



Angler Profile



T. Steele Byrum
Smithfield, VA

Family:

Wife – Nancy, the catch of my life.
Parents – Cecil and Deborah Byrum
Brother – Chad Byrum

Occupation:

Financial Analyst for Smithfield Foods, Inc. & Part Time Farmer

Education:

1997 – Isle of Wight Academy
2001 – Bachelors of Science in Accounting – Christopher Newport University

Hobbies/Interests:

Fishing, Farming, Golf & Softball

Sponsors:

My wife Nancy – If it weren't for her understanding and patience my fishing habit wouldn't be possible.

Primary Co-Angler:

Dean Price

Years fishing tournaments:

First year – Only fished 1 tournament at this point

Career Highlights:

So far just being able to fish competitively is a highlight for me. I'm grateful for Bass Jons for organizing their events for the weekend hobbyist.

Tournament Clubs/Trails Fished:

2006 – Bass Jons

Personal Record Catches:

Largest 1-Day Tournament Stringer: zip
Biggest Bass – 6 lbs 15 oz – non tournament

Key Point to Live By:

- Give a man a fish, you feed him for a day, teach a man to fish, and you've ruined your honey hole.
- A bad day of fishing is better than my best day at work, and better than most things I can think of in general.
- If it were easy they'd call it catching.
- A country boy can survive.
- Sometimes in our pursuit of happiness we need to just stop and be happy.

Interesting Fishing Memorabilia:

The Virginia personalized license plate "FISH" has been in my family ever since Virginia came out with personalized tags. This past year those tags were handed down to me and I ride them proudly.

Favorite Fishing Joke:

Jesus must have fed the multitude with a Blackfish because the more of him you eat the more of it there is.

Favorite Pro:

Out of current anglers I'm a big Gerald Swindle fan, he just looks like he's having the most fun. But I love to watch Jimmy Houston fish, and I'm a big fan that he includes his wife in anything he can, and the man has a great outlook on life.

Tournament Preparation:

- Daydreaming at work about fishing on the weekend.
- Inspect gear, Tie or retie all my rods and reels.
- Prepare a change of clothes in case of the unexpected.
- Visualize what I want to do on the water.

When did you get starting fishing tournaments...

On March 4th of this year; after chasing bass across every known pond and ditch from Isle of Wight County to North Carolina I wanted to get into fishing Suffolk Lakes. As expected there's a lot of water, fish are hard to find and are a little more temper mental to what I'm accustomed.

Favorite and worst fishing location:

There's a pond not too far from where I grew up that my great grandfather and his brother dug out. This is where I learned to fish and I have many fond memories with my grandfather and great uncle there.

Lake Meade is my least favorite. It seems that bad weather pops up unexpectedly, and unpredicted every time I go there and I'm as far away from the boat ramp as I can be.

Favorite lure(s):

Top water popper on a scorching hot day and anything Texas Rigged are my two favorite lures. Give me a bullet, Gamakatsu 3/0 hook, a turkey leg and I'll do my best to make it work.

What is the best part of fishing?

I think the challenge of catching an unseen adversary is probably what makes fishing different than any other sport. Fishing is also so mental that everything else that might be going on in your head seems to go away while you're on the water. There is no better way to spend time with your buddy, father, grandfather, or whomever than fishing. And no two trips fishing are ever alike which makes me more excited every time I get my stuff ready to go.

What's your best "fish story"?!

I had been begging one of my best buddies to go out fishing with me after work one afternoon. I had just gotten a new Jon boat, but was having a hard time finding someone to fill the back seat. One day he agreed and we went to a local pond. And I don't know if we hit the moon just right or what, it was in June, but between 6 o'clock, and dark we had caught fifty bass and were literally tired from reeling in fish. I've never experienced anything like it fishing. There wasn't much size to the fish but we had the greatest time.

I took another friend of mine fishing one day and he had never gone. This guy is about 6'6" and about 280 lbs, a beast of a man. All day I had caught fish and he had either missed fish, or got hung in stumps. Well finally with a cigarette in one hand and talking on his cell phone with the other, he hung a 5lber, and when he finally got it to the boat he would barely touch the thing, he was scared shitless of it, I could barely get him to hold it long enough to take a picture with it. He later told me that he only thought fish that big were caught on TV.

For the sake of keeping this person's identity anonymous, we'll call my best fishing buddy Dean Price. Dean Price and I had started fishing together pretty regularly since I got my boat. We were unloading the boat off the trailer one day and he thought it would be a good idea to get in the boat from the pier. When he went to push off, one leg went one way and one stayed on the pier, then he was in the drink. I'll never forget that look on his face as long as I live.

That same anonymous person, Dean Price, one day got a Crankbait stuck in a submerged treetop. Instead of letting me guide the boat to the tree he decides that pulling it as hard as he could, would have naturally dislodged the crank from the tree. And he was right, but he failed to accurately calculate the velocity in which that Crankbait would come back at him. And this proved to be a fatal error, as not one but both treble hooks got stuck in his leg. This story is only funny because no one was seriously hurt; however when fishing with Dean, always wear sun glasses, even if fishing at night.

The last two stories are pretty good, but my best fish story was putting Dean on an 8 ½ pound Hawg. I threatened that if he didn't get the fish in the boat that he could never fish with me again and that I'd throw him out. But he did everything just right and we got him in the boat. No one has more fun fishing together than Dean and I. Dean, if you ever read this, thanks for all the good times, and may there be many more.