



# FALMOUTH FLATS FLY FISHERS MONTHLY MEETING NOTES



**Date:** 19 March, 2024

## **Meeting Itinerary:**

- 6:00 – 7:00 p.m. Fly Tying
- 7:00 – 8:50 p.m. General Meeting
  - Coastal Conservation Association (CCA) Presentation: Shad Creel Limit Effort
  - UMW Summer Enrichment Program (SEP) Presentation: Request for Support
  - Upcoming Events review
  - Shad / Striper Techniques Presentation
  - Fishing Reports
    - Shad on the Rappahannock (discussion / comments)
    - Ohio Steelhead Report (slides / brief presentation)
  - Raffle

## **Club Business / Activities:**

### **- General Business:**

(1) Proposal for paid speaker (Tim Camissa) via Zoom at future meeting with Andy M paying half and the Club paying half. General consensus was not to contract with Mr. Camissa for a paid presentation based on four points: 1 – Much of his material is available on social media platforms free of charge; 2 – Individual members can sign up for select courses on their own; 3 – We have not paid any presenters in the past and this sets a bad precedent; and 4 – Problems we've had with Zoom presentations in the past.

(2) Acknowledgement of Andrew S being accepted / employed as camp staff & guide in training at Alaska Trophy Adventures in Katmai, Alaska for the 2024 season (May – September).

(3) Flies for Casting for Recovery (CfR) due to Kevin at next month's meeting. 14 per pattern.

(4) Beau Beasley will come to the next meeting to discuss (and sell) his new book on fishing with Project Healing Waters (PHW) anglers.

### **- Recent Fishing / Fishing Reports:**

(1) Shad along the Rappahannock: Limited to date with only small numbers being caught. Silt build up along banks at Falmouth Beach and Ficklen Island is cumbersome and dangerous in some places.

(2) Ohio Steelhead Report: Seven anglers participated. Abbreviated presentation highlighting Lessons Learned. Slide show posted to web site. Video will be produced.

- Finances / Budget: No Updates / new information (Treasurer out with COVID).
- Membership: New member gear bags provided to Eric F, Keith K, and Kensi K (youth bag)
- Upcoming Events / Activities Discussions:
  - March iteration of Frozen Rose fishing: Not scheduled - we were unable to reserve a date in March (already fully booked).
  - 3-4 April West Virginia Gold Rush Trip. Cancelled – did not receive minimum number of participant sign ups. Individuals will drive over and fish on their own.
  - 13 April Club Support to PHW Shad Day. Meet at Falmouth Beach parking lot NLT 0600 for breakfast / coffee and to be paired with PHW anglers. Craig will send email to confirm participants one week prior.
  - 19 April fishing with Nova TU. Meet at Ficklen Island information kiosk (on-street parking) at 0700. Need 3-6 participants. Lars will coordinate with interested parties separately.
  - 4 May Snakehead Kayak Fishing Trip. Lars / Andrew will present overview and initiate sign-ups at April meeting.
- Other / Miscellaneous: None

**Presentation Overview:**

(1) Wayne Young, Coastal Conservation Association (CCA) Virginia

Virginia is the only eastern State without creel limits on Hickory Shad, resulting in uncontrolled takes on the Rappahannock (and other traditional shad rivers). There has been insufficient research conducted or data available to determine the effect this is having on the overall population. The CCA will propose a managed shad fishery, to become effective in 2025, at the Virginia Marine Resource Commission’s fish management advisory committee meeting on 28 March. The managed fishery includes: Recreational shad fishing creel limit of 10 fish per day; establish permit programs for taking shad as bait; prohibit end tackle with high potential for mortality (limit to 2 hooks per line, etc); and prohibit bulk take gear (cast nets, dip nets). They request that interested anglers register, log into the virtual meeting, and provide in-put.

FFFF Action: The Conservation Officer and other interested parties will log into the virtual meeting and support the CCA initiative for a managed shad fishery.

(2) Michael Stebar, Biology Professor at UMW, Summer Enrichment Program (SEP)

SEP is a one week course for select High School students with 3 classes per day and an additional 90 minute outdoor activity event. Class sizes are limited to 16 students. The SEP will be held the second week of July (8-12).

Professor Stebar outlined the program and asked if FFFF would be interested in providing one or two of the outdoor activity modules focused on conservation, environmental, and / or fly fishing

activities. They are open to our suggestions and would request we provide module options no later than 15 April.

FFFF Actions: The Secretary will draft options for outdoor modules, including casting instruction, fly fishing on a local river / pond, fly tying, and basic macro-invertebrate sampling (bug pull).

**Attendance:** 19

- Members: Kevin B, Craig C, Eric F (new member), Dana G, Wilson G, Brian H, Ross H, Lars H, Keith K (new member), Stan, Eric S, Andrew S, Sam S, Rob R, James T, Jeremy W,

- Visitors / Prospective Members: Rafael C, Kensi K (daughter), Henry T (son)