



## **SALTY BYTES**

The quarterly newsletter of the Saltwater Fly Anglers of Delaware

**December 2018, January, February, March 2019**

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### **-A Note from the Editor-**

As always, contributions of articles, comments, or pictures that I can include in subsequent newsletters are welcome. You can reach me at home (see above) or by email.

**Dec. 12** – Regular meeting, Roy Miller to speak on ASMFC matters

**Jan. 4, 2019** – Annual dinner meeting

**Jan. 5** – Fly tying from 9-noon at Lewes Harbor Marina every Saturday

**Jan. 25-27** - Fly fishing show in Edison, NJ at the Convention and Expo Center

**Feb. 13** – Regular Club meeting

**Feb. 23-24** Tie Fest, BWI Marriott Hotel, MD

**Mar. 9-10** Fly fishing show Lancaster County Convention Center, Lancaster, PA

**Mar. 13** – Regular Club meeting

**Mar. 30** – Lure Fest, Bowers Beach

**Apr. 6** – Club Pickerel Fishing Tournament, State owned ponds

**Apr. 10** – Regular Club Meeting, Ed Barry to speak on Crooked Island, Bahamas

**Apr. 20** – Outing with White Clay Fly Fishers on White Clay Creek, PA

**Apr. 26-27** – Delmarva Outdoors Expo, Harrington Fair Grounds  
**May 11** – Annual Club picnic with White Clay Fly Fishers, Cape Henlopen State Park, Lewes  
**Jun. 12** - Regular Club meeting, Grand Raffle  
**Jul. 10** – Outdoor casting, and refreshments at Rolling Meadows Club House, Lewes, starting 6:00 PM  
**Aug. 14** – Outdoor casting plus regular meeting, Rolling Meadows Club House, Lewes  
**Sep. 11** – Regular Club meeting Rolling Meadows Club House  
**Sep. 16** – Trip to Martha's Vineyard  
**Oct. 6** – Coast Day, Lewes  
**Oct. 12** – Club One Fly Contest  
**Nov. 13** - Regular Club meeting, Rolling Meadows Club House  
**Nov. 16** – Fall pickerel fly fishing tournament  
**Dec. 11** – Regular Club Meeting, Roy Miller to give an ASMFC update  
**Dec. 15** – Annual Species Contest cut-off date.

### **SFAOD Meeting December 12, 2018**

Vice President Bernie Stasko (subbing for President John Lupinetti) convened the meeting at the Rolling Hills Club House at 7:04 PM.

**Elections for Board of Directors** – VP Stasko asked if there were any nominees from the floor. There being none, nominations were closed by acclamation. Existing Board members then were re-elected by acclamation. Bernie said to turn in your flies for the John Meagher Fly Tying Contest for judging this evening. Bernie Stasko, Ron Smith and Bill Licata will serve as judges.

**Fishing reports** – Jerry Groll caught 16 20-inch stripers off the pier on a Sunday this fall. The following Sunday he and Alan Cairncross only caught 3 (all on a fly constructed from a green sandal made by Bob Martin). Alan used a sinking fly. Rick Ranalli recently caught 4 stripers around 20 inches at Faithful Steward beach access and south to IR using a white snake fly dead drifted on the ocean side. The fish were spread out along the surf. He used a sinking line on a shooting head. The fish were close to the shore in a rip. Ron Smith fished the Broadkill River up near Prime Hook and caught 6 stripers that were 20+ inches. It was 46 degrees up the Broadkill, 41 degrees closer to the Bay. He fished later on with Walt Clark and caught nothing.

**Board Member reports** – Bob Kutay – About half the members have renewed their memberships for 2019 so far. Lee Swift is a new member. Ron Smith introduced Fred, from his development, who is a visitor to our Club meeting. He bought some of Lee Merkels' equipment. We start fly tying on Jan. 5 at Lewes Harbor Marina between 9 and 12:00. Ron said that we had \$3,738 in our Club treasury to start the month. After deposits, we had \$5,153.5 total at the end of the month. Walt Clark said that our annual holiday dinner starts at 6 PM on Jan. 4. Please bring an item to be raffled off. We will have a diverse menu for only \$10 each. Our speaker for the banquet will be Ray Glick, the curator of the museum portion of Overfalls Lightship here in Lewes. He will talk about the horse-mounted Coast Guard along our beach during World War II.

We will have a Board of Directors meeting in January to discuss the year ahead. Ideas for Club activities are welcome. The "A Good Year" fishing contest will be modified and will have fewer prizes this year. We all should record where each entry was caught to share this knowledge with our members. White Clay Creek was stocked recently with brown trout in PA by the White Clay Fly Fishers. Club flies are on sale (7 for \$10) tonight. Ed Barry has t-shirts in colors and 2 different Club hats for sale. 2019 raffle tickets are for sale. We have a \$50 gift certificate from Orvis in the raffle, but the outlet store is getting rid of its fishing stuff. Ron wants to change the gift certificate to something else instead. The Martha's Vineyard Club fishing trip is set for Sept. 9-13, and 6 people have signed up so far. We will stay in an AirBnB house without a breakfast from Friday to Monday. Two cars going at present, and it will be a 7-8 hour drive.

Roy Miller was our speaker that evening. Roy gave an update on recent meetings and fishery management developments with the Atlantic States Marine Fisheries Commission (ASMFC). Roy is one of three Commissioners from Delaware and he represents Delaware's Governor on the Commission. In brief, the ASMFC held their most recent full Commission meeting on October 22-25 in NYC. At this meeting Roy was awarded the Captain David Hart award, the highest award given annually by the Commission, for his many years of participation on the Commission and his lifetime contributions to the management of coastal marine fisheries.

The Commission also met December 11-12 in Annapolis jointly with the Mid-Atlantic Fishery Management Council to discuss just summer flounder, scup and black sea bass. Both striped bass and summer flounder stock assessments were updated this fall, but the results of the striped bass assessment will not be available until early in 2019. The summer flounder assessment showed that summer flounder are not overfished and overfishing is not occurring, although recruitment (the rate at which young flounder enter the population) has been below average for 7 years in a row. Roy finished his talk with some PowerPoint slides of his August 2018 trout fishing trip to Montana.

The Club's **annual holiday dinner** was held the evening of January 4 at Lewes Presbyterian Church. This affair was well-attended as usual by members, spouses and guests, and took the place of a Club meeting for the month. It was announced that Club fly tying sessions will begin the next morning at 9:00 AM at Lewes Harbor Marina and will continue each Saturday morning through the month of March, 2019, thanks to the generosity of Amanda Morris, owner of Lewes Harbor Marina. The winners of the 2019 Club John Meagher saltwater fly tying contest were announced, as were the winners of the "A Good Year" Fishing Contest (see photos below). The AGY contest recognizes those who caught the most species on a fly rod in two categories: those caught on the Delmarva Peninsula, and those fishes caught anywhere in the world.

Our speaker that evening was Dr. Ray Glick, retired Doctor of Veterinary Medicine, who is the curator of the Delaware Lightship Foundation. Ray told us all about the men, dogs, and horses who patrolled and guarded our Coastline during World War II. Most of us had no prior knowledge of the dedication and sacrifices of these individuals who kept watch in case of an invasion of our coast line by enemy forces. After the presentation the door prizes were distributed. Many thanks to all who brought door prizes, in some cases multiple door prizes, so that everyone could go home with something.

As usual the food at our holiday dinner was expertly prepared and served by caterers Jerry and Carol Brown, and we are indebted to Ron and Lorraine Smith for hosting our event at their Church's Fellowship Hall.



*The winners of the 2018 John Meagher Fly Tying Contest are Santiago Meglioli first place (left next to Bob Kutay); Loretta Smith second place, John Lupinetti third place; and Santiago again.*



*Rich Seagraves (foreground, upper left) mopped up the top prizes this year in the "A Good Year" Fishing Contest. He took first place in the Open Division and First Place in the Danner Division (Delmarva entries). Joining Rich in taking home prizes included Jim DiDonato (second place) and Loretta Smith (third place) in the Danner Division. The bottom photo shows Rich with both of his prizes, John McMinn who came in second in the Open Division, and Sean Rakes who took third place in the Open Division. Many thanks to Shawn for running this popular Club contest. Multi-talented Club member Paul Temple did the original artwork.*





*Roy Miller caught this yellowtail snapper (left) and lemon shark (right) near Key West in January.*



*Two photos by Mark Sampson of Ron Smith with a nice bonefish and a barracuda he took near Cudjo Key in FL this winter.*



### **SFAOD Meeting February 13, 2019**

President Lupinetti opened the meeting at 7:05 PM and introduced speaker Matt Able of Sea Hawk Sports and his son Ethan. Capt. Holly Ann Firuta told us about the Freedom Boat Club, which is offering a 1-month free membership to anyone in our Club who signs on. The Freedom Boat Club has been in existence for 30 years, and has 175 locations. If you join, you can have access to any of these locations. Boats are available for use by members in Lewes or Pot Nets Marina. There are more new boats than used, and none of the boats are older than 3 years. Capt. Brad or Captain Holly teaches you how to operate the boat. A concierge helps you load your boat for the day. You pay at the end of the day for the fuel you use. The service is open 7 days/week during boating season. It is something like a Country Club, except you are boating instead of golfing. If women have any reservations about membership, Holly will teach them what they need to know. The normal full membership initiation fee is \$6,900, plus monthly payments of \$399 for 12 months each year for unlimited boating

opportunities. If you travel, you can use reciprocal boats for where you go for up to four reservations/year. If you run aground and can't get off a sandbar, they will call a towing service to tow you off and you will pay only for the towing. But if the motor starts smoking while you are using it, you are not at fault and can get towed for free. If you were to purchase a comparable boat yourself, you would pay \$85,000 for a Cobia boat, just as an example. Riverside Marina at 909 Pilottown Rd. is their location in Lewes. Just call the dock within 24 hours of your intended use. Otherwise you can reserve a boat for use ahead of time online.

After Holly finished answering questions, our speaker, Matt Able, was introduced. He talked about fishing for freshwater species in the Pocomoke River in MD using light spinning tackle. He also takes charters in the summer for speckled trout, redfish, and striped bass. He has a sporting goods store, Sea Hawk Sports, in Pocomoke City. The Pocomoke River has yellow perch, crappie, largemouth bass, white perch, and channel and blue catfish. There is no fishery for snakeheads there yet. To fish the tidal water you need either a MD saltwater fishing license or a VA saltwater license. He likes to fish the last of the ebb or the beginning of the flood tide. Hard running tides can shut the fishing down, especially at water temperatures between 35 and 50 F. He likes to target channel edges and structure to locate shoals of active fish. There is some bait fishing for big cobia as well in the lower portion of the estuary.

**Board of Directors Reports** - Bob Kutay said that we currently have 105 members who have paid for 2019. He then introduced two new members: John Dorofee, who is pretty new to fly fishing; and Charlie Cortland, who is from New York and Maryland, and who lives here now. Charlie is just getting back into fly fishing. Walt Morey is a visitor tonight. Arthur and young Arthur Egolf are new to our meetings. Both father and son have been to our Saturday fly tying sessions. Paul Temple will be having a hip replacement in March. Bernie has Club flies on sale today for 3 for \$5. Capt. Chuck Cook offered that he does light tackle, fly fishing, and wreck charters, and has been doing it for 7-10 years. Chuck launches out of Lewes on Pilottown Rd.

**Announcements** – Ron Smith and John Lupinetti announced that they will be resigning from the Board of Directors towards the end of the year to allow new blood to take over the Club. Walt Clark will take over the Treasurer position for Ron. The President's position will be open as of January 1.

**Club library** – Our library will be disbanding. Our club books will be sold for \$1 each to Club members at subsequent meetings, as will the DVDs. Next month there will be a Lefty Kreh autographed book for sale. John Lupinetti is selling his 17' Bass Tracker boat (see ad later in this newsletter). The "A Good Year" fishing contest ran for four years. It will be changing in 2019 and will be coordinated by Jim DiDonato. Check our website for details on the new contest. There will be two categories – Delmarva Peninsula catches and Traveler (non-Delmarva). With the new contest, you will keep track of your catches yourself on an Excel Spreadsheet. Please periodically send your updated spreadsheet to Jim, who will maintain the master file of all participants. He'll then periodically send the master Excel file to Paul, who will blast out an email to all SFAOD members.

**Fishing reports** – Bernie caught a pickerel at the Salisbury City Park. Walt Clark fished in Milton and caught nothing, but he managed to catch 6 nice crappies on the Upper Pocomoke at a secret location. Loretta caught 3 species today in Milton, including crappie and pickerel. Bill Licata fished a private access spot and caught a largemouth bass. Don't forget the Lancaster Fly Fishing show is March 9-10. Lefty Kreh's Tie Fest will be held at the BWI Marriott in MD on Feb. 23-24. The usual raffle was held at the end of the evening.

*Here is a  
peacock bass caught  
by Jim DiDonato this  
winter in a canal  
near Miami, FL*



**SFAOD Meeting  
March 13, 2019**

President John Lupinetti called the meeting to order at 7:06 PM.

Board members present: Ron Smith, John Lupinetti, Bob Kutay, Bernie Stasko, Ed Barry  
Absent: Roy Miller, Paul Temple

**Speaker for the evening – Ted Morlock: “Life as a Park Service Officer”**

In accordance with Federal requirements, Ted retired from the park service at age 57. He started as a seasonal officer and then went full time from 1989 to 2016. Initially he was a fire fighter then moved to Park Ranger. He retired as Chief of the Assateague and Chincoteague Park System. Before becoming Chief, he worked at Cape Hatteras National Seashore, Grand Teton National Park, and the Blue Ridge Park System. Blue Ridge had the largest visitor population at 24 million a year. Ted reviewed the National Park System which was established in 1872. It is the largest land management police force. Rangers go through the same FLETC (Federal Law Enforcement Training Center) training that local, federal and state enforcement officers do. He went on to describe his responsibilities which had many facets: traffic and vehicle safety, accident investigation; wildlife, fish, game and hunting management; fire protection; search and rescue; and EMT services. What a very interesting and challenging job!

**Club Business** – Membership is 111 so far for 2019; plus 18 honorary members. Two new members were announced tonight. Both new members fly fish fresh water and are looking forward to learning saltwater fly fishing.

**Treasurer’s Report for February**

Starting balance \$ 4,286.72

Ending Balance: \$ 4,084.11

A full report is available upon request plus a full statement report for the year 2018.

Club Flies are on sale, 2 for \$5, or 5 for \$10: special flies \$3 each and Club tee shirts are available as well for \$15.

Library books and CD’s are also on sale for \$1 each, both this month and next month as we try to disband our Club library.

Club meeting raffle: 2 tickets for \$5.



John Lupinetti auctioned off three Club books: “All the Best Flies” by Lefty Kreh & Flip Pallot; “Advanced Fly Fishing Techniques” by Lefty Kreh; and “Fly Fishing for Redfish” by Chico Fernandez.

**Club News** – The Club Pickerel Fly Fishing Contest will be held on April 6. Loretta Smith announced 8 teams had signed up for the Contest with a start time of 8 AM and an end time of 2 PM. Check in will be at Bella Capri Restaurant, Georgetown (just north of Walmart on Route 113).

The teams are comprised of: The Dark Side - Walt Clark & Joe Popalas; Esox It To Me - Loretta Smith & Roy Miller; The Reel Men - Bill Licata & Mike Collier; The Dill Pickerels - Jerry Groll & Bernie Stasko; Te-Ed Off - Ed Barry & Ted Morlock; Old Farts - John Lupinetti & Ron Smith; Fly Attack- Jim DiDonato & Jason Gillespy; The Gunfighters - Ethan & Shawn Rakes. Good luck everyone!

Ed Barry is working on getting other clubs on our email list to communicate and invite tiers to our meetings; DE Paddle Boards would like to show kayaks and boards at our casting demos in the summer; and, in general, exchange information with us.

Fly tying ends March 30th at the Lewes Harbor Marina. Loretta Smith has kept a photo journal of our tying sessions on Saturdays this year. Some pictures have been posted on the Lewes Harbor Marina site and our first Saturday was posted on Facebook by Loretta. She will compile these photos and send them to Paul Temple who perhaps can put them up on our website as a fly tying section. It also would be nice if some were included in the year end dinner Power Point compilation of member’s activities.



*Here is a shot of Loretta herself doing some tying in January in between taking pictures of other Club members and guests.*

Here are the highlights of some upcoming Club events:

**Lure Fest** is scheduled for March 30<sup>th</sup> at Bowers Beach Fire Hall – SFAOD will have a table. Admission is \$20 which covers a raffle ticket. You can go to [Saltnet.net](http://Saltnet.net) for details and tickets in advance.

**White Clay Creek** outing with the White Clay Fly Fishers is April 27<sup>th</sup>. If you are going to the picnic on White Clay Creek in Landenberg, PA, please bring something edible to share.

**Delmarva Outdoors Expo** is April 26, 27, 28 in Harrington – Ron Smith needs volunteers for the 27th & 28<sup>th</sup> – the shifts are 4 hours each – 9 to 5. Contact Ron ([flyaboutsmit@comcast.net](mailto:flyaboutsmit@comcast.net))

**SFAOD Picnic** will be May 11<sup>th</sup> at the Cape Henlopen Pavilion on the ocean side. Please bring a dish to share as we will start eating around noon.

**Grand Raffle** for SFAOD is at the June 12<sup>th</sup> meeting. **Please check the SFAOD website for a list of raffle items and dates for all of our events.**

We will start our usual weekly Club fishing get togethers at Cape Henlopen State Park, to the left of the fishing pier, on May 1<sup>st</sup> at 6 p.m. We will have hot dogs and other goodies **only** on the first Wednesday to kick off the season at the picnic area.

John Lupinetti had a hand out of favorite trout flies. Contact John if you would like the list. John is selling his Pro 17 Bass Boat – see below.

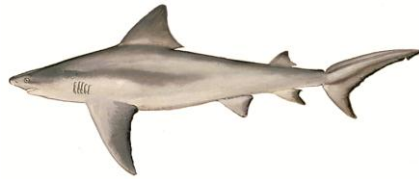


AGY has been changed to the Species Journal. Jim DiDonato has graciously taken over this popular program for SFAOD. The journal is a personal Excel spreadsheet of the species that you have caught during the year which each participant will maintain, and then share the results with the other members. Jim showed everyone how the sheet works. The Master is sent out via email, and participants will maintain the sheets on their own devices, following the instructions Jim provides on the sheet. When you have species to report, send your sheet back directly to Jim ([didonato57@gmail.com](mailto:didonato57@gmail.com)). A lengthy discussion went on about the fact that this **journal does not replace regular fishing reports**. Members should still, at their choosing, send in fishing reports to Paul Temple ([paultemple@mac.com](mailto:paultemple@mac.com)) to be distributed on email.

A big **Thank You** goes out to Shawn Rakes who came up with the idea for “A Good Year” and managed it for four successful years.

The meeting was adjourned at 9:30 PM.

Editors note: A sincere thank you to Loretta Smith for compiling these March minutes in my absence.



## Biologist Corner

Catching sharks on a fly rod is a challenging proposition on several levels. First and foremost, you have to consider the biology of the quarry. With the exception of pelagic species like mako sharks, some sharks are what we would call near sighted. They famously rely more on other senses, including olfactory, to initially detect prey. They also use the small clusters of pores around their snouts and jaws (known as the ampullae of Lorenzini) and their lateral line system to detect the weak electrical field of their prey, as well as their internal ears to detect sound waves. So a fly thrown in their direction doesn't always elicit a feeding response, like it would with a bluefish on the prowl for a meal. Although I have done comparatively little fly fishing for sharks, unlike our friend and Maryland guide Mark Sampson, I recently had occasion to observe the reactions (or non-reactions) of three inshore species while fishing with a guide in mid-January near Key West. Of the three species I cast to (nurse sharks, bonnethead sharks, and lemon sharks) only the latter paid any attention to my flies. Even the lemon sharks were somewhat indifferent, but I saw enough of them and had enough casting opportunities that finally one took the fly after I managed to bring it within inches of its snout. This one gave me a good fight and took me into my backing as it darted across the flats. I managed to catch two others, but I had to tip my fly with a small strip of real squid (a sacrilege to some purists) in order to solicit a strike. Plus my guide had lowered a mesh bag containing some cut-up fish to entice the lemon sharks to approach the boat and remain within casting distance. Clearly it paid off to stimulate their olfactory senses in order to solicit more interest in the red and white whistler fly I was casting. Also, I might have received more interest from them if the water temperature at the time had been higher than the mid 60s.

Locally we also have to contend with murky water, unlike the relative clarity of the flats in the Florida Keys. The biological and physical constraints make it tough to have success targeting sharks with the fly rod, but obviously it can be done as Mark Sampson and Chris Narwold who have addressed our Club meetings previously can attest.

So which species do we have in our inshore waters, and what regulations apply to these species? The four most common species of sharks available to anglers in Delaware Bay and nearshore ocean waters include the sandbar shark, the sandtiger shark, the spiny dogfish, and the smooth dogfish. Of these, probably only the sandbar shark is

worth pursuing with a fly rod. It is relatively common locally (Delaware Bay is a breeding ground), has good eyesight, and is an active and swift swimming species. Sandtigers may look formidable because of their teeth, but they are a sluggish species that generally feeds near the bottom. Both species are federally protected, however, and you may not kill either one and must release them immediately with as little air exposure as possible. All four of these shark species are subject to fishery management plans administered by NOAA Fisheries (U.S. Dept. of Commerce) and the Atlantic States Marine Fisheries Commission. The spiny dogfish and smooth dogfish management plans are liberal enough that a recreational angler could consider their harvest as essentially unrestricted.

There are other species that visit our coastal waters in the summer, including tiger sharks, bull sharks, blue sharks, shortfin mako sharks, spinner sharks, black tips, great hammerheads, and even the very occasional great white shark. But, these species (with the possible exception of bull sharks) restrict most of their visits to offshore waters. In order to entice these species to a fly, a seaworthy vessel is required and a chum line would have to be established. If you decide you want to try for the swift swimming and hard fighting mako shark, pay attention to new federal regulations that just passed concerning fishing for shortfin mako sharks. The species has been determined to be overfished, and overfishing is still occurring worldwide. As a result, the minimum size for the recreational harvest of a shortfin mako has been increased to 71 inches for males and 83 inches for females. This federal requirement probably will become a state requirement by this spring for any vessel landing a mako in Delaware. That requires you to view the underside of the shark to look for the claspers of a male if you want to keep one less than 83 inches long. This might not be the safest thing to do from a small vessel with a shark as vigorous and toothy as a mako. Just the thought of trying to land an 83 inch mako on a fly rod causes me to break out into a sweat. You can only keep one per vessel and you need a federal highly migratory species permit to pursue and keep them <https://hmspermits.noaa.gov/otherVesselPermits>.



*The sandbar shark at the top and the shortfin mako shark (above) were copied from DE DNREC images contributed by NC artist Duane Raver*

rwm

**For Sale:** 1994 Tracker Pro 17, 17 ft. bass boat, 40 hp OB, trolling motor, 2 batteries, galvanized trailer, well-kept and maintained. Will sell for \$4,500 or best offer, contact John Lupinetti, 302-382-6963 for details.

## PHWFF

**Our local Project Healing Waters Fly Fishing liaison is Russell Martin (cell: 302-535-9896; email: [rtlmartin1980@gmail.com](mailto:rtlmartin1980@gmail.com)). Project Healing Waters Fly Fishing is a Club-sponsored program and all club members are invited to help with this exciting and rewarding program. Please join the group at one or more of the periodic programs at the Veterans Home in Milford. The group meets every other Tuesday evening in Milford; contact Russell for details. You won't be sorry that you donated your time and talents to this very worthy cause.**

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*Sundown on the Pacific coast of Costa Rica; photo by Roy Miller.  
The opening picture of Saddlebunch Key, FL was taken in January.*