

THE SINGING REEL

July Meeting

Friday, July 16th at 7:00pm

*****THIS WILL BE AN "In-Person" MEETING*****

Mike Bednarski-Chief of Fisheries, DWR

DWR's Fisheries Program - Current Efforts, Future Directions, and Best Bets



**Afternoon Session 4pm The Place at Innsbrook
Diverse Opportunities - Adding to your Life List in Virginia**

NEXT MEETING: September 2021 Picnic at Duck Down Inn

WWW.FLYFISHERSOFVIRGINIA.ORG

VOL XXXVIV No. 4

Letter from the President

I am delighted to let you know that the Board has approved a plan for us to resume holding in-person bi-monthly club meetings! Our first in-person meeting in well over a year will be held at The Place on Friday, July 17 at 7:00 pm, and our speaker will be Mike Bednarski, the Chief of Fisheries at the Virginia Department of Wildlife Resources. His evening presentation will be entitled "DWR's Fisheries Program - Current Efforts, Future Directions, and Best Bets." As is our custom, there will also be an afternoon program starting at 4:00 pm, and Mike will host a presentation entitled "Diverse Opportunities - Adding to Your Life List in Virginia." Both presentations promise to be very informative and a great opportunity to learn about DWR programs and enjoy an evening of fellowship and some outstanding food!

We will follow this meeting with an outdoor club picnic at Duck Down Inn on Thursday, September 16 and our annual banquet at The Place on Friday, November 12. The Salisbury Country Club will complete their renovations later this year and our treasurer, Joann Lindstrom-Gibbons, has already reserved dates back at Salisbury Country Club for our 2022 dinner meetings.

The Fly Fishers of Virginia conducted a Frontline COVID Worker Fly Fishing Retreat on May 7 at Duck Down Inn. This retreat was the idea of club members Steve Lindsey and Ed Landry and was intended to show our immense appreciation of the work of the Richmond-area health care workers during the pandemic. The 14 attendees were made up of five Physicians, five Registered Nurses, one Physician Assistant, two Nurse Practitioner, and one Licensed Clinical Social Worker, and they work at Riverside Walter Reed Hospital in Gloucester, Virginia Commonwealth University Medical Center, HCA Retreat Doctors' Hospital, and Hunter Holmes McGuire VA Medical Center. The fly fishing guides and instructors were all FFV members – so a big shout out to Robert Thomas, Tony Scrimizzi, Tom Milot, Marvin Williams, Bob Hicks, Dan Genest, David Piotrowski, Rick Hendrickson, Mac Myers, Ed Landry, and Steve Lindsey! Well done, folks! The retreat was so popular that a second one will be held at Duck Down Inn on June 25.

On a more somber note, I note with great sadness the passing of long-time member Phil Johnson. Phil was a dynamic presence at FFV with his passion for tying flies, promoting Project Healing Waters, and all things fly fishing. He was a friend to many of us, and we shall sorely miss his presence and many contributions.

The Board and I look forward to seeing you in July – and in the meantime, tight lines and screaming reels!

David Skove

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THE FLY FISHERS OF VIRGINIA IS DEDICATED TO THE PROMOTION OF FLY FISHING, SPORTSMANSHIP, CONSERVATION, AND THE ENJOYMENT OF ANGLING.

"The Singing Reel" is produced by the Fly Fishers of Virginia for its members and friends of the organization. "The Singing Reel" welcomes articles, news items, photos, and other items that may be of interest to club members. Items may be sent by email to rtphotography@comcast.net or they may be mailed to: Editor, "The Singing Reel," P.O. Box 9311, Richmond, VA 23227.

Mike Bednarski



Mike Bednarski is DWR's Fish Chief and leads the Department's Aquatic Wildlife Resources Division, which is responsible for managing all of Virginia's sportfish and non game fish species. Before coming to Virginia in 2016, he worked with marine sportfish, including black sea bass, summer flounder, bluefish and striped bass. He will be presenting on DWR's Aquatic program, highlighting new initiatives and quality fishing opportunities. He likes to spend his free time bass fishing and has been known to throw top-water lures long after they've stopped being productive.

“Ye Olde Fly Shack”

Fly Fishers

We are going to try something new. In addition to the regular Raffle Table we are opening “Ye Olde Fly Shack”. It will consist of items that are new or lightly used and will be available for direct purchase by cash or check. Many of the items have a specific “size” and therefore are not suitable for the regular Raffle. All items will be “priced to sell” and will constitute a real bargain. A sampling of items for the meetings consists of wading boots, fly reels, fly lines, packs, neoprene booties, and other gear. As always the proceeds will go toward our conservation efforts so be sure and bring some extra money with you. You just might come away with something you didn’t know you needed.

**Special
Dragon Tail Sliders
3 for \$20.00**

****We will also take donations to Ye Olde Fly Shack. If you have some new or lightly used equipment that is gathering dust please consider making a donation. Some other member would probably love to put it to good use. Please contact Robert Thomas at (804) 307-7122 or rtp photography@comcast.net to make a donation****

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**PayPal is now available for
Dinner Reservations and Special Raffle Tickets**

Special Raffle

Will be drawn at the July Meeting



Name: _____

Email: _____

Phone: _____

_____ **Tickets at \$10.00 each**

Total: \$ _____

In Memoriam
Phil Johnson

January 26, 1939 – June 3, 2021



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Phil will be greatly missed. I am grateful to have met him and worked with him in the CHMS Fly Fishing Club.

Rick Ridpath

So sorry to learn of Phil's passing. He took me under his wing and gave me lots of encouragement when I first volunteered at Project Healing Waters. He was a kind man and devoted to the veterans. He will be missed.

Millie Neagle

Phil was my friend from the first time I met him . Truthfully, I don't know why I liked him from the get go. I am by nature very reserved., a far off the scale introvert who does not mingle or make friends easily. Phil was a bear of a man— is his stature, his demeanor, his personality and his passion. Typically, I would have avoided someone with such an outsized personality. He was an extrovert as far off the scale to the left as I was to the right. Yet, somehow we bonded immediately. He did some great things for Project Healing Waters and I like to think, I helped a bit along the way . But though our connection and friendship was based on fly fishing and Phil was passionate about fly fishing, it ranked pretty far down the list of his loves. Being a bear, Phil had a huge heart with lots of love to share. First came his wife, Nancy. Never in the time I knew him was there any hint that she did not come first in everything. Then it was children, then grandchildren . He was so proud of his family, that his love for fly fishing was pretty far down his list of priorities, and he was one hell of a fly fisherman and a great friend. I will miss him.

Dan Genest

I just had a nice conversation with Phil on last Sunday or Memorial Day. He had called me to say he had moved back to the former place where he and Nancy lived as he needed more care. He was tired all the time and mentioned congestive heart failure but was receiving medications. He sounded good and, as always, had a wonderful, positive outlook for the future. I shall certainly miss his bigger- than-life presence and his ability to cut through details at times and present a solution nobody else had thought of yet. The man was so proud of all the success of his children and gave so much of his life to helping others be successful too - from working with Habitat for Humanity and later with Project Healing Waters and, of course, our FFV activities. Phil's way was to give all he could to the job at hand and when he reached the place he felt he had done all he could, he moved on to somewhere else to start doing good again. Our dear friend gave all he could here with us and he has moved on to a better place. He will linger in our memories for a long time. My love and sympathy go to his family and especially his "kids" he was so proud of.

JoAnn Lindstrom-Gibbens

COVID RETREAT

The Fly Fishers of Virginia held a COVID Worker Fly Fishing Retreat on May 7, 2021 at Duck Down Inn. There were fourteen participants representing four hospital systems. Eleven club members participated by registering guests, giving casting lessons and helping guests catch fish. They also served in a number of other capacities including planning, sending invitations, communications and parking.

Our goal was to give the doctors, nurses and other COVID first responders, who have had a long, stressful year, a fun time away from the office. Thanks to the Club members, the event was a great success. Thank you!!!

Special thanks to our hosts, Lisa and Louis Powell, for letting us use Duck Down Inn. A number of the guests commented on the beauty of the setting. Everything was perfect and the fish were cooperative and eager to take the flies of the guests. One nurse caught three rainbows, out-fishing guests and club members too.

After lunch a trained facilitator led a group discussion giving guests the opportunity to share their experiences. Here's what one said: "This is the first time that I have been able to talk about my grief and loss during this past year of the Covid Pandemic"

During the day we asked guests if they were able to relax and enjoy fishing: "I have not thought about work at all during the retreat."

Another guest wrote: "I think all of you did a great job putting on this retreat and I personally can't thank you enough for providing us with a day of relaxation and comradeship with other frontline healthcare workers. **I found myself laughing more than I have in a long time** (mostly at myself and my lack of coordination). Your team remained calm and attentive throughout the day."

"The setting was beautiful and relaxing and I so appreciate the Powell's offering up their magnificent property for this opportunity to learn a new skill."

A fun and delightful day was spent by all! Thank you, Lisa and Louis. Thank you Fly Fishers of Virginia!

Steve Lindsey & Ed Landry

The Singing Reel





HIGH STICK



Phil Johnson
Smallmouth



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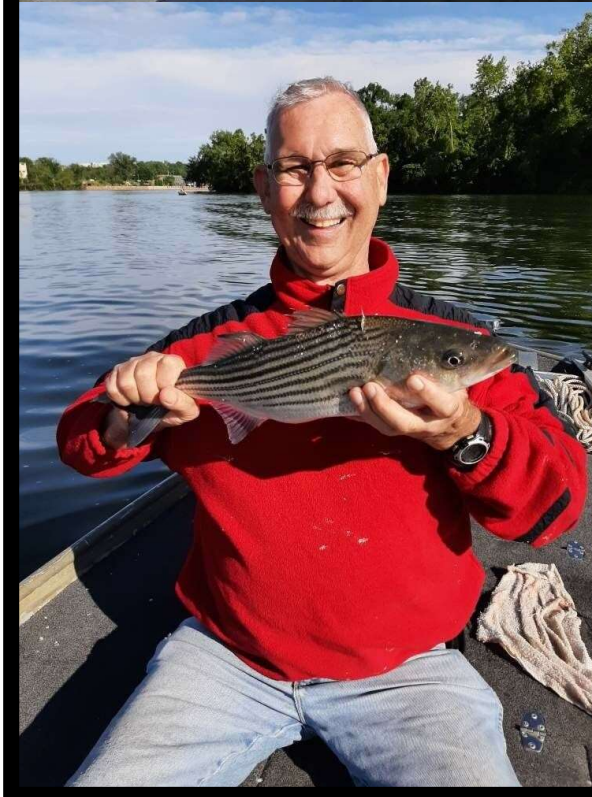
WE WANT YOUR PHOTOS
“*The Singing Reel*” is always looking for photos of members with their catch. Deliver photos to:
MAIL: PO Box 29477, Richmond, Va. 23242
EMAIL: rtphotography@comcast.net

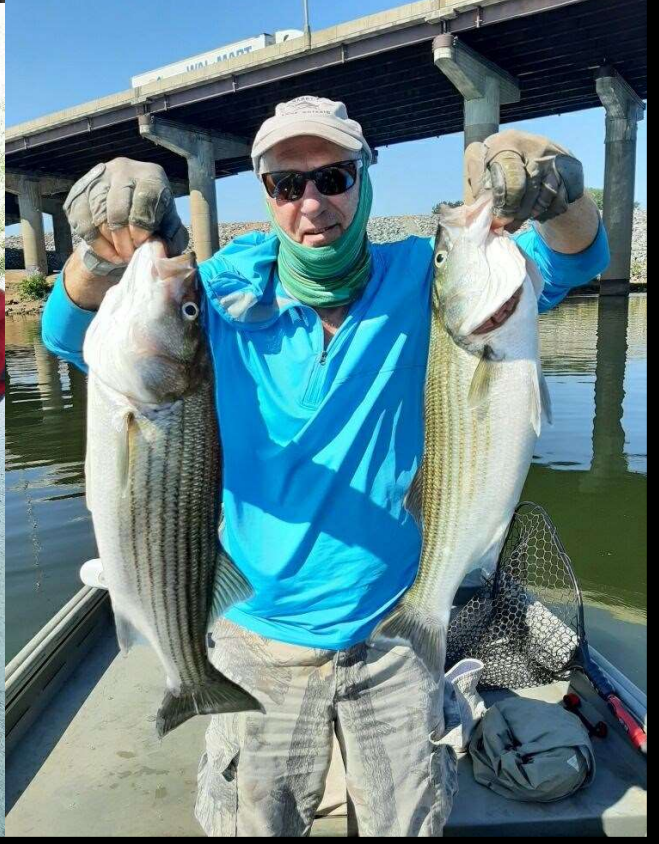
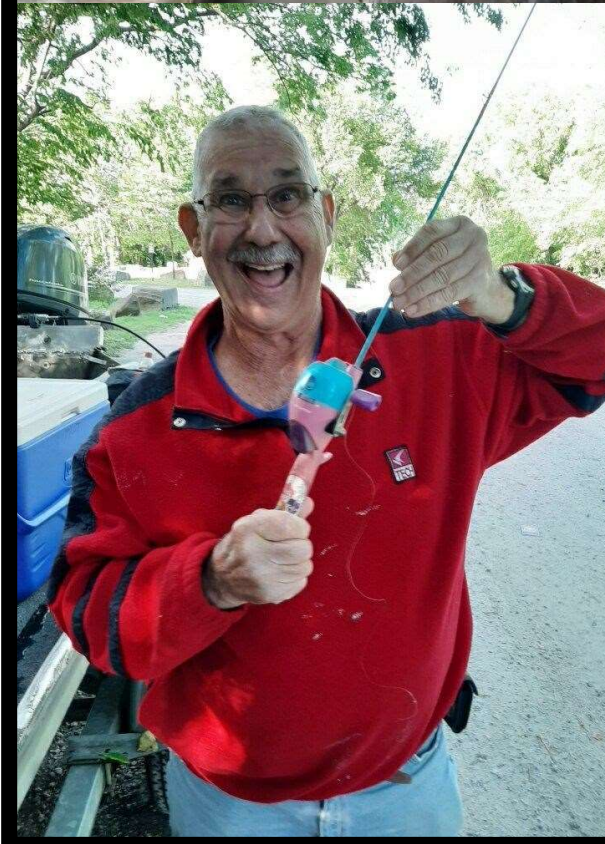
Spring on the James

Stripers ♦ Walleye ♦ Largemouth Bass
Ed Landry • Tom Mlot • David Piotrowski
Robert Thomas









Florida Everglades

Eric English ♦ Kevin Noreika

Alligator • Tarpon • Cichlids





Chickahominy Lake

Art Girard & Robert Thomas
Largemouth Bass ♦ Hybrid Bream



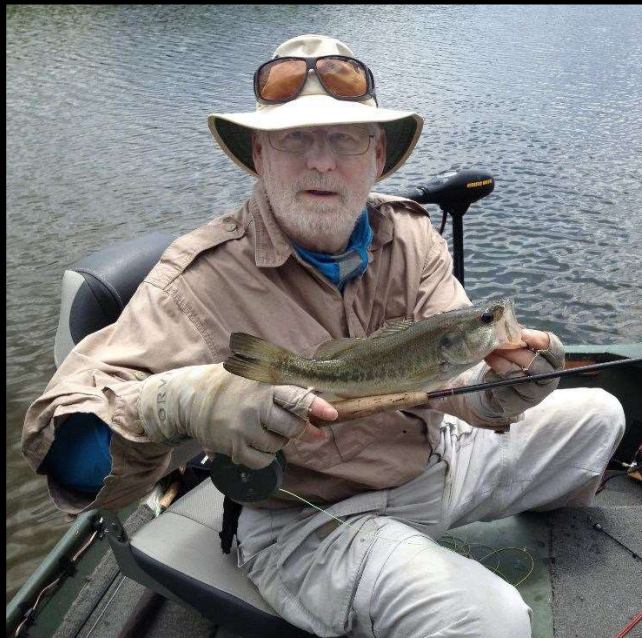
Tomahawk Farms

Dale Clark



Lake Amelia

Dick Chapman & Robert Thomas
Largemouth Bass ♦ Crappie ♦ Shellcraker



Mossy Creek

Dale Clark ♦ Chuck Davis ♦ Rein Mey



Mossy Creek Trip Observations

It was a wonderful day - enjoyed being with the FFV members - as a "wanna be" -- the problem for me though, as a "fisherwoman" for 3 years, is when at the end of the day, Kathleen, who has been fishing "all over" for 10 years - said this was her best day ever. I worry that I have peaked early!

Jane Vaiden Hutton

Jackson River Smallmouth Bass Robert Thomas



Montana Trout



**Roger McClellan
&
Millie Neagle**



Menu for Friday, July 16th Meeting

****This will be a Buffet****

Salads:

Tossed Salad

Tomato Basil Pasta Salad, Cole Slaw

Entrees

Chicken Marsala

Grilled Mahi-Mahi with Pineapple Curry

Braised Beef Brisket w/Honey Barbeque Sauce

Including:

Scalloped Potatoes, Fresh Vegetable Medley

Desserts

Chocolate Cake, Cherry Cobbler



**RESERVATION - FFV DINNER MEETING
FRIDAY, JULY 16, 2021**

Member's Name: _____ \$ 40.00

Guest Name: _____

Guest Name: _____

Total = \$ _____

Please make the following reservations for me for the Fly Fishers of Virginia Dinner Meeting at the **Place at Innsbrook** We must receive your reservation and check by **MONDAY, JULY 12, 2021** to insure that you have a reservation.

TELEPHONE RESERVATIONS WILL NOT BE ACCEPTED!
Mail to Fly Fishers of Virginia, P.O. Box 29477, Richmond, Virginia 23242.

Check here if you need a Vegetarian Meal # _____

CHMS Fly Fishing Club



Colonial Heights
Middle School

Colonial Heights, Virginia

Contact:
Rick Ridpath
steelstringpylr@comcast.net



If you can help out in any way please contact:

Andy Cox

andyj31524@gmail.com



Fly Fishers of Virginia
P.O. Box 29477
Richmond, Virginia 23242

FFV OFFICERS AND DIRECTORS FOR 2021

PRESIDENT: David Skove
VP Fishing Activities: Dick Chapman
VP Conservation Activities: Clay Hardin
VP Membership: Chuck Davis
Secretary: Gary Green
Treasurer: JoAnn Lindstrom-Gibbens
Director at Large: Dale Clark
Director at Large: Larry Baron
Director at Large: Tony Scrimizzi
Director at Large: Millie Neagle
PHW Coordinator: Andy Cox
Technical Director: Brian Trow
Technical Director: Colby Trow
Webmeister: Doug Walden
Director of Communications: Robert Thomas

FFV PAST PRESIDENTS

Grayson Harding—2019, 2020
Tom Mlot—2017, 2018
Jay Armstrong—2015, 2016
Steve Lewis—2013, 2014
Ken Eastwood—2011, 2012
Robert Thomas—2009, 2010
Larry Cortright—2007, 2008
Dan Genest-- 2005, 2006
Richard Roadcap— 2003, 2004
Doug Walden— 2001, 2002
H.W. Leathers - 1999, 2000
Bill Pearsall - 1997, 1998
Carl R. Fischer - 1995, 1996
Sam Goodpasture - 1993, 1994
David E. Bagby, Jr. - 1991, 1992
Charles I. Ellis - 1989, 1990
Taylor Turner - 1987, 1988
George D. Crosby, Jr. - 1985, 1986
Nat T. R. Burgwyn - 1982, 1983, 1984

FFV FOUNDERS

Nat T. R. Burgwyn George D. Crosby, Jr.
Kenny A. Grandstaff, II Beverly R. Tucker, III

The Fly Fishers of Virginia (FFV)

was established in 1982 to promote the art of fly rod fishing; to foster good sportsmanship; and to promote conservation of the nation's natural resources.

During the year, six dinner meetings are occasions for informational programs pertaining to the many aspects of fly fishing and conservation activities. Programs are presented by international and local experts and celebrities in the fly fishing world, as well as knowledgeable FFV members.

Fishing trips are scheduled each year for cold water, warm water, and saltwater species.

Educational programs for members and the public, as well as seminars and workshops are scheduled periodically.

Fly tying classes are offered each winter: Beginning, Intermediate, or Advanced, depending on demand. Casting clinics are also available.

The club gives financial support to several conservation and fly fishing related organizations, including: James River Association; Wildlife Foundation of Virginia and special projects of the VDGIF; The Chesapeake Bay Foundation; Coastal Conservation Association, Project Healing Waters, Reel Recovery, Casting for Recovery, and The Brotherhood of the Jungle Cock and the CHMS Fly Fishing Club.