



Virginia Coastal Fly Anglers

APRIL 2012

VISIT US AT VCFA.ORG

NEXT MEETING: APRIL 19, 2012

Chris Burbage will give a presentation on Regional Mountain Trout.



FLY: Adams DryFly

PRESIDENTS MESSAGE

Thanks again to all of you who attended the March meeting where Captain Chris New-some gave us a very informative rundown on fishing for stripers, trout, puppy drum and all the other fish we can target in the marshes in this area. He also gave a very good rundown of the health of the striped bass fishery in the Bay. Something we all need to work to help improve. This month one of our own, Chris Burbage will guide us through fishing for trout on some of our western Virginia streams. We will also be featuring some of those small trout flies during

meeting. If you have never been how it's done, this would be a don't forget to bring your rod you improve your casting fore the meeting. We will with your casting stroke and it's always better to practice on the water. Shad are in all nitely worth a trip. Dave Dem-Fredericksburg fishing on the shad and a couple of stripers in an up there for shad is scheduled for Sun,



April 22. We plan to meet at the church and carpool up there for the day. Details will be given at the monthly meeting and also posted on our Facebook page and on the club website, www.vcfa.org. If you haven't checked out the web site, I would strongly suggest you do so and plan to spend some time exploring all the features. If you want to watch some great homemade videos, just click on "member videos" and that will get you into not only club member videos, but also allow you to access "You-Tube" fishing videos as well. Continues on Page 3

BOARD OF DIRECTORS: Mike Buss, President; Sam Davis, Vice-President; Kendall Osborne, Treasurer; Larry Clemens, Secretary;

MEMBERS AT LARGE: Chris Burbage, Dave Dembicki, Andy Kallgren, Mike LaHorner, Ed Owens, Scott Reppert, Ron Russell, Kevin Du Bois, Immediate Past President

ARE YOU PREPARED?

As we begin the year of fishing and boating trips, it is worthy to reflect on the things we need to prepare for a safe and memorable year. For all of us, it is a good practice to check your rods and guides for blemishes or abrasions that can damage our lines. If you see a broken guide ring or foot, replace the guide, it's inexpensive and easy to do. Make sure all your fly lines are clean, and are free of knots and nicks. Even the smallest imperfection can cause your line to break and cost you a nice catch. If your backing is more than a couple of years old, replace it – especially if you are fishing for the species will take you into your backing. Clean and lubricate your reels and drags. Get your flies organized so you don't have to spend time during a blitz trying to find a particular pattern (by the time you find it, the blitz might be over). Don't forget the basics: Sunglasses, Hat, sunscreen, leak-free waders and boots, sharp nippers, new batteries in your camera. Getting organized now will keep you ready when it's time to hit the water.

DON'T FORGET THE FISHING LICENSE

For the boaters, your task is even more important. Be responsible by doing basic maintenance on your vessel and trailer. As the boat owner you are responsible for the safety of your crew and a boat in distress can be a dangerous if not inconvenient to everyone aboard. Make sure your motor is properly serviced by changing the oil, plugs, filters and lower unit oil. If the lower unit oil is milky, you likely have a seal that has gone bad and you need to take the motor for service. If it has been at least three years since replacing the impeller, replace it now. Even if your engine is pumping the water flow, the impellers do wear out. If it happens on the water, it can be a costly trip! Take the prop off and re-grease the shaft. Check your hoses and fittings for leaks or wear. If in doubt, replace them. If you need new zinc's, replace them, electrolysis can be very damaging. Pump grease in all the fittings and steering cables. Check all your through hull fittings to make sure they are tight and leak proof. Check your screws and bolts on consoles, rails, anchor holds, and rails. Tighten and replace worn screws and hardware. Be ready with safety, it smart and it's the law! Make sure your flares are up to date and that your throw able cushion or life ring is free of tears and at the ready. Toot the horn to make sure it works and have whistle handy. Charge the batteries

If you trailer your boat check the bearings and replace if worn. If you have breaks, service them. Check your lights and replace those that are not working – this includes side markers that light. Make sure the rollers are free moving and lubricate as needed. Kendal Osborne suggest anything that is not aluminum or stainless can be given a nice coat of corrosion inhibiting spray by CRC or Boeshield. Folks in the military used to mix STP gas treatment with some grease and paint this on springs and axles. It is greasy but works. Check the tire inflation and adjust accordingly

PRESIDENTS MESSAGE (Continued from page 1)

Some of them have just awesome action. There are lots of other features including forums, fly tying, knot tying, fish identification, links to local clubs, and even nautical maps. Be sure to check out the Membership Info page where we have listed all of our mentors and their areas of expertise. If you have questions about how to fish a particular area or want more information about their areas of expertise, don't be shy, just go up and ask them! With the marshes warming up, fish are everywhere. Trout, puppy drum, and croaker can be had, but you do need to get out after them. After all, you won't catch anything sitting at home on your couch! Post a message on our Club FaceBook page that you want to go fishing and see what response you get, and then be sure to post a fishing report with the results. I will be traveling up to Fredericksburg to fish the Rap for shad and stripers throughout the month of April and will be posting on our Club Facebook page when I will be going. If you want to tag along, just get in touch with me at mike4519@verizon.net It's always more fun fishing with a buddy. The action on all of our local waters is really heating up, don't miss out on the action. Hope to see you all at the April meeting on April 19. Until then, thanks and tight lines to all!

Mike Buss

Virginia Coastal Fly Anglers **MEMBERSHIP RENEWAL**

Date: _____ (dd/mm/yyyy)

Membership is **\$30.00** annually and includes all family members. Please complete this form with a check made payable to VCFA. You can bring the completed form and check to the next meeting, or mail it to or club treasurer at VCFA, P.O. Box 2866, Virginia Beach, VA 23450-2866

NAME/S: _____

ADDRESS _____

City _____ STATE _____ Zip _____

Phone _____ Email _____

Please Circle:

New Member

Renewal

FISHING REPORTS



Dave Dembicki, Vince Staley (Fredericksburg local), and Mike Buss were fishing the Rap for shad on April 6, and had a very good day.

Dave caught 16 shad and a 19" striper, Vince caught 10 shad and a 19" striper, and Mike caught 44 shad, but no stripers.

They fished the incoming tide from about 2 pm till 8 pm and quit because of darkness, but the fish were really hitting when they quit. Stripers were spashing all over when we quit. Plus Vince caught 5 shad on 5 straight casts on a crease fly at the end. We didn't have any flashlights along so were limited after dark. The shad are definitely in the river. Below is a pic of Vince and his striper.

FROM MIKE BUSS (Tuesday, April 10, 2011) Hi! Another great day for shad on the Rap. Scott Repert, Joe Lupton, and I went up leaving around 11 am. We ran into Ed Pachecho, David Jones, Ed Palaszewski, and Russell Liverman. We caught well over 150 shad between all of us. I caught 56, Joe caught 37, and Scott caught 25. Everyone else caught between 12-15 or more. Joe caught one on the first cast and Joe, Scott, and I all caught one on our last cast of the day on the flats. We didn't see any stripers caught. We fished into the dark and quit around 8:15. Was a real nice day. I've attached some pictures I took today for Larry if you want to use them for the newsletter. 470 is Ed with a nice shad; 474 is Scott and in the background you can see David Jones and Russell Liverman, and Ed Pachedho, David has a shad on; 478 Joe with a nice shad; 479 Scott with a shad; 477 Joe Playing a shad.

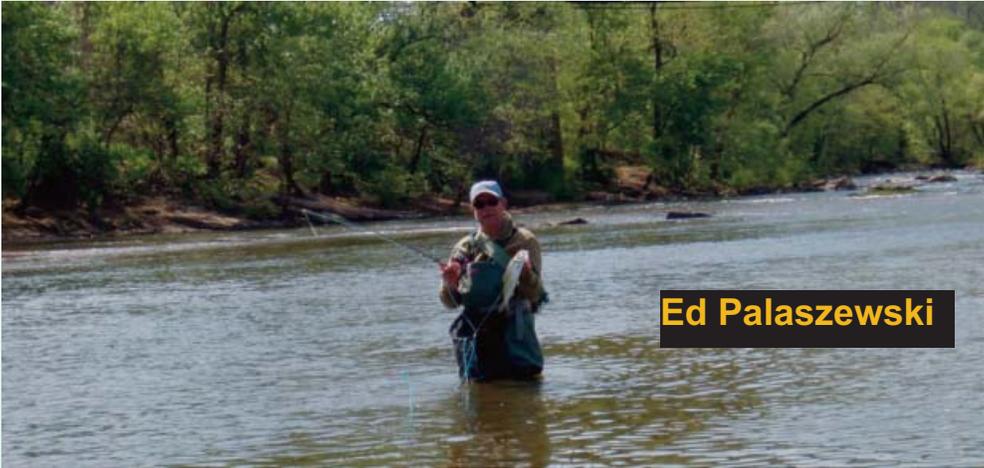
Other reports are indicating things heating up early. Speckled trout are being caught in Lynnhavend and Rudee, Flounder are being caught at the bend past the second island of the CBBT. Some nice stripers have been pulled out (and released) around the CBBT.



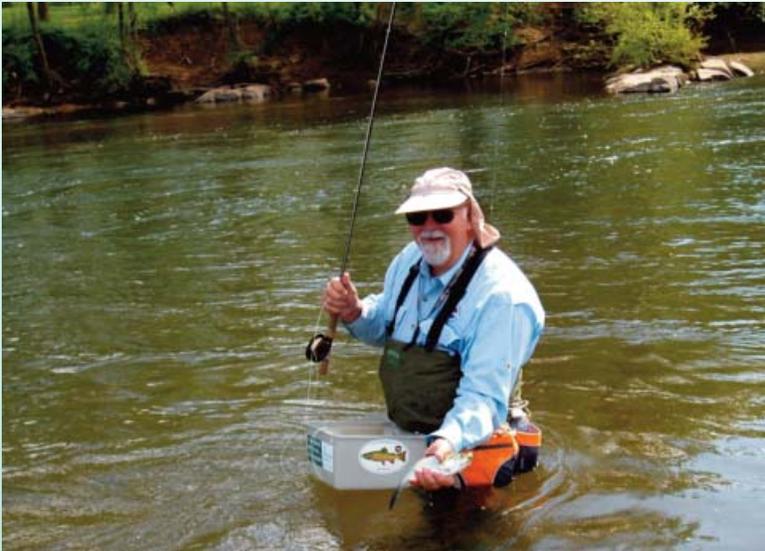
Vince Staley with a striper caught on the Rappahannock River



Mike Buss posing with his new girlfriend - definitely the most interesting man in the world!



Ed Palaszewski



Joe Lupton with a shad