



# Virginia Coastal Fly Anglers

**MAY 2012**

**VISIT US AT VCFA.ORG**

**NEXT MEETING: MAY 17, 2012**  
**Smallmouth Fishing with Dueber Winter**

**FLY: Dueber will demonstrate his favorite Bass Bugs.**



## PRESIDENTS MESSAGE

**T**hanks again to all of you who attended the April meeting where one of our own, Chris Burbage, gave us a very informative run down on fishing for native brook trout in our local Virginia waters. I just wish I was 20 years younger so I could hike into some of the areas Chris was talking about. One of the real attractions for fishing for native brook trout is the absolutely beautiful surroundings you find yourself in when fishing for these guys. This month we have Captain Duber Winters, Woodbridge Orvis store manager and smallmouth guide, giving us a presentation on fishing for smallmouth in Virginia. He will also be giving a demonstration of tying his favorite smallmouth flies at 6:30 prior to the start of the regular meeting. We will also have fly casting instruction on the grass outside the Church prior to the meeting for those of you who might be interested in improving your casting stroke. Although we will have rods for you to use, it is always a better idea to practice using the rod you usually fish with.



**T**he shad season has ended, but we really had one of our more productive efforts. The last three trips up to Fredericksburg to fish the Rappahannock River produced well over 200 fish per trip. We learned a lot this year and should be able to put it to good use and hopefully next year will be just as productive. Some of the lessons were that the shad fishing really improves at twilight and that is also a very good time to catch a striper as well. The Rap is full of snags, and was relatively shallow this year and that allowed us to use floating and intermediate lines to avoid the snags and catch a lot more shad. Plus we also discovered a really effective fly, one with chartreuse estaz tied on a

**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

## ***MARK SEDOTTI FLY CASTING CLINIC***

*Want to learn how to cast from a master? Interested in throwing big flies, for distance with accuracy? How about the proper way to fight big fish? Then don't miss out on this opportunity. Scott Rod representative and master caster Mark Sedotti will hold a casting clinic on **JUNE 19**. Time and location will be announced soon. If you are interested, you need to contact us right away to reserve your spot for the class. There will be a cost of \$30.00 for everyone who participates in the clinic. Once you are signed up, you will be contacted as to the time and location and where to send your fee.*

***Send a confirmation to Mike Buss at [mike4519@verizon.net](mailto:mike4519@verizon.net) ASAP.***



**Another great shot from Kendall Osborne**

1/16 ounce round fluorescent orange headed jig with about a half inch of flash for a tail. We also learned that shad are still feeding and will attack surface flies like crease flies. Now that the shad are leaving the rivers, we should turn our attention to the trout and puppy drum invasion of the marsh areas and take advantage of this seasonal movement. And don't forget the large black drum patrolling the islands at the Chesapeake Bridge Tunnel. Big red drum can also be found in the area of the CBBT and also around Fisherman's Island on Eastern Shore. We also have a shot at some large stripers as they exit the Bay and head north. Big cobia should also start showing up around the navigational markers. On calm days you can see them a long distance away, but those days are to be treasured as they don't happen often.

**F**or those of you who would like a wading trip, I would recommend heading down to Oregon Inlet on the Outer Banks to fish the Propeller Slough area. I like to time my trips down there to match hi or low tide at first light. On those days, you can leave the Tidewater area around 3 am and arrive just before first light and the tide change, fish the tide in the morning, take a nap during slack tide at midday, fish the tide change in the afternoon through twilight and then enjoy a nice seafood dinner at one of the local restaurants before heading home. I've had some very productive days following this schedule. Plus the Outer Banks Fly Club has indicated they would like to host us Saturday, May 19. We will have more details about this at the meeting. As you can see, fish will be everywhere in the coming month, where will you be? If you aren't out after them, I can guarantee you won't catch any! 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. 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.

**O**ne last thing, be sure to mark June 21 as we will have renowned long distance casting expert Mark Sedotti as our guest speaker and he will conduct a casting class on Saturday, June 23. We will have more info on this at the May meeting. Hope to see you all then on May 17. Until then, thanks and tight lines to all!

Mike Buss

Inside view of a red drum recently caught by Kendall Osborne



## Protect Virginians' Right to use Virginia's Rivers

### ***Help Defend Virginia's Rivers Against Seizure***

Your right to use public rivers in the Commonwealth of Virginia is under threat!

After having their criminal trespassing case dismissed by a judge in general district court in 2010, the developer of the River's Edge golf community near Covington, VA has filed a civil trespassing case against three Virginia anglers who lawfully entered the Jackson river with kayaks at the Smith Bridge public access point (see the VDGIF map) and remained within the river banks while fishing down the river. The developer is seeking an injunction to prevent the anglers from wade fishing a stretch of the

Jackson that runs past their adjacent land.

Under a Virginia statute that is more than 200 years old, the beds of all rivers and streams "are the property of the Commonwealth and may be used as a common by all the people for the purposes of fishing, fowling, hunting, and taking and catching oysters and other shellfish."



In this case, the adjacent River's Edge property owners are claiming that they own the bed of the Jackson River by virtue of two different 18th century land grants that predated the passage of that statute: a 1743 crown grant executed by the governor of Virginia on behalf of the King of England and a 1785 grant from the Commonwealth of Virginia, yet neither of the developer's old land grants explicitly reference the bed of the Jackson River when describing the property conveyed. The grants also do not mention fishing rights. This case is therefore very different from, and potentially more threatening to anglers, paddlers and hunters, the previous Jackson River VA Supreme Court case (*Kraft v. Burr*) where it was undisputed that the landowners owned the bed of the river. Here, the River's Edge developer is claiming to own property that, in practice and historically, belongs to the Commonwealth.

To date, Attorney General Ken Cuccinelli's office has avoided participation in the litigation to defend Virginia's property rights to the bed of the Jackson River and the interests of

**Continues on Page 6**

# FISHING REPORTS



The weather is warming and the fishing is getting hot. Shad season is slowing down, but the guys who went said it was a record year on the Rappahannock. It was loaded with Striped Bass, some measuring 30". The Lynnhaven River

has produced a good number of Speckled Trout. On my last trip I caught 15 in one location along with two keeper Flounder on a white Clouser. Reports from the Bridge Tunnell and Eastern Shore are favorable also with some nice Red Drum being caught. Hopefully it's the start of a banner year!



Vince Staley with a Rappahannock Striper



## *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 \_\_\_\_\_

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**New Member**

**Renewal**

the people to use the river for boating, fishing, hunting, swimming or general recreation. If the AG continues to refuse to defend the state's property rights in this case, its rights to other rivers and streams (like the Shenandoah or the James) may be compromised, along with the ability of the people of Virginia to fish, boat, and recreate in these rivers. As the case develops, the well-funded River's Edge developer may put convincing facts and arguments before the court. But the state should not just abdicate its interest in the river at the very start of the case. It needs to step in and defend its property interest, property that is held in trust for all of the citizens of Virginia to use. The Commonwealth's participation is also needed to ensure that the court has all relevant facts and arguments available before it renders a decision.

As it now stands, the daunting burden to prove or disprove ownership of the river bottom has been put on the shoulders of these anglers. We are asking all anglers, hunters and paddlers, please donate to the defense fund and contact Attorney General Ken Cuccinelli right away:

Urge him to do the following:

1. Join as Party Defendant in North South Development LLC, et. al. v. Garden, et. al., Alleghany County Circuit Court Case#CL11000043.
2. Defend the interests of the people of Virginia to use and enjoy the Jackson River and any other public rivers where injunctions invoking King's law may be sought to limit use.

Office of the Attorney General

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**David Jones  
with a Rappahannock Shad**