
The River News

The Official Newsletter Of The Delaware River Fishermen's Association

Volume 16, No. 5

May, 2004

Father And Son Take Top Honors In Shad Tournament And Lead In Angler Of The Year Standings

After a week's delay due to high and muddy water conditions, the club Shad Tournament was held on a day with ideal weather and clear water. Unfortunately, someone forgot to tell the shad to show up. About two dozen DRFA anglers participated, but only six of them brought fish to the scales.

First place went to 15-year-old Joe Pocetti who weighed in a 5.30-lb., 23.5" fish. His dad, Jim Pocetti, was close behind in second place with a 4.92-lb. fish measuring 21.5". Third place went to Chris Hoffman with a 3.65-lb., 19.75" fish.



Joe Pocetti displays his 5.30-lb. winning entry in the April 24 shad tournament.



Jim Pocetti took second place with this 4.92-lb. fish.



Chris Hoffman captured third place with a fish weighing in at 3.65 lbs.

The only other anglers weighing in fish were George Hoffman (3.51 lbs., 21.25"); Richard Hoffman (2.87 lbs., 18.5"); and Anthony Scholl Sr. (1.80 lbs., 17").

The average weight for all fish weighed in was 3.57 lbs. The average length was 20.25 inches.

Minutes of the April Meeting

The April 29th meeting of the DRFA was called to order by the club's vice-president Steve Raulfs at 7 pm with 16 members in attendance.

Treasurer's Report: Treasurer Matt Kicinski reported a balance of \$8,334.35 in the club treasury. Part of the balance belongs to the Big Cat Shootout.

Environmental: Members reported the Delaware River to be muddy and high. It was also reported that at the Roebing area 35 to 36 inch strippers were being

Important Dates

Thursday, May 27: 7:00 pm. Monthly meeting in the back upstairs meeting room of The Sportsmen's Center, Route 130 North, Bordentown, NJ.

Saturday, June 5: Striper Tournament "on paper". See accompanying article for specifics.

Saturday, June 12: Big Cat Shootout Catfish Tournament. See accompanying article for specifics.

Saturday, June 19: Club catfish tournament at West Deptford Ramp. Bring clean \$10 bills for parking lot access. (See tournament flier on page 6.)

Saturday, June 26: Youth Tournament. See accompanying article for specifics.

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caught on bloodworms. Members also reported that it has been a bad year so far for herring. Steve Raulfs caught a 13 pound catfish near the turnpike bridge. (*He even had a picture to prove it.*)

Old Business: The Shad Tournament was postponed from April 17th due to bad weather causing high water and rough river conditions. It was held the following Saturday, April 24th. Approximately 24 club members participated in the tournament and six fish were weighed in with Joe Pocetti taking first place, Jim Pocetti, second place, and Chris Hoffman, third place. The winners received their prizes at the meeting.

Tom Zerumski reported that so far he has around 10 people to help at the Big Cat Shootout. **TOM COULD STILL USE MORE HELP!**

Dick Schroeder is looking into purchasing a digital camera for the club tournaments.

The Smallmouth tournament is Saturday May 22nd. Joe Newton, Bob Bonczyk and Curt Kirby have volunteered to help at this tournament.

The youth tournament will be held on June 26th. Anglers can fish with or without a boat. It will be decided at the May meeting where it will be held.

The striped bass paper tournament will be held on June 5th.

Vice-President Steve Raulfs asked for volunteers for a weighmaster at the June 19th Catfish tournament.

New Business: Vice-President Steve Raulfs asked for volunteers to help out doing some of the little things for the club, such as bringing the trophies to each

tournament, bringing the magazines to the meetings, or helping to line up speakers for the meetings. Any help would be greatly appreciated.

Bob Murray from Delaware Valley Outdoors gave an interesting and informative presentation on smallmouth fishing.

Pete nominated VP/Steve Raulfs for the position of President. Nominations are still open for Vice-President and President. Nominations and elections will be decided at the May meeting. We really do need people to fill these positions.

Club members discussed why more people don't attend the meetings. It was suggested to hold our meeting on a different day or at another location once in a while. One location mentioned was Snug Harbor Marina in Croydon. There will be a question in the May newsletter as to what you think is the reason for poor attendance. Please take the time to fill it out and send in your opinion. Your response could help us help you.

The winner of the 50-50 drawing of \$10.00 and a gift bag was Dick Schroeder. The meeting was adjourned at 8:40 pm.

Important Election Information

Steve Raulfs has accepted a nomination to take over the role of President for this year, but he needs someone to help share the duties in the role of Vice President. Final nominations and elections for both positions will take place at the May meeting. If you can't make the meeting, but would like to help, please contact Steve at (215) 969-1010.

River Anglers, Your Help Is Needed

Reports from the Pennsylvania Fisheries biologists conducting electroshocking studies for striped bass in the area of the Tacony Palmyra bridge have noted a number of shad being counted in their surveys. NJ Fisheries biologist Mark Boriek believes that because of rising water temperatures the shad may actually be spawning in that section of the river. Anyone who fishes that section of the river – especially in the evening or at night – and has noticed any signs of spawning (*fish swimming and splashing near the surface*), please report to us at the next meeting, contact Pete Antoniewicz at (609) 466-7719, or get in touch with Mark using the contact info below.

Also, please help Mark correlate angler field experiences with his hydroacoustic survey findings. Record fishing date, location, number of shad caught and time caught, water conditions, flow rate, temperature, etc. and forward to Mark at the Lebanon Fisheries Laboratories at (908) 236-2118 or contact him via E-mail at mboriek@eclipse.net Anglers with shad fishing logs from previous seasons are also encouraged to provide copies of those records to Mark.

Smallmouth Talk To Be Covered In June Newsletter

Due to a lack of space in this month's newsletter, a synopsis of the presentation given by Bob Murray to DRFA members at the April meeting will be written up in the June newsletter.

DRFA Contacts: **President** – (vacant); **Vice-President/Tournament Coordinator** – Steve Raulfs, 215-969-1010; **Treasurer** – Matt Kicinski, 215-426-5086; **Membership Secretary** – Karen/Hollis Laing, 215-612-2814; **Recording Secretary** – Eileen Kicinski, 215-426-5086; **Editor of The River News** – Pete Antoniewicz, 609-466-7719 <DRFA_TheRiverNews@hotmail.com>; **Webmaster** – Frank Kivler <webmaster@drfishermen.com>; **Tournament Hotline** – 215-945-3635

Big Cat Shootout Is Just Around Corner

The 2004 Big Cat Shootout Tournament scheduled for June 12 is just around the corner. Tom Zerumski has been working hard with national fishing and boating equipment manufacturers to collect another fine selection of door prizes to be awarded at the Captain's Meeting the night before the event. The top ten finishers will earn prizes, with the top prize being \$5,000, based on a 150-boat field. In past years, total payouts have been between \$6,000 and \$7,000. You can get your registration form from the DRFA Web site or by calling Tom at (215) 357-0570.

DRFA Striper Tournament, Part II

Saturday June 5, 2003 is our second shot at a club striped bass tournament, after rains washed out last year's event. The tournament is held as an "honor" paper tournament. Members may fish anywhere on the Delaware River or its tributaries between 7 am and 2 pm on that day. There will be no specific check-in location or weigh-in.

Club members who wish to participate in this event are asked to register for the event by calling the **Striper Tournament Answering Service** between 9:00 am and 5:00 pm any weekday before the tournament. The number to call is (215) 674-1117.

Be sure to take a tailor's cloth tape measure and a camera on the day of the tournament. Record the length and girth of every striper caught that day between the hours of 7:00 am and 2:00 pm, and capture a picture of your fish. Then, call the **Striper Tournament Answering Service** before 9:00 pm on the evening of the event to give your name and the length and girth

of your largest fish. Winners will be posted on the DRFA Web site and listed in the June newsletter.

Youth Tournament Set For June 26

Plans are currently being made for the second annual DRFA Youth Tournament to be held Saturday, June 26, from 8 am to 1 pm, on the tidal river in the Philadelphia/Lower Bucks area. A registration form with parental permission is required. Participants who register by June 23 will receive a DRFA hat. Please contact Pete Antoniewicz at (609) 466-7719 to register or for more information.

Any children age 15 or under are eligible for this tournament when they are accompanied by any dues-

2004 Angler Of The Year Top Ten Standings

The following standings are up to date as of the April 24 shad tournament. (Only six anglers have earned points to date.)

#	Name	Points
1.	Joe Pocetti	100
2.	Jim Pocetti.....	99
3.	Chris Hoffman.....	98
4.	George Hoffman	97
5.	Richard Hoffman.....	96
6.	Anthony Scholl	95

2004 DRFA Tournament Schedule

Except for the Big Cat Shootout, which requires a separate admission fee, all of these tournaments are free and open to dues-paying DRFA members only. Members will accrue points for the Angler of the Year competition based on their finish in the eight regular club events (not counting the Big Cat Shootout, Striper tournament or Youth tournament). Except for the Big Cat Shootout, new members may register on the morning of the event, before the check-in time. Weigh-in is at the time specified. Late entries will not be weighed in.

Date	Event	Location	Time
5/22	Smallmouth	Yardley Access Ramp <i>(David Bryant Memorial Smallmouth Tournament)</i>	7 am to 1 pm
6/5	Striped Bass	Phone in results <i>(Paper tournament, no weigh-in location.)</i>	7 am to 2 pm
6/12	Big Cat Shootout	Lightning Jack's Marina <i>(Open to public, entry fee required)</i>	7 am to 3 pm
6/19	Catfish	West Deptford Ramp	7 am to 1 pm
6/26	Youth Tourney	Location TBD <i>(Open to 15-year-old and under guests of paid DRFA members.)</i>	8 am to 1 pm
7/17	Largemouth	Frankford Arsenal Ramp	6 am to 12 noon
8/15	Catfish	Frankford Arsenal Ramp	6 am to 12 noon
9/19	Largemouth	Frankford Arsenal Ramp	7 am to 1 pm
10/3	Smallmouth	Byram Access Ramp	7 am to 1 pm
10/17	Catfish	Frankford Arsenal Ramp	7 am to 1 pm

paying DRFA member. Unlike the regular club tournaments, the child does not need to be a relative and the club member does not need to have a family membership. All youth participants will receive awards. We are planning on having refreshments and an award ceremony at the end of the weigh-in. Participants are asked to pre-register, so that we can get an accurate count for awards and refreshments. See the tournament flier in the June issue of *The River News* for a map and directions.

Don't Forget To Post Your Fishing Reports

Springtime shad, herring, and striper reports which have always been a popular feature on the DRFA Web site, have fallen off this year, perhaps because of the weather and water conditions. And as summer takes over, fishing reports for bass, catfish, and other species traditionally drop off.

Please help us keep this valuable resource for club members going strong. We're not asking anyone to provide secret locations, just current water conditions, general patterns, baits, etc. All information is valuable – what works as well as what doesn't work. And with summer thunderstorms, reporting on water conditions could save a fellow club member from making a long drive only to find high and muddy water.

Visit the DRFA Web site today at www.drfishermen.com to check our our Member Forum fishing reports and other new features.

Discount Cards For DRFA Members

As part of the DRFA's membership in the South Jersey Bass Club Association, all DRFA members are eligible to receive a SJBCA member Discount Card good for a 10% discount or other special advantages at participating SJBCA businesses (*mostly in South Jersey*). Anyone interested should contact Pete Antoniewicz (609) 466-7719 for information.

50% Discounts On Fishing Tackle

Once again, through Tom Zerumski's contacts with the Pure Fishing Company, owner of many popular tackle brands, DRFA members will be able to purchase a wide range of fishing tackle at a 50% discount.

The brands available under this promotion include Fenwick, Berkley, Stren, Johnson, Mitchell, Abu Garcia, etc.

If you are planning a purchase of a major piece of equipment, this could be a great chance to save. If you are interested, see Tom at an upcoming meeting. Or call him at (215) 357-0570.

Fishing Reports

Unless otherwise noted, all reports included here were gathered on Tuesday/Wednesday, May 18-19.

Tidal River:

*This listing is abridged from the report posted on Friday, May 14th on the Web site of **Brinkman's Bait and Tackle** in Northeast Philly*

(215-632-0674). For the complete report go to Brinkmans Web site <http://members.aol.com/wormpeop le/>

“Tuesday I was able to get my father up and the river conditions were almost perfect. The temperature was 67 degrees at Trenton and just a bit off color. The herring were there pretty good but only a few people were catching them. We were able to fill the live well up in a half hour and headed up for stripers. By the third drift I hooked up a nice 15 pound 34 inch fish. Then my father started with run off after run off. He must have missed 5 fish before hooking a 25 inch 8 pound fish. Then a couple more drifts he must have missed 3 more fish and then hooked a 27 inch 10 pound fish. Overall I must have seen 40 or more bass taken this day. Then my wife and I headed up on Wednesday and things got strange. It took us an hour to catch 10 herring. I think we had 6 drifts before running out of bait. We did not even have a bump. So we headed back for more bait and again it must have taken over an hour to catch 10 to 15 herring. We went back up for another 4 drifts with nothing. I don't know what happened between the two days. In all the other boats and guides, there were only 4 other stripers caught all day that I saw, and the herring bite was really bad. So we will try again next week if conditions allow us.

“Now the stripers in the lower river have slowed up a bit but there are still several guys doing real well. Most of the better catches are in

DRFA Survey: What's Your Preference?

In an effort to generate greater attendance at DRFA meetings, we are conducting a survey to see if holding meetings in different locations would enable more members to attend. **Please complete this form, clip it out, and mail it to Steve Raulfs, DRFA, PO Box 25, Langhorne, PA 19047-0025.** Or bring it to the May meeting, or call Steve at (215) 969-1010.

On a scale of 1-10, please indicate the likelihood of you attending a meeting at each of the following three locations:

10 = Highly likely, 1 = Highly unlikely.

_____ Bordentown, NJ _____ Croydon, PA _____ Northeast Philadelphia

Member's Name (print) _____

boats now and these guys are running up for some live and fresh herring and then coming down river to fish them. Burlington Bristol Bridge, Tacony Bridge, Water Works building, Rancocas and Neshaminy are some of the better close spots to head. I know of fish taken this past week up to 30 pounds and in the 40 inch class. They are not getting them like a few weeks ago but there are still some of these big fish still around. There are a lot of fish 10 to 15 inches moving into the river.

“Now the guys off the bank had a slow week. I talked to a couple of guys from Station Ave. and there were only a few fish taken and all were under 25 inches. One bigger fish from Bristol 38 inches 20 pounds was caught early in the week but here again a bunch of smaller fish have moved in. Another customer that has been fishing around the airport has caught plenty of fish but he said the big white perch have moved in. To get the stripers you have to go to cut herring. Most of the fish here are 12 to 24 inches. Now some really good catches have been down in National Park in Jersey. Two different guys have been going down to this park and have had some big fish and some good numbers. The good numbers are smaller fish but each guy has had 20 + pound fish this week. The first was down over the weekend and had 30 fish with three fish over 28 inches. The other was down on Sunday with 10 fish one 15 pound and one other 12 pounds. But on Wednesday night he had 11 fish. One 26 pound and one other 22 pounds both over 36 inches. The rest of the fish are 15 to 24 inches. All these fish are still hitting bloodworms the best but they are also using herring and salted clams.

“The shad fishing in the upper river has been one of the most disappointing things the past few

years. I hooked a couple of fish at Trenton with the sabiki rigs. I lost three shad but all were due to lifting them into the boat. That is what nets are for but I was too lazy to do this. Now one customer that has been fishing Yardley is landing 5 to 15 fish a night but far from his catches of 30 or better fish from years past. And I talked to one person that was up to the Water Gap and only picked up 4 fish one night and 3 the second night last weekend. He did well on some walleyes at night with worms and shiners. And there are shad as far up river as Narrowsburg. Our place at Callicoon they are catching a few fish but this should get better the next few weeks. I hope to head this direction the end of the month.

“The bass fishing in the Delaware River is still getting better each week. Some good catches from the river this past week. Guys have been fishing Tulleytown Cove, Neshaminy Marina, Salem Harbor, Dredge Harbor and even the main river. These guys have been fishing so many different things now it is hard to tell you everything. But overall the best things to throw for largemouth bass in the river have been white and chartreuse spinner baits, rattle traps, shallow and medium crankbaits, plastic worms, plastic lizards, pig and jig and tubes. The colors again are very different and so many but in crankbaits firetiger is one of the best, in rattle traps chrome and black, plastic worms, lizards and tubes pumpkinseed, watermelon seed, black and purple seem to be the best.

“The smallies are slowly starting on the Delaware. One customer was up to Bryam and was fishing above the Tohickon Creek in the fast water. He was throwing minnows and grubs and landed 15 fish 10 to 15 inches. He also picked up a couple of walleyes around the bridge foundations. Another customer was above New

Hope and caught 25 bass all on minnows. He said the size was quite mixed but nothing big. Another good spot has been the Perkiomen. Now here the smallies are on the smaller side but the numbers are much better. One customer fished around the prison and had over 50 fish himself all on twister tails and rebel crawfish. The biggest was 14 inches but he said there were no really small fish either. Another guy was out on Saturday and had 28 bass and 15 bluegills. He was using all twister tails and minnows. Again all the fish were under 14 inches.

“There is more to tell but I have run out of time. We did get some river herring in stock and I think we may be getting a big shipment to stock up for summer. This will make the catfish and striper fisherman happy. It is a bit more money than the saltwater herring but we are having to run south quite a way to pick it up. Good luck. Bill”

Trenton/Yardley/Lambertville Area: Dan Leach at ***HL Bait & Tackle*** in Morrisville, Pennsylvania (215-295-1400) reports that striper fishing in the Trenton to Yardley area has been fairly good, although the herring have been somewhat erratic – good one day and off the next. The shad fishing is slowing down and local anglers are losing interest.

Dan did weigh in a 9-lb catfish caught on an eel by an angler targeting striped bass. And some walleye have been taken along with smallmouth in the Yardley area on shiners and crayfish. Dan also has leeches in stock.

Easton/Phillipsburg Area: Bill Pierce at ***Bill's Bait and Tackle*** (908-859-5729) Phillipsburg, NJ <<http://community-2.webtv.net/BILLSBAIT/FISHINGREPO RT/>> says shad have been hit and miss in his area, with those that are being caught, “just about played

June 2004 Tide Predictions, NOAA National Ocean Service

Readings taken at Municipal Pier 11, Philadelphia, Pennsylvania.

All listings are Eastern Daylight Time. **Weekends are indicated by bold**

Day	Time	Ht.	Time	Ht.	Time	Ht.	Time	Ht.
6/01	12:38AM	H 7.3	7:56AM	L 0.6	1:02PM	H 6.3	8:03PM	L 0.6
6/02	1:26AM	H 7.6	8:50AM	L 0.4	1:53PM	H 6.3	8:55PM	L 0.5
6/03	2:14AM	H 7.8	9:44AM	L 0.2	2:43PM	H 6.3	9:47PM	L 0.5
6/04	3:03AM	H 7.8	10:36AM	L 0.1	3:35PM	H 6.2	10:39PM	L 0.4
6/05	3:54AM	H 7.7	11:27AM	L 0.1	4:29PM	H 6.1	11:32PM	L 0.5
6/06	4:47AM	H 7.4	12:19PM	L 0.2	5:26PM	H 6.0		
6/07	12:26AM	L 0.6	5:43AM	H 7.2	1:11PM	L 0.2	6:26PM	H 6.0
6/08	1:21AM	L 0.7	6:42AM	H 6.9	2:03PM	L 0.3	7:28PM	H 6.0
6/09	2:17AM	L 0.9	7:44AM	H 6.6	2:56PM	L 0.4	8:30PM	H 6.1
6/10	3:14AM	L 1.0	8:45AM	H 6.5	3:48PM	L 0.5	9:29PM	H 6.4
6/11	4:12AM	L 1.0	9:44AM	H 6.3	4:40PM	L 0.6	10:25PM	H 6.6
6/12	5:10AM	L 1.0	10:40AM	H 6.3	5:31PM	L 0.7	11:16PM	H 6.8
6/13	6:05AM	L 0.9	11:33AM	H 6.2	6:20PM	L 0.7		
6/14	12:03AM	H 7.0	6:58AM	L 0.7	12:22PM	H 6.2	7:07PM	L 0.7
6/15	12:48AM	H 7.1	7:47AM	L 0.6	1:09PM	H 6.1	7:52PM	L 0.8
6/16	1:31AM	H 7.1	8:34AM	L 0.5	1:55PM	H 6.0	8:35PM	L 0.8
6/17	2:12AM	H 7.1	9:19AM	L 0.5	2:38PM	H 5.9	9:17PM	L 0.8
6/18	2:52AM	H 7.0	10:02AM	L 0.5	3:20PM	H 5.7	9:58PM	L 0.8
6/19	3:30AM	H 6.9	10:44AM	L 0.5	4:01PM	H 5.6	10:38PM	L 0.9
6/20	4:07AM	H 6.8	11:25AM	L 0.6	4:40PM	H 5.5	11:19PM	L 0.9
6/21	4:42AM	H 6.7	12:06PM	L 0.7	5:19PM	H 5.4		
6/22	12:01AM	L 0.9	5:17AM	H 6.6	12:47PM	L 0.7	5:59PM	H 5.4
6/23	12:46AM	L 1.0	5:55AM	H 6.4	1:29PM	L 0.8	6:43PM	H 5.5
6/24	1:36AM	L 1.0	6:41AM	H 6.3	2:13PM	L 0.8	7:33PM	H 5.7
6/25	2:31AM	L 1.1	7:37AM	H 6.1	3:00PM	L 0.7	8:29PM	H 6.0
6/26	3:30AM	L 1.1	8:41AM	H 6.0	3:51PM	L 0.7	9:27PM	H 6.3
6/27	4:33AM	L 1.0	9:44AM	H 5.9	4:45PM	L 0.7	10:23PM	H 6.6
6/28	5:35AM	L 0.9	10:45AM	H 5.8	5:42PM	L 0.6	11:18PM	H 7.0
6/29	6:36AM	L 0.7	11:42AM	H 5.9	6:40PM	L 0.5		
6/30	12:11AM	H 7.3	7:34AM	L 0.5	12:38PM	H 5.9	7:37PM	L 0.4

Time Differential Height Differential

Station	Time Differential		Height Differential	
	High	Low	High	Low
Marcus Hook, Pa.	-1 29	-1 16	*0.90	*0.90
Bridgeport, Raccoon Creek, N.J.	-1 13	-0 55	*0.87	*0.87
Darby Creek, Pennsylvania				
Tincum National Wildlife Refuge	-0 26	+0 18	*0.71	*0.71
Paulsboro, Mantua Creek, N.J.	-0 25	-0 28	*0.90	*0.90
Woodbury Creek, N.J.	-0 19	-0 23	*0.93	*0.93
Schuylkill River, Phila., Market Street Bridge	-0 26	-0 09	*0.97	*0.97
Westville, Rt 47 bridge, Big Timber Creek, NJ-0 04	-0 06	-0 06	*0.94	*0.94
PHILADELPHIA, Municipal Pier 11	+0 00	+0 00	+0.00	+0.00
Bridesburg, Philadelphia, Pa.	+0 11	+0 13	*1.04	*1.04
Palmyra, Pennsauken Cr., Rt 73 bridge, N.J.-0 49	+0 57	+0 57	*0.84	*0.84
Pompeston Creek, N.J.	+0 19	+0 37	*1.02	*1.02
Bridgeboro, Rancocas Creek, N.J.	+1 09	+1 09	*1.03	*1.03
Cornwells Heights, Pa.	+0 40	+0 49	*1.14	*1.14
Burlington, N.J.	+0 41	+0 58	*1.17	*1.17
Edgely, Pa.	+1 02	+1 19	*1.24	*1.24
Fieldsboro, N.J.	+1 01	+1 30	*1.26	*1.16
Trenton, N.J.	+1 12	+1 48	*1.30	*1.05

Height Differences: For most stations, use of a predicted height difference would give unsatisfactory predictions. In such cases they have been omitted and one or two ratios, indicated by an asterisk (*), are given. To obtain the height of tide at the subordinate station in these cases, multiply the height of tide at the reference station by the ratio listed. The result is normally rounded to the nearest .1 foot.

out.” He did weigh in a nice 5-lb. 4 oz. smallmouth bass from the river, caught on a Mepps spinner. Lots of carp are also being taken from the river. No credible reports of stripers being taken locally, yet. Bill notes that most local anglers are targeting big brown trout (from 4-lbs. to 7-lbs.) stocked in the Musconetcong River. He recently weighed in a 5-lb. and a 6.5-lb. fish.

Belvidere, NJ Area:

Guide Gene Neiderlander of *Fish Assured Guide Service* (908-475-5493) says that the shad fishing was slow to start in April but has gotten more consistent over the past few weeks. “The high water has moved them closer to the shoreline,” he notes. He has been averaging from 7 to 14 fish per trip. Some of the fish are starting to spawn, with water temperatures reaching 65-67°F, but according to recent activity, Gene feels that there should be fishing through the end of this month.

Lackawaxen Area:

Charlie at *The Angler’s Roost* (570-685-2010) in Lackawaxen, PA reports that shad fishing has been the big attraction there for the past four weeks when water conditions have not been too muddy. The leader in their May tournament is a 6.10-lb. roe shad Charlie just weighed in that morning. Anglers are catching 8 to 10 fish on the days when water conditions are stable. Water temps are now about 60°F. Some, but not all, of the roe shad being taken have already spawned. Charlie says that the shad fishing activity usually holds out through mid- to late-June, depending on water temperatures.

While he has not had any reports from anglers specifically targeting smallmouth or walleye, he does have reports of some of them being taken on shad darts as a by-catch by shad fishermen.

DRFA Club Catfish Tournament

Saturday, June 19, 2004 – 7:00 am until 1:00 pm

West Deptford New Jersey Ramp

IMPORTANT: REMEMBER TO BRING \$10 IN REASONABLY CLEAN, CRISP BILLS FOR UNATTENDED AUTOMATIC TOOL BOOTH TO PARKING LOT. THERE IS NO PARKING ON LOCAL STREETS!!!!

DIRECTIONS: Take Interstate 295 to Exit 23 (*National Park*). Exit right onto Route 642/Hessian Avenue westbound. Go 0.5 miles to first traffic light. Turn right onto Red Bank Avenue. Go 0.9 miles, almost to end of Red Bank Avenue at the river. Turn left onto 2nd Street. (*There is a small sign on right side of road indicating left hand turn for "Boat Ramp."*) Go one block to Donop Street and turn right. The ramp is straight ahead. Ramp gates open at 6:00 am.

RULES:

- All participants must check in between 6:00 AM & 7:00 AM before fishing.
- Only paid members of the D.R.F.A., and qualifying family members *, may participate and weigh-in fish. (*The most recent membership list will be present at weigh-in.*) There is no separate entry fee.
- Only one (1) catfish per person will be weighed. The heaviest fish will determine the winner.
- In the event of a tie in weight, the longest fish will determine the winner.
- The fish must have been caught on that day, during the hours of the tournament.
- The fishing area will be limited to the part of the Delaware River and tributaries that can be reached by boat from the West Deptford Ramp. Shore fishing is permitted.
- Weigh-in is at 1:00 pm sharp. Those arriving after 1:00 pm, will not be permitted to weigh-in fish for prizes or points.
- Only legal fishing methods, of the States of New Jersey and Pennsylvania may be used. Live bait is permitted.
- The catfish must be alive to be weighed. All fish will be released after weighing.
- The tournament judge will have final say in all disputes.

PRIZES: 1st Place-\$125

2nd Place-\$75

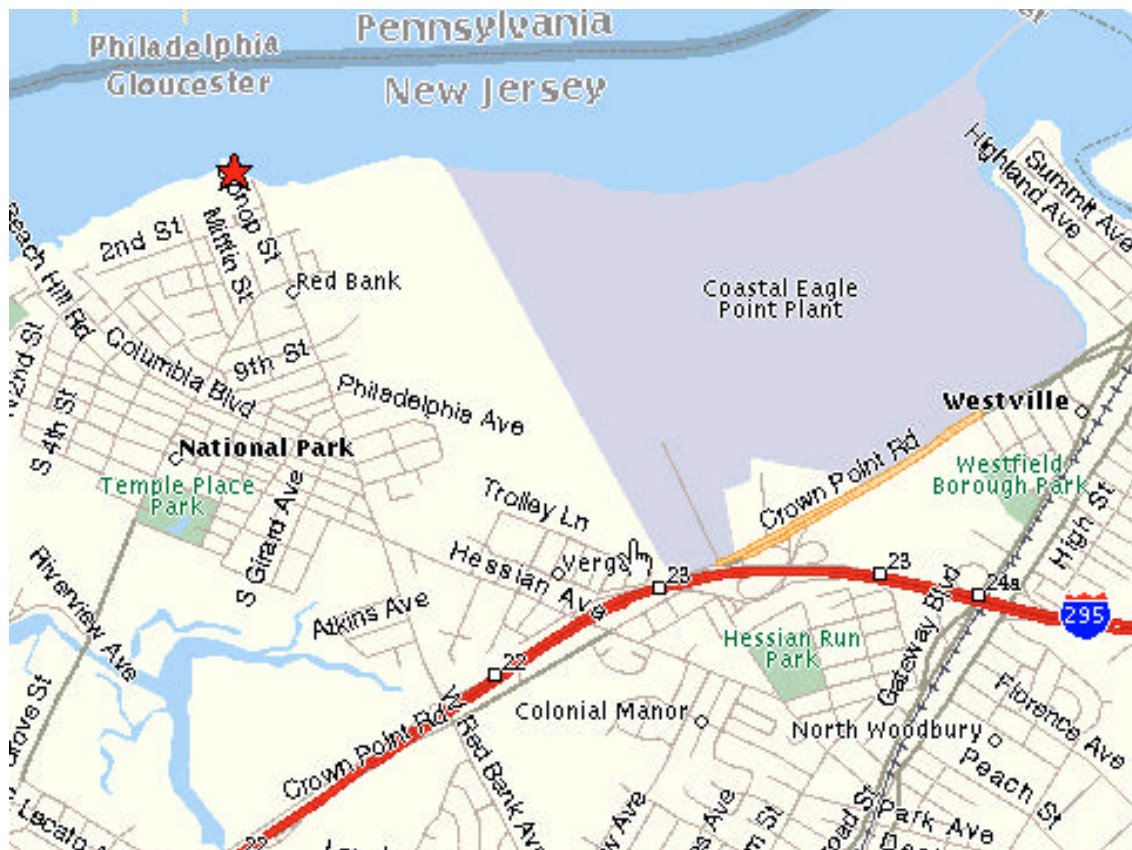
3rd Place- \$50

Tournament Hotline: 215-945-3635

Tournament Coordinator: Steve Raulfs 215-969-1010

All anglers weighing in fish, no matter where they place, will accumulate points towards the "Dave Bryant Memorial Angler of the Year" contest.

*Qualifying family members can only participate if a Family Membership has been purchased. Qualifying family members include any member of the immediate family residing at that home and any immediate children, up to the age of 16, no matter where they live. Grandchildren up to the age of 16 also qualify, no matter where they live.



THE DELAWARE RIVER FISHERMEN'S ASSOCIATION
P.O. Box 25
Langhorne, PA 19047-0025
DRFA Web Site: <http://www.drfishermen.com>



MAY 2004 ISSUE:

- SHAD TOURNAMENT RESULTS
- BUSY TOURNAMENT SCHEDULE COMING UP
- SMALLMOUTH PRESENTATION SYNOPSIS
- MEETING QUESTIONNAIRE
- FISHING REPORTS

*Also visit our Web site
www.drfishermen.com for
news, fishing reports, and more!*

THE RIVER NEWS is the monthly newsletter of the Delaware River Fishermen's Association. The DRFA typically meets the last Thursday of each month, at 7:00 pm, in the back upstairs meeting room at The Sportsmen's Center, Route 130, Bordentown, New Jersey. All interested sportsmen and women are invited to attend and join the organization. New members may join at any time, while yearly renewal memberships are to be paid between January 1st and the last Thursday in February, each year. To submit information for the newsletter, contact Pete Antoniewicz via e-mail <DRFA_TheRiverNews@hotmail.com>, by phone, (609) 466-7719, or mail to 101 Weldon Way, Pennington, NJ 08534.

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