

The River News

The Official Newsletter of the Delaware River Fishermen's Association

Vol. 35, No. 3

May – June 2023

Dan Wermuth Vaults Into AOTY Lead With Two First Place Finishes

With three Club Tournaments in the books, the standings in the annual Angler of the Year competition are starting to separate out a bit.

Sitting atop the leader board is Dan Wermuth with two first place finishes – one in the April Shad Tournament and one in the May Catfish Tournament. Gregg Southrey is only three points back in second place and Pete Antoniewicz is five points back in third place. *(See complete standings on Page 6.)*

At this point, no angler has weighed a fish in every tournament. Seven anglers have entered two fish each and another 11 anglers have weighed in one fish across all three tournaments. But remember, of the nine scheduled tournaments, only the best six finishes for each angler count in the final tally for the year. So there is still plenty of time for other anglers to move up in the competition.

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May Meeting Guest Speaker To Address Stripers, Smallies, Etc.

The scheduled speaker for the May DRFA meeting – Tyler Grabowski, a fisheries biologist for the Pennsylvania Fish and Boat Commission – will provide insights on a variety of topics.

Foremost will be the recently conducted research for this year's striper survey in the tidal river, but other species of interest to Delaware River anglers will be covered as well.

President's Message

To all club members and families, I hope everyone had a safe and happy holiday weekend. The spring spawn is coming to an end and the bass will be moving to the deeper water soon. It is almost time to change your strategy to stay on the bite.

It is also time to change the way you travel on the river from one spot to another. There will be more boaters on the river and more of those pesky jet skis buzzing around. Make sure of your surroundings, wear your PFD when the big motor is running, and keep your head on a swivel.

Be safe and enjoy the water.

Bob Jack

Minutes Of The March Meeting

After a pre-meeting presentation on shad fishing by Kevin Ingram, President Bob Jack opened the meeting at 8:20 pm with 23 members in attendance. The minutes from the February meeting were read and approved.

Treasury Report: Treasurer Eileen Kicinski's financial report

Important Dates

Wednesday, May 31, 7 pm.

Monthly Meeting at Silver Lake Nature Center. Fisheries biologist Tyler Grabowski will address a variety of species related to Delaware River fishing.

Saturday, June 17, 6 am.

Club Bass Tournament at Neshaminy Marina.

Wednesday, June 28, 7 pm.

Monthly Meeting at Silver Lake Nature Center. No guest speaker is yet scheduled.

Saturday, July 15, 6 am.

Club Catfish Tournament at Neshaminy Marina.

August (date to be

determined). Annual Raft

Float Fishing Trip to

Matamoras, PA. *(See separate article.)*

showed a balance of \$8,413.01 as of March 29. By comparison, the end-of-March balance in 2022 was \$9,061.75, a difference of \$648.74. Income generated by the Tackle Bag Raffle amounted to \$222.10 after ticket-printing and show-booth expenses. The Club would benefit from having one Outdoor Show Coordinator who can make sure we are appropriately prepared to minimize any surprise expenditures on the day of the show.

Membership: Membership Secretary Rick Mawson reported that with the addition of 8 new members, including those gained at the recent Bass Tournament, the tally was now up to 45 paid members.

Youth Activities: There was nothing new to report on Club Youth Fishing activities.

Tournaments: Scott McDonough recapped the results of the March Bass Tournament and the scheduling confusion related to weather and ramp conditions. Because the permit for the Neshaminy Marina ramp is only good for the one assigned day, the postponement due to poor weather conditions forced the tournament to be relocated. Members were reminded that in the future those decisions should be left to the Vice President / Tournament Coordinator. Scott also reminded members that the sign-in deadline for the tournament is before the designated start time (6 am or 7 am) and members should not expect to be registered if they

arrive after the weighmaster has departed to fish.

Scott also recruited weighmasters for the upcoming tournaments. They include Bryan Malkiewicz and Pete Antoniewicz for the April Shad Tournament, Gregg Southrey for the May Catfish Tournament, Rick Mawson for the June Bass Tournament, and John Pedrick for the July Catfish Tournament.

Old Business: Rick Mawson reminded members that we need help with the May 7th Family Fishing Day sponsored by the Silver Lake Nature Center. Members are asked to show up at 9 am to prepare the rods for the event which will take place from 11 am until 2 pm. The volunteer hours dedicated to this activity are an important factor in minimizing our costs for meeting space.

New Business: Rick Mawson notified members that our guest speaker for the April meeting would be Tim Keebler from Fin Seeker River Guide Service.

Environmental: John Pedrick recapped the recent spill of 8,100 gallons of the latex paint additive butyl acrylate into Otter Creek in Bristol. He recommended that if members are ever faced with that situation again they can look up the [Material Safety Data Sheets](#) for the chemicals involved.

Fishing Reports: Rick Mawson reported driving down the Delaware River from Martins Creek to Yardley that afternoon and only seeing one boat on the

whole trip after the recent rise in water levels.

Pete Antoniewicz reported fishing the tidal river two days in the week preceding the March Bass Tournament and said that he and his fishing partners caught bass in four of the six spots fished. Water temperatures fluctuated between 42 and 45 degrees depending on the time of day and tidal phase. The fish were taken on a variety of baits, including crank baits, jerkbaits, swim baits, and Ned rig plastics.

The winner of \$93 in the 50/50 drawing was Dan Wermuth. The meeting adjourned at 9:00 pm.

Minutes Of The April Meeting

After pre-meeting presentations from Captain Jack Kelly of Tow Boat U.S. and by Tim Keebler of Fin Seeker River Guide Service, Secretary Pete Antoniewicz opened the meeting with 23 members in attendance. The minutes from the March meeting were read and approved.

Treasury Report: In the absence of Treasurer Eileen Kicinski, Rick Mawson read the financial report showing a balance of \$8,432.01 as of April 26. By comparison, the end-of-April balance in 2022 was \$9,289.14, a difference of \$857.13.

Membership: Membership Secretary Rick Mawson reported that with the addition of five additional registrants, the club membership for the year is now up to 50 members. That includes

KEY CONTACTS: *Tournament Hotline:* 267-934-2148 • *Email Address:* DRFA_TheRiverNews@hotmail.com
 • *President:* Bob Jack, 609-760-0281 • *Vice President/Tournament Director:* Scott McDonough, 215-989-0153 •
Treasurer: Eileen Kicinski, 215-713-4951 • *Recording Secretary/Newsletter Editor:* Pete Antoniewicz, 609-751-7545 • *Membership Secretary/Webmaster:* Rick Mawson, 267-934-2148 • *Youth Activities Director:* Charles Bay, 609-744-8260 • *Tackle Bag Coordinator:* Pete Marcolina, 215-637-4555 • *Trustees:* Frank Beck, Harry Wirebach, John Pedrick, Gregg Southrey

9 new members for this calendar year.

Youth Activities: A discussion was held relative to the prospects for a Youth Fishing Derby this year, considering the low interest in recent years. Scott McDonough suggested sending an email inquiring about potential interest among members so we can plan accordingly at the May meeting.

Tournaments: Scott McDonough recapped the results of the April Shad Tournament. Scott reminded members that start time for the May Catfish Tournament at Gloucester City would be 6:00 am. Check-in will start around 5:15 am. Members should not expect to be registered if they arrive after the starting time and the weighmaster has departed to fish.

Old Business: Rick Mawson collected names of members volunteering to help with the May 7th Family Fishing Day sponsored by the Silver Lake Nature Center. The event will take place from 11 am until 2 pm but members are asked to show up at 9 am to prepare the fishing rods for the event. The volunteer hours dedicated to this activity are an important factor in minimizing our costs for meeting space.

New Business: Pete Antoniewicz announced that the guest speaker for the May meeting would be Tyler Grabowski, a fisheries biologist for the Pennsylvania Fish and Boat Commission. He will primarily address the status of striped bass and smallmouth bass fisheries on the Delaware. If time permits, he will also address walleye and muskie fishing and on fishing Lake Nockamixon.

Pete also made an appeal for an Outdoor Show Coordinator for this coming winter. Having one person focused on the details of

attendance can help us be most efficient in terms of expenses.

Pete related two recent opportunities for new member recruitment at local boat ramps and spoke of the value of having a couple blank membership forms in the truck to offer to anglers eager to learn more about fishing the river.

Bryan Malkiewicz is taking inventory and researching new sources for hats and shirts. If you need to upgrade or expand your wardrobe of DRFA gear, see Bryan at an upcoming meeting or tournament.

Dave Wermuth announced that there would be a Trout Derby open to senior citizens and local disabled persons on Saturday April 29 at the Borough Dam

pond in Fanny Chapman Park, Doylestown, PA.

Ron Soto reported that Dick's Sporting Goods in Oxford Valley has closed its fishing section.

Environmental: There were no environmental reports.

Fishing Reports: Ron Soto reported catching a 38" striper earlier on the day of the meeting. Rick Mawson reported that he and Joe Newton caught one 27" striper mixed in with catfish they caught that day as well.

Dave Wermuth reported catching three trout that same day in the Pennsylvania Canal around Yardley. He also reported lot of success during an earlier five-day trout-fishing trip in the area of the Pennsylvania Grand Canyon.

2023 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.)

There is also a voluntary \$10.00 lunger pool with a 100% payout to pool participants for the three heaviest pool fish – 60%, 30%, and 10% – at tournament's end.

New members may register on the morning of any of these events before check-in 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.

| <u>Date</u> | <u>Event</u> | <u>Time</u> | <u>Location</u> |
|-------------------|--------------|--------------|-----------------------|
| Sat.....6/17..... | Bass | 6 am - 12 pm | Neshaminy Marina |
| Sat.....7/15..... | Catfish | 6 am - 12pm | Neshaminy Marina |
| Sat.....8/12..... | Bass | 6 am - 12 pm | Gloucester City Ramp |
| Sat.....9/9 | Catfish | 6 am - 12 pm | Neshaminy Marina |
| Sat.....9/30..... | Bass | 7 am - 1 pm | Bulls Island, NJ Ramp |
| Sat.....10/28.... | Bass | 7 am - 1 pm | Byram, NJ Ramp |

Pete Antoniewicz reported catching an unusual ‘grand slam’ of bass, snakehead, perch, and shad while fishing the tidal river around Trenton and Biles Island the week before the meeting. Three of the bass were between 16” and 18” and the snakeheads were five or six pounds. He also reported on a one-day trip to the North Branch of the Susquehanna River where four anglers caught over 70 smallmouth bass, with the largest one just shy of 18” and many in the 14” to 16” range.

The winner of \$35 in the 50/50 drawing was Scott McDonough. The meeting adjourned at 8:44 pm.

March Guest Speaker Revisits Shad Fishing Tips And Insights

After giving several presentations to DRFA members in recent years, long-time shad angler Kevin Ingram returned to the DRFA with his latest shad fishing presentation just in time for the Club’s 2023 Shad Tournament.

Kevin brings 37 years of shad-fishing experience to the table. He identified several types of shad present in the Delaware River but concentrated on the larger American shad that is the focus of numerous anglers during its annual migration up the Delaware River from the Atlantic Ocean.

The images in Kevin’s presentation showed how the shad typically hug the bottom contour of the river, swimming in a narrow column heading upstream. A [video from the Roanoke River Partners](#), which Kevin played, captured the lifecycle of the American Shad in a nutshell.

The shad run is typically temperature sensitive, with the

fish starting to become more aggressive at hitting flutter spoons or darts as the water starts warming through the mid 40s. As in real estate, the key to intercepting migrating shad is location, location, location. While you can fish for them from the shore or from a boat, the key is being able to position your lure at the edge of a channel or seam where the shad are following an edge just off the hardest part of the current. For waders (*always wear your PFD*), prime locations include areas where the main channel passes close to the shoreline. As water levels rise, the fish will push closer to the bank to follow the path of least resistance.

One good consideration for locating a heavy cluster of fish coming through the river is the fact that they travel about 8 to 10 miles per day under normal conditions. This makes it practical to track hot fishing reports from downstream areas of the river (*or use the Shad Hotline 610-573-1231*) and then to focus on promising upstream spots – neckdown areas and channel edges – that are approximately 9, 18, 27, and 36 miles north of the initial fishing report location over the next four days.

Bridge abutments, wing dams, and areas where tributaries meet the river are all good locations to target fish that have been resting in the softer current overnight before moving upstream as the sun rises higher in the sky.

As far as tackle goes, Kevin recommends a 6-foot, six-inch rod with medium-light action and 6 to 8-lb. test line on a 2500-series reel. Shad darts can improve casting distance when fishing from the shoreline or wading, but flutter spoons typically fished straight out the

back of a boat can also be used from shore with the right amount of casting weight added. With either lure, the key is to get it down into the strike zone just above the bottom and just on the edge of the hardest current.

Flutter spoons can also be fished from a boat by:

- using downriggers in deeper water (*e.g., 10+ feet deep*);
- using a fixed-depth plug with tail hooks replaced by a swivel, a 30” leader, and flutter spoon;
- flatlining with split shot to get the spoon to the proper depth;
- or using a small diver disk (*e.g., Big Jon or Luhr Jensen*) that can be adjusted to run slightly left or right of the boat to cover more territory.

Whatever the rig, be sure to incorporate swivels to avoid line twist and put the weight above the swivel so as not to interfere with the action of the spoon.

As for color patterns, Kevin prefers silver spoons on a sunny day and gold spoons on a cloudy day. And while he’ll use an unpainted spoon in ultra-clear water, he recommends going to brighter neon colors as the water clarity deteriorates. As for the use of rattles in diving plugs used as a “poor man’s downrigger”, Kevin referred to [this You Tube video](#) from Chris Gatley.

Finally, when anchoring in cold Springtime waters, be sure to have at least 7 feet of anchor rope for every foot of water depth. Be sure to anchor under control – not just heave the anchor overboard – carefully feed the rope out, and make sure your grapple anchor is holding bottom before shutting off the motor. Avoid slack anchor rope that can entangle the lower unit of your outboard motor.

April Guest Speaker Provides Insights Into Shad, Striper, And Smallmouth Fishing On The Delaware

Our guest speaker at the April meeting, Tim Keebler of Fin Seeker River Guide Service, provided a recap on shad behavior and fishing tips gleaned from his nearly 40 years of experience with shad, striper, and smallmouth bass fishing. While he did cover information conveyed in prior-year shad presentations (*and available from archive copies of The River News*), Tim did include several new insights and nuances to provide even more perspective for DRFA anglers.

Shad. Here are some of the key points Tim made on shad behaviors:

- Shad enter the rivers in numbers as water temps push into the 40s and begin to spawn at water temps around 60 to 62 degrees. Spawning takes place from sundown to midnight in big, open eddies.
- The shad fry can reach 0.75” long in just a couple of weeks and be 1.5” to 4” long by the end of the summer when they start their journey to the ocean.
- Shad fry are an important part of the river ecosystem, providing forage for smallmouth bass, walleye, and holdover stripers.
- As micro-seiners, ocean-resident shad feed on zooplankton by straining the water as they swim, but during their river spawning migration they strike at flutter spoons or darts they perceive as blocking their way upstream.

After describing a typical shad setup of a 6-foot 6-inch rod with 6 to 10-lb. monofilament, Tim said that using braid is OK if you pair it with a slow action rod that can minimize the stress of the hook on the shad’s mouth as you play and reel them in after they are hooked.

Tim provided an interesting insight on adjusting to the right fishing depth when using a Big John dipsy diver rig designed for 2 mph current. He suggests using two pulls of line at the distance from the face of the reel to the first guide on the pole (*approx. 16” to 20” per pull*) for every foot of water depth. When running multiple lines, he suggests putting some lines a pull or two more or less than the “ideal” length. Tim doesn’t typically use downriggers until water depth reaches 8’ to 10’ or more in the area he is fishing.

While he acknowledges that the length to run a flutter spoon behind a downrigger clip is a subject for much debate, Tim does say to shorten that length as the river current slows, to prevent the spoon from falling to the bottom instead of remaining in the fish’s face as they swim along just off the bottom.

Dealing with debris is a common shad-fishing concern. Tim suggests using rubber bands higher up the line and leaving tag ends on the weights, swivels, and deep-running crankbait bodies or dipsy divers to collect as much debris as possible before it reaches the flutter spoon or dart. He also recommends keeping the rod angle low so that any debris collected is less likely to raise the bait as quickly as a line positioned at a high rod angle.

Stripers. Like shad, stripers are anadromous (*that is they live in salt water but come into fresh*

water to spawn). Males can participate in spawning as early as two to four years old, while the females usually start between four and eight years old. They prefer water temperature of 52-to-68-degree water for spawning. The juveniles will stay in the estuary two to four years before moving out to the ocean.

Because stripers have no eyelids, they cannot protect their eyes from bright lights but they are well conditioned to feed from dusk until dawn.

They can live to be 30 years old, so they deserve respect in terms of handling. Tim flattens two of the barbs on each treble hook on his lures to make it easier to release a striper safely and with minimal damage to the fish. And he reminds anglers to use in-line circle hooks, not offset circle hooks, for live bait such as eels or for cut baits.

If you are using a quick-change power clip to attach your line to a lure, Tim recommended removing the split ring on the nose of the lure and clipping directly to the lure. Having too much play between the line and the lure can kill the natural action of the lure. Tim also recommends replacing factory issued treble hooks on lures with something more substantial.

Smallmouth Bass. With their striped markings and the ability to adapt body color to match their surroundings, smallmouth are well-adapted as an ambush predator. Look for them near timber, rocks, eddies, seams, and pockets, concentrating on such areas closer to the banks in higher water. Tim’s recommended lures for smallmouth include square-billed crankbaits in river current, Ned Rigs, tubes, hair jigs, jerkbaits, and spinnerbaits.

For the hot summer months, Tim suggests trying the first deep hole below the rapids for larger smallmouth. And when shad fry are coming down the river in late Summer, try a plain silver popper (*about 2 inches long*) for good topwater action. During colder water periods, look for them in deeper pockets and use smaller profile baits.

Location, Location, Location.

Tim says that just about whatever species you are targeting – shad, smallmouth, stripers, walleye – seams, current beaks, pools, eddies, creek mouths, shelves, wing dams, bends, and pinch points are good focal points. According to him, there is no normal when it comes to river conditions as things are constantly changing in terms of flow, clarity, light penetration, etc. It is important to monitor river gages as conditions change and keep track of fishing success and locations at various water levels, flow rates, and conditions over time.

Youth Fishing Events Scheduled For This Weekend

Whether or not we get enough participation to hold our traditional DRFA Youth Fishing Derby, the NJ Fish and Wildlife's [Hooked on Fishing—Not on Drugs Program](#) offers multiple opportunities for our children, grandchildren, nieces, nephews, neighbors and friends to experience a group fishing event.

A series of June 3 events are scheduled in different counties throughout South Jersey – including Burlington, Camden, Gloucester, Mercer, and Salem Counties. Those specific events even on the state's Fish-For-Free day when youths 16 and over do not require a fishing license or

trout stamp. A June 4 event scheduled for Cumberland County will require licenses for participants 16 and older.

Event and registration information are available on the NJ Fish and Wildlife website at: <https://dep.nj.gov/njfw/fishing/ho-oked-on-fishing-not-on-drugs-youth-fishing-challenge/> Registration is through the specific local site host so check out the relevant information as soon as possible.

WANTED: Float Fishing Enthusiasts; No Experience Necessary

When was the last time you spent a day floating lazily downstream past some of the prettiest Delaware River scenery and through great fishing structure with dozens of eager smallies nipping at your baits? The opportunity will present itself once again in the form of the annual DRFA Raft Float Fishing Trip at some point in August.

The informal gathering convenes with anywhere from a half dozen to a dozen anglers coordinating carpools and renting three-man rafts from Kittatinny Canoe Outfitters to float the river from Staircase Rapids in New York to the Kittatinny base camp in Matamoras, PA. Either a Pennsylvania fishing license or a temporary New York state license are required.

The actual dates will be determined by weather, water conditions, and group availability. Inquire about details at the May, June, or July meetings or contact Pete Antoniewicz (609) 751-7545 for more information or to join our list for periodic updates as we get closer to the event.

From A to Z:

Lessons Learned: Was It Inevitable, Or Just Bad Luck?

For those who have heard the adage about motorcycles (*...It's not a matter of IF you'll drop your motorcycle, it's a matter of WHEN...*), does the same concept hold true for boats – or more specifically for trolling motors?

As an avid smallmouth bass fisherman, I've spent literally hundreds of miles using the thrust of my trolling motor as a sort of brake to slipstream slowly backwards through shallow, rocky water while picking apart rocky structure with pinpoint casts. And while I did have one shaft-crunching run-in with a giant submerged boulder on the Susquehanna River motoring forward about 15 years ago, I've never suffered a debilitating TM injury drifting backwards...until recently.

I could have been a case of overconfidence after having drifted the same stretch of river numerous times before over the past 20 years. Unfortunately, I did not realize that Mother Nature had rearranged the furniture in this particular stretch, pushing a lot more rock out farther from shore than in prior years. That made the original drift line more of a minefield than a clear path.

Lazily or overconfidently, I just assumed that this drift would be uneventful like so many before it. That is, until the first "*Clunk! Thwack! Bang!*" signaled something amiss. Sadly, the near-constant resistance prevented me from using my auto-stow feature fast enough to retrieve my TM from danger. The rest of the afternoon was spent coaxing my motor to steer with an unsettling

grinding sound that eventually played to the tune of \$1,000.

So, I guess the expensive lesson learned is to never (as in *NEVER*) trust the water to be the same as it was the last time you drifted it, and to always (as in *ALWAYS*) remind you back-deck fishing partner to keep their head on a swivel as well, to spot unexpected perils approaching your transom as you drift backward.

Do you have a “lesson-learned” story to help a fellow angler avoid trouble or have better fishing experiences? Contact ***The River News*** Editor Pete Antoniewicz at petea2z@mac.com to share it for the benefit of all.

| # | NAME | WEIGHT | LENGTH | POINTS |
|---|-----------------|--------|--------|--------|
| 1 | Dan Wermuth | 5.13 | 23.25 | 100 |
| 2 | Dave Wermuth | 4.58 | 22.00 | 99 |
| 3 | Bob Kuntz | 4.49 | 21.25 | 98 |
| 4 | Scott McDonough | 3.12 | 20.50 | 97 |
| 5 | Ron Soto | 2.25 | 19.00 | 96 |
| 6 | Casey McDonough | 2.19 | 18.50 | 95 |



Dan Wermuth 1st Place



Dave Wermuth, 2nd Place



Bob Kuntz, 3rd Place



Scott McDonough, 4th Place

April Shad Tournament Results

The fishing weather was beautiful but water levels had dropped to approximately 40% of the median flow rate for mid-April, making boater access and shad location more difficult. By the time of the 2 pm weigh-in, only 6 anglers out of a known 16 participants had brought a shad to the scales.

At the top of the list was the son-father team of Dan and Dave Wermuth who did well on numbers (*26 landed*) as well as size. Dan had a respectable 5.13-lb shad to capture first place, while Dave’s 4.58-lb. second-place shad edged out Bob Kuntz’s third-place 4.49-lb. fish.



Ron Soto, 5th Place



Casey McDonough, 6th Place

June 3 is a Fish-For-Free day in New Jersey.
Take an unlicensed friend fishing. Who knows, they might just become the newest DRFA member!

May Catfish Tournament Results

Overcast skies did not put a damper on the size of fish caught for most anglers participating in the Club's May Catfish Tournament. In all, 11 anglers brought a fish to the scales. The average size across all fish weighed in was an impressive 7.03 lbs.

| # | NAME | WEIGHT | LENGTH | POINTS |
|----|------------------|--------|--------|--------|
| 1 | Dan Wermuth | 12.87 | 28.00 | 100 |
| 2 | Gregg Southrey | 10.92 | 29.50 | 99 |
| 3 | George Hoffman | 9.66 | 26.75 | 98 |
| 4 | Rich Hoffman | 8.94 | 27.25 | 97 |
| 5 | Bryan Malkiewicz | 7.43 | 24.75 | 96 |
| 6 | Pete Antoniewicz | 5.67 | 23.50 | 95 |
| 7 | Frank Beck | 5.18 | 22.00 | 94 |
| 8 | Joe Newton | 4.95 | 23.00 | 93 |
| 9 | Rick Mawson Sr | 4.57 | 22.00 | 92 |
| 10 | Ron Soto | 4.32 | 21.00 | 91 |
| 11 | Dave Wermuth | 2.92 | 20.00 | 90 |

Dan Wermuth Vaults Into AOTY Lead With Two First-Place Finishes

With no angler having a chance at catching a fish in every one of the nine DFRA Club Tournament events, the standings hold plenty of opportunity for any of the 18 anglers currently on the board – and even those not yet on the board – to challenge for the top three spots in the 2023 competition.

Dan Wermuth definitely has an inside track on top position with his two first-place finishes, but a slip here or a slip there could open the door for anglers that have as few as 92 points in the current standings to move ahead.

That makes it important for all competitors to practice for and participate in the remaining six tournaments of the year.

| # | NAME | WEIGHT | LENGTH | POINTS |
|----|--------------------|--------|--------|--------|
| 1 | Dan Wermuth | 18.00 | 51.25 | 200 |
| 2 | Gregg Southrey | 12.99 | 44.50 | 197 |
| 3 | Pete Antoniewicz | 8.86 | 40.75 | 195 |
| 4 | Casey McDonough | 4.10 | 34.50 | 192 |
| 5 | Bryan Malkiewicz | 8.55 | 37.75 | 189 |
| 6 | Dave Wermuth | 7.50 | 42.00 | 189 |
| 7 | Ron Soto | 6.57 | 40.00 | 187 |
| 8 | Shane Seliga | 2.79 | 18.00 | 99 |
| 9 | George Hoffman | 9.66 | 26.75 | 98 |
| 10 | Bob Kuntz | 4.49 | 21.25 | 98 |
| 11 | Rich Hoffman | 8.94 | 27.25 | 97 |
| 12 | Scott McDonough | 3.12 | 20.50 | 97 |
| 13 | Patrick Baranowski | 1.84 | 15.00 | 96 |
| 14 | Devon Seliga | 1.64 | 14.00 | 95 |
| 15 | Frank Beck | 5.18 | 22.00 | 94 |
| 16 | Charles Bay | 1.54 | 14.25 | 94 |
| 17 | Joe Newton | 4.95 | 23.00 | 93 |
| 18 | Rick Mawson Sr | 4.57 | 22.00 | 92 |



Dan Wermuth, 1st Place



Gregg Southrey, 2nd Place



George Hoffman, 3rd Place



Rich Hoffman, 4th Place



Bryan Malkiewicz, 5th Place



Pete Antoniewicz, 6th Place



Frank Beck, 7th Place



Joe Newton, 8th Place



Rick Mawson, 9th Place



Ron Soto, 10th Place



Dave Wermuth, 11th Place

Next Tournament:
June 17th, 6 am
Neshaminy Marina



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.

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White Oak Ice Co. • 350 State Road, Bensalem, PA 19020 • Self-Service Crushed Ice, Blocks of Ice • 215-639-1080.

Tow Boat US • 32 Kirkwood Circle, Brigantine, NJ 08203 • Delaware River Service Package Available • 609-517-2822

Rusty Balls Tackle & Guide Service • 2440 W Columbia St, Allentown, PA 18104 • [@rustyballsguideservice](https://www.instagram.com/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.

Access additional timely info at www.drfishermen.com