

# Smallmouth Bass Fly Fishing



# Virginia Non-resident License

Non-resident: \$36 annual & \$16 five day

<http://www.dgif.state.va.us/licenses/>

Available at:

Wal-Mart in Madison Heights VA (Hwy 130 & 501)

Big Island Country Store in Big Island on Hwy 501

Jellystone Campground at Natural Bridge

# Fishing Gear

5-7 weight fly rods

8 wt for larger flies & BIG fish

Bass bug taper floating lines

Sink tip fly lines

Leaders / tippets to match your flies

7 ½ foot leaders 6-10 lb tippet

Wading staff

Polarized glasses

Good wading boots

# Watercraft

Canoes - vs. - Kick Boats

Use what you have

Caution when anchoring in swift  
water and rock ledges

# Fly Selection

Sneaky Pete's

Freaner Flasher's

Clouser Minnows

Lefty's Potomac Popper

Crayfish patterns

Deer hair poppers

Pencil poppers

Woolly buggers



Freaner Flasher



Frenner Flasher



Freaner's Flasher





Clouser's Minnow



Sneaky Pete



















# Additional Fly Patterns

- Mad Tom Sculpin
- Hellgrammites
- Shenk's Sculpin and White Streamer
- Hoppers
- Mr. Rappidán dry
- Irresistible dry – skate them!!!
- Damsel fly patterns, dry and nymphs



# Delorme Atlas

6<sup>th</sup> edition, 2005

Pages 52 – 53

# Google Maps

# James and Maury River

Hwy 501 No. from Durham to Lynchburg VA

Hwy 86 No. from Hillsborough to Hwy 29 in Danville VA to Hwy 501 to Lynchburg VA.

In Lynchburg p/u Hwy 130 to Glasgow VA or stay on Hwy 501 and intersect with Hwy 130 north of Big Island at the James River

135 miles from Hillsborough to  
Hwy 130/501 intersection in  
Glasgow VA

About the same distance from  
Durham via Hwy 501

# Maury River

<http://maps.google.com/maps?hl=en&ie=UTF8&ll=37.632654,79.442053&spn=0.0307,0.05579&t=p&z=14>

Small in size, easily navigated by canoe or kick boat. Mixed water type.

Note: Maury River does not show up on Google Maps, above is the general area of River Road



# Maurry River Road

1<sup>st</sup> road on the left north of the Hwy 130 to Glasgow and the 501 north to Buena Vista turnoff. Look for pull offs to launch from. Comes back to Hwy 501, so. of Buena Vista

A couple miles upstream there is an old mill site.  
Good wading access.

Maury and James River confluence at the railroad trestle on river right.



# James River Access

Maury River confluence  
and Natural Bridge  
upstream to  
Glen Wilbon area

# Jellystone Campground to Maury River

Jellystone Campground to Maury River

Hwy 130 west from Glasgow 3-4 miles to Valley Rd. Turn left, cross James River, 1<sup>st</sup> left, James River Rd. 1 mile to campground on your left.

Fishing access, VA fishing licenses, canoe rental and shuttle.      [www.campnbr.com](http://www.campnbr.com)

<http://maps.google.com/maps?hl=en&ie=UTF8&ll=37.614163,79.492307&spn=0.030799,0.05579&z=>

# Gilmers Mill Rd to Jellystone

Access on Gilmers/Gillmores Mill Rd,  
downstream of Rocky Rd and Forest Oaks Rd

Slow water last couple of miles to camp  
Good first float for the James River

<http://maps.google.com/maps?hl=en&ie=UTF8&ll=37.581147,79.600282&spn=0.007703,0.013947&z=16>

# Indian Rock to Gilmers Mill

Lee Hwy or Frontage Rd along I-81 to Indian Rock Road. Follow Indian Rock Rd to river, cross RR tracks, parking ahead on side of river.

<http://maps.google.com/maps?hl=en&ie=UTF8&ll=37.562371,79.631438&spn=0.007705,0.013947&z=16>

# Arcadia to Gilmores Mill

I-81, exit 168, Arcadia Rd

Follow Arcadia Rd to the river, high bridge crosses the river, access area on your right

<http://maps.google.com/maps?hl=en&ie=UTF8&ll=37.554989,79.645815&spn=0.015412,0.027895&z=15>

# Buchanan to Arcadia

I-81 South to Exit 167 to Buchanan

Cross the river, 1<sup>st</sup> right, Lowe St.

Access area on your right.

[http://maps.google.com/maps?hl=en&ie=UTF](http://maps.google.com/maps?hl=en&ie=UTF8&ll=37.53185,79.679332&spn=0.015417,0.027895&z=15)

[F8&ll=37.53185,79.679332&spn=0.015417,](http://maps.google.com/maps?hl=en&ie=UTF8&ll=37.53185,79.679332&spn=0.015417,0.027895&z=15)

[0.027895&z=15](http://maps.google.com/maps?hl=en&ie=UTF8&ll=37.53185,79.679332&spn=0.015417,0.027895&z=15)



# Springwood to Buchanan

I-81 exit 167 towards Buchanan. Right on 1st Street / Hwy 43 / Narrow Passage Rd (on right just before river)

Follow to high school. Turn left on Springwood Rd. Cross river, 1<sup>st</sup> right onto River/Thrasher Rd. Parking is below bridge.

<http://maps.google.com/maps?hl=en&ie=UTF8&ll=37.545734,79.73598&spn=0.015414,0.027895&z=15>

# Narrow Passage to Springwood

Hwy 43/Narrow Passage Rd pas  
Springwood Rd about 5 miles. State access  
area will be on your left.

Note: this area is downstream from Salt  
Peter Cave area in a narrow section of road.

<http://maps.google.com/maps?hl=en&ie=UTF8&ll=37.587371,79.727612&spn=0.015405,0.027895&z=15>

# Salt peter Cave to Narrow Passage

Hwy 43 north to Salt Peter Cave Rd, left.

Parking area is along the RR tracks bordering the river.

Note: you have to cross the RR tracks and Billy goat down a steep hill to the access area. Risky, but worth it for the float.

[http://maps.google.com/maps?hl=en&ie=UTF8&ll](http://maps.google.com/maps?hl=en&ie=UTF8&ll37.631261,79.78456&spn=0.007698,0.013947&z=16)

[37.631261,79.78456&spn=0.007698,0.013947&z=](http://maps.google.com/maps?hl=en&ie=UTF8&ll37.631261,79.78456&spn=0.007698,0.013947&z=16)

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# Eagle Rock to Salt Peter Cave

Hwy 43 north to Eagle Rock. Left on James St, cross the river, right on Botetourt Rd. Left on Patterson Trail. Dirt road immediately on your right, follow downhill below bridge is a parking area and river access via Craig Creek. Tough take out area.

<http://maps.google.com/maps?hl=en&ie=UTF8&ll=37.646044,79.814129&spn=0.015393,0.027895&z=15>

# Gala to Eagle Rock

Follow Hwy 220 / Botetourt Rd to Gala Convenience store on left, natural gas facility on left, dirt road on north side of facility. Park along RR track. Follow short path to river.

<http://maps.google.com/maps?hl=en&ie=UTF8&ll=37.690112,79.811833&spn=0.015384,0.027895&z=15>

# Glen Wilbon to Gala

Grom Gala, stay on Hwy 220 north to bridge that crosses the James River. Left onto Glen Wilton Rd. Parking on downstream side of bridge.

Note: Long float!

[http://maps.google.com/maps?hl=en&ie=UTF](http://maps.google.com/maps?hl=en&ie=UTF8&ll=37.773429,79.782028&spn=0.061467,0.11158&z=13)

[F8&ll=37.773429,79.782028&spn=0.061467](http://maps.google.com/maps?hl=en&ie=UTF8&ll=37.773429,79.782028&spn=0.061467,0.11158&z=13)

[,0.11158&z=13](http://maps.google.com/maps?hl=en&ie=UTF8&ll=37.773429,79.782028&spn=0.061467,0.11158&z=13)



# JB's Favorite Floats

Narrow Passage to Springwood

Buchanan to Arcadia

Gala to Eagle Rock

Maury River to James River confluence

**Malcolm's favorite float:**

Arcadia to Buchanan. One tough paddle!



# FOOD!!

- Todd's BBQ in Buena Vista
- Country Kitchen at Natural Bridge Gauging Station
- Glasgow, VA
- I-81 between Natural Bridge and Buchanan VA
- Buchanan VA eateries

# References

- Fly Fishing for Smallmouth Bass
- Fly Fishing Techniques for Smallmouth Bass  
by Harry Murray
- Fly Fishing for Smallmouth  
by Bob Clouser
- James River Guide  
by Bruce Ingram

# Fly Shops

- Great Outdoor Provision Co  
Raleigh, Chapel Hill
- Harry Murray's, Edinburg VA
- Orvis, Roanoke & Raleigh
- <http://stores.ebay.com/Gypsy-Outdoors>

