

# THE SINGING REEL

## North Carolina Inshore Captain John Mauser

Hermitage Country Club  
Thursday, March 16, 2023 7pm



Captain John Mauser is a fly fishing and light tackle guide out of Swansboro, North Carolina. He has been fishing the waters of North Carolina for thirty-five years.

[www.tailingtideguideservice.com](http://www.tailingtideguideservice.com)

Afternoon Program  
4pm-6pm Hermitage Country Club  
**Roanoke River Shad & Stripers Capt. John Mauser**

NEXT MEETING: Thursday, May 11, 2023 El Pescador, Belize

[WWW.FLYFISHERSOFVIRGINIA.ORG](http://WWW.FLYFISHERSOFVIRGINIA.ORG)

VOL XLI No. 2

## Letter from the President

As I begin my 2023/2024 term as your President; I am happy to report that our club is in terrific shape. Thanks to David Skove my predecessor I inherit my position with a clear path forward to continue the activities we all enjoy related to fly fishing.

We are off to a wonderful start as we held our first dinner meeting, January 19th ; we learned of the many fishing opportunities in the Richmond area (Simon @Current Culture Fly Shop) and Captain Wayne MacMasters focusing on near Coastal waters in the Hampton Rhodes and Chesapeake Bay.

Here are some updates to current topics effecting our club:

### Membership Update:

We enter 2023 with 150 active members and 33 members in waiting. Please welcome; Milton Burton, Allen Davia, Clare Novak, Bob Brown, Jamie Bennett, Gary Andrejco, Dennis Flannery, Kirk Jeter, Steve Weinstein, Dennis Stanley, our newest club members. We are fortunate to have such strong interest in our club. I mentioned at our January meeting that the board has been working on updating our club by-laws; including membership levels and expected participation from members in waiting.

### Dinner Meetings:

Attendance at our dinner meetings has returned to pre-Covid levels. Thanks to the efforts of David Skove, and JoAnn Lindstrom-Gibbons we have re-located to a quality venue, Hermitage CC. Robert Thomas has assembled a menu of fantastic speakers committed through 2024. Challenges exist and I ask for your help and understanding as we move forward. Increased food costs and operations expenses required us to adjust our menu and pricing for our dinner meetings.

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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](mailto:rtphotography@comcast.net) or they may be mailed to: Editor, "The Singing Reel," P.O. Box 9311, Richmond, VA 23227.

## President's Letter Continued

We are working with Hermitage CC to explore alternatives for future meetings. Also, I ask that everyone comply with the deadline date for dinner reservations. Requests for post deadline reservations cause challenges for our hosts to deliver food (quantity and quality), and service levels to our mutual expectations. We want to avoid having to decline requests for post deadline dinner reservation requests.

I have asked members of our board attending the March dinner meeting to circulate and ask for feedback on likes, dislikes, and suggestions as we move forward. For members attending the March dinner please provide feedback on likes, dislikes, and suggestions as we move forward. We will also send an online Google survey (anonymous) to provide feedback.

### Fishing Activities:

Mossy Creek Spring trips are fully subscribed, Dick Chapman asks that anyone interested sign up for the wait list as cancellations open spots. Dick is also working on Mossy Creek Trips for Fall.

### Board Profile:

Our board is fully staffed and largely unchanged from David's tenure, (I am fortunate). Two new members have joined the board: Jim Mattson and Tom Moseley, co-directors Fund Raising. Please welcome Tom and Jim. A complete list of board members available at ([flyfishersofvirginia.org](http://flyfishersofvirginia.org)).

### By-Laws:

The Board has completed work on updating our By-Laws, the last update was in 2011. Copies will be available for members to pick up at our March 16th dinner meeting.

Best Wishes and I hope to see you at our March 16th meeting.

Tony Scrimizzi, President 2023 and 2024

Captain John Mauser is a fly fishing and light tackle guide out of Swansboro, North Carolina. He has been fishing the waters of North Carolina for thirty-five years. John spent his youth on the Chowan River in the North East part of the state hunting for bluegill and bass. The Chowan river was also the location where he first cast a fly rod...throwing little popping bugs at lily pads in search of bass. As a teenager, he became more familiar with the great saltwater fishing available along the coast.

John graduated from UNC Wilmington with a Marine Biology Degree and soon started working for the North Carolina Aquariums. For the past 15 years, Mauser has called Swansboro his home and has spent a great deal of his time learning the local waters. He and his wife have two sons, a ten-year old and a four-year old, who always keep life interesting.

John helped establish the local "Crystal Coast" Project Healing Water's Program, which rehabilitates disabled military veterans through fly tying and fly fishing activities. Six-years later, John is still an active volunteer with the program, assisting with casting instruction, fly tying and fishing trips for the veterans. [Project Healing Waters Fly Fishing](#)

In 2014, John helped re-form the Cape Lookout Albacore Festival, and served as a board member for the first five years. The Cape Lookout Albacore Festival is a 3-day event, held each October around the height of the fall False Albacore run. The Festival consists of a private fishing event for disabled veterans, a public fishing tournament, auctions, dinners and captains parties. All of the funds from each C.L.A.F. is donated to Project Healing Waters Fly Fishing at the State and National Levels. [Cape Lookout Albacore Festival](#)

In 2017, John launched Mauser Fly Fishing. A local manufacturer of USA made fly rods. John's love for guiding anglers and giving casting instruction, led to the formation of this brand. John will tell you, that this company is the most challenging thing he's ever attempted, and he loves every second of it. [Mauser Fly Fishing](#)



## *North Carolina Crystal Coast*

North Carolina's Crystal Coast in an 85-mile stretch of beach, maritime forest and marsh that runs from Swansboro to Cape Lookout. We have more square miles of marshes, creeks, sounds and bays than you could explore in a lifetime. Step aboard our skiff, run down the Intracoastal Waterway, and within minutes you'll be gliding across a secluded flat looking for Redfish, Speckled Trout, or any of our other inshore species.

Throw a top-water plug along the edge of a grass shoreline, give it a few twitches and watch a Redfish explode on it. Double-haul a shrimp fly to a Tailing Redfish in flooded Spartina Grass. Pitch a soft plastic into the current, and wait for the tap from a hungry Speckled Trout. Watch a Flounder viciously explode on a gold spoon in inches of water. Cast a crab fly to a Bonnethead Shark in calf deep water, as he searches for a hidden crustacean to eat. Come visit us in the dead of winter and see several hundred redfish schooled in only a few inches of crystal clear water. There are tons of possibilities when fishing the inshore waters of the Crystal Coast.

## *The Roanoke River*

The mighty Roanoke River starts in southwestern Virginia and flows 410 miles, crossing the Piedmont and Coast of North Carolina, before finally emptying into the Albemarle Sound. The river continually changes it's characteristics as it drains from it's headwaters in the Blue Ridge Mountains down to the swamps of NE North Carolina. Long before Europeans settled here, the Native Americans heavily relied on the river as a source for hunting and fishing. In the mid-twentieth century, we added a total of 6 dams along the river to harness it's energy for the growing local communities. And now, anglers flock to the river for it's world class Striped Bass, Shad, Largemouth Bass, and Catfish fishing.

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Although several species can be caught year round on the Roanoke, we tend to target the incredible spring time runs of Shad and Striped Bass between Plymouth and Roanoke Rapids. Whether you want to catch shad on a 4wt fly rod, watch a "Rockfish" explode on a popper before sunrise, or introduce your child to their first Striped Bass in a kid friendly manner, we've got you covered.

# Special Raffle

Will be drawn at the March Meeting

**North Carolina  
Inshore Charter  
3/4 Day  
Captain John Mauser**

**Name:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Email:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Phone:** \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_ **Tickets at \$10.00 each**

**Total: \$** \_\_\_\_\_

**Mail Form To: FFV PO BOX 29477 Richmond, Virginia 23242**

**Tickets may also be purchased via PayPal at  
[www.FlyFishersofVirginia.org](http://www.FlyFishersofVirginia.org)**

## **Dates for 2023 Meetings**

**Thursday, March 16**

**Thursday, May 11**

**Wednesday, July 19**

**\*\*Annual Banquet\*\***

**Friday, September 22**

**Wednesday, November 15**

## **Special Note to Friends of the FFV**

**Fly Fishing Enthusiast,**

**You have received this copy of the Singing Reel because you have expressed an interest in the Fly Fishers of Virginia. As you may know the FFV is a private club and as such has some protocols in place that we must follow.**

**One such is that the use of the PayPal option on the FFV website to pay for Dinner at our bi-monthly meetings is restricted to club members and members-in-waiting. We are always up for meeting fellow anglers who share our passion for “the quiet sport”. If you would like to join us at a Dinner Meeting we ask that you contact:**

**Robert Thomas at [rtphotography@comcast.net](mailto:rtphotography@comcast.net) or (804) 307-7122 so he can facilitate you being a guest.**

**Membership in the FFV is by invitation only and we do require that any prospective member attend a Dinner Meeting so everyone can make sure there is a good fit. The FFV only wants active, responsible members and not just someone looking to pad a resume. By Charter, the FFV is restricted to 150 regular members and at the moment the membership is full. We do however keep a waiting list--our “members-in-waiting”- that has no number restriction. Being a MIW does come with a number of perks and does not include any financial obligations.**

**For more information please contact Robert.**



## FFV Founders

Randy Tucker ♥ Nat Burgwyn ♥ George Crosby ♥ Kenny Grandstaff

**Nat Burgwyn Life Time Achievement Award** - Given in honor of founding member Nat Burgwyn, who dedicated his time to improving all aspects of fly fishing and conservation. The award may be presented to an individual whose life work has demonstrated a commitment to fly fishing, fly fishing education, and general conservation.

**Kenny Grandstaff Continuing Service Award** - Given in honor of founding member Kenny Grandstaff, who remained an active and vital member of the club throughout his life. The award may be given to a club member who has given long years of dedicated service to the Fly Fishers of Virginia, Inc.

**George Crosby Youth Scholarship** -Named for FFV founding member George Crosby who has always encouraged young people to take up fly fishing and to learn the importance conservation plays in protecting our fisheries resources. The scholarship is open to FFV youth members and to the children, grandchildren or relatives of club members in good standing.

**Randy Tucker Award** -Given in honor of founding member Beverly R. Tucker, this award may be presented to an individual or organization whose active service, support, and generosity have contributed significantly to FFV's programs and operations.



# HIGH STICK



**Colby Trow**  
**Shenandoah Smallmouth**

## 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](mailto:rtphotography@comcast.net)**



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**Dick Chapman  
James River Smallmouth  
Fishing with Wes Hodges**



# Tom Mlot

## Rainbow Trout

## Duck Down Inn

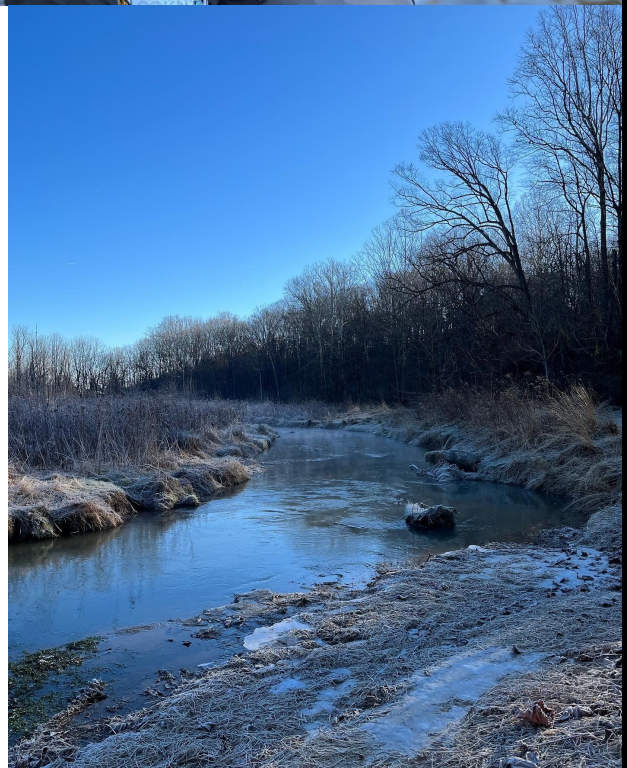






# Rick Ridpath Mossy Creek

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# Mac Myers Rose River Farm









# Bahamas

**Eric English ♦ Scott Cunningham**  
**Marvin Williams ♦ Kevin Noreika**  
**Chuck Evans**



### THE CHALLENGE

What makes wading for *Albula vulpes*, the bonefish, so much fun  
It isn't so much their size or strength on their explosive first run  
It's their personality that confuses what you thought you knew  
They are unpredictable and can disappear, right in front of you  
When you think you have the answers and have them figured out  
They don't show up on the flat putting your search strategy in doubt  
When a single or a group is spotted, headed in your direction  
You sometimes see dark shapes or a flash from the sun's reflection  
In nine-inch clear water and nowhere to hide, they visually disappear  
Leaving you bewildered and uncertain, if they are far away or near  
Wind can be a foe or a friend depending on its direction and speed  
Blowing too hard makes casting a challenge, when accuracy is a need  
If it is in your face or from the side, technique sometimes falls apart  
A stiff breeze can make the fly stick in your flesh as if it were a dart  
The wind can put the fish more at ease for a close-in presentation  
That is, if you can see them and drop the fly fast without hesitation  
Their sense of danger is always on high alert with any noise perceived  
You want to appeal to their hunger, for your imitation to be received  
Clouds have a way of suddenly appearing to come in front of the sun  
The optical window closes and your spotting abilities are almost none  
If the sun is too low in the western sky, the glare from that direction  
Hides the fish's location with nothing visible from the sun's reflection  
After walking all day in water, over shrimp mounds, soft bottom, and rock  
You return to the lodge for a time to relax, reflect, and also to take stock  
Being with friends to share a drink and tell stories of triumph and defeat  
Creates fond memories in the fabric of life which nothing else can beat  
Marvin T. Williams























**Shad Identification**  
**Top**  
**American Shad**  
**Bottom**  
**Hickory Shad**

# Menu for March 16, 2023

**Hermitage House Salad**  
**Chicken Piccata**  
**Green Beans Amandine**  
**Grain Medley**  
**(Farro, Couscous,**  
**Dried Cranberries, Diced Vegetables)**  
**Assorted Desserts Bar**

RESERVATION - March MEETING  
THURSDAY, March 16, 2023

Member's Name: \_\_\_\_\_ \$ 49.00

Guest Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Guest Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Total = \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Please make the following reservations for me for the Fly Fishers of Virginia March Meeting at The Hermitage Country Club. We must receive your reservation and check by **FRIDAY, MARCH 10, 2023** 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.**

\_\_\_\_ Please check here if you need a Vegetarian Meal  
**Reservations may also be made via PayPal at**  
**[www.FlyFishersofVirginia.org](http://www.FlyFishersofVirginia.org)**



## 2023 Board of Directors



If you can help out in any way please contact:

Tony Escalona

[Tony.escalona27@gmail.com](mailto:Tony.escalona27@gmail.com)



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

#### FFV OFFICERS AND DIRECTORS FOR 2023

**PRESIDENT:** Tony Scrimizzi  
**VP Fishing Activities:** Dick Chapman  
**VP Conservation Activities:** Millie Neagle  
**VP Membership:** Chuck Davis  
**Secretary:** Gary Green  
**Treasurer:** JoAnn Lindstrom-Gibbens  
**Director at Large:** Dale Clark  
**Director at Large:** Jim Mattson  
**Director at Large:** Tom Mosely  
**Director at Large:** Millie Neagle  
**Director at Large:** Mac Myers  
**Director at Large:** Jon Arnold  
**PHW Coordinator:** Tony Escolana  
**Technical Director:** Brian Trow  
**Technical Director:** Colby Trow  
**Webmeister:** Doug Walden  
**Director of Communications:** Robert Thomas

#### FFV PAST PRESIDENTS

David Skove—2021, 2022  
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 DWR; 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.