

Tight Lines

The Official Publication of the Virginia Bass Chapter Federation

WINTER Edition 2026



In this Edition:

- 2026 Team Trail Schedule
- Chickahominy River – East Regional Results

**Scott & Dylan Whitmore
East Regional Champions**

Purpose of the Virginia Bass Chapter Federation

The Federation is established to preserve and promote the sport of angling largemouth bass, smallmouth bass, and spotted or Kentucky bass, herein known as Bass; to introduce youth to the sport of fishing; to conserve water and other associated natural resources; to work for an abundant, healthy and self-sustaining bass fishery where a natural potential exists; and to support the local, state and national agencies which conserve and manage the fresh water sport fishery and other associated resources.



Goals of the Virginia Bass Chapter Federation

The Federation, shall, in its operations, pursue the goals of organizing and conducting competitive fishing events which adequately provide for the needs of the bass and the angler; to establish live release of bass to their habitat as an integral part of sport fishing; promote realistic conservation of natural resources and causing adoption and enforcement of adequate water quality standards; of educating the membership in citizen involvement in the process of government; of supporting and cooperation with fishery management agencies and educational institutions in development of good fisheries for the future; of encouraging youth involvement in sport fishery and leading the chapters in organizing and conducting youth participation activities; of promoting public awareness of the Federation's purposes, goals, and activities; of timely and efficient communications with the membership through a regular published newsletter; of gaining new members and new chapters to TBF and the Federation; to generate revenues sufficient to conduct the programs of the Federation; of reducing the hazards of boat operation and sport fishing; of supporting the non-profit purposes and goals of TBF; and other such goals as may be established for the chapters and the committees of the Federation.

For more info, go to www.vabass.com or visit us on facebook at "Virginia Bass Chapter Federation"

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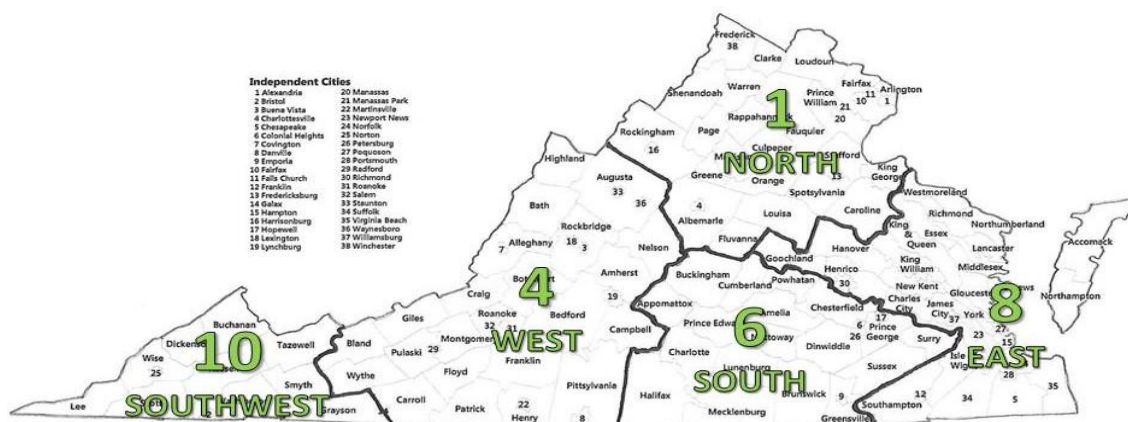
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Virginia Bass Chapter Federation Regions



Presidents Corner

Scott Whitmore

As we close out 2025, I hope everyone had a safe holiday season and were able to spend time with your families. We culminated the 2025 season with the TBF District 12 National Semifinal in Moundsville, WV on the Ohio River that saw 17 teams from Virginia compete for a chance to advance to the 2026 TBF National Championship on Pickwick Lake in Florence, Alabama, March 18-20. Brad Huddleston and Mark Elliot will join our Angler/Co-angler of the year Rick Mills and Chris Mills where they will compete for well over \$400,000 in cash and prizes. We kicked off the first tournament of the 2026 season with the East Regional October 25th on the Chickahominy River.

As we started the 2026 season we have some new awards. The Angler who catches the largest bass after all state tournaments are over will win a large Lunker of the year plaque along with a cash prize. The next new item is the Team that weighs in the smallest "5" fish limit at each tournament will win \$200.00.

That takes us to our 2026 season as you will see later the State Regional tournament schedule will fire back up on March 14th and will conclude with the National Semifinal the weekend of September 26-27th on Lake Anna. Coming up first for the Federation in 2026 is the Richmond Fishing Expo January 16th-18th. As usual we will have our large booth hosting the 2026 Virginia Reel Kids Casting State Championship. Along with this we will have our usual raffle table and merchandise table. It takes a lot of people for us to put on this event and we welcome any time you can volunteer to help. This is an important event for our Federation to showcase who we are and what we do. Many of our sponsors are also at this event and it gives you an opportunity to support them. As usual Les has a tremendous line up of Vendors and several of the Top Tier Professional Anglers there sharing their knowledge so come out and support this great show.

The board continues to work hard with existing sponsors and new ones. We have some of the best sponsors in the industry and they help us bring our Membership a very good tournament trail. If you have anyone that you feel may be interested in advertising in Tightlines, all you have to do is give one of our Directors or myself their contact information and we will follow up with them. When you visit the businesses of our Sponsors please take a minute to thank them for their support.

Be on the lookout for our 2026 winner takes all Raffle tickets that you Directors have for distribution. This year the raffle will be for a 20 gun Winchester Safe, Savage 30/06 Rifle, Winchester SXP 12ga Shotgun and a .40cal Smith and Wesson pistol. One ticket wins all four items. The drawing will be June 5th at the State Championship Pre-tournament meeting.

In closing I would like to thank the entire Virginia Bass Chapter Federation staff for all their hard work throughout the year. Without your efforts we could not run this trail and bring our members a 100% payback tournament circuit. I look forward to seeing everyone at the Richmond Fishing Expo.

Scott

Schedule of Events

2026

January 4	Board Meeting (South Hill)
January 16-18	Richmond Fishing Expo (Doswell, VA)
March 14	West Regional – Smith Mountain Lake
March 14	SAF/High School & TBF Junior Angler State Championships – Smith Mountain Lake
April 4	South Regional – Lake Gaston, Holly Grove Marina
May 2	Board Meeting (Lake Anna)
May 2	North Regional – Lake Anna, Sturgeon Creek Marina
June 6-7	Team Trail State Championship – Chickahominy River
August 23	Board Meeting (South Hill)
September 25-27	District 12 TBF National Semi Final – Lake Anna, Sturgeon Creek Marina
October??	First Team Trail Tournament of the 2027 Season - TBD
November 8	Board Meeting (South Hill)



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Tightlines Magazine Editor.

While very attempt will be made to give notice, advertising rates are
subject to change without notice. Send all contributions and
correspondence to the **Virginia Bass Chapter Federation President**,
Scott Whitmore, 757-707-7631

Email: stratos.22225@gmail.com

"Tightlines" Input Deadline Schedule:

Spring Issue.....	March 15 th
Summer Issue.....	June 15 th
Fall Issue.....	September 15 th
Winter Issue.....	December 1 st

For more info, go to www.vabass.com or visit us on facebook at "Virginia Bass Chapter Federation"

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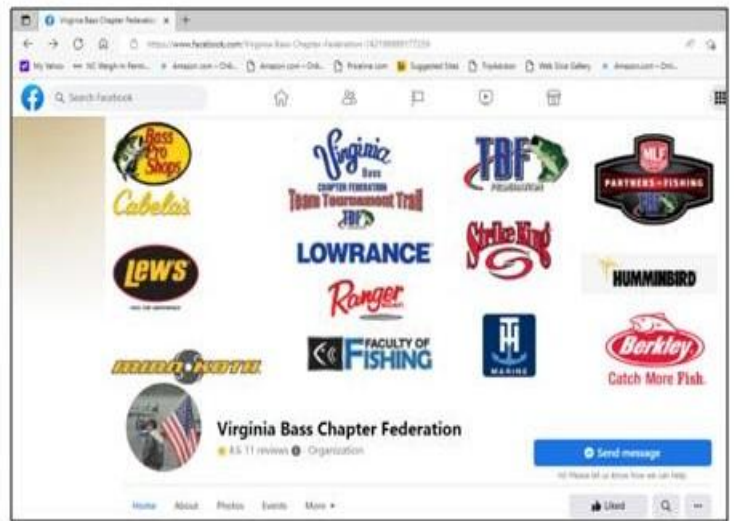


***SCENES FROM PREVIOUS SHOWS**



Webmaster Tammy Caldwell **WWW.VABASS.COM**

Tammy is the secretary for TBF Region 4 and TBF State Secretary, Webmaster/Social Media Director. Be sure to check out the website and social media page (Facebook: Virginia Bass Chapter Federation) for messages, important information, tournament schedule, and tournament results. Don't forget to check out sponsors section on the website. If your region has information they want published, please feel free to contact Tammy at rodeokid5@hotmail.com and she will be happy to assist you.



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For more info, go to www.vabass.com or visit us on facebook at "Virginia Bass Chapter Federation"

Membership News



2026 MEMBERSHIP:

The Bass Federation (TBF) Memberships are always open. Anglers can contact their Chapter/Club President to activate/renew your TBF membership at any time. TBF is much more than a tournament trail. Our founding principles are **Fishing, Youth** and **Conservation**. TBF members can qualify through their Club, Region and State Federation events to fish in the TBF National Semi Final Division Championship series, and then on to the TBF Federation National Championship, the BFL All-American, and a MLF Tour Championship. In addition to all this, the top Federation angler each year is awarded the TBF "Living the Dream" package, consisting of paid entry fees into Pro Tour as a professional angler and a fully equipped Ranger Boat.

TBF is "Owned by Those We Serve and Dedicated to the Sport of Fishing."

TBF Members have special access to Sponsor Product Discounts:

- **Ranger Boats** a direct rebate to any member who buys a new Ranger Boat!
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Contact a Virginia Bass Chapter Federation Official Now for information on how to get your membership started. Go to www.vabass.com, visit us on facebook at "Virginia Bass Chapter Federation", or contact the State President, Scott, by Email at Stratos.22225@gmail.com.



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Virginia Anglers Brad Huddleston, Mark Elliott, Rick Mills and Chris Mills will join TBF's top anglers from across the nation and Canada on Pickwick Lake, Alabama in mid-March for a weeklong tournament experience to decide the 2026 TBF National Championship. The TBF National Championship is a "no-entry-fee" tournament with a prize purse of over \$400,000. Following official practice days, the three days of competition will start with all eighty-five boaters and eighty-five co-anglers competing in the National Championship fishing the first two days of the event then the field is cut down to the 7 Division Champion boaters and 7 Division Champion co-anglers on the third and final day for the *Living Your Dream* Prize packages and the National Champion Boater and National Champion Co-Angler titles.

The TBF National Champion Boater and National Champion Co-angler both received a *Living Your Dream* package. The boater 2026 National Champion's prize package is valued in excess of a \$125,000 in cash and prizes including a brand-new Ranger 520R powered by Mercury 250HP outboard engine, Lowrance Electronics and MinnKota Trolling Motor. PLUS, a significant CASH prize, paid entry fee stipend into whatever tournament circuit they want to fish and much more! The National Champion Co-Angler prize package will be worth over \$30,000, including 20K cash PLUS paid entry stipends into the circuit of choice, and more. The top 14 finalists (Angler & Co Angler Division Champions) will also receive a "Living Your Dream" prize package of various sizes plus those anglers that maintained the optional Competitor Level MLF status advance to the BFL All American Championship.



Brad Huddleston
National Semi-Final
Angler Division Qualifier



Rick & Chris Mills
2025
Angler & Co-Angler of the Year



Mark Elliott
National Semi-Final
Co-Angler Division Qualifier

Each of these Virginia Anglers earned the opportunity to compete for a National Championship by successfully fishing their way through local Club, Regional, State and National Semi Final Level Tournaments this past season. Brad and Mark won their respective Angler & Co-Angler berths at the District 12 TBF National Semi-Final on the Ohio River last September. Rick and Chris earned their path to the championship as the 2025 Virginia Angler and Co-Angler of the Year. This team of anglers are great ambassadors for the sport and we are proud to have them representing the Virginia Bass Chapter Federation Angling Community.

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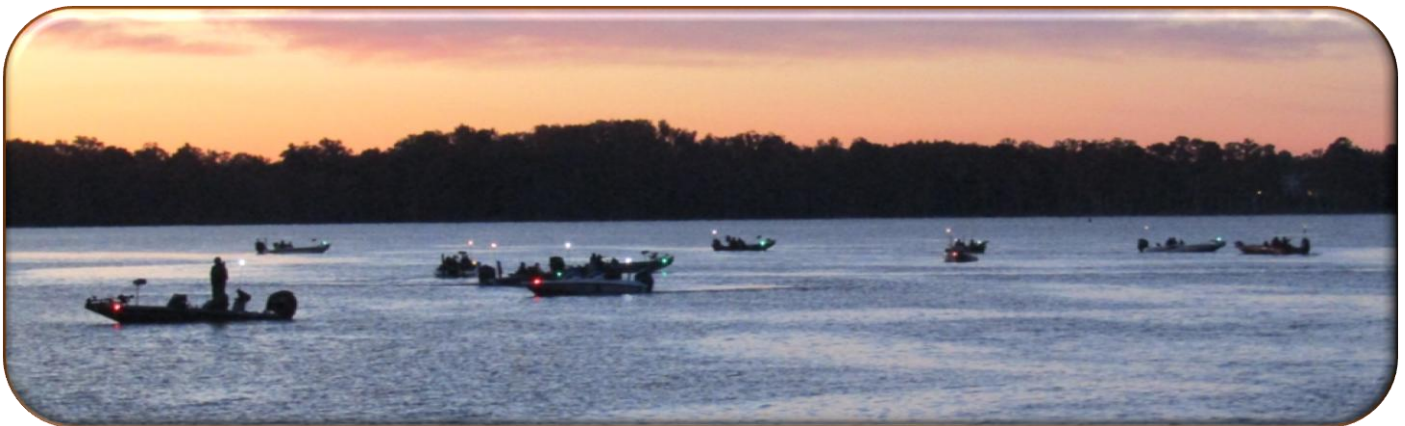


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2026 East Regional Chickahominy River



October 25, 2025: James City County's Chickahominy Riverfront Park was the site for the first tournament of the 2026 Virginia Bass Chapter Federation Team Tournament Trail season. The East Regional Tournament was the first qualifying event for the 2026 State Championship to be held on back on the Chickahominy River next June 6th and 7th. The winning team from this event earned a berth on the State Team plus paid entries into the TBF National Semi-Final Tournament and the 2026 Team Tournament Trail two day State Championship. The Top 10% of the anglers from this event qualified for the 2026 TBF National Semi-Final Tournament to be held on Lake Anna in September. All participating anglers also earned valuable point towards the 2026 Virginia Angler of the Year and Co-Angler of the Year race.

It was a cool morning as teams arrived at Riverfront Park for tournament check-in and preparation for a safe light tournament blast-off.



East Regional Results continued:

The father and son team of Scott and Dylan Whitmore from the Nottoway Bass Masters topped the field with a five bass limit weighing in at 16.71 pounds. Another Nottoway Bass Masters team of Craig Cheek and Billy finished in 2nd Place with their limit weighing 16.00 pounds. In 3rd Place were the Nottoway Bassmasters Jamie Ratliff and Blaine Miller with 15.79 pounds. Blaine also weighed the tournaments Big Bass, a 6.40 pound largemouth. The 4th Place team with 15.26 pounds was the RVA Bassmasters team of Mike Coleman and Tracy Gravelly. Finishing the tournament in the 5th spot was the father and son team of Marvin and Ben Major with 15.01 pounds.



Dylan & Scott Whitmore

East Regional Champions
16.71 lbs.



Craig Cheek & Billy Allen

2nd Place
16.00 LBS



Jamie Ratliff & Blaine Miller

3rd Place
15.79 LBS

Team Trail East Regional RESULTS

Place	Angler	Co-Angler	Total Weight	Points
1	Dylan Whitmore	Scott Whitmore	16.71	200
2	Craig Cheek	William Allen	16.00	198
3	Jamie Ratliff	Blaine Miller	15.79	197
4	Michael Coleman	Tracy Gravely	15.26	196
5	Marvin Major	Ben Major	15.01	195
6	Richard Barnhardt	Danny Sage	14.70	194
7	Robert Hissen	Jacob Hissen	14.28	193
8	Glenn Stateman	Lee Johnson	14.08	192
9	James Vick	Clyde Cheek	14.06	191
10	Brandon Pearce	Nathan Williams	13.63	190
11	Larry Kempler	Kenneth Brown	13.55	189
12	James Mills	Scott Shaffer	13.19	188
13	Joe Imler	Curtis Sullivan	12.95	187
14	Sammy Henman	Troy Neff	12.54	186
15	Tim Byers	Donald Lee	12.11	185
16	Joseph Clarke	Robert McDorman	12.00	184
17	Frank Glazier	Donald Martin	11.94	183
18	John S Cielakie	Brandon Handy	11.60	182
19	Chad Howell	Christophe Scott	11.25	181
20	Brad Huddleston	Dave Christian	11.21	180
21	Travis Hylton	Joseph Zawhorodny	11.14	179
22	Scott Coons	Mark Elliott	11.09	178
23	Terry Sullivan	Doug Griles	11.03	177
24	Charles Ingram	Sarah Ingram	10.95	176
25	Bucky Gyoker	Paul Gyoker	10.74	175



Blaine Miller
Big Fish Award
6.40 LBS



East Regional Results continued:

Team Trail East Regional RESULTS (continued)

Place	Angler	Co-Angler	Total Weight	Points
26	James Whitehead	Steve Finch	10.72	174
27	Jeff Hayden	Willie Etheridge	10.23	173
28	Jason Upton	Rick Lemocks	10.22	172
29	Tim Seery	Ronnie Ketchum	10.20	171
30	Timothy Mitchem	Alex Buckhorn	9.60	170
31	Chris Mills	Rick Mills	9.32	169
32	Daniel Eubank	Tony Campbell	9.23	168
33	Chris Craft	Scott Taylor	8.01	167
34	Jon Perham	Mitchell Portervint	7.95	166
35	Larry Gray	Josh Griffin	7.42	165
36	Ronnie Brewer	Audie Murphy	7.07	164
37	Michael Townsend	Samantha Oliva	5.87	163
38	Floyd Dalton	Tarance Fuller	5.60	162
39	Marty Schray	Cole Wykoff	4.97	161
40	Eddie Minor	Joe Bandish	3.80	160
41	Wayne Deavers	Waverly Randall	0.00	100
42	Dave McLean	Jacob McLean	0.00	100
43	Chris Willoughby	Kevin Bowles	0.00	100





Chickahominy River





The Virginia Bass Chapter Federations **“TEAM TOURNAMENT TRAIL”** series serves as the Virginia TBF National Semi-Final (NSF) Qualifiers plus a **Virginia State Championship Team Tournament**. The series consists of 4 qualifying Team Tournaments held in each of 4 Regions (North, South, East, & West) throughout the state. Each qualifying tournament is a single day event. With this format Virginia TBF Anglers now have an opportunity to compete for bigger payouts and a Virginia State Team Championship while reducing their costs plus the benefit of fishing locally on familiar waters. All four regional tournaments are open to all Virginia TBF members in good standing. Teams that fish any of the 4 Regional events qualify for the 2 Day State Championship Team Tournament. The State Championship event has a 100% payback in cash and prizes with a Champions Package awarded to the winning team (cash, awards, apparel, paid TBF National Semi Final entry, etc.).

This is a TEAM TRAIL where anglers complete the registration as a pre-designated team. Launch order is determined by the order in which registrations are received. All Regional Tournaments are single day events. The 2 day State Championship Tournament is only be open to those that fish a qualifying Regional Tournament. Those teams that win a qualifying Regional Tournament will receive free entry into the Championship Tournament. Teams that participate in 2 or more Regional Qualifying Tournaments in a season will have their registration fee reduced for the State Championship Tournament. The winning team from each of the four Regional Tournaments plus the top six teams (6 Anglers & 6 Co-Anglers) from the State Championship Team Tournament will make the **Virginia State Team**.

Virginia Angler & Co-Angler of the Year: Anglers will receive points for each Team Trail event they fish each season. The Angler and Co-Angler accumulating the most points from their best 4 out of 5 Team Trail Tournaments will be awarded the **Virginia Angler of the Year** and **Virginia Co-Angler of the Year**. Virginia’s Angler and Co-Angler of the Year may bypass the National Semi Final event and advance directly into the TBF National Championship Tournament.

Teams have 3 options available for registration for the 4 Regional qualifying events.

1. Teams can download from the State Web Site (www.vabass.com), print, complete the registration, and mail the completed form with a check for payment. This method MUST be postmarked no later than 10 days prior to the event.
2. Teams also have the option to complete the registration and pay online through a link available on the State Web site (www.vabass.com). The online registration cutoff is midnight the Wednesday prior to the tournament.
3. If Teams do not register in time they may register at the tournament site the morning of the event. There will, however, be a \$25 administrative fee added to the tournament registration fee.

Registrations for the Virginia State Championship Team Tournament will be open by invitation to all qualifying teams.

For more info, go to www.vabass.com or visit us on facebook at “Virginia Bass Chapter Federation”

NEW for 2026 !

In our continual efforts to improve our members tournament experience the Virginia Bass Chapter Federation State Board has approved the following additional awards starting with the first tournament of the 2026 Team Tournament Trail season, the East Regional on the Chickahominy River, October 25, 2025.

Team Tournament Trail **“Smallest 5 Fish Limit”** Award

At each Team Trail Regional tournament and the State Championship Tournament the team that weighs in the **“Smallest Five Fish Limit”** during each event will receive a \$200 payout. At least one member of the winning team must be present to receive the award. If not present the award will go to the next team present that meets the winning criteria.

Team Tournament Trail **“Lunker of the Year”** Award

The State Federation run Team Tournament Trail introduces the **“Lunker of the Year”** Award for the biggest bass weighed in during the tournament season (four Regional and State Championship Tournaments). The Team Tournament Trail “Lunker of the Year” winner will be awarded a plaque and \$100 at the conclusion of last tournament of each season (the State Championship Tournament). The winning angler must be a current Virginia Bass Chapter Federation member at the time of the award. For example: Each Team Trail season runs from October through the State Championship Tournament the following year. The winning angler must be a current member through the State Championship event.





Virginia
Bass
CHAPTER FEDERATION
Team Tournament Trail

**2026 Team Trail
Schedule**

1. . EAST Regional
Chickahominy River
Riverfront Park
25 October 2025

2. WEST Regional
Smith Mountain Lake
Parkway Marina
14 March 2026

3. SOUTH Regional
Lake Gaston
Holly Grove Marina
4 April 2026

4. NORTH Regional
Lake Anna
Sturgeon Creek Marina
2 May 2026

State Championship
Chickahominy River
Riverfront Park
6-7 June 2026

Virginia Angler & Co-Angler Of the Year



The **Virginia Angler of the Year and Co-Angler of the Year** is an **Angler Recognition Award** that acknowledges the Angler and Co-Angler with the best overall performance each season and gives them the opportunity to advance directly into the TBF National Championship Tournament, bypassing the National Semi-Final qualifying tournament.

Team Trail Tournament anglers are awarded points for each Team Tournament Trail tournament that they participate in. At the end of each season the Angler of the Year and the Co-Angler of the Year will be awarded based upon the total points earned for their best 4 out of 5 Team Trail tournaments. The Virginia Angler of the Year and Co-Angler of the Year may bypass the National Semi-Final Tournament to advance directly into the TBF National Championship.

Here's how the points will be awarded: The system is a 200 point system with a +2 points for the tournament winners. The top points awarded will be 200 for the winning anglers (200 for the Angler and 200 for the Co-Angler). 2nd place anglers will receive 198 points, 3rd place anglers will receive 197 points, 4th place – 196 points, etc. Any anglers participating and not weighing fish will receive 100 points each. Each Angler and each Co-Angler points from their best 4 out of the 5 team Trail tournaments will be totaled and counted towards the Angler of the Year or Co-Angler of the Year Award.

The Angler of the Year and the Co-Angler of the Year will qualify to advance to the TBF National Championship and receive a prize package as determined by the State Board of Directors. To maintain their entry into the TBF National Championship Tournament both the winning Angler of the Year and the Co-Angler of the Year must commit to participate in the TBF National Championship event by December 1st each year. No substitute anglers are allowed. Therefore, if either the Angler of the Year or the Co-Angler of the Year declines to participate then neither angler can advance to the National Championship event. Once both anglers have committed to participate in the TBF National Championship Tournament, the State Federation will make the necessary arrangements with TBF, Inc. to secure their berth in the Championship event as Virginia's Angler and Co-Angler of the Year.

With the Angler & Co-Angler of the Year Award, each Team Trail participant can now compete for the opportunity to advance directly into the No-Entry-Fee TBF National Championship event as the Virginia Angler of the Year or Co-Angler of the Year.

The Virginia Bass Chapter Federation Team Tournament Trail format stays the same as in past years with 4 Regional Tournaments and a Team Trail State Championship Tournament.

Current Standings are available on the State web site: www.vabass.com.

Angler of the Year 2026 Standings

	Angler of the Year	EAST	WEST	SOUTH	NORTH	CHAMPIONSHIP	TOTAL
Rank	Name	25-Oct	14-Mar	4-Apr	2-May	6-7 Jun	POINTS
1	Dylan Whitmore	200					200
2	Craig Cheek	198					198
3	Jamie Ratliff	197					197
4	Michael Coleman	196					196
5	Marvin Major	195					195
6	Richard Barnhardt	194					194
7	Robert Hissen	193					193
8	Glenn Stateman	192					192
9	James Vick	191					191
10	Brandon Pearce	190					190
11	Larry Kempler	189					189
12	James Mills	188					188
13	Joe Imler	187					187
14	Sammy Henman	186					186
15	Tim Byers	185					185
16	Joseph Clarke	184					184
17	Frank Glazier	183					183
18	John S Cielakie	182					182
19	Chad Howell	181					181
20	Brad Huddleston	180					180
21	Travis Hylton	179					179
22	Scott Coons	178					178
23	Terry Sullivan	177					177
24	Charles Ingram	176					176
25	Bucky Gyoker	175					175
26	James Whitehead	174					174
27	Jeff Hayden	173					173
28	Jason Upton	172					172
29	Tim Seery	171					171
30	Timothy Mitchem	170					170

Angler of the Year 2026 Standings (continued)

	Angler of the Year	EAST	WEST	SOUTH	NORTH	CHAMPIONSHIP	TOTAL
Rank	Name	25-Oct	14-Mar	4-Apr	2-May	6-7 Jun	POINTS
31	Chris Mills	169					169
32	Daniel Eubank	168					168
33	Chris Craft	167					167
34	Jon Perham	166					166
35	Larry Gray	165					165
36	Ronnie Brewer	164					164
37	Michael Townsend	163					163
38	Floyd Dalton	162					162
39	Marty Schray	161					161
40	Eddie Minor	160					160
41	Wayne Deavers	100					100
42	Dave McLean	100					100
43	Chris Willoughby	100					100

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Co-Angler of the Year 2026 Standings

	Co-Angler of the Year	EAST	WEST	SOUTH	NORTH	CHAMPIONSHIP	TOTAL
Rank	Name	25-Oct	14-Mar	4-Apr	2-May	6-7 Jun	POINTS
1	Scott Whitmore	200					200
2	William Allen	198					198
3	Blaine Miller	197					197
4	Tracy Gravely	196					196
5	Ben Major	195					195
6	Danny Sage	194					194
7	Jacob Hissen	193					193
8	Lee Johnson	192					192
9	Clyde Cheek	191					191
10	Nathan Williams	190					190
11	Kenneth Brown	189					189
12	Scott Shaffer	188					188
13	Curtis Sullivan	187					187
14	Troy Neff	186					186
15	Donald Lee	185					185
16	Robert McDorman	184					184
17	Donald Martin	183					183
18	Brandon Handy	182					182
19	Christophe Scott	181					181
20	Dave Christian	180					180
21	Joseph Zawhorodny	179					179
22	Mark Elliott	178					178
23	Doug Griles	177					177
24	Sarah Ingram	176					176
25	Paul Gyoker	175					175
26	Steve Finch	174					174
27	Willie Etheridge	173					173
28	Rick Lemocks	172					172
29	Ronnie Ketchum	171					171
30	Alex Buckhorn	170					170

Co-Angler of the Year 2026 Standings (continued)

	Angler of the Year	EAST	WEST	SOUTH	NORTH	CHAMPIONSHIP	TOTAL
Rank	Name	25-Oct	14-Mar	4-Apr	2-May	6-7 Jun	POINTS
31	Rick Mills	169					169
32	Tony Campbell	168					168
33	Scott Taylor	167					167
34	Mitchell Portervint	166					166
35	Josh Griffin	165					165
36	Audie Murphy	164					164
37	Samantha Oliva	163					163
38	Tarance Fuller	162					162
39	Cole Wykoff	161					161
40	Joe Bandish	160					160
41	Waverly Randall	100					100
42	Jacob McLean	100					100
43	Kevin Bowles	100					100

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2026 National Semi-Final Tournament

26-27 September 2026 on Lake Anna, Mineral, VA

Hosted by the Virginia Bass Chapter Federation

Who Qualifies: Top 10% of each Division (Angler & Co-Angler) from each State Team Tournament Trail event (North Regional, South Regional, East Regional, West Regional & State Championship Team Tournament); Top 10% from each division from each Region Tournament Series event (Anglers qualifying through Region Series Tournaments must have participated in a State Team Trail Tournament each season). A minimum of One Angler & 1 Co-Angler from each club statewide additional Angler/Co-Anglers qualify based on club membership (1-19 members = 1 Angler/ 1 Co-Angler; 20-29 members = 2 Anglers/2 Co-Anglers; 30-39 members = 3 Anglers/3 Co-Anglers; etc.) additional opportunities to qualify for those TBF members serving as Youth Program Tournament Boat Captains.

Virginia Federation Team Coordinator: Scott Whitmore Cell: (757)707-7631 Email: Stratos.22225@gmail.com

Qualified Angler Identification Process: Anglers who qualified through state tournaments (Team Tournament Trail and Region Tournament Trails) will be identified to TBF by the State Federation. Anglers representing each chapter/club will be identified by 30 June 2026 to the State Federation President. Qualified anglers will complete their State level registration and pay entry fees online through the State Federation. Once all qualified anglers have committed to fish the event and paid the required registration fee, the State will compile the master roster and forward the names to TBF.

TBF Registration: TBF will notify qualifiers via Invitation Email and link to their on-line final registration portal. Anglers must indicate acceptance of the email invitation to compete and register. Registration is completed online through TBF by following the email link provided. Once registered all communication will be by the email and/or phone indicated on your TBF membership profile. Registration fees will be paid through the Virginia Bass Chapter Federation web site. Registrations are non-refundable.

Tournament / Ramp Location: Lake Anna, Mineral, Virginia. Ramp: Sturgeon Creek Marina

Virginia Team Trail Tournament 2026 National Semi-Final Qualifiers:

East Regional – Chickahominy River: Anglers- D Whitmore, C Cheek, J Ratliff, M Coleman, M Major
Co-Anglers- S Whitmore, W Allen, B Miller, T Gravelly, B Major

West Regional – Smith Mountain Lake: Anglers-
Co-Anglers-

South Regional –Lake Gaston: Anglers-
Co-Anglers-

North Regional – Lake Anna: Anglers-
Co-Anglers-

Team Trail State Championship –
Chickahominy River: Anglers-
Co-Anglers-



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Angler Contingency Programs

The following Contingency and Incentive Programs are available to Virginia Bass Chapter Federation Members to participate in. Anglers MUST join each program every year and declare your participation prior to each tournament.

MLF “Competitor Level” Membership Upgrade:

Anglers TBF annual membership includes the “subscriber level” MLF membership. The “Competitor Level” membership is required to fish in any MLF series. Any angler that wishes to compete for the opportunity to advance beyond the TBF National Championship to an MLF Tournament series MUST upgrade their membership level to the “Competitor Level” PRIOR to fishing the TBF National Semi Final Tournament each year. TBF members receive a discounted rate of \$48.75 for the membership upgrade.



To upgrade, anglers can call the MLF customer service at (270)252-1000 inform the agent that you are a current TBF member to receive the discounted rate.



BENEFITS FOR TBF MEMBERS PURCHASING A NEW RANGER BOAT

Ranger® Boats continues to deliver the greatest rewards! For every new Ranger boat purchased by a TBF member from an authorized Ranger dealer between Jan. 1, 2026 and December 31, 2026, your Federation earns even more great gear and the Federation member will receive:

1. \$300 Clothing Certificate
2. \$125 Federation Contribution
3. Opportunity to take home your share of lucrative Ranger Cup® payouts!

Click the following link to download the voucher, then complete it and return within 60 days of purchase along with proof of TBF membership and a bill of sale from your new Ranger boat:

<https://www.rangerboats.com/ranger-bonus-voucher.html>

Angler Contingency Programs



Register at: NITRO: <https://www.nitro.com/tournament-rewards.html>

RANGER: <https://www.rangerboats.com/ranger-cup.html>

TRITON: <https://www.tritonboats.com/triton-gold.html>

Participation in this industry-leading program makes you eligible to receive up to \$10,000 in extra cash when you compete in eligible tournaments and win from your NITRO and TRITON boat! Choose from local, regional, and national tournaments. Remember: before you are eligible to claim prizes, you must be a registered NITRO Rewards or TRITON Gold member prior to entering a tournament.

Visit the [NITRO Rewards Website](#), the [Ranger Cup Website](#) or [Triton Gold Website](#) for complete details and registration. Registration must be completed and submitted prior to participation in a qualifying event in order to be eligible for prizes. Program term begins January 1 of current year and ends December 31 of current year.

- NO MEMBERSHIP FEE!
- NO LIMIT ON NUMBER OF TIMES YOU CAN WIN!
- Must sign up each year to qualify. The membership expires December 31 of each year. Please register on the [NITRO Rewards Membership](#), [Ranger Cup](#) or the [Triton Gold](#) website.
- Must own a 2015 or later, new or used NITRO, RANGER, or TRITON boat.
- The boat must be within the last four model years to qualify for Maximum Payout.
- Members must wear apparel displaying the NITRO, RANGER, or TRITON logo while competing, and at weigh-ins. A photo during weigh-ins to confirm apparel compliance is required with claim submission.
- Must display NITRO Rewards, RANGER Cup, or the TRITON Gold decal on driver's windshield/console of the boat.
- The factory installed NITRO, RANGER, or TRITON decals must be on the qualifying boat in the appropriate position. If the boat is wrapped, the decals must be put back in the same location and must be visible.
- It is recommended that anglers submit claims online for efficient processing.

NOTE: Participants MUST be registered PRIOR to the event. Claims for rewards are solely the angler's responsibility.

Angler Contingency Programs



TOYOTA BONUS BUCKS CONTINGENCY PROGRAM

Register at: <https://www.toyotatrucksbonusbucks.com/>

In addition to submitting the registration form, you must also email or mail a copy of your truck registration and/or title to:

TOYOTA BONUS BUCKS PROGRAM

7120 E. 13th Street
Tulsa, OK 74112

bonusbucks@dynamicssponsorships.com

HOW THE 2026 TOYOTA BONUS BUCKS CONTINGENCY PROGRAM WORKS:

1. DRIVE A TOYOTA

Own or lease a 2022 or newer Toyota Tundra, Sequoia, Tacoma, 4Runner or Land Cruiser. Vehicle must be registered in your name individually or jointly. Drive / use your eligible Toyota vehicle as your primary tow-vehicle at supported Toyota Bonus Bucks Tournaments. **Please note vehicle eligibility now requires a model year of 2022 or newer. In 2027, vehicle eligibility will roll to model year 2023 and newer.**

2. REGISTER

Complete the official Program registration form online, email or U.S. mail. In addition, submit a copy of your current vehicle registration and / or title with your Program registration form. Registration must be received and confirmed by the Toyota Bonus Bucks Program Office prior to fishing in your first contingency paying event. You will receive an email response once your registration has been approved. You do not have to re-register for the Program annually, unless your information has changed.

3. FISH

Participate in a contingency paying tournament, and post the highest placing finish of those who have registered for the program. Select Bassmaster, MLF and Team Tournament Trail events will pay the top two highest placing finishes. Highest finishes must fall within the top 50% of the field, with a minimum field size of no less than 30 boats. A list of supported events and payouts are posted on this website.

4. REDEEM

Submit the Official Contingency Claim Form, along with a copy of your truck title and / or current truck registration, within 30-days of your finish. Upon verification and approval, your contingency payment will be sent via U.S. mail. Winners should allow a minimum of 8 weeks for approval, processing and distribution.

NOTE: The District 12 TBF National Semi Final Tournament is an eligible event and State Team members are eligible for this contingency program. Participants MUST be registered PRIOR to the event. Claims for rewards are solely the angler's responsibility.

Angler Contingency Programs

IMPULSE LITHIUM TOURNAMENT REWARDS PROGRAM



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DON'T MISS OUT REGISTER NOW at: <https://impuselithium.com/tournament-rewards/>

OWN IMPULSE LITHIUM BATTERIES: Owning an Impulse Lithium battery just got better! Not only do you own a premium lithium battery, but now you can also rack up on prize money by using your Impulse Lithium batteries in qualifying fishing tournaments.

Restrictions and rules apply. Visit: <https://impuselithium.com/tournament-rewards/>

REGISTER: Anglers must be entered into the Impulse Lithium Tournament Rewards Program prior to the event start.

FISH A QUALIFYING TOURNAMENT: Registered Impulse Lithium Tournament Rewards Program Anglers fishing in any TBF tournament with 60 boats or more are eligible.

CLAIM YOUR REWARD: Win a qualifying tournament and submit your claim form within 30 days of the tournament results to claim your Impulse Lithium Tournament Award.

NOTE: Participants **MUST** be registered **PRIOR** to the event. Restrictions and Rules Apply. Claims for rewards are solely the angler's responsibility.



Jack Calt
President

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Steve Hajdasz

A note from the VP:

With the onset of cold winter weather, most of us are looking at the prospect of putting our boats away and waiting for springtime. To make sure our boats are ready when spring weather arrives, we need to prepare our boats for the winter. Below are some tips for winter preparations we should all take to make sure your boat is protected and ready to hit the water when spring fishing season arrives.

First, drain the water from all your systems. I will generally run the bilge pump and livewell pumps to make sure there is no water in them. If you are in doubt, pour some quality RV anti freeze and run this through your systems. This will make sure all of the water has been removed. I also raise the front of the boat to make sure there is no trapped water anywhere in the hull. I then lower the bow of the boat and pour some of the RV anti freeze in the bilge and then raise it again and let the anti freeze drain.

Once these steps are done I lower the outboard motor to make sure all of the water remaining in the motor has drained. The next step would be to drain and refill the lower end oil to make sure there is no water or contaminants in the lower end. Then, I oil fog the cylinders to flush out any possible moisture and to protect the cylinders throughout the winter months. I leave the motor in the lowered position and cover the prop and water intakes with a strong plastic bag to prevent water or snow from entering any of these areas. Even if you plan on keeping your boat in a garage, I would still recommend taking these steps just to be safe.

Once the above steps are taken, be sure to remove all of your items such as electronics, life jackets, throw cushions and your rods, reels and tackle. Whether your boat is inside or outside, cover with a quality tight fitting boat cover or have your boat shrink wrapped to prevent water intrusion.

For those of you who continue to fish through the winter months, most of the above steps are not necessary. Just be sure to make sure your motor is drained of water and your plumbing systems are drained after each use.

Once these steps are done you should be able to rest easy. This will also give you the time to perform maintenance on your reels and sort your tackle and enjoys the winter season shows.

Steve Hajdasz
Vice President



Keith E. Johnson

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Conservation Director

John Flicek

We continue to work closely with the Virginia Department of Wildlife Resources on issues concerning Invasive Species and Clean Drain Dry policy compliance. Another issue that keeps surfacing is compliance with the requirements for Tournament Permits when holding events at VA DWR ramps as well as those managed by the Corps of Engineers, State Parks, Municipalities, etc. As an organization we need to ensure we are taking the proper measures to secure required permits for the various tournaments locations across the state. At this time of year most of our Regions and Clubs are preparing their tournament schedules for the coming season. This tournament scheduling process should include the acquisition of any needed permits. Awareness and finding the right point of contact to obtain the needed permit can be a challenge as many of the permit requirements are not as openly advertised as they could be. I've been working through the various permit processes for many years in support of local Club and Region tournament schedules. In the following pages I have prepared a guide to assist in understanding the requirements and some of the processes to be taken when acquiring a tournament permit. The information we've included in the *"Permit Guide"* are primarily governing waters in the eastern and central parts of the State. We will work to expand the information provided over the next few editions of Tightlines. I'm sure there are likely additional requirements for the various bodies of water where our Clubs and Regions conduct tournaments. We welcome angler inputs to expand the informational guide. Once we complete we can post the document so it's available for reference for the entire Virginia Bass Fishing Community.

We promote the responsible harvest and consumption of spotted bass. I know that is a new position for a bass fishing community to take as we all have been advocates of the *Catch and Release* of any bass. However, the **Alabama Bass** has been designated as an **Invasive Species** here in Virginia and the VA DWR has removed creel limits for spotted bass in an effort to curb the spread of Alabama Bass. Responsible harvest represents a change in our way of thinking and along with that comes some educating on species identification. I recommend each of you pay particular attention to the "Know the Difference" graphic in this issue following the DWR Chief of Fisheries article. Make sure you know how to properly identify any spotted bass for intended harvest.

"CLEAN – DRAIN – DRY": Anglers are reminded that the unauthorized movement of fish/plants/aquatic life from one body of water to another jeopardizes the health of our fisheries and is illegal. Aside from the illegal movement of fish other measures have been enacted to help curb the spread of invasive species and nuisance plants/organisms with the implementation of **"CLEAN – DRAIN – DRY"** policies. Boaters are required by law to remove any vegetation from their boat/trailer and drain bilges when removing there vessel from the water. The regulation doesn't require that you immediately drain livewells if you are retaining your catch for weigh-in or harvest. However, unused livewells and baitwells should be drained on site. Regulations also require that reasonable measures should be taken to dry out bilges, livewells and baitwells prior to launching into another body of water.

Invasive Species Efforts --- What do you need to know?

ALABAMA BASS: The Alabama Bass Education, Identification, and Containment Project efforts continue with distributing the educational brochures and sampling packets throughout the State. Anglers are asked to report all suspected Alabama Bass catches from any body of water other than the Claytor Lake, Diascunds Reservoir, Kerr Lake, and Lake Gaston. The VA DWR Fisheries Management Team has put together a rapid response group that will investigate reported catches in an attempt to measure the extent of the Alabama Bass movement and make recommendations for future actions necessary to contain their spread. Anglers are encouraged to harvest all spotted bass caught.

Anglers are reminded that it is illegal to stock fish into a public body of water without an authorization from Virginia Department of Wildlife Resources (DWR). Anyone with knowledge of intentional stockings of Alabama Bass or any other species should contact DWR law enforcement at 800-237-5712 or WildCrime@dwr.virginia.gov.

The Reporting Process - If you catch a suspected Alabama Bass:

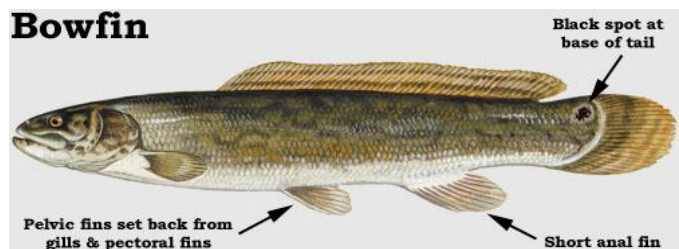
1. Take a picture of the fish.
2. Clip off a thumbnail-sized portion of one of the pelvic fins (pelvic fins are located on the bottom of the fish, just under the head.)
3. Store the fin clip dry in an envelope.
4. Email picture to: fisheries@dwr.virginia.gov for verification with name of angler, location caught, date caught, & phone number.
5. Mail the fin sample collected to the address provided when requested.

NORTHERN SNAKEHEADS: Anglers are reminded that it is illegal to possess a live snakehead in Virginia. Anglers are encouraged to kill and report any snakeheads they encounter. In an effort to track Snakehead migration VA DWR has established a **SNAKEHEAD HOTLINE** that anglers can use to report snakehead fish: **(804-367-2925)** Take a picture of the fish, report the angler's last name, date of catch, location of catch, and size.

Northern Snakehead



Similar-Appearing Native Species



Anglers are required to report snakeheads if caught. Snakeheads must be dead if in possession (contained in live well, cooler, etc.). The DWR asks that all snakeheads be killed if possible. If an angler wishes to keep a legally caught northern snakehead, the fish must be killed to be in possession.

Feel free to contact me if you any questions or concerns

John Flicek
Conservation Director
Email: rgn8treas@verizon.net
Cell: 757-635-6296



Fishing Tournament Permit Guide

Virginia DWR, North Carolina WRC, The Army Corp of Engineers and many local jurisdictions require a permit to hold a Fishing Tournament at one of their boat ramps or Parks. The permit process varies significantly by agency which can be somewhat confusing and frustrating to navigate. The next few pages can be used as your resource for obtaining your required permit when scheduling a fishing tournament at one of their facilities. Club Presidents, Region Directors and Tournament Directors need to research your local jurisdictions to insure the required permits are obtained for each event.

VIRGINIA: The **Virginia Department of Wildlife Resources (DWR)** requires a **Special Use Permit** for fishing tournaments/rodeos/derby's/etc. utilizing any VA DWR owned boat ramp or facilities. Special Use Authorization Application is available online at: <https://dwr.virginia.gov/forms-download/PERM/PERM-005.pdf> . Applications need to be submitted a minimum of 30 days prior to the date requested but no more than 60 days prior to the requested date. Completed applications are to be submitted to:

Virginia Department of Wildlife Resources
Permits Unit P. O. Box 3337
Henrico, VA 23228-3337

Shirl Dressler

Phone: 804-367-6913 / Email: shirl.dressler-setzer@dwr.virginia.gov

The Go Outdoors Virginia mobile application is an excellent resource for identifying and the locations of DWR ramps and boating access areas. You can download the application at: <https://dwr.virginia.gov/app/>

HENRICO COUNTY: Many clubs and regions use Osborne Landing on the James River for their tournaments. In addition to the VA DWR permit requirement for utilizing the DWR owned ramp **Henrico County Division of Recreation and Parks** also requires a **Park Event Permit for Osborne Landing Park**. The application process is accomplished by completing submitting the online request available at: <https://henrico.gov/services/apply-for-a-park-event-permit/> . As part of the application process you are required to provide a Certificate of Insurance showing coverage for at least \$1,000,000 for each occurrence. TBF Clubs/Regions can request a Certificate of insurance for their tournament online from TBF at: <https://www.bassfederation.com/insurance-certificate-request-form/>. TBF requests that you allow 14 business days for processing. The Certificate of Insurance will be emailed to the individual making the request.

Note that VA DWR will not issue their Special Use Permit for Osborne Landing Ramp until you have obtained and provided them a copy of the required Henrico County Park Use permit.

Once you have submitted your Henrico County request and obtained your Certificate of Insurance from TBF you need to forward the certificate to the Henrico County parks Special Events Division. The Henrico County Parks point of Contact is:

Special Events Division
Henrico Division of Recreation and Parks
6800 Staples Mill Rd
Henrico, VA 23228

Jeannie Murray

Phone: 804-501-5127 / Email: mur12@henrico.gov

North Carolina: North Carolina Wildlife Resources Commission has an online application portal to apply for a permit to utilize one of their ramp facilities for your tournament. The online application is available at: <https://www.ncwildlife.gov/boating/boating-access-area-event-permits>.

Kerr Lake: Permits are required for ALL tournaments regardless of size. The Army Corps of Engineers permit request forms can be obtained at: <https://www.saw.usace.army.mil/Locations/District-Lakes-and-Dams/John-H-Kerr-1/Special-Events/>

Requests are accepted on the 7th business day of November each year for the following calendar year. Completed requests and appropriate fees are to be mailed to:

Special Events Coordinator

John H Kerr Reservoir

1930 Mays Chapel Road

Boynton, VA 23917-9725

Ranger Richard Brown

Phone: 434-738-6143 ext 6151

Lake Gaston: Lake Gaston tournament permits are required when using any North Carolina Wildlife Resources Commission owned ramp or Virginia Department of Wildlife Resources (DWR) owned ramp. Permits can be obtained through the processes for the appropriate **Virginia** or **North Carolina** agency.

Lake Gaston's **Holly Grove Marina** is a popular spot for Region and Club tournaments. You can call the marina store, (434)636-3455, to reserve the ramp for your tournament.

Leesylvania State Park: Leesylvania State Park is a popular location for Potomac River Tournaments. There is a Special Use permit process for fishing tournaments. Special use permits require a \$25 processing fee and take at least 30 days to process. It may prove impossible to process requests made fewer than 30 days in advance in time. Special use permits can be obtained by calling the park office directly at 703-730-8205, emailing: Leesylvania@dcr.virginia.gov or by visiting the park office in person.

Pamunkey River: Williams Landing is a privately owned ramp and is the popular location for Pamunkey River tournaments. Google shows the address for Williams Landing as: 6632 Putneys Mill Rd., New Kent, VA 23124. Clubs can book the use of the ramp by contacting Ryland at (804)971-1646. Ramp fees are paid at the drop box by the ramp.





James City County Tournament Facilities - Permits

James City County Parks and Recreation welcomes local, regional, and national fishing tournaments at Chickahominy Riverfront Park and Little Creek Reservoir Park. A **Fishing Tournament Permit** is required for any tournament of 20 boats or larger. Chickahominy Riverfront Park (CRP) can accommodate larger tournaments of up to 100 boats. Little Creek Reservoir Park can accommodate smaller tournaments. Unfortunately, fishing tournaments are not allowed to launch from Brickyard Landing Park.

Optional amenities at CRP include a dedicated tournament weigh-in area, field/fishing pier rental (exclusive), and the option to conduct weigh-in activity in the boat trailer parking area (limited to a 72"x30" table or truck bed for weigh-in).

The unique amenity at CRP is the dedicated Tournament Weigh-In Site. The site can be rented for \$30/day and includes power access at the old camping site #111. The site must be rented in order to have access to the fish release pipe. To use the pipe, you must pump water to the head of the pipe from Gordon's Creek and maintain sufficient water flow during fish release (user must supply their own submersible pump). Additional instructions are posted on site.



James City County Fishing Tournament Permit Process

1. A permit is required for ALL Tournaments of 20 Boats or more. The Permit Application is completed through the JCC PermitLink System <https://jamescitycountyva-energovweb.tylerhost.net/apps/selfservice#/home>
2. There is a \$25 permit processing fee (it is recommended that if you are having multiple tournaments during the year at the same location that you put all the dates on a single application).
3. There is a \$250 refundable security deposit required when processing the permit(s).
4. A Certificate of Insurance showing \$1M liability coverage with James City County shown as the additional insured is required for each event at least 30 days prior to the tournament.
5. Prior to the tournament the JCC Facility Coordinator (permit office) will email the Tournament Organizer a James City County Dated Ramp Pass that you can reproduce as needed for your tournament.
6. Tournament Organizer is REQUIRED to collect ALL ramp fees for your participants and make payment at the park office by noon of the tournament day (\$8 Non-James City County residents, \$5 for county residents, waived for annual pass holders and campers).
7. The Tournament Organizer is required to check-in with the Park Coordinator or Guest Services no later than 30 days prior to the event.
8. The County will issue permits for multiple tournaments or park activities on any given day up to the limit of available parking. Tournament Organizers are encouraged to coordinate launch and weigh-in times/locations for their tournaments to minimize congestion during launch and recovery at the ramp area.
9. No parking is allowed at any time on the roadway in front of the weigh-in site. All vehicles and trailers must be parked in the designated parking area in the field. If the weigh-in site is rented, it is the responsibility of the tournament director to manage its access, use, and cleanup.



Greetings TBF Anglers,

Virginia is home to five different species of bass – the northern largemouth, the Florida, the smallmouth, the spotted, and the Alabama. All but the Alabama bass are native to some portion of the state.

The northern largemouth is native to the southwestern portion of the state and is what we think about when we mention largemouth. The Florida bass is native to Back Bay and coastal points south. Most of our bass populations are hybrids of these two species, and right now, we probably do not have any pure northern largemouth or Florida bass left. This is because we've moved around a lot of fish. In fact, we did not know until very recently that Back Bay historically supported Florida bass – genetic testing to assess F1 stocking clued us in. This was an interesting finding, as for years we thought bass were not native to Back Bay and connected rivers.

Smallmouth bass are native to southwest Virginia and found throughout the Commonwealth. Our smallmouth is the northern smallmouth – for reference, there is a Neosho smallmouth out in Oklahoma and Arkansas. As we ramp up smallmouth bass production (we stocked more than 200k smallmouth this past year) at our Front Royal fish hatchery, we're doing genetic testing to track who the parents are and ultimately, how much they contribute to the population. Right now, we're experimenting with breeders from Lake Moomaw and the Shenandoah River. Stay tuned.

Spotted bass, what we all refer to as Kentuckys, are native to the southwestern portion of the state. They've been moved all over the place and many of our rivers, such as the Appomattox and the Pamunkey, have abundant spotted bass populations. They max out at about two pounds and are willing biters most of the time. They look nearly identical to Alabama bass, and until recently, scientists didn't realize that they were different species.

Alabama bass are the bass that were historically the big spotted bass – think Lake Lanier and Lake Berryessa. In fact, we first realized we had Alabama bass in Virginia because of genetic testing. There was a large spotted bass entered for state record consideration, and we tested its genetics. Well, it turns out that the fish was an Alabama. We did a lot of follow up testing and found Alabama bass in several of our reservoirs and determined they were introduced by anglers about 2009. Those introductions have had consequences – Gaston is chock full of little Alabamas and Philpott's smallmouth population is in the process of being swamped by hybridization. These negative impacts are why we consider them an invasive species.

If you'd like more specific info on where and how to compile a life list of all five species, please reach out and I'll connect you with a biologist.

DWR Article continued:



Mike Bednarski

Chief of Fisheries – Virginia DWR

Mike.bednarski@dwr.virginia.gov

804 432-7244



Another bass – my first redeye bass –
Micropterus coosae – from down in Georgia



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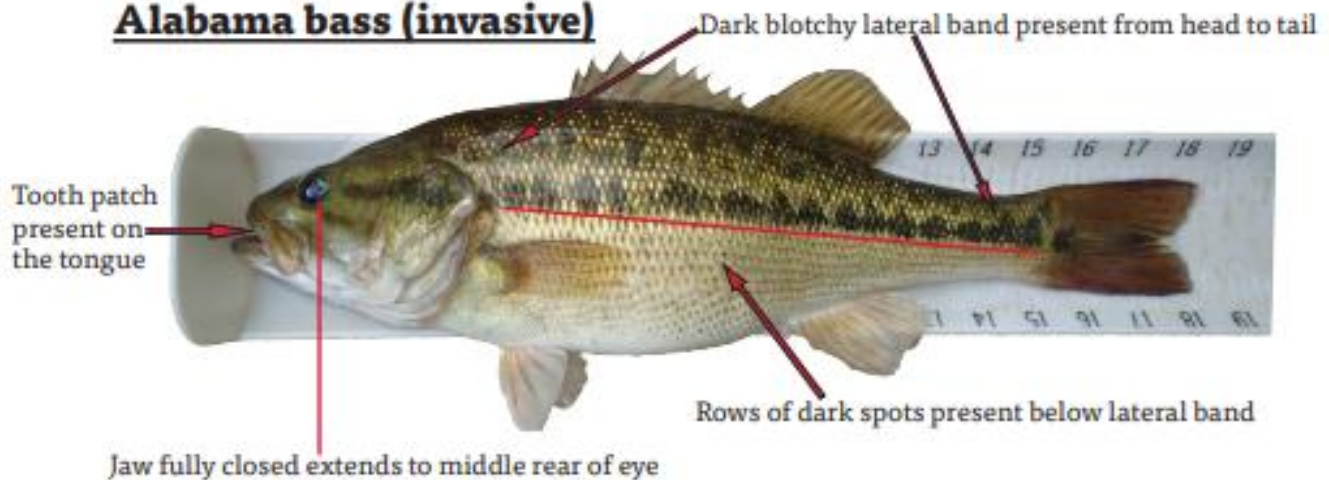


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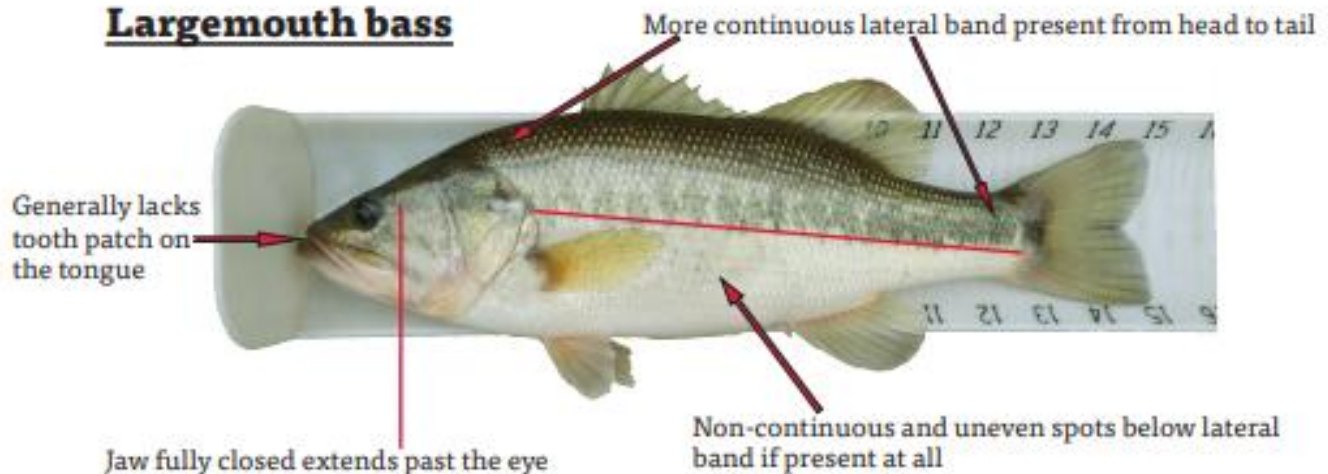


DO YOU KNOW THE DIFFERENCE?

Alabama bass (invasive)



Largemouth bass



- Anglers are reminded that the introduction of novel predators can have unforeseen impacts on native or established ecosystems.
- The introduction of Alabama bass is illegal in Virginia. Alabama bass have been scientifically shown to out-compete established populations of largemouth bass and hybridize with small-mouth bass.
- Invasive species cause negative ecological and/or economic harm.
- Anglers who suspect they have captured an Alabama bass should take a picture of the fish, clip off a thumbnail-sized portion of one of the pelvic fins, and store the fin clip dry in an envelope. The pelvic fins are located on the bottom of the fish, just under the head. They should then either contact the Department of Wildlife Resources at: fisheries@dwr.virginia.gov or 804-367-1293.



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Youth Program Director

Tim Mick

The 2026 youth tournament seasons are in full swing. Since September 1st, there have been several tournaments open to our Junior Angler and Student Angler Federation (SAF) teams already. The Virginia TBF JR Angler & SAF High School State Championship is set for March 14th, 2026, on Smith Mountain Lake out of Parkway Marina. The winning Junior Angler Team will advance to the TBF Junior World Championship next summer and the winners of the SAF will go to the SAF World Finals and will be at Lake Cumberland, Kentucky, on June 24-26, 2026. Check out the Virginia web site www.vabass.com and youth www.bassfederation.com for more info.

We have had more Reel Kids Casting Skills events in 2025 and are looking to host even more events in 2026. Please contact me (Tim Mick) so we can schedule an event kit for you and help with the event. The Age Group Winners from each event can advance to the Virginia Bass Chapter Federations Reel Kids Casting Skills State Championship that is held at the Richmond Fishing Expo at the State Fairgrounds each January. This year we will be at the Richmond Fishing Expo, January 16th-18th, 2026. Youth can still try to qualify for the Championship round on Friday the 16th and Saturday morning 17th. The Championship Round is scheduled to start at 1 PM, Saturday, January 17th. The Reel Kids events on Sunday will qualify participants for the 2027 State Championship.

TBF Junior Angler and the Student Angler Federation (SAF) memberships are always open. There is only a \$25 annual membership fee per angler. There are no entry fees at any of our Virginia Federation hosted Junior or SAF tournaments. All you need is a boat, two anglers and a boat captain to fish in either the TBF Junior Angler (8th grade and under) or SAF (9th thru 12th grade) level. Watch for a tournament scheduled in your area in each issue of Tightlines, on the State web site: www.vabass.com and on our Facebook page. Feel free to contact me with any questions.

Lastly, please visit and support the many TBF State and local sponsors; you see their ads throughout this publication. Without them we cannot continue to grow our program.

Be careful out there and fish much.

Tim Mick
State Youth Director
Email: tmickbass@verizon.net
Cell: 804 943-5151



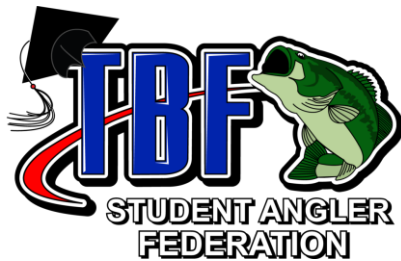
Check out our Youth Fishing Facebook page at <https://www.facebook.com/virginiatbfyouth> for the up-to-date news and happenings in the Virginia TBF Youth Program

Upcoming Events



Reel Kids Casting Skills events and State Championship will be at the Richmond Fishing Expo 16-18 January 2026.

Reel Kids Casting Skills events will be held during the annual Spring Fishing Classic at the Bass Pro Shops, Hampton, VA in March 2026.



The SAF High School State Championship will be on March 14, 2026 on Smith Mountain Lake



The Virginia TBF JR Angler 2025 State Championship will be March 14, 2026 on Smith Mountain Lake



The SAF High School World Finals will be June 24-26, 2026 on Lake Cumberland, Kentucky

Virginia Youth Anglers Compete at State Federation Region Tournaments

Under the new format for Virginia Youth Anglers, teams are allowed to participate in State Federation Region Tournaments and earn points towards a State Youth Team of the Year Title. Youth Teams enter (no entry fee), launch, and weigh-in with the adults during Region Tournaments. Teams are awarded points based upon the number of Youth teams competing in the event and their finishing place among youth teams. Points for the youth teams from throughout the state will be compiled and their top 3 point earning events will be tallied to determine the Virginia Youth Team of the Year. Each year the Youth teams from throughout the state will gather for a tournament and head to head competition to determine who will represent Virginia at the TBF Junior World Championship Tournament.

Virginia High School Angling Teams are also invited to compete at State Federation Region Tournaments to earn points towards a Virginia High School Team of the Year title. The High School Anglers also compete in the Student Angler Federation events and the SAF hosted State High School Championship Tournament each year.

Youth Anglers must be a member of an active TBF Junior Club or the Student Angler Federation (SAF). Each Youth Angler Team must arrange for their own boat and boat captain and complete the required Emergency Medical Information Event and Liability/Parental Consent forms. Youth Teams will launch and weigh-in with the host tournament anglers and earn valuable points towards the Virginia TBF Junior Angler or High School State Championship title.

Virginia Bass Chapter Federation Point of Contact for Youth Angler memberships and tournament registrations are: Tim Mick, Email: tmickbass@verizon.net or Scott Whitmore, Email: stratos.22225@gmail.com



Student Angler Federation High School Program

The high school fishing program is ran by the TBF National Office. Each year High School Anglers have the opportunity to fish the Virginia High School Championship Tournament and Bass Pro Shops/MLF Open Tournaments. Tournament dates, locations and additional information on additional opportunities for Virginia High School Anglers to fish local events will be shared on the VA TBF Youth Facebook page. Student Angler Federation Membership and Registrations for SAF High School Tournaments and the High School World Finals/National Championship are processed online through the Student Angler Federation web site: <https://highschoolfishing.org/>.



2026 Virginia Youth Tournament Schedule

The following tournaments are available for Youth Anglers (Junior Anglers and SAF High School Anglers). Anglers may contact the Virginia State Youth Director or the Host Region indicated for each tournament listed below for specific tournament information (Contact information is available on page 3 of this publication). Additional information will also be shared on the VA TBF Youth Facebook page for each event:

<https://www.facebook.com/virginiatbfyouth/>

Date	Location	Ramp	Hours	Host Region
February 7, 2026	Philpott Lake	Twin Ridge Ramp	7AM- 4PM	Region 4
February 28, 2026	South Holston Lake	421 Ramp	7AM – 3PM	Region 10
February 28, 2026	Smith Mountain Lake	State Park Ramp	7AM- 4PM	Region 4
March 7, 2026	South Holston Lake	421 Ramp	TBD	Region 10
March 14, 2026	Smith Mountain Lake	Parkway Marina	TBD	Junior & High School State Championships
March 21, 2026	Boone Lake	TVA Ramp	TBD	Region 10
March 21, 2026	Kerr Lake	North Bend	7AM – 3PM	Region 6
March 28, 2026	Chickahominy River	Riverfront Park	Safe light to 3PM	Region 8
March 28, 2026	Potomac River	Leesylvania	TBD	Region 1
April 4, 2026	Lake Gaston	Holly Grove Marina	TBD	South Regional
April 11, 2026	Watagua Lake	Rats Branch Ramp	TBD	Region 10
April 11, 2026	Lake Gaston	Holly Grove	TBD	Region 6
April 18, 2026	South Holston Lake	Washington County	6Am-3PM	Region 4
April 18, 2026	South Holston Lake	Observation Knob	TBD	Region 10
April 18, 2026	Kerr Lake	Eastland Creek	Safe light to 3PM	Region 8
April 19, 2026	Lake Gaston	Holly Grove Marina	Safe light to 2PM	Region 8
April 25, 2026	Lake Anna	Sturgeon Creek	TBD	Region 1
April 25, 2026	Watagua Lake	Rats Branch Ramp	TBD	Region 10
May 2, 2026	Lake Anna	Sturgeon Creek	TBD	North Regional
May 9, 2026	Watagua Lake	Rats Branch Ramp	TBD	Region 10
May 9, 2026	James River	Jordan Point Marina	TBD	Region 6
May 9, 2026	Chickahominy River	Riverside Campground	TBD	Region 1
May 9, 2026	Pamunkey River	Williams Landing	Safe light to 3PM	Region 8
May 16, 2026	Philpott Lake	Twin Ridge Ramp	6AM- 3PM	Region 4
May 23, 2026	Boone Lake	TVA Ramp	TBD	Region 10
May 30, 2026	Claytor Lake	Hidden Valley Ramp	6AM-3PM	Region 4

2026 Virginia Youth Tournament Schedule (continued)

Date	Location	Ramp	Hours	Host Region
June 6/7, 2026	Chickahominy River	Riverfront Park	TBD	Team Trail Champ.
June 13, 2026	Chowan River	Shoups Landing	Safe light to 3PM	Region 8
June 13, 2026	Potomac River	Leesylvania	TBD	Region 1
June 20, 2026	Chickahominy River	Riverfront Park	TBD	Region 6
August 8, 2026	Chickahominy River	Riverfront Park	Safe light to 3PM	Region 8
August 15, 2026	Pamunkey River	Williams Landing	TBD	Region 6
September 12, 2026	Lake Anna	Sturgeon Creek	Safe light to 3PM	Region 8
September 19, 2026	Lake Anna	Sturgeon Creek	TBD	Region 1
October 10, 2026	Nottoway River	Gen Vaughan Rte 258	Safe light to 3PM	Region 8
October 10/11, 2026	Potomac River	Leesylvania	TBD	Region 1
October 17, 2026	Claytor Lake	Hidden Valley Ramp	7AM-4PM	Region 4
October 17, 2026	Lake Chesdin	Public Ramp	TBD	Region 6
November 1, 2026	Chickahominy River	Riverfront Park	Safe light to 2PM	Region 8

Virginia Youth Fishing



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Community Outreach

Virginia Bass Chapter Federations “Rods & Reels for Kids” Project



We would like to thank our “Rods & Reels for Kids” Program Partners, Bass Pro Shop of Hampton, who continues to support our efforts with their donations. Through the 2025 Spring Fishing Classic Rod & Reel Exchange Promotion the Hampton Bass Pro Shop has donated 201 rods and 347 reels in support of our ongoing efforts to provide new and reconditioned rod and reel combos to youth and organizations hosting family and veteran fishing events statewide. We are presently working on several recent requests for rods and reels in support of both youth and veteran events this summer. In 2025, the program efforts provided rods, reels, and tackle items in support of the Wayne Fenton Annual Veterans Fishing event, the Region 1 Youth Family Fishing Day, the Christiansburg Department of Parks and Recreation Annual Tony Huddleston Memorial Fishing Rodeo in Christiansburg, and the Virginia TBF Junior Angler program. We have reconditioned and given out rod & reels to youth anglers competing at our tournaments and the Maryland, Delaware & New Jersey Tri-State High School State Championship Tournament hosted by the Virginia Bass Chapter Federation on Lake Anna.



Bass Pro Shops - Hampton, Va.



Tony Huddleston Memorial Trout Fishing Rodeo

The 10th Annual Tony L. Huddleston Trout Rodeo took place on Saturday, October 4, 2025, at Izaak Walton Park in Christiansburg, marking the most successful event in its history. A record 120 participants turned out for a morning of fishing, fun, and community partnership.



Support from local organizations helped elevate this year's rodeo. TBF Virginia Bass Chapter Federation Region 4 hosted the Reel Kids Casting Skills Competition, while Region 8 supplied 25 fishing rods for children without their own gear. The Department of Wildlife Resources was on-site to engage and educate young anglers and a new addition—Montgomery County 4-H—offered an archery activity that quickly became a crowd favorite. These partnerships continue to play a vital role in shaping positive outdoor experiences for the next generation.



The Reel Kids Casting Skills Competition winners, Parker King (age group 7-11) and Niniola Kaka (age group 12-15) qualified for the state championship that will be held at the Richmond Fishing Expo in Doswell Virginia on Saturday, January 17th.

The event honors the memory of Tony Huddleston, a dedicated Christiansburg Parks and Recreation employee who served as a facility supervisor, sports official, and multi-sport youth coach. Beyond his work with the department, Tony founded the Junior Legion baseball program and was widely known as a mentor whose impact reached countless young people. He tragically passed away as the result of a fishing accident, and this event serves as a lasting tribute to his legacy.



Each participant was permitted to catch up to four fish during the two-hour event. Awards were presented to the top anglers in each age group: Riley Daigneault (age group 4-6), Wyatt Compton (age group 7-9), Colton Sult (age group 10-12) and Bradley Brumfield (age group 13-15).

Additional plaques and tackle boxes were awarded for the largest and smallest fish overall. Every participant received an event T-shirt, a giveaway ticket, and a free lunch. More than \$2,000 in prizes was distributed, all donated by generous local businesses. A parent raffle also helped raise funds to kick-start planning for the 2026 rodeo.



The continued support from community partners and businesses—contributing nearly \$5,000 in donations and supplies—remains essential to the event's success and ensures that Tony's spirit of mentorship and outdoor enjoyment lives on.

Bass Pro Shops provides support for State Federations Youth and Community Outreach Programs



Hampton, Virginia's Bass Pro Shops Manager Chris Chase presents Virginia Bass Chapter Federation President Scott Whitmore and Region 8 Director John Flicek with Bass Pro Shops Gift Cards to support the States Youth and Community Outreach Programs. This donation will insure the continued success of the Virginia Bass Chapter Federations Youth Angling Programs and the "Rods & Reels for Kids" Project in 2026.

"Rods & Reels for Kids"



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Director – Kenny Brown

Region 1

Includes the counties of Arlington, Fairfax, Loudon, Clarke, Frederick, Warren, Shenandoah, Stafford, Culpeper, Rappahannock, Page, King George, Orange, Spotsylvania, Caroline, Louisa, Madison, Rockingham, Fluvanna, Albemarle, Prince William and Greene also all the cities within them, and the District of Columbia.

With the 2025 Region 1 season in the books let's give congratulations to all the competitors for another safe and successful tournament season. We held our two-day classic on the Potomac river and the weather gods decided to play a part in the outcome, with high winds and small craft advisories we made the decision to cancel day two was made. With a weight of 15.86 pounds, the team of Rick Mills - Chris Mills took the win. Taking big fish honors was the team of Jeff Nalls - Drew Nalls with a 4.15 beauty. When the wind stopped blowing and the river settled down, the team of Mike Ramey and Phillip Hunt walked away with the honor of Anglers of the year. It was a tight race again this year with the team of Rick and Chris Mills only a few points behind, followed by Cole Wykoff and Garth Bucks in third. With the tournament season wrapped up and cold temperatures settled in, and hunting season is in full swing most fishermen have packed their boats away. For some, now is the time to sort, and restock tackle and maybe clean up some reels to pass the hours of cabin fever in preparation for the 2026 season.

Potomac River – October 11, 2025

Place	Angler	Co-Angler	Weight
1	Rick Mills	Chris Mills	15.86
2	Jon Perham	Mitch Portervint	13.98
3	Barry Gunn	Chris Knutti	12.81
4	Craig Loudan	Tommy Hasler	12.25
5	Cole Wykoff	Garth Bucks	11.61
6	Joe Imler	Curtis Sullivan	11.29
7	Chris Craft	Scott Taylor	10.88
8	Steve Starkey	Camden Starkey	10.17
9	Marty Schray	Mike Longerbeam	9.85
10	Mike Ramey	Phillip Hunt	9.76
11	Harry Lambert	William Wykoff	9.71
12	Eddie Minor	Joe Bandish	9.42
13	Charlie Munday	Brian Swall	9.36
14	Gene Parker	Jodi Robinson	8.88
15	Jeff Nalls	Drew Nalls	8.43
16	Doug Fisher	Kevin Stippey	8.29
17	Shawn Groves	Willie Philyaw	7.04
18	Jeff Meade	Scott Favors	0
19	Steve Shaffer	Connor Shaffer	0

Potomac River Big Fish:

Jeff Nalls/Drew Nalls

4.15 lbs.



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Region 1 - 2026 Season Schedule

March 28 th	Potomac River
April 25 th	Lake Anna
May 9 th	Chickahominy River
June 13 th	Potomac River
September 19 th	Lake Anna
October 10-11	Potomac River

Up to date info for Region 1 can always be found on our Facebook page:

<https://www.facebook.com/va.bass.region.1>



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Region 1 Final Standings for 2025

Place	Angler	Club	Lake Anna	Potomac	Potomac	Chickahominy	Chickahomir	Potomac	# Fish	Points
1	Mike Ramey	BSB	248	249	246	250	237	341	30	1571
1	Phillip Hunt	BSB	248	249	246	250	237	341	30	1571
2	Rick Mills	HOO	245	239	244	248	236	350	29	1562
2	Chris Mills	HOO	245	239	244	248	236	350	29	1562
3	Cole Wykoff	HOO	247	243	233	237	250	346	28	1556
3	Garth Bucks	HOO	247	243	233	237	250	346	28	1556
4	Joe Imler	MTV	232	247	249	246	235	345	29	1554
5	Charlie Munday	BSB	230	238	238	238	248	338	26	1530
5	Brian Swall	BSB	230	238	238	238	248	338	26	1530
6	Barry Gunn	BAT	236	237	240	229	232	348	29	1522
6	Chris Knutti	BAT	236	237	240	229	232	348	29	1522
7	Harry Lambert	HOO	246	235	233	234	234	340	25	1522
7	William Wykoff	HOO	246	235	233	234	234	340	25	1522
8	Doug Fisher	NOVA	242	233	236	232	231	335	19	1509
8	Kevin Stippey	NOVA	242	233	236	232	231	335	19	1509
9	Shawn Groves	BAT	238	116	243	239	241	334	24	1411
9	Willie Philyaw	BAT	238	116	243	239	241	334	24	1411
10	Craig Loudan	NVBA	231	116	237	235	242	347	22	1408
11	Scott Favors	BAT	233	245	247	236	249	168	23	1378
12	Jeff Nalls	BSB	0	242	235	247	240	336	18	1300
12	Drew Nalls	BSB	0	242	235	247	240	336	18	1300
13	Marty Schray	HOO	250	0	242	228	233	342	25	1295
13	Mike Longerbeam	HOO	250	0	242	228	233	342	25	1295
14	Chris Craft	BSB	115	116	239	240	238	344	19	1292
15	John Perham	BAT	237	116	0	233	247	349	14	1182
15	Mitch Portervint	BAT	237	116	0	233	247	349	14	1182
16	Joe Bandish	BAT	0	232	116	227	249	339	14	1163
17	Eddie Minor	BAT	233	232	116	227	0	339	12	1147
18	Steve Starkey	BSB	0	0	250	245	246	343	20	1084
19	Scott Taylor	BSB	115	116	0	240	238	344	4	1053
20	Joey Ratliff	BSB	243	246	0	249	244	0	20	982
20	Andy Hash	BSB	243	246	0	249	244	0	20	982
21	Larry Kempler	MTV	240	250	0	241	245	0	20	976
22	Mike Cole	BSB	249	241	241	242	0	0	20	973
22	Steve Hajdasz	BSB	249	241	241	242	0	0	20	973
23	Kenny Brown	MTV	0	250	234	241	245	0	18	970
24	Sammy Payton	NVBA	234	244	248	243	0	0	19	969
25	Tom Hayes	NVBA	231	0	237	235	242	0	17	945
26	Kris Johnson	MTV	239	240	116	244	0	0	14	839
26	Dave Porter	MTV	239	240	116	244	0	0	14	839
27	Gene Parker	NOVA	0	248	245	0	0	337	15	830
27	Jodi Robinson	NOVA	0	248	245	0	0	337	15	830
28	Curtis Sullivan	MTV	0	0	0	246	235	345	15	826
29	Mike Nelms	BSB	0	0	250	245	246	0	15	741
30	Andy Fisher	NVBA	234	244	0	243	0	0	14	721

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Region 4

Includes the counties of Augusta, Highland, Nelson, Amherst, Rockbridge, Campbell, Bedford, Botetourt, Bath, Allegheny, Bland, Craig, Giles, Roanoke, Montgomery, Pulaski, Wythe, Floyd, Carroll, Franklin, Pittsylvania, Henry, Patrick also all cities within them.

Region 4 Tournament Results

Claytor Lake Open Tournament– October 18, 2025

On October 18, we had our last regular season tournament at Claytor Lake. The results were:

Place	Club/Open	Boater	Non-Boater	# of Fish	Weight	Big Fish
1	Claytor Mafia	William Croteau	Logan Combs \$660+\$110	5	13.42	3.36
2	Claytor Mafia	Zach Peaslee	Jason Adams \$220	5	12.58	
3	Open	Darrell Wright	Bobby Pagen	5	11	2.44
4	BlackWater	Mickey Ellis	Bobby Yates	5	9.76	
5	Open	Dustin Riddle		5	9.46	
6	Triangle	Brian Burnett	Mark Cox	5	7.46	
7	Star City	Jeff Rollins	Martin Montgomery	4	5.26	
8	Star City	Chuck Hart	Hayden Hart	3	4.46	
9	BlackWater	Daniel Eubank	Douglas Eubank	0	0	
10	Triangle	Danny Reed	AJ Phenix	0	0	
11	Triangle	Steve Deisher	Neil Humrick	0	0	
12	Open	Earl Harper	Heather Harper	0	0	
13	Open	Mario Jones	CJ Hamilton	0	0	
14	Open	Mike Toney	Eric Frazier	0	0	
15	Open	Donald Lawson	Jamie Long	0	0	



Following our ten regular season tournaments, we had two teams tied for the Points Championship. They were the teams of William Croteau / Logan Combs and Zach Peaslee / Bobby Peaslee. Zach and Bobby have been our Points Champions the last several years. Per Region 4 rules, the tie breaker is whichever team had the highest weight during the year. Therefore, the team of William Croteau and Logan Combs ended up being our Points Champions by one tenth of a pound. They will receive free entry into all Region 4 tournaments next year. Region 4 will also pay for them to fish any or all of the VA Bass Team Tournament Trail tournaments in 2026.

The final Region 4 season standings are:

Boater	fishoff	Non-Boater	fishoff	SML	SOH	Clay	Phil	Clay	SML	SML	Clay	SML	Clay	Total4	HeavyWeight
William Croteau	6	Logan Combs	4	81	98	82	0	100	0	0	100	0	100	398	Clay 18.26
Zach Peaslee	9	Bobby Peaslee	8	98	99	96	100	99	83	98	84	100	99	398	SML 18.16
Paul Craighead	8	Brian Burnett	10	81	93	99	98	98	99	92	99	84	97	395	SML 17.78
Matt Harman	6	Ronnie Mitchell	5	95	92	92	0	97	100	100	0	0	0	392	SML 19.50
Chuck Hart	9	Hayden Hart	9	94	100	98	89	93	94	0	96	94	95	388	SOHO 17.72
Daniel Eubank	9	Douglas Eubank	10	91	95	93	97	96	95	99	95	84	85	387	SML 17.72
Seth Martin	8	Jared Looney	8	96	96	97	96	95	93	93	98	0	0	387	SML 16.66
Ian Branson	7	Jon Branson	5	100	0	94	92	0	96	95	84	95	0	386	SML 22.44
Josh Firend	4	Nathan Lawrance	5	97	97	95	0	94	0	0	0	97	0	386	SML 17.68
Mickey Ellis	5	Bobby Yates	5	92	83	0	90	0	0	91	94	0	98	377	SML 14.07
Jeff Rollings	6	Martin Montgomery	6	0	0	82	95	83	0	91	94	0	96	376	SML 11.56
Charles Lee	6	Tony Morris	4	81	84	100	91	0	98	81	84	0	0	373	SML 17.44
Danny Reed	7			0	0	82	99	83	0	81	84	99	85	367	SML 13.26
Steven Deisher	5	Bobby Pauley	5	0	0	82	0	0	0	94	84	96	85	359	SML 13.00
Jason Martin	4	Todd Whittaker	2	0	0	0	82	0	97	91	97	0	0	357	SML 14.53
David Martin	5	Kevin Simmons	5	81	0	0	89	0	83	81	84	0	0	337	Phil 7.52
Dennis Hartzl	2	James Shorter	2	93	0	0	92	0	0	0	0	0	0	185	Phil 11.16
Greg Stallings	2	Ricky Grant	2	99	0	0	78	0	0	0	0	0	0	177	SML 20.04
Wally Dryman	2	Gary Jones	2	0	0	82	94	0	0	0	0	0	0	176	Phil 11.18
Rocky Huff	2	Chuck Lyons	2	81	84	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	165	
Marco Warner	1	Skyler Caspen	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	96	0	0	0	96	SML 13.96



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TOTAL BOAT CONTROL



On November 22, we had our Region 4 Championship Tournament. Any Region 4 member who fished at least four regular season tournaments was eligible to fish it. We had eleven boats fishing with \$2140 being paid out in prize money. Even though the Peaslee's barely missed being Points Champions again, they came out on top in the Championship event. The results were:

Claytor Lake- Region 4 Championship Tournament– November 22, 2025

Place	Club/Open	Boater	Non-Boater	# of Fish	Weight	Big Fish
1	Claytor Mafia	Zach Peaslee	Bobby Peaslee \$1300	5	13.82	3.34
2	Claytor Mafia	Seth Martin	Jared Looney \$500	5	12.62	3.46
3	BlackWater	Daniel Eubank	Douglas Eubank \$230	5	11.92	
4	Claytor Mafia	William Croteau	Logan Combs \$110	5	10.92	
5	Star City	Ian Branson	Jon Branson	5	9.7	
6	StarCity/Southwestern	David Martin	Kevin Simmons	5	9.28	3.42
7	Triangle	Danny Reed		5	9.24	3.8
8	BlackWater	Mickey Ellis	Bobby Yates	5	6.7	
9	Star City	Jeff Rollins	Martin Montgomery	2	4.16	
10	Triangle	Paul Craighead	Brian Burnett	0	0	
11	Triangle	Steve Deisher	Bobby Pauley	0	0	



Claytor Lake



Region 4's 2026 Team Tournament Trail schedule

The 2026 Region 4 tournament schedule is shown below. The schedule is tentative pending obtaining ramp permits. Tournaments are open to both Federation and non-Federation anglers.

2026 Region 4 TBF VA Bass Open Team Tournament Trail

\$100 entry per boat Includes Big Fish Pot

\$\$ 1,000 \$\$ 1st place and 1 place paid for every 7 boats after 14 paid entries

9 OPENS 5 FISH LIMIT 90% Pay back

No Membership Need to Participate

Feb. 7th Philpott Lake, Twin Ridge Ramp, 7am-4pm (all Fish 12")

Feb. 28th Smith Mountain, State Park Ramp, 7am-4pm (all Fish 14")

(Mar. 14th Smith Mountain, Parkway Marina, TBF Members Only)

Mar. 14th TBF Va. State West Regional Rules Apply, \$100 Side Pot Optional, Points for all Region 4 teams

April 18th South Holston, Washington County Ramp, 6am-3pm (Sm 15", Lm/spots 12")

May 16th Philpott Lake, Twin Ridge Ramp, 6am-3pm (all Fish 12")

May 30th Claytor Lake, Hidden Valley Ramp, 6am-3pm (Sm 14", Lm/spots 12")

(Must have 2 people in the boat for night tournaments)

June 13th Smith Mountain, State Park Ramp, (Night) 7pm-3am (all Fish 14")

July 11th Smith Mountain, State Park Ramp, (Night) 7pm-3am (all Fish 14")

July 27th Smith Mountain, State Park Ramp, (Night) 7pm-3am (all Fish 14")

Oct. 17 Claytor Lake, Hidden Valley Ramp, 7am-4pm (Sm 14", Lm/spots 12")

Only Region 4 TBF TEAMS will receive points for TOP TEAM of the YEAR

REGION 4 TBF TEAMS FISH-OFF

Nov. 21st Smith Mountain, Parkway Marina, 7am-4pm (all Fish 14")

Fish-OFF Eligibility

(Must be a Region 4 TBF member who has fished at least 4 open tournaments and 1 TBF VA. State Regional)

Region 4 TBF Teams fishing all tournaments will have free entry into the Fish-Off

Please Join a Region 4 TBF Club Today (contact 540-529-6550)

Keep up with all Region 4 news on our Facebook page: **"Region 4 Virginia Bass TBF"**

<https://www.facebook.com/RegionFourVirginiaBassTBF/>



Director – James Vick Sr.

Region 6

Includes the counties of Buckingham, Appomattox, Powhatan, Cumberland, Prince George, Amelia, Surry, Dinwiddie, Nottoway, Prince Edward, Sussex, Lunenburg, Charlotte, Greenville, Brunswick, Mecklenburg, Halifax, also the areas of Colonial Heights, Ettrick, Matoaca and Enon in Chesterfield County.

We've finished work on our 2026 tournament schedule and are looking forward to another successful season in New Year. The 2025 season results are below. It was a close finish with Tim Byers & Craig Ferguson edging out Kelvin and Thomas Barnes by just one point. Congratulations to both teams on their very competitive season. Our 2025 Region 6 Championship Team will receive a hooded Region 6 sweat shirt. Both of our First and second place teams will also receive one paid entry in a 2026 State Team Trail Tournament.

James Vick Sr.

Region 6 Director

Region 6 Final 2025 Standings (Top 20)

Place	Angler	Co-Angler	Weight	Points
1	Tim Byers	Craig Ferguson	78.11	1520
2	Kelvin Barnes	Thomas Barnes	62.28	1519
3	Bob Graves	Terry Ciavarella	73.96	1511
4	Austin Burton	Lane Peade	59.84	1508
5	Donnie Bowman	Dylan Bowman	66.99	1505
6	Rick Lemocks	Jason Upton	64.57	1505
7	Roger Walters	Renee Walters	55.83	1504
8	Mike Renshaw	Ken Huband	64.54	1498
9	James Vick	Bryan Reedy	56.50	1488
10	Phillip Gould	Keith Moring	52.19	1486
11	Frank Glazier	Drew Berry	55.38	1480
12	Danny Gutshall	Ayden Gutshall	52.94	1475
13	Wayne Deavers	Waverly Randall	38.81	1465
14	Alton Vaughn	Donald Lee	37.78	1459
15	Orlando Kelly	Cory King	32.80	1454
16	Wade Rook	Caleb Rook	48.88	1205
17	James Boyles	Steven McFadden	29.52	1169
18	Donald Martin	Zach Bryant	28.47	1162
19	Dwayne Berry	Jacob McCabe	31.09	903
20	Patrick Bell	Mark Melian	20.49	874

On December 7th the Tri-City Bass Club held their annual Christmas and Season Awards gathering.



First place for the 2025 season was Tim Byers and Craig Ferguson. The 2nd Place Team was Rick Lemocks and Jason Upton. Bob Graves and Terry Ciavarella finished the season in 3rd Place and with Bob Graves receiving the Big Fish Award for the year.

Region 6 - 2026 Season Schedule

March 21
April 11
May 9
June 20
August 15
October 17

Bugg's Island
Lake Gaston
James River
Chickahominy River
Pamunkey
Lake Chesdin

North Bend State Park
Holly Grove Marina
Jordan Point Marina
Riverfront Park
Williams Landing
Public Ramp



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Director – John Flicek

Region 8

Includes the counties of King William, Hanover, Goochland, New Kent, Henrico, Charles City, James City, York, Northumberland, Westmoreland, Richmond, Essex, Lancaster, Middlesex, King and Queen, Mathews, and Gloucester, Accomack, Northampton, Isle Of Wight, and Southampton also all the cities within them including Richmond City, Poquoson, Hampton, Newport News, Virginia Beach, Norfolk, Portsmouth, Chesapeake and Suffolk. All of Chesterfield County except the areas of Colonial Heights, Ettrick, Matoaca and Enon.

The Region 8 Board has been busy during the winter months in preparation for our 2026 events and tournament season. The tournament schedule is set and permits acquired where needed. Our next event will be the Richmond Fishing Expo where we will be looking for member volunteers to help at the State Federation booth on Friday, January 16th through Sunday the 18th. Then we will be conducting our annual Region 8 events during the Hampton Bass Pro Shops Spring Fishing Classic in March. Again I will be looking for volunteers to help man the Rod & Reel exchange project along with our annual Tackle Pack Drawing. We will also be conducting the usual Reel Kids Casting Skills Competition one weekend during the event. Our 2026 Region Tournament schedule starts on March 28th on the Chickahominy River. Check our Region 8 web site: www.vabassregion8.com for schedules, tournament results, standings and more. We also will be passing on information through our facebook page:

<https://www.facebook.com/profile.php?id=100069897165572> .

Two of our Region 8 anglers have qualified for the 2026 TBF National Championship Tournament. Angler Brad Huddleston and Co-Angler Mark Elliott will be traveling to Pickwick Lake in Florence, Alabama on March 18-20. Brad and Mark earned their berths in the National Championship by finishing as the Top Virginia Anglers at the District TBF National Semi-Final Tournament on the Ohio River last September. These are both very accomplished anglers and we wish them the best of luck in their pursuit of the TBF National Championship.

The 2025 Region 8 Championship was decided on the Pamunkey River at our last tournament of the 2025 season. The Team of Scott Coons and Mark Elliott earned the Region Championship with top weights in their best 6 out of 8 Region tournaments of the season. Scott finished as the Top Angler with 83.09 pounds and Mark earned the Top Co-Angler spot with 92.29 pounds. Scott Coons also received our 2025 Big Bass Award for his 9.65 pound Chickahominy Largemouth caught this past April.



Our Champions received the customary Region 8 Championship plaques and embroidered jackets. They along with our 2nd Place Angler, Dave McLean and 2nd Place Co-Angler, John Guzik, also received a cash reward for their efforts. Congratulations to all on a great 2025 season.

The 2026 National Semi Region Qualifier tournaments started with or Open Tournament on the Chickahominy River this past August. The 2026 National Semi Final (NSF) which is scheduled to be held on Lake Anna, September 25-27, 2026. Since the 2026 NSF is hosted by Virginia I suspect everyone will do their most to qualify.

Please patronize those businesses that have and continue to support our Region 8 family: **Bass Pro Shops, Fishing Pro Tech, Teriyaki Madness (Hampton, Williamsburg, & Virginia Beach), JJJ Handyman, Chuckatuck Trading Post, Old Dominion Guns, and Dove Designs Pro.**

I ask that each of us take time out of our busy lives to remember those that are serving to protect our nation along with our friends and family that are battling illness, mourning the loss of a love one, and facing life's challenges each day.

John Flicek
Region 8 Director



2026 Region 8 Tournament Schedule

28 March (Sat)	Chickahominy (Rte 5)
18 April (Sat)	Kerr Lake (Eastland Creek)
19 April (Sun)	Lake Gaston (Holly Grove)
9 May (Sat)	Chowan River (Shoups Landing)
13 June (Sat)	Pamunkey River (Williams Ramp)
8 August (Sat)	Chickahominy (Rte 5) Tournament
22 August (Sat)	Chowan River (Shoups Landing)
12 Sept (Sat)	Lake Anna (Sturgeon Creek Marina)
10 October (Sat)	Nottoway River (Gen. Vaughan Bridge Ramp)
1 November (Sun)	Member Appreciation No Entry Fee Tournament – Chickahominy



The 2026 Region 8 season standings will be based on "Best 6 out of 8" tournaments.

Stay current with Region 8: www.vabassregion8.com or on our Facebook page:
<https://www.facebook.com/profile.php?id=100069897165572>



Region 8 Tournament Results

Pamunkey River, October 18, 2025

The Father & Son Team of Craig & Cameron Cheek "Team Teriyaki Madness" won with a 5 fish limit of bass weighing 12.69 pounds. The Boyles Brothers, Kaleb and Dakota, took 2nd Place with their limit of bass weighing in at 11.80 pounds. Kaleb & Dakota also had the tournaments Big Bass (5.10 pounds). In 3rd Place was the RVA Bassmasters team of Floyd Dalton and Tarance Fuller with 11.39 pounds. Scott Coons and Mark Elliott from 5-Rivers Bassmasters finished 4th with 10.93 pounds. The 5th Place team was Tim Seery and Ronnie Ketchum with 10.41 pounds. Nice day on the Pamunkey with lots of fish biting and every team brought a limit of bass to the scales.



Craig & Cameron Cheek
1st Place 12.69 lbs.



Kaleb & Dakota Boyles
2nd Place 11.80 lbs.

Pamunkey River Results (Top 15)

Place	Angler	Co-Angler	Weight
1	Craig Cheek	Cameron Cheek	12.69
2	Kaleb Boyles	Dakoda Boyles	11.80
3	Floyd Dalton	Tarance Fuller	11.39
4	Scott Coons	Mark Elliott	10.93
5	Tim Seery	Ronnie Ketchum	10.41
6	Nicky Skinner	Michael Williams	9.83
7	Dave McLean	Jacob McLean	9.72
8	Ed Clarke	Jared Clarke	9.66
9	Brad Huddleston	Dave Christian	9.09
10	Doug Griles	Parker Newsom	8.72
11	John Flicek	Robert Flicek	8.32
12	Kevin Phillips	Ray Allen	7.70
13	Tim Mitchem		7.66
14	Bob Everhart	Ashley Everhart	7.51
15	Eddie Hogge	Darrell Smith	6.72



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Region 8



Region 8 Members Appreciation Tournament

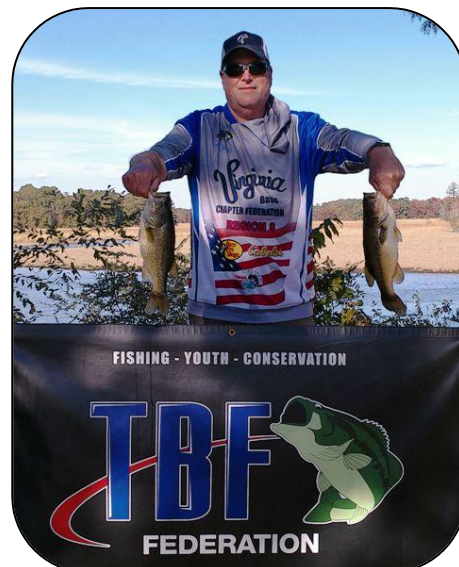


Chickahominy River, November 2, 2025

The annual Region 8 Members Appreciation "No-Entry-Fee" Tournament was held at Chickahominy Riverfront Park this past Sunday, November 2nd. Anglers launch at safe light with temperatures in the mid 40's and the bite difficult. However, as the day warmed up the fishing improved. Dakota Boyles and Larry Gray won the tournament with a 5 fish limit of bass weighing in at 14.43 pounds. Their 4.72 largemouth was the Big Bass for the day. In 2nd Place was the team of John and Dawson Guzik with 13.85 pounds. The 3rd Place team was Lee Johnson and Mike Garner with a limit of bass that weighed in at 13.16 pounds. Brandon Pearce and Nathan Williams finished in 4th Place with 13.14 pounds. Brad Huddleston and Dave Christian landed in the 5th spot with 12.75 pounds.

This Members Appreciation Tournament was our last event of the 2025 season and is held annually as a day of fishing, fellowship, & food. Following weigh-in anglers gathered for some pulled pork BBQ, food, awards and wide variety of door prizes.

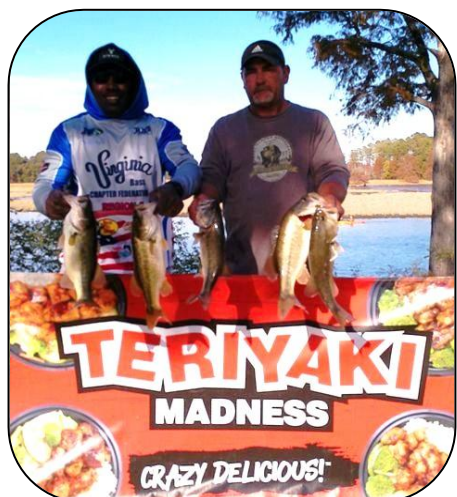
Region 8 Anglers would like to thank Fishing Pro Tech in Toano, Teriyaki Madness (Hampton, Williamsburg, Virginia Beach), Bass Pro Shops of Hampton, Dove Designs Pro, JLI Handyman, & Feel the Payne Fishing for their support in 2025.



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Chickahominy Riverfront Park November 2, 2025



Chickahominy River Results (Top 25)

Place	Angler	Co-Angler	Weight
1	Dakoda Boyles	Larry Gray	14.43
2	John Guzik	Dawson Guzik	13.85
3	Lee Johnson	Mike Garner	13.16
4	Brandon Pearce	Nathan Williams	13.14
5	Brad Huddleston	Dave Christian	12.75
6	Dave McLean		12.62
7	Marvin Major		12.43
8	Mike Guzik	Steve Campbell	12.33
9	James Whitehead	Matt Hockaday	12.10
10	Logan Barkley	Jordan Wilson	12.02
11	Avery Neely		12.00
12	Bob Everhart	Ashley Everhart	11.83
13	Jeff Hayden		11.13
14	Eddie Hogge	Darrell Smith	10.48
15	James Mills	Scott Shaffer	10.45
16	Craig Cheek	Cameron Cheek	10.40
17	Tim Seery		9.97
18	Terry Sullivan	Mike Siminksi	9.93
19	Tim Mitchem		9.76
20	Scott Coons	Mark Elliott	9.65
21	Jr Ingram	Sarah Ingram	9.42
22	Ed Clarke	Jared Clarke	9.22
23	Kevin Phillips	Ray Allen	9.12
24	Chad Howell	Chris Scott	8.91
25	Frank Reeves		8.48





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2026 Region 8 Club Tournament Schedules

5-Rivers Bassmasters

21 March (Sat)	Chowan River (Shoups Landing)
11 April (Sat)	Kerr Lake (Eastland Creek)
12 Apr (Sun)	Lake Gaston (Poplar Creek)
16 May (Sat)	Pasquotank River (Waterfront Park)
20 June (Sat)	Pamunkey River (Williams Landing)
18 July (Sat)	Nottoway River (Gen Vaughn Bridge)
15 Aug (Sat)	James River (Hopewell City Ramp)
13 Sept (Sat)	Chickahominy River (Rte 5)
19 September (Sat)	"Dash 4 the Cash"



TBF Bass Bandits of Virginia



March 1	Chowan River (Shoups Landing)
March 15	Lake Chesdin (Public Boat Ramp)
March 29	Chickahominy River (RT 5)
April 12	Nottoway River (Rte 258)
Apr 26	Perquimans' River (Hertford Boat Landing)
May 3	Blackwater River
May 17	Chowan River (Shoups Landing)
May 31	Nottoway River (Rte 258)
June 14	Chickahominy River (RT 5)
June 28	Chowan River
July 12	Pasquotank River (Elizabeth City)

July 26	Nottoway River
August 2	Chickahominy River
August 16	Appomattox River (Hopewell)
August 30	Chowan River

September 13	Roanoke Rapid Lake (5 th St)
September 27	Nottoway River
October 4	Chickahominy River
October 24-25	Club Classic: Location TBD

Nottoway River Rats



March 22	Lake Gaston
April 25	Kerr Lake
May 30	Chickahominy River
June 20	Chowan River
June 27	Old Lake
July 4	Nottoway River
July 18	Roanoke River
August 22	Nottoway River
August 22	Chowan River
September 5	Old Lake
September 19	Chowan River
October 17/18	Club CLASSIC: Location TBD



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Director – Tim Keen

Region 10

Includes the counties of Tazewell, Buchanan, Dickenson, Smyth, Russell, Wise, Grayson, Washington, Scott, and Lee also all cities within them.

As each day passes the excitement to start the 2026 fishing season grows. We are looking forward to building an even better season in 2026. We had our annual Region 10 Federation meeting on Saturday, December 6. One new thing that we decided to implement is the Lunker of the Year Award. For 2026 Region 10 is fishing seven points tournaments with two drops and you must fish four Region 10 Tournaments in 2026 to be eligible for the 2027 Region 10 Federation Classic.

The schedule for the 2026 season is set and listed below. The 2026 kickoff event will be held on February 28th with the Federation and Stateline Classics on South Holston Lake. The Federation Classic will NOT be a points tournament; you must have been an \$80 paid member, and you must have fished five out of the eight tournaments in 2025. There will be a combined total of \$5000 in payouts for the Stateline and Federation Classic tournaments; this large payout is made possible through our Region sponsorships. With that being said, I'd like to take time to send out a sincere thank you to our 2025 sponsors.

As always, we're open to new Bass Clubs and new Federation members in our area. Region 10 currently consists of Clinch Mountain, Buchanan County and Stateline Bass Clubs. If anyone is interested, feel free to contact myself or any of our Club Presidents for more information.

Tim Keen
Region 10 Director



Region 10 and Stateline Classic

2/28/26 South Holston Lake 7AM-3PM 421 Ramp

Region 10 2026 Schedule

3/7/26	South Holston Lake	421 Ramp
3/21/26	Boone Lake	TVA Ramp
4/11/26	Watauga Lake	Rats Branch
4/18/26	South Holston Lake	Observation Knob
4/25/26	Watauga Lake	Rats Branch
5/9/26	Watauga Lake	Rats Branch
5/23/26	Boone Lake	TVA Ramp

All tournaments last until 3pm.

Exact start times will be announced at least 48hrs prior day of tournament based on daylight safe time.

Stay current with Region 10 on our Facebook page; visit us at Region 10 Virginia Bass.

<https://www.facebook.com/Region-10-Virginia-Bass-264035677388772/>



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