

Letter from the President

I hope you are having a productive Spring fishing season. The fishing opportunities really start to pick up this time of year. Mayflies are hatching on the cold freestone trout streams and anadromous fish like shad and herring are making their way up the tidal rivers. I was fishing on the 'Bay' a couple of days ago and the croaker and trout are starting to become active too. An old fisherman once told me that 'when the dogwoods bloom' is some of the best fishing of the year in Virginia. I agree with this and must add that this is also the most beautiful time of the year to be outdoors and wetting a line!

Our club is helping out with the re-vitalization of the shad population on the James River. The FFV has contributed funds to the VDGIF and Virginia Marine Resources Commission 'Shad Restoration Project'. These funds were raised during our Annual Banquet raffle and silent auction. With our contribution, the VMRC will 'purchase' three nights worth of shad egg collection from commercial watermen to be used to hatch shad fingerlings. From all the reports I am reading and hearing, the shad population on the James is really starting to rebound!

On another note, our club now has a new, revised World Wide Web site. The URL address is 'www.flyfishersofva.org'. When you get a chance, please check it out. We have our calendar of dinner meetings, fishing trips and several other interesting pages out there. Please send any comments or suggestions you have to the 'webmaster' and let us know what you think. If you have any ideas for further web pages that we can add to the site, let us know. We hope to make this site a useful tool for all our members.

If you were not at our March dinner meeting, you missed an interesting presentation from Mike Heck on conservation efforts on the fabled trout streams of Pennsylvania's Cumberland Valley. This month's meeting will feature our very own Robert Thomas. Robert will be talking to us about fly fishing in Alaska. I hope you can attend the meeting!

Doug

Doug Walden

FFF Raffle Tickets

It's that time of the year again! The 'Federation of Fly Fishers' is holding its annual raffle ticket sale. The raffle tickets will sell for \$5 each or 3 for \$10. There will be 3 winners total and the prize selection this year includes a digital camera, Perception kayak, and a Sage rod and Okuma fly reel combo as well as several other items. Each winner will have a choice of one of the prizes offered. The drawing will take place at the International Fly Fishing Festival in Shepherdstown, West Virginia on September 14th 2002. The proceeds from this year's raffle will be used to further the MAC Conservation program and to fund a children's educational camp. If you are interested in purchasing some tickets please see Nat Burgwyn or Doug Walden.

Stream 'Shocking' with the VDGIF

There may be an opportunity for FFV members to accompany personnel from the 'Virginia Department of Game and Inland Fisheries' during a stream 'shocking' census. A firm date is not yet known, but if you have an interest in this activity call Doug Walden (804-639-0503) and I will keep you posted as more details become available.



THE FLY FISHERS OF VIRGINIA IS DEDICATED TO THE PROMOTION OF FLY FISHING, SPORTSMANSHIP, CONSERVATION, AND THE ENJOYMENT OF ANGLING.

The "Singing Reel" is produced by the Fly Fishers of Virginia for its members and friends of the organization. "The Singing Reel" welcomes articles, news items, photos and other items that may be of interest to club members. Items may be sent Email to ffwrthomas@mindspring.com or they may be sent to Editor, "The Singing Reel," P.O. Box 29477, Richmond, VA 23242.