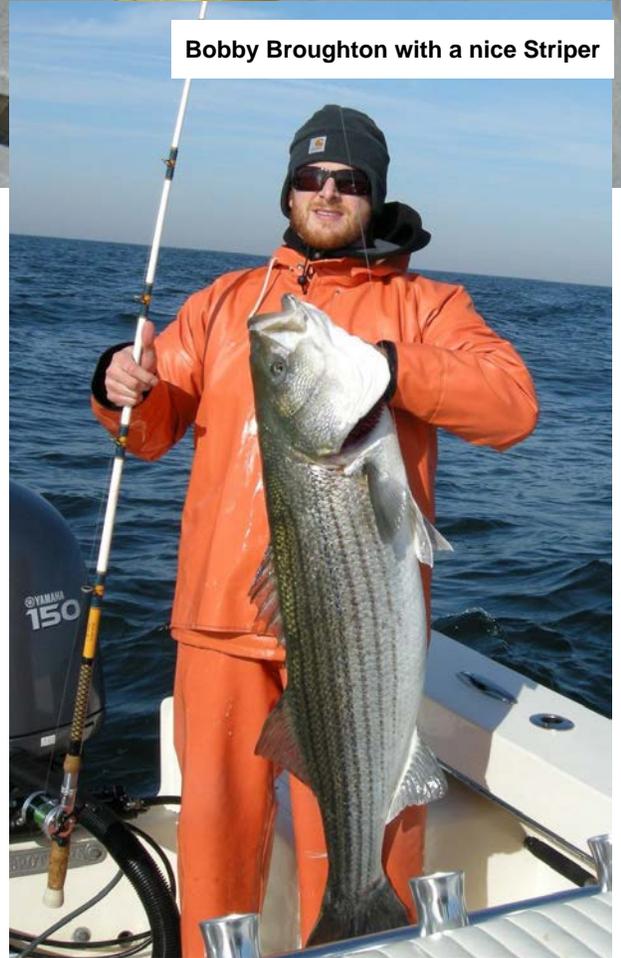
Menhaden flies by Andrew Campbell



Andrew in action



Nice Rockfish on 12 and 20 lb tippet



Bobby Broughton with a nice Striper





Robbie Robinson with a pair of nice Yellow Perch



"The Haul" by Robbie Robinson and Mike Cline



Tournament winners Robbie Robinson and Mike Cline



Bob Schepker - Perchen on the Perch for Perch

Rob Choi with a nice James River Hickory Shad 3/18/12



"Jumper"



Rob with a 6.5 lb Tautog (on braid)

VMRC RIVER HERRING MORATORIUM REGULATION TEXT

(Note: Here, "VAC" = Code of Virginia)

VIRGINIA MARINE RESOURCES COMMISSION
"PERTAINING TO RIVER HERRING"
CHAPTER 4 VAC 20-1260-10 ET SEQ.

PREAMBLE

This chapter establishes a moratorium on River Herring. This chapter is promulgated pursuant to the authority contained in §a728.2-201 of the Code of Virginia. The effective date of this chapter is January 1, 2012.

4 VAC 20-1260-10. PURPOSE

The purposes of this chapter are to rebuild the Virginia stocks of River Herring and to comply with the requirements of the Interstate Fishery Management Plan for Shad and River Herring\*.

4 VAC 20-1260-20. DEFINITIONS

The following term when used in this chapter shall have the following meaning unless the context clearly indicates otherwise:

"River Herring" means any fish of the species Alosa aestivalis (Blue Back Herring) or Alosa pseudoharengus (Alewife).

4 VAC-20-1260-30. Moratorium

It shall be unlawful for any person to possess any river herring in the Commonwealth of Virginia.

4 VAC 20-1260-40. PENALTY

As set forth in §a728.2-903 of the Code of Virginia, any person violating any provision of this chapter shall be guilty of a Class 3 misdemeanor, and a second or subsequent violation of any provision of this chapter committed by the same person, within 12 months of a prior violation, is a Class 1 misdemeanor.

\* If you want to read the entire 173 page text of the Interstate Fishery Management Plan for Shad and River Herring, here is the link:

http://www.jcaa.org/news/amendment2\_RiverHerring.pdf

SOME COMMON SHAD AND HERRING



Alewife

Alewife Aliases

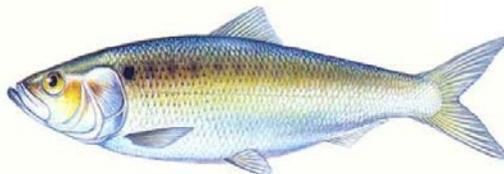
(Also: Anadromous alewives; Bigeye herring; Branch herring; Clipped roefish; Corned alewives; Freshwater herring; Gray herring; Grayback; Greyback; Kyak; River herring; Sawbelly; White herring; kyack)



Blueback Herring



Gizzard Shad



Hickory Shad



American Shad

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

**DEAN WINSTEAD PULLS LINES FOR THE FINAL TIME**

Eight year Virginia Anglers Club Member (Thomas) “Dean” Winstead pulled lines for the final time on Wednesday, March 7, 2012. Dean was all about shad fishing and grew up along a shad stream in Greenville, NC where the shad bug bit him early in his life. Dean came to Virginia as part of a career move during his long employment with DuPont. Dean eventually met at work and became close friends with Buddy and Danny Noland and Ricky Dale, all of whom who hooked Dean on membership in the VAC along with his close friend Jeff Doughty. Dean’s IGFA World Record Hickory Shad from the Nottaway River in VA (2 lb. – 6 oz. on 6 lb. Line) continues to stand about three weeks short of its catch four years ago. He submitted only quality fish for VAC catch credit with his fifteen shad entries making up about half of his submissions. Dean was a prolific tier of shad flies and buck tails who would only let perfect flies and bucktails leave is tying bench to go to work on the end of a line. Any bait that was not perfect in his eye would be retied or retired to the junk pile. Dean was equally meticulous about how he maintained his tackle. Mostly a freshwater angler in the beginning, Dean quickly turned his talents to the saltwater angling. Dean would go to Hatteras for a week in August with the above mentioned friends and others and all used his jigs wreck fishing. Dean might not have been known to all VAC Members but he did his share of work for the Club. Dean manned the scale certification journal during Membership Meeting certification work. All who attended the VAC’s Annual Fish Fries at the Maymont Nature Center would see Dean cooking some world class sweet potato fries. Dean’s favorite saying was “you may knock me down, but I will never give up”. Dean remained true to this belief until his last line came in.

Dean’s bucktails on the way to work



Dean with his favorite species



Dean taking a break from cooking at a fish fry



## **IGFA ISSUES DEFINITION OF OFFICAL AN OFFICIAL IGFA RELEASE**

At its recent annual board meeting in January, the IGFA Board of Trustees agreed to consider a fish officially released when one of the following actions is completed:

- A. The mate is able to grab the leader
- B. The swivel hits the rod tip
- C. The connection (knot, splice, etc. between the leader and the mainline / double line/ fly line passes thru the rod tip.

Leader lengths must conform to current IGFA tackle requirements. Specifically, for line up to and including 10 kg (20 lb) the leader may not exceed 15 feet. In lines over 10 kg (20 lb), the leader may not be in excess of 30 feet. All leader measurements are inclusive of the lure or hook arrangement and are measured to the bend of the last hook.

## **EMPTY RECORDS – SUNFISH AND SUNFISH RED**

The door is wide open on the forty-two new opportunities to be the first holder of a VAC record for Sunfish and Sunfish Red Ear. New species recognition and basic weights were established for these two species and the old Sunfish All records were frozen. Any entry for VAC record consideration must be at least worth 100 points. For “Sun” on 2# test fly and 2# test spin, the 100 point basic weights are 0.3 lbs. (5 oz.) and 0.38 lbs. (6 oz.), respectively. For “Sun Fish – Red Ear” on 2# test fly and 2# test spin, the 100 point basic weights are 0.5 lbs. (8 oz.) and 0.62 lbs., (10 oz.) respectively. With waters warming up, some tactical angling might be in order.

**(FROM THE 2/22/12 and 3-14-12 VDGIF OUTDOOR REPORTS)**

## **VDGIF LAUNCHES ANDROID VERSION OF HUNT FISH VA APP**

Continuing its commitment to mobile technology users and serving as a benchmark for innovation for outdoor regulatory and enforcement agencies throughout the nation, the Virginia Department of Game and Inland Fisheries (VDGIF) is once again partnering with Virginia Interactive (VI) to offer the Android version of its popular, award winning Hunt Fish VA mobile app.

Officially released February 6, 2012, the new Hunt Fish VA mobile app for Android is available free from the . The online tool allows Virginia sportsmen and sportswomen to search a wide variety of Virginia hunting and fishing related information on their smart phones. Some of the app's numerous capabilities include:

- buying a license through the secure mobile online licensing system;
- calculating Geolocation based sunrise and sunset times;
- looking up hunting regulations, seasons, and bag limits while in the field;
- viewing freshwater fishing regulations;
- identifying the fish you just caught and comparing them to state record fish;
- recording your harvests in your own personal "Trophy Case";
- finding nearby boat ramps, Wildlife Management Areas, and lakes with the "Near Me" mapping tool;
- getting the latest news and information from VDGIF;
- and much more!

## **TWO SENATE BILLS FAIL TO PASS VOTE IN VIRGINIA SENATE**

SB30-Amend 368 Stuart Budget Bill; Transfer \$1M/year of HB38 special designated funds to VMRC SB30 failed to pass Senate

SB30-Amend 369 Stuart Budget Bill; Transfer \$1.5M/year of special revenue from boat title and registration revenue to VMRC SB30 failed to pass Senate

### MEET THE THREE LATEST MEMBERS OF THE VIRGINIA ANLGERS CLUB

Meet Bed Hebner, “Sal” Peluso and Eric Webster, the three newest Members of the Virginia Anglers Club. All started their membership on March 13, 2012 when they were voted into membership by the BOD.

**Ben Hebner** fishes both salt water and fresh water. He credits VAC Member Andrew Sitter with getting his angling interests active again, an interest that started when he was a boy in Ohio. Ben is a Business Agent for Local 1402 of the Millwrights and Machinery Erectors union. Ben is looking forward to becoming a competent fly fisherman. Reach out and give Ben a hand in picking up the skill. What better way to start than with some shad fishing.



**“Sal” Peluso** is also a salt and fresh water angler. He likes bait casting for his salt water angling and spin fishing for his fresh water pursuits. He can often be found on the beaches of the Outer Banks of NC. Born in upstate New York, Sal has lived in The Commonwealth since 1976 and retired on the last day of 2011 from a successful and rewarding career as senior property broker with work that covered activities in the USA and in many other countries. Sal was sponsored by Life Member Stuart Lee. Sal is ready to improve his skills in all types of angling.

**Eric Webster** is at ease casting about with a fly rod. He is an experienced fly tyer and is willing to share his expertise with anyone interested. Eric has been active in the past in the leadership of the FFVA. If invited along to work on the coming shad run, he might just have a secret bomb in his fly box to share with his host.



Welcome all to the VAC. Each of these men listed “having fun” in the Membership Goal of their Applications for Membership. They came to the right angling club for that.

## UP-COMING SHOWS AND ANGLING ACTIVITIES

- March 30 - April 1 New SHOW **Saltwater Fishing Expo** The Showplace Richmond
- April 7 **Trout Heritage - Kids Fishing Weekend**, Graves Mountain Lodge , Madison County (since Easter falls on April 8 this year, the event will be Saturday only)
- April 21-22, **12th Annual Virginia Fly Fishing Festival**, Waynesboro

### MID-ATLANTIC SALT WATER FISHING EXPO MAR. 30-APR.1 IN RICHMOND

Make plans to attend the new Mid-Atlantic Salt Water Fishing Expo March 30 - April 1, at The Showplace, 3000 Mechanicsville Turnpike in Richmond. This Expo has something to offer everyone. Whether your preference is pier fishing, surf fishing, spear fishing, inshore or offshore fishing - no matter how big the fish, with a boat or without a boat - we have something for you. Come to the expo and be a part of the largest salt water fishing show in Virginia and the Mid-Atlantic region. The show will feature numerous well-known anglers including Mark Davis of Penn's Big Water Adventure who will conduct seminars and meet and greet show attendees. Penn's Big Water Adventure has been one of the top-rated shows on TV for over three years. Mark has traveled all over the East Coast fishing for all kinds of salt water fish. Come learn from Mark and the other well-known anglers at the expo who will be ready to talk about the big one that you brought in or the ones that got away.

The Virginia Department of Motor Vehicles' mobile office, called DMV 2 Go, will be at the Expo so you can pick up your 2012 fishing and hunting licenses. The full service mobile office provides all DMV transactions so you can take care of any DMV business right here at the Expo. All Expo attendees can register to win a two-day sport-fishing trip aboard the Dragonfly courtesy of Down East Guide Service. Admission to the Expo is \$10 for adults and free for children 15 and under when accompanied by a paying adult. Parking is free. Show hours are Friday 4 to 9 p.m.; Saturday 9 a.m. to 6 p.m. and Sunday 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. Visit the show's website for more information.

### CELEBRATE TROUT HERITAGE WEEKEND WITH THE KIDS IN MADISON APRIL 7

The Rapidan Chapter of Trout Unlimited and VDGIF partner with Graves Mountain Lodge the first Saturday in April for Trout Heritage Day and Kid's Fishing Day. Several hundred trout are stocked along a private section of the Rose River, solely for children under the age of 12 to experience the joy of fishing. This popular event is just Saturday this year since Sunday April 8 is Easter, so sponsors agreed to make it a one-day affair for this year. Come join us on April 7 to support Kid's Day and Trout Heritage Day at Graves Mountain Lodge in Madison County adjacent to Shenandoah National Park. Check the vdgif website for details.

...continued from previous page

## 12TH VIRGINIA FLY FISHING FESTIVAL - WAYNESBORO APRIL 21-22

Fly anglers from across the country will celebrate the 12th Annual Virginia Fly Fishing Festival on April 21-22, 2012. Held on the banks of the South River in Waynesboro, the Virginia Fly Fishing Festival is the largest outdoor fly fishing event in the country that offers on-stream instruction. Only here can you learn all the latest techniques from the experts and then walk right over to the river and try them for yourself. The festival features small-group casting classes with fly fishing and fly tying experts from across the Mid-Atlantic. Members of the Federation of Fly Fishers will help children catch native brook trout from an on-site Children's Catch and Release Trout Pool and then release them into the South River (with the help of their parents). Members of the Tidal Potomac Fly Rodders Club, the largest FFF Club in Virginia, will also provide paid spey casting classes and offer basic fly tying tips to beginners.

The highlight of the weekend is the Festival Foundation Dinner sponsored by Dominion, at which the festival committee presents the 2012 Virginia Fly Angler of the Year Award. Visit the website for ticket information and other details. This year, our festival sponsors include Temple Fork Outfitters, Dominion Resources, Subaru, Orvis, Hanover Fly Fishers, Natural Retreats, Augusta Health, DuPont Community Credit Union, *Blue Ridge Outdoors*, *Eastern Fly Fishing*, the City of Waynesboro, Montana Fly Company, Blue Ridge Oral and Maxillofacial Surgery, South River Fly Shop, *Virginia Sportsman*, Appomattox River Company, *Virginia Living*, Mid-Valley Press, Tidal Potomac Fly Rodders, Virginia Department of Game and Inland Fisheries and Waynesboro Downtown Development Inc. The festival is also delighted to have the Herring Alliance as this year's conservation sponsor.

There will be raffles, live music and fun for the entire family from beginner to expert angler. The Virginia Fly Fishing Festival is a one-of-a-kind event: Monies received from sponsors, vendors, ticket sales, and raffles are used to cover the cost of next year's festival with the remainder going to the Virginia Fly Fishing Festival Foundation, which promotes conservation and stream restoration projects. Daily admission to the festival is \$20 per person, and the festival runs from 9 AM-5 PM on Saturday and Sunday. For more information about the festival, visit .



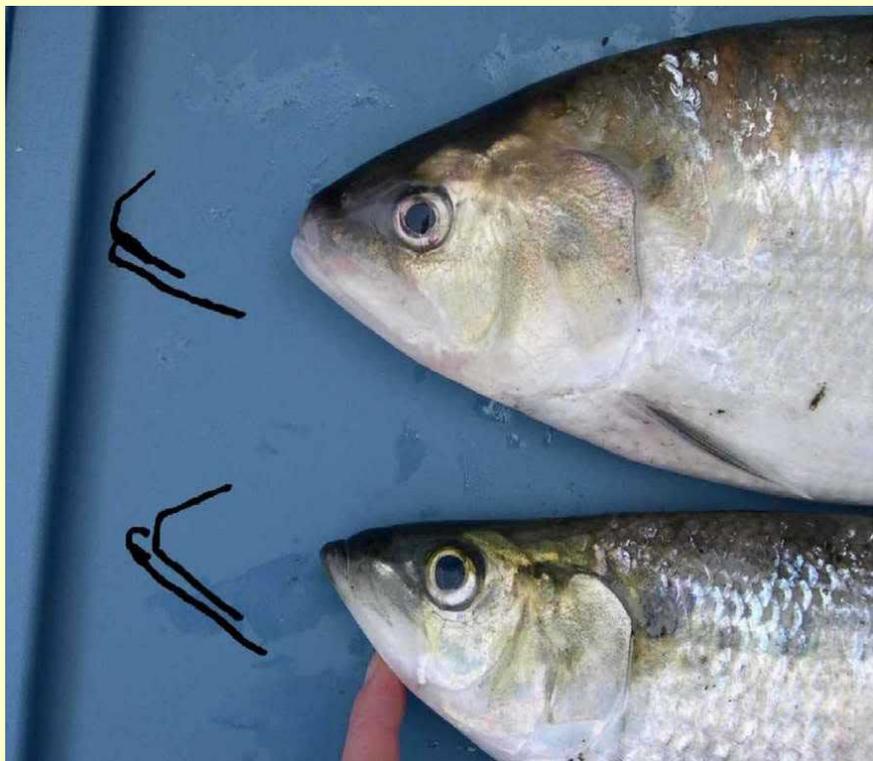
## Legislation and Conservation

By Matt Balazik

### Local News:

**Shad:** Spring is here and the rising water temperature means the shad (Hickory and American) will be around the fall line soon. Remember that it is illegal to possess American shad in the Chesapeake Bay drainage. Hickory shad are in a different situation. There are no creel or length limits listed on the VMRC website which means there are no harvest restrictions on hickory shad below the fall line. However, possession of hickory shad above the fall line is illegal. The Chesapeake Bay fall line is classified as (James River above 14th Street Bridge, the Meherrin River above Emporia Dam, the Chickahominy River above Walkers Dam, the Appomattox River above Harvell Dam, the Pamunkey River and the Mattaponi River above the Rt. 360 bridge, and the Rappahannock River above the Rt. 1 bridge, and VA waters of Lake Gaston and Buggs Island (Kerr) Reservoir and tributaries to include the Dan and Staunton rivers). It is pretty easy to tell the two fish species apart. It starts at the mouth. The terminal tips of an American shad's jaws are in a straight line (flat), while a hickory shad has an exaggerated underbite which makes the bottom jaw extend past the top jaw.

This is a wonderful image (Google image search) that demonstrates the difference in the mouths of the two species (American on top: hickory on below).



**River Herring:** As many of you know the bluebacks and alewives are also here to spawn. There is a harvest moratorium on both species and possession is illegal. It is hard to distinguish the two apart using external features. The best way is to compare eye size to snout length. An alewife's eye diameter is larger than the snout length compared to a blueback which has a smaller eye diameter compared to snout length. It really doesn't matter considering both are illegal to possess.

## Tournament News

### Kelly Stafford Memorial Hickory Shad and White Perch Tournament: March 31 - April 1 (James River) (Blow Date April 14-15) (Easter April 8)

Mark your calendar! Last year's tourney was awesome with hundreds of fish caught and a nice social gathering Saturday afternoon. Our tourney date is earlier this year, but as spring is upon us – this early date should be near the peak of this year's shad and perch runs. Prime fishing is from Rocketts to up above the 14<sup>th</sup> Street bridge. The only potential problem is potential high muddy floodwaters that can sometimes make the James un-fishable for a few days in the spring. Small spoons, shad darts and crappie jigs can be effective on ultra-light spinning and plug gear. Fly fishing is often more productive than the spinning outfits. Various flies work well, mostly with sinking lines, and just enough rod to throw the sinking line. Perch are often caught while targeting shad on the same lures. In deeper water silver buddies or any blade baits are very effective on white perch. Contact Chairman to confirm event dates if weather or River conditions are questionable.

**Social gathering at Parks' truck at the Ancarrow ramp parking lot from 4:30 to 5:30 PM Saturday** will include snacks, and a hot tailgate dish. You can register your catches at the social or wait until later by calling or e-mail entries to Angling Activities Chairman Parks Rountrey 804-349-6001 ([prountrey@comcast.net](mailto:prountrey@comcast.net)).

This is essentially 2 tournaments on the same weekend. A fish can be entered by weight or points (angler must declare which category) but not both ways for 1 fish.

One angler can win both weight and points divisions by entering 2 different fish.

One angler can only enter two fish of each species (4 total).

Call in entries within 24 hours from the end of tournament to Angling Activities Chairman Parks Rountrey 804-349-6001. You cannot change the entry category once you have registered it with the Chairman.

You do not need to fill out cards to turn in for the tournament, but do need a card if you want it to be registered as a club entry.

Tournament First Place Awards for both species by weight and points = Anglers Choice: Traditional pewter cup, \$40 Green Top gift certificate or a VAC Banquet ticket.

**VIRGINIA ANGLERS CLUB - 3/15/12**

<u>SPECIES</u>	<u>ANGLER</u>	<u>WEIGHT</u>	<u>LN</u>	<u>DIV.</u>	<u>PTS</u>	<u>DATE</u>	<u>LOCATION</u>	<u>BAIT</u>
<b>2012 SPECIES LEADERS - SALTWATER</b>								
BASS, BLACK SEA	JH Sheffield	2-12	6	Spin	203	1/6/12	65 Deg. Tower, NC	Hopkins
BASS, STRIPED	JH Sheffield	42-0	6	Gen	560	12/31/11	Eastern Shore, VA	Eel
BLUEFISH	M Kodroff	11-0	12	Plug	122	12/15/11	Oregon Inlet, NC	Jig
SEATROUT, SPOTTED	F Cousins	8-6	2	Spin	558	12/27/11	Elizabeth River, VA	Mirrolure

<b>2012 SPECIES LEADERS - FRESHWATER</b>								
BASS, LARGEMOUTH	C Peters	5-0	4	Spin	250	2/4/12	Cohoake Mill Pond, VA	Artificial Minnow
CATFISH, BLUE	B Shepherd	52-0	6	Gen	489	2/3/12	James River, VA	Cut Shad
CATFISH, FLATHEAD	RJ Brown	27-0	4	Gen	365	12/2/11	James River, VA	Cut Bait
CRAPPIE, ALL	Robbie Robinson	1-11	2	Plug	267	2/18/12	Chickahominy River, VA	Blade Bait
GAR, ALL	F Cousins	9-14	2	Plug	359	1/7/12	James River, VA	Grub
PERCH, WHITE	M Kodroff	1-4	2	Spin	328	1/2/12	South Lake, NC	Jig
PERCH, YELLOW	Robbie Robinson	1-3	2	Spin	312	2/18/12	Chickahominy River, VA	Hair Jig Gulp
PICKERAL, CHAIN	F Cousins	3-1	2	Gen	306	12/9/11	Lake Cohoon, VA	Art. Worm
SHAD, HICKORY	JH Sheffield	2-9	4	Fly	305	3/8/12	Weldon,NC	Fly

<b>2012 DIVISION LEADERS - SALTWATER</b>								
SEATROUT, SPOTTED	F Cousins	8-6	2	Spin	558	12/27/11	Elizabeth River, VA	Mirrolure
BLUEFISH	M Kodroff	11-0	12	Plug	122	12/15/11	Oregon Inlet, NC	Jig
BASS, STRIPED	A Campbell	26-8	12	Fly	331	12/29/11	York River, VA	Half & Half Fly
BASS, STRIPED	JH Sheffield	42-0	6	Gen	560	12/31/11	Eastern Shore, VA	Eel

<b>2012 DIVISION LEADERS - FRESHWATER</b>								
PERCH, WHITE	M Kodroff	1-4	2	Spin	328	1/2/12	South Lake, NC	Jig
GAR, ALL	F Cousins	9-14	2	Plug	359	1/7/12	James River, VA	Grub
SHAD, HICKORY	JH Sheffield	2-9	4	Fly	305	3/8/12	Weldon,NC	Fly
CATFISH, BLUE	B Shepherd	52-0	6	Gen	489	2/3/12	James River, VA	Cut Shad

**2012 SPECIES LEADERS LARGEST - SALTWATER**

BASS, BLACK SEA	JH Sheffield	2-12
BASS, STRIPED	L Houser	45-0
BLUEFISH	M Kodroff	11-0
SEATROUT, SPOTTED	F Cousins	8-6

**2012 SPECIES LEADERS LARGEST - FRESHWATER**

BASS, LARGEMOUTH	C Peters	5-0
CATFISH, BLUE	B Shepherd	52-0
CATFISH, FLATHEAD	RJ Brown	27-0
CRAPPIE, ALL	Robbie Robinson	1-11
GAR, ALL	F Cousins	9-14
PERCH, WHITE	M Kodroff	1-4
PERCH, YELLOW	Robbie Robinson	1-3
PICKERAL, CHAIN	F Cousins	3-1
SHAD, HICKORY	JH Sheffield	2-9

**NEW CLUB RECORDS - SALTWATER**

SEATROUT, SPOTTED	F Cousins	8-6	2	Spin	558	12/27/11	Elizabeth River, VA	Mirrolure
BASS, STRIPED	L Houser	45-0	16	Gen	281	12/23/11	Chesapeake Bay, VA	Eel
BASS, STRIPED	A Campbell	26-8	12	Fly	331	12/29/11	York River, VA	Half & Half Fly
BASS, STRIPED	JH Sheffield	42-0	6	Gen	560	12/31/11	Eastern Shore, VA	Eel



# Robert Thomas

## Fishing Adventures

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

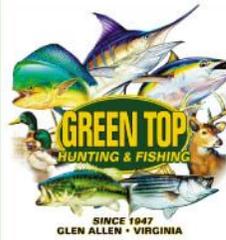
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**NEXT MEETING:  
Tuesday, March 27th at Skilligalee Restaurant**



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