Virginia Coastal Fly Anglers

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

MAY 2024

T Te have been fortunate enough this year to offer a good caliber of speakers and programs. I hope you can make as many meetings as possible to take advantage of them. This month we are taking a break from our regular Thursday meetings to have our annual picnic, Saturday, May 11 we will be at the Izaak Walton League in Chesa-

bers. Food and drinks will

based on the Project Healing

peake. IT IS FREE to all mem-

be provided (no alcohol)

and we ask that you bring a covered dish (side dish, dessert, appetizer) to share. We are planning to have fun casting games for everyone to participate. The games are

Site=true).

Waters competition. No prizes will be awarded as this is to be fun. PLEASE plan to attend and join us. As mentioned, there is no cost, but you need to sign up so we can have enough food for everyone. You click on the following l ink to sign up { https:// www.signupgenius.com/go/10C044EAFA-62CA5F58-48456846-2024?useFull-

↑ few special things coming up are some master classes that will help improve your fly-fishing experience. First up is June 20. Our speaker is a world renown distance fly caster, Mark Sedotti is offering a casting clinic during the day. The time frame is likely

to be 11:00 am - 4:00 pm. Then, for those interested, we can go to dinner prior to the meeting to Surfrider restaurant. There will be a \$25.00 cost for the class, and it will be limited to 10 participants. If you are interested in registering for the class, you can do so by ging to this link https://www.signupgenius.com/go/10C044EAFA62CA5F58-

> 49190474-mark You need to be quick as of this writing there

the day. September will be a

left. August, we will have Colby Trow co-owner of Mossy Creek Fly Fishing LTD. Get ready for another great presentation and we will likely have a tying class during

are only two open spots

program by Cory Routh of Ruthless Outdoor Adventures. He will give a presentation on his recent trip to Argentina. In October, we will have Virginia Trophy Guides to talk about their fishery of smallmouth bass, and Musky. In between, we are packed with our own local talents with a casting clinic in July and Carl Allens Alaska in November. Truly something for everyone and quality information for all.

s summer approaches I hope it is a good Aseason for everyone! Please take care to wear sunglasses, sunscreen or sun protective clothes while out fishing.

BOARD OF DIRECTORS: Lawrence Clemens, President: Vice-President, John Adametz: Treasurer, Gordon Meeks: Secretary, Lee Owen and Jim Saddler: MEMBERS AT LARGE: Carl Allen, David Dembicki, Scott Graham, Mark Kirkby, Chris Malgee, Ed Pacheco, Chris Viano

2024 MEETING SCHEDULE

These are the items planned at this time. They are subject to change

MONTH	SPEAKER	FLY OF THE MONTH
JANUARY 20	BANQUET	NO FLY
FEBRUARY 18	WAYNE MACMASTERS	HALF AND HALF
MARCH 21	STEVE ATKINSON	MUSHMOUTH
MARCH 23	DALE MAZZERELLA	NO FLY
APRIL 6	POQUOSON FLATS TRIP	NO FLY
APRIL 18	BEAU BEASLEY	EP PEANUT BUTTER
MAY 11	PICNIC	NO FLY
JUNE 20	MARK SEDOTTI CASTING CLINIC	
JUNE 20	MARK SEDOTTI	SILI-MINNOW
JULY 18	CASTING CLINIC	NO FLY
AUGUST 15	COLBY TROW	TBD
SEPTEMBER 19	COREY ROUTH: ARGENTINA	BORSKI SLIDER
OCTOBER 17	VIRGINIA TROPHY GUIDES	SURF CANDY
NOVEMBER 21	CARL ALLENS ALASKA	S.F. DECEIVER
DECEMBER	NO MEETING	NO FLY

INDICATES MEETINGS THAT ARE IN ADDITION TO OUR GENERAL MEETING AND ON A DIFFERENT DAY

These are the items planned at this time. They are subject to change

THURSDAY, JUNE 20: A CASTING CLINIC WILL BE HELD WITH MARK SEDOTTI. MARK HOLDS THREE IGFA WORLD RECORDS AND IS A MASTER OF THE LONG CAST AND BIG FLIES. THIS CLASS IS \$25.00 AND LIMITED TO 10. SIGN UP AND DETAILS ON THE WEBSITE HTTP://www.vcfa.org

AUGUST 15: WE MAY BE HAVING A SPECIAL TYING SESSON DURING THE DAY WITH COLBY TROW. WHEN CONFIRMED, WE WILL OPEN IT TO THE FIRST 10 PERSONS TO REPOND.



CLICK HERE TO SIGN UP!

HTTPS://WWW.SIGNUPGENIUS.COM/GO/10C044EAFA-62CA5F58-48456846-2024



THANKS TO BEAU BEASLEY FOR GIVING A WONDERFUL PRESENTATION ON HIS NEW BOOK "HEALING WATERS". IF YOU DID NOT GET TO PURCHASE A COPY, YOU MAY DO SO BY GOING TO HIS WEBSITE WWW.BEAUBEASLEY. COM. BEAU WILL GIVE A PORTION OF HIS PROCEEDS TO PROJECT HEALING WATERS SO IT IS A WIN-WIN!



CHRIS VIANO SHOWING A GROIUP OF KIDS THE ART OF CASTING AT HERO KIDS DAY IN NORTHWEST RIVER PARK.



WAYNE MACMASTERS WITH ED PACHECO AND JOHN ADAMETZ AT THE FLY FISHING FILM TOUR



MARK KIRKBY EMPTIES THE POND



FLY FISHING FILM TOUR - APRIL 19, 2024



MARK KIRKBY, CHRIS VIANO AND DAVE DEMBICKI AT HERO KIDS DAY IN NORTHWEST RIVER PARK

VCFA FISHING TOURNAMENT

FEBRUARY: JANUARY: MARCH: APRIL: **PICKEREL** BUCKETMOUTH BRIM SHAD JUNE: **AUGUST:** MAY: JULY: BLUEFISH LARGEMOUTH SPANISH MACK. **CLUB VOTE** SEPTEMBER: NOVEMBER: DECEMBER: OCTOBER: **REDFISH** SPECK. TROUT **CLUB VOTE STRIPER**

Annual "fly" fishing tourney for 2024 rules!!! Only fish caught are the fly are eligible.

We will continue with the monthly specific fish, same fish each month as last year. Each month will be a specific fish as listed above. We will also include a running largest fish competition for points that will be awarded at the end of the year. The largest fish will be in every gamefish species (no lizard fish, puffers, croaker, chub, and such). If there are questions of species as we cant possibly list them all, it will be left to a vote by the VCFA board to be counted in the running tourney. Also, the monthly listed fish will be eligible for bonus points. For each consecutive month you have the largest fish, you will earn 1 extra point. For example, it's January and you catch a monthly listed fish, a speckled trout let's say, if in February no one catches a larger speck, you will be awarded 1 point. A point will be awarded each additional month until someone catches a bigger speck. You will not be awarded for largest fish, unless it is caught in the month it is fish of the month, until the end of the year but consecutive points will be earned monthly.

Largest fish competition is limited to fish caught in VA, NC and MD only. No FL tarpon, peacocks, oscars and such just to keep it fair to all.

We will continue to award points as last year as listed below with extra points awarded for citation size fish.

You may register as many citation size fish for points as you catch, but points will only be awarded for 1 citation per species.

We will grade by length so all fish must be pictured with an accurate measurement. In the event of a questionable picture or similar size fish, 3 members of VCFA will decide the length. Members will be chosen at random to ensure fairness. This is for fun, and we are an honest group with integrity.

In the event of a tie for length, points will be awarded by time of entry.

Please post pictures to VCFA going fishing page and to email to VirginiaCoastalFlyAnglers@gmail.com. If you don't have access to a computer, Facebook etc, bring your photos to the monthly meeting. This should give us plenty of pictures to compose for our annual banquet. 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

CASTING CORNER

HOW TO MASTER THE ROLL CAST

What is a roll cast and why is it a valuable asset in our casting arsenal? The roll cast simply is a cast that you make to load the rod without having to make a backcast. This is invaluable if you are fishing an area that has a lot of cover behind you that limits your ability to make a back cast. It can also help you to straighten your line on the water. If you are fishing a sinking line, a roll cast will help you bring a fly closer to the surface in order to make an easier back cast. This can aid in better accuracy.

The roll cast itself is simply bringing the line off the water, using the water to load the rod. With the line straight on the water and the rod tip down in a straight line with the fly line, lit the rod in a steady motion up to (about) your ear, then flick the rod forward. This will pick the line up off the water and shoot it out to your target. Don't let your wrist flip downward or the fly will drop in the water and fall short of your target. Make sure you are looking at your target when you cast. Push your hand forward and snap your wrist in one continuous motion. Don't let the rod tip drop too low or the line will not unroll properly above the water. Practice so your line does not hit the water, you want the line to gently lay on the surface so you don't disturb the fish.

This is a basic casting technique that you want to practice and learn. Practicing on the lawn is okay, but on the water is best as you can feel the water loading the rod. Once you get the hang of it, you will find all types of situations to incorporate it you fishing – Freshwater and Salt!

A few resources you can watch on YouTube to help see what the roll cast is and how to use it

Orvis Fly Casting - Lessons - How to Roll Cast

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=NSTshveV59Q

How to Master the Roll Cast

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=aRaCV5c63mY

How to Roll Cast/Fly Fishing 101

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=aRaCV5c63mY

Roll Casting - How to Roll Cast

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=b3K15 T8aO8

SPECIAL CLUB OFFER



Spring Fly Rod Clearance

The following fly rods are on clearance for the next building cycle in 2025. These rods are major brand blanks of high quality, many of which are used by top end OEM fly rod manufacturers. This group of fly rods were rods that were used as show display or in some cases made for clients who made changes to final build specifications after the initial build was nearly finished. I am offering this group to your organization on a first come first serve basis at significant discounts up to my cost for materials only.

Terms: Cash, credit debit card plus 5%. Subject to prior sale. FOB Moyock NC. Local delivery southside tidewater by arrangement. All sales final, NRNR.

#1 Offer, this is one of the highest performing blanks designed by Gary Loomis's company North Fork Composites. W/Rod bag. Originally listed at \$700.00 the <u>Clearance price is</u> \$400.00 including FET, sales tax additional.





High Performance High End Blank Compare to Top Name Brands





CALL TO ACTION

All private and recreational anglers and Chesapeake Bay stakeholders are encouraged by the Virginia Saltwater Sportfishing Association to attend this meeting. Please let your voices be heard calling for the VMRC Commissioners to change their approach to how menhaden are managed in our Chesapeake Bay.

VIRGINIA MARINE RESOURCES COMMISSION APRIL 23, 2024 @ 9:30 AM 380 Fenwick Road, Bldg. 96 Fort Monroe, Virginia

AGENDA: PETITIONERS Chesapeake Legal Alliance and Southern Maryland Recreational Fishing Organization request the following:

- 1. Enact a moratorium in the Bay: set a precautionary moratorium on purse seine landings by the menhaden reduction fleet within the Chesapeake Baya Enact moratorium in the Bay: set a precautionary moratorium on purse seine landings by the menhaden reduction fleet within the Chesapeake Bay
- 2. Require no less than 40% of harvest from federal waters: set a limit of no more than 60% of current purse seine menhaden landings within Virginia waters (approximately 94,000 metric tons)
- 3. Establish a permanent 1-nautical mile shoreline buffer along Virginia's shoreline prohibiting the use of menhaden purse seines
- 4. Fund and implement a menhaden population study: implement and enhance the Atlantic Menhaden Research proposal to investigate localized depletion and its impacts on the Bay (VIMS, October 1, 2023)
- 5. Establish proper industry oversight: require increased vessel and landings monitoring and reporting to ensure compliance and reduce bycatch and impacts on Bay habitats.

JOIN VSSA, WE HAVE A VOICE

Rick Elyar President VSSA

Latest petition to reduce Omega Protein's menhaden catch limit is rejected

Written by Charlie Paullin | Virginia Mercury

Category: Local News Published: 25 April 2024



A menhaden pulled from the Chesapeake Bay in the area of Jordan Point Marina. (Photo via Charlie Paullin, Virginia Mercury)

Another attempt to impose tighter regulations on the menhaden fishery in Virginia was defeated Tuesday and interested parties again called for the state to study the menhaden population. This story was reported and written by our media partner The Virginia Mercury

The Virginia Marine Resources Commission voted 5-3 to deny a petition from the Chesapeake Legal Alliance that sought to limit the catch of Omega Protein, the lone menhaden reduction fishery in the Chesapeake Bay.

Recreational fishing groups and other supporters of a cap have argued that overfishing menhaden, a tiny, yet nutrient rich fish, is causing the decline of the Bay's striped bass population.

"I just don't see the direct link," said VMRC member Lynn Kellum, who made the motion to deny the petition.

Shanna Madsen, VMRC deputy chief of the fisheries management division, pointed to misrepresentations of research in the petition that had been criticized by peer researchers. The harm to the striped bass, which depends on more than just menhaden, is coming from overfishing, Madsen said.

Regulating the menhaden catch has long been a contentious point in state government with oversight transferred from the General Assembly to the Virginia Marine Resource Commission in 2021.

The 42-page petition was one of the more robust of recent requests to produce stricter regulations on Reedville-based Omega Protein, which catches the menhaden and reduces them to fishmeal and oil. The petition received 1,774 comments in support, of which 718 were from the National Audubon Society, and 158 comments against it during a comment period at the beginning of this year.

Virginia law on fishery management plans, "requires this type of analysis, but it also requires more than the absolute [harvest] maximum the federal commission sets," said David Reed, an attorney with the Chesapeake Legal Alliance, which filed the petition on behalf of the Southern Maryland Recreational Anglers Association. "For those reasons, we respectfully request the commissioner consider

greater restrictions than simply defaulting to the maximum harvest."

The Maryland group is also suing VMRC in Richmond City Circuit Court for not using a conservation analysis, as the group claims the Virginia's regulation determining Omega's catch requires, when it adjusted the state's menhaden catch allocation for Omega Protein to meet limits set by the Atlantic States Marine and Fisheries Commission, which overseas fisheries along the East Coasts.

The petition, which included measures such as putting a moratorium on the fishery in the Bay and creating a one-mile no fishing buffer around the entirety of the Bay, was intended, in part, to provide a blueprint for VMRC to craft a regulation using conservation measures in the event a Richmond City Circuit Court judge ordered VMRC to revisit the limits.

"[VMRC is] relying on a federal commission that's not in the business of exploring the nuances of the Bay," Reed told the Mercury in a phone interview Tuesday. "They're in the business of exploring the coast."

Madsen, the deputy chief of the fisheries management division, said more science is needed to understand menhaden in the Bay.

"I would love to sit up here and say this is the number, this is the scientifically supported Bay cap, and I can't and it's incredibly frustrating to me," said Madsen, added the current bay cap of 51,000 metric tons isn't based on any scientific finding but is based on historic landings, or catches. "We don't know if the Bay cap should be significantly lowered, we don't know if the Bay cap could be increased. We don't know if the Bay cap needs to exist at all."

The Legislature was considering a bill to fund a three-year study during the session that just ended, but the effort never made it out of the House of Delegates Rules Committee. Steve Atkinson, president of the Virginia Saltwater Sportfishing Association, told VMRC Tuesday, "it appears, by all accounts, that the industry helped lobby against the study."

After the meeting, Atkinson told the Mercury, Omega Protein, "can't have it both ways," by saying science is needed to show they aren't harming the menhaden population in the Bay and then work to block the needed science.

Monty Diehl, CEO of Ocean Harvesters, which catches the menhaden for Omega Protein, on Tuesday denied that the company lobbied against the study. Omega Protein spokesperson Ben Landry told the Mercury after the meeting a concern they have with the study that they've shared before is its shortened time period, compared to a five-year effort ASMFC proposed in 2021.

"We all want the same thing," Landry said, "A sound survey to determine what is the baseline abundance."

Instead of lobbying against the study, Landry said the company pushed for a bill this past session from Del. Hillary Pugh-Kent, R-Richmond County, that created penalties for people who harass commercial fishermen. The measure was signed into law by Gov. Glenn Youngkin.

The VMRC Tuesday had considered taking up specific measures in the petition to codify the onemile no fishing buffer around the Chesapeake Bay shorelines and increase oversight of the vessels, as well as a request from VMRC member Patrick Hand to determine if Omega's fishing days in the Bay could be reduced. Those also failed to advance with members of the commission suggesting the Menhaden Management Advisory Committee look into them.

"It's incredibly frustrating that we do not have the regional information that we need and that the efforts to acquire that information or develop that information were halted this year," said VMRC member Heather Lusk, adding maybe some new regulations on the fishery could incentivize cooperation for the study. "It is incredibly frustrating and frankly disappointing."

THE MERKIN CRAB

Originally known as the Del Merkin's Permit Fly, the pattern has become known worldwide as The Merkin Crab. It was developed to catch one of the most difficult fish to target - Permit. The fly is effective because it descends down the water column like a real crab. It's movement is deadly in getting the attention of nearby predators as it drops to the bottom. The original shape was that of a Colorado spinner, though I prefer a more rounded shape. The pattern calls for Aunt Lydias Rug Yarn, but almost any yarn can work. You can even use materials such as EP Fibers tied on in clumps. The sink action is slightly different, but still effective. Though tied to catch permit, it can also be effective for Redfish and other predators that feed on crabs!

Materials List:

HOOK: TMC 811S 1/0 - 4

THREAD: Green or Red Flat Waxed Nylon

TAIL: Marabou and Krystal Flash

BODY: Straight Mono Yarn or EP fibers

LEGS: Medium Round Rubber

EYES: MediumDumbell (Siver or Black)



- You can tie this using all the same color (taditionally Tan) or a multitude of colors. I generally like the tan and blue, or tan and olive mix.
- The correct placement for the eyes is directly behind the hook eye.
- You can either tie the legs in using the thread and criss cross it around the hook, or you can knot the rubber around the hook and add a drop of superglue to lock them in place.
- keep each step tight to the previous tie in. You want the body to be as dense as possible when completed.
- When trimming, pull the legs safely out of the way. I like to use a small clip to hld them together until finished. After you have acheived the shape, you can pull the legs into place, then trim them to shape.
- When fishing, cast it current and let it sink naturally. Throuigh the swing. Every onced in a while you can give the rod tip a very slight twitch if you desire.

Effective colors include All Tan, Tan and Olive, Tan and Blue, Tan and Brown.





STEP 1

Tie on the dumbell eye just behind the eye of the hook. Use figure 8 wraps and tightly secure it to the hook. Wrap the thread to the barb of the hook and tie in a generous clump of Marabou feather. Make sure the stem is completely removed and the fibers are even at the tips.



STEP 3

Prepare several lengths of Yarn or what ever body material you are using. The should be about one-inch in length so you have plenty of room to work with the material and manipulate it during the tying process.



STEP 5

Repeat the tying step with the next color (or same color). It should be tight against the first tie in and securely fastened!



STEP 2

Next tie in some Krystal Flash (or Flashabou if you want a wider more flashy tail). The Flash shoud be evenly distributed around the Marabou and should be roughly the same length or slightly longer.



STEP 4

Tie in the first sedction of yarn, It should be tied in at the rear of the fly, tight to the base of the tail. Lay the yarn midwya on top of the hook and Figure 8 the material on the shank. You don't need a lot or wraps, but they should be tight.



STEP 6

Next add the legs in the same manner as the previous steps.



STEP Repeat STEPS 4, 5 and 6.



STEP 8

Repeat steps 4, 5 and 6. These three sections should bring you to the eye if the hook. If you have more steps you can add more material without the legs.



STEP 9

Pull the legs straight down out of the way. You will now be cutting the shape and you don't want you fly to wear crutches!



STEP 10 (OPTONAL)

With a sharp pair of scissors, make a straight cut down the side of the fly. Make sure to look at the overal width you want the fly to be. I generally make the cut to leave a half-inch on the side.



STEP 11

Now, make the same cut on the other side. You should have two equally cut straight sides making a box shape.



STEP 12

Using the scissors, round off the corners to form the shape you desire.



STEP 13
Fine tune the shape and make sure the material is straight off the hook and not twisted.



STEP 12

Pull the rubber legs out, They should be straight out from the sides. Trim the length to your preference. I like them longer, but not too long as they can foul in the hook.

THINGS TO HELP ME AT MY AGE

Over the years my fingers haven't worked as well, my eyes aren't clear as they once were and because of this tying knots with leader material or finding the end of the tippet on the reel is difficult.

As this year's season begins, I wanted to pass along to how I tend to cope with my short comings.

Knots: We've all seen the videos of the red line over the green line (any color) so the viewer can follow the steps as presented easily. But when making my leaders/tippets or learning to tie a new knot, I make it a little simpler and mark each of Mono/Flor material ends with a different color of marker. I commonly use Red and Black. Both colors are easily seen with my poor vision. Doing this a few times increases the muscle memory in my fingers and tying becomes easier. (see figure 1)

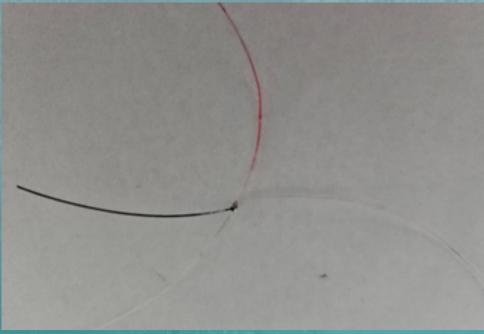


Figure 1 Leader/Tippet

Tippet End: I us to find myself looking for the invisible end of the tippet that was entangled with the fly line on the reel. Sometimes I begin to pull the tippet end only to find out the leader/tippet was intertwined with the first few feet of the fly line. Now I place a small piece of Scotch Tape over the end of the tippet preventing the tippet from entangling with the running line. (see figure 2)



Firgure 2, Scotch Tape and Tippet

After threading the leader/tippet and running line through each line guide, I would bring the tippet end to the reel seat area and again use a small piece of painter tape keeping the Mono/Flor line in easy reach and ready to tie the fly. (see figure 3)



Figure 3, Painters Tape and Tippet

Rod Tube Identification: Some might say I have too many fly rods, but I disagree. I am always looking for the next flyrod. Having all the fly rods in tubes standing in the corner of my office I have found an easy way to keep track of which rods are in what tubes. By using:" Key Tags" the tubes easily identified what rods are in the tube. (see figure 4)



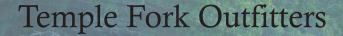
Figure 4, Key Tag Identification

Well, I hope this helps you in the future. I also know you have a few good ideas and if you want to share them with your fellow anglers you can text, email and I will send them out.

Using 2.50 Rx
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PLEASE SUPPORT THE FOLOWING WHO ARE SO GENEROUS IN SUPPORTING THE VIRGINIA COASTAL FLY ÅNGLERS. THERE GENEROSITY HELPS US TO FUND OUR MEEETINGS, TYING CLASSES AND EDUCATION PROGRAMS THROUGHOUT THE YEAR.



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■ NEW MEMBERSHIP	DATE://			
RENEWAL	M	D	Y	

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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