

Almost Summer!



June 2017

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NEXT MEMBERSHIP MEETING

TUESDAY, JUNE 27, 2017

Doors open at 6:30 PM

Meeting Starts ~ 7:00 PM

VDGIF HEADQUARTERS BUILDING
7870 Villa Park Drive Henrico County



BACKLASH

Commentary from the
Board of Directors

-By John Wetlaufer, Sr.

SPECIAL REMINDER

There will be no Board of Directors Meeting and no Membership Meeting in July. The August Membership Meeting will be on Tuesday, August 22nd. If you have any items that need the attention of the Board of Directors, please contact President Bobby Broughton at brbroughton@gmail.com.

NEXT-UP ANGLING ACTIVITY ALERT

Tournament: June 17-25 – NC & VA Saltwater Open

Expeditions: Pamunkey River Float (4 Boat Limit)
POSTPONED

Meeting Program: June 27th - Mike Cline – Wreck Fishing

JUNE PROGRAM – WRECK FISHING

(By Mike Cline and Mike Ostrander)

Don't miss June's presentation where Virginia Anglers Club member Mike Cline will talk about fishing inshore and offshore wrecks for flounder and seabass. From his decades of experiences on these waters Mike knows that other angling opportunities can present themselves and he'll let us know how we can prepare for those other opportunities that might come up. He'll also discuss boat handling, tackle, how he has his electronics set up and what we all want to know the best time to fish. He'll also be glad to answer all of your questions.

MAY PROGRAM – FLY FISHING FOR SPINNER SHARKS

On May 23, Capt. Andrew Campbell and Jay Blankenship, who have been pioneering an exciting fly fishery for the past several years, presented a well-illustrated and informative presentation. Thanks, Andrew and Jay for taking the

time to put the presentation together. Many Members have complimented both Members on the presentation. Look for the video of the presentation soon in the Members Area.



Jay (left) and Andrew (right) look over a selection of their flies tied up for spinner sharks. Considering the targeted specie, the flies are often used just one time.

KIDS FISHING DAY REPORT

(Photos and Text By Bobby Broughton)



“Very enjoyable afternoon” was the expression used to describe our first annual Kids’ Fishing Expedition. We had 40 people attend the event, 15 of which were kids ranging from 2- to 8-years-old. The goal for the day was to ensure each kid caught a fish, and I believe our goal was achieved on many first casts or flip of the cane pole. We really could not have asked for a better day – great weather, a picturesque farm pond all to ourselves, plenty of fish to catch, and most importantly happy, smiling kids!

A big thank you to Fred Murray, Stuart Lee, and Glenn Carter for their generous contributions in making this a success. Thanks to Fred for securing the location, and for taking time to cut and rig up close to a dozen bamboo cane poles for the kids to use. Thanks to Stuart for helping organize the event, grilling hot dogs, and supplying the kids with plenty of worms for bait. Also, thanks to Glenn for making grab bags filled with a variety of fishing tackle that each kid got to take home.

There are a few pictures from the event on pages 7 & 8 of this edition of The Angler. Also, you can see more by checking out the photo album on our club’s Facebook page.

NEW “T” SHIRTS ON SALE AT THE JUNE MEMBERSHIP MEETING

The new shirts will be among the full inventory of the Country Store that will be available at the May Membership Meeting. Thanks to Rob and Stuart for arranging production of these new VAC “T” shirts.

SPECIAL RAFFLE – GUIDED TRIP BY COLBY TROW

Fishing Guide Colby Trow (Mossy Creek Fly Fishing), our speaker for September, has donated a guided trip to the Virginia Anglers Club to be raffled off in conjunction with his September visit. Special Activities Chairman Don West is running this trip raffle and will be selling tickets at Membership Meetings up to the time of Colby’s visit in September. Details of this Special Auction appear on page 6 of this issue of The Angler.

CHICKAHOMONY LAKE FISHING REPORT (By Art Conway)

The Virginia Anglers Club’s expedition to Chickahominy Lake set out from Ed Allen’s Boats and Bait on Saturday (6/10/2017). Water temperatures were in the low to mid 70’s in the main lake in the morning, ranging into the low 80’s by early afternoon. The lake

level was a few inches above the top of the dam, and the water was light to moderately brown and slightly turbid in the lower lake. The weather was primarily scattered clouds with relatively light winds, a beautiful day. Bluegills had moved off the banks into 3 to 4 feet of water, and were frequently interspersed with a scattering of other species, all of which hit a variety of small jigs on light spinning gear. Karen Anderson and Art Conway released 43 bluegills and 1 shellcracker by 1:30 PM, at which point we repaired to Lakeside Restaurant for lunch. Taylor and Carter Clevinger and Bob Brown joined us for lunch. Taylor and Carter reported they had caught a mix of nice bluegills and crappies from their kayaks, with one of Taylor’s bluegills measuring 10+ inches and weighing slightly over 1 pound for a state citation by weight. Bob reported a mixed bag of numerous bluegills, one pickerel, and several bass. We had a really fun day and plan to reassemble the crew to do it again as soon as schedules permit.



(Photo by Bob Brown)
CELEBRATING THE MORNING’S CATCH AT THE LAKESIDE RESTAURANT

[L to R: Karen Anderson, Carolyn Conway, Art Conway, Taylor Clevinger (Carter’s Daughter) and Carter Clevinger]

NEXT TOURNAMENT – VA/NC SALTWATER OPEN **JUNE 15th THRU 25th**

In recent years the interest by our Members for salt water fishing seems to be on a decline. There just are not that many entries for our recognized salt water fish. With that in mind here is your chance to showcase anything you know about your salt water fish and how to catch them. Any salt water fish could be a winner. This will be a points tournament only. We will not be recognizing weights since all salt water fish are eligible and all saltwater species will compete equally as points catches.

To compensate for the loss of the normal weight first place winner, the VA/NC Saltwater Open tournament will have two “first” place points winners. The Member or Members who catch the two highest point fish will be able to choose between a \$40 Green Top gift card, a trophy or a free ticket to the next VAC Annual Awards banquet.

With the western Atlantic Ocean for off shore angling and hundreds of miles of beaches, hundreds of square miles of estuarial water, all of this salt water’s nearest point less than a two hours drive from the Richmond Area. The span of the tournament covers two weekends and 9 days total fishing, there



is little reason for not fishing the VA/NC Saltwater Open Tournament. This tournament is being held from Saturday, June 17th thru Sunday, June 25th. Why not get up a weekend with the family at a Virginia or a North Carolina beach and spend a couple of hours wetting a line.

Remember to submit your entries via E-Cards and have all entries submitted and in the VAC Catch Data Base by midnight, Monday, June 26th.

JUNE EXPEDITION POSTPONED PAMUNKEY RIVER FLOAT

The June 24th expedition was postponed due to river conditions. When rescheduled, Art will lead a float expedition on the Pamunkey River, putting in at the DGIF canoe launch located about 1 ½ miles north of Hanover Courthouse. More details on this inaugural Expedition on the Pamunkey River are found on page 5 of this Angler. Do to the size of the Pamunkey River upstream and downstream from this launch site, Art has limited the float to 4 boats total. Art has requested that he be contacted to reserve one of the 4 boat slots.

SCALE CERTIFICATION IS AVAILABLE BY APPOINTMENT ONLY

Weighmasters Ryan Noland and Larry Allen will be willing to do certifications of scales by appointment after the March 28th Membership Meeting, the last Membership Meeting in 2017 at which scale certification will be available. Ryan and Larry will work with Members to set a convenient place and time for certifications requested. Grouping of needed scale certifications are appreciated.

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.

HUMOR FROM THE TACKLE BOX



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



“Catchy Comments” By Stuart Lee

At last month’s membership meeting, there was a rule question in the suggestion box as to the maximum number of treble hooks that are permissible on a lure. I was somewhat embarrassed to say that is an IGFA rule, but I was not sure what the answer is. I went to the member’s area of our website, which has a link to the IGFA rules and found the answer which is three (3) treble hooks are the maximum allowed.

I am sure there are members in our club that wonder why there are so many rules. Some would say, “I don’t care about rules; I just want to go fishing.” This is similar to saying I don’t care about our driving laws; I just want to get in the car and drive. We all know what would happen if even a small minority did not know the difference between a stop and a yield sign.

There are quite a number of rules that apply to catches made in our club. For a new member, these can appear to be overwhelming. I will be the first to admit that I do not know all of the rules off the top of my head, as evidenced by the number of treble hook question in my opening, but I know where to look for the answer.

All of the rules can be accessed from the member’s area in our website. There are two sets of rules: 1) The IGFA Rules which can be viewed via a link and 2) The Virginia Anglers Club Rules in a pdf format. The reason for these two different sets of rules is that IGFA has rules for Fly Fishing and fishing other than fly fishing. In that second category, IGFA does not make any distinction of spin, plug, or surf caught fish, nor do they differentiate between bait or lure caught fish or fish caught trolling or casting.

When the Virginia Anglers Club was established, the founders wanted to differentiate catches made on spin or plug, using artificial lures, and fish caught in the surf from fish caught trolling or using live bait. This very closely followed the rules in the long-established Miami Rod and Reel Club. The Virginia Anglers Club Rules are largely focused on these distinctions between divisions (Fly, Spin, Plug, General and Surf) and also addresses topics like scale certification, awards, and tournaments.

The IGFA rules cover many topics and have illustrations on subjects such as what is permissible and not permissible in rigs for live baiting. It is also the source for leader lengths for Fly and General, but does not cover leader lengths for Spin, Plug or Surf as they do not recognize these divisions. To compete in our club, the member needs to know both the VAC rules and the IGFA rules. This is a good deal of information to digest but knowing where to look is the most important first step. If you have a question, look it up; if you are still not sure, ask someone. If you plan to submit entries in the club, it is your responsibility to know the rules.

Stuart



Karen Anderson and Art Conway with some bluegills from Chickahominy



Glenn Carter - 10-4 Dolphin on 6 Spin. One fish more fish away from Master Angler!



PAMUNKEY RIVER FLOAT – TBD (POSTPONED)
(By Art Conway)

Location: VDGIF canoe launch on Pamunkey River (on left side of Route 301 about 1½ miles north of Hanover Courthouse, just before crossing river as you head north, see detailed driving directions below)

Time: TBD, starting time 9 AM. Ending time flexible. If you want to make a day of it, feel free to pack a lunch. No permanent sanitary facilities are on site, but VDGIF has sometimes provided porta-potties (none so far this year).

Coordinator: Art Conway (aconway@vcu.org or 804-746-2475). My cell phone is 804-514-1486 if you need to reach me around meeting time, but it is not on routinely otherwise.

Due to the size of the river, we should limit the trip to 4 boats, two upstream and two downstream. Please check with me well ahead of time to reserve a spot.

The river is very sensitive to upstream rainfall, and can come up a foot or more and turn to “chocolate milk” following any significant rain. If we get any rain in the week before the trip, the trip will likely be cancelled and rescheduled later if possible.

This is an example of a Piedmont river that can be fished as a solo operation, and is easily accessed for trips of an hour or two.

The Pamunkey River in this area is small to middle sized. Width varies from 10 to 20 yards in most stretches, with a lot of down timber in the river, creating narrow channels in some upstream areas. There are no real rapids and paddling upstream is not too difficult in a canoe or kayak, which are the best vessels for the upstream stretch. I frequently use my kickboat in the stretch below the bridge, but getting back upstream requires paddle or oar power or a motor, so float tubes aren’t recommended. We will be launching and taking out at the same site, so you will not need to partner with another vehicle.

Note – the property above and below the immediate launch site is private property and most of it is posted, so respect it. Bank fishing is possible, but only in the highway right-of-way under the bridge and at the launch site.

Tackle needed depends on species targeted. The river contains a decent catfish population in the deeper holes. They used to be mainly channel cats, but may be mostly blue cats by now. Cut bait usually works. There is a moderate largemouth population, again mostly in deeper areas. Stick worms and curly tail plastic worms in neutral colors usually work. Both cats and largemouths require moderately heavy tackle due to the extensive wood cover. This stretch contains some smallmouths, mostly in the faster stretches, but I haven’t seen any really big ones. Most are a foot or less, so light spinning gear works well. Small plugs, soft plastic crayfish, and small stick worms all work. The slower, deeper stretches downstream of the bridge have bluegills and crappies along the banks and behind wood cover. The usual small jigs on 2 or 4 pound test spinning gear work well, and Bobby Garland Itty Bit Swimrs and Nikko nymphs in natural colors are reliable. My favorites are the pumpkinseeds and longears found in the flows upstream of the bridge. A variety of flies or small jigs work well, but one inch soft plastic crayfish in natural colors are especially good. These fish are small (a 7 incher is a monster) but they are numerous and willing to bite in the summer, and an afternoon on a shaded stretch is a nice break from a heat wave on the lake.

To get to the launch site

From the intersection of I-295 and Route 301 north of Richmond, head north on 301.

Approximately 9 miles north of I-295, you go through Hanover Courthouse. At 9.6 miles you pass the Route 54 intersection on the left.

Continue north on 301 for about 1½ miles after passing the Route 54 intersection in Hanover Courthouse. The VDGIF parking area is on the left just before the bridge over the Pamunkey River, and the canoe slide launch is down under the bridge. The lot is marked with a red VDGIF sign which is not very obvious, but the gravel parking area is quite visible. You can drive down to the slide to unload, and then park back up in the lot.

I’ll be in a red Nissan Titan pickup. My cell phone is 804-514-1486 if you need to reach me around meeting time.

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



SPECIAL RAFFLE – GUIDED TRIP BY COLBY TROW

This Special Raffle is a rare opportunity to fish guided by a very famous Fly Fishing Guide. Here are some details about the trip being raffled:

Date of Trip	Winner arranges with Colby
Number of Anglers Included	Two
Travel, Board, Food, Etc.	By Participating Angler(s)
Cost of Guided Trip	Donated by Colby Trow
Guide’s Tip	By Participating Angler(s)
Tackle, Bait, Etc.	Winner Discusses with Colby

2017 MEMBERSHIP MEETING PRESENTATION SCHEDULE

June 27	Mike Cline – Wreck Fishing
July	No meeting
August 22	Lee Huss - DIY Fishing in Canada
September 26	Colby Trow – (trout or muskies?)
October 24	Andrew Stiles – Joe Brooks in the history of fly-fishing
November 28	TBD
December	No meeting

2017 VAC COMBINED TOURNAMENT & EXPEDITION SCHEDULE

Jun 17-25
VA & NC Saltwater Open
 (Glenn Carter)

Fish any VA and NC Saltwater. Highest point for any two VAC recognized species (non-cumulative)

Jun 24
Pamunkey River Float
 (Art Conway)

Jul 22
Small River Wade Trip
 (Mike Ostrander)

Aug. 19-20
James River Flathead Catfish
 (Glenn Carter)

Fish the James River. Highest point and Heaviest Flathead Catfish

Sept. 30
Trout Fishing the South River in Waynesboro, VA
 (Eric Webster)

Oct. 21-29
VA & NC Spot and Specs
 (Glenn Carter)

Fish any VA and NC waters. Highest point and heaviest Spot and Speckle Trout

TBD (late fall)
Guided Muskie Trip
 (TBD)







Robert Thomas

Fishing Adventures

Fly Casting & Fly Tying Instruction
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Fly Tying Materials & Tools
Hosted Trips

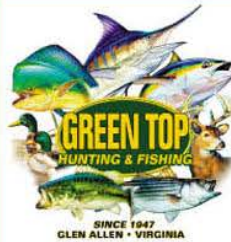
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Design and Layout: Rob Choi

NEXT MEETING:
Tuesday, June 27, 2017 at DGI Headquarters

