



Davis Island Fishing Foundation

Volume 17 • Fall 2025



PRESIDENT'S LETTER

Lance Brown



I hope everyone has had a productive fall fishing season! Considering the challenges we faced from King Tides, hurricanes, a government shutdown and a last minute Nor'easter, I personally feel like the tournament staff did a great job in managing the variables. The weather made for some tough fishing, but that's where each of you shine! Anyone can fish in perfect conditions, but you all made it work in

some challenging conditions. The strong North East wind turned on the drum bite, but it made fishing really challenging, especially casting into the wind. I know for me personally, those typically long casts turned into the 40 yard tosses that the wind batted down like a weak layup in the lane of an ACC basketball game. But those who toughed it out were rewarded with citation red drum, lifetime memories, and catches that will lead to stories to be told as island lore. Thank you to all who attended and I hope to see you again next year for the 38th edition of the DIFF Tournament from **October 8-10, 2026!**

As we discussed at the tournament, we will host our Annual Membership Meeting on Saturday, February 28 at Tobacco Road

Sports Café in Durham — lunch will be provided by the Club. The venue overlooks the Durham Bulls Stadium. Doors will open at 10:00 am and I hope you will make plans to join us. The raffle program we typically conduct at the tournament will be fulfilled at the Annual Meeting and everyone attending will be provided with a raffle ticket. No need to hold onto those raffle tickets from the tournament.

Also, by the time you read this note, I'm hopeful we will have an operational air compressor at Great Island Camp. The DIFF Board of Directors has approved the expense and it should be installed and operational at this point.

If you haven't joined us yet on Facebook, I encourage you to do so. It's quickly becoming the place to connect with DIFF members. Search DIFF Club in Facebook Groups to join.

Tight lines,
Lance Brown



UPCOMING EVENTS

February 28, 2026: DIFF Annual Meeting

Location: Tobacco Road Sports Café (Durham Bulls Stadium)
Address: 280 S. Mangum St #100, Durham, NC 27701
Time: 10:30am – 11:30 am Membership Meet and Greet,
11:30am Lunch provided by DIFF, 12:15PM Annual Meeting

April 29th - May 3rd 2026: DIFF/CBSFC Work Trip to Great

Island. Contact Roy Byrd if interested in attending, Roy.byrd@mindspring.com or by phone at (919) 270-4170.

October 8-10, 2026: 38th Annual DIFF Surf Fishing Tournament.



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FALL FISHING TOURNAMENT

Brian Trotter

(Tournament Winner Photography by Darrell McCormick)

A WILD AND MEMORABLE YEAR FOR THE DIFF FISHING TOURNAMENT!



DIFF President, Lance Brown with his winning Red Drum

Fishing tournaments are always full of fun and excitement — but this year, Mother Nature decided to make things really interesting. Between the wind, rain, flooding, king tides, and even a government shut-down, the 2025 tournament tested everyone's patience and perseverance. If you weren't there, let's just say... you missed quite a challenge!

But despite it all — we still had the tournament. I can't thank our Board of Directors and volunteers enough for making it happen. Their dedication kept everything running smoothly, no matter what the weather threw our way.

We had 227 total entries, including 22 youth participants — and I'll say it again: keep bringing those kids and grandkids! Our future in fishing depends on them.

The week started off with some fantastic fishing and plenty of big drum being caught. Even as the weather turned, the big drum bite stayed hot. However, the strong northeast wind and current made things tricky for those chasing sea mullet, bluefish, and black drum — many of us watched our bait drift away faster than we could cast it!

A few anglers discovered the "pond" on Shark Island, which formed over the summer and was connected and open for fishing this year. A lot of our weighed-in catches came from that new spot.

Our big winner this year was none other than **Lance Brown**, member of the famous Yadkin County Boys and our current DIFF President. Lance landed an impressive 50" x 26" drum, and even caught three drum in the 50-inch class prior to the tournament! Congratulations to Lance and to all of our winners who battled the elements and came out on top.

Thanks again to everyone who participated, volunteered, and supported this year's event. Despite the challenges, we made some great memories — and we can't wait to see everyone again next year!

Brian Trotter

RED DRUM



Lance Brown (1st-76.00"); Patrick Davis (2nd-74.00"); Derick Crater (3rd-73.25"); Ernie Holcomb (4th-73.00"); Corey Johnson (5th-72.00"); Sam Spencer (6th-71.50"); Travis Johnston (7th-71.00"); Kevin Davis (8th-70.875")

PUPPY DRUM



Jeff Jordan (1st-7.59#); Ernie Holcomb (2nd tie-7.00#); Les Wilson (2nd tie-7.00#); Trent Johnston (4th-6.73#); Wesley Hart (not pictured) (5th-6.68#); Joseph Herring (6th-6.60#); Steve Wells (7th-6.36#); Dyke Cline (not pictured) (8th-6.27#)

BLACK DRUM



Joseph Herring (1st-3.94#); Richard Glidewell (2nd-3.45#); Robert Hayes (3rd-3.44#); Jeff Jordan (4th-3.43#); Jimmy Marsh (not pictured) (5th-3.10#); Lee Marsh (not pictured) (6th-2.90#); Todd Lewis (7th-2.88#); Ren Barefoot (not pictured) (8th-2.79#)

WHITING



Austin Dufault (1st-1.22#); Kenzie Adams (2nd-0.91#); Ricky Hayes (3rd-0.75#); Brody Johnson (4th-0.72#); Trinity Pledger (5th-0.65#); Lee Marsh (not pictured) (6th-0.60#); Matt Hassell (not pictured) (7th-0.41#); Charlotte Clay (not pictured) (8th-0.40)

BLUEFISH



Dane Curtsinger (1st-7.84#); Darrell McCormick (2nd-6.64#); Dalton Vestal (David stand-in) (3rd-6.23#); Laura Johnson (4th-5.78#); Mike Ferree (5th-5.72#); Brody Moncus (6th-5.51#); Noah Barefoot (not pictured) (7th-5.31#); Johnny Ray (8th-4.96#)

WILD CARD



Joseph Herring (1st-6.53# - False Albacore); Sandra Reams (2nd-1.04# - Sheepshead); Sam Spencer (3rd-0.84# - Croaker); Lee Marsh (not pictured) (4th-0.83# - Sheepshead); Dalton Vestal (David stand-in) (5th-0.81# - Croaker); Steve Wells (6th-0.61# - Puffer); Charlee Reams (7th-0.57# - Pompano); Lance Brown (8th-0.33# - Pompano)

MOST DRUM RELEASED OVER 27"



Devin Lineberry (not pictured) (1st-12); Kevin Davis (2nd-10); Lance Brown (3rd tie-8); Ernie Holcomb (3rd tie-8); Patrick Davis (5th-7); Derick Crater (6th tie-3); Davis Crater (6th tie-3); Travis Johnston (6th tie-3); Dalton Jenkins (not pictured) (6th tie-3)

YOUTH WILDCARD



Brody Moncus (1st); Noah Barefoot (not pictured) (2nd); Charlee Reams (3rd); Astin Jones (4th); Ren Barefoot (not pictured) (5th); Lucas Jones (6th); Olin Johnson (not pictured) (7th); Griffin Johnson (not pictured) (8th); Oakley Johnson (not pictured) (9th); Hunter Nichols (10th); Hayden Maines (not pictured) (11th); Grayson Newcomb (12th); Emma Trotter (13th); Trinity Pledger (14th); Charlotte Clay (15th)

MOST SPOTS ON PUPPY DRUM — SIDE POT



Les Wilson (1st); Jim Weston Jr. (2nd); Randall Parham (3rd-tie); Charlee Reams (3rd-tie); Steve Wells (3rd-tie)



FALL FISHING TOURNAMENT

Brian Trotter



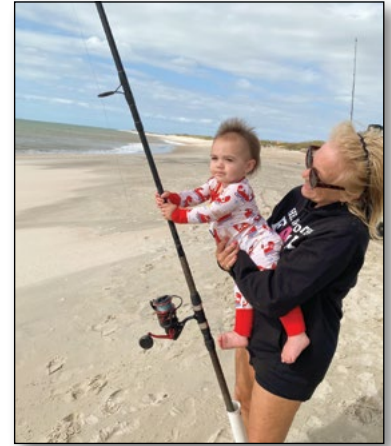
The first cast of DIFF's 37th Annual Tournament was in honor of one of DIFF's founding fathers, **Glenn Green**. Doug Jones, husband of DIFF Treasurer, Genevieve Jones, made the first cast with one of Glenn's fishing rods gifted to him years ago.



FALL FISHING TOURNAMENT

Brian Trotter

These kids represent the future of the DIFF Club, let's keep these happy DIFF members coming!





FALL FISHING TOURNAMENT

Brian Trotter

Thanks to our DIFF Members for sending their great pics of what it's like to be a part of one of the leading surf fishing tournaments in North Carolina!





DIFF CLUB SCHOLARSHIPS

Rich Lambert, Scholarship Chair

CALL FOR 2026 DAVIS ISLAND FISHING FOUNDATION SCHOLARSHIP APPLICATIONS

The Davis Island Fishing Foundation (DIFF) offers seven scholarship opportunities established to honor some of its founding members. They are awarded annually. This is the call for applications for the 2026 awards. The DIFF Board of Directors allocates \$2,500 annually from the fishing tournament proceeds to fund five \$500 scholarships. The Jones family established a scholarship to honor the late Gordon Jones. Friends and family of Clyde Cheek have do-

noted the funding for a scholarship to honor Clyde. The deadline for submitting applications is **March 15, 2026**.

Applications can be found online at www.diffclub.org or can be requested from Rich Lambert (rglamber@uncc.edu). Applications can be submitted electronically to the same email address, or mailed to: Rich Lambert, DIFF Scholarship Chairperson, 124 E. Lockman St., Fort Mill, SC 29715.

THE SCHOLARSHIPS AVAILABLE ARE BELOW. THE APPLICATION MATERIALS CAN BE FOUND ON THE DIFF CLUB WEBSITE, www.diffclub.org.

BK BARRINGER STUDENT SCHOLARSHIP

This scholarship is available to high school seniors graduating in 2026 and planning to attend a four year university. The applicant must be a current DIFF member or a relative of a current DIFF member.

JACK DUNAWAY CONTINUING SCHOLARSHIP

This scholarship is available to an enrolled university student who has completed a minimum of 12 credit hours and has a minimum grade point average of 3.0. The applicant must be a current DIFF member or relative of a current DIFF member.

DON EURY COLLEGE STUDENT SCHOLARSHIP

This scholarship is available to a sophomore, junior, senior or graduate student in a four year university. The student must be enrolled in marine or wildlife biology or a curriculum that stresses environmental conservation. The applicant does not have to be a current DIFF member or a relative of a current DIFF member however; current DIFF members or relatives of current DIFF members are preferred.

GLEN GREEN GRADUATE STUDENT SCHOLARSHIP

This scholarship is available to a current graduate student or one enrolled for graduate level work. Applicants must be a current DIFF member or a relative of a current DIFF member.

MARK WEIR STUDENT SCHOLARSHIP

This scholarship is available to individuals planning to attend a two year community college. It is open to traditional students (high school seniors) and non-traditional students (individuals seeking a career change through additional training and degrees). Applicants must be a current DIFF member or a relative of a current DIFF member.

GORDON JONES SCHOLARSHIP

This scholarship which is funded by the Jones family, is available to UNC-Charlotte undergraduate or graduate students majoring in finance and related areas. The applicant does not have to be a DIFF member or a relative of a current DIFF member.

CLYDE CHEEK SCHOLARSHIP

This scholarship is funded by friends and family of Clyde Cheek and is available to undergraduate Naval ROTC students. The applicant does not have to be a DIFF member or a relative of a current DIFF member.

A five person committee of DIFF members reviews the applications and selects the scholarship recipients. Awards are \$500 for each scholarship and the check is made out to both the recipient and his or her college or university.



SOUTH CORE WORK TRIP

Roy Byrd

2026 DIFF/CBSFC WORK TRIP ANNOUNCEMENT

The 2026 DIFF/CBSFC work trip has been scheduled for **April 29th through May 3rd, 2026. The days are Wednesday through Sunday with Wednesday and Sunday being travel days.**

The scope of work will be decided later and announced at our annual meeting.

Meals, refreshments, and lodging will be provided for volunteers. Volunteers will be responsible for transportation and ferry service to and from the island.

Please let me know if you can attend by emailing me at roy.byrd@mindspring.com or by phone at (919) 270-4170. You may also sign up on the website at "<https://www.diffclub.org/get-involved>." I will add your name to the list that I'm keeping for planning and cabin assignments. You may also sign up at our annual meeting.

Davis Island Fishing Foundation
1121 Powell Lane
Alton, VA 24520



<<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 — Newsletter Design ... 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.