

# The River News

**The Official Newsletter of the Delaware River Fishermen's Association**

Vol. 37, No. 2

March-April 2025

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## 2025 Angler Of The Year Competition Opens On Sunday April 6 *(See schedule on page 3.)*

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### Last Chance To Score Big In Our Tackle Bag Fundraiser Raffle!

The March monthly meeting is the last chance to raise funds through our 2025 Tackle Bag Raffle and to improve your chances to be the lucky angler who takes home the big prize.

The drawing for the lure-filled tackle bag, custom-built rod donated by Club member Tim Lang, and a \$50 cash bonus will be held at the end of the March 26 meeting. Raffle entrants are not required to be present to win the prize.

If you have not yet purchased your winning ticket, please do so between now and the March meeting. Tickets are \$2 each, and three for \$5.

Members who have taken tickets to sell must return the sold ticket stubs, cash, and unsold tickets to Raffle Coordinator Pete Marcolina (215-637-4555) by the day of the meeting.

#### ***Table of Contents***

Meeting Minutes.....	1-3
New Tournament Rules..	3-4
AOTY Interview.....	4
Seminar Recap.....	5
River Of The Year .....	7
River Safeguards.....	8

### Don't Miss This Opportunity To Improve Your Shad- Fishing Success And That Of Your Friends

Our guest speaker for the March meeting, Kevin Ingram, is bringing his upgraded presentation to the Silver Lake Nature Center on March 26, complete with new information and slides beyond his previous presentations to the Club.

Kevin, who has more than 40 years of shad-fishing experience, will also have a variety of his custom shad-fishing gear for sale and will be awarding some of those items as door prizes just for attending. Like all DRFA meetings and seminars, this event is open to both Club members and non-members alike.

### Minutes Of The January Meeting

Scott McDonough called the meeting to order at 7:02 pm with 22 members in attendance. The minutes of the November meeting were read and approved.

**Treasury Report:** Eileen Kicinski's Treasury report showed a balance of \$7,086.30 as of January 28. The January 2024 balance was \$7,940.98, a difference of \$854.68. However,

Rick Mawson noted that there were funds raised from the outdoor show and membership dues that Eileen had not yet received.

**Membership Report:** Rick Mawson reported having 13 individual members and one family member as of the start of the January meeting.

**Tournament Report:** Tournament Director Scott McDonough asked for volunteers to be weighmasters for the first five tournaments. They are:

**April Bass** – Scott and Casey McDonough

**April Shad** – Pete Antoniewicz and Bryan Malkiewicz

### **Important Dates**

**Wednesday, March 26, 7 pm.** Monthly meeting at Silver Lake Nature Center. Guest speaker Kevin Ingram will present an in-depth talk on shad fishing.

**Sunday, April 6, 7 am to 1 pm.** Bass Tournament at Neshaminy Marina.

**Wednesday, April 30, 7 pm.** Monthly meeting at Silver Lake Nature Center. Fishing guide Fred Dwees is scheduled to speak about snakehead fishing.

**May Catfish** – Gregg Southrey and Chick Bay

**June Bass** – John Pedrick and Pete Marcolina

**July Catfish** – George and Rich Hoffman

Scott also recapped the rule changes voted upon at the October 2024 meeting. The latest rules will be posted on the website and in the March newsletter.

Members did not have an objection to keeping the Bass Tournament scheduled for Father's Day.

**Youth Activities:** The annual Youth Fishing Derby was tentatively scheduled for Sunday July 13. Chick Bay will confirm that date with the Pennsylvania Yacht Club. Chick mentioned that we never sent a \$100 check for last year's event, so that should be done as soon as possible.

**Old Business:** Scott mentioned that newsletters and website access will be cut off for anyone who does not renew their dues by the February meeting.

Scott also outlined the parameters of the Tackle Bag raffle and recapped the results from the Delaware Valley Surf Anglers Flea Market – \$236 from Raffle Ticket Sales, \$30 on clothing, and three membership renewals and one new membership. Joe Newton is coordinating volunteers and materials for the Palmyra Fire Department Fishermen's Flea Market.

John Pedrick will contact the Texas Roadhouse Street Road location about a date in June or July for a DRFA fundraiser.

A wide-ranging discussion was held on guest speakers and speaker topics for the coming year.

Members were reminded that Saturday February 1<sup>st</sup> was the next time to volunteer hours that help defray the cost of our meeting space at Silver Lake Nature Center throughout the year. Members should visit the [SLNC website](#) home page and use the link to the Volunteer Work Day to post their interest ahead of time, and be sure to document their time as a DRFA member once there.

Members were also reminded to notify Pete and Rick of any topics of interest for the newsletter or website.

**New Business:** Members were asked where they looked for fishing information online. Answers included YouTube, Facebook, and some locally oriented fishing forums. Pete Antoniewicz and Jayson Johnson were scheduled to discuss potential media outreach after the meeting.

Scott also talked about having informal Club events – such as a potential charter boat trip, fish fry, or Club picnic – as an opportunity to socialize and as a means of making our Club more attractive to potential new members.

**Environmental Reports:** Other than reports of shore-to-shore ice at Yardley and in the tidal river, there were no other environmental reports.

**Fishing Reports:** Scott reported a slow fishing trip at Tullytown earlier in January, when there was some shoreline ice at the back of the cove.

Frank Beck reported being out on the ice at Core Creek and Lake Towhee for three days in the week before the meeting, picking up varying amounts of crappie and sunfish, and one small largemouth bass. Dave Wermuth

reported fishing at Levittown Lake with his grandson two times in the days before the meeting, catching only a couple of sunfish.

The 50/50 drawing for \$40 was won by Gerry Rigney. The meeting adjourned at 8:15 pm.

## **Minutes Of The February Meeting**

Membership Secretary Rick Mawson called the meeting to order at 7:00 pm with 34 members and guests in attendance. Rick turned the floor over to Tim Keebler of Fin Seeker Guide Service for his presentation on shad and striper fishing in the non-tidal river. After Tim's presentation, the minutes of the January meeting were read and approved.

**Treasury Report:** Eileen Kicinski's Treasury report showed a balance of \$6,742.77 as of February 26. The February 2024 balance was \$8,027.31, a difference of \$1,284.54.

**Membership Report:** Rick Mawson reported having 18 individual members, 9 family members, and one supporting business member as of the start of the meeting. Rick also reported on a \$100 contribution from supporting business member McKeown's Automotive Service.

**Tournament Report:** Tournament Director Scott McDonough quickly recapped the parameters of the upcoming tournament season. Weighmasters for the first five tournaments are already designated. Weighmasters for the remaining tournaments will be assigned later in the season as we get closer to those events.

**Youth Activities:** Chick Bay will confirm the proposed July 13 date for the Youth Fishing Derby with the Pennsylvania Yacht Club.

**Old Business:** Rick Mawson reminded members that they had one month more to buy and sell tickets for the Tackle Bag Raffle.

Rick and Joe Newton reported another slow day at the Palmyra Fishing Tackle Flea Market (*which once again fell on Super Bowl Sunday*), saying that they made \$25 after expenses.

Rick ran down the list of future meeting speakers as currently anticipated. Members are encouraged to suggest additional desirable speakers to fill the remainder of this year's schedule and start to book speakers for next year.

Members were reminded that Saturday March 1<sup>st</sup> was the next time to volunteer hours that help to defray the cost of our meeting space at Silver Lake Nature Center throughout the year. Members should visit the [SLNC website](#) home page and use the link to the Volunteer Work Day to post their interest ahead of time, and be sure to document their time as a DRFA member once there.

Members were also reminded to notify Pete and Rick of any topics of interest for the newsletter or website.

**New Business:** Pete Antoniewicz and Jayson Johnson discussed a possible DRFA YouTube Channel for educational and promotional videos to attract potential members.

**Environmental Reports:** There were no new environmental reports.

**Fishing Reports:** There was not a lot of fishing activity to be reported, other than that walleyes were biting in the non-tidal river.

The 50/50 drawing for \$70 was won by Dave Wermuth. The meeting adjourned at 8:55 pm.

## Remember These New Rules For DRFA Fishing Tournaments

As you prepare for the 2025 Tournament Season and the Dave Bryan Angler of the Year competition, remember these recent rule changes voted upon at the October meeting:

**New Rule:** All competitors must check in with the weighmaster, in person, before the official tournament start time and return to the launch ramp by the official

tournament end time.

*A competitor who is delayed from in-person check-in due to a road emergency can contact the weighmaster before the official start time and request approval from the rest of the participants to check in by phone and fish after their arrival.*

*Those arriving late for weigh-in will not be allowed to weigh in fish. A participant with boat troubles before the end of a tournament can transfer his or her weigh-in entry to another competitor to return to the launch*

### 2025 Tournament Schedule

*All DRFA Club tournaments are free and open to dues-paying DRFA members, with club-funded payouts of \$50, \$30, and \$20 awarded to the top three places. Participants also accrue points for the Angler of the Year competition based on their top six finishes among the nine regular Club events. (There are no tournament entry fees, however, ramp, launch, and/or parking fees may apply.)*

*Except for the Shad Tournament, there is also a voluntary \$10.00unker pool with a 100% payout to pool participants for the three heaviest pool fish – 60%, 30%, and 10% – at tournament's end.*

*Except for the Shad Tournament, new members may register on the morning of an event before check-in time. All participants should check in at least 10 minutes before scheduled starting time. Weigh-in is at the time specified. Late entries will not count.*

**Always check the DRFA website or the Tournament Hotline (267-934-2148) the night before the event to learn about potential rescheduling or relocation due to weather or water conditions.**

Day	Date	Event	Time	Location
Sun.	4/6	Bass	7 am - 1 pm	Neshaminy Marina Ramp
Sat.	4/19	Shad	2 pm weigh-in	Yardley Park & Ride Lot
Sun.	5/18	Catfish	6 am - 12 pm	Gloucester City Ramp
Sun.	6/15	Bass	6 am - 12 pm	Neshaminy Marina Ramp
Sat.	7/12	Catfish	6 am - 12 pm	Neshaminy Marina Ramp
Sun.	7/13	Youth Derby	8 am	Pennsylvania Yacht Club
Sun.	8/10	Bass	6 am - 12 pm	Gloucester City Ramp
Sun.	8/24	Catfish	6 am - 12 pm	Falls Township Ramp
Sat.	9/13	Bass	7 am - 1 pm	Bulls Island Ramp
Sun.	10/12	Bass	7 am - 1 pm	Byram Ramp

ramp before the official tournament end time.

**Interpretation:** This rule was written to formalize the procedure for registering on the morning of a Club tournament, because it is not fair to the weighmasters to have to sacrifice their fishing time due to late arrivals. If on the way to a tournament you have a problem that will impact your arrival time, please contact the weighmaster or a Club officer or other member who can connect with the weighmaster before the start time of the tournament. Club officer phone numbers are listed on the back page of every newsletter.

**New Rule:** All fish must be alive at weigh-in and released after weigh-in – except for shad, invasive species, and dead fish (which must be disposed of according to state laws). Other than an invasive species, a dead fish cannot be culled. Other than the shad tournament, a dead fish will incur an 8-ounce penalty.

**Interpretation:** This rule was instituted primarily to clarify the treatment of invasive catfish species – flatheads and blue cats – in Club catfish tournaments. It means that anglers can catch, kill (per NJ fishing code requirements), and retain as many of those invasive catfish as necessary. If they choose to enter one of those invasive catfish for weigh-in, it will incur an 8-ounce penalty. If they choose instead to enter a non-invasive catfish species such as a channel cat or bullhead, that catfish will need to be weighed in live and released after weigh-in or it too will incur the 8-ounce dead-fish penalty.

However, according to a 2021 rule change, if a non-invasive species (i.e., channel cat or bullhead, largemouth or smallmouth bass) dies in their

live well, they cannot cull that fish and they will incur an 8-ounce penalty when that fish is weighed in. (NOTE: Shad have always been specifically exempted from the live weigh-in requirement.)

**New Rule:** All anglers participating in a tournament will accumulate points toward the Dave Bryant Angler of the Year competition. Those who do not weigh in a legal fish will earn 50 points toward the Angler of the Year standings.

**Interpretation:** This rule change was instituted to reward angler participation in tournaments, regardless of whether an angler is successful at weighing in a legal fish or not. Over the course of the year, only the top six tournament scores will count toward the Angler of the Year competition.

## What Does It Take To Become A DRFA Angler Of The Year?

The River News sat down with DRFA 2024 Angler of the Year, Scott McDonough, to recap his winning season and gain insight into his thought processes for earning the Club's top honor.

When discussing Scott McDonough's approaches to the various species, the recurring theme that kept shining through came down to one word: (that's right, Allen Iverson, we're talking about)...PRACTICE! Although Scott does not necessarily keep a formalized database on past fishing trips, he does rely on his memory of past experiences to target as many good fishing locations or scenarios as possible on tournament day.

In terms of the Angler of the Year competition, Scott says his overriding goal is consistency. Even though he only competed in

seven of the nine Club tournaments, he weighed a fish in each of those seven tournaments. The ability to drop the lowest point total from that seventh tournament had a big impact in pushing his year-long point total far ahead of the remaining competition.

"You can't win the Angler of the Year being good at only one of the three species that we fish for," Scott insists, citing the example of how the weight of a catfish can boost your total weight for the year and be an important tiebreaker in the top six scores for the annual competition. "You have to be good at even the catfish (or shad) because even if you do well in the bass tournaments, you can get beat by a tie with guy who got more weight and length in those catfish (shad) tournaments."

While Scott did well in locating fish on tournament days based on his past experiences, he did note how he had to make adjustments on two species that had limited him in past AOTY races – the shad and catfish tournaments. For example, he shifted his shad fishing location away from a more crowded spot a few years ago, and then modified his anchoring point this year to a pushout point near the newer location to score a shad in April's tournament. Without that shad, Scott would not have been able to replace his lowest score from the Spring Catfish Tournament.

When asked if he had used any new techniques or strategies this year, Scott reported that he basically relied on his past experience to target known spots and use baits that had worked well in comparable circumstances during previous practice and tournament fishing. That included using his standard garlic-



enhanced chicken livers for catfish tournaments and Z-man large and small TRD Ned Rigs, spinnerbaits, crankbaits, and topwater lures for the bass tournaments.

When asked about how often he 'practices' fishing before the tournaments, Scott notes that he tries to fish every weekend he can during the season. But he says he typically won't target a tournament location the last week before an event for fear of making the fish in that location hook shy.

All that time on the water – i.e. four to five hours of practice for every hour of competitive fishing – gives Scott a pretty good idea of where fish might be relative to seasonal, tidal, and structural conditions (i.e., weedbeds, laydowns) throughout the season. And he emphasizes how important it is to have different locations to target on both the incoming and outgoing tides.

Scott does note that when practice fishing, he makes a concerted effort to search for new spots, structures, weedbeds, etc. that can expand his fishing options come tournament day.

When asked if he was going to make a focused effort to repeat as Angler of the Year in 2025, Scott stated that he planned to fish as many tournaments as possible. But he recognizes that some of his toughest competition is usually fishing right from the back of his own boat. Still, Scott enjoys the friendly competition, whether it is with his friends in the DRFA tournaments or with a casual fishing partner.

## Fishing Guide Delivers New Perspectives On Shad, Striper Fishing

At the February meeting, Tim Keebler from Fin Seeker fishing guide service presented some new insights on Springtime shad fishing and year-round striper fishing in the non-tidal river.

**Shad.** Tim started his presentation with the basics of shad fishing. He stressed the need for shock absorption in any shad fishing tackle. He accomplishes that by using a fishing rod with some give and by complementing his use of braided line with a 20' shock leader and a good drag.

He uses flutter spoons ranging from size 0 to size 3, advocating downsizing as the water gets clearer. When flatlining, he gauges the distance and depth he is fishing behind the boat by counting the number of line pull lengths from his reel to the first guide. He will put out an array of rods with different lengths of line pulled out in order to pinpoint the depth where the fish are swimming, then once a specific depth hits consistently, he will adjust the rest of his rods closer to that level.

Tim covered a variety of rigs that can be used – split shot, an egg sinker and swivel, dropper loop, etc. – as ways of getting the flutter spoon or dart down to the depths that the fish are swimming upstream and the lines they are following. Those locations can range from current-break seams or 'bubble lines' for moving fish in the daytime, to pools or eddies behind rocks, ledges, or creek mouth shoals attracting resting fish as dusk falls or dawn arises.



*Here, Tim Keebler points out how to fish an egg-sinker rig, one of several rigging options he listed for targeting shad.*

One strategy Tim recommended for shore anglers or wading anglers is to cast out beyond the current seam of a resting hole and slowly reel in the weight and spoon to cross that seam at the right depth on its return. This is a good strategy for late day and early morning times when the shad are entering and leaving those resting areas.

**Stripers.** Once Tim's presentation turned to the topic of striper fishing, he addressed the precarious current position of the striper stock. He noted how many years it takes a male (*two to four years*) and a female striper (*four to eight years*) to reach reproduction stage and he cautioned anglers to handle stripers with care if they are not going to consume the fish.

Because stripers have no eyelids, they will tend to go deeper once the sun comes up. And because stripers prefer water temps between 52 and 68 degrees, Tim suggests anglers choose which side of the river they fish accordingly – sunny side in cooler water, shady side in warmer water. Tim uses these guidelines to target stripers in the non-tidal Delaware throughout the season and, yes, (*with proper*

*technique*) he catches fish all summer long.

According to Tim, stripers begin to enter the Delaware River anywhere from mid-February to early March. The big spawning females are the first to arrive because they tolerate the cold water better and can start actively feeding in water temps around 43 degrees (*which requires a slower presentation, such as a lazily swimming Danny plug*). Also, don't forget slow trolling in the tidal river.

By April to May, all sizes of stripers are in the river following the shad and herring run. Spawning takes place around 63 degrees and can be anywhere from Trenton all the way up to New York State. Tim offers the tip of fishing for the large upstream spawners (20-lb. and 30-lb. fish) on their way back from the upper reaches of the river heading back to the ocean – this can occur from July into October. The key is putting in your time and focusing on cooler/deeper waters, shady shorelines, and low-light conditions. Also consider using live bait (*eels, trout, large shiners fished on circle hooks*) which the stripers can readily take without having to chase. Tim fishes these under sliding floats exclusively in the slow-moving pools, not in fast water. He will often put out several rods on opposite sides of the boat and drift downstream alongside the floats in the deep slow-moving pools. Using a lighted float when fishing at night can add a degree of excitement to this technique when one of those lights suddenly disappears.

During mid-season, you can throw just about any lure you would throw in the surf – SP Minnows, topwaters, swing shads, and pencil poppers. Tim

likes to test two different color extremes on separate rods to determine which pattern the fish are on. He particularly recommends the Danny plug for swimming through smooth, slow water in the river. All that being said, 50% of the stripers caught on Tim's boat are taken on a loud, rattling, Tactical Angler Crossover Popper upgraded to VMC 4X hooks to withstand the weight and force of large stripers. In the late season, Tim says to consider going back to live bait (*circle-hooks only with live bait, of course*).

When it comes to finding stripers in the lower river, target any tidal creek or river that enters the Delaware, as well as bridges, big flats, and the Trenton Falls. In the non-tidal river target creek mouths, big rocks, rapids, wing dams, bridges, seams, pockets, and eddies.

According to Tim, no water is too fast and no lure is too big for stripers in the Delaware River. And when fishing from shore, finish your retrieve by bringing your lure right to your feet, forcing any following steeper to make a quick decision before the bait runs out of water depth.

If you are targeting the big stripers, especially when fishing from the shoreline, make sure you have sufficiently sized equipment to handle the larger fish or you will risk getting spooled. Tim uses 40-lb. braid and 20 to 30-lb. fluorocarbon leader material. Although Tim notes that fluorocarbon leader virtually disappears in the water, he warned that fluoro scraping against rocks will create a million facets that will refract light and defeat the purpose. Keep constant watch over the smooth finish of the leader and change it as soon as it becomes cloudy or gray.

Additional tips:

- If you are using a quick-clip snap connection, consider losing the split ring on the plug and connecting directly to the lure.
- Try fishing a live eel like a lure along or across the edge of a seam. The eel can be rigged with a small egg sinker on the leader between the barrel swivel connector to your main line and the bait on the hook. Also, you can use a sliding float (*even a lighted one at night*) to keep the eel swimming freely off the bottom.
- Baby Bass Magnum Super Flukes are a good color choice on the Delaware River.



Tim exhibited a wide array of lure styles and sizes. Note the small plastic zip-tie he uses to secure his plastic bait to a jighead at the bend of the hook. He claims it doesn't bother the stripers but it saves him about \$100 a year in ripped up baits.

If you are targeting larger stripers, Tim says to make sure you have a durable, appropriately sized net. From the shore, you can also use lip grippers. And if you do land one that you are not going to keep, be sure to take the time to revive the fish sufficiently

before release – especially in warmer summer waters. Tim emphasizes the need to hold the striper by the tail and not by the mouth as you float it back and forth in the water, so you don't impede the fish's ability to circulate fresh water through its gills.

You can follow Tim throughout the season on [Facebook](#), his [Facebook videos page](#), and [Instagram](#). Tim offered to provide up-to-date info for people who text him during the season. In return, all he asks for is some feedback and some pictures of the fish you catch.

For more insights, you can catch Tim in action through online resources such as [LehighValleyLive.com](#), the [Pocono Outdoors Guy](#), and the [Multi-Species Podcast #44](#).

## **Delaware River Named Pennsylvania's 2025 River of the Year**

*The following is excerpted from a press release posted on the [Pennsylvania Environmental Council](#) website on February 13, 2025.*

**Harrisburg, PA** – The Delaware River in eastern Pennsylvania has been selected by a public vote as the state's 2025 River of the Year, Department of Conservation and Natural Resources (DCNR) Secretary Cindy Adams Dunn and Janet Sweeney of the Pennsylvania Organization for Waterways and Rivers (POWR) announced today.

The Delaware River is of historical, recreational, and natural importance to the country. The river that marks Washington's crossing, the turning point of the Revolutionary War, it was crucial

in the industrial revolution, and now the Delaware River Port is the largest freshwater port in the world. While over 14 million people depend on the Delaware River for drinking water, the river itself was once so polluted that it turned the hulls of ships dark brown. However, thanks to the collaborative effort of government agencies and nonprofits, the health of the Delaware River has been restored. The river now holds more National Wild and Scenic designations than any other river and is home to the Delaware Water Gap National Recreation Area, one of the top 20 most visited National Park units in the country. Currently, many of the tributaries of the Delaware River are under study to become nationally protected under the Wild & Scenic program as well.

The Delaware River showcases a legacy of collaboration for environmental good, through the species it hosts, the communities that have been established around it, and the outdoor recreation it provides. As the PA 2025 River of the Year, the Delaware River would use the year to celebrate the power of collaboration, featured in collaboration with the Delaware River Sojourn which is celebrating its 30th anniversary in 2025.

The public was invited to vote online for the River of the Year, choosing from among three waterways nominated. A total of 8,037 votes were cast, with the Delaware River receiving 2,962, the Youghiogheny 2,784 and the Perkiomen Creek 2,291.

"POWR would like to commend everyone for their support of the nominated rivers, especially for the strong showing of support for the Delaware River," Sweeney said. "The River of the Year

program continues to engage our communities by providing a wonderful opportunity to showcase all the nominated rivers. The Delaware River as Pennsylvania's River of the Year, will be celebrated for its rich history, natural beauty, and ongoing efforts to protect and preserve this incredible resource for future generations."

Upper Delaware Preservation Coalition nominated the Delaware River and will receive a \$15,000 Leadership Grant to help fund a slate of year-long 2025 River of the Year activities. DCNR and POWR will work with them to create a free, commemorative poster celebrating the Delaware River as the 2025 Pennsylvania River of the Year.

Mark Zakutansky of the Appalachian Mountain Club and Chair of the Delaware River Sojourn Steering Committee shared the following remarks. "The Delaware River's recognition as Pennsylvania's 2025 River of the Year is a testament to the power of partnerships in conserving and celebrating this incredible waterway. From its pristine headwaters to its Wild & Scenic lower reaches and tidal waters, the Delaware River brings together communities, organizations, and agencies committed to protecting and enjoying its beauty. As we mark the 30th anniversary of the Delaware River Sojourn, we invite everyone to paddle its waters, discover its rich history, and join a vibrant community of river stewards. We extend our gratitude to the Pennsylvania Department of Conservation and Natural Resources and the Pennsylvania Environmental Council for this honor and for



championing the significance of our rivers.”

In cooperation with DCNR, selection of public voting choices was overseen by the Pennsylvania Organization for Watersheds and Rivers (POWR), an affiliate of the Pennsylvania Environmental Council (PEC).

Visit [DCNR's website](#) for more information on the River of the Year competition and check out DCNR's [Calendar of Events](#) for events on public lands.

#### About POWR

POWR is a statewide non-profit that aims to provide the tools, training, education, and resources that empower community watershed organization leaders and volunteers to protect and restore rivers and streams, advocate for sound water resource management and policies, and facilitate stewardship and enjoyment of Pennsylvania's waterways. POWR is an affiliate of the Pennsylvania Environmental Council. [Sign up](#) to receive monthly updates. Want to help us protect and restore our state? [Join us](#).

## Delaware River Basin Safeguards Sought

*This article contains excerpts from a page on the [Patch.com](#) website.*

U.S. Congressman Brian Fitzpatrick has introduced legislation to "ensure critical conservation efforts" for the watershed.

“The Delaware River is one of our nation’s most invaluable natural resources—providing clean drinking water to millions, fueling a thriving outdoor economy, and supporting critical ecosystems. This bipartisan reauthorization is about ensuring our progress doesn’t stop here. By investing in local conservation projects, improving water quality, restoring habitats, and expanding outdoor access, we are delivering real, tangible results for our communities. This is not just about protecting the river—it’s about protecting livelihoods, public health, and the economic future of our region. Every federal dollar invested leverages millions more, creating good-paying jobs and securing a more resilient Delaware River Basin for generations to come,” Fitzpatrick said.

Key provisions of the legislation include:

- Extending program authorization through 2032 to ensure long-term conservation and restoration efforts.
- Expanding the official definition of the Basin to include Maryland, officially recognizing its ecological and economic contributions to the watershed.
- Prioritizing projects that serve small, rural, and disadvantaged communities, ensuring equitable access to federal conservation resources.

The bill has earned the endorsement of the [Coalition for the Delaware River Watershed](#), highlighting its significance in protecting the region’s drinking water, wildlife habitats, and outdoor recreation economy.

***Please support our supporting business members listed on the [DRFA Website](#) and on the back page of every newsletter!***

#### Classified Ad

**For Sale:** A high-quality Orvis fly-fishing combo with an [Orvis Access 905-4pc Mid-Flex 5-wt. rod](#) and [Orvis Access Mid-Arbor III reel](#). Both were only used for practice casting and never even saw a stream or river. Owner is asking \$400 for the total combination of the rod, reel, and the storage cases for both. **Also available, FREE buck tails for fly-tying and jig-tying.** Contact Pete A2Z at 609-751-7545.



***Check the DRFA website or Tournament Hotline 267-934-2148 for potential changes the day before each DRFA Tournament.***





**The Delaware River Fishermen's Association**  
**PO Box 21145, Philadelphia, PA 19154**

**THE RIVER NEWS** is the bimonthly newsletter of the Delaware River Fishermen's Association. The DRFA typically meets the last Wednesday of each month, 7:00 pm, at the Silver Lake Nature Center, 1306 Bath Road, Bristol, PA. All interested sportsmen and women are invited to attend our meetings and join the organization.

### **Don't Forget These Supporting Members Who Help To Keep Our Club Afloat**

Remember our supporting business members who provide added financial support, share their fishing knowledge with our Club members, or support our Club and youth fishing efforts with their facilities or products. When we return that financial support by patronizing their businesses, be sure to make specific mention of our appreciation for them helping to fund our guest speakers and our tournament cash prizes. Without their support we would not be able to provide the same opportunities to our current members or to attract potential new members.

**Fin Seeker Fishing Guide** • Angling Adventures for all River Species • 215-262-4811 • [finseekerriverguide.com](http://finseekerriverguide.com)

**Shadillac Custom Fishing Lures** • Mustad hooks, hand painted, DRFSA endorsed • [shadillac@aol.com](mailto:shadillac@aol.com) • 267-251-5806

**Ed Scannapieco And Sons Plumbing, Inc.** • Complete plumbing services • Feasterville, PA, • [espinc2428@gmail.com](mailto:espinc2428@gmail.com) • 215-333-3006

**The Fegley Law Firm** • 301 Oxford Valley Rd, Suite 402A, Yardley, PA • Business, Employment & Personal Injury Law • 215-493-8287

**McKeown's Automotive Services** • 2525 Street Road, Bensalem, PA 19020 • State Inspection, Emissions • 215-639-4887

**Timothy Lang** • Custom-Crafted Fishing Rods and Rod Repairs • [achieftim@gmail.com](mailto:achieftim@gmail.com) • 609-548-8844

**Rusty Balls Tackle & Guide Service** • 2440 W Columbia St, Allentown, PA 18104 • [@rustyballsguideservice](mailto:@rustyballsguideservice) • 484-239-4723

**Pennsylvania Yacht Club** • 2189 State Road, Bensalem, PA 19020, 215-245-9883

**Silver Lake Nature Center** • 1306 Bath Road, Bristol, PA • 235 acres of woods, lakes, marshes & meadows, 4.5 miles of trails

We also recognize our Associate members – the [South Jersey Bass Club Association](#) and [Delaware Riverkeeper Network](#) – who both provide relevant information and additional fishing experiences for DRFA members.

**KEY CONTACTS:** *Tournament Hotline:* 215-809-4098 • *Email Address:* [DRFA\\_TheRiverNews@hotmail.com](mailto:DRFA_TheRiverNews@hotmail.com)  
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