

# The River News

The Official Newsletter of the Delaware River Fishermen's Association

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## AOTY Race Is Down To Two Final Events; Nominations/Elections Are Coming In October

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### Tournament Changes And Board Of Director Positions Up For Nominations Now; Voting in October

Members are reminded that any proposed changes to Tournament Rules need to be presented for discussion at the September meeting in order for them to be voted on at the October meeting.

Two such changes have already been discussed by Club members. One is to award points in the Angler of the Year competition for all anglers who participate in an event but do not enter a legal fish at the weigh-in. The other is to change the current rule about weighing and releasing live fish after the weigh-in. It can be amended to add *“except for invasive species and dead fish which must be disposed of according to State law. Dead fish will incur an 8-oz. penalty.”*

All board positions – President, Vice-President/ Tournament Coordinator, Recording

#### Table of Contents

Meeting Minutes.....	2-3
Tournament Schedule.....	3
SJBCA Bass Bowl.....	4
From A to Z.....	4
Tournament Results.....	4-6

Secretary, Membership Secretary, Treasurer, and four at-large Trustees – are up for nominations at the September and October meetings, with final elections at the October meeting.

As has been the case for the past few years, we really need to fill the President position to coordinate meeting agenda topics and guest speakers for more efficient and productive meetings that provide greater value for all Club members.

### Help Needed For Rescheduled Silver Lake Nature Center Family Fishing Day (Date TBD)

After being rescheduled from earlier this year, the Silver Lake Nature Center (SLNC) Family Fishing Day is slated to be held in October. Rick Mawson will confirm the date at the September meeting as we are trying to avoid a conflict with the SJBCA Bass Bowl on Sunday October 13.

Club members will need to come an hour or more before the SLNC event's 10 am start to help prepare the fishing poles for the day. This event is an important part of the Club filling our service-hours commitment in exchange for our monthly meeting space.

### Minutes Of The July Meeting

Club Secretary Pete Antoniewicz called the meeting to order at 7:01 pm with 13 members in attendance. The minutes of the June meeting were read and approved.

#### Important Dates

**Wednesday, September 25, 7 pm.** Monthly meeting at Silver Lake Nature Center. Nominations for officers and tournament rule changes. Guest Speaker: John Pedrick – Invasive Species

**Saturday, September 28, 7 am to 1 pm.** Bass Tournament. Byram, NJ ramp.

**To Be Determined (Saturday October 12?) 9 am to 1 pm.** Family Fishing Day at Silver Lake Nature Center. Volunteers needed.

**Saturday, October 26, 7 am to 1 pm.** Bass Tournament. Bulls Island, NJ ramp.

**Wednesday, October 30, 7 pm.** Monthly meeting at Silver Lake Nature Center. Final nominations and voting for officers and tournament rule changes.

**Treasury Report:** The Treasurer's report showed a balance of \$7,774.62 as of July 31. By comparison, last year's end-of-July balance was \$8,227.50 – a difference of \$452.88 less this year.

**Membership Report:** Rick Mawson reported that we had 67 members as of the July meeting – 33 individual membership renewals, 14 family membership renewals, 4 new individual memberships, 5 new family memberships, and 11 supporting business members.

**Tournament Report:** In the absence of Tournament Coordinator Scott McDonough, Pete Antoniewicz reviewed the recent tournament results and current Angler of the Year standings. A potential proposal for a 2025 rule change intended to reward anglers for participation even if they do not catch a fish was briefly discussed. Members were also reminded that the next tournament – a bass tournament at Gloucester City – was on a Sunday (*August 18*) not a Saturday.

**Youth Activities:** Chick Bay recapped the results of the DRFA Youth Fishing Derby on July 14. Nine youth anglers participated and enjoyed hot dogs and hamburgers and trophies at the end of the event. Catfishing from the Pennsylvania Yacht Club docks was tough with the high water temperatures.

The Family Fishing Day at Silver Lake Nature Center previously scheduled for October 13 is a conflict with the SJBCA Bass Bowl. Rick Mawson will check with SLNC about a potential change of date.

**Old Business:** Rick Mawson reminded members that we have various opportunities to fulfill a

block of our service hours with Silver Lake Nature Center to offset the cost of our meeting space. This will be a standalone project that we can do at our own convenience. It involves replacing some posts around the property. Rick proposed making August 15 the work date, and eight volunteers indicated their interest in participation. In addition, members who want to help at the summer camp fishing activities can also contact the SLNC for dates and times. We may still also need to have volunteers work on the first Saturday of any month and at the October Family Fishing Day to help meet our total service-hour commitment.

Members were reminded that anyone can contribute news or web links for the website, Facebook page, and newsletter or suggestions for guest speakers at monthly. Contact Rick Mawson or Pete Antoniewicz with inputs.

Members were also reminded that we still need one person to serve as a central point of contact for Club business. That can be achieved either by filling the vacant President's position or by filling the role of an existing Club officer to free that person up to take the President's role.

Pete Antoniewicz announced that he would be watching water and weather forecasts for potential dates for a raft fishing trip up above Port Jervis, NY.

Club members revisited the earlier discussion about appropriate disposal of flathead or blue catfish and snakeheads.

**Environmental Report:** Dave Wermuth reported a new health advisory for toxic algae blooms at Lake Galena and Lake Luxembourg. The advisory included no wading, no

swimming, and no dogs in the water.

**Fishing Reports:** Tim Lang reported recent success fishing for smallmouth bass in the Delaware River near Titusville, the weekend before the meeting but had no fish of significant size. He did report on his son catching hybrid stripers and his brother catching a 12-lb. catfish at Manasquan Reservoir.

Rick Gasper reported catching flounder outside of Shark River the week before the meeting.

Joe Newton and Frank Beck reported catching smallies of decent size with four of their fish between 15" and 17" while fishing out of the Byram ramp on the day of the meeting. That same day, Pete Antoniewicz and his fishing partner caught nearly two dozen smallies north of Lambertville in a variety of water ranging from current-swept areas over cobble to deeper stretches with and without boulders. Frank Beck fished that same area on the previous Sunday, catching five smallies on Yoga Pants Ned Rigs during his half-day trip.

The 50/50 drawing for \$30.00 was won by Bryan Malkiewicz. The meeting adjourned at 7:55 pm.

## Minutes Of The August Meeting

Club Secretary Pete Antoniewicz called the meeting to order at 7:10 pm with 11 members in attendance. The minutes from the July meeting were read and approved.

**Treasury Report:** In the absence of Treasurer Eileen Kicinski, Pete Antoniewicz read the financial report, which showed a balance of \$7,569.62 as of August 28. By comparison, the end-of-August balance in 2023 was \$8,142.85 –

leaving this year’s balance \$573.23 short of the balance at the same point last year.

**Tournament Report:** Vice President and Tournament Coordinator Scott McDonough recapped the results from the August 18 Bass Tournament and the most recent Angler of the Year standings. He reminded members that the next tournament was a Catfish Tournament scheduled for 6 am at the Byram, NJ ramp.

**Old Business:** Rick Mawson reported on the success of the post refurbishment/replacement project at the Silver Lake Nature Center on August 15.

Rick also is going to confirm the date of the Silver Lake Nature Center Family Fishing Day. The original date of Sunday, October 13 presented a conflict with the SJBCA Bass Bowl. The proposed alternate date is Saturday, October 12. Rick will get confirmation by the September meeting.

**New Business:** Members discussed potential rule changes for the 2025 tournament schedule. They included the possibility of awarding Angler of the Year points for participation by anglers who compete in a specific tournament but do not get a chance to enter a fish in that event.

**Environmental Report:** John Pedrick said that there were no specific regulations on the books for Pennsylvania regarding the mandatory retention and/or disposal of invasive species such as flathead or blue catfish, snakeheads, etc., just recommendations. He did cite the PFBC guidelines for field dressing and disposal of fish from [page 8 of the 2024 Pennsylvania Fishing Summary](#).

**Fishing Reports:** Tim Lang reported catching just one keeper fluke during a group trip on the Norma K. Tim also reported catching four largemouth bass during a veteran’s event at Lake Juliana in Millstone, NJ.

Scott and Casey McDonough fished Lake Nockamixon the Saturday before the meeting, catching a half dozen bass of no particular size but losing a good one in a tree structure.

Pete Antoniewicz and his fishing partner caught 71 smallies, up to a maximum of 17” fishing with Case minnows and Ned Rigs above the Delaware Water Gap the day before the meeting.

Bryan Malkiewicz and his fishing partner had 111 smallmouth bass mostly on Ned Rigs while joining Guide Chris Gorsuch on an evening/morning combination trip on the North Branch of the Susquehanna River.

The winner of \$25 in the 50/50 drawing was Tim Lang. The meeting adjourned at 8:15 pm.

### Annual Raft Trip Again Cancelled Due To High Water Levels

In what has become somewhat of a pattern over recent years, this year’s event was scrubbed due to high water conditions. By the time water flow rates had receded to fishable levels, the Kittatinny rental service had discontinued their weekday raft operations due to low customer demand. Perhaps in future years we need to start looking for openings earlier in the summer season, even if that means fishing cooler water temps or before the shad fry kick smallies into their late-summer feeding frenzy. Stay tuned.

### Remaining 2024 Tournament Schedule

*All DRFA Club tournaments are free and open to dues-paying DRFA members, with club-funded payouts of \$50, \$30, and \$20 awarded to the top three places. Participants also accrue points for the Angler of the Year competition based on their top six finishes among the nine regular Club events. (There are no tournament entry fees, however, ramp, launch, and/or parking fees may apply.)*

*Except for the Shad Tournament, there is also a voluntary \$10.00 lunger pool with a 100% payout to pool participants for the three heaviest pool fish – 60%, 30%, and 10% – at tournament’s end.*

*New members may register on the morning of an event before check-in time. All participants should check in at least 10 minutes before scheduled starting time. Weigh-in is at the time specified. Late entries will not count.*

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

<u>Day</u>	<u>Date</u>	<u>Event</u>	<u>Time</u>	<u>Location</u>
Sat. ....	9/28.....	Bass .....	7 am - 1 pm .....	Byram, NJ Ramp
Sat. ....	10/26....	Bass .....	7 am - 1 pm .....	Bulls Island, NJ Ramp

## Bass Bowl Roster To Be Finalized After September Bass Tournament

Every year, six DRFA anglers earn the right to represent the Club at the South Jersey Bass Club Association (SJBCA) Bass Bowl tournament. This year's event is scheduled for Sunday October 13 at Anchor Marina in Northeast River, Maryland.

Anglers qualify to compete on the basis of points earned in DRFA bass fishing tournaments completed since last year's Bass Bowl competition. *(That includes the results of last year's late-October bass tournament on the non-tidal river and the four 2024 bass tournaments to be completed before this year's Bass Bowl.)*

Currently, the top six anglers in contention to be part of the DRFA contingent are:

<u>Name</u>	<u>Points</u>
Casey McDonough	397
Scott McDonough	395
Gregg Southrey	293
Pete Antoniewicz	289
Rick Mawson	282
Dan Wermuth	192

Others in the running, depending on the finishes in the September 28 Bass Tournament include: Dave Wermuth (192), Bryan Malkiewicz (187), Rich Hoffman (187), Devon Seliga (185), Nick Knechel (98), George Hoffman (96), Anthony Seliga (96), Joe Newton (96), Adan Schneck (95), Chick Bay (95), Shane Seliga (93), Travis Wilhelm (93), and Frank Beck (93).

Final teams – three boats of two anglers each – will be submitted to the SJBCA in early October, based on the six anglers with the highest Club bass-tournament

point totals who accept the challenge. If any of the top six qualifiers decline to participate, the next highest point earner(s) will be invited to compete in their place. Qualified anglers will be contacted by Scott McDonough shortly after the September 28 event.

### From A to Z:

## How Much More Fishing Can We Squeeze Into 2024? Boatless Anglers, Here's Your Invitation!

Every year I tell myself that I will fish more than the year before. Most years I end up being disappointed by not meeting that objective. This year I did a little better, thanks to some out-of-state trips, but family commitments still limited my local fishing mostly to tournament practice and tournament events, with precious few days of 'recreational' fishing. Now that I have finished many of my outside commitments for the year, I hope to have more time to fish for fun when I and where I want.

But the one thing that is drastically reduced compared to 10 or 20 years ago is fishing with a wide variety of partners.

Between this Club, my kayak fishing group, and another river smallmouth fishing group, I used to average 15 or more different fishing partners per year. And because I miss the learning opportunities and variety of fishing with new anglers, I am offering this invitation to other DRFA members – particularly those without boats – to fish the Delaware and/or Susquehanna Rivers *(and possibly points in between)* with me for a day as long as the weather holds out.

Take note, this offer comes with two caveats: 1.) "as long as the weather holds out" typically means as long as there is no ice on the ramps or water, and 2.) "for a day" typically means sun-up to sun-down in the daylight shortened months of October, November, December, and January. All I ask is that we share gas and toll costs for longer trips.

My passion is river smallmouth fishing, but I wouldn't mind enhancing my cool-water largemouth experiences on the tidal river or local lakes. If you are interested, call or text me at (609) 751-7545. We might just learn something from each other.

## September Catfish Tournament Produces Unprecedented 10-Way Tie – For Last Place!

As hard as it is to fathom, the September Catfish Tournament at the Byram, NJ ramp yielded no fish brought to the scales. Ten participating anglers faced a finicky catfish population and were unable to produce even a single fish during the six-hour event. As a result, the Anger of the Year competition will come down to the best six scores among the other eight Club tournaments.

Even noted catfish anglers George and Rich Hoffman who are experienced at fishing that specific location were befuddled by the stubborn refusal of the cats to bite on a variety of baits – for their second Catfish Tournament in a row! When that happens, you know the fishing was tough.

Needless to say, the membership might have a change of heart in scheduling the location for the late-season catfish event next season.



### Scott McDonough Holds On To AOTY Lead With Just Two Tournaments To Go

With his second place finish in the August Bass Tournament and no winners in the September Catfish Tournament, Scott McDonough retained his top ranking in the 2024 Angler of the Year competition. Scott's 580 points give him a 99-point cushion on second-place angler, his son Casey McDonough. Rick Mawson and Dan Wermuth are 18 and 21 points behind Casey.

With the top-six-finishes rule in the competition, the race for the top three spots is far from over, however, as defending titleholder Gregg Southrey in fifth place and defending runner-up Pete Antoniewicz in sixth place still have a chance to eclipse Scott's current 580-point total with good finishes in each of the last two tournaments of the season.

Of course, Scott, Casey, Rick, and Dan can also improve on their point totals by finishing high in the remaining tournaments to replace their two lowest scores to date. For example, Scott can finish with 595 points by replacing his earlier 91-point and 94-point finishes with 200 points for capturing the final two tournaments. Gregg Southrey could jump up to 593 points with two victories.

But every other angler can also play a role in the final AOTY standings by forcing the current point leaders to compete against a full slate of participants by changing the remaining points available to the challengers (e.g., 90 points for a middle-of-the-pack finish in a field of 20 anglers vs. 95 points for a middle-of-the-pack finish in a field of 10 anglers).

#	NAME	WEIGHT	LENGTH	POINTS
1	Scott McDonough	24.27	119.75	580
2	Casey McDonough	12.34	88.75	481
3	Rick Mawson	16.05	88.50	463
4	Dan Wermuth	13.69	90.50	460
5	Gregg Southrey	19.25	83.75	393
6	Pete Antoniewicz	17.06	76.50	384
7	Dave Wermuth	15.26	77.75	374
8	Bryan Malkiewicz	13.24	72.75	373
9	George Hoffman	15.17	62.25	283
10	Devan Seliga	5.62	46.50	275
11	Joe Newton	10.14	55.75	272
12	Anthony Seliga	5.81	35.25	195
13	Rich Hoffman	10.63	56.75	195
14	Hazel Scholl	12.98	47.25	188
15	Anthony Scholl Sr	7.22	40.98	177
16	Joe Tropea	13.21	29.75	100
17	Alex Scholl	4.29	21.00	100
18	Jase Tropea	10.61	28.25	99
19	Pete Marcolina	4.70	22.00	98
20	Nicholas Knechel	2.42	16.50	98
21	Anthony Scholl Jr	3.70	20.50	97
22	Chick Bay	10.10	27.00	96
23	John Pedrick	3.30	21.00	96
24	Adam Schneck	1.43	14.75	95
25	Shane Seliga	1.24	12.75	93
26	Travis Wilhelm	1.14	13.50	93
27	Frank Beck	1.10	17.75	92
28	Patrick Baranowski	3.05	19.75	88
29	Xahnder Villanueva	5.21	23.50	87
30	Gerry Rigney	4.96	22.50	85
31	Matthew Weinhardt	0.97	14.00	85
32	Ryan Villanueva	3.92	22.00	83
33	Nohre Villanueva	3.20	19.75	82
34	Seijhie Villanueva	3.04	20.00	81

*Check the DRFA website or Tournament Hotline 267-934-2148 for potential changes the day before each DRFA Tournament.*

### August Bass Tournament

The August Bass Tournament saw modest results, as just over half of the registered anglers (9 of 16) successfully brought a fish to the scales. Only two anglers – Dan Wermuth and Scott McDonough – weighed in fish heavier than two pounds. The overall average for all nine fish in the tournament was 1.70 lbs.

#	NAME	WEIGHT	LENGTH	POINTS
1	Dan Wermuth	2.75	17.00	100
2	Scott McDonough	2.09	15.00	99
3	Casey McDonough	1.94	14.75	98
4	Gregg Southrey	1.93	15.25	97
5	Anthony Seliga	1.75	14.50	96
6	Dave Wermuth	1.65	14.00	95
7	Devan Seliga	1.48	14.00	94
8	Pete Antoniewicz	0.87	12.25	93
9	Bryan Malkiewicz	0.86	12.00	92



Dan Wermuth, 1<sup>st</sup> Place



Gregg Southrey, 4<sup>th</sup> Place



Devan Seliga, 7<sup>th</sup> Place



Scott McDonough, 2<sup>nd</sup> Place



Anthony Seliga, 5<sup>th</sup> Place



Pete Antoniewicz, 8<sup>th</sup> Place



Casey McDonough, 3<sup>rd</sup> Place



Dave Wermuth, 6<sup>th</sup> Place



Bryan Malkiewicz, 9<sup>th</sup> Place





**The Delaware River Fishermen's Association**  
**PO Box 21145, Philadelphia, PA 19154**

**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 our meetings and join the organization.

### **Don't Forget These Supporting Members Who Help To Keep Our Club Afloat**

Remember our supporting business members who provide added financial support, share their fishing knowledge with our Club members, or support our Club and youth fishing efforts with their facilities or products. When we return that financial support by patronizing their businesses, be sure to make specific mention of our appreciation for them helping to fund our guest speakers and our tournament cash prizes. Without their support we would not be able to provide the same opportunities to our current members or to attract potential new members.

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We also recognize our Associate members – the [South Jersey Bass Club Association](#) and [Delaware Riverkeeper Network](#) – who both provide relevant information and additional fishing experiences for DRFA members.

**KEY CONTACTS:** *Tournament Hotline:* 215-809-4098 • *Email Address:* [DRFA\\_TheRiverNews@hotmail.com](mailto:DRFA_TheRiverNews@hotmail.com)  
• *President:* (vacant) • *Vice President/Tournament Director:* Scott McDonough, 215-989-0153 • *Treasurer:* Eileen Kicinski, 215-713-4951 • *Recording Secretary/Newsletter Editor:* Pete Antoniewicz, 609-751-7545 • *Membership Secretary/Webmaster:* Rick Mawson, 215-809-4098 • *Youth Activities Director:* Charles Bay, 609-744-8260 • *Tackle Bag Coordinator:* Pete Marcolina, 215-637-4555 • *Trustees:* Frank Beck, Harry Wirebach, John Pedrick, Gregg Southrey