Why I don't fish

by Tom Chillemi

I feel guilty when someone asks me if I fish. I never give them a straight "No." I usually say something like "Not too much." To live on a river and not fish seems crazy.

I really have tried to like fishing. I guess I haven't figured it out. Something is missing.

When we first settled on the East River in Mathews, we were out drifting in our boat one evening when we encountered a fisherman who was reeling them in almost as fast as his line hit the water. The old salt with missing teeth shared his secret. He showed me how to cut up a crab and dip the bait in the yellow crab fat. "That brings 'em," he said with a wink.

We went back to our dock, got some crabs, and hurried back to the spot where he was fishing. Nothing. Zero. Not a nibble. Meanwhile, the old salt continued to pull them in. He felt sorry for us and gave us fish to take home.

I find fishing stressful due to the anticipation. Should we go there? Stay here? Change bait? How deep to fish? It's a game, and I hate losing, to say nothing about all the preparation and the clean-up.

Sure, anybody can reel in croaker. But, I must be the only person who ever felt bad listening to a croaker "croak" in a bucket of water as it dies.

I know life requires that something else die, but I guess I've become too far removed from the food source.

I've gotten up at 4:30 a.m., because "fish feed at sunrise." I've been with fishermen who watched the fish finder, and I got frustrated as fish went across the screen without nibbling at our bait.

Listening for clues on the VHF radio, I figured most of it's not true. "Are you catching anything?"

"Naw, nothing here."

Nobody wants to give away their location.

"The best part of fishing is being there. Catching anything is a bonus."

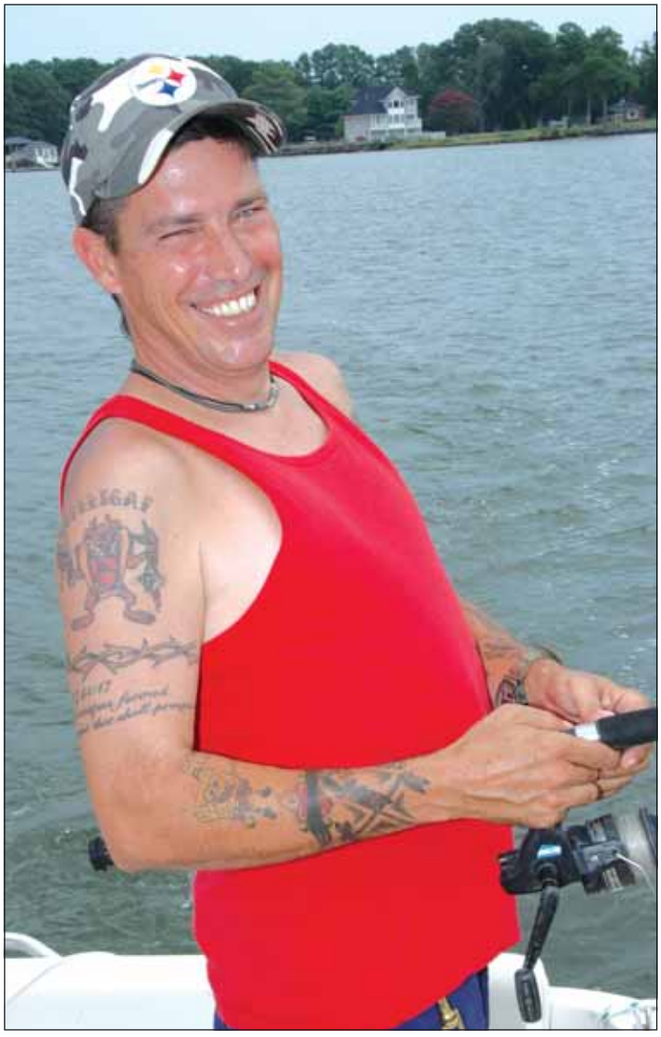
—John Master, Chesapeake

Outta my way

It seems like once a few boats stop, others will follow on the assumption there must be something there.

One sunny November day I went on a charter boat to Buoy 42 in the Bay. We were dragging the maximum number of fishing lines, even using outriggers to hold lines out further. The captain said the real purpose of outriggers are to keep other boats away. The radio crackled with two captains arguing about who had the right-of-way as the 10-ton boats trolled. Of course, everyone became a juror, analyzing who had the right-of-way. One responded over the radio, "Can't we all just get along?"

Midway through the afternoon there had been only one fish caught and the captain asked, "Who has a banana?"



"A bad day fishing is better than a good day at work," says Tony Bass.

Fishing is relaxing for the most part, but for the skipper it can be "a lot of work," says Sonny Richardson (left) of Mathews.

I quickly said I did, thinking he was going to rub it on the bait to "bring 'em." When I handed the banana to him, he tossed it overboard. Seems it's bad luck to bring a banana on a fishing trip; some captains even discourage eating bananas before leaving the dock.

My brief fishing life is filled with empty buckets, punctuated by occasional dreams of the big one.

I once went rock fishing with some pros in a big boat. I was really excited because these guys had won the big rockfish tournament in Deltaville the year before and I knew they'd get something.

They knew how to watch for "birds working the water." That meant the birds were after little fish on the surface that had been stirred up by the big fish underneath. They knew how to idle their boat around the edge of the commotion and hook the monsters.

They handed me a pole . . . excuse me, a rod and reel. I braced my knees against the gunwales and settled in for a fight, the way it's portrayed in pictures, the rod bending into a "C" shape, me straining back to crank.

It was kind of like that. But it also felt like a video game. I cranked the handle, played the fish that was out there somewhere, but it was anti-climactic.

Maybe it was too easy. I hadn't done anything to find the fish. Maybe I didn't fail enough first.

continued on following page

Jacquez Luke of Henrico casts for a big one at Williams Wharf in Mathews.

Catching a dumb fish, and a dummy wading in underwear

I've tried to like fishing, off and on. There's a sense of adventure in anticipating the big catch.

When I was a teenager, my buddy used to live on a lake on the fringe of suburbia. Every once in a while, we'd try fishing, having heard there were bass in the lake. All we ever caught were bluegills until one day when the 17-year locusts were buzzing. I put one on the hook, and while it was still buzzing, set it on top of the water.

Wham! It went straight down. I reeled in an eight-inch bass, but let it go.

So, I figured I'd caught onto a secret. Not so. I couldn't repeat the magic moment. I guess I caught the only dumb bass in the lake. Now he had wised up.

Great Falls Adventure

When I was 16 years old I bought a small trail motorcycle. I planned a fishing trip, just like the ads had shown, to the Potomac River just below Great Falls. It was an autumn morning. My buddy came along but didn't fish. He just watched the show.

Not too long into my adventure my line got snagged on a rock. While trying to free it, the top half of the rod came loose and slid down the line, slowly . . . so slowly into the water. I tried to coax the rod half up the line, against gravity. It was the only rod I'd brought, but what really worried me was that I had borrowed the fishing gear from a neighbor, so I was concerned about explaining what happened to his fishing rod.

My next plan was to take off my pants (I was in the wilderness of Great Falls Park) and wade into the water. There I was, balanced on slippery rocks in my underwear, stretching into dark water with a tree branch trying to snag the rod. For stability, I was holding a stick that my buddy held high and dry on shore.

Looking back, wading into the water was incredibly stupid. If I'd gone in, I probably could have frozen or drowned. I don't remember the neighbor being upset about his rod. I'm sure he didn't give me his best one.

Although I went home without a fish and with only half a rod, I remembered the experience. That says something for fishing.

Beaverdam Park's 635-acre freshwater reservoir near Gloucester Courthouse offers a beautiful setting for fishing or just relaxing.

continued from previous page

That's not exactly true. Fishing has been one failure after another, such as idling in the Rappahannock River in November, freezing for a medium-sized fish I could keep, but getting nothing but cold toes.

I even bought a fishing license for a few years on the wild chance I'd try to fish. I bought some lures that were "guaranteed" to bring them. The lures with shiny metal and bright paint would be better used as Christmas tree ornaments.

I listened to a man say how he caught a rockfish every night by turning on his dock light, which attracts them. Just last fall I tried the same thing, but I only lasted about 30 minutes. That equals a dollar a minute for all the tackle I'd bought just to go rock fishing.

Being There

Why do people spend hundreds, if not thousands, of dollars to go fishing? To find out I asked an avid fisherman, Captain Dan Kavanagh of Hardyville, who is a partner in a charter fishing business based at Cape Hatteras. "We don't sell fishing, we sell boat rides," he said, and he was serious.

"We're selling the boating experience," said Captain Dan, "We've had people who haven't caught fish and were delighted, and we've had people catch a thousand pounds of fish and were unhappy it wasn't a thousand and ten pounds."

Their level of happiness "depends on what they bring in terms of attitude and expectations," said Captain Dan. "We can't control that."

Fishing is the escape a lot of people dream of while they're working. It's a fly rod and light tackle in shallow water, or a bluefish jumping out of the water on the end of your line. As John Master of Chesapeake puts it, "The best part of fishing is being there. Catching anything is a bonus."

Captain Dan said he's been to the Gulf Stream, 22 miles offshore, many times when he didn't catch fish and "had a fantastic time." The warm waters create their own environment so it has a different flora and fauna than you'd see anywhere else.

So what am I missing? "It's about enjoying the moment," said Captain Dan. "It's just a boat ride and fishing is just an excuse to be there when the sun comes up."

The best part of fishing is being there.

How you handle frustration can make or break a fishing trip. Above, Jacquez Luke tries in vain to get his bait back from a crab that took it.

Some people just can't stop fishing. For them, it's "just one more cast."

A bad day fishing . . .

Carol Ann Goin of Mathews County said fishing is "an excuse to get on the river, whether you pull your rod out or not." She likes for her husband, Chip, to fish "because he catches them, cleans them and prepares them for cooking."

Chip replied, "I like to go fishing because I can get away from statements like that. When you tell your wife you're going fishing, just make sure you bring the rod."

Tony Bass (his real name) of New Point in Mathews County said he's not bothered when he gets skunked. "A bad day fishing is better than a good day at work," he said.

Bass was using his time fishing with seventh-grader Jacquez Luke to impart some wisdom. Jacquez wanted a boat, but realized that he'd have to work hard for it, said Bass.

Jacquez caught a spot that had been bitten on the tail. So he split the fish down the middle to use as bait, hoping to land Moby Dick. That lasted until a crab pulled the fish off his hook a few minutes later. "Hey, he stole my fish."

Sonny Richardson didn't have time to relax. As the captain of his 20-foot boat he also had the duty of baiting hooks for three ladies on board. He takes them fishing to "keep peace" in the family.

"It's a lot of work. I don't even have time to drink my beer," said Sonny.

Gallery to host exhibit reception

On Friday, October 27, the Yates House Gallery on Route 33 in Deltaville will host an opening reception for a juried exhibit entitled, "Poetry, Perception and Expression" from 5 to 8 p.m.

Jane Stouffer will be the judge of the works in any media, which will be the artists' interpretation of lines from the poems of Dr. Carolyn Kreiter-Foronda of Hardyville, Virginia's Poet Laureate.

The exhibit will remain on display through November.

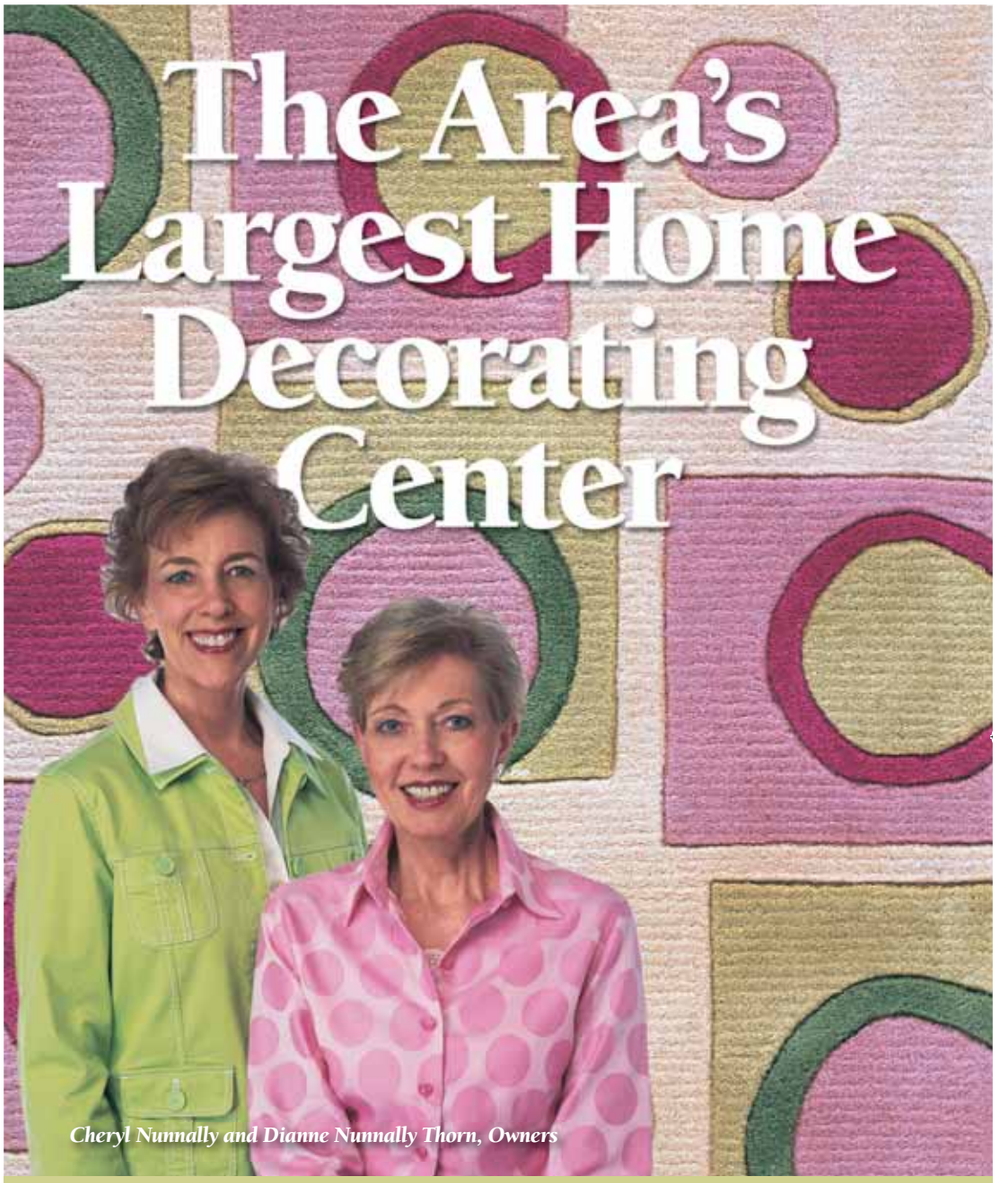
Mathews Market Days competitors announced

Terry Robinson, coordinator for Mathews Art Group's 2006 Market Days competition on September 8-9, announced that a total of 30 artists have registered to compete at the annual event, which will be judged by retired Mechanicsville art teacher Ken Hayden.

Hayden has experience in working with pre-kindergarten through 12th grade, special education and migrant programs. His commissioned art works for private individuals include home murals, boats, balloons, and a variety of vehicles and he has received numerous best in show and first place awards.

Competing artists are: Elaine Abbott, acrylic; Larry Ashe, acrylic; G. Watts Brown, watercolor; Renate Bumgarner, oil, watercolor, pastel; Marilyn Jo Cotter, watercolor; Harriet L. Cowen, pen and ink with watercolor; Gail Cunningham, oil and acrylic;Richard DePaul, watercolor; Gary R. Edmondson, acrylic; Archie Fripp, photography; Kazuko Fuller, wire/metal/beads to create mix media; Tina McCloud, art and jewelry; Bev Hardin, jewelry; Hugh Townsend Harris, acrylic and watercolor; Mary Jager, oil and watercolor; James Kurovics, wood carver; Joan Mannell, watercolor; Emma Lou Martin, watercolor and collages; Don Mikulecky, watercolor; Kathleen Noffsinger, watercolor; Rachel Nuttall, oil and acrylic; Jane Partin, watercolor and oil; Gib Pulley, watercolor; Ben Richardson, wood carving and copper work; H. Trainer Roden, photography; Jerry Spangler, oil; Amy Schacht, watercolor; Blanche Scharf, fine silver; Nancy Sweet, acrylic; John H. Tobin, photography; and Pamela Waldron, watercolor.

Additional registration information is available from Terry Robinson at robter@3bubbas.com.



Nunnally's
FLOORS AND DECORATING
4445 Richmond Road
Warsaw, Virginia 22572, (804) 333-3210
www.nunnallys.com
Flooring AMERICA

In An Emergency

We hope your visit to "Rivah" country will be a pleasant and safe experience. Should you need help in an emergency, here are some numbers to call.

Call 911

For fire, rescue and police emergencies.

Hospitals

Rappahannock General, Kilmarnock (Harris Drive, 76 beds): Phone 804-435-8000; Emergency room, 804-435-8544; Toll free from: Deltaville/Saluda exchanges, 804-776-9490; Callao/Heathsville/Reedville, 804-453-4070; Farnham/Warsaw, 804-333-4988; Tappahannock, 804-443-2803.

Riverside Tappahannock, Tappahannock (Route 360 east, 92 beds) Phone 804-443-3311; Emergency room, 804-443-6000.

Riverside Walter Reed, Gloucester (Route 17 south, 71 beds) Phone 804-693-8800; Emergency room, 804-693-8899.

Mary Washington, Fredericksburg. Emergency Room, 703-899-1100.

Crisis Hotline

Poison Hotline, 1-800-552-6337.

COPE (personal crisis counseling), 1-800-542-COPE.

The Haven (shelter for battered women), Warsaw: 804-333-5370.

Laurel Shelter (shelter for abused women), Gloucester, 804-694-5552.

Child Abuse & Neglect: 1-800-552-7096.

Boats in Distress

Smith Point Sea Rescue Inc., 804-453-4600.

U.S. Coast Guard, Milford Haven near Gwynn's Island, 804-725-2125. Milford Haven monitors VHF channel 16 (156.8 Mhz) from 7 a.m. to 10 p.m. After 10 p.m. the channel is monitored by the Coast Guard station at Hampton Roads. Norfolk marine operators can be reached on VHF channels 24, 25, 26, 27 and 28. Channel 84 should be used to phone the marine operator at Point Look Out, Md.

Sea Tow Hampton Roads: Capt. Angelo Mariano, 757-496-1999, Channel 18.

Sea Tow Lower Chesapeake Bay: Capt. Bart & Capt. Jeff White, 757-898-5338, Channels 18 and 19.

Safe Harbor Marine Towing/Towboat U.S. covers an area from New Point Comfort to Smith Point eastward and is based on Gwynn's Island. It monitors VHF channel 16 around the clock. 804-725-0453. Pager: 642-8100.

Boat US/Towboat US 24-hour dispatch: 800-888-4869.

(To change or update emergency information, contact fgaskins@rrecord.com)

Subscribe to the Southside Sentinel!
Call (804) 758-2328

Turkey Shoot Regatta is October 6-8

Skippers have been registering their boats for the October 6 through 8 Turkey Shoot Regatta.

Among recent entries, Helen Quinby of Hayes will sail her 1968 34-foot Islander, Avalon II, with an all-woman crew. The boat was designed by Bill McGlasson for Wayfarer Yachts in California.

Quinby, who's been racing her own boats for about 20 years, purchased Avalon II in 1995. A past research associate at Virginia Marine Institute, she chose her crew of between four and five graduate students from VIMS, and from other friends she met through sailing. This will be her 10th Turkey Shoot.

Franz Baichl of Irvington will race one of the largest boats in the regatta, a 1926, 60-foot, 10-Meter design called Twilight. This boat, Hull Number 1 of 14, was built for the New York Yacht Club for day sailing and off-shore races. These boats were the forerunners of the 12-meter yachts used in the America's Cup races. Originally owned by a commodore of the New York Yacht Club, it has passed through several hands until Baichl acquired it in Charleston, S.C., about four years ago.

A third-generation boat builder, Baichl has invested considerable money and time to get it ready for this and other races and plans to circumnavigate the globe in the future. Twilight displaces 28,000 pounds – 20,000 pounds of that is lead in the keel – and draws 8 feet. The boat is 43 feet at the waterline, but that increases to between 50 and 55 feet in a 15-degree heel.

He plans to have a crew of between 17 and 20, arriving from Cape May, N.J., Charleston, and San Francisco, as well as using some local sailors.

The regatta is open to boats of a design 25 years old or older, or boats made of wood. The minimum length for boats racing on the Rappahannock River is 18 feet. Singlehanders require approval by the race committee. Participating boats range from classic pre-World War II yachts to Catalinas, J24s and Flying Scots. Saturday's race is on a triangular course. Sunday's race is a pursuit race in which the boats with the highest ratings (slowest boats) start first. Boats are placed in classes based on either PHRF or a rating assigned by committee. Social activities are planned for both Friday and Saturday nights.

The winning skipper is asked to represent the "Turkey Shoot" in the National Hospice Regatta in Annapolis for the winners of local events.

Skippers can register their boats by calling Karen Knull at Yankee Point Marina at 462-7018, or by visiting www.yankeepointmarina.com.

Winsome Invitations

English Floral Creations

Papeterie
804.758.0046

and

The Wild Bunch
804.758.5445

For a fete accompli

In the heart of Urbanna, Virginia

"After we bought the new home, even after we unpacked all the boxes . . . we weren't home until we found our new Church . . ."

Our 4,000 square foot addition is now complete! The new two-story wing houses eight classrooms, pastor's offices, a youth activity room, nursery, flower preparation room and four restrooms, all serviced by an elevator and ramps for our new neighbors.

We invite you to join us!

Irvington Baptist Church
"The Sunday Place for Everyday Christians"

Sunday School Assembly-9:45 a.m. • Bible Classes-10:00 a.m.
Worship Service-11:00 a.m. • Nursery Provided
Wednesday Prayer Service-7:00 p.m.

Pastor: John Howard Farmer 438-6787
jhf.ibc@verizon.net -- www.rrecord.com/irvchurch.htm
53 King Carter Drive (at Route 200)

Latitudes

Fabulous Fall!

Gold, Gems, Silver Galore!
Fashion Finds and Home Decor!

Jewelry & Accessories
Casual & Resort Wear
Home & Garden Accents
Books & Baby Gifts
Gift Cards - Always a perfect fit!

Open All Year! Monday–Saturday 10–5 • Sunday Noon–5
Rt. 33 & Rt. 1102 • Deltaville, Va. • (804) 776-0272

Fun Fashions • Hostess Gifts • Caswell-Massey • Cards • Lamps

Affordable Fall Fashions!

Luxurious Layered Looks.

COFFMAN'S on the Coast

Between the Rivers at Hartfield
(804) 776-7766

Near the Downing Bridge Tappahannock
(804) 445-8300

Life is too short not to browse. Open 7 Days.

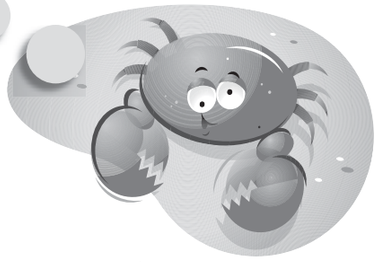
Unique Table Settings • Napkins • Coasters

Wedding Gifts • Toys • Gourmet Goodies

Jewelry, Jewelry, Jewelry • Nautical Gifts • Home Decor • Hats

Rivah Kids

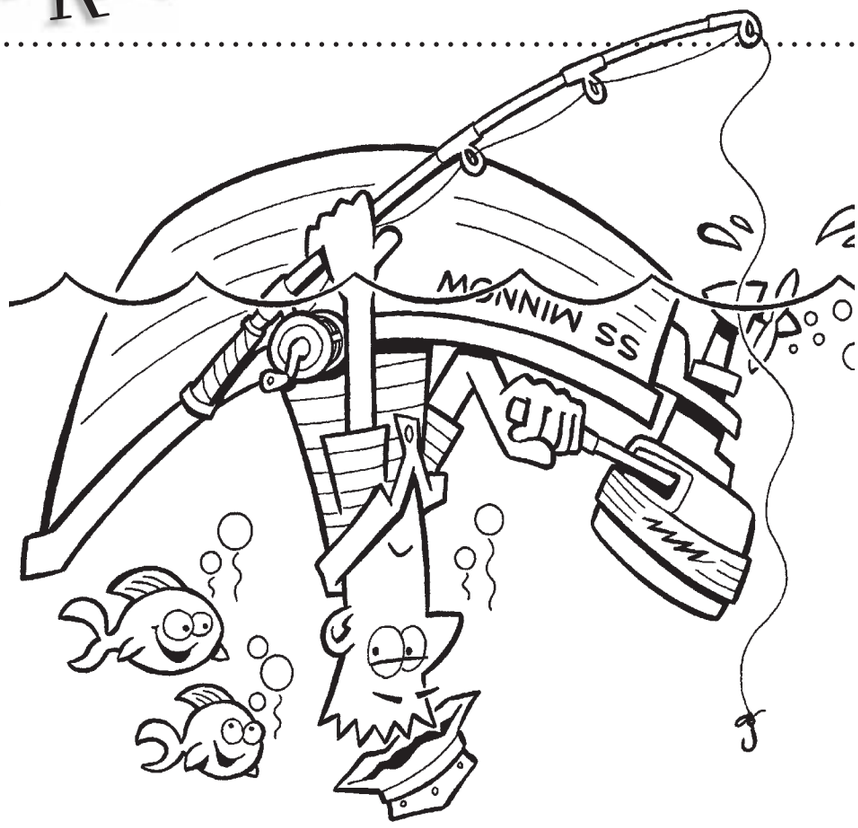
Welcome kids! I'm Claude the Crab. Let's have some fun with . . .



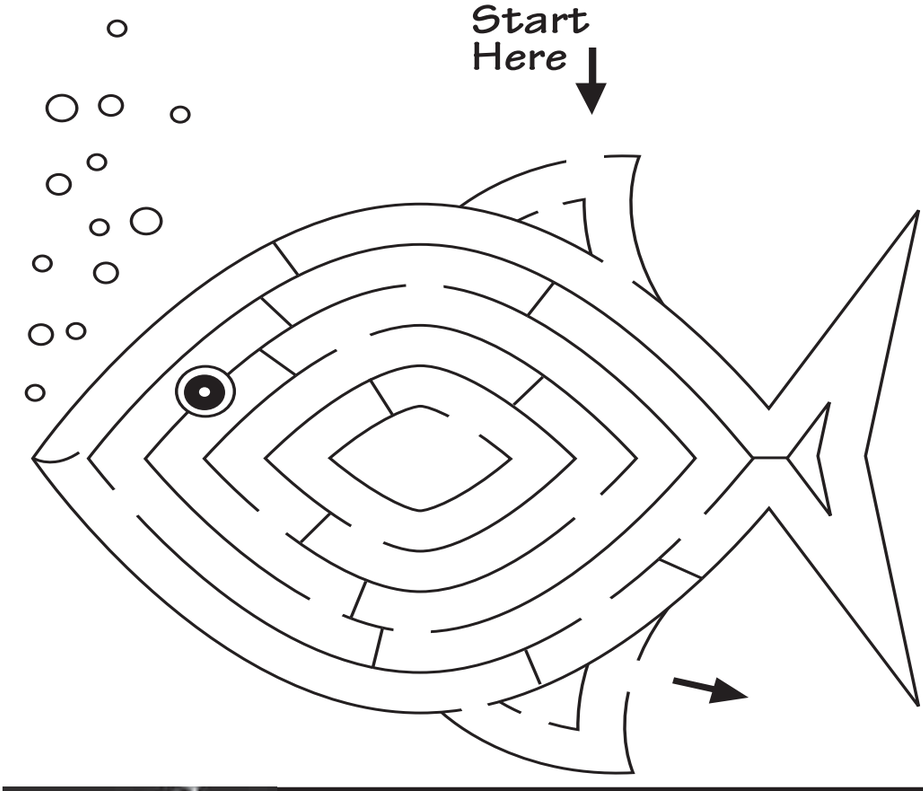
Fishing at the Rivah

Can you help Claude unscramble the words below? The words are different types of fish found in the Rivah. (Check your answers at the bottom of the page.)

1. okfsrcih _____
2. ercokar _____
3. lunfodre _____
4. ptos _____
5. uelfhbis _____
6. turot _____



Start Here



Things I see when I go fishing

- ❒ bait
- ❒ boats
- ❒ seagulls
- ❒ net
- ❒ reel
- ❒ rods
- ❒ hooks
- ❒ cooler

Be outspoken . . .

Fletcher's Fix It

21 N. Main St. • Kilmarnock • 435-6716

KHS • Free Agent • SUN • E-Z Sports. Parts & accessories for road, mountain & free style bikes & skateboards!

1. rockfish 2. croaker 3. flounder 4. spot 5. bluefish 6. trout

Rivah Parks & Natural Areas

Essex

Marsh Street Park Marsh Street in Tappahannock, run by Essex County Parks and Recreation Department, Pool open starting June 11, Tuesdays–Saturdays 11 a.m.–6 p.m. and Sundays 1 p.m.–6 p.m. 443-2470.

Gloucester

Beaverdam Park at the end of Route 616, Roaring Springs Road, contains a 635-acre freshwater lake. Built in 1990, 11 fish attractors and several species of fish are found there. Canoes, paddleboats, and Jon boats with or without electric motors are for rent, or you may launch your own boats for a fee. Motors powered by fuels are not permitted. The park also has a playground, picnic shelter and an extensive hiking trail system including an interpretive trail, a multi use trail for horseback riding or biking and an exercise trail. The park is open year around from sunrise to sunset. Fishing and hunting licenses, bait and snacks are available at the ranger station. For information call 693-2107 or 693-2355.

Tyndall Point Park contains remnants of Confederate and Union fortifications. It is the site of colonial Gloucester Towne, the first building of which was a tobacco warehouse built in 1632. The park is off of Route 17 at Gloucester Point and has open play areas.

Riverwalk at Gloucester Point Beach offers fishing with no license required, public beach and playground, restrooms, snack bar, an elevated observation deck with high powered binoculars to view birds and wildlife.

Lancaster

Belle Isle State Park Route 683. A 700-acre park on the Rappahannock River, Mulberry and Deep Creeks. Open daily sunrise to sunset. Picnic areas, handicap accessible boardwalk and fishing pier, hiking/biking trails, bridle paths, overnight accommodations, motorboat ramp ($3 fee). Canoe rentals ($8 per hour to $25 for a full day) and tandem kayak rentals ($10 per hour to $30 for a full day), bicycle rentals ($3 per hour to $15 for a full day), and motorboat rentals (10 hp: $15 for two hours or $90 for a full day; 25 hp: $22 per hour to $110 for a full day). The park also offers sunset and moonlight canoe trips ($6 per person), nature programs and overnight camping. Parking fee $3 weekends/holidays, $2 weekdays. 462-5030 or www.dcr.virginia.gov.

Mathews

Bethel Beach Natural Area Preserve Turn left on Rt. 611 just south of the town of Mathews. Turn right on Rt. 643, then left on Rt. 609. This 50-acre parcel contains a sandy beach, low dunes and salt marsh habitat bordering the Chesapeake Bay. Over 90 bird species have been reported on the preserve, which also protects the globally rare Northeastern Beach Tiger Beetle.

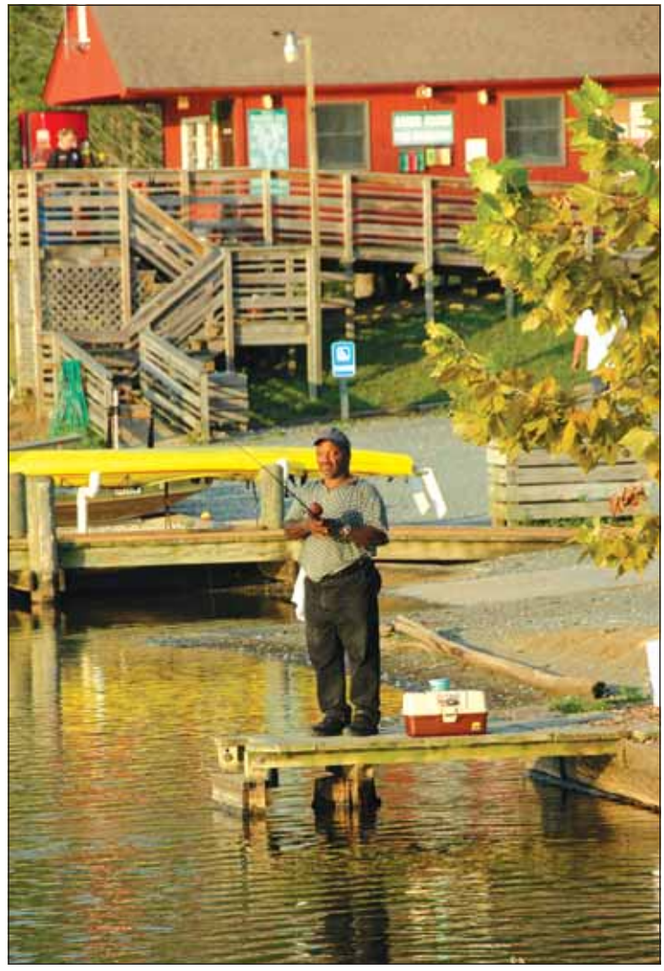
Port Fun with a playground, ball fields and tennis courts, is on Route 14 about a mile north of Mathews Courthouse.

Middlesex

Taber Park Rappahannock Avenue in Urbanna (for residents and guests of residents): playground, swimming and tennis.

Deltaville Community Association Park Route 33 in Deltaville (for residents and guests of residents): playground, tennis, swimming and basketball.

Holly Point Nature Park in Deltaville offers a tranquil retreat on the banks of Mill Creek by Fishing Bay. There are benches and space for picnicking, bird watching or walking the wooded nature trail. Visitors can explore the fish-shaped wildflower meadow and view the boats exhibited on the grounds by the Deltaville Maritime Museum. There is a delightful children's garden with plants marked to exploit their taste, smell and touch. The park plans to have exercise stations along the trail and a nautical playground. The park is open daily from 9 a.m. until dusk.



Beaverdam Park in Gloucester

King George

Caledon Natural Area Rt. 218. A National Natural Landmark, Caledon was the early colonial seat of the Alexander family. John and Philip Alexander founded the city of Alexandria and established Caledon Plantation in 1659. Caledon is the summer home for one of the largest concentrations of bald eagles on the East Coast. Preservation of the national bird's habitat is the primary focus of the natural area. Five hiking trails in the natural area are open year-round and take park visitors through environmentally sensitive marshlands and picturesque wooded areas of the park. The 3.5-mile Boyd's Hole Trail leading to the Potomac River is the most popular of the trails. Because human traffic disturbs the park's summer population of roosting and foraging eagles, this trail is only open from Oct. 1–March 31. Limited tours of the eagle area are offered mid-June through August by reservation only. Park guests can learn more about the natural history of Caledon and the American bald eagle by touring the visitor center. Interpretive Programs: Eagle tours, Junior Rangers night hikes, conducted walks, astronomy, storytelling, bonfire programs, birdwatching and crafts. (800) 933-PARK. www.dcr.virginia.gov.

Barnesfield Park Highway 301 at the Potomac Gateway Welcome Center, King George. 175-acre county park on the Potomac River with nature trails, picnic areas and playground. Nature trails and beach fishing along Potomac River shore. (540) 663-3205.

Northumberland

Bush Mill Stream Natural Area Preserve At the mouth of Bush Mill Stream freshwater meets the saltwater of the Great Wicomico River. Fresh to brackish tidal marshes and mud flats are hidden between the steep-sided forested shores of this upper Coastal Plain stream. The quiet waters are home and resting area for an abundance of waterfowl and wading birds, including colonial nesting birds, raptors and large numbers of great blue herons. Access can be gained by foot or canoe. Public access facilities are open during daylight hours and include trails, a boardwalk, a wildlife viewing platform and interpretive signs. Four miles from Heathsville on Route 201, continue straight on Route 642 for half a mile, and turn left at the sign.

Hughlett Point Natural Area Preserve This 205-acre preserve has sand beaches on the Chesapeake Bay and the mouth of Dividing Creek, hiking trails and observation decks to view shorebirds, deer, turkey and migratory waterfowl. The beaches are home to the threatened northeastern beach tiger beetle. From Kilmarnock, take Route 200 north then right on Route 606 to the end. Turn right on Route 605. From Burgess, take Route 200 south then left on Route 606 to the end. Turn right on 605. 225-2303.

Dameron Marsh Natural Area

continued on following page

More Rivah Parks & Natural Areas

continued from previous page

Preserve This 316-acre preserve contains one of the most significant wetlands on the Chesapeake Bay for marsh-bird communities, and its pristine sand beach habitat is highly important for the threatened northeastern beach tiger beetle. Public access facilities include a trail and boardwalk, a wildlife viewing platform, and a small parking area. Part or all of the preserve may be periodically closed for resource protection or resource management activities. For additional information or to arrange a visit, contact Rebecca Wilson at 225-2303.

Richmond

Rappahannock River Valley National Wildlife Refuge, 336 Wilna Road, Warsaw. This is the newest of four refuges that comprise the Eastern Virginia Rivers National Wildlife Refuge Complex. Established in 1996, the goal of the refuge is to protect 20,000 acres of wetlands and associated uplands along the river and its major tributaries. As of November 2004, the refuge had protected 6,545 acres. Archeological and historic sites are abundant on both sides of the river. The 18th century Bristol Iron Works was located adjacent to the refuge's Toby's Point Tract, while the Leedstown Resolves, a 1766 protest against the Stamp Act, was signed near the refuge's Mothershead Tract. Old pilings can still be seen from the days when steamboats made regular stops to pick up produce and passengers for transport to the Port of Baltimore. At least four federally-listed threatened or endangered species may be found within the refuge boundary, including the American bald eagle, peregrine falcon, shortnose sturgeon, and sensitive joint vetch. The state's largest wintering roost for bald eagles is located within the refuge boundary. Shorebirds, neotropical migrant songbirds, raptors, and marsh birds rely on the Rappahannock River's corridors during the spring and fall migration periods. The refuge is restoring native grasslands and riparian forests along the river and tributary streams to provide additional habitat for these species. The Refuge hosts three sites on the Virginia Birding and Wildlife Trail. For more information about this trail, please visit www.dgif.state.va.us/wildlife/vbwt/index.asp.

Totuskey Tricentennial Park with boat landing, Route 3 at Totuskey Creek Bridge.

Wilna Pond, a 35-acre site, is now open to public fishing. The pond is home to largemouth bass, bluegill sunfish, fliers, yellow bullhead catfish and American eel. The Wilna Unit is open for wildlife observation and photography daily, sunrise to sunset. Access for canoes and kayaks to engage in these activities is available at Wilna Pond. Please note: All Virginia boating laws apply to Wilna Pond. All other refuge units are open for wildlife observation and photography by advanced reservation only. To schedule a visit, please call (804) 333-1470. The refuge headquarters is open Monday-Friday, 8 a.m. - 4:30 p.m., except federal holidays. From Tappahannock, take US-360 E (across the Rappahannock River, toward Warsaw). Follow US-360 E for 4.1 miles, then turn left onto Rt. 624/Newland Rd. Follow Newland Rd. for 4.2 miles, then turn left onto Strangeway/Rt 636. Follow Strangeway for 1/4 mile, then turn right onto Sandy Lane/Rt 640. Follow Sandy Lane for 1.1 miles, then turn left into Rappahannock River Valley NWR. 333-1470.

Westmoreland

Hurt Field at Legion Park Route 3 west of Montross. Four-acre public park adjacent to Chandlers Mill Pond offering both active and passive recreational opportunities for county residents.

Oak Grove Park Route 205 between Oak Grove and Colonial Beach. Eight-acre public park featuring a sports field with bleachers, playground and picnic area.

Robin Grove Park on Robin Grove, off Monroe Bay Avenue, Colonial Beach.

Voorhees Nature Preserve A 729-acre preserve on the northeast bank of Rappahannock River, next to the Westmoreland Berry Farm. It is home to the bald eagle and many other birds. Four miles of wooded trails for self-guided walks. The difficulty level is moderate. A trail map and brochure are available at the adjacent Westmoreland Berry Farm store. There are picnic sites, restrooms and pick-your-own fruits and vegetables at the farm. The preserve is open on weekends, 8 a.m.–6 p.m., from April 22 to December 17. For information, call (434) 295-6106.

Westmoreland State Park Six miles northwest of Montross off Route 3. The park extends about one and a half miles along the Potomac River, and its 1,299 acres neighbor the former homes of both George Washington and Robert E. Lee. The park's Horsehead Cliffs provide visitors with a spectacular view of the Potomac River. The park offers hiking, camping, cabins, fishing, boating and swimming. The visitor center, open during summer, gives an informative historical and ecological perspective to an important natural area on the coastal plain. www.dcr.virginia.gov.

ELEGANT CEDAR SIDING HOME
Sailboat Depth in Deltaville
Moore's Creek off Piankatank River

Gracious traditional styling with 3 bedrooms, 2 1/2 baths, two-story family room with fireplace, beautifully landscaped, protected deep harbor, two-slip dock, quick access to the Bay!
$779,500

Port & Starboard Real Estate, Inc.
800-529-5071 or 804-529-5555
realestate@port-starboard.com

Kathleen Noffsinger
presents a new limited edition giclee reproduction

"Jellies"

Limited Edition of 300 S/N • Image Size: 10 x 15½ • Price: $45

Available at Fine Art Galleries or Call Kathleen's Studio

(804) 776-7191

Visit us at the Mathews Market Days Art Show!
September 8 and 9, 2006

Now registering for fall watercolor and drawing classes!

http://www.kathleennoffsinger.com

Come by and see us

by Douglas M. Nabhan

We drive from Richmond to the Bay every weekend unless someone has died (and left us in their will), someone has threatened to terminate my employment or my wife's employment if we do not attend an event, or we have an obligation which we either wouldn't miss or would be embarrassed to miss (the Godfather usually goes to the christening).

Absent one of those events, don't ask me if I am going to the Bay. I love Richmond, but you can only attend so many cocktail parties where you say, "How are you? How are the kids? How is work?" It may be the Holy City, but it ain't the Holy City of good conversation. I have committed myself to spending meaningful time with fewer people, or even preferring to be alone with my wife for a quiet evening.

After driving an hour and 15 minutes to arrive at my version of paradise here in Deltaville, I want to put on my bathing suit, t-shirt and flip-flops and enjoy what we are so fortunate to have.

The immediate Middle Peninsula/Northern Neck covers a four-county area and a lot of acreage. The rub is that everyone wants to get together, but at the same time it is impossible. Someone has to leave their comfortable bit of heaven to go to the other person's house. They must take off the bathing suit, get dressed, look presentable and be on time—which means driving somewhere which can be more than 30 miles away.

None of my friends in Richmond would expect me to drive 30 miles to dinner, but everyone who invites me to dinner in Rivah country thinks nothing of it, and why? Because they do not have to do it. Sometimes I feel like we are halfway back to Richmond to eat dinner with friends in Richmond! So, I will spare you the invitation, unless you want to come to my house.

Doug Nabhan is a labor and employment lawyer in Richmond, who is a part-time humor writer.

Quilt guild plans weekend gala

Auctioneer Manuel Haynie will preside over the sale of antique and new quilts October 21 at Festival Halle in Reedville. Mimosas and light refreshments will be offered prior to the auction. A silent auction will take place October 21 and 22 from noon to 5 p.m.

A quilt, Chesapeake Small Craft Warning, inspired by Anna Holland, was designed by Nancy Brannon, combining elements of the patterns, Lost Ships and Waves. Fabric was selected by Gail Griffith and Betty Finamore, and pieced by the Tavern Quilt Guild, and includes a Mariner's Compass, the guild logo. This quilt will be auctioned to benefit Rice's Hotel/Hughlett'sTavern. Shades of blue form the waves. The back fabric is a nautical chart and completes the marine theme.

A gala ticket, including the quilt show, mimosa's, live auction, silent auction, Hoffman Challenge Exhibit, and vendor area, will be $10 in advance and $15 at the door. Tickets to the Hoffman Challenge Exhibit alone will be sold separately for $5, and proceeds will be donated to RHHT. For tickets call 443-3953. Information is also at www.rhhtfoundation.org/tavern_quilt_guild.htm.

The public may enter quilts to be auctioned with 25 percent of the final auction price going to the guild.The guild reserves the right to reject quilts it deems unsuitable for sale.

There is still room in all the quilt classes. Call 472-3498 to register.

Mary Ball Road - LANCASTER

This well-maintained Cape Cod with 1,200 square feet offers three bedrooms, two baths, living room, dining room, kitchen and deck. Updates include new roof, heat pump and carpet. Situated on 0.33+/- acre and convenient to town, this cute Cape Cod would make a great starter home or potential rental opportunity!

Offered for $144,900.

Please contact

Cathy Rowe

804-438-9882

crowe@pleasantlife.com

SELECT PROPERTIES OF VIRGINIA

4503 Irvington Road, Irvington, VA

Visit our website: www.pleasantlife.com

CHRISTIE'S GREAT ESTATES

Bay Properties

Gwynn's Island ~ **Milford Haven** ~ Gorgeous wide views with deep water & overlooking a tranquil tidal pond. Great home for week-end or year-round living. 3BR, 2 baths, workshop, & double garage with 2nd floor storage and potential bonus room. **$599,000**

Cockrell Creek ~ For the discriminating buyer, this stunning point of land with good elevation on protected waters. 2.22-acre homesite with deep water access & panoramic views, with water on 3 sides, a total of 1,182 feet of waterfrontage. **$439,000**

Beautiful waterfront parcel near Gwynn's Island.

4 acres on Queens Creek with long water views. Build your dream home on a safe harbor ~ just minutes to the Chesapeake Bay. **$250,000**

East River ~ Mobjack Bay Spacious contemporary and deep water pier with water, electricity & boat lift. Huge deck. 2 fireplaces with gas logs. Pella windows & valuable updates. **Now offering at reduced price of $649,900**

Splendid for horses - having barn with tack room, riding area and hay barn. Spacious Colonial on 6+ acres near *Gwynn's Island* and public boat landing, is loaded with features. Pristine, with pine floors, fireplace, home office, workshop, double garage & more. **Now at reduced price of $380,000**

Your Bay Connection

on the web at www.bay-properties.com

Rts. 14 & 198 • P. O. Box 1255 • Mathews, Va. 23109

(804) 725-7788

email: bayprop@bayproperties.com

EQUAL HOUSING OPPORTUNITY

WHY CHOOSE A LONG AND FOSTER BAY/RIVER REALTOR?

WE ARE YOUR NEIGHBORS!

FOUNDED IN 1968, WE ARE THE LARGEST PRIVATELY-OWNED REAL ESTATE CO. IN THE U.S. WITH OVER 15,000 AGENTS NATIONWIDE...EVEN NESTLED HERE, IN THE RIVAH COMMUNITIES!

Ahmet Anday
Deltaville
804-339-4675

Keren Asbury
Lancaster
804-436-2964

Derwin Booker
White Stone
804-435-9610

Wanda Bukoski
White Stone
804-366-2896

Robert Collins
Deltaville
804-240-2300

Art DeMario
Irvington
804-436-3290

Holly Frazier
Ophelia
804-724-0039

Linda Enders-Bailey
Kilmarnock
804-363-5332

Skipper Garrett
Bowlers Wharf
804-443-2514

WE PROVIDE ALL THE SERVICES NECESSARY TO CLOSE A TRANSACTION.

**** MORTGAGES * ALL INSURANCE (INCLUDING TITLE)***
**** SETTLEMENT SERVICES * HOME WARRANTIES * RELOCATION SERVICES***

Judy McCloskey
Kilmarnock
804-435-2833

Toni Graham-Bell
Lancaaster
804-462-9826

Patti Green & Co.
Kilmarnock
804-436-2102

Tim Hill
Mathews
804-725-1075

Yvonne Hurt
Reedville
804-453-3036

Robert Ketner
White Stone
804-435-5158

Bob Strange
Weems
804-436-1130

Tom McGrath
Merry Point
804-436-5664

WE OFFER CONTINUOUS TRAINING AND THE LATEST TECHNOLOGY FOR OUR REALTORS.

Donna Swinney
Kilmarnock
804-435-6128

Lewis Musick
Deltaville
804-512-0707

Byrl Phillips-Taylor
White Stone, MGR
804-435-7840

Travis Powell
Weems
804-512-2086

Chris Rhodes
White Stone
804-761-1177

Pat Schelling
Kilmarnock
804-435-2728

Al Shriver
Lancaster
804-761-4594

Mark Taylor
Deltaville
804-776-6971

Betcie Thrift
Irvington
804-761-1242

***WE ARE YOUR NEIGHBORS . . .* BAY/RIVER OFFICE**
Covering the Northern Neck and Middle Peninsula with 2 Locations

WHITE STONE
Chesapeake Drive
(804) 435-2673
TOLL FREE
(877) 435-2673

Michael Misovec
Reedville
757-513-8989

Jena Simpson
Gloucester
804-399-1806

Bonnie Vest
Deltaville
804-339-5282

Shannon Vest
Deltaville
804-695-6000

Kathy Wright
Deltaville
804-366-5667

Olivia Wright
Callao
804-529-5327

DELTAVILLE
General Puller Hwy
(804) 776-6534
TOLL FREE
(800) 650-2879

Alzheimer's 'Memory Walk' set for Sept. 16 in Gloucester

The Alzheimer's Association opened registration recently for its 17th annual Gloucester Memory Walk scheduled for September 16.

The event is expected to attract more than 100 people. Walkers can stroll at their own pace along one of two courses (one and three miles) beginning at Botetourt Elementary School.

"This is our biggest fund-raising event of the year. I hope everyone who has a friend or loved one with Alzheimer's will join us in this walk," said Holly Jonak, manager of special events and outreach for the association's Middle Peninsula/ Northern Neck branch. "We've had terrific support from the community in the past, and I'm confident we will have it again this year."

Jonak suggested four ways that people can participate in Memory Walk: form a team of walkers; become a sponsor (opportunities ranging from $500-$10,000); become a Memory Walk volunteer; and donate a service or product to help support the event.

The Gloucester event is one of some 600 Memory Walks taking place across the country this fall. Americans who have participated in these walks in the past have raised more than $200 million for programs and services to support individuals with Alzheimer's disease.

Richmond based Genworth Financial Corp. is a presenting sponsor of Memory Walk. Other national sponsors are Creative Memories and Kindred Healthcare Inc. Major local sponsors are Dominion Resources and Markel Corp.

For more information, call 804-967-2580 or visit www.richmondalzheimers.org.

The original Northern Neck Hook Bracelet™ is here!

RECOGNIZED BY LOCALS & LOYAL VISITORS ALIKE AS THE SYMBOLIC TREASURE OF NORTHERN NECK, VIRGINIA!

Virginia's Northern Neck, a peninsula nestled between the Potomac and the Rappahannock Rivers, embodies the spirit of the Chesapeake Bay area–and the Northern Neck Hook Bracelet™ is a tribute in precious metals to that spirit. With historic villages and farms meandering down to the water's edge, the Northern Neck of Virginia has a rich history of bonding man to the land and water and the Northern Neck Hook Bracelet™ conveys that connection with a stylized "N" squared, that is joined to a "V" by the Blue Crab, a resident symbol of the bay. The two solid 14 karat wraps represent the Potomac and the Rappahannock Rivers that border the "Garden of Virginia" to the north and south. Timeless appeal and rural charm is honored by the Northern Neck Hook Bracelet,™ a true symbolic treasure!

©2006 Montesion Int'l Corp. All rights reserved

MONTESINO Destination Bracelet Collection

THE LATEST DESIGN FOR THE MONTESINO DESTINATION BRACELET™ COLLECTION

Available at

BURKE'S JEWELERS

86 South Main Street • Kilmarnock, VA
(804) 435-1302 • 1-888-2 BURKES
"Making Memories since 1969"

The Home Center

Contemporary and traditional homes built to your specifications. Wide variety of models and floor plans.

Cardinal Homes, Inc.
Modular Homes
"We build relationships."

(804) 758-2878 • Rt. 17 • Saluda

Quality Constructed Storage Barns

FLEET BROTHERS

Two Car Garage

Check out our internet specials at www.fleetbrothersva.com

We also have Custom Gazebos!

RAPPAHANNOCK TRACTOR

Call Wallace Davis, Steve Barksdale or John Arthur Robins For details and prices.

RAPPAHANNOCK TRACTOR CO.
544 North Main Street
Kilmarnock, Va
(804) 435-3161

FLEET BROTHERS
10072 General Puller Hwy.
Rt. 33, Hartfield, Va
(804) 776-6600

URBANNA REPUBLIC

"Chart your lifestyle with a new attitude in clothing."

fresh produce

fun, fresh, & flirty casual clothing
Join our rewards program!
And Now — Extra Fresh sizes up to 3X!

Jimmy Buffett's
MARGARITAVILLE
t-shirts, flip flops, sandals, and boat shoes

Tori Richards, Tommy Bahama, & Sperry shoes for men & women

230 Virginia Street, Urbanna
804.758.3003

Lilian Lumber Company

EVERYTHING FOR THE BUILDER
"Your One-Stop Shop"
SYNONYMOUS WITH QUALITY IN EVERY WAY

Home Center
Route 360, Burgess
453-4911
Fax 453-4921

Two Locations to Serve You!

Lumber Yard
Great Wicomico Rvr.
453-4511
Fax 453-4521

URBANNA ANTIQUE MALL

Take Home a Piece of the Rivah!

FINE FURNITURE - UNIQUE COLLECTIBLES - ONE-OF-A-KIND FINDS

REGISTER TO WIN AN ANTIQUE OYSTER PLATE

No purchase necessary • Need not be present to win.

804.758.2000

TUESDAY–SUNDAY 11–5 • 124 RAPPAHANNOCK AVE. HISTORIC DOWNTOWN URBANNA

Specialists in Land Grooming
Phogg Brothers, LLC

Attention Landowners!

IF YOU NEED HELP WITH...
- A Residential Lot With Thick, Choking Under-Brush
- A Wooded Lot That Needs Selective Thinning
- Large, Cut-over Acreage Filled With Saplings and Impenetrable Thickets

IDEAL FOR....
- Creating a More Open, Park-like Setting
- Reclaiming Overgrown Land
- Preparing New Pasture
- Cutting and Maintaining Rights-of-Way, Survey Lines

We also offering bushhogging and seeding services

FREE ON-SITE ESTIMATES

804-694-6269 Steve • 703-868-5819 Greg

Unlike conventional clearing operations that can result in soil compaction & erosion, we offer a more gentle, environmentally friendly approach. Our machine chips & shreds unwanted brush and trees up to 6 inch diameter, leaving behind a protective mulch layer.