

Alabama Coastal Fisherman's Association



A Family Oriented Fishing Club Since 1997

Volume 2012 Issue May

Meeting: May 3, 2012 **Time:** 7:00 PM
Place: American Legion Post 88 2663 Halls Mill Road
Main Speaker: Capt. Bo Willis - AL MR
Quick Hits: Don Ludlam
Mini Seminar @6pm: Jon Hauge
 "Outdoor and fishing photography tips like a pro, on a budget"
Tournament: Sat. May 5 Speckled Trout Challenge
Weigh-in on Hwy 90 Causeway @ Chocaloochee Bay Ramp

CLUB OFFICERS FOR 2012

President:	Patric Garmeson	747-1554
Vice Pres:	Joey Gates	209-1220
Treasurer:	John Erwin	442-4592
Secretary:	Bill Perry	661-0129
Membership:	Vince Hawkins	421-4792
Weighmaster:	Pat Hughes	422-6992
Donations:	Marty Garmeson	610-4780
Logo Items:	Bill Graves	443-8017
"	Bob Ward	661-3118
Awards:	Gary Tingle	662-0260
Statistics:	David Thornton	458-2775
Newsletter:	David Thornton	458-2775
Webmaster:	Brandon Milam	680-1302
Food Advisors:	Brenda Wilson	513-0313
"	Vince Hawkins	421-4792
Mini Seminars:	Adam Barker	747-1552
Quick Hits:	Bill Midgette	473-4768
Advisor:	Mike Thompson	633-3333

Important Dates

Saturday May 5: Speckled Trout Challenge
Sunday May 13: Mothers' Day
Monday May 28: Memorial Day
Thursday May 31: last day of school Mobile Co. Public
June 7: next ACFA meeting

You can easily subscribe to get your newsletters emailed to you @ <http://www.acfish.com/list/?p=subscribe&id=1>

UNITED WE STAND, DIVIDED WE FISH...!

President's Message:

Two tournaments down and six remain. For many years our May tournament has been a speckled trout "challenge" which has evolved since the club was founded over 15 years ago. Since I have been with the club the "challenge" has been ACFA vs Weeks Bay Fishing Club. Every year we had the same results with ACFA winning the "challenge" handily against shrinking competition. Sure winning is always good, but I want to try something different and even more FUN! This year the "challenge" will feature all club members 40 years old or younger vs all club members 41 years old or older (like Costa Del Mars vs Foster Grants). I think it will be a very enjoyable way for us to have fellowship and compare which group can collectively catch the biggest speckled trout. Besides, is there a better group of fishermen?

If you have not made a meeting this year you have really been missing out. We have had some outstanding speakers, raffle items, and fantastic door prizes. Through the efforts of Joey Gates, Marty Garmeson, Doug Tierce, and myself we have nailed down some really good sponsors for door prizes. If you'd like chances to win free lures and tackle then you want to make our meetings! And PLEASE, we need to be more respectful of the speakers who donate their time and talents to share their knowledge with us.

Spring is in full swing and the fishing is really hot! From the Causeway to Dauphin Island and everywhere in between I have had reports of large trout, numerous flounder and plenty of redfish. Good luck on your next fishing adventure and look forward to seeing everyone at the next meeting and tournament.

Capt. Patric Garmeson

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This framed print (18" X 24") of an original water color by local artist Wayne Atkinson will off at be raffled at the May meeting. Tickets will be available for \$1 each at the May meeting. See Joey Gates or Patric Garmeson for tickets and more details. This is your opportunity to obtain a unique piece of fish art to your collection and help out the club at the same time. All the raffles proceeds go toward paying the rent for the meeting hall.

ACFA "Spring Break" tournament April 7, 2012**FINAL RESULTS**

Ground Mullet					Junior Angler Ground Mullet					
		Wt.	Pts.	Pl.	NetMan	Pl.				
1	Tim Pierce	1.15	5	1	Chris Pierce	1	Taylor Guy	0.75		
2	Taylor Guy (J)	0.75	4	2	Phillip Guy	2				
3	Jacob Guy	0.70	3	3	Jacob Guy	3				
4	David Thornton	0.60	2	4	David Thornton	4				
5	Brad McDonald	0.55	1	5	Brad McDonald	5				
Flounder					Junior Angler Flounder					
				Pl.	NetMan	Pl.				
1	David Thornton	2.65	5	1	David Thornton	1	Christian Howell	1.15		
2	Mike Foster	2.60	4	2	Vicki Foster (L)	2				
3	Jay O'Brien	2.30	3	3	Jay O'Brien	3				
4	Pat Sirmon	2.10	2	4	Pat Sirmon	4				
5	Alvin Bell	1.70	1	5	Alvin Bell	5				
Sheepshead					Junior Angler Sheepshead					
				Pl.	NetMan	Pl.				
1	John Fasbender	2.75	5	1	John Fasbender	1				
2	Erik Nelson	2.40	4	2	Donald Garrettson	2				
3			3	3		3				
4			2	4		4				
5			1	5		5				
Speckled Trout					Junior Angler Speckled Trout					
				Pl.	NetMan	Pl.				
1	Doug Tierce	4.75	5	1	-	1	Katie Mitternight	3.40		
2	Donald Garrettson	4.40	4	2	Erik Nelson	2	Kristen Mitternight	3.20		
3	Erik Nelson	4.05	3	3	Donald Garrettson	3	Ryan Hoffman	1.15		
4	Eugene Pierce *	3.95	2	4	Christian Howell (J)	4				
5	Rick Tourne'	3.95	1	5	Rick Tourne'	5				
* TIE = 1st to weigh in					J = Junior Angler		L = Lady Angler		N = New Angler	

April Tournament Recap:

Our April tournament was besieged by a stiff, cool easterly wind that seemed to keep the fish and fishermen from fully cooperating. Still those who solved the 'riddle' (and found a shelter from the relentless wind) were able to gather up some points and plaques along with a decent mess of fish. The U.S. Coast Guard Auxiliary was on hand at the weigh-in and performed at least 10 free boat inspections. It was reported that several boating violations were observed which potentially saved the boaters hundreds of dollars in possible fines, and maybe even save their life. Thanks again to the guys from the USCG Aux for their assistance and time!

Those that did fish and/or come to the weigh-in were rewarded with plenty of garden salad and TONS of fine baked ziti with toasted bread courtesy of Tom Brooks and Kyle Eckhoff. Nobody went away hungry, that's for sure! Thanks again guys, great job!!

By the way, the previously announced 'Kids Day' was postponed until a future time when there is more young angler participation at the weigh-ins.

April Meeting Recap:

In case you weren't at the April meeting you missed what one long time member referred to as "THE best meeting we've EVER had." Several ladies from Bay Bank representing 'The Babes of the Bay' team for the American Cancer Society's Relay for Life came by to announce they are having a raffle for two anglers on a half day fishing trip with A-Team Fishing Adventures Capt. Bobby Abruscato and WALA Fox 10 Meteorologist and Outdoor host Jason Smith which will be filmed and televised on Jason's program at a later date. All the proceeds go to the American Cancer Society and chances are \$5 each or 6 for \$25. Tickets can be purchased from any of the four Bay Bank locations in south Mobile County or be contacting Donna Abercrombie at 251/973-2436 or email her @ donna.abercrombie@mybaybank.com. The drawing will be held on April 27th and announced by Jason Smith on TV.

Alan White (Editor for Great Days Outdoors magazine) spoke on the upcoming Alabama Inshore Championship Trail which began Saturday April 21st to aid Alabama Hunger Relief program. More info @ <http://www.facebook.com/groups/241674229211222/>

Our club membership rebate drawings were held and Doug Smith won the 'members who paid by mail' drawing, and Richard Hoffman III won the 'New member referral' drawing. These members will have a check reimbursing them for their \$50 ACFA dues.

Drew Wilson of Legendary Marine represented our newest sponsor Skeeter Boats which has made a monetary donation to the ACFA covering the cost of the plaques for the rest of the tournament season in addition to the plaques and trophies not already sponsored for the end of the year Awards Banquet. And our feature speaker of the evening, Capt. Scott Ritter gave an outstanding talk on getting the most out of topwater fishing. Many of the door prizes for the meeting were lure packages worth about \$20 each.

Meet the Angler:

Donald Garrettson

Born in Mobile, AL on Sept. 13, 1972, Donald has fished the local waters since his early days in the 70's. His father (Wayne) and uncle (Bruce) would take he and brother (David) to exotic and distant locations such as D'Olive Creek, Bay Minette Creek, and Big Creek Lake. During the summer of 1979 the Tourne' family moved in the house across the street and an addiction for fishing was started. Donald and his best friend Rick learned Mobile Bay fishing with Rick's father (Neal). With access to Rick's grandfather's (Harvey Bryan) aluminum boat "The Boys" fished Dog River and all of its backwaters as often as possible chasing speckled trout, flounder, redfish and bass.

In the early 90's the boys built their own wood boat with the help of Ricks father. Giggling flounder and fishing at night for bull reds became a common pastime for the eager young anglers. In 1998 Rick bought his first fiberglass skiff (which Uglystick now owns) and tripletails were the next species added on their list.

In 2000 ACFA club member Budd Barr introduced Donald to the Reggio and Hopedale area of Louisiana fishing for speckled trout and redfish in a new playground. Soon after Donald joined the ACFA and met a plethora of new friends. Past club presidents David Hare, Bruce Howle and Doug Smith to mention a couple, all of whom shared some knowledge (and the occasional "Brogan" joke) with a younger neophyte angler. Since then Donald has served the ACFA as Vice President, Statistician and Logo Items. By 2006 Donald and another club member Erik Nelson were fishing Louisiana and the IFA Redfish Tour. In 2008 (with Erik Nelson on Hiatus) Mark Wright asked Donald to team up with him. By the beginning of 2009 Donald had fished with TV hosts and professional fisherman including Chad Dufrene, Bobby Abruscato, Scott Ritter, Paul Smith, Bernie and Steve White, Charlie Thomason, Blair Wiggins and Greg and Bryan Watts. In 2008 Donald fished an FLW event in New Orleans (Thanks Chad and Bernie) and in 2009 teamed up with Bernie White to win the Gulf Coast Angling Association (now L.A.S.S.) Championship.

Donald has also had several appearances in national and regional publications such as "Great Day Outdoors" (Feb. 2007, Jan. 2010), "Shallow Water Angler" (May 2007), and "Alabama Game and Fish" (June 2009). Donald has 8 local tournament wins, 25 plus top fives and several club tournament wins.

A 1991 graduate of B.C. Rain High School Donald attended the University of Southern Mississippi for one year on a music scholarship before returning to Mobile. There he began working at Barnett Millworks in 1993 and has been employed there ever since, fishing whenever his schedule allows.



(pic above) Donald holds a full scale 'golden pond punkin'

ACFA Sponsors

The ACFA would like to thank the local and national businesses who support our cause by offering donations and other incentives to help the members get the most out of their time on the water.

PLEASE be sure to support these sponsors at every opportunity!

Again we'd like to thank **Southern Bama Bait & Tackle, Scott's Landing, Shirley's Bait & Tackle, Sea Tow, Tackle This – Shoot That, George's Water Sports, Skeeter Boats and Legendary Marine** who are sponsoring our club plaques. Also thanks to **Rat-L-Trap, Bass Assassin, Mann's Bait Company, H&H Lure Company, and L&S Bait Company (MirrOLures)** for their recent donations of lures and other items as door prizes and to sweeten the Grand Attendance Prize at the end of the year Awards Banquet.

It would be some great feedback to these sponsors for members to submit any pictures taken while using their products, especially those lures or other items you may have won as door prizes.

See more on page 7

Fast casts:

ACFA Logo Items co-chair **Bill Graves** writes: The club has new stock of XL ACFA logo shirts (short and long sleeve) in several popular colors. Also still have lots of other shirts, hats, towels and huggers left from last year. **Bob Ward** & I will be at May meeting with lots of stuff & good bargains.

Donations (for Door Prizes and Grand Prizes) are needed!

We are always looking for new local and national sponsors who will help us out with contributions.

PLEASE pass along any items, monetary donation\$ or contact info to **Marty Garmeson** our Donation Chairman or **Joey Gates** our Vice President.

Raffle: This month we will offer a framed Speckled Trout print by Wayne Atkinson. Chances are \$1 each (or 5 for \$5 ;-)

Tournament Point Standings after two tournaments:

Statistics... as of April 20, 2012

PI	NAME	Points
1	John Fassbender	17
2	O.P. Harrison	12
3	Trenny Woodham	11
4	David Thornton	9
4	Mike Foster	9
4	Taylor Guy (J)	9
4	Tim Pierce	9
5	Erik Nelson	8
6	Patric Garmeson	7
7	Donald Garrettson	6
7	Doug Tierce	6
7	Jacob Guy	6
7	Rick Tourne'	6

The following anglers have...

- 5 points:** Henry Nall, Jay O'Brien
- 4 points:** Alvin Bell, Bill Perry, Chris Pierce, Vicki Foster (L)
- 3 points:** Brad McDonald, Eugene Pierce, Pat Sirmon
- 2 points:** Bob Ward, Donnie Howell, Kyle Mitternacht, Mike Vickery, Phillip Guy, Richard Hoffman Jr
- 1 point:** Adam Davis (N), Barry Keith, Bill Midgette, Bubba Williams, Christian Howell (J), Danny Finch, Ed Greer, George Koulianos, Gregory Robinson, Jeb Mann, John Burke, Jonathon Law, Katie Mitternacht (J), Kristen Mitternacht (J), Kyle Eckhoff, Marty Garmeson, Michael Nicholas, Paige Hinton (L), Pat Hughes, Richard Beech, Ronnie Dyson, Rudy Baugh, Ryan Hoffman (J), Selene Finch (L), Steve Hawkins, Steve O'Dell, Ted Lawson, Theo Koulianos, Tom Brooks, Wayne Hawkins

Keep in mind that EVERY participation point you earn in each of our 8 club tournaments gives you another chance in our 'PP Drawing' at the end of the year Awards Banquet (held in December).

Catch, Photo and Release (CPR) Speckled Trout Contest Standing as of April 20, 2012

PL	CPR Speckled Trout	Inches
1	George Harrison	27.00
2	Donald Garrettson	26.00

Donald Garrettson displays a very healthy looking 26 inch speckled trout just prior to release. Looks like he's saying "Git-chu-suma-DAT, cuz!"



Keep in mind the top 5 place CPR Speckled Trout will receive plaques at the end of the year.

Net Man of the Year Point Standings after two tournaments:

NOTE: these point totals are entirely separate from the traditional Tournament Point Standings and have no bearing on the Tournament Points or Master An-

PI	NAME	Points
1	O.P. Harrison	12
2	Trenny Woodham	11
3	Chris Pierce	9
3	David Thornton	9
3	Donald Garrettson	9
4	Phillip Guy	8
5	Mike Foster	7
5	Mike Vickery	7
6	Alvin Bell	6
6	Jacob Guy (J)	6
6	John Fassbender	6
6	Vicki Foster	6
7	Erik Nelson	5
7	Henry Nall	5
7	Jay O'Brien	5
7	Kyle Mitternacht	5

The following anglers have:

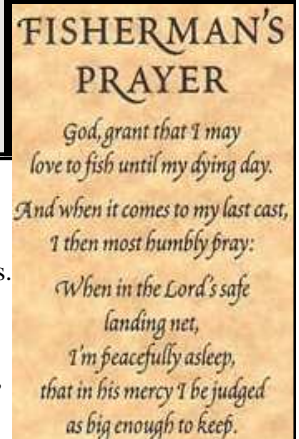
- 4 points:** Christian Howell (J), Rick Tourne', Tim Pierce
- 3 points:** Brad McDonald, Pat Sirmon
- 2 points:** Bill Perry, Donnie Howell, Richard Hoffman Jr
- 1 point:** Adam Davis (N), Barry Keith, Bill Graves, Bill Midgette, Bob Ward, Bubba Williams, Danny Finch, Ed Greer, George Koulianos, John Burke, Kyle Eckhoff, Marty Garmeson, Michael Nicholas, Pat Hughes, Ronnie Dyson, Rudy Baugh, Ryan Hoffman (J), Skip Hinton, Steve Hawkins, Steve O'Dell, Ted Lawson, Theo Koulianos, Tom Brooks, Wayne Hawkins

New: NETMAN (or WOMAN) of the Year Category!

19. Any ACFA angler at the time of their weighing in a tournament fish who declares the eligible member or dependant who actually netted that fish for them (including them selves) will be awarded the same number of points in a separate category called "Netman of the Year". These points will be tallied and kept for the duration of the tournament season and the angler with the most accumulated "net" points will receive this award during the December Banquet.

Sad news to Report:

For those long term ACFA members who knew him and especially for those who never had the chance it is with great sadness to mark the passing of George "Spanish" Turner, one of the club's charter members. He had suffered for some time with emphysema, and was beset with a rare lung disease. Club founder Mike Thompson making the announcement of the ACFA website credited George and his many contacts in the community with helping the club grow in the early years. Fellow charter ACFA member David Hare wrote " We lost a 'GOOD ONE' in George "Spanish" Turner."



Statistics...

as of April 20, 2012

The BIG Fish ContestMail your 2012 Big Fish Contest entries to: **David Thornton 31 Hannon Ave. Mobile, AL 36604 (ph: 251-458-2775)**

	Blackfish	WT		Flounder	WT		Ground Mullet	WT		Redfish	WT
1			1	O.P. Harrison	3.17	1	John Fassbender	1.90	1	Trenny Woodham	6.40
2			2			2	David Thornton	1.77	2	Donnie Howell	6.40
3			3			3	David Thornton	1.44	3	O.P. Harrison	6.35
4			4			4	O.P. Harrison *	1.15	4	Trenny Woodham	5.55
5			5			5	Tim Pierce	1.15	5	O.P. Harrison	5.60
6			6			6	Taylor Guy (J)	1.00	6	Pat Sirmon	5.55
7			7			7			7		
8			8			8			8		
9			9			9			9		
10			10			10			10		
	Sheepshead	WT		Spanish Mackerel	WT		Speckled Trout	WT		White Trout	WT
1	John Fassbender	9.00	1	David Thornton	3.24	1	Patric Garmeson	8.05	1	Bill Midgette	2.54
2	Henry Nall	8.70	2			2	Trenny Woodham *	8.00	2	O.P. Harrison	2.48
3	Bill Perry	7.45	3			3	George Harrison	8.00	3	Marty Garmeson	2.47
4	Vicki Foster (L)	7.15	4			4	Trenny Woodham	6.80	4	O.P. Harrison	2.00
5	Alvin Bell	6.65	5			5	Jay O'Brien	6.44	5	Trenny Woodham	1.70
6	Mike Foster	6.30	6			6			6		
7	Vicki Foster (L)	6.00	7			7			7		
8			8			8			8		
9			9			9			9		
10			10			10			10		
* First to weigh in (N) New Member (J) Junior Angler (L) Lady Angler											

The Speckled Trout Challenge...

originated some years ago when Mike Thompson, founder of the then 'upstart' ACFA fishing club challenged the established Saltwater Sportsmen's Association (SSA) to a speckled trout tournament for bragging rights. After six years of friendly competition (and usually ACFA victories) the SSA 'opted out' of the competition in 2004. At that time the newly formed Weeks Bay Fishing Club (WBFC) challenged the ACFA to continue the series. The ACFA prevailed for 7 years in a row and each year the competition lessened. So this year our President has proposed a different kind of challenge hoping to increase the participation and 'fun factor' this tournament once held.

Teams this year are designated as ACFA anglers of 40 years and younger vs ACFA anglers 41 years and older. (it doesn't matter how old ;-)

For the benefit of those members who may not be familiar with this tournament, the format is as follows: Speckled trout ONLY, (plus Jr Speckled Trout). These MUST be caught during the competition hours (**5am to 5 pm Saturday May 5th**) by currently paid members, or qualified family members (spouse or children under age 16). Live and/or artificial baits are allowed, but all specks MUST be caught in a sporting manner on hook and line (NO net caught fish). All contestants must launch and fish in Alabama waters ONLY. Remember, you're on your honor! We are fishing for 'bragging rights' and of course plaques and tournament points (3 points for a Top 10 speck and 1 point for any angler with a 'legal' speck).

The weigh-in will be from 3 pm to 5pm (Sat May 5th) in the parking lot just west of the Public Launch Ramp (known as Chocallotta Bay) on the Highway 90/98 Causeway just west of the I-10 crossover. In addition, again this year the UCP (United Cerebral Palsy) will be having a tournament running concurrently with ours so please remember to "park smart" to allow as many folks as possible access to the launches and tournament weigh-in areas. Park off premises (IF possible) and be sure to secure your equipment from theft. As usual a fish fry will be provided by the ACFA along with cole slaw and cheese grits. You don't want to miss that! Plus it's also a great opportunity to help a worthy cause with UCP (see the flyer on the next page for full details of this concurrent tournament).

Weigh masters representing both tournaments (ACFA and UCP) will be present with separate digital scales to weigh the fish for each tournament. An official ACFA weight log will be kept with notations of the time, angler's name, weight of the fish, Netman, and team affiliation.

As soon as the scale officially closes after 5pm, the fish weights will be assessed and points awarded for the top 10 specks.

10 points for 1st place, down to 1 point for 10th place. Example: the 4th heaviest is worth 7 points and the 8th heaviest 3 points, etc.

The 55 total available points will be divided up according to the team affiliations of the anglers weighing in those 10 specks.

The team with the most total points is declared the winner and will obtain the 'bragging rights' for a full year.

Remember, we are just fishing for **ONE big trout**. So go get 'em!

- ✓ Speckled Trout
- ✓ White Trout
- ✓ Flounder

United Cerebral Palsy's 5th Annual Inshore Fishing Tournament

Where: Chocalotta Bay Landing

Date: Saturday, May 5, 2012

Times: Weigh in 1 p.m - 5 p.m.

Entry: \$25.00 Entry Fee

Prizes:



FOR ALL CATEGORIES

1st Place: Calcutta Reel, \$50 Gift Card & Ice Chest

2nd Place: Ambassador Rod & Reel Combo, \$40 Gift Card & Ice Chest

3rd Place: Tackle Box, \$25 Gift Card & Ice Chest

Speckled Trout Jackpot

☆ 3 Fish Creel ☆

\$50.00 per boat

Buy your tickets at:

Quints Hardware

Southern Bama Bait & Tackle

McCoy Outdoor

UCP of Mobile

For more information contact:

Gina Johnson

rjohnson@ucpmobile.org

251.479.4900

visit us at www.ucpmobile.org

United Cerebral Palsy is gearing up host its 5th Annual Inshore Fishing Tournament on Saturday, May 5th.

Weigh-in will run Saturday, May 5, 2011 from 1:00 p.m. through 5:00 p.m. unless otherwise noted.

The tournament headquarters and weigh-in station will be the Chocalotta Bay Landing (a public launch) located on the causeway. Tickets are \$25 per person, and all persons in the boat must have a ticket. Pier fishermen are welcome to participate.

Speckled Trout Jackpot (3 Fish Creel) Tickets are \$50 per Angler

Categories for the competition include Speckled Trout, White Trout, and Flounder.

Prizes will be given in each of the three categories from first through third place and winning entries will be based on size of fish.



UCP of Mobile provides over a dozen programs throughout south and central Alabama with a focus of helping people with disabilities live life without limits. Over 700 families in 28 counties benefit from services that originate with United Cerebral Palsy.

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