

# The River News

The Official Newsletter Of The Delaware River Fishermen's Association

Volume 30, No. 5

September-October 2018

## Another Tournament Postponement (Is Anyone Surprised?)

### Byram Tournament Delayed By Weather

The DRFA Bass Tournament scheduled for Saturday September 15 at the Byram Ramp was postponed due to high water conditions. As of the press deadline for this newsletter no date was determined. Keep an eye on the club website and your email, or call the Tournament Hotline for notice of a replacement date.

This was the fifth tournament either delayed or postponed due to dangerous weather or water conditions.

The final tournament of the club season is expected to take place at the Bulls Island, NJ ramp on Saturday October 13<sup>th</sup>. That tournament was scheduled for a 7 am start.

### President's Message

Every late summer my wife and I head to Ocean City, New Jersey. The place where we stay, I call it

### Table of Contents

Meeting Minutes.....	2
From A2Z.....	4
Tournament Schedule.....	5
Tournament Results .....	5-6
AOTY Standings .....	6
Tournament Flier .....	7

the shore shack. It's a non-descript little place with the basic items to live at the shore. Outdoor shower, barbecue, and a 19-inch TV. It has clean comfortable beds and is air-conditioned. The place is cheap and dog friendly. What else do you need?

Most mornings I get up and head out to fish for a couple hours. Depending on what species I'm fishing for, is what location I wind up at. Blues, Kingfish, Tautog, Flounder, Striped Bass, Black Bass, and Weakfish, all seem to be available if you know where to look for them. So each morning is a little bit of an adventure. I like the back bay area it's quite and serene.

There's still some nice flounder there before the season ends for the year. A nice walk along the banks is sometimes productive. Kingfish are in the surf along with some stripers and nice blues. Black Bass and tautog are around the jetties and pilings. I don't have to go far to find fish. There is plenty of access and all of it's open to the public. After fishing I come home for lunch, put my bathing suit on and head to the beach. A quick scan of the surf and bird activity tells me to fish or not to fish. My wife likes to catch blues in the surf. Most of the time we just walk the beach looking at what floated in on the last high tide. I dive into the surf. I try to get some salt water on me daily. It always feels medicinal. An outdoor shower gets the salt

off and gets you squeaky clean. Dinner is simple not a lot of cooking and the grill often gets a good workout. The routine is only broken up by a traditional evening trip to the boardwalk for custard or a walk to the ice cream parlor.

Fishing on the Delaware River is always an adventure. I also cherish all the experiences the river gives up. I don't try to compare the two different experiences. That way I'm not disappointed wherever I'm fishing.

### Important Dates

**Wednesday, September 26, 7 pm, Monthly Meeting:** Silver Lake Nature Center, 1306 Bath Road, Bristol, PA

**Rescheduled Bass Tournament at Byram Ramp**  
Date/time to be determined.

**Saturday, October 6, 9 am, Silver Lake Nature Center:**  
Volunteers needed for cleanup.  
Silver Lake Nature Center, 1306 Bath Road, Bristol, PA

**Saturday, October 13, 7 am to 1 pm,** Bass Tournament at Bulls Island, NJ Ramp

**Sunday, October 14, 7 am to 3 pm,** SJBCA Bass Bowl

**Wednesday, October 31, 7 pm, Monthly Meeting:** Silver Lake Nature Center, 1306 Bath Road, Bristol, PA

## Minutes From The July Meeting

The July 25 meeting of the DRFA was held at the Silver Lake Nature Center with 21 members in attendance. The meeting was called to order by President John Pedrick at 7:05 pm.

Minutes of the June meeting were read by Secretary Wynette Goodnow and approved. Tournament director Ron Soto reported on a tournament change for Gloucester for Saturday July 28. The next scheduled tournament after that was August 4<sup>th</sup> Bass tournament. (*Mother Nature has been unkind to the DRFA tournament schedule this year.*)

Pete Antoniewicz discussed the Annual DRFA Raft Trip scheduled for August 13. Members were told to follow the DRFA website forum or to contact Pete for more information.

Treasurer /Eileen Kicinski reported deposits of \$80, expensed of \$478.00 and a balance of \$7,716.56 for July.

Membership as of the July meeting was 112, up from 104 a year before.

Members voted to make a \$100 donation to the Pennsylvania Yacht Club in Bill Burke's name. The Yacht Club was the location for the club's Youth Derby again this year. It was discussed about involving Yacht Club member families in the Youth Derby next year.

Jerry from Silver Lake thanked

Matt Kicinski for fixing lines for their fishing rods. They would like the club to do the same again next year.

The Trustees reported on their review of the clubs books and reported all in order.

**New Business:** John Pedrick announced a fund raiser being sponsored by the Delaware Valley Fly Fishing Club to be held at the Texas Road House on August 20<sup>th</sup>. The club gets to keep 15% of the receipts from members in attendance. John thought it might be a good fundraiser for our club.

The Ike Foundation donated 63 tackle boxes to the club for our youth activities. Dana Bates from WHYY 90.1 was requesting a DRFA member to give an interview about the health of the river, including a video to see how we use the river, for their podcast.

The possibility of the club sponsoring a scholarship for a club family member majoring in a life sciences area, similarly to what the SJBCA does. The topic was supposed to be discussed at the next Board Meeting.

**Environmental:** PFAS chemicals have been found in the water in NJ lakes. Members are cautioned on how many fish they eat from those lakes. The government is concentrating on drinking water related to that pollution. Part of the problem is a lack of standards by the federal government.

United By Blue, which sells recycled clothing, promises to pick up a pound of trash for everything they sell. Rick

Mawson participated in helping them pick up 1,600 lbs. of trash in that effort.

**Fishing Reports:** Andy Shiels PFBC employee and son of long-time DRFA member Sam Shiels caught a "Frankenfish" (a snakehead) while fishing in Lancaster.

Joe Newton and Rick Mawson reported that Falls Township Lake was alive and well on their last three trips there. They caught both largemouth and smallmouth bass there.

Mike Nucero reported catching a dozen smallmouth on each of two trips to Byram and Bulls Island.

Frank and Joe caught 8 smallies while fishing out of the Lambertville Ramp.

John Pedrick and Frank Beck fished with commercial fisherman Bob Veras out of Atlantic Highlands for flounder. It was a non-stop action over an 8-hour day.

Batteries Plus in Mount Laurel gives discounts to DRFSA members.

The winner of \$38 in the 50/50 drawing was Eileen Kicinski. The meeting was adjourned at 8:50 pm.

*Submitted by Wynette Goodnow*

## Minutes From The August Meeting

The August 209 meeting of the DRFA was held at the Silver Lake Nature Center with 22 members in attendance.

There were no minutes to be read

from the July meeting.

The tournament director reported on the rescheduled July 29 tournament and August 4 bass tournament and August 18 catfish tournament. The September bass tournament at Byram and the October bass tournament at Bulls Island are the last two remaining tournaments.

Pete Antoniewicz discussed the postponed Club raft Trip. The river has been unusually high since the end of July and the postponed event is now scheduled for Monday September 10 for interested members.

There was no Treasurer's Report at the August meeting, but the balance was \$7,072.39 as of that date. Expenses for the Youth Fishing Derby totaled \$674.50.

Membership stood at 112 plus four supporting business members.

Weighmasters at the September bass tournament will be Joe Newton and Ron Soto.

Weighmasters at the October bass tournament at Bulls Island will be Ron Soto and Frank Beck.

Members reported on an article about Lake Luxembourg from the Bucks County Courier. It seems that there was a Revolutionary War battle fought there and there are still remnants from that battle submerged in the lake.

Our guest speaker for the October meeting will be Meredith from the Pew Foundation, seeking support from our members for their efforts to protect fish in the river.

The club board meeting is

scheduled for September 12.

The club will host the Silver Lake Family Fishing Day at the lake on September 8 from 10 until 2. Members working at the event help to fill our service hours needed to offset the cost of our meeting space. Last year they had 100 registrants. Participants this year will be entered in a tackle box and fishing rod drawing. It was suggested to put one of our Show Newsletters in each tackle box as a way of publicizing our club. Separate stations will be set up to teach how to set up a rod, cast, and then fish.

Joe Newton reported that he renewed our club's application for assistance from the Ike Foundation for fishing gear again this coming year. Our fishing tackle donations from Cabelas have disappeared after that store's merger with Bass Pro Shop. The club did get a \$150 donation for use at our youth activities.

It was agreed to remove the maps from the tournament fliers in the newsletter as a way of saving space on those months when there are multiple tournaments.

Fishing Reports: Rick Mawson reported catching 6 smallmouth bass at Lambertville on crankbaits when he had a chance to fish between high water events.

Joe Newton and Frank Beck fished Bulls Island and only caught one fish.

Scott McDonough was fishing in a recent non-DRFA tournament on the Delaware River and came across George and Rich Hoffman "practice fishing." And you wonder why the Hoffman's place

in so many tournaments. By the way, Scott caught plenty of bass that day, but only three of them qualified for weigh-in.

Phil Kamieniecki fished in gin-clear water at the Oreland Quarry and caught 20 bluegills, 10 bass from 6" to 9", and one 17" largemouth.

John Pedrick reported on his family vacation at Gran Mar Bay in Minnesota. Fishing was great! They fished out of a guide's 18-foot Lund and caught a ton of walleye and smallmouth bass (2-3 lbs.) all day long using jigs and worms. The kids fished in their canoe and caught fish all day long too.

Scott McDonough reported on the cell phone fishing log app "Anglr." It is available in a free app and a more powerful pay version, but the free version has quite a bit to it. Keeps a log of fish caught, tracks where you go by GPS, tracks weather conditions. You can pay for a Bluetooth button to operate the app on your iPhone, or you can simply use your phone buttons and screen.

Pete Marcolina reminded members that we need tackle donations to stock our Tackle Bag Raffle prizes. New lures, rods, reels, etc.

The 50/50 winner was Rick Mawson for \$45.00.

Submitted by Wynette Goodnow.

## **DRFA Raft Trip Falls Victim to Rain and High Water**

An unusually wet summer kept water levels well above normal in the upper river around Port Jervis, from the last week of July through late September. With full reservoirs having to be drained to keep them at or just below 100% capacity, the original date and multiple make-up dates for the Annual DRFA Raft Trip were flushed down the river. Let's hope that next year's weather cooperates a bit better so we can continue the tradition of this always-fun trip.

### **From A2Z:**

#### **It's An Ever Changing World. Don't Let It Pass You By.**

One of my favorite aspects about river fishing is the element of motion and change. I have a friend, a former DRFA member, whose email signoff says, "I only fish two rivers, but I have never fished the same river twice."

There's an element of truth to that saying in the sense that the water levels, temperatures, and clarity can change from day to day and season to season. Also, the river structures can change dramatically from year to year, due to high water levels and winter ice.

But it's not just the river itself that changes. It's the fishermen, too. When I joined this club, my focus was on the tidal portion of the river, where then-club-president John Strada willingly shared his knowledge and his fishing holes with me on multiple trips. But as I started to fish more tournaments, and got exposed to the non-tidal river for our smallmouth tournaments, I absolutely fell in love with river smallmouth fishing. My fishing now is almost exclusively devoted to chasing river smallies whenever I am able to get out. For the better part of the past 15 years (except for this past summer) the DRFA Raft Trip has been an event I look forward to fishing every year.

I had plenty of chances to fish during the span from 2000 to 2010, but the most recent decade has seen my fishing outings dwindle year by year. One of the biggest casualties of that reduced fishing time is that I no longer get to fish with as many different people over the course of a year as I used to do. In the past, I probably averaged fishing with at least 25 different anglers over the course of one year. These days, it's pretty much limited to my lifelong fishing buddy Jim, and to a handful of guys from my kayak fishing club.

One of the changes I regret the most is that I won't ever get the chance to fish with long-time DRFA member and Fishing

Professor Emeritus, Sam Shiels. Sam, who passed away last year was a funny guy – literally and figuratively. He had a certain sense of humor that could sound a little gruff at first, as his stock reply to a question about where he caught his latest fish was, "In the river."

My favorite trip with Sam was out to the Main Stem of the Susquehanna River in late April, probably about 8 years ago. Sam was an avid fly fisherman, but switched to spinning gear for the day as we hit some of my favorite spring fishing holes. It was a beautiful day weather-wise and a decent fishing day to boot. We were like a couple of little kids, joking around and laughing as we hauled in several 18" Susqy fatties. The big joke of the day was how many fallfish (chubs) Sam caught on the tubes we were using, catching them from some of the fastest runs and most classic smallmouth structures. I always wanted to replicate that day with him, but we never did make it out there again as his health issues and the health issues of several of my family members intruded on the fishing schedule.

I guess my point is that we need to cherish our time. Fish with your DRFA friends and with new members whenever you can. And share your insights on the club website Forum. To me, that camaraderie has been the best part of my nearly 20 years of DRFA experience.



*Case McDonough shows Dad how it's done, taking first place in the August 4 Bass Tournament.*



*Chick Bay took second place with this entry.*



*George Hoffman took third place in the bass tournament to hold his lead in the AOTY Standings*

## Help Wanted!

We desperately need a club member to step up to take care of laying out the bi-monthly newsletter for the club.

Rick Mawson who has handled the newsletter for more than a decade is already loaded with Webmaster and Membership Secretary responsibilities. Pete Antoniewicz has been handling the last five issues of the newsletter but is unable to continue due to work and family pressures.

The newsletter is our lifeline to club members. Please help!

## Bass Tournament Results 8/04/18

#	Name	Weight	Length	Points
1.	Case McDonough	2.37	17.75	100
2.	Charles Bay	1.61	15.00	99
3.	George Hoffman	1.31	13.50	98
4.	Scott McDonough	1.27	13.50	97
5.	Greg Southrey	1.19	13.25	96
6.	Rich Hoffman	1.19	12.25	95
7.	Gerry Southrey	1.06	13.00	94

## 2018 DRFA Tournament Schedule

*All DRFA Club tournaments are free, but open to dues paying DRFA members only. (There are no club fees; however ramp, launch and/or parking fees may apply. There will be a voluntary \$10.00 pool with a 100% payout to pool participants for the three heaviest pool fish {60%, 30% and 10%} at tournament's end). Members accrue points for the Angler of the Year competition based on their finish in the ten regular club events. New members may register on the morning of an event, before check-in time (except for the Shad Tournament). Weigh-in is at the time specified. Late entries will not count.*

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

Date	Event	Location	Time
TBD	Bass	Byram, NJ	7 am - 1 pm
10/13	Bass	Bull's Island, NJ	7 am - 1 pm



*Joe Newton shows off his first place catfish in the August 18<sup>th</sup> tournament.*



*George Hoffman took third place in the bass tournament to hold his lead in the AOTY Standings.*



*Greg Southrey holds third place in the AOTY standings with this third place finish in the catfish tournament.*

## Catfish Tournament Results 8/18

#	Name	Weight	Length	Points
1.	Joe Newton	6.85	25.50	100
2.	George Hoffman	6.28	25.25	99
3.	Greg Southrey	5.07	23.50	98
4.	Rich Hoffman	4.62	23.25	97
5.	Richard Schroeder	4.27	22.00	96
6.	Frank Beck	2.15	17.00	95
7.	Ron Soto	2.05	19.00	94
8.	Rick Mawson	1.94	18.25	93
9.	Phil Kamieniecki	1.79	17.00	92
10.	David Rooney	1.72	17.25	91
11.	Gerry Southrey	1.60	17.25	90

## Angler of the Year Standings as of 8/18

#	Name	YTD Weight	YTD Length	YTD Points
1.	George Hoffman	25.90	122.25	580
2.	Rich Hoffman	20.32	106.25	482
3.	Greg Southrey	9.12	84.00	456
4.	Ron Soto	14.01	84.75	378
5.	Richard Schroeder	9.41	73.75	368
6.	Rick Mawson Sr.	10.77	72.00	367
7.	Rick Osman	10.72	61.95	289
8.	Joe Newton	11.45	64.00	282
9.	Gerry Southrey	5.95	50.00	280
10.	Frank Beck	10.13	64.50	275
11.	John Pedrick	7.26	54.25	275
12.	Charles Bay	6.13	37.50	198
13.	Scott McDonough	4.02	32.50	197
14.	Casey McDonough	3.50	31.00	192
15.	Dave Wermuth	5.26	36.00	188
16.	Bob Kuntz	4.66	21.50	100
17.	Stanley Cyrway Jr	4.01	23.00	99
18.	Bryan Hoffman	3.65	21.75	98
19.	Kenneth Zimmer	3.65	21.25	98
20.	Jimmy Warwick	4.08	22.00	97
21.	Chris Hoffman	1.74	16.00	97
22.	Anthony Scholl Sr.	4.08	21.00	96
23.	Daniel Wermuth	4.07	22.50	95
24.	Laura Newton	3.90	21.25	94
25.	Matt Weinhardt	3.25	20.25	94
26.	Jimmy Koppert	3.54	22.50	93
27.	Pete Antoniewicz	3.65	21.75	92
28.	James Sweeney	2.85	19.25	92
29.	Mike Brennan	2.68	20.50	90
30.	Kenneth Brennan	2.65	20.75	89
31.	Anthony Scholl Jr.	3.11	20.75	88

## DRFA Bass Tournament

Saturday, October 13, 7 am - 1 pm

**Bulls Island NJ Access Ramp, Rt. 29 (Daniel Bray Hwy) approx. 3 mi. north of Stockton, NJ**

**All participants must wear a PFD while the Gas engine is running.**

**Failure to wear PFD will result in warning on the 1<sup>st</sup> offense and disqualification on subsequent offenses**

**RULES:**

- All participants must check in during the hour preceding start time.
- There is no entry fee; however, ramp, launch and/or parking fees may apply. There is a voluntary \$10.00 Pool.
- Only paid members of the D.R.F.A., and qualifying family members \*, may participate and weigh-in fish. (The most recent membership list will be present at weigh-in.)
- Only (1) legal bass per person will be weighed. The heaviest fish will determine the winner.
- All fish must be alive at weigh-in. All fish will be released after weigh-in.
- In the event of a tie in weight, the longest fish will determine the winner.
- The fish must have been caught on that day during the hours of the tournament.
- The fishing area will be limited to the part of the Delaware River and its tributaries that can be reached by boat from the Starting Access Ramp. Shore fishing is permitted.
- Weigh-in is at scheduled end time. Those arriving late for weigh-in will not be permitted to weigh-in fish.
- Only legal fishing methods of the States of New Jersey and Pennsylvania may be used.
- Live Bait is permitted.
- The tournament judge will have final say in all disputes.

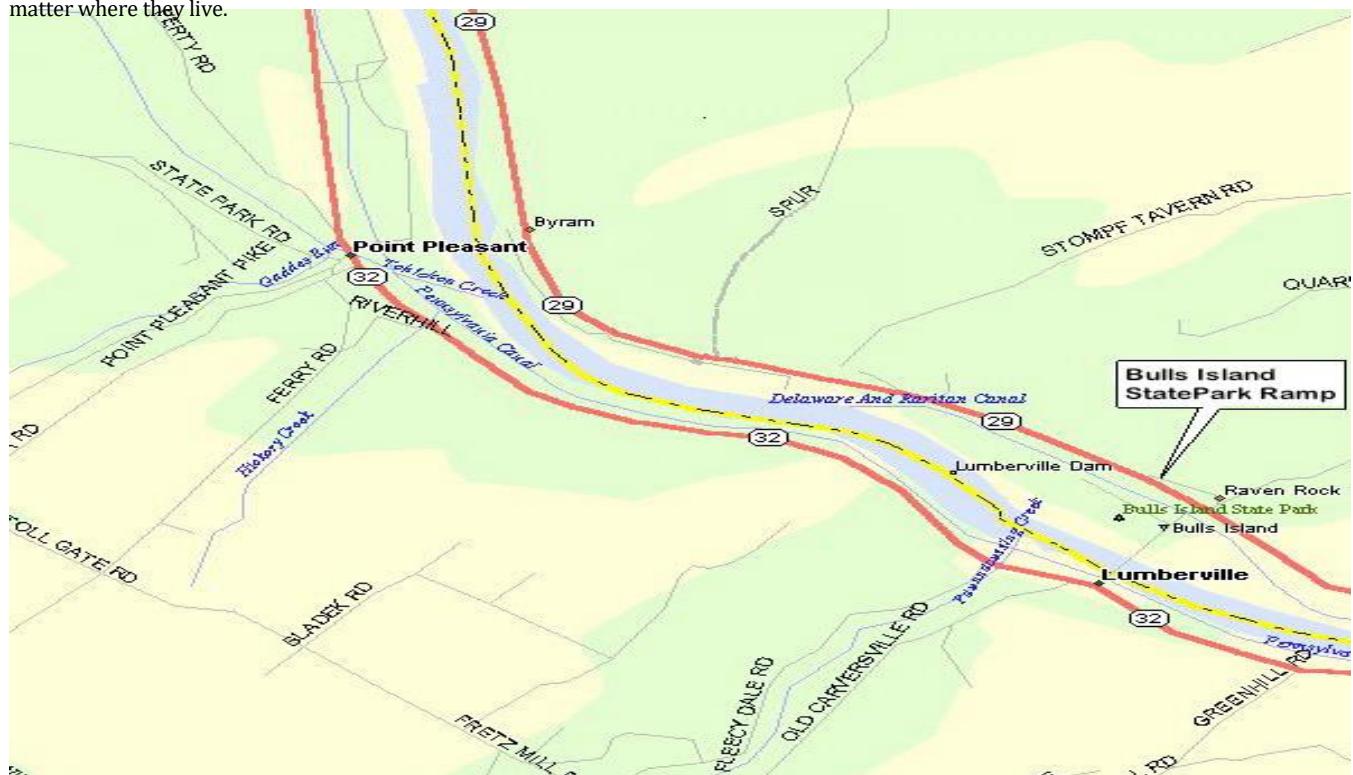
Tournament Hotline: 267-934-2148

Tournament Coordinator: Ron Soto - 267-250-4354

**PRIZES:** 100% payout on day of tournament.

All anglers weighing in fish, no matter where they place, will accumulate points towards the  
*"Dave Bryant Memorial Angler of the Year Contest"*

\*Qualifying family members can only participate if a Family Membership has been purchased. Qualifying family members include any member of the immediate family residing at that home and any immediate children, up to the age of 16. Grandchildren up to the age of 16 also qualify no matter where they live.



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



**SEPTEMBER/OCTOBER 2018 ISSUE**

- PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE
- TOURNAMENT RESULTS
- TOURNAMENT SCHEDULE
- AOTY STANDINGS

Visit our Web site

[www.drfishermen.com](http://www.drfishermen.com)

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

**PLEASE SUPPORT OUR SUPPORTING BUSINESS MEMBERS!**

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

**Cabela's**, 1100 Christiana Mall, Newark, DE, 19702 - 302-266-2300 – World's foremost outfitter. [www.cabelas.com](http://www.cabelas.com)

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

**The Continental Tavern**, 2 North Main St, Yardley, PA - 215-493-9191, Family Dining & Catering, 9 draught beers.

**Complete Computer Services**, PC Sales and Service, Repairs, in your home or office. 267-235-8144

**David DeCoff Promotional Products**, 1692 Pennington Rd, Ewing, NJ 08618, T-shirts, Hats, Coffee Mugs. 609-882-0345

**H & L Live Bait and Tackle**, 78 East Bridge St, Morrisville, PA. 215-295-1400, a large variety of fresh, live bait

**Pennsylvania Yacht Club**, 2189 State Road, Bensalem, PA 19020 - 215-245-9883, Clubhouse Rentals, Special Events

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

**Clayton Hunting & Fishing**, 660 Easton Rd, Horsham, PA, 215-672-6060 – for all your hunting, fishing, archery & firearm needs

**The Ike Foundation**, 625 Main Street, Elmer, NJ 08318 Hook'em Early. [theikefoundation.org](http://theikefoundation.org)

**Associate Members**

South Jersey Bass Club Association [www.sjbca.org](http://www.sjbca.org)

Delaware Riverkeeper Network [www.delawareriverkeeper.org](http://www.delawareriverkeeper.org)

Mid-Atlantic Youth Anglers Outdoors Program