



The Angler

Newsletter

January 2022 Quarterly

The official newsletter of the Virginia Anglers Club

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David Howard proudly holds his 45-inch, 43-pound CITATION striper! Way to go David!

2022 VAC Scale Certification

Scale certification will be available at the February membership meeting.

If you have new scales, or scales that need certifying (not certified in 2021) it is your responsibility to get your scales to a weigh master.

Please contact the following to arrange for your scales to be certified.

Larry Allen: allenhouse75@comcast.net

Ryan Noland: ryan.n.noland@usa.dupont.com

Danny Noland: danny6749@aol.com

REMINDER

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/](https://www.facebook.com/vaanglers/)

President's Message

2021 A Year in Review



Bob Shepherd

For me to look back at 2021, I am reminded of the group of new members and the enthusiasm they brought to the leadership team a few years ago. Closing in on my 20th year of membership (at the time), I felt like a family member caught in between two generations the new members and elder statesmen of the club. I wanted to help find a mix of tradition and fresh ideas so I became President.

And then, Covid hit. But we carried on and I am so proud of the work our membership has done over the past two years. As you read through this message, you will see members names highlighted. If you click on a name, it will direct your computer to send that person an email. If you are sparked with an idea (speaker for example), or have a question, or want to join and work within a committee, simply click and share your thoughts.

In early 2020 Covid changed the way we conducted business. Instead of the synergy generated from in-person meetings, our face-to-face time became digital as our meetings went online. A year and a half later, last June, 2021, we met in-person. It felt good but we had lost our normal meeting space at Department of Wildlife Resources. So we met at Bass Pro, Park Place Tavern, and Final Gravity Brewing. While grateful for those locations,

we are, once again, able to meet at the Department of Wildlife Resources in Richmond. Thanks to Program Chairman [Jerry Davis](#) for keeping our meetings booked with relevant speakers. Jerry will continue as Program Chairman in 2022 and is hungry for program ideas.

One of the silver linings from meeting online was the ability to crossover with the Fly Fishers of Virginia. Our two clubs intertwined with invitations to each other's meetings. Look for this to continue as the two clubs plan to take about future opportunities. We extended meeting invitations to fisheries groups like the Trinity Episcopal Fishing Team, counseled by member [Lee Huss](#), and on occasions had DWR Biologists from around the Commonwealth join in our online programs. Another bonus of online meetings was seeing folks from out of town like Mickey Kodroff and Brendan Strum ... truly awesome.

Our Expeditions changed too. Groups became individuals and tight, small circles of fishing buddies, who felt comfortable enough riding in a vehicle together. We firmly felt Expeditions should/could continue and hosted opportunities to socially distance and wade fish, surf fish, kayak fish and jon boat/small boat fish with two people at most. [Frank Hart](#) and a few members put together outings that carried

participants from the mountains to fish for musky to Virginia's Barrier Islands to surf fish for channel bass. We gathered for trout fishing in both freshwater and saltwater ... chasing rainbow, brook and brown trout in small streams in two states. Some members achieved Virginia's Trout Slam (catching all three trout species in one day). And in the salt, we pursued a VAC favorite, speckled trout. We had expeditions on small streams where one could spin, fly, or plug fish and catch up to ten species in one outing. It really was an amazing array of trips, and 2022 looks to be just as good.

Last year saw the return of club fishing tournaments. We hosted two successful tournaments, one for yellow perch and one for hickory shad. While tournaments were a huge part of the VAC's history, the two we had in 2021 are steps in the right direction with the goal to continue tournaments as an opportunity for fellowship, fun, and competition. One tourney the VAC has never stopped attending is the Cape Hatteras Invitational Surf Fishing Tournament. In 2020 the tourney was cancelled, but the show went on last November, 2021, and while our team didn't win (like we did in 2006), our dedicated team fished hard and has some incredible stories of "You should have been here yesterday."

Our Conservation & Legislation team of [John Page Williams](#) and [Joe Revercomb](#) kept the club well informed, acted as excellent ambassadors of the club, and helped compose letters of support on conservation issues needing attention by angling clubs. In 2022, John Page remains our representative to the Virginia Saltwater Sport-fishing Association.

[Carter Clevinger's](#) work on the Facebook page, keeping current angling info flowing, shows a growing base of new members being added weekly. Our website remains up to date thanks to [Eric Webster](#) and Lee Huss' dedication. A real possibility in 2022 is a new design for the public side of the website ... so keep your eyes out.

With the obvious challenges we have faced as a club, we welcomed nearly 20 new members since early 2020. That's awesome! Thanks to everyone who helped make this happen ... but a huge reason for our success goes to Frank Hart, who's dedication as membership chairman during this time equals the phenomenal success of our new member recruitment.

We lost two members in 2021. Long-time member Wilson Nobles, ([David Nobles](#) brother) passed in March, 2021. Wilson was a member of the VAC for 45 years. In December 2021, Steve Hutchins passed. Steve was an avid saltwater angler who fished the East Coast of the US and Mexico and submitted over 140 cards in the VAC catch database.

We had members achieve special milestones. Jack Grabenstein achieved a billfish royal slam, catching the seven billfish of the world.

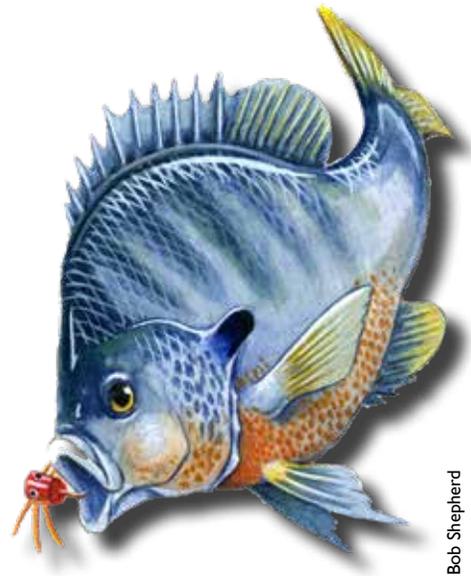
[Karen Anderson](#), on February 5 is going to achieve a milestone by becoming the VAC's first female Board member. Congrats to both.

Our annual *Virginia Wildlife* Calendar fundraiser spearheaded by [Don West](#) was once again a firestorm of activity. Once in the hands of Don, those calendars became hot potatoes, and he tossed them (quickly) into the hands of buyers and sellers. A special note of thanks goes to [Jeff Doughty](#) who sold nearly 100 calendars by himself.

The Country Store, which operated for decades, fizzled out a number of years ago. The Country Store was something set up at membership meetings where a member could buy a hat, shirt, or some sort of VAC trinket. New member member [Scott Anderson](#) is trying to revive it with the help of [Stuart Lee](#) and [Rob Choi](#). These guys have worked on supplying new t-shirts, sweatshirts, and are currently looking at hats. The current VAC t-shirt is donned with the VAC logo and a Rob Choi Gytoktu image of a speckled trout highlighting the back. Good stuff.



Bob Shepherd



Bob Shepherd

There are a couple of changes in our leadership team. Newsletter Chairman, Carter Clevinger will be passing his duties to [Lynda Richardson](#), who will also be creating the newsletter, taking that duty over from (long time newsletter creator) Rob Choi. [Gary Green's](#) voice of reason will be leaving the Board this year. Thank you! for your past service, and I appreciate what you will bring in the future!

In closing, with many members remaining in their leadership positions, 2022 is going to be a special year for the VAC. Look for a few new ideas, and if you feel so inclined, come to a board meeting (2nd Tuesday of even month) and join in on the satisfying aspect of helping carry the torch of the Virginia Anglers Club, founded over 60 years ago. For an amazing read on the history of the VAC, [click here](#). Happy Fishing!

Mike Ostrander
Virginia Anglers Club, President

VAC ANNUAL BANQUET...is just days away!

LOCATION: The Place in Innsbrook
4036-C Cox Rd, Glen Allen, VA 23060

DATE: Saturday, February 5

TIME: Doors & Bar open at 5:30pm
Dinner will be served at 7:00pm
Cash bar available for your enjoyment

MASKS: Recommended but not required

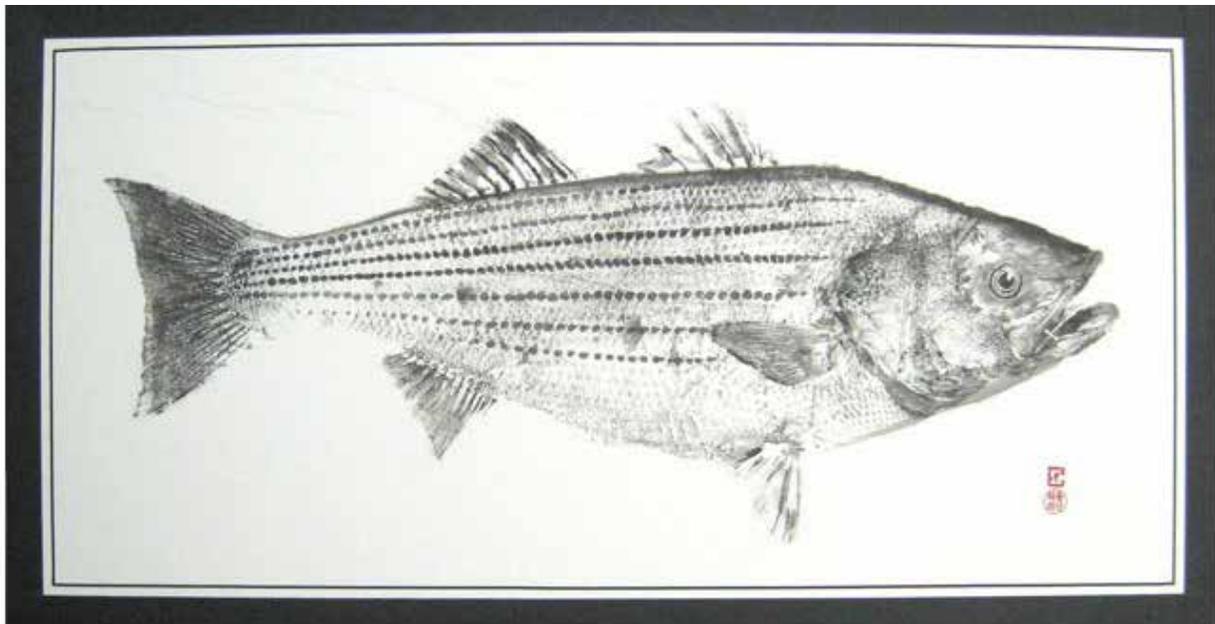
RAFFLE ITEMS:

- 1) A framed, tuna tail print donated by **Rob Choi**. Rob's fish prints are made using a fish rubbing technique called Gyotaku. Below, is an example of a striped bass fish print which Rob created. Everyone wants to win one of Rob's gorgeous prints!
- 2) Fly Lure Shadow Box
- 3) \$100 restaurant gift card for a restaurant with locations on both sides of the river.
- 4) And more!



Lynda Richardson

Smoked rockfish feeding frenzy at the 2020 Annual Banquet.



Rob Choi

FISH OF THE MONTH

DECEMBER
2021

Freshwater (points)

Fred Cousins

Catfish, Flathead, 29 lbs, 14oz
6-General , 349 points

Saltwater (points)

Stuart Lee

Seatrout, Spotted, 5 lbs, 0oz
6-Spin, 333 points

Freshwater (weight)

Steve Knox

Catfish, Blue 61 lbs, 0oz
20BR-General

Saltwater (weight)

Stuart Lee

Seatrout, Spotted, 5 lbs, 0oz
6-Spin

We want to know what you're catching! Please submit your catches for this monthly recognition.

**2022 ANGLING YEAR DUES
WERE DUE DECEMBER 1st!**

Resident Member Dues are \$60

Non-Resident Dues are \$40

Annual dues for the Virginia Anglers Club
can be made by the following:

A check can be made out to:

The Virginia Anglers Club

mail to:

Virginia Anglers Club

P.O. Box 70520

Richmond, Virginia 23294

Or log onto the VAC members side of the
VAC website, scroll down to the bottom of
the page and click the PayPal link.

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 directed to the meeting.

2022 Program Schedule

Feb 22 - **Matt Lusk**, a saltwater fishing guide and photographer, will present a program on N.C. fishing near shore with light tackle.

March 22 - **Jacob Powroznik**, a BASSMaster Pro Fisherman will speak about his experiences.

April 26 - No meeting - Annual Fish Fry

VIRGINIA ANGLERS CLUB 2022 ANNUAL FISH FRY APRIL 26TH



AT THE ROBBINS NATURE CENTER AT MAYMONT
2201 SHIELDS LAKE DRIVE, RICHMOND, VA, 23220



MEMBERS SHOULD START TO SAVE FISH FOR THE EVENT NOW AND BE SURE IT'S FULLY THAWED WHEN BRINGING THE FISH TO THE EVENT. THANK YOU! - THE COOKS



2022 Tournament Schedule

March 4-6 - Yellow Perch
April 9-24 - Hickory Shad

- All VAC members are eligible to enter, at no cost, to fish club sponsored tournaments for prizes.
- Tournaments are open to all members fishing Virginia waters and submitting a catch card for fish caught during the tournament dates.
- Prize winners will receive a **\$25 Green Top gift card** for:
 - 1) Heaviest (target) fish
 - 2) Highest point (target) fish
 - 3) Highest point other (non-target) fish
- Same fish cannot win both highest point and heaviest fish.
- In the event of a tie, the first fish **submitted** will win (not the first fish caught).

2022 Expeditions

June 11 - NEW MEMBER TRIP - Small river wade trip with Capt. Mike Ostrander. If you are interested please contact him at: mike@discoverthejames.com

December 20 & 21- TROPHY TROUT at Cedar Springs/Cripple Creek!
Sign up fast as there is limited space and this is a very popular trip.
Contact Frank Hart at 859-808-0431 for additional details.

If you would like to lead an expedition or have an idea for one, contact **Frank Hart**. Click the following to email - teach2hart@aol.com.

Committee Chairs and Co-Chairs

Angling Rules Chair: Fred Cousins

Angling Activities: Frank Hart

Banquet: Suzanne Lucas

Conservation & Legislation - Saltwater (VSSA Board): John Page Williams

Membership: Frank Hart

Newsletter: Carter Clevinger, Lynda Richardson

Orientation: Glenn Carter

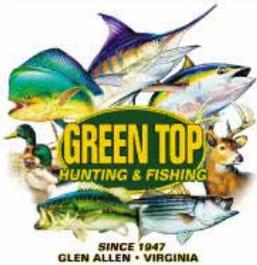
Programs Chairman: Jerry Davis

Scale Certification (Co-Chairman): Larry Allen

Scale Certification (Co-Chairman): Ryan Noland

Special Activities: Don West

Surf Team Captain: Danny Noland



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Notes from the Committees

Angling Rules Chair: Fred Cousins cousinsf1@verizon.net

2021 VAC ANGLING RULE CHANGES

The Angling Rules Committee presented the new rule changes to the Board of Directors on 10/13/2020. The rule changes are based on input from VAC club members. The BOD has approved the rule changes and they will go into effect beginning with the 2021 angling year.

- Add kingfish (sea mullet, roundheads) to the list of saltwater species.
- Modify the length for shark release from 6' to 5' (fork length) to receive a release basic weight of 60 lbs.
- Reduce the basic weights for snakeheads.
- Reduce the basic weights for spotted seatrout.
- Modify the wording for the Youth Award to include the restriction that it applies to only non-club youth. See the following:

“Trophies will be awarded at the end of each angling year to any youth (non-club members), under age 18, fishing with a club member . . . “

If you have questions concerning angling rule changes? Email your questions to Fred Cousins (cousinsf1@verizon.net).

VAC Angling Rules Questions?

Do you have a question concerning angling rules? If so, email your questions to Fred Cousins (cousinsf1@verizon.net). Fred will address questions during the next general membership meeting

Newsletter: Carter Clevinger and Lynda Richardson

carter.clevinger@dominionenergy.com, lynda.richardson@dwr.virginia.gov

Lynda says, “This is my first newsletter for the Virginia Anglers Club and I will continue to work on improving it for YOU, the members! Thank you Carter Clevinger, Rob Choi, and Mike Ostrander for transitioning me into the position! Now all I need is help from YOU, the members, to make this newsletter something that you can’t wait to see.

So please dear members, feel free to make suggestions, send in funny quotes, personl fishing photos (nothing screen grabbed from the internet, please!), and pertinent or cool information to make this newsletter informative and fun! You can get in touch with me at: lynda.richardson@dwr.virginia.gov”

FOR YOUR INFORMATION:



DEPARTMENT OF
WILDLIFE RESOURCES
CONSERVE. CONNECT. PROTECT.

**FRAUD ALERT!
FROM DWR**

For Immediate Release

January, 25, 2022

Contact: Paige Pearson, paige.pearson@dwr.virginia.gov, 804-370-0044

DWR URGING CITIZENS TO USE CAUTION WHEN PURCHASING FISHING AND HUNTING LICENSES

RICHMOND, VA — the Department of Wildlife Resources (DWR) is urging all citizens looking to purchase a fishing or hunting license to only go through official DWR websites.

Over the last few years, the Department has noticed multiple online sites claiming to sell DWR fishing and hunting licenses. These sites will end up taking your money and sending you a fraudulent license, or worse, no license at all. DWR has taken appropriate actions against these companies and will continue to do so as they come to their attention. They appreciate the public's help in letting them know that these organizations are out there.

The websites listed below are **not affiliated** in any way with the department:

- vafishinglicense.com
- fishinglicense.org
- fishandgamelicense.org
- recreationallicenses.org
- licenses.org
- hunting-license.org
- vafishingdwr.com
- vahuntingwildlife.com

To purchase a license, there are only **two official websites** where fishing and hunting licenses can be purchased, gooutdoorsvirginia.com and dwr.virginia.gov. Licenses can also be purchased on the [Go Outdoors Virginia mobile app](#) or at a [local vendor](#).

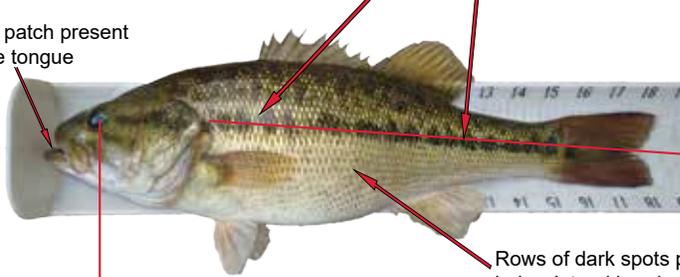
If you need more information, contact DWR at 804.367.1000 or for general questions, please email dwrweb@dwr.virginia.gov.

So, How Can I Tell The Difference Between These Three Bass?

Alabama Bass **INVASIVE**

Tooth patch present on the tongue

Dark blotchy lateral band present from head to tail



Lateral band

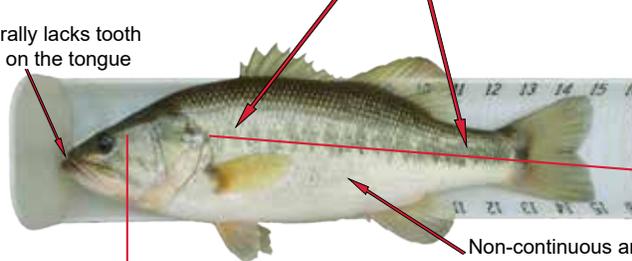
Jaw fully closed extends to middle rear of eye

Rows of dark spots present below lateral band

Largemouth Bass

Generally lacks tooth patch on the tongue

More continuous lateral band from head to tail



Lateral band

Jaw fully closed extends past the eye

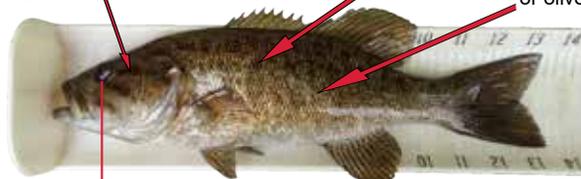
Non-continuous and uneven spots below lateral band if present at all.

Smallmouth Bass

Often has 3 diagonal dark stripes extending behind eye across the gill plate

Dark vertical bars usually present along sides

Brown to bronze colored sides sometimes with a yellow or olive tint



Jaw fully closed extends to middle of the eye



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Virginia

SafeboatingCampaign.com

Check out the...

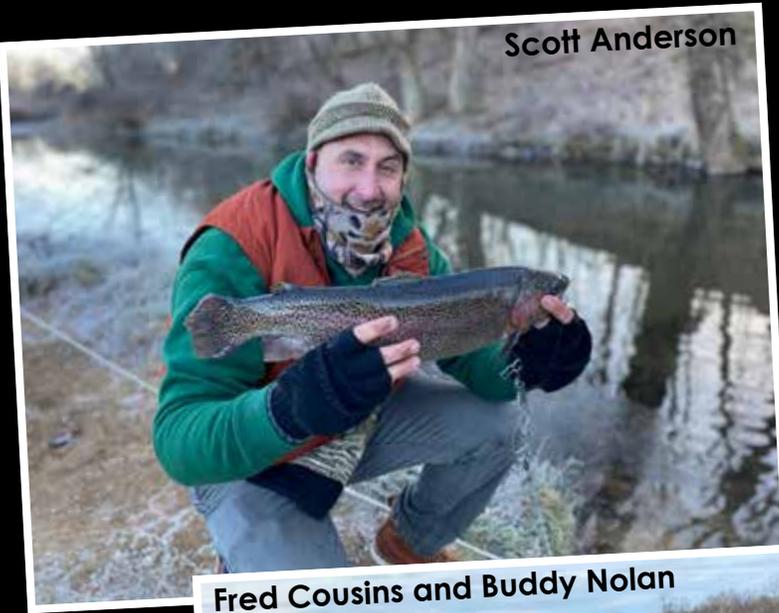
TROUT SLAM CHALLENGE at



dwr.virginia.gov/fishing/virginia-trout-slam-challenge/

Fishing Memories 2021

Scott Anderson



Mike Mason



Fred Cousins and Buddy Nolan



Lee Walker



Terry Midkiff and Carter Clevenger



Karen Richardson



Bob Brown



Cripple Creek Crew



Dinkus Dean eand Frank Hart



Lynda Richardson



Lee Huss



Gary Martel



Frank Hart



Mike Ostrander



Jay Hiel



"Find the journey's end
in every step."

Ralph Waldo Emerson

