

# The River News

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

Vol. 32, No. 6

November/December 2020

## Scott McDonough Captures AOTY Award; 2021 Elections Postponed

Because of the potential for scheduling to be complicated by changing COVID-19 regulations, please confirm all Club events, times, and locations on the DRFA website prior to the event.

**Members are encouraged to pass along updates to friends in the Club who do not have online access. Members without online access can also call the Tournament Hotline for updates.**

### Notes From October Meeting Discussion; Elections Postponed

Due to extremely low attendance at the October meeting, the elections and the regular monthly meeting were postponed. Instead, the nine members in attendance continued the September discussion on ideas for improving the Club experience for existing members and for increasing membership to improve competition and the long-term success of the Club.

Club members reported that the

DRFA Facebook page has been updated by Mike Zerumskas and Mike Nucero. Only Club members are able to post to the page. Members can request access by visiting the page and clicking the button there. The goal is to use the page to promote Club tournaments in hopes of getting more attention from local anglers looking to compete.

Several ideas were discussed at the October gathering in an attempt to boost regular Club membership. One is to work through Delaware Valley boat dealers to offer some sort of trial memberships to people who are purchasing new fishing boats. The idea is to entice new members with some sort of offer that allows tournament participation and limited access to Club resources on a free or discounted basis. One example is a half-year, free membership that would give individuals three bi-monthly newsletters (electronic format only), and allow them to participate in any Club tournaments until June 30 (but without accruing points toward the Angler of the Year competition). Another option would be to offer full memberships at a discounted basis for the first year only – \$15 for an individual member and \$20 for a family membership. Another idea was to provide a \$10 rebate to any existing DRFA member who sponsors a new fully paid member.

In other discussions, it appears that the DRFA will not participate in any outdoor shows this winter. The only show that anyone had heard about being scheduled was a Delaware River Shad Fishermen's event being moved

### **Important Dates**

**Monthly Meeting**  
**Wednesday, November 25, 7:00pm:** Scheduled to be held at the Silver Lake Nature Center. Masks are required for members in attendance. Nominations and elections for the 2021 slate of officers and trustees are scheduled to be completed at this meeting. (*See separate article.*) With the constantly changing COVID-19 situation, check the DRFA website in the days before the meeting to confirm that the meeting is still on. If the meeting hall is not available, or if attendance is low again, the elections will have to be postponed again.

**December Monthly Meeting,  
To Be Determined.**

If COVID-19 regulations in the state of Pennsylvania permit, a December meeting is anticipated to be held on Wednesday, December 30, in place of the Holiday Party, which was cancelled due to lack of interest. Check the DRFA website in the days before the meeting to confirm.

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to a New Jersey venue to accommodate COVID-19 restrictions, but there was no mention of the event on that Association's web site as of mid-November.

DRFA members are reminded to renew their dues early so they do not miss any 2021 newsletters. A membership application form is available in this month's newsletter and another will be available in the January newsletter. Members and other interested parties can also access a 2021 form from the DRFA website.

The 50/50 drawing held at the end of the evening went to Dave Wermuth who earned \$25.

## September Meeting Minutes

The September meeting of the DRFA was held on 9/30/20 at the Silver Lake Nature Center, with 16 members in attendance. Rick Mawson called the meeting to order at 7:05 pm. Minutes from the previous month's meeting were read and approved.

**Treasurer Report:** The balance as of the meeting date was \$9,258.53.

**Nominations:** The floor was opened to nominations for the 2021 calendar year. Additional nominations can also be made at the October meeting, before the election vote. As of the September meeting, the nominations were as follows:

- **President:** Scott McDonough
- **Vice President/Tournament Coordinator:** Bob Jack
- **Treasurer:** Eileen Kicinski
- **Secretary:** Pete Antoniewicz
- **Membership Secretary:** Rick Mawson

- **Trustees:** (4 to be elected) Joe Newton, Scott McDonough, Chick Bay, Pete Marcolina, Gregg Southrey.

**Youth Activities:** Members discussed the Family Fishing Day event to be held at the Silver Lake Nature Center on Saturday October 10. Rick Mawson was to contact Patty at SLNC for a headcount and to buy an appropriate amount of bait for the event. John Pedrick was to contact the PFBC about their potential participation. Other members who volunteered to help included Mike Zerumskas, Bob Jack, John Pedrick, Chick Bay, Joe Newton, Mike Nucero, and Scott Fegley (for setup only). Members were asked to meet in the parking area at 8:30 am. The group was to determine how many of the 40 remaining donated fishing rods the Club would hand out, perhaps on a drawing basis.

**Tournaments:** Discussion was held about the Club representatives for the SJBCA Bass Bowl event to be held on October 18 at the Northeast River. Chick Bay was to submit the names for the following DRFA teams: Scott and Casey McDonough, Joe Newton and Rick Mawson, and Mike Nucero and Patrick Baranowski.

The Club tournament for October 24 was switched to the Bulls Island ramp now that that facility has reopened to the public. The starting time was switched to 7:30 am because of the late sunrise time at this point of the year.

**New Business:** Club members discussed the potential for holding our Annual Holiday Party at Georgine's in December. The proposed date was December 16. Rick Mawson was to send out an email to gauge member interest under the limitations of the

COVID-19 situation. Our regular room would be limited to 25 socially distanced attendees. If the adjacent room was still available, that could be raised to 50.

**Fishing Reports:** John Pedrick reported on some slow saltwater action during his vacation in the Ocean City area. Fishing was limited to small flounder and blues until the last day of his stay, when baitfish moved into the area and brought larger stripers and blues with them.

Rick Mawson and Joe Newton reported five bass from Lake Nockamixon on September 28, although the competition from the natural bait on the water (Spotted Lantern Flies) was tough to beat.

Mike Nucero reported catching six bass at Van Sciver Lake (including a 5-pounder) while pre-fishing for a tournament.

**Club Promotions:** Members discussed a variety of ideas for boosting interest and membership in the Club for the coming year.

We need someone to take responsibility for coordinating any show events in the future (e.g. Saltwater Angler Flea Market, Hemlock Seminar, Oaks Expo Center), whether there are any events in 2021 or beyond.

Members discussed potential speakers for future meetings and were encouraged to coordinate with a Board Member if they knew of someone who was willing to present to the Club. It was also discussed how to coordinate internal discussions on member fishing preferences and experiences on those days when a speaker is not available.

Other points of discussion included reaching out to fishing boat dealers to reach potential new members with a trial-membership of some type. Mike

Nucero and Mike Zerumskas were to explore a practical way to use a public Facebook Page to attract new members, and perhaps raise stakes at Club tournaments to promote new participation. Another suggestion was to open the Club website to reach more prospects.

The meeting ended with the 50/50 drawing for \$28, won by Rick Mawson.

## **DRFA Results From 2020 SJBCA Bass Bowl**

Six anglers from the DRFA represented the Club at the South Jersey Bass Club Association's annual Bass Bowl competition held on October 18 at the Northeast River at the head of the Chesapeake Bay in Maryland. After finishing in the top spot last year, the Club fell eight places in this year's competition, weighing in three bass totaling 7.24 pounds. All three fish were caught by the father-and-son team of Scott and Casey McDonough. Other teams representing the Club included Joe Newton/Rick Mawson along with Shane Seliga/Pat Baranowski.

The winning team for the event weighed in an 11-fish total of 25.73 pounds. In all, 25 boats competed, weighing in 68 bass totaling 122.52 pounds. (1.80-lb. average). The lunker winner's big fish was 4.96 lbs.

## **Club Holiday Party Cancelled For 2020**

Because of a low response amid complications related to the COVID-19 situation, the Club's normal Holiday Party will not be held in 2020. At this point, the Angler of the Year presentation normally made at the Holiday Party will be switched to the December 30 Club meeting if conditions allow.

## **From A to Z: Good Riddance To An Unforgettable 2020**

Just like the rest of the world, the DRFA suffered through 10 months of uncertainty and disruption due to the COVID-19 situation. Cancelled tournaments, youth events, and meetings, and postponed elections were just part of the scene. Fortunately, we were able to get some fishing in during the summer and the competition and camaraderie at those Club events was a welcome sign of approaching normalcy. With positive news of effective vaccines becoming more prevalent, there's hope that we will be able to return toward more normal Club activities at some time during 2021, even if there are some lingering restrictions or safety guidelines.

One of the more encouraging aspects to me has been some of the discussions at recent meetings. Members have shared ideas about things we might try to encourage new membership, better competition at Club tournaments, and better fishing education at meetings. I can hardly wait to see us return toward more normal activities to see how it all plays out. In the mean time, I hope we all stay safe, stay healthy, and enjoy the holidays the best we can under the circumstances.

## **Share Something, Learn Something**

In an effort to add value to future meetings where a guest speaker is not available, the Club will entertain the use of internal discussions based around Club member fishing preferences.

The intent is not to have individual members share specific fishing locations, but to develop a

representative consensus of popular baits and techniques – by species, by season – as a way to encourage new and existing members to gain more confidence and perhaps increase tournament participation.

One way to accomplish this would be to conduct an online survey that would allow members to choose from a roster of options on fishing technique and lure preferences, as well as fishing structures and/or depths for different species or conditions.

The survey results could be informative for anglers who do not share the same perspectives as the majority of other Club members, and could be a good starting point for discussions among members at the end of a business meeting.

## **Silver Lake Family Fishing Day Results**

On Saturday, October 10, 35 youngsters ranging from 3 to 14 years old, plus nine DRFA members, spent several hours sharing fishing experiences at the Silver Lake Nature Center (SLNC) Family Fishing Day.

Club members met early in the morning to prepare the SLNC fishing rods. Then once the event started, they manned different stations to show the youth how to cast, bait a hook, and catch some fish in the lake. The hours dedicated to running the event are used to defray the cost of using the Silver Lake Nature Center building for the Club's monthly meetings.

Frank Beck and Chick Bay aided in casting lessons with both closed-face and open-face spinning reels. Pete Marcolina was the worm wrangler. And Rick Mawson, Bob Jack, and Mike Zerumskas aided the young

anglers at the lake. Harry Wirebach, John Pedrick, and Joe Newton also participated.

Random drawings were held during the course of the event to give away twenty fishing rods donated by Cabelas. The leadership from the SLNC was very appreciative of the Club's efforts and the participating members received many thanks from parents and children who enjoyed the event.

Below is a write-up from the LevittownNow.com website, where members can go to see pictures of the event in the story written by Maxwell Reil.

[http://levittownnow.com/2020/10/12/life-lessons-taught-at-family-fishing-day-at-silver-lake-nature-center/?fbclid=IwAR2sTBdljhQ7u7LiHDBazTtmtmPqlLBZuOxn-zRwtNhwcAh\\_wJCBM\\_LZlo](http://levittownnow.com/2020/10/12/life-lessons-taught-at-family-fishing-day-at-silver-lake-nature-center/?fbclid=IwAR2sTBdljhQ7u7LiHDBazTtmtmPqlLBZuOxn-zRwtNhwcAh_wJCBM_LZlo)

#### ***Life Lessons Taught At Family Fishing Day At Silver Lake Nature Center***

Parents and their children were standing in the shallow end of Silver Lake on Saturday.

With rods in their hands, the kids were casting into the lake, trying to avoid lily pads in hopes that a bite would soon follow.

For a while, it was fairly quiet, other than the occasional parent chit-chat serving as white noise in the background. But around 1:30 p.m., Andrew Gingrich, of Langhorne, screamed with excitement.

"I got it," he exclaimed to his mother, holding his rod with a flopping Bluegill attached to the end of his line.

The celebration was one of many as Silver Lake Nature Center in Bristol Township hosted its free Family Fishing Day. The event took place at Silver Lake, just down the road from Silver Lake's

visitors center on Bath Road.

Silver Lake Nature Center hosted the event and the Delaware River Fishermen's Association sponsored the six-hour activity. According to the nature center, the fishermen association is a "symbiotic organization" that meets at Silver Lake on the last Wednesday of each month. The event is a way for the fishermen to provide their expertise and give back to Silver Lake as well as the community.

Kids were taught how to tie a bobber to their string, they were taught how to tie the hook to their string and they were given lessons on how to cast by casting their string into hula hoops on the grass near the lake.

Jerry Kozlansky, director of Silver Lake Nature Center, said the point of the event was to educate families who may not know how to fish.

"These parents want the kids to learn how to fish and maybe they don't have the knowledge themselves or the skill set and so we and the fishermen's association can provide them with this opportunity," he said.

When it came COVID-19 protocol, Kozlansky couldn't think of a better sport to practice in a year of social distancing.

"The funny thing about fishing is that fishing poles are typically 5 feet long, so physically you're going to have to be distanced from the other person on the lake," he said.

And as families avoid movie theaters and shopping malls, they are now exploring more nature centers like Silver Lake. Kozlansky said the amount of people who are visiting the center to fish or hike has gone up 300 percent from 2019.

"It's a wonderful thing and I'm hoping it sticks and people get a taste of nature. Hopefully, when this pandemic is over they won't forget that," he said.

Amber Ovens, of Croydon, said she couldn't be more grateful that events like Family Fishing Day are available.

"It's great to bring the community and the kids together and to educate them. And I don't know much about fishing so it's nice that the fishermen are here to help teach my son and the other kids," Ovens said.

Andrew Gingrich's mom Alison agreed.

"They're teaching my son and daughter things I wouldn't be able to do, and the fact that it's a free event that's wonderful. This center is well-staffed and ready to help. It's just great," said Gingrich, of Langhorne.

Along with a fishing education, the children won raffles with prizes that included free fishing rods to take home.

After Andrew Gingrich let his Bluegill back into the water, luck struck twice in the family as Alexa reeled in another Bluegill, jumping and smiling towards her parents.

About 10 yards down the lake, 10-year-old Joshua Berko, of Philadelphia, stood in the water and cast his rod.

Standing patiently, he looked out on the water saw his bobber submerge.

"What should I do," he asked the fisherman assisting him.

"Just reel it in," he responded.

A lifelong lesson being learned on Saturday afternoon at Silver Lake.

## October Bass Tournament Results

The October 24 Bass Tournament out of the Bulls Island State Park Ramp was a case of feast or famine, much like most of the 2020 tournament season. The top two finishers entered impressive late-season fish, while most of the rest of the field struggled to get on the board with anything above the one-pound mark.

With an 89-point lead in the Angler of the Year competition heading into the tournament, Scott McDonough only needed to weigh in a legal fish to cement the title. Instead, he put an exclamation mark on it by submitting a 3.31-lb. smallie measuring 18.75". Joe Newton also far outdistanced the rest of the field with his 2.88-lb. smallie, but it was no match for Scott's entry. Eight anglers in all weighed in fish to bring the hit-and-miss season to a close.

#	Name	Points	Weight	Length
1	Scott McDonough	100	3.31	18.75
2	Joe Newton	99	2.88	18.00
3	Mike Nucero	98	1.55	15.00
4	Rick Mawson Sr	97	1.45	14.25
5	Pete Antoniewicz	96	1.15	14.00
6	Ron Soto	95	1.14	13.00
7	George Hoffman	94	1.09	13.00
8	Casey McDonough	93	1.00	12.75



Mike Nucero, 3<sup>rd</sup> Place



Ron Soto, 6<sup>th</sup> Place



Rick Mawson, 4<sup>th</sup> Place



George Hoffman, 7<sup>th</sup> Place



Scott McDonough, 1<sup>st</sup> Place



Pete Antoniewicz, 5<sup>th</sup> Place



Casey McDonough 8<sup>th</sup> Place



Joe Newton, 2<sup>nd</sup> Place

## Angler Of The Year Final Standings

With multiple early season cancellations due to the COVID-19 pandemic, there were only six tournaments for the year, so the ‘top six’ tournament scores that count toward the final Angler of the Year standings ended up being every tournament entry each angler could muster. Scott McDonough locked up the top spot the old fashioned way – by entering a legal fish in every tournament. Scott ended up being the only angler to do so, with each of the next three anglers in the standings – George Hoffman, Mike Nucero, and Casey McDonough – managing five tournament entries for the season.

For his efforts, Scott will take home a personal plaque and a \$150 check. George earns the second-place finisher’s \$100 check. Mike takes the third-place prize of \$75.

The Dave Bryant Angler of the Year Award is named in memory of Dave Bryant, a DRFA founding member and a past president of the Club.

Given that the Holiday Party has been cancelled for 2020, the awards will be presented at the December 30 meeting or at a future meeting if that December gathering cannot be held for any reason.

#	Name	Points	Weight	Length
1	Scott McDonough	579	20.06	111.25
2	George Hoffman	484	21.99	96.75
3	Mike Nucero	482	8.30	68.00
4	Casey McDonough	478	11.50	80.25
5	Rick Mawson Sr.	376	11.54	72.75
6	Patrick Baranowski	375	9.95	68.00
7	Gregg Southrey	287	10.41	61.50
8	Joe Newton	284	7.61	50.75
9	Pete Antoniewicz	195	2.45	28.25
10	Charles Bay	192	9.43	45.75
11	Frank Beck	191	8.84	45.00
12	Ron Soto	191	5.88	35.25
13	Richard Hoffman	180	9.82	45.75
14	Devon Seliga	179	4.66	35.00
15	Anthony Seliga	177	5.56	39.75
16	Shane Seliga	169	4.10	33.25
17	Bob Bern	97	4.47	23.25
18	Paul Bern	96	4.35	22.50
19	Rick Gasper	95	4.24	23.00
20	Michael Brennan	92	4.14	23.00
21	Kenneth Brennan	91	3.60	21.00
22	Justin Jack	90	2.25	19.00
23	Pete Marcolina	88	3.42	21.50
24	Harry Wirebach Jr	86	1.07	15.00
25	John Pedrick	85	3.06	20.00
26	Joshua Jack	84	2.89	19.50
27	Bob Jack	81	1.90	18.00

## The Delaware River Fishermen's Association 2021 Membership Application



### Indicate type of membership and dues amount enclosed:

- Individual Membership: \$25.00  
 Family Membership\*: \$30.00  
 Supporting Business Membership: \$50.00

### Every membership includes:

- Access to the password protected Member Services section of the DRFA website
- 6 Issues of the DRFA Bimonthly newsletter (*The River News*) (Select one:  Hardcopy  Electronic Copy)
- Access to our member forum for posting fishing reports, announcements, events, sale items and more
- Eligibility in all 9 DRFA Club tournaments (*100% payout day of tournament*)
- Eligibility for the annual Dave Bryant Angler of the Year Award (*1<sup>st</sup> Place = plaque + \$150 cash, 2<sup>nd</sup> = \$100, 3<sup>rd</sup> = \$75*)

### **Mail completed form with check made payable to:**

The Delaware River Fishermen's Association  
 Membership Secretary  
 PO Box 4739  
 Philadelphia, PA 19134

**For more information, contact our Membership Secretary at [www.drfishermen.com](http://www.drfishermen.com)**

Primary Member Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Date of Application: \_\_\_\_\_

Additional individuals qualifying under a Family Membership\* to fish in DRFA Club tournaments (list full names):  
 \_\_\_\_\_  
 \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

City: \_\_\_\_\_ State: \_\_\_\_\_ Zip: \_\_\_\_\_

E-Mail Address\*\*: \_\_\_\_\_

Home Phone: \_\_\_\_\_ **Circle One:** Renewing Member or New Member

Do you own a boat? \_\_\_\_\_ Favorite fish? \_\_\_\_\_ How many days a month do you fish? \_\_\_\_\_

### **Check and either or both conditions that apply in this area, and sign below:**

- I give permission for the DRFA to publish my primary member information in its directory, for use in Club matters.  
 I also give permission to allow DRFA supporting businesses and business members to use my address or E-mail to provide promotional offers.

### **Or check and sign below to be excluded from both the member directory and any promotions by supporting businesses or DRFA business members:**

- I DO NOT give permission for the DRFA to publish the above information in its member directory.

By signing this application, I do hereby declare that I will indemnify and hold harmless The Delaware River Fishermen's Association, its officers, members, and sponsors, from any and all claims for injury and/or damage that may occur, or may be incurred in conjunction with any and all Club activities.

Primary Member's Signature: \_\_\_\_\_

\* For tournament participation, family memberships include the primary member and an adult spouse/partner residing at that address, plus any related children up to the age of 16, no matter where those children live. Grandchildren (*up to the age of 16*) of any DRFA member who purchases a family membership also qualify under that individual's family membership, no matter where those grandchildren live.

\*\* Email Address must be included so you can register online to gain access to the Member Services area of the DRFA Web Site.

**The Delaware River Fishermen's Association**  
**P.O. Box 4739**  
**Philadelphia, PA 19134**



## **NOVEMBER-DECEMBER 2020 ISSUE**

- **TOURNAMENT RESULTS**
- **MEETING COVERAGE**
- **SCHEDULE ADJUSTMENTS**
- **2021 MEMBERSHIP FORM**

*Also visit our website*  
**[www.drfishermen.com](http://www.drfishermen.com)**

**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 and join the organization.

### **PLEASE SUPPORT OUR SUPPORTING BUSINESS MEMBERS!**

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**The Fegley Law Firm** • 301 Oxford Valley Rd, Suite 402A, Yardley, PA • Business, Employment & Personal Injury Law • 215-493-8287  
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**Gasper Contracting** • Where your home ideas become reality • Philadelphia, Montgomery & Bucks Counties • 215-805-7360  
**Mc Keown's Automotive Services** • 2525 Street Road, Bensalem, Pa 19020 • State Inspection, Emissions • 215-639-4887  
**The Ike Foundation** • 625 N Main Street, Elmer, NJ 08318 • Our mission is to get more kids fishing and in the outdoors.  
**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 • 484-239-4723  
**Silver Lake Nature Center** • 1306 Bath Road, Bristol, PA • 235 acres of woods, lakes, marshes & meadows, 4.5 miles of trails

### **Associate Members**

South Jersey Bass Club Association  
Delaware Riverkeeper Network

*Visit [www.drfishermen.com](http://www.drfishermen.com) for more information.*