



March 2015

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**NEXT MEMBERSHIP MEETING –
TUESDAY, MARCH 24, 2015 7:00 pm**

**Virginia Department of Game and Inland Fisheries
4010 West Broad Street, Richmond, VA
(Eastern-Most Building – Enter At Rear –
DGIF BOD Meeting Room)**



BACKLASH

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

MARCH PROGRAM – ALL YOU NEED TO KNOW ABOUT SHAD FISHING (By Art Conway)

If there was ever a pre-tournament “How To” program, the March Membership Meeting program will be one of the best ever. The program for the March 24 VAC meeting will be on shad fishing. We will have a shad fly tying demonstration featuring Fred Murray and a panel discussion of shad fishing locations and techniques.

Information covered will include good locations, especially locations in addition to the well-known James River locations, how to identify good specific structure within those locations, effective techniques and tackle (both fly and spin) that work in those locations, effective lures and flies, with any hints or tricks to make them

more effective, and tricks for handling and successfully releasing shad.

Everyone is encouraged to bring any unusual tackle that they have found effective to the meeting to show the other members, and everyone is welcome to contribute to the panel discussion. If you have a favorite shad story, bring it along also.

VIRGINIA YELLOW PERCH – ACED BY ROB CHOI (March 7 & 8, 2015)

The seldom used option of fishing a tournament’s “blow dates” had to be used to get the 2015 VAC Yellow Perch Tournament into better fishable conditions. Suspected ice covered perch hot spots forced the tournament to be fished a week later than scheduled and moving it to fishing over the weekend of March 7th and 8th.

Rob Choi’s two entries, both on 2 lb. General, won Rob first places in the points and weight category. Rob’s points entry of a 1 lb - 2 oz. yellow perch garnered him 235 points. A similar catch of a 1 lb. - 0 oz. yellow perch earned Rob the winning weight entry also.

Like Granddaddy said, “You have to fish tournaments to win tournaments”. Combined, Rob’s two fish were worth nearly \$19.00 / lb. Find that in any fish market.



NEXT TOURNAMENT
KELLY STAFFORD MEMORIAL
HICKORY SHAD & WHITE PERCH
April 11 & 12, 2015
(Blow Dates: April 18 & 19, 2015)

The most popular Virginia Anglers Club Tournament, the Kelly Stafford Memorial Shad and White Perch tournament is less than a month away. Angling Activities Chairman Andrew Campbell brings us an informative rundown on the tournament on page 8 of this issue of The Angler.

DATE CHANGE - BERNIE SKYDANEK MEMORIAL
EASTERN SHORE VA SURE

Now May 23, 2015 – (One Day Only)

Please note the change in the date for the above tournament from May 16th to May 23rd. Change your tournament schedule accordingly. The tournament schedule on the VAC website will be changed to reflect the 23rd as the date of the tournament.

E-CARDS – THE PREFERRED WAY
TO ENTER CATCHES

Please use E-Cards (electronic entry cards) to report all entries if possible. You do not need an iPhone to make an entry either. E-Cards can be filled out and submitted on a PC or a lap top or any other digital device on which you can access the Member's Area of the VAC Website. . If you have an iPhone with you when you are fishing, your fish can be photographed and entered before it is released or put in the cooler for later consumption.

If you have a stack of the old paper entry cards, they can be used to take "field notes" of catches to transfer later to an E-Card.

The link that takes you directly to the "door" to the Member's Area is:
http://www.virginiaanglersclub.org/myaccount/catch_entry.php

Why not take a minute to save this link in your iPhone, tablet, lap top, PC or any other electronic device you use to need to go to the Member's Area?

A word to the wise about your iPhone....never go fishing without it.

CATCH ENTRIES DO NOT COUNT IF
DUES ARE UNPAID AFTER 3-1-15

If your dues for 2015 have not been renewed as of February 28, 2015, any catch entry made on or after March 1, 2015 will be disqualified until you dues are made current. When you renew your dues, no retroactive credit will be given to catches made between March 1st and the date of your renewal. Please keep your dues current.

KNOW THE VMRC RIVER SHAD MORATORIUM

If you want to take a quick look at the VMRC's current regulations regarding the moratorium on possession of illegal river shad, all you need to know is at:

<http://www.mrc.state.va.us/regulations/fr1260.shtm>.

The conviction connected with these regulations is a Class 3 misdemeanor which carries a "fine of not more than \$500". Earn a second conviction within a year and the penalty becomes a Class 1 misdemeanor which carries a punishment of "up to 12 months in jail, a fine of up to \$2,500, or both". Informed fishing on the river beats a trip up the river.

"RIVER SHAD" IDENTIFICATION PHOTO GALLERY

Knowing what "shad" you have landed is important to avoid being caught with an illegal fish in your possession. A gallery of pictures of the various "shad" likely to be hooked in the James River is found on page 7 of this issue of The Angler. Don't let a Johnny shad catch you! Remember: "Under Bite, Alright".

BY-LAW AMENDMENT VOTE TO BE HELD AT THE
MARCH 24TH MEMBERSHIP MEETING

Due to a lack of a quorum (20) of Members present at the November Membership Meeting and the press of presenting the Species Awards at the February Membership Meeting, the vote by the membership on the two proposed amendments to the By-Laws of the Virginia Anglers Club will be held at the March 24, 2015 Membership Meeting. For details of the proposed amendments, please see the November 2014 edition of The Angler. Both revisions bring the By-Laws into agreement with current practice.

SCALE CERTIFICATION AVAILABLE AT
MARCH MEMBERSHIP MEETING

The Annual Scale Certification required for Members wishing to weigh for submission catch entries during the 2015 Angling Year will be made at the March 24th VAC Membership Meeting. Weighmasters Ryan and Danny Noland and Larry Allen will be doing certifications during the meeting. After this meeting, all scale certifications will be done on a request-only basis.

Remember the following scale preparation pointers:

- Be sure your scales are operating freely and free of rust.
- 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.
- Leave your bagged scales on the certification team's table (just inside the entry door to the DGIF building).



FIRST VAC EXPEDITIONS – CHICKAHOMINY LAKE – MAY 9TH

VAC Expeditions are a day of fishing specific local water just for the fun of it. No score is kept; no winner is proclaimed. This is not to say that bragging rights may surface for any Expedition.

The first VAC Expedition comes up on May 9th. Set aside the 9th on your events calendar. More details will follow in the April issue of The Angler.

May 9: Chickahominy Lake & Lunch at a Restaurant Ed Allen's Boat Landing

Launch 5:30am for those with boats.

-Boat Rentals start at 6am. Jon Boat and motor: \$55 per day.

Lunch-break at the restaurant around 11-11:30.

Fishing continues in the afternoon.

Coordinator: Art Conway caconway@vcu.org

VAC SURF TEAM AT A CROSSROADS

The Virginia Anglers Club Surf Fishing Team is at a curtail crossroads. At the moment, there is no VAC Surf Team to enter into the Cape Hatteras Anglers Club Invitational Surf Fishing Tournament coming up in early November, 2015. The VAC has fished in this tournament for the past 53 years.

An E-Cast was sent out in mid-March to all VAC Members who receive E-Mail from the Club to survey each Member about (1) his/her interest in committing to be a member of the VAC Surf team and fish the CHAC tournament or (2) about his/her thoughts if the VAC should resign from participation in the CHAC Tournament.

If you have not had a chance to answer the three questions in the survey, please take a moment to answer them. Copies of the E-Cast are available from John Wetlaufer, Sr. (jlwsr@rcn.com). The answers are automatically tallied anonymously.

VDGIF ANNUAL VIRGINIA RIVERS SMALLMOUTH FORECAST

VDGIF Fisheries Biologists have released their annual reports to inform anglers on forecasts for [Virginia Rivers and Smallmouth Bass Fishing](#). If you are a small bass angler, reading this informative report is time well spent.

VAC COUNTRY STORE OFFERS MAIL ORDER SERVICE

Don't forget that Co-Country Storekeeper Joe Lovasz, Sr. is offering mail order service from the current inventory of the VAC Country Store as well as for special order merchandise coming up on 2015 as these items are announced in The Angler. This new feature of the Country Store should be of special interest to Non-Resident VAC Members and Resident Members who do not attend Membership Meeting on a regular basis. The details of the mail order procedure can be found in the February 2015 issue of The Angler.

WISDOM FROM THE TACKLE BOX

There is no greater fan of fly fishing than the worm. ~Patrick F. McManus, Never Sniff a Gift Fish, 1979

For The Leadership Team,

John Wetlaufer, Sr.
Membership Chairman



“Catchy Comments”

By *Stuart Lee*

Club entries so far for this angling year have been few and far between. Hopefully, things are getting ready to pick up.

I just returned from a sailfish trip to the west coast of Guatemala. I went to the same place last year at about the same time and had wonderful fishing. We all know fishing is unpredictable and while fishing had been very good there recently, it fell off dramatically the day we arrived.

We spent the majority of our trip in the search mode and were able to catch eight sailfish on fly, which was far fewer than last year. We did see a marlin in each of our three days fishing. The second day we had a marlin teased in just behind the boat, and I was able to make a very nervous cast, and, out of nowhere, a sailfish came in and ate the popper, causing me to cuss a sailfish bite for the first time in my life. The final day, my partner cast to a very respectable (300 pound) Blue Marlin that was fifteen feet behind the transom that ate and went off greyhounding bound for El Salvador taking 400 yards of backing in just a few seconds, breaking the tippet.

The boat trolls three hookless ballyhoos and one teaser. The port outrigger is not lowered to allow casting from the port corner of the cockpit. The mates tease the fish to within fifteen feet of the stern and the captain takes the boat out of gear and tells you to cast. They use double hooked Cam Sigler poppers. The sailfish rods were 14 weights set with 6 pounds of drag. The marlin rod was a 16 weight set with 1½ pounds of drag; the purpose of the light drag is to survive the first five minutes and that initial run, after which more drag can be applied. All rods were rigged with 35 feet of 500 grain floating shooting head spliced to 80 yards of 50 pound mono (for stretch), connected to the backing.

This is the only place I have ever billfished where sailfish flags are not flown and voices are not raised when a fish is seen, indicating the abundance of fish and the routine of big catches.

March Madness is here, which means loads of basketball, and it is time to go shad fishing.

Stuart



Karen Anderson with a nice American Shad - 2014



Kayak bass release



FROM RECENT EDITIONS OF DGIF'S THE OUTDOOR REPORT

(click on the [blue text](#) for additional information)

SHOWS OF INTEREST TO ANGLERS

- March 28: [Second Annual Waynesboro 1+ Fly Competition, Waynesboro](#)
- March 28: [Augusta County Fishing Expo, Fishersville](#)
- April 4: [Trout Heritage Day on selected streams and Kids Fishing Day at Graves Mountain Lodge, Madison](#)
- April 11-12: [15th annual Virginia Fly Fishing and Wine Festival, Waynesboro](#)
- March 21-22: [Rappahannock River Waterfowl Show, White Stone](#)

**TROUT HERITAGE & KIDS FISHING DAY AT GRAVES MOUNTAIN LODGE
IN MADISON APRIL 4TH**

Celebrate Trout Heritage Day with the kids in Madison April 4 when 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 again this year and features educational exhibits and skill building activities for both novice and experienced outdoor enthusiasts. Come join us on April 4 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.](#)

TROUT HERITAGE DAY CELEBRATED APRIL 4TH

Trout Heritage Day was established several years ago for those anglers who enjoyed and missed the old "opening day" tradition for Trout Season. Selected waters are stocked for the first Saturday in April to create an announced stocking event. To view the list of waters that will be stocked for Trout Heritage Day on April 4, 2015, [visit our website](#). Read details in the [Wild Events](#) calendar for the special Kids Fishing Day at Graves Mountain Lodge on the Rose River in Madison County, co-sponsored by Trout Unlimited and VDGIF.

**15TH ANNUAL VIRGINIA FLY FISHING FESTIVAL AND WINE FESTIVAL
APRIL 11-12 IN WAYNESBORO**

The 15th annual Virginia Fly Fishing and Wine Festival will be held on April 11 and 12, 2015 on the banks of South River in Waynesboro. This outdoor weekend festival has something for all. There are plenty of casting class openings at this time. Sign up now before we sell out. We have a great program packed with fly tying, casting and destination experts. [Buy Tickets Online](#) for admission, classes, Foundation Dinner and merchandise.

NEW CLASS OF CONSERVATION POLICE OFFICERS SWORN IN AT STATE CAPITAL

The VDGIF Basic Law Enforcement Academy has [graduated a new class of officers](#). The Honorable Marla Decker, Judge of the Virginia Court of Appeals officially swore-in the new officers in the Old Hall of the House of Delegates at the State Capitol February 26, 2015. In all, 23 new conservation police officers (CPOs) were sworn-in at the ceremony. Seven were previously sworn officers who took additional training to become CPOs, and 16 earned their credentials by attending the full academy. The group of sixteen officers completed an intensive training program that included more than 200 courses and ran for nearly 26 weeks. They will take up their assignments across the Commonwealth and proceed with field training under the direct supervision of field training officers. This is the eighth class to graduate from the Department's Training Academy. VDGIF undertook establishing its own academy in order to tailor the program to the specific needs of Conservation Police Officers.



11lb 2oz Yellow Perch - Rob Choi

HELP SUPPORT



The Virginia Wildlife Crime Line has become a valuable tool in the enforcement of the Commonwealth's game, fish and boat laws. Reward payments are approved and funded through the Virginia Sportsman Reward Fund, Inc. The Virginia Sportsman Reward Fund's mission is to promote the enforcement of hunting, fishing, and boating laws in Virginia by supporting the Wildlife Crime Line in cooperation with the Virginia Department of Game and Inland Fisheries.

Tax-deductible donations can be made to:
Virginia Sportsman Reward Fund, Inc.
P.O. Box 11104, Richmond, VA 23230-1104
or by calling (804) 367-1242



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**SHAD ID PHOTOS AND VMRC “RIVER HERRING”
MORATORIUM REMINDER**

Remember the VMRC has established a moratorium on the possession of “River Herring”. The formal description of “River Herring” is any fish of the species *Alosa aestivalis* (Blue Back Herring) or *Alosa pseudoharengus* (Alewife) (see pictures below). Any person possessing “River Shad” shall be guilty of a Class 3 misdemeanor and a second or subsequent by the same person, within 12 months of a prior violation, is a Class 1 misdemeanor. Current VMRC “river herring” regulations are available at <http://www.mrc.state.va.us/regulations/fr1260.shtm>.

SOME COMMON SHAD AND HERRING



Alewife
Alewife Aliases

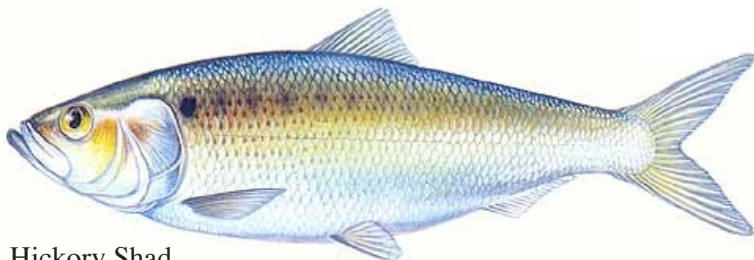
(Also: Anadromous alewives; Bigeye herring; Branch herring; Clipped roefish; Corned alewives; Freshwater herring; Gray herring; Grayback; Greyback; Kyak; River herring; Sawbelly; White herring; kyack)



Blueback Herring



Gizzard Shad



Hickory Shad



American Shad



Good advice to all anglers

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**

TOURNAMENT NEWS



BY DREW CAMPBELL - ANGLING ACTIVITIES CHAIRMAN

**KELLY STAFFORD MEMORIAL HICKORY SHAD & WHITE PERCH
APRIL 11 & 12, 2015
(BLOW DATES: APRIL 18 & 19, 2015)**

It's Shad time, Anglers!!! One of the most anticipated tournaments of the year~

With anadromous species like the White Perch, Hickory and American Shad as well as the Striped Bass around, what's not to love? This particular tournament focuses on the Hickory Shad and the White Perch, both will be VERY prevalent in the James especially near the "fall line".

A little Shad history: During the Revolutionary War General Washington's undernourished troops at Valley Forge suffered through a tough winter; they were saved by a large shad run on the Delaware River. The volunteers starving made their diet with smoked shad saving the day and helping the cause of the future United States!

White Perch do not have a colorful history but are fine light tackle fighters. Not true Perch, they are members of the temperate bass family *Monroë Americana*, so they are related to bass, white bass and Striped bass.

In this year's tournament schedule we will be encouraging the use of barbless hooks. This presents us with a challenge, fish in the herring family, such as shad, have very soft and easily torn mouths. Using barbless hooks will reduce your catch ratio and fish that jump will throw the hook often. Just be sure to fight the fish with the best technique possible and you'll learn how to keep your catch ratio as high as possible. Any fish you do release will be that much healthier.

If you can learn to use barbless hooks, you'll be better off gaining improved fish fighting skills as well as reducing the likelihood of injury to the fish and yourself.

We will recognize three places for heaviest weight fish and three places for highest point fish. First = 3 pts. Second = 2 pts. Third = 1 pt. These points will apply towards the annual Tournament Angler of the Year competition.

- Each fish entered must be specified as a points entry or a weight entry, but cannot qualify in both categories. Only two fish of each specified tournament species can be entered in any tournament.
- The highest weight or points fish entered using a barbless hook will receive a copy of "The Founding fish" which outlines Shads role in American History.

To qualify, tournament entries must be sent to Andrew within 24 hours of the end of each tournament. The preferred method of notification is the E-Card (electronic entry card) with the Tournament box checked. Andrew will automatically get your tournament entry E-Card if the Tournament box is checked. Tournament entries can be submitted to any via E-Mail to Andy at campbellx2@verizon.net or phoned in at (804) 658-8297.

Robert Thomas

Fishing Adventures

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

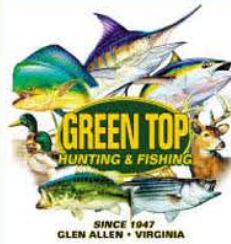
MattyJ Saltwater Flies

(804) 266-5458

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Bulletin Editor: Johnny Wetlaufer, 647-4042



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Design and Layout: Rob Choi

NEXT MEETING:
Tuesday, March 24, 2015 at DGIF Headquarters

