

The River News

The Official Newsletter of the Delaware River Fishermen's Association

Vol. 31, No. 6

November/December 2019

Mike Nucero Wins 2019 Angler Of The Year

The revamped rules for the 2019 Dave Bryant Angler Of The Year Award achieved the desired effect by keeping the competition close right up until the last tournament of the season. Anglers earn points based on a top score of 100 points for each tournament winner, 99 points for second, 98 for third, etc. Counting only the top six scores for each angler in the completion, left five anglers within a span of 20 points.

Top honors went to Mike Nucero with 593 out of a possible 600 points. Two anglers, George Hoffman and Scott McDonough, finished just six points behind with 587 points each. Based on the tiebreaker of total weight, Hoffman earned the runner-up spot with a 23.38-lb to 15.98-lb. edge over McDonough who finished third. The next two finishers were Frank Beck in fourth place with 577 points and Rich Hoffman with 573 points.

In all, 33 anglers earned points in this year's competition. The award is named in honor of Dave Bryant, a founding member of the club and former club president. (Complete AOTY standings are listed on Page 6.)

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Payments For DRFA Club Holiday Party Are Due Soon

The DRFA Club Holiday Party will be held on Wednesday, December 18 at 7 pm at Georgine's Restaurant, 1320 Newport Rd, Bristol, PA 19007.

The cost is \$20.00 per person. It includes a buffet dinner and dessert, plus coffee, iced tea, and soda. Alcoholic beverages will be available at a cash bar. This event is a good time to contribute lure donations for the Tackle Bag Raffle.

Please submit payment by Wednesday December 4, 2019. You can pay at the November meeting or send payment to our Treasurer, Eileen Kicinski, 2037 East Wishart Street, Philadelphia, PA 19134. Checks should be made out to the DRFA. If you have any questions, you can see Eileen at the November meeting or call her at 215-426-5086.

Elections At October Meeting Fill All Roles, Except President

The elections at the October meeting filled all positions except one, that of a president to replace John Pedrick who will be stepping down at the end of December, 2019. There were multiple nominations for the role, but everyone declined for a variety of work and personal reasons.

Those positions that were filled during the election represented a mix of new and familiar faces. The officers and trustees who will make up the 2020 Board of Directors were elected to the following positions:

President: (Vacant)
Vice President/Tournament Coordinator: Bob Jack
Secretary: Pete Antoniewicz
Treasurer: Eileen Kicinski
Membership Secretary: Rick Mawson
Trustees: Scott McDonough, Chick Bay, Pete Marcolina, Joe Newton

The newly elected/re-elected officers will officially begin their terms of service on January 1.

Important Dates

Wednesday, November 27, 7 pm, Monthly Meeting: Silver Lake Nature Center, 1306 Bath Road, Bristol, PA

Wednesday, December 18, 7 pm, DRFA Holiday Party: Georgine's Restaurant, 1320 Newport Road, Bristol, PA 19007.

Saturday, January 18, 2020, 9 am to 2 pm, Delaware Valley Surf Anglers Fishing Flea Market: VE German Club, 120 Davisville Road, Warrington, PA

Wednesday January 29, 2020, 7 pm, Monthly Meeting: Silver Lake Nature Center, 1306 Bath Road, Bristol, PA

President's Message

I am sitting in front of my computer trying to write a final President's Message for the newsletter. There are a lot of things to say, but I will be brief. The last three years as the President of the club have been a real experience. When I joined the club I had no intentions of doing anything more than fish with a bunch of people who held a common interest. Little did I know the club was way more than just fishing. The tournaments were new to me. I never fished competitively. This was a whole new way to fish. I was really excited to try and catch a fish in a certain amount of time, in a certain spot, and only a certain species. I actually won a tournament and my son came in second at a bass tournament. The competition was fun and the people participating were really great. I made some friendships I hope are long lasting.

The members of the club are what I think about most. As president you have a lot of interaction with the members. Conversations on the phone or face-to-face about one subject inevitably turn to fishing. How many, how big, and where at, are the constant reminders of our common bond.

I will hope that as I step down as President and from the Board of Directors to be just a member, the conversations will continue. The people I met will always be in my thoughts.

Thanks to all the Members and the Board of Directors for making my tenure a truly unique experience.

John Pedrick

September Meeting Minutes

The September 25, 2019 meeting of the Delaware River Fishermen's Association was called to order by President John Pedrick at 7:10 pm. The minutes of the August meeting were read and approved.

Treasurer's Report: Treasurer Eileen Kicinski reported a balance of \$8,978.55 as of Wednesday, September 25.

Membership: The club was up to 105 members as of the end of September.

Youth Activities: Nothing new to report.

Trustees: No report.

Tournaments: Rick Mawson and Frank Beck agreed to handle the sign-in for the September 28 Bass Tournament at Curtin's Marina. Gregg Southrey and Scott McDonough agreed to handle the weigh-in.

Elections: Nominations for club officers were opened at the September meeting. There will also be an opportunity for additional nominations at the October meeting before the final ballot is taken at that meeting. Nominations as of the September meeting included:

President: (no nominee)

Vice President: Ron Soto

Secretary: Pete Antoniewicz

Treasurer: Eileen Kicinski

Membership Secretary: Rick Mawson

Trustees (four will be elected):

Pete Marcolina, Joe Newton, Frank Beck, Chick Bay, Mike Nucero, Scott McDonough, Gregg Southrey

New Business: Plans were being made to have only one tackle bag raffle this year. The bag will

include both saltwater and freshwater lures, plus \$100 in cash. The drawing will be held at the Hemlock Rod and Gun Club even on Friday, March 13, 2020.

John Pedrick informed club members about a graduate student's request for help with a fish survey intended to chart the presence of PFAS chemicals in various species of fish in the tidal and non-tidal Delaware River. The goal is to obtain at least 20 year-round resident fish of varying non-anadromous species (other than striper, herring, shad) caught in the Delaware. The main focus is from Bristol to Mantua Creek. Participants are asked to freeze their samples and mark the package with information on species, location caught, date, and time. John will collect the frozen samples before Thanksgiving when they are to be turned over to the researcher.

Fishing Reports: Rick Mawson and Joe Newton reported catching 7 largemouth bass (including 5 keepers up to 14" and 15") from Falls Township Lake in the week leading up to the meeting. Water temps were still in the lower 70s. John Pedrick reported on some saltwater action down the Shore, catching lots of baby flounder, some sea bass, and small blues. He saw a lot of baitfish, which was a good sign. Tog action had not yet heated up. Pete Antoniewicz reported on catching mostly low-teens sized smallies on the Susquehanna River. The DRFA will be represented by six anglers at the SJBCA Bass Bowl tournament to be held at Glen Cove in the Conowingo Pool of the Susquehanna River on October 13.

A guest speaker, Bob Coles of Keystone Lures, gave a presentation on building hand-

made wooden lures for stripers and blues.

The 50/50 drawing for \$33 was won by Phil Kamienicki.

October Meeting Minutes

The October 30 meeting of the DRFA was called to order by President John Pedrick at 7:08 pm. There were 22 members in attendance. The minutes of the September meeting were read and approved.

VP/Tournament Coordinator:

No report.

Treasurer: Eileen Kicinski reported an October 30 balance of \$8,988.04.

Membership: Rick Mawson reported that he had already received six 2020 memberships before the meeting.

Youth Activities: There was no formal report, other than John Pedrick reporting that we will plan to hold youth fishing events at Silver Lake Nature Center and the Club's Youth Fishing Derby at the Philadelphia Yacht Club in 2020.

Trustees: There were no meetings and nothing new to report. *John reminded members of the need to stock the Tackle Bag for the first show in January.*

Elections: There were no new nominations for president since the September meeting, so the position remains vacant. Bob Jack will step up to fill the role of Vice President/Tournament Coordinator. Current Secretary Pete Antoniewicz, Treasurer Eileen Kicinski, and Membership Secretary Rick Mawson will all continue in those roles in 2020. The Trustees for 2020 will be

Scott McDonough, Chick Bay, Pete Marcolina, and Joe Newton.

The revised Club By-Laws which had been posted on the DRFA website and discussed at earlier meetings were approved unanimously.

Environmental Reports: The Bucks Country Board of Supervisors has been investigating complaints of trash barges in the steel mill cove.

Fishing Reports: Joe Newton reported on some success fishing some stained water in the Lambertville section of the river on October 30. They caught 7 bass, 6 of them on the PA bank.

John Pedrick related some of his fishing experience and education down the shore with a new lure he bought from our guest speaker at the September meeting, passing along a hint to fellow anglers to check the hooks on a new lure for the protective tubing that could prevent biting fish from getting hooked.

Scott McDonough reported on the success of DRFA representatives finishing first in the SJBCA Bass Bowl event held at the Conowingo Pool section of the Susquehanna River.

The 50/50 drawing worth \$44 was won by Rick Mawson.

Lure Craftsman Shares His Secrets Of Lure Building

DRFA members at the September meeting were treated to an in-depth presentation on handcrafted fishing lures by Bob Coles of Keystone Lures. While most of the patterns he showed were targeted toward Jersey Shore stripers, he also makes baits for larger freshwater species. His presentation included a thought

process that could help an angler with presentations of even mass-produced lures.

Perhaps the most impressive points of the night were the levels of craftsmanship and customization that go into Keystone Lures. It was easy to see that Bob is passionate about what he does.

He uses a variety of woods for their combinations of weight and buoyancy – including Atlantic white cedar, Western red cedar, and Spanish cedar. He prefers straight-grained woods for easier drilling to insert the wire that runs from the front to the back of each lure. He estimated that each lure received about 40 minutes of “hands-on” time and seven days of drying time between multiple coats of primer, color paints, and clear epoxy finishes – all with 24 hours of ample drying time. Bob attaches his hooks with Wolverine triple-wrapped split rings.

The variables that go into each lure include the profile (*to “match the hatch” of the baitfish being imitated*), weight placement (*which influences how the lure casts and swims*), and the metal lip position (*or lack of a lip*), both of which can influence both casting distance and lure action. Striking different balances among those elements can be done to match different fishing conditions and angler preferences. He can also include rattles in the tail, if desired.

When fishing the lures, he recommends getting creative to see what the fish prefer. The different water speeds at different stages of the rising or falling tide can dictate both the weight of the lure and the fishing action – such as using a heavier fast-sinking bait for harder moving current or

fishing a slow-sinking glider with a wind-and-twitch action at the top of the tide. Try to mimic the profile and action of the prevalent bait at the same time.

He recommends treating “hook rash” (*generated by hooks rubbing against the body of the lure*) as soon as it is noticeable on a lure, in order to prevent hooks from cutting through the protective surface and primer to where the wood can absorb water that will affect its swimming action.

More information about Keystone Lures is available on the company’s Facebook page (b-m.facebook.com) where many photos of finished lures and works in progress are visible.

The lures are available at the following Jersey Shore tackle shops: Giglio’s Bait & Tackle in Sea Bright, Fishermen’s Supply Company in Point Pleasant Beach, The Reel Seat in Brielle, Charlie’s Bait n Tackle in Normandy Beach, and Grumpy’s Tackle in Seaside Park.

From A2Z:

Paying It Forward

As much as fishing can be a hobby for solitude – as I have enjoyed many hours alone on a stream, lake, or river – it has its moments when sharing it with others can be just as rewarding.

I can look through my tackle bag (*my admittedly overstuffed tackle bag*) and cite chapter and verse about how I learned to fish each and every bait in it and who initially exposed me to each one, including:

- Spider jigs from former DRFA VP Ed Evans.

2020 DRFA Tournament Schedule

The 2020 Tournament Schedule will be developed in time for the January meeting. All DRFA Club tournaments are free (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) and open to dues paying DRFA members only. Members accrue points for the Angler of the Year competition based on their finish in the nine 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

- NED rigs from my kayak-fishing buddies.
- The white Case Minnows from Chris Gorsuch and my Delaware River Smallmouth friends.
- Tubes and swimbaits from former DRFA Angler of the Year Curt Kirby.
- And the list goes on.

As I have gotten experience and confidence in each of those baits, I have tried to “pay it forward” by passing it along and teaching other fishing acquaintances, too.

But there’s another side to paying it forward that involves strangers – people we might meet only once and never see again. And the door should swing both ways.

My first experience with it as a relatively new boater it had me on the receiving end, when I had trouble getting my trailer up the broken pavement, dirt, and gravel of the Fireman’s Eddy “ramp” after a high-water event. My Plymouth Voyager van was built for paved, not “rustic”, ramps and I was at a loss as to how to get both vehicle and attached trailer back onto the paved surface.

Another angler who was launching his boat with a 4x4 asked if I needed help, and I was in so deep that I had no other option but to swallow my pride and admit, “Yes.” I was able to unhitch, drive out, and let the other angler back down, hitch up, get the trailer out all in less than two minutes. As I thanked him profusely and started to open my wallet, he said, “Don’t worry about it, just pay it forward the next time you can.”

As fate would have it, that opportunity arose a short time later up in the Byram pool, with me hearing a frantic boater trying to pull-start his outboard motor as his boat drifted toward the wing dam. (*No anchor, of course.*) I stopped fishing, motored over, and threw him a line to tow him back to the Byram ramp. He wanted to pay me for it, and I reiterated to him what was said to me, just, “pay it forward” to someone the next chance he got.

Since then, I have rescued an injured swimmer getting swept into heavy whitewater current after foolishly jumping off a railroad bridge just upstream, and a paddler who had gotten separated from his kayak and his

insulin on a November day by getting dumped in the Dauphin Narrows by the Statue of Liberty on the Susquehanna River.

There have also been numerous times when I observed someone who I thought might need help, offered it, and was thanked but convinced that help was on the way from a friend or that they were willing to do the grunt work to solve their own issues.

In any case, it costs no more than a few minutes of interrupted fishing. Hopefully, I'm getting a little older and wiser not to put myself in bad positions, but not everyone on the water is as experienced as many DRFA members. So remember to keep your eyes (and ears) open in case you come across a younger version of yourself who needs someone to toss him a line. And when you're done helping, just remind them to "pay it forward."

September 28 Bass Tournament Results

The club's September Bass Tournament held at Curtin's Marina saw eight anglers bring a legal fish to the scales. Top honors went to Casey McDonough with a 19.25" bass weighing 4.82 lbs. Chick Bay took second place and Eric Carocci took third. No photos were available from that tournament.

October 12 Bass Tournament Results

Eight members fished this tournament and only three members weighed in a bass. First placed was won by Rick Mawson with a 3.87 lb., 20-inch smallmouth. Joe Newton took second place with a 1.62 lb., 15-inch smallie. Eric Carocci was

September 28, 2019 Bass Tournament Results				
#	Name	Length	Weight	Points
1	Casey McDonough	19.25	4.82	100
2	Charles Bay	18.25	3.34	99
3	Eric Carocci	15.00	2.01	98
4	Mike Nucero	14.25	1.65	97
5	Scott McDonough	14.25	1.44	96
6	Frank Beck	13.25	1.26	95
7	Al Eugene	12.50	1.09	94
8	Richard Hoffman	13.25	1.07	93

third with a .80 lb., 12.5-inch smallmouth.



Rick Mawson 1st Place



Joe Newton, 2nd Place



Eric Carocci, 3rd Place

DRFA Teams Capture 2019 SJCBCA Bass Bowl

Three pairs of DRFA anglers put together a 15.45-lb. total of nine bass to take first place out of seven clubs participating in the South Jersey Bass Club Association (SJBICA) Bass Bowl. The event was held on October 13 at the Conowingo Reservoir on the Susquehanna River. The second-place team finished more than three pounds behind with a 12.42-lb. total for seven bass. In all, 15 boats representing seven fishing clubs participated. Three of the clubs failed to weigh-in even one legal fish. Rich Stevens from Cumberland County Bassmasters caught a 3.19-lb. bass to capture lunger honors.

Top boat in the entire event was the DRFA combo of Scott and Casey McDonough who accounted for five fish with a 9.44-lb. total. The two other DRFA teams participating were Greg Southrey and Chick Bay with two fish weighing 3.43 lbs., and Mike Nucero and Tony Seliga who added two more fish weighing 2.58 lbs.

The Bass Bowl is an end-of-season tournament for bragging rights among all SJBICA clubs. DRFA teams had done well in recent years, but this was the first year our club took top honors. Congratulations, guys!

Final Standings for 2019 Angler Of The Year Award

These results show each angler's top six tournament point earnings for the year.

Position	Name		Points	Weight	Length
1	Mike	Nucero	593	20.88	118.50
2	George	Hoffman	587	23.38	120.75
3	Scott	McDonough	587	15.98	106.75
4	Frank	Beck	577	18.43	108.75
5	Rich	Hoffman	573	26.29	138.75
6	Chick	Bay	482	19.55	101.25
7	Joe	Newton	481	13.54	85.50
8	Gregg	Southrey	471	14.08	92.00
9	Rick	Mawson Sr	468	13.83	91.75
10	Casey	McDonough	394	10.89	65.25
11	Ron	Soto	382	15.51	90.25
12	Rick	Gasper	289	14.89	45.50
13	Eric	Carocci	197	2.81	27.50
14	Anthony	Seliga	188	3.93	33.25
15	Devon	Seliga	185	3.73	32.50
16	Jason	Donaghy	184	6.68	40.25
17	Rick	Osman	179	5.81	38.25
18	Richard	Schroeder	179	4.53	36.75
19	Stanley	Cyrway Jr	177	5.76	40.00
20	Kenneth J	Zimmer	174	5.53	39.25
21	John	Pedrick	100	9.82	26.50
22	Stephen	Escher	100	7.75	26.25
23	Rick	Gasper	99	9.52	28.00
24	Shari	Bijaczyk	98	4.81	21.75
25	David A	Russell	96	3.67	20.50
26	Pete	Antoniewicz	96	1.04	12.50
27	Andrew	Bijaczyk	95	3.87	21.75
28	Anthony	Scholl Sr	94	3.38	21.00
29	Al	Eugene	94	1.09	12.50
30	Chris	Meyers	93	0.90	12.75
31	Bob	Hartman	91	3.00	20.50
32	Laura Neives	Newton	91	2.32	17.25
33	Peter J	Marcolina	87	2.62	19.75

The Delaware River Fishermen's Association 2020 Membership Application



Indicate type of membership and dues amount enclosed:

- ___ Individual Membership: **\$25.00**
___ Family Membership*: **\$30.00**
___ Affiliate Fishing Club Membership: **\$30.00**
___ Supporting Business Membership: **\$50.00**

Every membership includes:

- Access to the password protected Member Services section of the DRFA website
- Access to our member forum for posting fishing reports, announcements, events, sale items and more.
- 6 Issues of the DRFA Bimonthly newsletter – Select one: Hardcopy - Electronic Copy
- Eligibility in all DRFA club tournaments (*voluntary lunker pool with 100% payout on the day of the tournament*)
- Eligibility for the annual Dave Bryant Angler of the Year Award (*1st Place - plaque & \$150 cash, 2nd - \$100 & 3rd - \$75*)

Mail completed form with check made payable to: The Delaware River Fishermen's Association
Membership Secretary
PO Box 4739
Philadelphia, PA 19134

For more information, contact our Membership Secretary at www.drfishermen.com

Primary Member Name: _____ Date of Application: _____

Additional individuals qualifying under a Family Membership* to fish in DRFA club tournaments (list full names):

Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____

E-Mail Address**: _____

Home Phone: _____ **Circle One: Renewing Member - New Member**

Do you own a boat? _____ Favorite fish? _____ How many days a month do you fish? _____

Check and sign either or both conditions that apply in this area:

- I give permission for the DRFA to publish my primary member information in its directory, for use in club matters.
 I also give permission to allow DRFA supporting businesses and business members to use my address or E-mail to provide promotional offers.

Or check and sign below to be excluded from both the member directory and any promotions by supporting businesses or DRFA business members:

- I DO NOT give permission for the DRFA to publish the above information in its member directory.

By signing this application, I do hereby declare that I will indemnify and hold harmless The Delaware River Fishermen's Association, its officers, members, and sponsors, from any and all claims for injury and/or damage that may occur, or may be incurred in conjunction with any and all club activities.

Primary Member's Signature: _____

* For tournament participation, family memberships include the primary member and an adult spouse/partner residing at that address, plus any related children up to the age of 16, no matter where those children live. Grandchildren (*up to the age of 16*) of any DRFA member who purchases a family membership also qualify under that individual's family membership, no matter where those grandchildren live.

** Email Address must be included so you can register online to gain access to the Member Services area of the DRFA Web Site.

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



NOVEMBER/DECEMBER 2019 ISSUE

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Also visit our website

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
The Ike Foundation, 625 N Main Street, Elmer, NJ 08318 - Our mission is to get more kids fishing and in the outdoors,
Phila Boat Supply, 8900 State Road, Phila, PA 19136 – 215-332-5117-We carry a full line of new & [used boats](#), motors & parts
The Fegley Law Firm, 301 Oxford Valley Rd, Suite 402A, Yardley, PA – 215-493-8287, Business, Employment & Personal Injury law.
H & L Live Bait and Tackle, 78 East Bridge St, Morrisville, PA. 215-295-1400, a large variety of fresh, live bait
Tow Boat US, 32 Kirkwood Circle, Brigantine, NJ 08203, Delaware River Service Package Available. 609-517-2822.
White Oak Ice Co., 350 State Road, Bensalem, PA 19020. Self Service Crushed Ice, Blocks of Ice - 215-639-1080.
Gasper Contracting, Where your home ideas become reality, Philadelphia, Montgomery & Bucks Counties - 215-805-7360
Mc Keown's Automotive Services, 2525 Street Road, Bensalem, Pa 19020 (215) 639-4887 – State Inspection, Emissions.
Clayton Hunting & Fishing, 660 Easton Rd, Horsham, PA, 215-672-6060 – for all your hunting, fishing, archery & firearm needs

Associate Members

South Jersey Bass Club Association
Delaware Riverkeeper Network