



# DIFF CLUB NEWS



## AT THE TOP



### **Amaranthus pumilus**

Sea-beach amaranth is an annual plant found on the dunes of Atlantic Ocean beaches. Stems are pink-red with small rounded leaves 1.3 to 2.5 cm in diameter. The veined leaves are clustered at the tip of the stem and have a small notch at the rounded tip. Flowers and fruits are inconspicuous, borne in clusters along the stems. Germination occurs from April to July. Upon germination, the species branches profusely into a clump consisting of five to twenty branches reaching 30 cm in diameter and occasionally as much as one meter with 100 or more branches.

Status: Endangered.



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## First Annual Spring Tournament!

The tournament was a success, small but a success. The evaluation completed by most competitors indicated that we should have another one next year. As director, I am for it too!

We started the tournament Friday after checking with the 9:30 ferry and ended on time Saturday with a total of 50 tournament members. Every team entered checked in fish Saturday and reported the same thing- slow fishing! It was suggested by all teams that we add one more species to the tournament for next year, GREEN HEAD FLIES! As usual, they were a mess but did not stop the fun and excitement of the event.

Most contestants were catching spots, whiting, flounder, drum, croaker and blues. Spots were the go-to fish for the first two place teams. Fish Ambulance hit on 10 measurable spot the last day of the tournament and second place team, Just Fish, had one team member that also caught 10 measurable spots.

Large fish were shown at the weigh-in by Sonny Justice of Spartanburg, SC, Bo Willard of Columbia, SC, Bill Cater of Fort Mill, SC, and Sam Thompson from Raleigh, NC. It is important to point out that all four are first time DIFF members and Sam is only 8 years old. It was a special treat to watch Sam reel in that 27 inch drum on a Mitchell

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## 21st Annual Surf Fishing Fall Tournament

The theme for the 2006 Fall Tournament is "Creating our Future Memories". Can anyone make the top-10 Bragging Rights list three years in a row? Will the veterans prevail, or will another youngster be a first-place winner? What is J.W. Smith's plan for the Puppy Drum category? If you've never attended, you are missing a fun event for both the novice and the alleged expert. It's a great opportunity to exchange fishing tales and make new friends!

Tournament registration is from 8:00 to 11:00 AM on Thursday September 28 at Cabin 10. The mandatory pre-tournament meeting begins there at 11:00 AM. Expected guests include concessionaire Great Island Cabins and Ferry Service and representatives of the Cape Lookout Na-

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300! When he got it to shore, he did not grab it by the lip or the gills, he hugged as a father would his first child. What an exciting story that will be for young Sam for many years to come.



**First Place: Fish Ambulance, \$200  
Jim Thompson, Clyde Cheek, Sanford Thompson and Sam Thompson (8 years old!)**

As usual, the giving spirit of the DIFF members and supporters was evident. The third place team of Ray Coates, Allen Wooten, Johnny Wells, and Mary Ellen Wetherington donated their total team purse of \$100.00 back to the DIFF club. Door prizes were not expected at this event but some of the DIFF members came through with some very nice door prizes. Fish Ambulance team member, Captain Clyde Cheek was able to secure two nice hats from Reel Outdoor Adventures in Emerald Isle and Robert Wilson was kind enough to donate some extreme glow sticks for night fishing. He was also able to donate two nice mugs and rod holders provided by Arco Metal Technology. The rod holders are by far, some of the best we have seen at CALO. I am almost sure he can get us all one for the right price. Yours truly, got my hands on 1000 pieces of chewing gum for dispersal, let's see, that is 20 pieces per contestant. Do we have a dentist in the club? Finally, the DIFF club donated stickers to each contestant and car tags to all new members.

With some upgrades, fine tuning, and tweaking we all thought the tournament should be an annual event.

**Connie Grant**



**Second Place: Just Fish! \$150  
Niles Chumley, Connie Grant, Johnny Williams and Josh Williams**



**Third Place: The Ray Coates Team, \$100  
Allen Wooten, Ray Coates, Johnny Well and Mary Ellen Wetherington**



**Fourth Place: The Road Toads, \$50  
Jason Loftin, Sammy Vernon, Matthew Martin and Lanier Smith (not pictured)**

Photos by Josh Williams

tional Seashore. Lee Paramore of the North Carolina Division of Marine Fisheries plans to participate by examining fish carcasses, providing fish tagging kits, and educating us with the latest fishery resource management information.

The fish weigh-in is from 10:00 AM to 12:00 Noon on Saturday September 30. Lunch, door prizes and tournament winner presentations should wrap-up by 2:00. Plan your boat reservations accordingly.

Robert Wilson and Vickie King are the new contacts for tournament sponsors this year. Contact Robert or Vickie if you know of any sponsor's interested in donating cash or merchandise. Mark Childress of GICFS is making the arrangements for our Saturday lunch. Check out our current and past sponsors at [www.diffclub.com](http://www.diffclub.com) and support them with your business.

Attached are five raffle tickets for the Honda 1000 generator. Mail the short stubs with a check for \$25.00 to DIFF before September 1, or bring it to the Tournament. You do not have to be present to win.

Please complete the enclosed 2006 Tournament Rules and Entry Form. *All entries must be post-marked no later than July 31.* The normal \$60.00 entry fee is required and your \$20.00 annual membership dues must also be paid. Mail it to DIFF, PO Box 268, Mooresville NC 28115. The rules are also posted at [www.diffclub.com](http://www.diffclub.com).

Join us in "Creating our Future Memories".



**Mark Weir**

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## Red Drum Fishery Management Plan Update

Over the next 12 months the NCDMF will continue updating the Fishery Management Plan (FMP) for red drum. The NC Marine Fisheries Commission adopted the current NC Red Drum FMP during 2001. Management measures implemented as a result of the 2001 plan were designed to divert over-fishing and allow for increased escapement of juvenile red drum to the adult stocks. Harvest restrictions implemented include the current one fish recreational bag limit, the seven fish commercial trip limit and the slot size limit of 18 to 27 inches total length. The updated FMP, slated to be completed in 2007, will evaluate the effectiveness of these management measures through an updated stock assessment and will address various issues dealing with the fishery, as well as habitat and water quality. A major component of the FMP process is the involvement of public advisors to assist in the develop-

ment of the long-term management goals of the plan. An Advisory Committee consists of representatives from the recreational, commercial and scientific communities. Comments are encouraged throughout the plan development stages through various public meetings. If you would like more information on the NC Red Drum FMP or would like to know how to apply to become an advisor please contact Lee Paramore at (252) 473-5734 or [Lee.Paramore@ncmail.net](mailto:Lee.Paramore@ncmail.net).

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### More Spring Tourney Pix



**Bo Willard's Big Blue**



**Sonny Justice with slot Drum**

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# Spring Work-trip

**A**gain, volunteers from the DIFF Club and Core Banks Surf Fishing Club (CBSFC) came together under the leadership of Tom (The Whip) Monaco from April 20-23, 2006. Tom exercised his culinary skill to keep the troops happily fed and watered...love that fried Spam sandwich! A total of 146 man hours of masking and spray-painting resulted in covering the exteriors of Cabins 2, 3, 5, 6, 8 and 26. Ninety gallons of paint were used to paint these new cabins for the first time.

Representing CBSFC were: Dan (The Spraymeister) Mott, Wayne Brooks, Dan Nietschman, Pieter Westerbeek, Johnny Deans, Jay Deans, Jimmy Daughtry, Mitch Robinson, Mike Rowe and Jonathan Rowe.

Volunteers with dual membership in DIFF and CBSFC were: Tom Monaco, Mike Laughlin, Frank Long and Jack Davis.

Rounding out our merry band were DIFF members: Adam White, Blake Smith and Brandon Markland who contributed 24 man hours repairing a roof at CLEEC.

The two clubs have now painted all 26 cabins! The volunteers are grateful to Mike McGee, Bob Vogel and the NPS Staff for having the equipment and supplies needed for the painting of six new cabins. We also thank Mark Childress and the Great Island Cabins and Ferry Service Staff for their cooperation and coordination of the work-trip.

Good painting weather is also great fishing weather! When the work was done, the work crew relaxed with surf-rod (and a cool one) in hand, gaining the spiritual uplift of watching shorebirds and listening to the ocean...also caught a few!



**Dan Mott**



**Frank Long**



**Blake Smith and Adam White**



**Dan Nietschman**

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## President's Letter

I'm sure you will agree that the current year has really flown by and plenty has happened since the start of the year. The Board of Directors worked hard to understand and advise our membership of potential effects of the proposed Interim Protected Species Management Plan/Environmental Assessment (IPSMPEA). We have responded to the Park Service with certain views of the membership and hope the Park Service adopts a plan which reasonably provides protection of various animals and plants, and, at the same time provides needed freedom of island visitors to enjoy what OUR island has to offer. Regularly contact your elected officials to keep them aware of your desires and concerns regarding Park Service activities relating to Cape Lookout. In any event, plan on some changes at the island which may be contrary to what you want to see. Situations like this require certain concessions from all to make all parties feel that a reasonable compromise has been achieved.

This is the last year that island visitors can fish without a fishing license. The State Legislature passed a bill that requires you to purchase a saltwater fishing license effective January 1, 2007. It will be interesting to see if the money raised from the sale of this license actually goes to the intended purpose or is eventually mixed in with general revenue that the elected officials will squander on the State's ailing budget.

Our new Spring tournament was a huge success! Many thanks go to Connie Grant for his willingness to take on the role of Tournament Director. We hope to see this become an annual event with each year exceeding the previous years success. Many suggestions were made regarding the timing and format of the tournament which will be considered when planning the next tournament. As for the Fall Tournament, I hope to see each of you there this September to make this year's tournament the biggest we have had. Our tournament committee is working hard to make it a successful event. The cut off date for entry is July 31 so hurry up and get your entry fee in the mail. Also, with this newsletter you are provided raffle tickets that add needed funds to our treasury. Please make an effort to sell all of them.

**Roger Wise**



## "Sweet Old Bob"

Long time D.I.F.F. member Bob Thompson passed away May 27, 2006. Born January 6, 1931 in Jackson, Mississippi, Bob graduated from Chamberlain Hunt Military Academy, attended the University of Southern Mississippi and served his country in the US Army during the Korean War. After traveling around the U.S. he met and married Sara to whom he was married 49 years. They raised two sons, Bobby and Billy and have two grandsons and one granddaughter.

Bob's memorial service, held in Charlotte, was attended by a number of DIFF members and his family specifically mentioned to me how much they appreciated the support of these individuals.

Well known for his love of fishing and the outdoors, Bob was a dedicated DIFF member. His preparations of tackle, nets, and fishing rods reached a fever pitch as each annual tournament approached. Although Bob placed in the top prizes a number of times, he had grown above the worry as to how many we caught or saw. He taught me about the privileges and enjoyment that is gained by simply spending time in beautiful places with good friends.

Bob liked to introduce himself as Bob, "but you can call me SOB". Then he'd laugh and say, "Sweet Old Bob". Always joking and smiling, Bob thoroughly enjoyed each day and through his love of people and his giving spirit, he enriched many lives.

I was blessed to have been able to spend the amount of time that I did with Bob. I remember the first outdoor adventure with him and each of many after that. These will be deep and lasting memories of him for me and for other friends who had the same privilege.

I'll continue my fishing and outdoor adventures and I'll carry Bob's memory with me. I know he'd want that for me and all of the DIFF members. I hope that each of you will remember Bob as I do and will continue to support conservation of the natural world and the DIFF Club as Bob did.

**Ned Arthur**



**Bob Thompson  
1931-2006**

# DIFF Club News

Davis Island Fishing Foundation  
P.O. Box 268  
Mooreville, NC 28115



## **Davis Island Fishing Foundation**

P .O. Box 268  
Mooreville, NC 28115

### **Officers**

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### **Board of Directors**

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Vickie King 919 632 3099  
Adam White 336 788 0478  
Robert Wilson 252 235 5141

Email us at: [diff@diffclub.com](mailto:diff@diffclub.com)

**DIFF makes a DIFFerence!**

*The Davis Island Fishing Foundation is a non-profit group dedicated to preserving the cultural, historic and natural heritage of Davis Island in Carteret County, NC.*

*The DIFF CLUB helps maintain the cabins at the Great Island camp and is involved in projects designed to protect the fish and wildlife population in the portion of Cape Lookout Seashore known as Core Banks South.*

*Club members can fish in annual spring and fall fishing tournaments sponsored by the Club.*

*If you are interested in joining DIFF, see the membership form inside.*

*This newsletter is published quarterly and edited by Mike Laughlin. 803 328 8915.*

