



Blane Chocklett Musky School-New/James Rivers January 2nd- 8th, 2026

Thanks for signing up for Mad River Outfitters excursion down to southwest Virginia to join Blane Chocklett and Virginia Trophy Guides for Blane's master class and four days of fishing on the New and James Rivers near Boones Mill, Virginia. We are looking forward to sharing this beautiful area with you.

Following is some important information on the trip including an equipment listing. If you have any further questions please don't hesitate to contact us at the shop.

Also, if you haven't already, a *50% deposit is required* to hold your spot and the full balance is due no later than 60 days prior to the trip.

Itinerary-

Plan on arriving at Brookwood House property between 5-7pm on Friday, January 2nd taking care of your own dinner before arriving. **Address for the property is 7139 Starlight Ln, Boones Mill, VA 24065**

If you choose to fly in, the closest airport is going to be Roanoke regional. You will need to rent a car from there.

Upon arrival, your host Josh Trammell will be on site to greet you and introduce to your hosts for the week Blane Chocklett as well as Josh Laferty, Austin Conrad and Braden Miller of Virginia Trophy Guides. Once everyone has arrived and settled in on Friday night, we will go over our schedule for the week. We'll then share a few drinks and hangout with Blane and the boys from VTG as we wind down for the evening.

Saturday morning we'll get up and plan on having a light breakfast around 8 a.m. At 9 a.m. we will start Blane's Big Fly Casting Class and that will continue until around noon. He'll go over techniques and tips to better perfect your casting skills when throwing large flies for predatory fish. Rods will be provided if you choose not to bring your own. He'll also cover a variety of different ways to rig and fish your flies as well as hook sets and fighting fish. This is a small group format throughout the whole day so questions are encouraged!

Lunch will be from Noon-1pm and we'll grill up some burgers and hot dogs before we continue on with the rest of our day.

After we finish up lunch we will gather in the lodge for some tying demonstrations from Blane. He will go over multiple different flies as well as some important parts in the build of those flies that will help them “swim” correctly and effectively. Blane is a master of his craft and his mind works like no one else’s in the industry. If you’re a fan of tying articulated flies then this is a class that you don’t want to miss!

We’ll end day one with a cocktail time from roughly 5pm till we gather for some fine southern catering around 7pm.

Sunday through Wednesday are our fishing days. We’ll split up into groups of two and each of you will get to fish one day with Blane, Josh, Austin and Braden. We will either have shuttles provided for each of the floats or self shuttle vehicles depending on water conditions at the time of the trip. We will be meeting the guides at the river in the mornings. Breakfast items will be available each morning for you to choose from and lunches will be provided while out fishing. We like to get as much fishing time in as possible for these species while out on the water so a quick, hearty sandwich and a bag of chips is the norm.

We’ll plan on being on the water from around 8am-4pm and have dinner back at the lodge around 7pm.

Breakfast items will be available for guests on the morning of Thursday the January 8th before we check out. Guests need to be out by 10am.

Flight Information-

You should fly into the Roanoke Regional Airport (ROA). Flights can be obtained through a variety of carriers. You’ll need to rent a car to get yourself to the house from there

Included in the Trip-

This is an inclusive package that includes 6 nights lodging, 1 day masterclass with Blane, 4 days of guided fishing with Blane and VTG, all meals and all equipment for the week excluding waders, rain gear and polarized sunglasses

Not included: fishing license, guide tips, alcoholic beverages, dinner upon arrival the first night, transportation to the house from the airport

What to Expect-

Blane and Virginia Trophy Guides have prepared an exceptional time for us; Blane’s masterclass followed up by 4 days of fishing for the baddest freshwater fish that swims in North America’s oldest river. We’re going to have a blast showing you the area, targeting some awesome fish and enjoying some spectacular food!

Lodging- Brookwood is a beautiful boutique waterfront rental property, intimate event venue, and regenerative retreat space nestled in the heart of the Blue Ridge Mountains of Roanoke, Virginia. Designed, built, and highly

curated by an architect and his partner, it is a space specially designed for peace, regeneration, art, creativity, and connection. Backing up to a babbling creek with a waterfall, a large swimming pool, verandas, and terraced gardens. It is the perfect space for our week!

Meals- **Please specify any food allergies or dietary restrictions with the shop before the trip**

Breakfast will be pretty simple with mainly “grab and go” items such as bagels and cream cheese, cereal, muffins, fruit, etc.

Lunch on the class day will consist of burgers and hot dogs as well as various sides. River lunches each day will include a hearty sandwich along with chips and drinks

Musky fishing is good, honest work! We want you to be well fed at the end of each day. Expect dinner to be served around 6:30-7 every night. The menu will feature classic proteins and hearty southern sides

Alcoholic Beverages- will not be included but can be purchased if you choose not to have any with you. Just let Josh Trammell know if you need things from the store and he can grab them. We will have plenty of ice at the house

Tipping- of guides is always appropriate and appreciated. Cash at the end of each day to the guide is the ideal way to handle this. The amount of tip is at your discretion and reflects your appreciation of the work of the guide. We are often asked how much to tip....suggested standard tip is \$70-\$100 per angler per day. Of course, the sky's the limit for an exceptional guide!

Recommended Tackle List-guides will provide all equipment but if you would like to bring your own here's what they recommend

Rods- While rods will be provided many anglers prefer to fish with their own. We recommend a 10-12wt rod capable of handling larger flies. Temple Fork Outfitters along with Blane Chocklett have designed the BC Big Fly rod just for what we're going to be doing

Reels- The only thing you need to worry about here is finding a reel that balances out the rod you have well. Fights from musky are typically quick and you never have to put them on the reel. Too light and your fly is going to feel like a brick on the end of your rod; too heavy and you're not going to enjoy casting all day. Give the shop a call and we can help set you up with something that balances well

Fly Lines- Sinking lines are recommended for this trip. Scientific Anglers Triple Density line in I/3/5 is a great line in most scenarios. Should you need something that sinks quicker or runs shallow, the guides will provide it

Leader/Tippet- Leaders are very simple for musky fishing. You can either purchase a pre-built leader such as Scientific Anglers Absolute Predator Esox leader or Rio Pike/Musky or build your own based on our 3-4 part formula. 4-5' for sinking/intermediate lines and 7-8' for floating lines. 40lb bite wire is recommended.

Flies- Flies will be provided but if you want to bring some of your own feel free. Ten-twelve inch long flies in more natural colors such as black, brown, tan and olive are recommended by Blane and VTG. Synthetic or bucktail flies such as game changers, jerk changers, bufords and bulkheads are favorites. Large patterns like these are not readily available for sale but can often be custom tied by individual tiers online. We also sell plenty of materials to tie your own

Fly Tying Class-

Should you choose to tie along with Blane during the masterclass, materials will be provided but please bring your own vises and tools. Vises must be able to accommodate larger hooks such as 4/0 to 6/0

Other Accessories-

- polarized sunglasses, two pair
- nippers for cutting monofilament
- wire cutting pliers
- hook sharpener
- needlenose pliers/forceps
- A small day pack (waterproof) for storing tackle, camera, clothing etc.

Clothing-

- Warm winter layers that still provide good mobility in your upper half
- Warm hats, gloves and socks
- Waders and boots (NO STUDS IN BOOTS)
- Good rain gear is a must

Miscellaneous-

- Camera and accessories
- Insect repellent
- Sunscreen, waterproof with an SPF of at least 30 and lip balm of the same
- Any medications you may require
- Personal items
- Flashlight
- Handwarmers

Mad River Outfitters

833 Bethel Rd. Columbus, Ohio 43214

614-451-0363

www.madriveroutfitters.com

Pay Deposits or balance online by visiting our “Fly Fishing Trips” page on the “Services” tab of our website...

Or, click the link below to be taken directly to the page:

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