

Casting Tails

Davis Island Fishing Foundation

Volume 16 • Spring/Summer 2025



PRESIDENT'S LETTER

Lance Brown

This has been a very busy year for the National Park Service, and Cape Lookout National Seashore has been impacted by a number of the changes within the NPS. There has been limited to no communication from the Federal Government regarding changes to staffing—likely due to the overwhelming amount of changes taking place, but it is my understanding that there have been significant changes in the South Atlantic-Gulf Regional Office with the retirement of the regional director along with a number of regional staff. Locally, CALO has seen the departure of a number of key personnel, but none more impactful than the retirement of Cape Lookout National Seashore Superintendent, Jeff West. Jeff has always been a hands on superintendent, arguably, the most hands on superintendent CALO has ever had. I always believed Jeff managed the park as required by governmental regulation, he also used a healthy amount of common sense when developing regulations and management strategies that impact the park and the user experience. While Jeff will be missed, I hope you all will take a moment to congratulate Jeff on his retirement after over 4 decades of service to the NPS. My understanding is that he will be staying in Carteret County following his retirement. Katherine Cushinberry, chief of administration, at CALO has been named interim superintendent of Cape Lookout National Seashore. I look forward to meeting with Katherine in the near future.

Some significant projects are coming to a close within the park, the new camp at Portsmouth Island is due to open later this summer or early fall. The camp is located north of Long Point Camp and while it will be significantly different than Long Point, having this camp open

for business will hopefully take some of the pressure off of Davis Island and Great Island Camp. One of the last minute adjustments to the new Portsmouth cabins is the inclusion of air conditioning in each of the cabins, that has to be a welcome addition! Additionally, at Cape Village on Davis, Fishing Cottage #2, and the Coca-Cola house are nearing completion of their renovation and will hopefully be added to the nightly lodging inventory by this fall (opening still TBD). This will provide additional overnight lodging for visitors of Davis Island. Lastly, the necessary agencies are working toward a plan to hopefully dredge the navigation channel into Great Island prior to the end of the year! As most of you know the channel is getting shallow and causing issues with the ferry access at low tide.

The next time you arrive at Great Island, take a good look at some of the structures at Great Island, a number of cabins and other structures have been painted by DOT Construction under a contract with DIFF. The blue and white cabins have Hardie® Board siding and new Sherwin-Williams® paint that should help protect the structures for many more years.

I would like to extend my thanks to everyone who volunteered their time to join us for the annual work trip, we completed Hardie® Board installation on 2 more cabins (11 & 12), and installed 11 sets of stairs to cabins throughout the camp. It's one of my favorite trips to the island each year and while it's a lot of hard work, the fellowship is what I really look forward to each year. I do hope you will contemplate joining us for a future work trip!

I hope you all will get to enjoy some time on the island in the coming weeks and months and I look forward to seeing you all soon!

Tight lines,
Lance Brown



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UPCOMING EVENTS

37TH ANNUAL DIFF FISHING TOURNAMENT

October 9-11, 2025

Deadline for entries is July 31st, 2025—

Enter online at: www.diffclub.org or scan the QR Code on the right with your phone



2025 DIFF SCHOLARSHIP WINNERS

We had a talented and exceptional group of seven DIFF scholarship applicants this year. Every one of them was more than qualified and we awarded a \$500 scholarship to each of them.

Grace Schickedantz was awarded the Mark Weir Community College Scholarship. She graduated this spring at Wake Technical Community College with a degree in Business Administration. She will continue this fall at Wake Tech to earn her Esthetician license.

Abby Fallin was awarded the B.K. Barringer Student Scholarship and will be studying Nursing at the University of North Carolina at Charlotte.

We had three winners for the Jack Dunaway Continuing Scholarship. **Nicholas Monaco** will continue studying Statistics at North Carolina State University. **Caleb Allen** will continue majoring in Computer Information Systems at North Carolina Wesleyan University where he is a Taylor-Crocker Honor Scholar. **Kenison Parker** will be pursuing her Doctorate of Physical Therapy at East Carolina University.

We had two scholarship winners for the Don Eury Student Scholarship. **Ally Finney** and **Trent Ford** will be studying Fisheries, Wildlife, and Conservation Biology at North Carolina State University.

Please congratulate all our 2025 DIFF Scholarship winners and encourage students among your friends and family to

apply for the 2026 DIFF scholarships next spring. **The Deadline for applicants is March 31st, 2026.**

If you'd like to contribute to next year's scholarships, donations can be sent to:

The DIFF Club
PO Box 777
Walkertown, NC 27051

Please include a note indicating whether your donation is for a specific named scholarship or the general fund. Every contribution helps support these talented individuals as they pursue their educational and career goals.

We are proud of our scholarship recipients and excited to see what the future holds for them. Pictured below are our outstanding student award winners.

Thank you for your continued support of this important program!

MARK WEIR SCHOLARSHIP RECIPIENT



Grace Schickedantz

Grace Schickedantz from Browns Summit, NC is attending Wake Technical Community College where she will be earning her Esthetician license.



BK BARRINGER SCHOLARSHIP RECIPIENT



Abby Fallin

Abby Fallin from Gastonia, NC will be attending the University of North Carolina at Charlotte to study Nursing.



JACK DUNAWAY CONTINUING SCHOLARSHIP RECIPIENTS



Nicholas Monaco

Nicholas Monaco from Apex, NC will continue his study of Statistics at North Carolina State University.

NC STATE
UNIVERSITY



Caleb Allen

Caleb Allen from Pinetops, NC will continue majoring in Computer Information Systems at North Carolina Wesleyan University.



Kenison Parker

Kenison Parker from Camden, NC will be continuing to pursue her Doctorate of Physical Therapy at East Carolina University.



DON EURY STUDENT SCHOLARSHIP RECIPIENTS



Ally Finney

Ally Finney from Kernersville, NC will be studying Fisheries, Wildlife, and Conservation Biology at North Carolina State University.

NC STATE
UNIVERSITY



Trent Ford

Trent Ford from Raleigh, NC will be studying Fisheries, Wildlife, and Conservation Biology at North Carolina State University.

NC STATE
UNIVERSITY

2025 DIFF Annual Meeting Recap

The Davis Island Fishing Foundation (DIFF) held its Annual Meeting on February 22, 2025, at the Golden Corral in Raleigh, NC. The event drew more than 50 members and guests, continuing the tradition of a buffet-style lunch followed by organizational updates and community announcements.



Lance Brown, President, calls the meeting to order and welcomes guests and membership to the Annual Meeting.

This year marked a major milestone for DIFF's digital outreach. Thanks to the efforts of **Lance Brown** and **David Schickedantz**—who worked closely with our website developer—members were able to register for both membership and the Fall Fishing Tournament online during the meeting. We appreciate their dedication in enhancing our online platform.

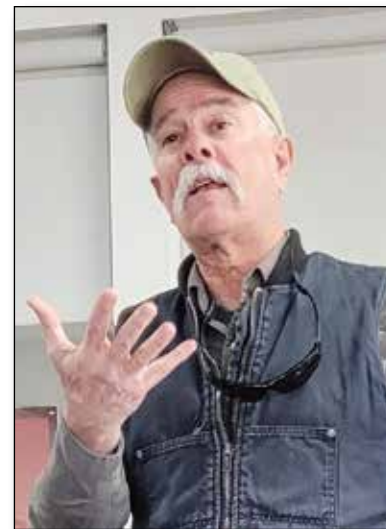
Meeting Highlights:

- **Opening Remarks:** DIFF President Lance Brown called the meeting to order at 12:00 PM, welcoming all attendees. Due to travel constraints, Jeff West, Superintendent of Cape Lookout National Seashore, was the sole representative from the park service.
- **Treasurer's Report:** **Ann Beeson** delivered a positive financial update, reporting that DIFF ended 2024 in strong fiscal health. As of December 31, 2024, the organization's Total Liabilities and Equity stood at \$74,166.29. Members may request a printed copy of the annual budget. Special thanks to Ann for her outstanding service and record keeping.



DIFF members waiting for the meeting to begin.

- **2025 Fall Fishing Tournament:** Tournament Director **Brian Trotter** announced that the annual tournament will be held October 9–11, 2025, with online registration now open at www.diffclub.org. The registration deadline is July 31, 2025. Brian also noted the popularity of the "Most Red Drum Released Over 27 Inches" category—over 200 red drum exceeding this size were released in the previous tournament.
- **CBSF/DIFF Work Trip:** The joint work trip with the Core Banks Surf Fishing Club (CBSF) was scheduled for May 14–18, 2025. Volunteers replaced windows, doors, and installed Hardie® Plank siding on two cabins. DIFF is also funding labor and paint for cabins that previously received primed siding. New siding going forward will be pre-painted.
- **Community Support:** Board member **David Holcomb** shared findings from a community needs assessment. Based on his report, the DIFF Board unanimously voted to award a \$1,000 grant to Hands-2-Hands, a local organization that provides meals and transportation services to shut-ins and veterans. Each Monday, the group serves approximately 70 meals and offers rides to medical appointments.
- **CALO Update:** Superintendent **Jeff West** provided a sobering update on challenges facing Cape Lookout. Budget cuts and staff reductions have impacted operations, with maintenance personnel potentially decreasing from 11 to 6. The historic lighthouse project has been canceled, and purchasing restrictions could affect essential services. Despite these setbacks, Jeff affirmed his commitment to continue serving as long as possible. He also noted that construction of the new North Core cabins is progressing and expected to be complete by July. Jeff received warm thanks from members for his leadership and dedication. Following the meeting, Jeff officially announced his retirement effective May 2025.



Jeff West, Superintendent, Cape Lookout National Seashore presents an update from the Park Service about what is happening on the Core Banks this year.



There were over 50 members and guests in attendance at the meeting.

- **Officer and Board Elections:** The 2025 slate of Officers and Board Members was presented, discussed, and unanimously approved by voice vote. A motion to accept the slate was made by Vicki King and seconded by the membership. **Darrell McCormick** was named Vice President, and **Geneive Jones** named Treasurer as **Ann Beeson** has retired from the board. Please thank Ann for her many years of service to the DIFF Club, her dedication and commitment as Treasurer were second to none. The Board of Directors approved by the membership are listed below.

Lance BrownPresident
Darrell McCormickVice President
Roy ByrdSecretary
Geneive JonesTreasurer
Will BrooksBoard Member/Procurement
Tyler BuchananBoard Member
Steven EvansBoard Member
Travis JohnstonBoard Member
Ted MoseleyBoard Member
David SchickedantzBoard Member/Newsletter-Web Editor
Brian Trotter Board Member/Tournament Director

The meeting concluded at 1:48 PM, marking the close of another successful year for DIFF. We thank everyone who attended and contributed to the ongoing success of our organization.



DIFF members catching up after the meeting.



Jeff West speaking to membership prior to the start of the meeting.

SPRING 2025 VOLUNTEER WORK TRIP TO GREAT ISLAND CABIN CAMP: A COLLABORATIVE EFFORT

From May 14th to 18th, 2025, a successful joint work trip was conducted at Great Island Cabin Camp, thanks to the collaborative efforts of volunteers from the Core Banks Surf Fishing Club (CBSFC) and the Davis Island Fishing Foundation (DIFF). This trip focused primarily on major repairs and improvements to cabins #11 and #12, along with structural upgrades across several additional cabins.

The most significant scope of work included the complete replacement of windows and the installation of Hardie® Plank siding and trim on cabins #11 and #12. Before siding could be installed, volunteers had to remove deteriorated sections of existing siding that were not structurally sound enough to support the new materials. This preliminary work also included replacing rotted wood around several window frames to ensure a solid foundation for the upgrades.

Two dedicated siding crews, coordinated by **Scott McCormick**, undertook the siding installation process. Both cabins received new white 1" x 4" Hardie® trim boards, requiring extensive use of ladders and scaffolding. The job also included installation of flashing where siding joints met, ensuring proper water management and long-term durability. Volunteers assisted by handing materials to those working at height, highlighting the teamwork and coordination that defined this project.

A temporary pause in construction occurred when the team ran out of stainless steel siding nails for their pneumatic nail guns. Fortunately, replacement supplies arrived the following morning—

thanks to Ashley—allowing work to resume without significant delay. During the brief stoppage, some team members took the opportunity to enjoy a bit of surf fishing, making the most of their time on the island.

In addition to the work on cabins #11 and #12, new stairs were constructed and installed on ten different cabins. **Mike Matthews**, **Lance Brown**, and **Ricky Hayes** led the effort in fabricating and cutting stair components. Cabins receiving stair replacements included: #2 (back), #5 (back), #6 (back), #7 (front), #11 (front and back), #12 (front), #15 (front), #16 (back), #18 (front), and #20 (back). Notably, one of the new staircases was installed at the rear of cabin #16, with Mike Matthews captured in action cutting stair treads during the process.

During a walk-through of the camp, Scott McCormick identified



SIDING PATCH CREW



SIDING INSTALL CREW



TRIM INSTALL CREW



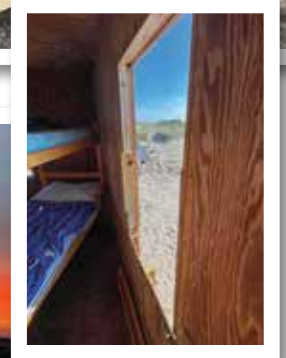
several cabins with loose ledger boards—an essential component of structural support. Members of the siding crew addressed these safety concerns by tightening and securing the ledger boards where needed.

Lance Brown took the lead in organizing and preparing meals for the volunteer team, with assistance from Mike Matthews, Darrell McCormick, and others. The group was well-fed throughout the week, with the Core Banks Surf Fishing Club generously providing one evening meal of fried chicken with sides from Fat Fellas BBQ, followed by ice cream for dessert. Special thanks goes to **Joe Gaughran** for coordinating pickup and delivery to the ferry service.

This labor-intensive and highly productive week would not have been possible without the dedication and contributions of the 21 volunteers: **John Barbour, Kelly Jones, Mark Jones, Roger Massey, Sonny Renegar, Tony Bunch, William Stewart, Con Grant, Matt Doby, Terry Johnston, Travis Johnston, Wes Hart, Darrell McCormick, Johnny Ray, Lance Brown, Matt McCormick, Mike Matthews, Ricky Hayes, Roy Byrd, Scott McCormick, and Tyler Buchanan.**

Additionally, a professional painter from DOT Construction in Morehead City—contracted and funded by DIFF—applied primer to the cabins outfitted with Hardie® Plank siding, providing a strong base coat for future painting.

DIFF extends sincere gratitude to its members and all involved for their ongoing support and volunteer efforts. These contributions are instrumental in preserving the Great Island Camp cabins on the South Core Banks for future generations to enjoy.



FEEDING TIME

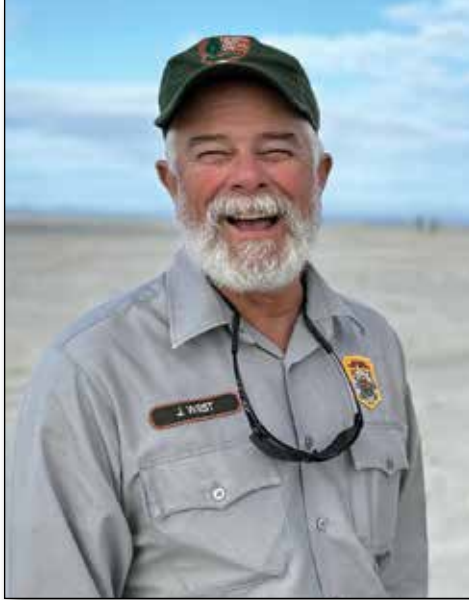




NATIONAL PARK SERVICE UPDATE

Jeff West, Superintendent Cape Lookout National Seashore

UPDATE FROM THE SUPERINTENDENT, CAPE LOOKOUT NATIONAL SEASHORE

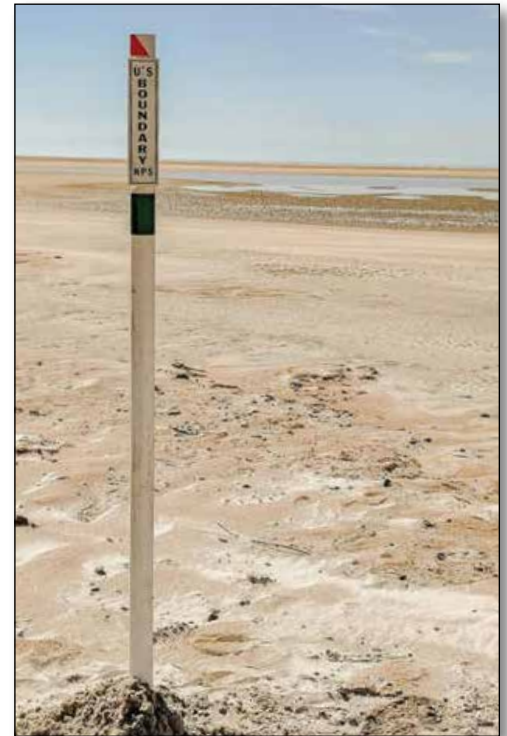


Jeff West, retired Superintendent, Cape Lookout National Seashore

I have some positives and some negatives to report to the club. Cape Lookout was able to hire sufficient resource management personnel to post threatened and endangered species habitat areas which is required by the court order to allow ORV access to the park. We will be able to continue the monitoring throughout the season, and we were able to shift people around to get all the facilities opened, water systems tested and opened, make repairs to pipes, and make critical repairs to docks— all the park facilities are open for business!

One of the negative impacts we are seeing is people driving across from Cape Point to Shark Island. The State of North Carolina owns and manages Shark Island, not the NPS. We have limited legal jurisdiction there, yet people have an expectation we will help them. We will help to the extent that we will call for a tow truck, but we will not put NPS equipment at risk. Medical emergencies on Shark Island will be difficult to help with— we will try, but it is not easy. Harkers Island Fire Department (closest medics), will come but may not be able to access it. Helicopter Life Flight will come if the weather allows and if they feel like there is a place they can safely land. We are strongly discouraging anyone from going out there— two vehicles were inundated over opening weekend. Both were eventually towed out at considerable expense to their owners. Cape Point is an exposed shoal which continues past the park service boundary markers (starting near mile marker 44). This large area consists of soft, often wet, and deep sand. 4x4 vehicles can get stuck in this area. If you decide to travel in this region, stay above the high tide line at all times (even while parked). If you get stuck the tide may total your vehicle. Private company tow truck response times from the mainland vary, but in general the tow truck arrives the following day.

The cabins at North Core Banks are well into construction, although bad weather delays have pushed the opening back to later in the summer. We are hopeful that once this site is open, some of the pressure on South Core Banks will be relieved. I hope everyone has a great season on the banks, and I hope to see you over there!



Cape Lookout National Seashore image showing the limit of the seashore where a sandbar sometimes forms to Shark Island. Cape Lookout National Seashore warned folks not to go past this marker.



Two vehicles that were stuck while on Shark Island opening week.



NEW MEMBER SPOTLIGHT

Ann Beeson

The DIFF Club would like to recognize our new members for 2025. Please welcome the following new members and those that have upgraded to lifetime members to the club.

NEW MEMBERS:

John Barbour
Tony Bunch
Thom Dunn
Matt Ehlers
Ben Harris
Kelli Jones
Mark Jones
John Nickleson
James Price
Melvis Smith
Jerry Waldrup

NEW LIFETIME MEMBERS:

Jason Graham
Michael Goforth
John Holzworth
Dalton Jenkins
Tyler Johnson
Russ McLamb

DIFF DONATIONS

Ann Beeson

The DIFF Club would like to sincerely thank our membership for their continued support through your donations to the club. These donations carry an added benefit for the club to go towards Scholarships, Work Trips, and Community relief. The following is a list of donors who have made those contributions this quarter.

DONATIONS-GENERAL SCHOLARSHIP FUND

Given By

Wendy Gauldin
Ben Harris
Tyler Johnson
Patrick Jones

DONATIONS-MEMORIALS FOR RONNIE ADAMS

Given By

Carolina Crash Rugby
Diana Hazel Pike
Linda Hazel Littman
Amy Hazel

DIFF GRANTS

David Holcomb

2024 DIFF Community Grant Awarded to Hand2Hand



David Holcomb presents a check to Hand2Hand, a non-profit in Smyrna, NC from the DIFF Club for the 2024 DIFF Grant.

The 2024 DIFF Community Grant, totaling \$1,000, has been awarded to Hand2Hand, a non-profit organization based in Smyrna, NC. This grant was made possible by funds raised through the participation and support of members in the 2024 DIFF Fall Fishing Tournament.

Each year, the DIFF Board of Directors selects a grant recipient from Down East communities, based on recommendations made following a thorough review of local organizations that provide vital services. This year, Hand2Hand stood out for its broad impact and strong community presence.

About Hand2Hand

Located next to George's Pizza in Smyrna, Hand2Hand serves a

wide range of needs across the Down East region—from North River to Cedar Island. Their services include:

- Transportation to medical appointments, grocery stores, and other essential errands
- Discounted or free lawn care
- General house cleaning assistance
- Appliance and vehicle repair support
- Weekly meal service every Monday for shut-ins, homeless individuals, veterans, and others in need

On average, 65 meals are distributed each Monday, but this year, they reached a new milestone—90 meals served in a single day.

Hand2Hand operates almost entirely on volunteer hours and community donations. Food contributions come from generous partners such as Lookout Grocery (Smyrna), Food Lion, and Piggly Wiggly (Beaufort), along with anonymous donors.

To help sustain their mission, Hand2Hand also runs a Thrift Store, Ice Cream Shop, and Flea Mall—all located adjacent to George's Pizza in Smyrna.

If you know of other non-profit organizations in the Down East area that are making a meaningful difference, please don't hesitate to reach out with suggestions for future consideration.

Contact: David Holcomb (704) 437-4031

Surfcasting Meets Craftsmanship: DIFF Joins 2025 Heaver Demo Day in Rocky Mount, NC

On March 8, 2025, the Davis Island Fishing Foundation (DIFF) proudly participated in the annual Heaver Demo Day in Rocky Mount, NC—an event that has become a marquee gathering for Red Drum anglers, surfcasting enthusiasts, and some of the finest rod builders on the East Coast.

DIFF Board Members **Geneive Jones** and **Lance Brown** were on hand to represent the club, connect with fellow anglers, and support this one-of-a-kind opportunity where performance, innovation, and tradition come together.

What is Heaver Demo Day?

Started by a dedicated group of Red Drum anglers, Heaver Demo Day offers surfcasters a rare, hands-on opportunity to test and compare a wide range of custom and factory-built surf rods—all in one place, at one time.

With a casting field clearly marked for distance, anglers put rods through their paces, comparing setups for style, comfort, balance, and—of course—maximum casting range.

Diverse Lineup of Rods & Builders

While “heavers”—rods designed for launching 8-14 oz weights great distances—are the event’s main draw, the range of tackle available caters to surfcasters of all skill levels. Rods on display spanned lengths from 8’ to 14’, with casting weight ratings from 1/2 oz to 14 oz, and a variety of builds, including 2-piece, 3-piece, equal and unequal split designs.

Rod Brands Featured:

- Carolina Cast Pro
- Century
- CTS
- Dagger
- Vega

Custom Builders & Industry Vendors:

- Back Creek Customs
- Beach Bum Lures
- Camel City Customs
- Cape Henry CRFG
- Carolina Cast Pro
- Carolina Surf Casters Association
- Deerfield Fabrication
- DIFF (Davis Island Fishing Foundation)
- ESLures
- Hatteras Jack
- Kinnett’s Custom Rods
- Mott’s Custom Rods and Reels
- NCBBA (North Carolina Beach Buggy Association)
- Ninja Tackle
- Shallowater Lures



This impressive collection of brands and craftsmen allowed attendees to handle and test rods typically only seen online or in specialty shops—an invaluable chance to “try before you buy.”

“Heaver Demo Day is like a surf fisherman’s playground. You get to throw some of the best rods on the market, compare gear, and talk to the people who actually build them. It’s a gearhead’s dream.”

— Lance Brown, DIFF President

DIFF Hosts Community Lunch

Adding to the welcoming, community-driven atmosphere, DIFF provided a complimentary hot dog lunch for all attendees—complete with all the classic fixings. With over 250 guests in attendance, the lunch quickly became a central hub for casual conversation, equipment talk, and new friendships.



“We love supporting events like this—not just because of the gear, but because of the people. It’s about fellowship and sharing knowledge.”

— Geneive Jones, DIFF Treasurer

Join DIFF at Future Events

Heaver Demo Day is a perfect example of how DIFF connects with the larger fishing community to promote education, accessibility, and community spirit. Whether you’re an experienced caster, a new angler, or simply passionate about supporting Down East surf fishing culture, there’s a place for you in our growing network.

Want to represent DIFF at future events or volunteer?

Contact Lance Brown at 336.558.7942 or email us at diffclub@diffclub.org.

Also, stay informed by visiting www.diffclub.org for the latest on upcoming events, tournaments, and community outreach efforts.



Lance Brown, DIFF President, takes his turn at the 6th Annual Heaver Demo Day in Rocky Mount, NC.

DIFF FALL SURF FISHING TOURNAMENT UPDATE



Brian Trotter, Tournament Director

As the warmer days settle in, activity around the park is ramping up—and it's great to see. Since the park reopened, photos have already begun appearing on social media, and it's encouraging to know that many of us will soon be enjoying time on the beach and hopefully landing a few fish for the table.

Preparations are now underway for this year's tournament. I've started organizing operations, and I'm happy to report that the rules will remain the same as last year, with the only change being the updated tournament dates.

At the recent annual meeting, we had a great time reconnecting and discussing various topics—including a frequently asked question about Shark Island. **For clarification, the National Park Service has installed signage indicating that the area beyond**

a specific point approaching Shark Island is not considered part of the park. That boundary will serve as the limit for this year's tournament as well, strictly for safety reasons. We appreciate your understanding and cooperation.

This year's registration process will take place through our newly launched website, which was built over several months by **Lance Brown** and **David Schickedantz**. We're extremely grateful for their time and effort in creating a more modern and user-friendly platform. Please take a moment to visit the site, www.diffclub.org, or scan the QR Code with your phone and complete your registration as soon as possible—early sign-ups help tremendously with planning, especially for Saturday's lunch.

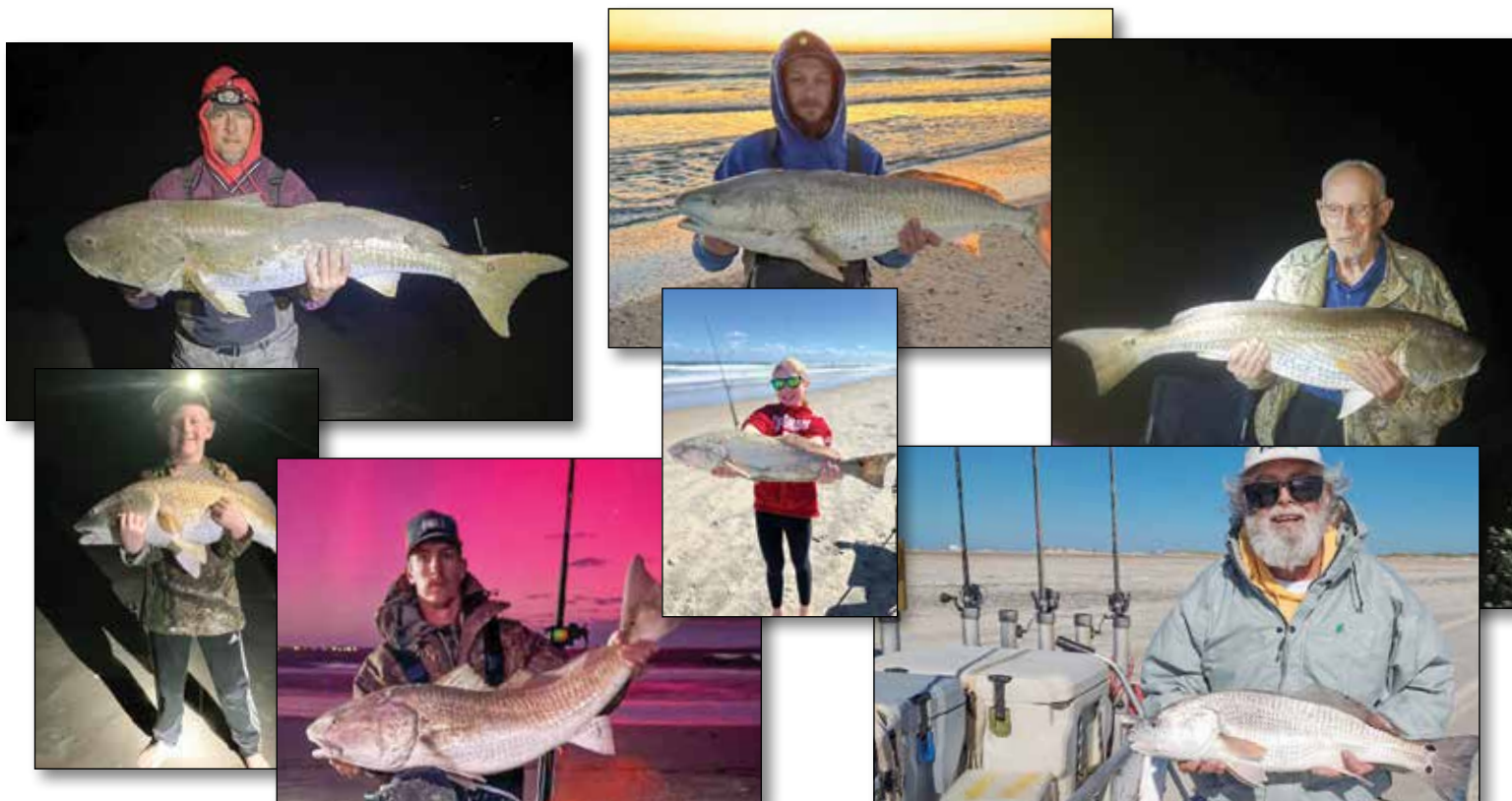


Also, don't forget to bring your dollar bills for the raffle! It's always a highlight of the tournament and helps support our continued efforts.

I want to take a moment to recognize the hard work and dedication of our Board of Directors. Each tournament involves hours of coordination, discussion, and planning behind the scenes, and none of this would be possible without their commitment to making it all happen. Please join me in thanking them for their continued service.

If you have any questions about the tournament, registration, or anything else, please don't hesitate to reach out to me directly. I look forward to seeing many of you on the beach soon!

Best regards, Brian Trotter — Tournament Director





2025 DIFF Membership & Tournament Registration Form

Mail to: DIFF Club, P.O. Box 777, Walkertown, NC 27051-0777
DIFF website: <https://diffclub.org/membership-dues/fall-fishing-tournament/>



Scan QR Code
to register
online.

*** Annual Fall Tournament Entries must be postmarked by July 31, 2025. ***

Name (Please Print): _____

Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ ZIP: _____

Email address: _____

Phone Number: _____

New Member: ☐ Yes ☐ No

Annual Fall Fishing Tournament Fee: (Includes Hat & T-Shirt) ☐ Adult Member\$100.00

DIFF Membership Fees: ☐ Adult Renew/New Member\$35.00

☐ Youth Renew/New Member\$35.00

☐ Lifetime Member\$250.00

Donation to DIFF (Scholarships, Grants, etc.) ☐ \$ _____

Total Due ☐ \$ _____

Adult T-Shirt Size: _____ (SM, MD, LG, XL, 2XL, 3XL, 4XL)

Youth T-Shirt Size: _____ (YSM, YMD, YLG, YXL)

YOUTH Entrants for Annual Fall Tournament (*Membership Required*). Must be under age 16 by 10-8-2025 when the annual fall tournament begins; in which case the \$100 entry fee is **waived** when accompanied by a paid adult entrant. However, \$35 membership must be paid for the Youth to enter the tournament.

Youth's Date of Birth: _____ (MM/DD/YYYY)

☐ **I have read the 2025 DIFF Annual Fall Tournament Rules and will comply with the rules governing the tournament:**

(Signature Required) _____

Tournament Confirmation Cards and Future Newsletters will be sent to the above email and physical address. Please bring confirmation for entry in Tournament.

DIFF Treasurer use only:

☐ **Cash \$** _____

☐ **Check #** _____

Check Amount \$ _____

***Tournament Entry Fees and Donations to DIFF provide at least:
\$2,500.00 in DIFF Scholarships + \$1,000.00 in DIFF Grants***



TOURNAMENT RULES

Brian Trotter

DIFF 37th ANNUAL FALL SURF FISHING TOURNAMENT

\$10,000 in Prize Money — October 9-11, 2025

The DIFF Club Surf Fishing Tournament is open to DIFF Club members only. The tournament will begin at 12:00 noon on Thursday, October 9, 2025 and will end at 12:00 noon on Saturday, October 11, 2025. All contestants must register at Cabin 16, DIFF headquarters, between 9:00 AM and 11:00 AM on October 9, 2025. The deadline for entering the tournament is July 31, 2025. Tournament Fee for DIFF members under 16 before October 9, 2025 will be waived when accompanied by an adult entrant. When you register, please provide your current email address. Entry confirmation cards will be sent via email. Please print the confirmation email and bring it to the Tournament or confirm with the Director or Treasurer before the Tournament.

All contestants must attend a pre-tournament meeting at DIFF headquarters beginning at 11:00 AM on October 9, 2025. Late arrivals that have prepaid must advise a DIFF official of their estimated arrival time and check in with an official prior to fishing. Contestants may not leave DIFF headquarters to begin fishing until the pre-tournament meeting is adjourned and the starting signal is given. There will be a random roll call. The tournament director reserves the right to call a complete roll call of tournament entrants as needed. All registered contestants not present at

starting signal will be **DISQUALIFIED!!** All fish in your possession at the beginning of the tournament must be dressed. Your vehicle and premises may be inspected by tournament officials at the beginning of the tournament and at any time during the tournament.

All fish (including appropriate paperwork for fish) entered in the tournament must be brought to and registered at the fishing tournament headquarters. Entrants are strongly encouraged to take photos of the fish they catch and enter into the weigh-in, even those fish which must be released. Tournament headquarters will be open on a limited schedule. Entrants will be given the schedule at the pre-tournament meeting. To be eligible, a fish must be entered and registered in the tournament by 12:00 noon, October 11, 2025. No exceptions! Contestants in the check-in line at noon on Saturday will be processed and eligible for the tournament. Fish check-in will be closed when that final group of entrants is processed. For a fish to be eligible for a cash prize, it must be registered and weighed-in by the individual catching the fish. Fish will not be weighed-in for anyone showing up after 12:00 noon Saturday, October 11, 2025. In addition to being eligible to fish in the tournament entrants are eligible to participate in all other tournament activities.

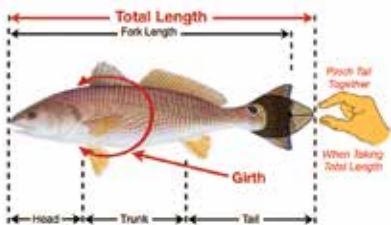
Prizes will be awarded as follows: (* Species to be determined.)

	RED DRUM	PUPPY DRUM	BLUEFISH	WHITING	MOST RED DRUM RELEASED OVER 27"	WILDCARD	OPEN*
1 st	\$500	\$400	\$400	\$400	\$400	\$400	\$400
2 nd	\$330	\$300	\$300	\$300	\$300	\$300	\$300
3 rd	\$220	\$220	\$220	\$220	\$220	\$220	\$220
4 th	\$160	\$160	\$160	\$160	\$160	\$160	\$160
5 th	\$120	\$120	\$120	\$120	\$120	\$120	\$120
6 th	\$90	\$90	\$90	\$90	\$90	\$90	\$90
7 th	\$70	\$70	\$70	\$70	\$70	\$70	\$70
8 th	\$50	\$50	\$50	\$50	\$50	\$50	\$50
Total	\$1540	\$1410	\$1410	\$1410	\$1410	\$1410	\$1410

A contestant may win one cash prize per category. Contestants can win a cash prize in more than one category. Any prize money not awarded in a category will be awarded as Scholarships or Grants. Any ties for a merchandise prize (Example: First-Place Combo) will be settled by a coin toss. Any ties for cash will be divided equally, after summing the total of the cash awards for that position and the next lower cash award levels

as is appropriate. If there are less than 200 paid entrants or funds are not otherwise raised to cover tournament expenses and prizes, the prize money in each category will be reduced proportionally. Contestants are eligible to win only one door prize, and must be present at the drawing to win. Contestants must be present to win Raffle prizes with the exception being the Generator Raffle.

RULES FOR DETERMINING WINNING FISH



RED DRUM: A single fish per entrant to be determined by measurement from the tip of upper jaw to the tip of the tail, plus measurement of girth (per diagram), both measurements to nearest 1/8". Fish must be measured and recorded in presence of two tournament members and witnessed with their signatures. Forms must be fully completed and turned in at the designated time. State size limit will apply.

All fish outside of the State slot size must be released alive.

PUPPY DRUM: A single fish per entrant to be determined by weight.

State size limit will apply. All fish outside of the State slot size must be released alive. The same fish cannot be entered for Red Drum category.

BLUE FISH: A single fish per entrant to be determined by weight. State size limit will apply.

WHITING: A single fish per entrant to be determined by weight. State size limit will apply.

MOST RED DRUM RELEASED OVER 27 INCHES: Total number of red drum released over 27 inches during the tournament determined by measurement. Each fish must be measured from the tip of the upper jaw to the tip of the pinched tail measured to the nearest 1/8th inch. Each red drum measurement must be recorded on the official tournament red drum form. In the event more red drum are landed than spots on the front page,



TOURNAMENT RULES

(continued)

ENTRY FEE OF \$100.00 IS DUE WITH ENTRY FORM POSTMARKED by JULY 31, 2025. NO EXCEPTIONS
Tournament proceeds fund at least \$2,500.00 in DIFF Scholarships + \$1,000.00 in DIFF Grants.

RULES FOR DETERMINING WINNING FISH (continued)

please turn the page over and record according to the front. All writing **MUST BE LEGIBLE**. If we receive a weigh-in ticket with smudge marks or non-legible signatures, we will discard the weigh-in form. Measurement must be witnessed with the signatures of two tournament participants. The tournament participant with the most live releases charted and presented to the weigh-master at the tournament weigh-in will be the category winner. Weigh-master will confirm measurements and may adjust total measurements to correct any discrepancies. State size limits will apply. All fish must be released alive. Should a tie exist, the date and time of landing of the first fish released over 27 inches will be used to break the tie for the category winner, and all other ties will be split equally.

OPEN CATEGORIES: A Single fish per entrant is to be determined by weight. State size limit will apply. The open category will be announced during the pre-tournament meeting based on the species available at the time.

SPECIAL CATEGORIES: Additional fish categories may be announced

during the pre-tournament meeting. State size limit will apply. Entrant must declare the category during weigh-in and only one fish can be weighed in per entrant per category.

All fish must be caught on hook and line with rod and reel from the shoreline or permanent structures attached to South Core Banks (Davis Island). The fish will belong to the person originally hooking the fish, but can have another entrant assist in landing, or as a relief handling the rod or reel. A non-contestant person may not assist in any way.

Each contestant is permitted to fish with a maximum of two (2) rods at any given time and the rods must be manned AT ALL TIMES. Bait launching devices other than a fishing rod and fishing reel are strictly prohibited. Examples of such prohibited devices are, but not limited to, kayaks, boats, drones, and devices using compressed gas or explosives. Any fish whose physical makeup has been altered in any way will be disqualified. Any violation of the rules will warrant disqualification of the contestant in all fish categories.

FISHING AND CONDUCT RULES

Fishing spots **MAY NOT** be reserved prior to or during the tournament in any way such as, placing rod holders, the aid of entrants or non-contestants or parking vehicles at a place on the beach where you intend to fish. Parked vehicles left other than in the camp area should be well above the high tide mark. Please apply common courtesy while visiting or traveling through congested fishing areas. Many of us share favorite fishing spots on the South Core Banks.

We will utilize a tagging system to identify one (1) slot drum from each fishing day. There will be 3 different color zip ties in your bag, Yellow, Black, and Red. The zip tie will be placed through the gill plate and out of the mouth and connected to make a loop or a circle. From the start of the tournament, 12:00 PM on October 9th until midnight, you will use the Yellow zip tie. October 10th from 12:00 AM Midnight to 11:59 PM, you will use the Black zip tie and from October 11th from 12:00 AM Midnight

until the end of the tournament, you will use the Red zip tie. This procedure is to assist the Park Service, Park Rangers, and Marine Patrol, and identify what days the fish were caught and to minimize possession and creel limit issues. Please understand the Laws of fish possession.

The tournament director and/or his assignees (protest committee) reserve the right to disqualify any fish of suspicious nature that is entered. Names of the Rules and Protest Committee members will be given at the beginning of the tournament. Written protests must be filed with the Rules and Protest Committee by 12:30 PM on October 11, 2025. Any protest after that time will not be considered. All decisions by the committee will be final. All Federal, State and Park Service laws and/or rules shall be observed. **NOTE: North Carolina Saltwater Fishing License regulations are in effect. It is the responsibility of entrants to know current creel and bag limits. See <http://www.ncwildlife.org/>.**

NO-SHOWS

In the event the entrant cannot for any reason, other than provided below, attend the tournament, the entrant shall not be eligible for any

refund. Entrants' rights to tournament are not transferable.

TOURNAMENT CANCELLATION AND/OR MODIFICATIONS

In the event the Park Service closes the island/cabins during the tournament dates, the tournament will be canceled. In the event the island is closed for a period during the week of the tournament and is reopened prior to the beginning of the tournament, the tournament committee shall, with the input of the Park Service and the concessionaires, make a determination as to whether all entrants can be transported to the island so that the tournament can begin no later than 9:00 PM on Thursday evening of the tournament. If that cannot be reasonably accomplished in the opinion of the tournament committee, the tournament will be canceled. **Each entrant is responsible for contacting Ferry Service and NPS to determine the status of island closures due to extreme weather. Please see www.diffclub.org or DIFF Club Facebook page, or contact a DIFF Board Member for Tournament Status.** In the event that the Park Service gives notice to the tournament committee before 8:00 AM Friday that the Island is being closed, the tournament shall

be deemed canceled. This rule will be in effect even if the tournament has already started. ***In the event of cancellation of the tournament because the island has been closed by the Park Service as contemplated herein, \$75.00 of the entry fee for each entrant will be applied toward next year's tournament entry fee.*** Entrants may request a refund of \$75 by emailing the DIFF club treasurer by Dec. 31 of 2025. In the event that the Park Service gives notice to the tournament committee after 8:00 AM Friday that it is closing the island, the tournament shall be deemed official and the tournament committee shall determine the official deadline for the tournament. The tournament committee will conclude that the Park Service has made a reasonable effort to notify on a timely manner, each person on the island of its decision to close the island. Should this event occur, it is the entrant's responsibility to contact the tournament committee regarding early termination of the tournament, weigh-in times, etc.

Davis Island Fishing Foundation
P.O. Box 777
Walkertown, NC 27051-0777



<<First + Last>>
<<address>>
<<City>>, <<state>> <<zip>>

PARK WATCH

You can be an extra set of eyes and ears in the park to help the park rangers keep everyone safe.

- **To report a problem, violation, or flagrant misuse or activity that you have seen, call 911 and they will contact the Park Service directly.**

You have the ability to keep this fantastic natural resource from abuse.



Officers:

Lance Brown — President..... 336.558.7942
Darrell McCormick — Vice President.. 336.655.4311
Roy Byrd — Secretary 919.270.4170
Geneive Jones — Treasurer 434.222.6658

Board of Directors:

Will Brooks..... 252.202.2510
Tyler Buchanan 704.718.5531
Steven Evans 252.423.0313
Travis Johnston..... 919.901.3680
Ted Moseley 252.202.4673
David Schickedantz 336.312.7963
Brian Trotter — Tournament Director 336.302.4820

Email Board of Directors: diffclub@diffclub.org
Email "Casting Tails" Editor: diffeditor@gmail.com

Core Banks Surf Fishing Club (CBSFC) website:
<https://sites.google.com/view/core-banks-surf-fishing-club/>

DIFF... Beyond Fishing!

The Davis Island Fishing Foundation (DIFF) is a non-profit club for people that enjoy recreational Surf Fishing and associated fellowship and social activities on South Core Banks of Cape Lookout National Seashore, affectionately known as Davis Island.

STATEMENT OF PURPOSE

The purpose, objectives and efforts of **DIFF** are to benefit the **DIFF** membership and other visitors of Davis Island.

- **DIFF** actively supports and demonstrates responsible use of Off-Road Vehicles (ORV) for beach access to engage in surf fishing and other suitable activities.
- **DIFF** promotes a code of ethics for responsible behavior on the island.
- **DIFF** educates visitors on the rich heritage of surf fishing and current fishing conservation practices.
- **DIFF** provides physical and fiscal resources to assist the Park Service in maintaining cabins and other facilities.
- **DIFF** hosts fishing tournaments for its members enjoyment, while raising money for scholarships and grants.
- **DIFF** supports the conservation of Davis Island's culture, history, heritage and appropriate protection of its fish and wildlife.
- **DIFF** collaborates with the park management, concessionaires and other supportive organizations to benefit the **DIFF** membership.
- **DIFF** maintains awareness of activities that could affect Davis Island in a positive or negative way and responds appropriately to support the **DIFF** purpose.
- **DIFF** provides effective communications to its members by website, email, Facebook, newsletter, and periodic meetings.