

#### In This Issue...

Fish Fry Details
Page 4

Legislation & Conservation By Matt Balazik, Page 8

Catchy Comments By Buddy Noland, Page 3

Tournament News Page 9-10

Captain's Corner By Fred Murray, Page 11



#### **Next Membership Meeting**

Tuesday, May 24, 2011

Maymont Nature Center

Annual Virginia Anglers Club Fish Fry

Gates Open 5:30pm

Dinner Served around 6:00pm



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

## MAY MEMBERSHIP MEETING MOVES TO MAYMONT NATURE CENTER

The May Membership Meeting of the Virginia Angles Club will be a social gathering at the Maymont Nature Center in Richmond, VA. Member-caught fish will be featured and properly prepared by Buddy, Danny and Ryan Noland, Jeff Doughty (famous for his hush puppies) and Dean Winstead will be handling the cooking chores.

This is a great meeting to which to bring family and friends that may or may not be interested in becoming a member. The Annual Casting Contest returns for the amusement of all. We are under the tent, so rain will not be a hindrance.

A donation of \$10 is requested to cover the cost of the food, beverages and rent. See page 4 of this issue of The Angler for the complete menu and other details.

Note: Peanut oil is used for all frying.

## THE 50<sup>TH</sup> ANNIVERSARY TRIFECTA AT MAYMONT

Country Storekeeper Eddy Johnston will have the three special Fiftieth Anniversary Virginia Anglers Club commemorative items for sale at Maymont. The Trifecta includes the 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary embroidered hats, engraved Swiss Army style knives and "T" shirts. See page 4 for details.



BACKLASH continued from Page 1.



### VAC SURF TEAM LOOKING FOR MEMBERS – PLEASE HELP

There are a couple of vacancies on the Virginia Anglers Club Surf Fishing Team. Each year since 1961, the VAC has fielded (beached?) a team in the Annual Cape Hatteras Anglers Club Invitational Surf Fishing Tournament. The VAC has again received an invitation to fish this Tournament.

As a member of the VAC Surf Fishing Team, you will represent the VAC in this prestigious east coast surf fishing tournament. All VAC Members are welcome to join the team as are friends and wives. The Team fishes the first Thursday and Friday in November, fishing on the beach of the Sea Shore National Park in Buxton, NC. Four locations are assigned by the luck of the draw for each of the two days morning and afternoon fishing sessions. There are activities at the CHAC Club House that are part of the Tournament. Tournament Dates for 2011 are Thursday, November 3<sup>rd</sup> and Friday, November 4<sup>th</sup>.

If you have never fished in the surf or are a seasoned surf angler, participating in the Tournament is a great way to learn the art of surf fishing, honing existing skills while having a good time. Please contact VAC Surf Fishing Team Captain Lynn Spurlin (lynnspurlin@worldnet.att.net) for more details and to sign on.

#### VIRGINIA ANGLERS CLUB RECEIVES INVITATION TO FIELD A TEAM IN THE BERMUDA INVITATIONAL LIGHT TACKLE TOURNAMENT

The Virginia Anglers Club has received an invitation to fish in the Bermuda Invitational Light Tackle Tournament to be held this coming July. This tournament is not only an opportunity to fish in the tuna filled waters around Bermuda, but is an opportunity to enjoy all of the receptions, parties and other similar activities held in association with the Tournament. Please give Bill DuVal a call on his cell phone [ (804) 339-5371 ] for further details. Tournament participation could be the center piece of a very memorable vacation trip.

#### GREEN TOP GIFT CARD TO BE RAFFLED AT MAYMONT

Thanks to the monthly generosity of GreenTop Sporting Goods, we will hold our monthly GreenTop gift certificate raffle at Maymont. Glenn Carter will have the sign up sheets.

## SPECIAL RAFFLE -MAY MEMBERSHIP MEETINGS

A signed print of an original painting by waterfowl artist Sharon Shacochis will be offered for raffle at the May Membership Meetings. The print was the show print for the 29<sup>th</sup> Annual Rappahannock River Waterfowl Show in White Stone, Virginia. The lucky winning ticket will be drawn at the May Membership Meeting. See Glenn Carter for tickets as soon as you arrive. Details of this raffle can be found on page 4 in this issue of The Angler.

#### HUNTING, TRAPPING AND FISHING LICENSE FEE INCREASES ARE COMING

After months of financial analysis, careful planning and public review of the future needs of the VDGIF, the Board of Directors of the Virginia Department of Game and Inland Fisheries approved at their May 3, 2011 Meeting increases in hunting, trapping and fishing license fees. This is only the second increase in these fees in the past 24 years. These increases will allow the DGIF to continue to provide their facilities and services to the outdoor enthusiasts in the Commonwealth.

Among other items passed were fees that will apply to most anyone using any of the Department's many outdoor facilities in the Commonwealth. For instance, canoeists and kayakers will need to pay a daily or annual fee for using a boat ramp for launching. If you hold one of the annual or lifetime licenses noted above, the use fee is waived and considered included in the license held. Please see page 5 of this edition of The Angler for more details on the Board's action as they appeared in the May 11<sup>th</sup> issue of The Virginia Outdoor Report.

### Virginia Anglers Club





## INTERESTED IN GETTING THE ELECTRONIC VIRGINIA OUTDOOR REPORT?

If you are interested in receiving by e-mail each issue of The Virginia Outdoor Report, please go to the VGDIF web site at

OutdoorReport@dgif.virginia.gov. This link will bring up a blank pre addresses e-mail form in which you can put your request to become a subscriber. Be sure to include the e-mail address to which you want the Report sent. Member John Wetlaufer, Sr. will be glad to get you signed up also. John can be contacted at jlwsr@rcn.con.

#### SCALE CERTIFICATION NOW BY APPOINTMENT ONLY

The Scale Certification Team has wrapped up their program of certifying scales at Membership Meetings. To arrange certification of scales, please contract Danny Noland and schedule an individual certification. Danny's phone numbers are (804)-383-3736 [O]and (804)-514-0650 [C].

#### NEW LEADER FOR THE VIRGINIA GAME FISH TAGGING PROGRAM

The Virginia Game Fish Tagging Program is now being managed by Susanna Musick. This program was co-founded by friends of the Virginia Anglers Club, John Lucy and Claude Bain. Both John and Claude have joined the ranks of the retired.

#### KNOW A FACE BUT CANT REMEMBER A NAME? NAME TAGS HELP

All anglers and guests attending VAC Membership Meetings are encouraged to pick up, fill out and wear an adhesive-backed name tag. Name tags are available at the Country Store on your way into the meeting room.

For the Leadership Team John Wetlaufer, Sr., Secretary

## CATCHY COMMENTS by Buddy Noland



The Shad fishing on the James River is about over, but the Stripers are showing up at the Rt. 95 bridge area. There were numerous freshwater

entries with only one saltwater entry this past month, but that should change soon. The Black Drum and Channel Bass are being caught off Virginia's Eastern Shore and the Hatteras Offshore Open Tournament is in full swing in spite of the high winds and big swell. Recently, the surf fishermen have caught Red Drum and Bluefish at the southern end of highway12 in Hatteras. The Hatteras tournament boats caught Tuna, Dolphin, Wahoo, Blue Marlin and White Marlin offshore this week.

**Parks Rountrey** started out April with several Hickory Shad entries with his heaviest being a 1 pound, 9 ounce fish and his highest point a 1 pound, 4 ounce on 2# fly for 178 points. Later in the month, **Parks** was fishing a private pond with 2# tippet and landed a 12 ounce Sunfish and a 1 pound, 4 ounce Crappie. The Crappie is worth 250 points and leads the "species" category.

**Fred cousins** and **Reggie White** were catching the last of the Shad run on the James River and **Fred** entered a 1 pound, 10 ounce Hickory on 2# fly for 232 points. Several weeks later, **Fred** took his young neighbor fishing on the Chick for some gar fish. **Fred's** best catch was a 12 pound, 4 ounce gar on 2# line using a minnow. The fish pulled 356 points and leads the "heaviest" category.

**Bob Shepherd** and **Mickey Hopkins** were fishing Lake Custis the middle of April. **Bob** landed a 1 pound, 1 ounce Sunfish on 2# spin using a grub for bait. The fish is worth 279 points and leads both the "species" and "heaviest" categories.

At the end of April, **Bob Brown** and **Parks** were fishing a private pond and each had Sunfish catches. **Bob** had several entries with the most points coming from his 10 ounce entry on 2# fly. He was using a shad fly for the 208 point entry. **Parks** had a 180 point Sunfish on 2# spin using a jig.

**David Nobles** has been fishing a private pond in King William County recently. **David's** largest Sunfish weighed 14 ounces, but his highest point Sunfish was caught on a Wooley Bugger on 2# fly and is worth 229 points. **David** also caught a 1 pound, 2 ounce Crappie on 2# fly for 225 points. That pond holds some nice fish!

The single saltwater entry came from **Lynn Spurlin**. **Lynn** was fly fishing in Venice, Louisiana, and caught Black Drum, Red Drum, and Spotted Seatrout. Even though no high point fish were located by the guide, he had a great time and that's what it's all about!

Good luck,

Buddy



## VAC VAC

#### MAY 24<sup>TH</sup> FISH FRY DETAILS

The 2011 May 24<sup>th</sup> Membership Meeting of the VAC will be the Annual Virginia Anglers Club Fish Fry. The meeting will be held under the tent just outside the lower level. The Maymont Nature Center will be open toall without charge, courtesy of the good work of VAC member Fred Murray. Family members, friends and potential new members are all welcome.

Date and Time: Tuesday, May 26, 2011. The Tent opens at 5:30 PM and food will be served around 6:00 PM.

Meal Price per Person: \$10 per attendee. Money collected at the door.

Menu: Fried fish, French fries, slaw, and hush puppies (from Jeff Doughty's secrete, down home Dinwiddie recipe), soft drinks, water and beer.

Special Note - the Frying Oil Used is Peanut Oil

**Fish Donations: Donations of THAWED fish are requested**. Please call Buddy (691-0615) or Danny (514-0650) by Sunday, May 22nd with information about the quantity of fish you will donate.

Raffle: The normal Membership Meeting raffle for a \$25 Greentop Sporting Goods gift certificate will be held. In addition, tickets for the special waterfowl print will be available for 1 or \$1.00 and 6 for \$5.00. See Glenn Carter at the meeting for sign up sheets and raffle tickets.

## 50TH VAC ANNIVERSARY HAT, ENGRAVED KNIFE AND "T" SHIRTSON SALE AT THE FISH FRY

The Country Store will feature only the 50<sup>th</sup> VAC Anniversary Hat and Engraved Knife and the brand new 50th Anniversary "T" shirts. Hats are \$15.00 each and

the knivesare \$20 each. Pricing of the"T" shirts will be announced. All other Country Store offerings will be again available at the June Membership Meeting.

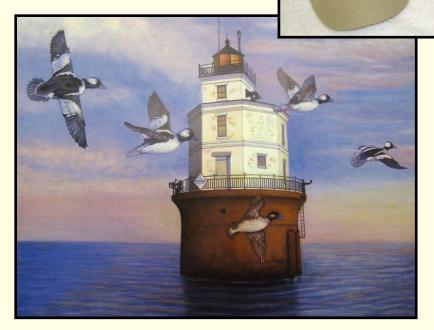


## WATERFOWL PRINT - SPECIAL RAFFLE MAY MEETING

The winning raffle ticket for signed copy of the above print of the original painting by waterfowl

artist Sharon Shacochis will be drawn off at the May Membership Meeting to be held at Maymont. Sharon was selected to paint the show print for the 29<sup>th</sup> Annual Rappahannock River Waterfowl Show in White Stone, Virginia held on March 15<sup>th</sup> & 16<sup>th</sup>, 2008. The print is a copy of which the painting she presented. The total size of the print is 22" W by 15" high and the size of the actual image is 16" wide by 12" high.

Raffle tickets for the print will be available from Glenn Carter at the May Membership Meeting. Tickets are available for a donation of \$1.00 per individual ticket or six (6) tickets for a donation of \$5.00.





## ARTICLES OF INTEREST FROM THE MAY 11, 2011 OUTDOOR REPORT OF THE VDGIF

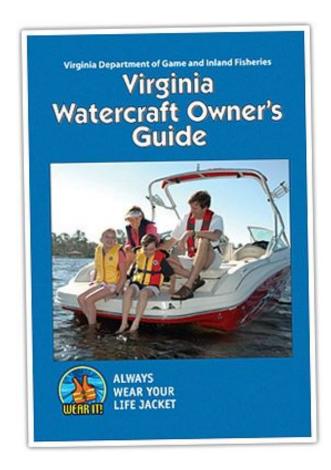
### NATIONAL SAFE BOATING WEEK IS MAY 21-27<sup>TH</sup>

#### REMEMBER----LIFE JACKETS SAVE LIVES

National Safe Boating Week is May 21-27, making right now the time to remind boaters to be safe on the water. **First and foremost, boaters need to think about life jackets and plan to wear them.** A significant number of boaters who lose their lives by drowning each year would be alive today had they worn their life jackets.

It is the law in Virginia that there must be one wearable (Type I, II, III, or V) U.S. Coast Guard (USCG) approved life jacket of the appropriate size for each person on the boat. In addition, no person may operate a recreational vessel on federal waters with any child under age 13 on the vessel unless each child is either wearing an appropriate life jacket approved by the USCG, or below deck, or in an enclosed cabin. This applies to waters in which the USCG has enforcement jurisdiction, and in Virginia that includes the Chesapeake Bay, Smith Mountain Lake, Lake Gaston, Kerr Reservoir (Buggs Island Lake), Claytor Lake, Lake Moomaw, and other inland waters that are considered navigable. VDGIF is asking boaters to make a commitment to wear their life jackets at all times while on the water.

It is recommended for anyone who operates a boat to complete a boating safety **education course** is approved by the National Association of State Boating Law Administrators (NASBLA) and accepted by VDGIF. Virginia's Boating Safety Education Compliance Regulation is being phased in over the next several years. If you have previously taken a boating safety education course and have your card, you are in compliance with the new regulation. Visit the VDGIF website for course information and for information about how to get replacement cards. To learn more about boating laws in Virginia and about boating education courses, visit the Department's website.



### <u> Virginia Anglers Club</u>



## VDGIF BOARD APPROVES FACILITIES USE FEE AND CERTAIN LICENCE INCREASES

At the May 3, 2011, Board of Game & Inland Fisheries meeting in Richmond, several milestone decisions were made that will benefit the Agency and its ability to continue to provide a multitude of services to all the citizens and visitors of the Commonwealth. The Board approved only the second increase in license fees in the past twenty-four years along with an exciting array of hunting and trapping regulation proposals. The adoption of a facilities 'Use Fee' is important well beyond the actual revenue derived since it provides the means by which folks who use these wonderful Wildlife Management Areas and state fishing lakes can contribute, on either a daily or annual basis, to their maintenance and management. Users with valid hunting, trapping or fishing licenses, boat registrations, 16 years old or younger, or hiking the Appalachian Trail will not have to pay the use fee. In order to educate the public sufficiently, the Use Fee will have a sunrise of January 1, 2012. Additionally, the Board approved license increases on some, but not all licenses with a special focus on basic hunting and fishing licenses, the trout license and the big game license. Nonresident licenses were increased in a manner that was proportional to the increase for resident sportsmen and women. Staff's recommendations and the Board's action reflected the general theme learned during the 120day public comment period. The Board's decisions were made easier due to solid support from the Agency Advisory Group (1), which is made up of leaders of sportsman and outdoor enthusiast organizations that meet quarterly with the Director and Department staff to gain input and make recommendations on program management, operations, legislation and future services options. The details of the hunting and fishing regulations, license fee changes and facilities user fees are being reviewed by staff and will be posted on the VDGIF web site shortly and will be covered in more detail in future editions of the Outdoor Report.

(1) The Virginia Anglers Club is represented on the Agency Advisory Group by VAC Secretary John Wetlaufer, Sr. If you have any concerns you want John to call to the attention of the Agency Advisory Group, please contact John. John can be contacted by e-mail at jlwsr@rcn.com or by phone at (804)-779-7770 as well as in person at any VAC Membership Meeting. John spoke on behalf of the VAC at the May 3<sup>rd</sup> DGIF Board Meeting.

HELP KEEP ANGLING LEGAL – REPORT VIOLATIONS If you suspect or witness an angling violation, report it to the Wildlife Crimeline at 1-800-237-5712.



### Worth it.

We wandered the area for hours, tried the shoals, dunked our crabs in the white water, but got no love. Frustration set in and eventually we decided to head back to the flats. Our hopes were fading as the wind was picking up and the clouds covered the sun. We were exhausted and I thought to myself "well, it looks like I 'm defeated by the Eastern Shore once again."

Keeping an eye out on the way, I thought I saw a brownish orange shape, about 5 feet from me, for just a split second. Without looking away from the spot, I stopped the kayak, picked up the rod and pitched my 6" paddletail. I cranked and as the lure reached the kayak I lifted it out of the water just in time to see a massive head then a big cloud of sand. DAMN! I quickly threw it again and before I could finish my first crank, the rod nearly got pulled out of my hand. The initial run was everything I hoped for. When the drag finished screaming, the kayak was in full sleigh mode, going against the wind and the current. Simply amazing. And when I thought it might be done, even with the drag set tight, it went on another spectacular line peeling run. After a while, I got it close and it started making my kayak doing 360s, just spinning me around. Then finally, it stayed on top. I leadered, grabbed it's lower jaw, leg lifted it in, and nearly creamed myself. I didn't weigh it, but it was a fat 40 incher.



I spent about 12 hours on the water. Paddled over 20 miles. But it was worth it. I learned a lot about the area and that one fight will have me going back as soon as I can. I can't wait!!!

-Rob Choi





## **Legislation and Conservation**By Matt Balazik

#### **Local News:**

**Blue Crab:** The Virginia Marine Resources Commission has voted to approve a minor tweak to the blue crab sanctuary boundary in the Northern Neck, and to close the entire sanctuary two weeks later than last year, on May 16, but decided to postpone major decisions on crab management regulations until the end of the summer, after results of a new, peer reviewed stock assessment are available.

#### **Rice Donation/Sturgeon Report:**

I would like to thank Stuart Lee for his recent donation to sturgeon research at the VCU Rice Center. We have picked up some fish in the tracking array but sadly nothing of the gravid female caught and tagged on April 20th. Most fish do a fallback after capture so hopefully she will return any day now.







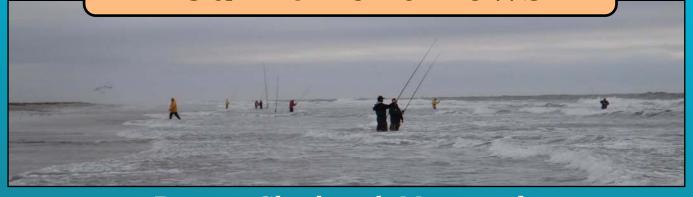
#### **Regional News:**

**NMFS:** Northeast Groundfish Fishery, The interim report of the Northeast groundfish fishery was published this month. The report describes trends of landings, revenue, effort, and fishing tactics. Big issues being noted in the report are: declining landings since 2008 of both groundfish and non-groundfish species; consolidation of revenue on fewer numbers of vessels; and increasing concentration of groundfish revenue among top earning vessels. The entire report can be read at; http://www.nefsc.noaa.gov/nefsc/publications/crd/crd1107/1107.pdf

**ASMFC:** The May issue of ASMFC's Fisheries Focus is out. It goes into spot, spotted seatrout, and Spanish mackerel fisheries management practices (FMP). The document also goes into Tautog population decline, striped bass tagging, and various other issues. Just go to http://www.asmfc.org/ and click on the May issue of "Fisheries Focus".



## Tournament News



### Bernie Skydanek Memorial Eastern Shore VA Surf - Red Drum May 14-15

Weather was acceptable and quality fish were caught both days. Club guide Bob Shepherd led a dozen club members to one of his special spots on the Eastern Shore barrier islands and showed the club that he could catch many fish in the surf. A few other people also occasionally caught a fish. Many thanks to Mike Ostrander's parents for putting on a great Cookout Social at their home. A good time was had by all!

#### Red Drum Weight:

Fred Murray 38 lb (wins a Greentop giftcard)

Bob Shepherd 32 lb Fred Cousins 29 lb

#### Other Species Points:

Bob Shepherd 35 lb Black Drum = 291 pts (wins a Greentop giftcard)

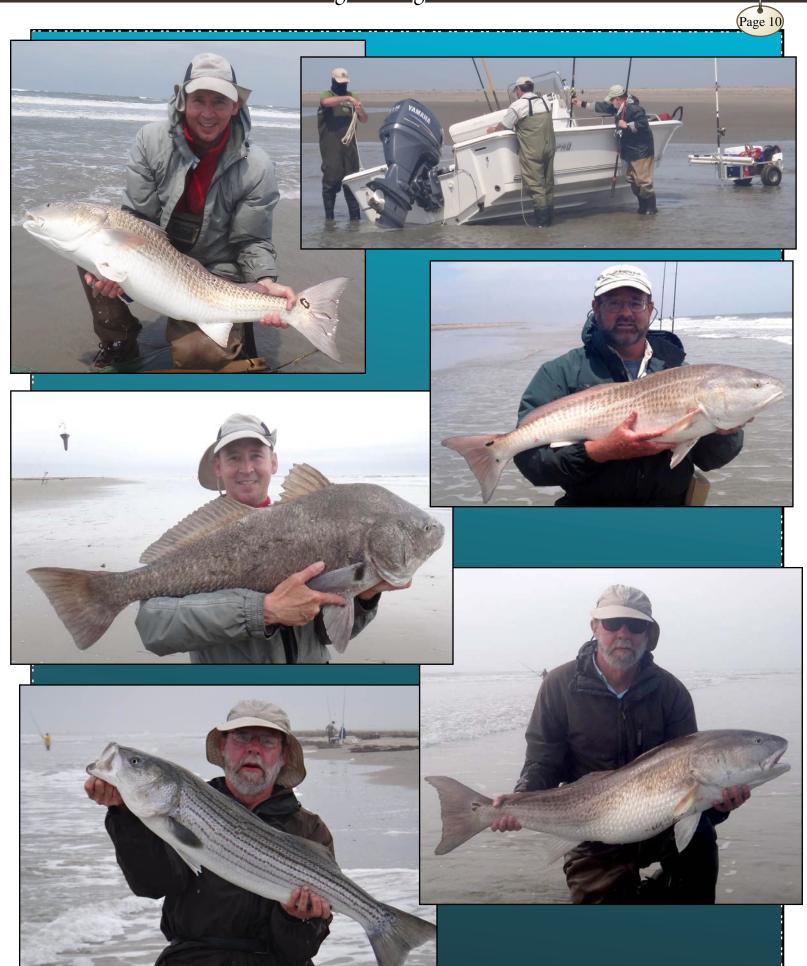
Fred Murray 15 lb Striper = 150 pts. Fred Cousins 13 lb Black Drum = 108 pts

#### **UPCOMING...**

Virginia Flounder: July 23-24 (blow date July 30-31)

James River VA Flathead Catfish: August 13-14 (blow date Aug 20-21)









# Captain's Corner By Fred Murray

"Surf Fishing Fun and a Clinic"

Bob Shepherd not only lead a group of VAC anglers to one of the hard to get to Eastern Shore islands on our recent tournament weekend, he also conducted a clinic on surf fishing. On Saturday, the first day of the tournament, with 11anglers spread up and down the beach on both sides of him, Bob catches 3 Red Drum and 3 Black Drum while the entire rest of the group (me included) just watched. And this is not the first time Bob has done this. Several years ago on a similar VAC surf tourney 9 drum were caught and Bob caught 8 of them. This is not luck by any means.

All of this just goes to show the great benefits of the VAC. Here we have experts like Bob that really know their stuff and if we are smart we can learn from them. Had Bob not been fishing we would have easily said there were few fish around. Sometimes and often some little things can really make a difference in whether you catch fish or not. For example, once while fly fishing for speckled trout with Stuart Lee he proceeds to catch fish after fish on a fly rod. He knew I wanted to try so he hands me his rod and even shows me where to cast. After many casts I finally managed to catch a couple and handed the rod back to Stuart were he proceeds to continue catching fish after fish. What was the difference? I wish I knew but he was doing something that worked. Bob Shepherd did the same thing to me again speckled trout fishing last year with a jig.

The moral of the story is take advantage of the great fishing experts we have with the club, be humiliated by them (as it often happens to me), take it in good stride and pay attention. You will be a better angler for the effort plus have a great time in the process and if you are lucky once in a while you figure it out.

Fred Murray President



#### **VIRGINIA ANGLERS CLUB - 5/12/11**

<u>SPECIES</u> <u>ANGLER</u> <u>WEIGHT LN DIV. PTS DATE LOCATION</u> BA	<u>AIT</u>										
2011 SPECIES LEADERS - SALTWATER											
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2011 SPECIES LEADERS - FRESHWATER											
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SUNFISH, ALL B Shepherd 1-1 2 Spin 279 4/19/11 Lake Curtis, VA Gru	ub										
2011 DIVISION LEADERS - SALTWATER											
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SEATROUT, SPOTTED F Cousins 6-12 2 Spin 450 1/16/11 Elizabeth River, VA Jig	g w/Grub										
2014 DIVICION LEADERC ERECLIMATER											
2011 DIVISION LEADERS - FRESHWATER											
GAR, ALL RL White 11-14 2 Spin 431 3/2/11 James River, VA Gru											
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CATFISH, BLUE B Shepherd 57-0 6 Gen 536 2/12/11 James River, VA Cut	ıt Shad										

## 2011 SPECIES LEADERS LARGEST - SALTWATER BASS, STRIPED F Cousins F Cousins F Cousins

5-0 6-12

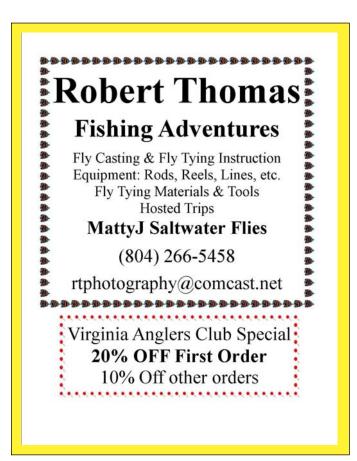
### 2011 SPECIES LEADERS LARGEST - FRESHWATER

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BASS, LARGEMOUTH	l W Nicar	8-0
BOWFIN	J Doughty	10-8
CATFISH, BLUE	L. Houser	76-8
CATFISH, FLATHEAD	J Sheffield	27-8
CRAPPIE, ALL	J Doughty	1-12
GAR, ALL	F Cousins	12-4
PERCH, WHITE	F Cousins	1-4
PERCH, YELLOW	M Cline	1-4
SHAD, AMERICAN	JH Sheffield	5-0
SHAD, HICKORY	JH Sheffield	2-0
SUNFISH, ALL	B Shepherd	1-1
TROUT, RAINBOW	D Nobles	2-2

#### **NEW CLUB RECORDS - FRESHWATER**

CATFISH, FLATHEAD	J Sheffield	27-8	6	Gen	321	2/28/11	James River, VA	Minnow
BASS, LARGEMOUTH	Robbie Robinson	4-8	2	Plug	300	3/12/11	Chickahominy River, VA	Blade Bait
CATFISH, BLUE	L. Houser	76-8	12	Gen	531	2/27/11	James River, VA	Cut Shad







Bulletin Editor: Johnny Wetlaufer, 647-4042

Design and Layout: Rob Choi

NEXT MEETING: Tuesday, May 24th at Maymont Nature Center

**BICHWOND AV 53584-1484 BO: BOX 31484** 

