



January 2004

**42nd
Annual Awards
Banquet**

January 24, 2004 at 5:30 p.m.

**RESERVATIONS ARE
STILL AVAILABLE!**

Backlash

*(Commentary from the President -
John Wetlaufer)*

The 2004 Banquet is coming up on January 24th at the Meadowbrook Country Club. See the special issue of the Angler or the December 2003 issue of the Angler for details of the banquet. Banquet Chairmen has been requested by the Club for a count on January 21st. Please get your reservations to Eddy by that date. Send your banquet checks to Eddy and call him directly if you have a special need with your reservation.

House Bill No. 301 has been introduced that proposes to allow the Board of Directors of the DGIF to set license fees. Currently, this fee setting authority rests with the General Assembly. This is the most important legislation related to needs of the DGIF this year. Please seriously consider supporting HB-301. How to use the Sportsmen of Virginia web site to get the "word" to your Delegate and Senator follows.

The Sportsmen of Virginia website is an excellent way to keep with legislation that is of interest to anglers, hunters and those who enjoy the outdoor resources of the Commonwealth. The current General Assembly is in session and is cranking out legislation.

You can keep up with the bills by keeping up with information posted on the SOV web site. Information about new bills or the progress of bills is posted daily on this website. You can also get a blank e-mail addressed to your Delegate or Senator to come up on your screen, ready for message to be added.

Here is one way to use this web site effectively. First, you will need to get into the website for the Community

Zero software used to manage the SOV website. After the first screen, you can roam and find a whole lot of information that is useful data to us anglers.

1. Go to www.comunityzero.com
2. Click on "Visit My Communities" in the left hand column of the screen
3. Click on the box with the green border that is titled "Sportsmen of Virginia". (You will see listings of legislation posted by the Sportsmen of Virginia website administrator. This information is updated daily.)
4. Click on "Legislation" in the box titled "Contributions"
5. Click on the "http/.." for information for the bills listed. (More detail is available for each bill posted on the screen that comes up.)
6. Click the "back" arrow in the upper left hand corner of the screen and return to screen with "Contributions" on the tan line at the top of the screen.
7. Click on "Lists" in the column at the left of the screen. (The column starts with "Explorer")
8. Click on "Virginia General Assembly". (This will take you to where you can find out who your representative is and where you can get a blank e-mail with which you can contact your representative. Be proactive and write them frequently.)
9. Click in the gray box in the "view" column on the same line that the box in the "Name" column in which the words "Who is my legislator?" appears. (5th line down).
10. Click on the "http/..." that comes up just to the right of the box with "URL" in it.
11. Type in your zip code and click on the box with "Look Up" in it. (You will get the names of your Virginia legislators and your representative in the U.S. Congress.)
12. Click on "More About..." for the person whose blank e-mail form you want.
13. To get an alphabetical list of legislators by last name, you can also click on "Senators" or "Delegates" on the page that came up in 11. Click on "Contact Information" and, when the list comes up, click on the person's name for more information. Click on the e-mail address listed and you will get a blank e-mail addressed to that person.

Continued on page 2.

Backlash

Continued from page 1.

I have just listed one way to move thru the Sportsmen of Virginia web site. You will need to mess around a little in the Sportsmen of Virginia web site to see what all is there. You cannot hurt anything by hitting a wrong key. Please be proactive and e-mail or write your legislators to let them know how you feel.

This will be my last "BACKLASH" column I write as President of the Virginia Anglers Club. I want to thank all the, Directors, Officers, Committee Chairmen and the members of the VAC for the support and patience extended so abundantly to me this past year. I have had fun writing this little piece and hope it was of interest to you too.

Regards and Tight Lines,

John



CATCHY COMMENTS

by Dennis Cline

Bob Shepherd has been like a one man wrecking crew in the early stages of the 2004 angling year. He started the holiday season by working the James with cut bait for catfish. His first entry wasn't the targeted blue cat, but an 11-8 flathead on 6-general. On the way home from the holidays he stopped by the New to have a go at the muskies. Two days on the New produced four muskies and three new club records on plug tackle for Mr. Musky! The new records were a 17-8 on 6-plug, a 14-8 on 8-plug and a 12-0 on 12-plug. Wow! For an encore, he went back to the James for more catfish and other stuff. A 1-8 crappie on 2-spin was just a warm-up. The real action was big blue cats. Bob released a 39-0 on 6-general and put his guests on some bigger fish. **Randy Matthews** notched a 40-0 on 8-general and a friend cranked in a 60-0 on heavy tackle! Now, Bob has safely returned to work for a well-earned rest.

Fred Cousins and I sought refuge from strong winds on Lee Hall reservoir. There was no refuge! Fishing was tough, but I managed a 2-14 chain pickerel on 2-spin. Fred released a 4-14 largemouth on 4-plug a day later.

Surprisingly few club members have made salt-water entries so far this year, considering there were some nice warm days around the holidays. I guess the wind was the culprit, or in my case travel and football bowl

games. **Dr. Jim Wright** took a break from his usual heavy trolling gear and used 4-spin to catch a 3-5 speckled trout at the hot ditch. **Stuart Lee** found stripers off Oregon Inlet and finished the last two days of '03 with club records. His 18-0 striper set a record on 8-tippet and his 20-12 striper was a record on 12-tippet. **Rich McDaniel** leads the lunker list with a 43-0 striper taken on 30-general. Rich's striper broke the club record of our first Master Angler, Lewis Pendleton, which was set off Hatteras in December 1970.

Help Needed!

Do all of your trophies have your name on them? At last years banquet, there was a mix-up with some of the awards. Randy Matthews received a cup intended for Fred Cousins. Randy's cup for a rainbow trout on spin was apparently given or sent to someone else. Would everyone who received an award (cup) at last years banquet please check to see that it is the right one? The finder of the missing award will receive Randy's and my gratitude.

More Help Needed

Our club recently donated some old 16mm films to the IGFA library and museum. Among them were three from the early 60's, which featured Joe Brooks and Curt Gowdy that are historically significant films. They are unedited films featuring Joe and Curt competing against an Argentine team in the "Trout Fishing Championship", which were intended to convince Roone Arledge that fishing shows on television would become popular with viewers. They were an instant hit, and led to the 20+year run of ABC's American Sportsman, which was the first TV fishing show.

The problem is that IGFA does not have the budgetary resources to restore these films to DVD format. They have asked us to donate the funding. In our January board of directors meeting, it was determined that the club does not have sufficient funds to support the restoration (estimated at \$300 per hour of film). If any individual members are interested in making a donation toward this effort, they should contact:

Gail Morchowar, Librarian
IGFA Fishing Hall of Fame & Museum
300 Gulf Stream Way
Dania Beach, FL. 33004

Phone: (954) 924-4355
Fax: (954) 924-4332
Email: gmorchowar@IGFA.ORG

Upcoming Angling Events

Chickahominy Grab Bag
February 14, 2004

Location: Chickahominy River
From Walkers Dam to the Rt.5 bridge

Date: Saturday, February 14, 2004

Awards: 1 cup most cumulative points (min. of 3 fish).
Limited to one entry per species.
1 cup highest point fish
(any species 100 point min.).
1 cup highest point fish on fly
(100 point min.).
1 cup J* catfish.
1-Cup "Jungle Rules" Catfish.
1-Cup for Highest Point Fish (any species).

Report-In: Call Chairman within 5 days of catch:

Chairman: Bob Brown - Home: 746-1934
Cell: 833-2786

Jungle rules: Fish may be taken with any hook and line tackle used in a sportsman like manner. Any line material and breaking strength is acceptable.

**Chickahominy River -
Yellow Perch**
February 28, 2004

Location: Chickahominy River
From Walkers Dam to the Rt.5 bridge

Date: Saturday, February 28, 2004

Awards: 1 cup highest point Yellow perch
(100 point min.)
1 cup highest point Yellow perch on fly.
(100 point min.)
1 cup highest point other (100 point min.)
1 cup J* Catfish

Report-In: Call Chairman within 5 days of catch:

Chairman: Bob Brown - Home: 746-1934
Cell: 833-2786

Jungle rules: Fish may be taken with any hook and line tackle used in a sportsman like manner. Any line material and breaking strength is acceptable.

Trout Tournament
March 20, 2004

Location: Escatawba Farm on Dunlap Creek -
Covington, VA.

Date: Saturday March 20, 2004

Awards: 1 cup heaviest trout (jungle rules)
1 cup highest point trout
1 cup best trout fisherman (combined points
best, brown, rainbow and brook trout)

Comments: Limited to the first 8-10 Anglers
Fly fishing only, catch & release only
Cost \$ 75.00 per. Day
Contact Bob Brown at (804)746-1934 or
(804)833-2786 to make reservations, and
hold your place.
It will be first come, first serve.
Need to have a count by Feb.9, 2004
There will be transportation for a few people

Escatawaba Farm has a two mile stretch of
crystal clear spring-fed freestone stream.
Dunlap Creek is stocked with rainbow trout
to 24 inches.
You can also fish the spring-fed lake stocked
with browns, rainbows and brookies.

Check it out on the web at
www.escatawba.com

Also trying to have a cook out for lunch.




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**NEXT MEETING:
 42nd Anniversary Banquet**

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