



Virginia Coastal Fly Anglers

<http://www.vcfa.org> <https://www.facebook.com/VCFA.org>

JULY 2023

I love to read. Particularly books about music, and fishing - Fly fishing in particular. My music books tend to be more historical and biographical things related to my profession as a Trumpet Player and Instructor. Fishing subjects are also historical and biographical in nature, but I love Novels and fictional stories that take me to places I can only dream about. My favorite of all is "The Snowfly" by Joseph Heywood. It is a "you got your peanut butter in my chocolate" or Izaak Walton meets James Bond kind of book. I read it 20 years ago and recently decided to load it up on my Kindle and reread it on a trip to Minnesota. The main character in the book, Bowie Rhodes travels the country and the world trying to find the magical Snowfly hatch that will yield him the fish of a lifetime. Travelling to the Upper Peninsula of Michigan to Northern Canada, to North Vietnam and into Russia. It is a non-stop rollercoaster of intrigue and adventure that holds you in its grips to the end. It is just as exciting to read today as it was twenty years ago.

I often think about that book when I travel to fish. Although, I have only fished outside of the United States once and that was during an Orchestra tour to Ireland, and I decided to fish some Salmon streams (and quickly learned that

not all places are fisher friendly - I can save that for another day). On this trip I went to visit Mike Buss in Bovey Minnesota and fish Trout Lake for the week. It is my second trip fishing in the lake. It is absolutely a treasure! It is wilderness living and the only residents are about 15 cabins at one end of the lake. The rest is a

National Reserve and there is no other development in the National Forrest. To say the least, fishing can be fantastic. Smallmouth and Largemouth Bass, Pike, Walleye, all kinds of panfish. You have eagles nesting along the towering trees of the bank and wildlife galore. I felt a little like Bowie Rhodes without the espionage and danger at every turn, though I was wounded in battle with a Pike tooth. Of course, for me it was again spending time fishing and hanging out with Mike

There are few people on this planet who I look up to and appreciate more in my life than Mike and fishing was the icing on the cake. As they often do, this experience had me thinking of my adventures in life. Perhaps not as exciting and eventful as "The Snowfly", but nonetheless exciting.

Now that we are in the swing of Summer, we can look at the first half of the year for the club as a good one. We are working to make things more relevant to everyone. Trying to access the desires and needs of all our members and bring



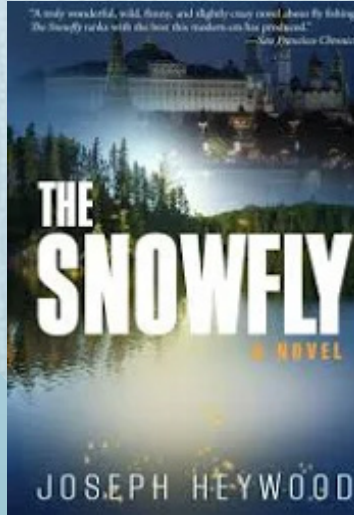
Presidents message continued on next page

BOARD OF DIRECTORS: Lawrence Clemens, President: Vice-President, OPEN: Treasurer, OPEN: Secretary, Lee Owen and Jim Saddler: MEMBERS AT LARGE: Carl Allen, David Dembicki, Gary Green, Mark Kirkby, Chris Malgee, Chris Viano

you relevant programs and events to educate and entertain everyone regardless of experience. This is not always easy! We often have difficulties getting special guests to give presentations as we are not on their beaten path. We still try and occasionally can get someone to make the trip. More importantly, we are using our members' experiences to bring fishing to you. When someone is on a trip that is special, we try and get them to give a presentation at a meeting – even if it is only a brief recap of the trip. If someone is willing to share a fly they learned, we incorporate that into our Fly of the Month. It is my desire to make the Virginia Coastal Fly Anglers a club for everyone to enjoy and be an active part. That would make the adventure worth the trip!

Incourage everyone to offer this newsletter). Feel free to techniques that you have found are always encouraged to give a a topic or speaker you think we I hope to accomlisch is to get more a boat and can offer a spot to a have a boat, please let it be known. page (<https://www.facebook.com/> are many members that would the opportunity. It's a good way ownership with the cost of gas and

The July meeting will be all available to show rigging and knots, fly patterns, casting and more. It will be similar to the schools format that we had in the past. Bring your lines, leaders and rods and learn to put it all together.



their feedback on the club (and contribute pictures, articles, tips or usefull. As mentioned earlier, you presentaton to the club or suggest can all benefit from. Another thing anglers paired up to fish. If you have fellow club member that does not Post it on the VCFA going fishing [groups/664397580641806](https://www.facebook.com/groups/664397580641806)). There love to be on the water more if given to help defray the expense of boat maintenance.

hands on. We will have members

PLEASE NOTE:

Our July meeting will take place as usual – on July 20 at Bayside Presbyterian Church. The church, however will be preparing for their annual F & J Summer sale in conjunction with Westminster Canterbury. The interior will not be available to us so we will be outside under the Gazebo. We will be providing hands on events such as knot tying and rigging, casting help, advice on where the fish can be found during the hot summer months. Bring your equipment, bring your questions and we will work to help put it together and teach you the things you need to know to bring your fishing skills to the next level.



Chris Owens



Chris Owens



Kevin Dubois

Carl Welborne III



Carl Welborne III



VCFA FISHING TOURNAMENT

~~JANUARY:
BRIM~~

~~FEBRUARY:
PICKEREL~~

~~MARCH:
BUCKETMOUTH~~

~~APRIL:
SHAD~~

~~MAY:
BLUEFISH~~

~~JUNE:
LARGEMOUTH~~

JULY:
ALL SPECIES

AUGUST:
SPANISH MACK.

SEPTEMBER:
REDFISH

OCTOBER:
SPECK. TROUT

NOVEMBER:
CLUB VOTE

DECEMBER:
STRIPER



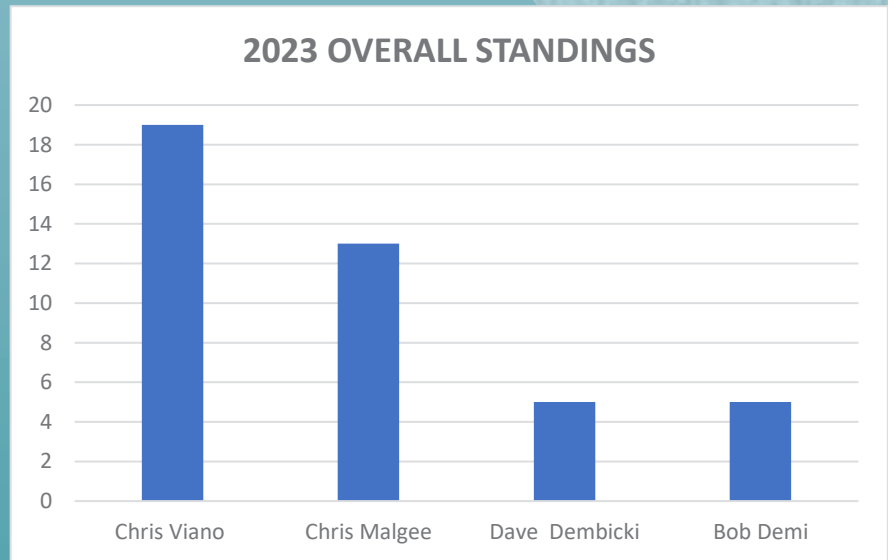
- 1ST PLACE = 5 POINTS
- 2ND PLACE = 4 POINTS
- 3RD PLACE = 3 POINTS
- 4TH PLACE = 2 POINT
- ANY ENTRY NOT PLACED = 1 POINT
- CITATION FISH = 5 POINTS

MAY STANDINGS:

Dave Dembicki 5
Chris Viano 4
Chris Malgee 3

OVERALL STANDINGS

Chris Viano 19
Chris Malgee 13
Dave Dembicki 5
Bob Demi 5





Casting a line is not difficult, but to become an accurate caster and throw a line takes practice and requires good technique. Even with optimal training and practice, mother nature throws constant variable at us to often challenge our skills. Particularly in the saltwater environment, We are often calledged with the wind, and current to make thing more interesting in casting our flies. Wind is still something that challenges my distance, but I keep working to improve the basics. This months selection of videos focus on the cast. Proper movement of the rod, making sure your grip is correct and basics that will give you more control over your cast.

5 tips to improve your casting technique. This is more for the novice, but always good advice to review.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=1sVUUuTzfYc>

Lefty Kreh and the 4 principles of fly casting

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=tSUz8HdJSIM>

Flip Pallot - Stopping your fly cast to get a straight line

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=NUNyB1hb0vE>

Fly casting long distance and technique

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Yi0hmW4MA9w>



It was perfect! Our June picnic was wonderful in every way. The weather was perfect, overcast, moderate temperatures and a nice cool breeze that made it very comfortable. The Izaak Walton League was a terrific location to have the picnic and we had the facilities all to ourselves. Many thanks to Bill Seemueller and Carol Atkins for arranging for us to use the grounds. Dave Dembecki was instrumental in the success of the day as he hauled his grill to cook the food. He was also the grill meister and cooked up a storm. Lee Owens and Jim Saddler rounded out the team by getting all the food and drinks to be consumed.

The whole thing came together in a cohesive way that made the day go smoothly. I want to thank everyone that came. It is nice to relax and get to meet our new members, and several long-time members that have not been around for a while. It was nice to have a showing of the younger group also as they are the ones who will carry on after us. It was particularly exciting to see Carl Welbourn III win the rod raffle. Mostly, though, it is the comradery that makes the day come together. Just reflecting on fishing, life and all those things that make us appreciate the daily grind. Thank you for coming out and being a part of the event and thank you to all those who put it together and turned it into a great day.

Lastly, I want to thank Ed Pacheco for taking the reigns on our Rod Raffle. We sold 100 tickets and the proceeds go onto our treasury to pay for our meeting location, speakers, education expenses (fly tying and FF101 classes). Ed sold the last tickets at the picnic and we held the drawing. The following video will reveal the winner.

<https://youtu.be/YwgwaY28lrs>



The Group Shot

SCENES FROM OUR PICNIC



Jim Saddler and Bob Cozzens catching up



Ed Pacheco with Carl Welbourn III, the winner of our Rod Raffle

Sandy Reppert, winner of the 50/50 raffle



Grill meister Dave Dembicki with Bill Seemueller picking out his burger

Sitting and enjoying lunch and each others company



THE BLACK NOSED DACE

Last month we tied the Clouser Minnow. This month we continue our work with bucktail and explore tying several layers on top of each other. The pattern imitates a Black Nosed Dace (*Rhinichthys atratulus*). A finned baitfish that is found throughout the East Coast and is a popular streamer fly for Trout fisherman. It is also a productive fly on smallmouth streams and can be tied in large sizes and fished in saltwater. The fish has a distinctive black lateral line in its center with a white body and bronzish top. Art Flick is the credited originator of the pattern calling for polar bear over black bear hair over natural brown bucktail. Today, we tie the pattern with three colors of bucktail (white, black, and brown) and they are tied on top of the hook shank to help it ride up. This technique of tying is called a high tie and can be used on any number of patterns. The secret is to use sparse amounts of bucktail and stagger the tie down point slightly so that the hair stays in place. Each color should own its own space and not bleed into the other.

Materials List:

Hook:	Size 2 - 10
Thread:	6/0 Danville
Tail:	Red Yarn
Body:	Flat Silver Tinsel
Rib:	Oval Silver Tinsel
Lower Wing:	White Bucktail
Middle Wing:	Black Bucktail
Upper Wing:	Brown Bucktail
Eyes:	Small flat or painted

Video of fly being tied:

<https://youtu.be/5mHnVc3UM2A>



TYING TIPS:

- Tie in the white hair close to (but not covering) the eye. Tie in each additional clump slightly behind the previous clump to create a tapered head.
- Do not let each layer of hair roll to the side of the hook. You want three distinct color layers in the wing
- When wrapping the yarn on top of the hook, keep the tread wraps even and as smooth as possible
- When done, you should have a flat smooth surface to wrap the tinsels around
- When winding the flat tinsel forward, keep the wraps end to end. Avoid any gaps in the body. This will add to the durability of the fly. Counter wrap the oval tinsel in open, spiral wraps. The oval is not in the original pattern but was added later for durability and protect the flat tinsel.
- Build a head large enough to apply your eyes, but not much larger. You want a tapered head (cone shaped) but not overdone.



STEP 1

Place the hook in the vice jaws. Make sure the hook is straight (parallel to the floor) and tight so it does not move under the pressure of pulling the thread. **THREAD TENSION** is essential to hold you flies together and keep them from unravelling or pulling apart.



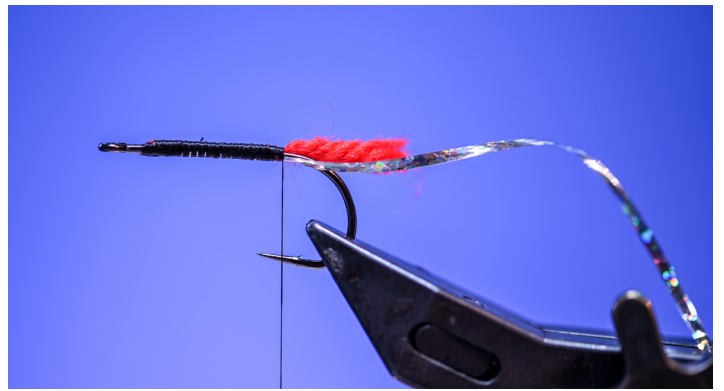
STEP 2

Tie in a piece of red yarn on top of the hook. Leave a small end hanging over the bend of the hook, and a length of yarn long enough to tie down onto the hook shank.



STEP 3

Wrap the thread forward toward the eye of the hook and tie down the yarn - **KEEP IT** on top of the shank. This will give you an even base to wrap the tinsel over and avoid bumps in the body. This is a good technique for any fly that uses tinsel or floss as a body.



STEP 4

Tie in a piece of flat silver tinsel and wrap it under the hook shank. Again keep your thread wraps nice and even all the way to the barb. **NOTICE** the tinsel is tied in under the shank.



STEP 5

Tie in the oval silver tinsel at the barb of the hook. You should have your flat tinsel, silver tinsel and yarn all tied in at the same place (over the barb). Now, wrap the thread to eye of the hook keeping the front end of the oval tinsel under the shank. End one hook eye behind the eye of the hook.



STEP 6

In tight wraps (end over end) bring the flat tinsel forward to the thread. Make sure all materials underneath are covered (no yarn or thread showing through) and no bumps in the body. Tie off and remove the remaining tinsel.



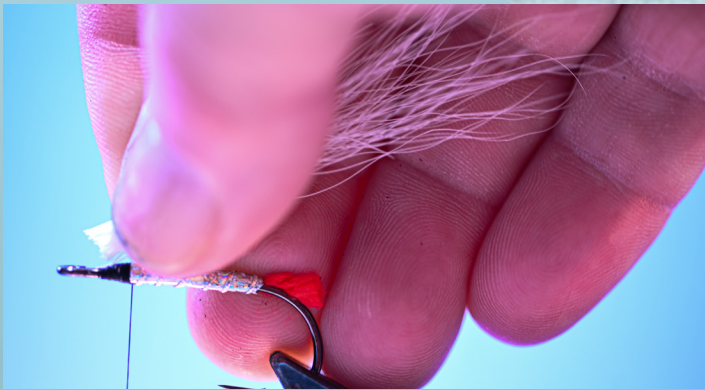
STEP 7

Now, reverse wrap the oval tinsel up the shank. These wraps should be open. It should only take five or six turns to cover the shank.



STEP 8

Cut a sparse amount of hair from the tip of a bucktail - LESS IS MORE! even out the tips, stack them with a hair stacker, Measure the length of the wing (about 2 times the hook shank). trim the but ends of the hair.



STEP 9

The white is the underwing. Tie it in behind the eye of the hook being careful not to get any hair in the hook eye.



STEP 10

Note the length of the hair behind the bend of the hook.



STEP 11

Make a couple of turns around the hair and pull the thread upward. Be carefull not to let any hair roll around the body of the fly. ALL hair will be on the top!



STEP 12

Wrap down the hair to secure it. Use nice, firm wraps so the hair won't slide around the shank. Again, keep it on top of the hook!



STEP 13

Repeat the previous steps using the black bucktail. It should lay directly on top of the white and NOT roll to the sides. This represents the lateral line of the fish and need to stay centered among the three layers of bucktail that form the wing. The tie in point should be slightly behind the white (creating a tapered cone head).



STEP 14

Finally, repeat the step again using the Brown bucktail. Again, it should be on top of the black and not bleeding into the other layers. If you do this right, you will see three distinct color separations in the wing when wet. Again, this tie in point should be slightly back from the black, continuing the tapered head.



STEP 15

Build up a head so you have a platform to place your eyes. Notice the taper from the wing to the head. It should be a cone shaped head. Build up enough head to apply the eyes.



STEP 16

Attach the eyes to each side and apply head cement or UV resin to lock them in place. I use Bone Dry



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PLEASE SUPPORT THE FOLOWING WHO ARE SO GENEROUS IN SUPPORTING THE VIRGINIA COASTAL FLY ANGLERS. THERE GENEROSITY HELPS US TO FUND OUR MEEETINGS, TYING CLASSES AND EDUCATION PROGRAMS THROUGHOUT THE YEAR.

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CONCERNS ABOUT NON-NATIVE SPECIES LEAD IN THE TIDEWATER FISHERIES

UPDATE

https://dwr.virginia.gov/blog/concerns-about-non-native-species-lead-in-the-tidewater-fisheries-update/?utm_source=mailchimp&utm_medium=email&utm_campaign=nftf&utm_content=nftf_fishing_june2023

The above hyperlink will take you to an article published by the Virginia Division of Wildlife Resources. It indicates problems on the horizon for several fish species in the Tidewater area - our backyard! We have heard about this issue for years and have discussed it many times as to the threats these species pose. There are a lot of opinions on how the invasive species will interact in our waters and whether they are beneficial or not. Here is the official reporting from the state that we all might want to know and understand.



VIRGINIA COASTAL FLY ANGLERS MEMBERSHIP

NEW MEMBERSHIP

DATE: ____ / ____ / ____

RENEWAL

M D Y

You can now join or renew your membership online by clicking the secure link listed below:

<https://www.cognitoforms.com/VirginiaCoastalFlyAnglersInc/VCFAMembershipForm>

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 any meeting, or mail it to our club treasurer at VCFA, P.O., BOX 2866, VIRGINIA BEACH, VA 23450-2866.

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