



The Buzz

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Volume 25, Issue 5

July 25, 2012

Florida Fishing

Upcoming Items

PRSC Meeting

TBA

August 29, 2012

PRSC Raffle

Winner - Larry DiJoseph

Potomac and Shenandoah Riverkeepers

August, 2012

Potomac Cons.

June, 2012

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In the March 2012 issue of the Buzz, Steve Kopps and Terry Cooney regaled us with a story and pictures from their fishing adventures in the Florida Everglades. We are fortunate and pleased to have as our speaker this month the guide who led them on their trip; Capt. Charles Wright.

Capt. Charles Wright is a professional fishing guide, outdoor writer, kayak expedition leader and naturalist interpretive guide. He grew up in South Florida and the Keys, and has personally enjoyed the Everglades and Everglades National Park since 1972.

Schooled as an Environmental Engineer, an FAA Certified Flight Instructor, Florida Master Naturalist and US Coast Guard (USGS)

Captain, he left his environmental consulting business and moved to Everglades City after hurricane Andrew. He has been guiding professionally in the Park since 1997, and is the President of Chokoloskee Enterprises, Inc. (d/b/a Everglades Area Tours.com, Chokoloskee Charters & Everglades Kayak Fishing), and is on the Board of Directors of

the Everglades Chamber of Commerce, the Friends of Fakahatchee Strand, the Florida Society for Ethical Eco Tourism, the Florida Paddle Sports Association and the Florida Guides Association. He is also active in the Audubon Society and the Collier County Convention and Visitors Bureau. Originally a fishing guide using poling skiffs and center-console boats, his charters always had an educational component. It was not long before he began to use the stealth and accessibility of the fishing kayak to get his clients to parts of the fishery that no others could access. The use of a dedicated transport boat for the kayaks and the compelling need to educate his guests about the Everglades steered him to conduct educational-based tours in the Park and eventually to create Everglades Area Tours.com. In recent years, they have offered multiday Outdoor Experiential Eco-Educational Courses for kids from 8 to 80. These are the result of his passion to share and protect the Everglades he finds so precious.



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Upcoming Items

Potomac River Smallmouth Club - August Meeting

Join Us Wednesday, August 29 for PRSC's Next Meeting

This month we will be back at our usual location, starting at 7:30pm. Our speaker this month is TBS.

PRSC Picture Raffle Winner- Mark Susinno Print

Congratulations to PRSC member Larry DiJoseph for winning the drawing for the Mark Susinno print. The drawing was held in May. Thanks to all who participated, and thereby helped raise funds for the club. Please congratulate Larry the next time you see him..

Potomac Riverkeeper

An Evening with Garrett Peck. Thursday, August 9th, 6:30pm-8:00pm. Potomac Riverkeeper members are invited to an evening with Garrett Peck, best-selling author of *The Potomac River: A History & Guide*. Garret will be joined by Joe Hage and our own Whit Overstreet as they both discuss their adventures down the Potomac and the importance of adequate access points along the river. The event will be a fundraising kick-off for the annual "Island to Island Trip".

Shenandoah Riverkeeper

Shenandoah River Rodeo. Actually, this was held on the weekend of July 14th. Please see Herschel Finch's account of the event in the Conservation Corner section of the Buzz this issue. Also, if you were unable to attend the event, please still join the organization or make a donation to support Jeff and his efforts as Shenandoah River Keeper.

Potomac Conservancy

Canal Stewards at Fletcher's Cove. Sunday, August 26, 2012, 10am - 12pm.

Fletcher's Cove. They will be meeting at Fletcher's Cove to clean up the picnic area and surrounding trails. This cleanup is open to all ages, and they will provide all the necessary supplies. This event is part of the National Park Service's Canal Stewards program, engaging volunteers to become long-term caretakers of a site within the C&O Canal National Historic Park.

For more information go to their website at www.potomac.org.

PRSC Updates

Boat Night

Last month PRSC held its annual Boat Night at Riverbend Park. It was another great night of boats, food, and fly casting instruction from the Tidal Potomac Flyrodders. Key to making the meeting a success were the efforts of Bill Amshy, his son Greg, and most important of all, Bill's wife Bonnie. They put in an enormous amount of work organizing and preparing the food for the event. When you get the chance, please say a big thank you to Bill and his family. Below are some pictures from the event. There are more pictures in the PRSC on the Water section. All photos were taken by Herschel Finch.



Safety warning

Ken Penrod warns that at the current low river levels, the Upper Potomac is becoming unsanitary. His recommendation is that anglers take precautions when coming in contact with the water. The primary precaution, other than cleaning up when you get home, is to not wade if you have any open sores or cuts. If you decide to wade, wear long pants rather than shorts to provide a thin layer of protection against rough rocks or anything else that could open a cut. With the story of the poor girl down in Georgia who contracted a flesh eating bacteria when she fell off a zip line into a river, the warning has additional urgency. With all the chicken farms and other agricultural operations adjacent to the Shenandoah making unhealthy contributions to the water, who knows what's in it by the time it reaches Harpers Ferry?

Open Letter to the Virg

By Beau Beasley

Dear Chairman Reed,

July 10th 2012

I write this letter to express my concern about the Virginia Game Commission's apparent lack of interest in what many Virginia sportsmen believe is a looming threat to our cherished freedoms. No doubt you are aware of the particulars of a case currently working its way through the Alleghany District Court: *North South Development v Crawford* has captured the attention of thousands of anglers, hunters, and paddlers across the mid-Atlantic.

The defendants in the case are a pair of anglers who are being sued for trespassing. The plaintiffs are landowners who claim to possess a 17th-century deed from the King of England—commonly referred to as a crown grant—granting them ownership of the bottom of the river. They argue that the defendants stepped on the bottom of the Jackson River, the plaintiffs' private property, while fishing. The Virginia Game Commission is familiar with crown grants: In 1996, the Virginia Supreme Court adjudicated (in favor of the plaintiffs) *Kraft v Burr*, also on the Jackson and also involving disputed access to and usage of crown grant property.

In June of 2009, Gary Martel, Director of Fisheries for the Virginia Department of Game and Inland Fisheries (VDGIF), wrote a letter to the landowners, stating that

- the VDGIF knew the landowners were posting the river as private property, which they had no right to do,
- state codes prevented the landowners from denying the public use of the river,
- state code asserts the river bottom belongs to the commonwealth,
- the VDGIF felt that the landowners might be engaged in angler harassment, and
- their crown grant claim was different from that recognized by the courts in the 1996 case.

In other words, the VDGIF made it clear then—and has maintained since then—that the river bottom in question was and is considered public land. Criminal proceedings against the defendants were thrown out of court because there is no indication that the anglers ever went beyond the river's high-water mark or trespassed on the privately owned riverbank property. Nevertheless, the plaintiffs are now suing the anglers in civil court for trespassing on what they claim is privately held Jackson River bottom.

In June of 2012, Judge Malfourd Trumbold ruled in partial summary judgment on behalf of the landowners, who have *prima facie* title—that is, the plaintiffs appear to have a stronger case for possession of the property than do the anglers. But the defendants never claimed to have any possession in the case: They took the Commonwealth at its word that, armed with a valid fishing license, they had the right to fish on property the state has deemed public.

As an avid sportsman, the facts in the case alarm me:

- Clearly the Game Commission has known for some time that the landowners claim possession of the river bottom and post it as private property. The landowners in question have attempted to prevent its public use.
- The defendants entered the river at a public put-in—a put-in purchased with taxpayer dollars and managed by the Commonwealth of Virginia.
- The anglers had paid for and held valid Virginia fishing licenses when the landowners confronted them.
- The anglers contacted the VDGIF *before* they fished the Jackson River to ensure that they were fishing on public property. VDGIF staffers assured the anglers that if they observed state-posted signs and steered clear of the recognized *Kraft v Burr* crown grant section of the river, they would be fishing legally in public water.
- The VDGIF website and VDGIF-posted signs along the river clearly stated then (and *continue to state now*) that the area the anglers fished in—the area they are currently being sued for trespassing in—remains in trust for public use and enjoyment.

inia Game Commission

Now, I am neither an attorney nor a judge nor a politician. I do not pretend to know all the precedents involved in crown grant disputes. I imagine that the plaintiffs, too, are frustrated that the only recourse left to them by the Commonwealth to demonstrate their alleged ownership of the river bottom appears to be to sue hapless sportsmen. The case raises a number of very important questions:

- Who determines what water is public in Virginia?
- Has the Game Commission asked the Attorney General's Office to intervene in the case to protect the rights of Virginia sportsmen to use resources the state insists are public?
- If the Game Commission asked the Attorney General's Office to intervene in this case when did this occur?
- What is the Game Commission's policy on assisting sportsmen who are facing legal action for engaging in legal activity with a valid state license on public property?
- Other Jackson River landowners have begun posting their property as private. How are anglers to determine where they can and cannot fish if they cannot trust the VDGIF-posted signs?
- If the state-posted signs along the Jackson River are not reliable, can anglers rely on the validity of VDGIF-posted signs on other rivers or hunting areas across the Commonwealth?
- At this writing, the defendants in *North South Development v Crawford* have incurred nearly \$80,000 in legal fees defending themselves from criminal and civil prosecution. Can you explain why any Virginia sportsman should purchase a hunting or fishing license if the Commonwealth has no intention of defending them from legal action for engaging in the very activity for which the state has sold them a license?

No doubt the issues surrounding this case are more complicated than they at first appear. And yet on one salient point, surely we can all agree: Sportsmen with valid state-issued licenses *must* be able to trust that, so long as they obey the law, they can hunt and fish without fear of prosecution on public land. If sportsmen cannot so trust, then we may anticipate that this case will have a chilling effect on Virginia sporting tourism even before the case itself is settled: If anglers know that the Commonwealth, while happy to sell them a license, will not lift a finger to protect them from prosecution for using that license, then any stretch along a colonial-era river—like the Cowpasture, York, Elizabeth, Hazel, and even the James and Shenandoah—may be privatized *de facto* simply by posting it so.

As an outdoor writer, I am frustrated by the Game Commission's apparent inaction in this case. As a guidebook author, I am concerned that my books (and maps) accurately reflect where fellow anglers may safely fish. As an avid sportsman, I am afraid of stumbling into a similar mess on one of my many fishing trips across the state. And as a Virginian, I am absolutely nonplussed that the courts appear to be the only place that something as significant as a crown grant will be recognized, forcing fellow Virginians into a needlessly adversarial relationship to undertake by proxy what should be the responsibility of the state legislature.

The VDGIF by and large enjoys an excellent relationship with sportsmen across Virginia which is well deserved. The current court case however has thrown a cloud of suspicion on what waters remain open to the public, and just what the public can legally access and use once they have purchased their license. Mr. Chairman, Virginia sportsmen across this great Commonwealth await your response to these pressing questions. I respectfully ask that you respond to my letter as soon as possible.

Respectfully,

Beau Beasley

Author, *Fly Fishing Virginia*

Parboiled Smallies

By Herschel Finch

Mike Harmon and I started swapping emails at work a week before the July 4th weekend rolled around. With our employer switching over to a 9/80 work schedule, we were going to have 5 glorious days off and we both were bound and determined to fish at least one of those days come hell or high water. Little did we know we would actually get the “hell” in the form of hot weather.

We decided to fish on Friday the 6th when the high temp for the day was forecast to be in the triple digits. I ordinarily stay home when it's that hot. After all we senior citizens are supposed to limit our time outside in that kind of heat. But Mike and my opportunities to fish together are limited as well (generally speaking except for this year) so I threw caution to the wind and a lot of ice and Gatorade in a soft-side cooler and took off for Luray to do the Bixler's Ferry to Bealer's Ferry float, one of the longer floats on the south fork. We started out kinda slow and were almost a full mile into the float before we caught our first fish. But after that we started an avalanche. The smallies weren't all that big, mostly 10-11 inchers but they were coming fast and furious on Case 4" SSS and black and purple Senkos and Jacks Worms. Water temp sat at 85 degrees almost all day, unlike the air temperature which climbed steadily all day. But we had a nice gentle breeze most of the day so it kept things bearable.



Great view. Photo by Herschel Finch.



Herschel with a good fish. Photo by Herschel Finch.



Mike with a nice smallie. Photo by Herschel Finch.

Parboiled Smallies cont'd

As the temperatures rose, so did our fish count. It seemed that the fish became more aggressive as the heat did. By the time noon rolled around the 'fish-a-cast' sets started coming. We were still not catching anything of note, the 10-11 inchers were the majority of the fish that were coming to hand, but the occasional 13-14 incher was starting to show up as well. I was never so glad to have brought along my light action rig. About 2 pm we started noticing lots of fish jumping everywhere there was star grass with Blue Bottle Flies darting about over the grass. The smallies were jumping for the flies and I figured what the heck, and broke out a buzzbait. Well that was the ticket for the last of the day. I stayed with the buzzer the rest of the afternoon. I was getting at least a 'blow-up' virtually every cast and a fish about every 3 or 4 casts. I did manage a nice 16.5" smallie on the buzzer in a wood pile which I figured would hold as the biggest fish of the day considering everything else had been in the sub-13 inch range...but noooo....Mr Harmon had to go and catch himself a 17 incher on the SSS to grab big fish honors for the day. I'm starting to believe the river gods have it in for me because that's the second time in a row Mike has beat me in that bracket, and on back-to-back trips no less.



Mike enjoying the river. Photo by Herschel Finch.

By 3:00pm we were really starting to feel the heat and I was pounding down the water like a drunk at a brewery, and getting my 'do-rag' under the cowboy hat wet every 20 minutes. Remember if you wait until you're thirsty to drink water, you've waited too long. I was really glad I had that hydration pack on the back of the seat and a half gallon of Gatorade and ice in that cooler as well. But in the interest of full disclosure, both Mike and myself spent most of the last hour and half of the day hugging river left in the shade.



Herschel with a new friend. Photo by Herschel Finch.

By my calculations we both had a 50-60 fish day so neither one of us has a thing to complain about. I'm ready to go again and bring nothing BUT a buzzbait....and a lot of fluids!

Go Lite...or

By Terry Cooney

At the June bring-your-boat meeting, at Riverbend Park, I arrived a couple of hours early and put the yak in for some fishing. I hadn't used my ultra-lite stuff all year so all I brought were very light rods and reels with 4# mono. My arsenal:

5' Sengsun rod rated for 4-8 #, with a Quantum Optix 10

5' 4" All Star rod rated for 4-10 #, with a Bass Pro Micro-Lite

6' Berkley Cherrywood rod rated for 4-12#, with the smallest Pfluger President

So maybe ultra-lite is misleading. The Bass Pro reel was a micro-lite and the 6' Berkley did say Medium. But you get the idea and hopefully no lawyers are reading this.

Sometimes we non-long rodders forget the thrill of a real (reel?) fight, the sound of the fish taking line, sweating about a break-off, or the finesse of the fight. The above combos helped me recall what I had forgotten. The fight and the break-off concern are not the same when you are using a 6 – 6 1/2' St Croix, medium to medium heavy, or fast or whatever, spooled with 8 or 12 # braid. For those of us who played racquet ball when young, and are now over 60 and nursing sore shoulders, the lite gear is also less *painful*.

Anyway, in a two hour period I caught 10, all but two smallmouths. The actual fishing time was shortened by the upriver paddle into a stiff wind and a fair current. You know the wind is stiff when Steve Copps isn't throwing a fly and is borrowing bullets weights from you. At least the visibility was good.

Photo by Terry Cooney.



Even Micro

Anyway, on to the 4# test went a 2/0 offset shank hook behind an un-pegged 1/8 ounce bullet weight. I started with my go-to 3 1/4" Case Magic Sticks in black, green, and brown, and did okay. Then, on a whim, I switched to 6" Zoom lizards in natural colors. Game on. I still rigged the lizard with a bullet weight (after biting off a bit of the head), but I used a shorter, wide gap hook (1/0 and 2/0). The casting distance was like a Mickey Mantle drive to left (analogy used for Bob and his next to last place Red Sox). I got four smallies above 12" and one of those was a 16." The 16" bent my rod tip to the water, and actually pulled the yak and I across the current. We all want citations and 80" + totals but after a long week at the job the lite fishing seemed more rewarding. Some thoughts:

1. Rod & Reel If you go lite, you can get by with an inexpensive rod and reel combo from Wal-Mart or K-Mart. Think less than \$50. The 4# mono works great and you really don't need to down-size the lures (evidence the Texas rigged combo I used). Two additional thoughts (I usually reach my "mind-creel" limit at 3, but I am over 60).
2. Zoom Lizards. Years ago on the Doah, a friend introduced me to lizards (the original creature bait) and I always have some with me but never seem to remember to use them. I will rethink that now. Also, if you use a lizard, remember to use a shorter shank hook (more wide gap) that has the hook close behind the lizards head. For some reason, I have seldom had a tail bite on the lizard. The fish go more for a kill shot to the head (versus a double tap to the body).
3. Riverbend This is great little local park and fishes very well going up river. Be sure to have a 5-spot to put in the till.

Let's see (1) rod and reel, (2) lizards, (3) Riverbend ... *holy carp*, I have a fourth.

- 4 **NEVER** drink lite beer while using lite gear.

In fact, life is too short to ever drink lite beer. However, in line with the article's title, micro beers can be very good. Tight lite lines.



Photo by Terry Cooney.

Fishing Misadventures

By Jamie Gold

On July 7, a few brave PRSC fools decided it would be a good idea to go fishing...on one of the hottest days in recent memory. Terry Cooney, Dave Lockard, Mark Myers, and I decided to fish the Upper Potomac River from Pennyfield's Lock to Swain's Lock. Trying to beat the heat, we met at 5:30am, were on the water a little after 6 am, and got off the water by a little after 11am (before the really brutal heat set in). The fishing actually turned out to be pretty good. We each caught decent numbers of fish, but no really big fish were caught. The biggest was about 15". Terry seemed to do the best on his lizard rig, which he wrote about in another article in this issue.

However, it was when we got off the water that our misadventures really began. After loading out boats and gear into the vehicles at the take-out (Swains Lock), we drove up to Pennyfields expecting a quick movement of my boat and Dave Lockard's boat to our respective vehicles. Upon getting to the small road going down to Pennyfields, we found it completely blocked by a PEPCO crew (everybody's favorite utility these days) working on cutting down trees and restoring power to the local residents of Tobytown.

We chatted with one of the crew and learned that they thought they would be done by 4pm. Mind you this was just around noon. Ugh!

So we decided to have Terry and Mark drive Dave and me and our gear over to Dave's house, where we would wait until 4, then drive back to get our vehicles.

At Dave's house the misadventures deepened, to a level worthy of Jack Cook himself. One driver, who shall remain nameless, pulled into Dave's driveway. The other driver, who shall also remain nameless, decided to back into the driveway to make it easier to unload the boat. I said, "be careful there is not a lot of room." Just as the driver said, "There's plenty of room", we heard a rather dispiriting crash as boat met rear window of car, and rear window lost - literally



Making the best of a bad situation. Photo by Mark Myers.

exploding into a thousand pieces.

After cleaning up the mess, Dave and I drove back at 4...not done yet. So we went to get something to eat. We drove back after 6pm, and the crew was just finishing...so we waited a few minutes, then went and got our cars. We can laugh about it now, but it was not a day that I would like to repeat anytime soon. Be careful out there.



Cleaning up the mess. Photo by Mark Myers.

Veterans' Fishing Day

By Jamie Gold

On Sunday, June 24, 2012, Phil Maisel hosted another Veterans' Fishing Day on Lake Anne in Reston. This event was held for injured vets from the VA Hospital in Martinsburg, WV. Phil has been putting on this event for several years now, and for the volunteers who help out, it is one of the most rewarding and meaningful things we do all year. We had a large crew of helpers from PRSC and boat captains...and we needed them as there were over 20 guests from the hospital visiting.

Once they arrived, we divided them into groups, put them onto boats, and took them out fishing. During the first outing the fishing was a little tough, but a few were caught. We brought them back to the dock, stuffed them full of good food cooked by Wallace Harvey, and sent them back out for more fishing: those who wanted to go anyway as some were happy to stay in the dock area and sleep off lunch. On the second excursion more fish were caught.

Everyone, guests and volunteers, had a great time and all left with big smiles on their faces. The feelings were best articulated by Kerry Bostwick, one of the hospital staff, in a note she sent to Phil: "I'm back in the office. We, PRRC staff and Veterans, wanted to express our deepest appreciation for you inviting us and giving 20+ Veterans a wonderful day! They all had a wonderful time and are still talking about it. Of course, the fish size continues to grow; but it gives present positive memories, smiles, and a feeling of peace, which helps them deal with the down days. Please thank all the volunteers who assisted with the boats, untangling the lines, and fixing the lunch. Thank you again. Wishing you and your family a safe, happy July 4th." Below are some pictures, with a few more in the PRSC On the Water section of this issue. All of the photos were taken by Mark Baum.



PRSC On the Water

By: Jamie Gold

Members of PRSC have been busy this past month catching and photographing some awesome fish. Enjoy, and feel free to submit pictures of fish that you've caught for next month's Buzz.

Great 18" river smallmouth.



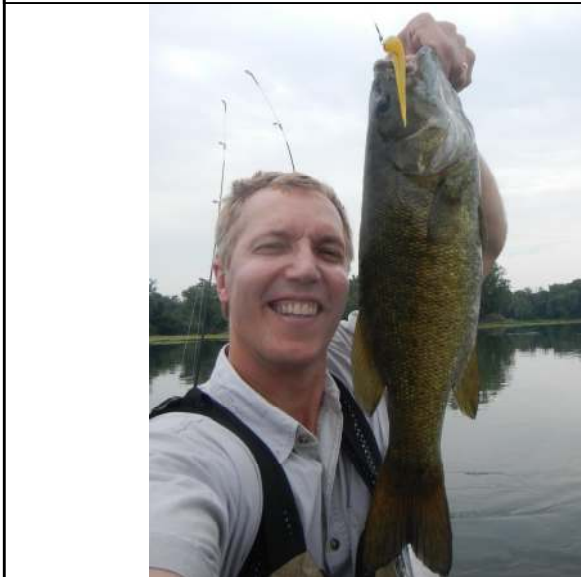
Steve Kimm. Photo by Dave Lockard.

Another 18" river smallmouth, and finger.



Dave Lockard. Photo by Steve Kimm.

Beautiful bronzeback and happy fisherman.



Chris Schaupp.

Look at the smile on her face.



Maria Schaupp. Photo by her proud father Chris.

She is turning out to be quite a good fisherperson..



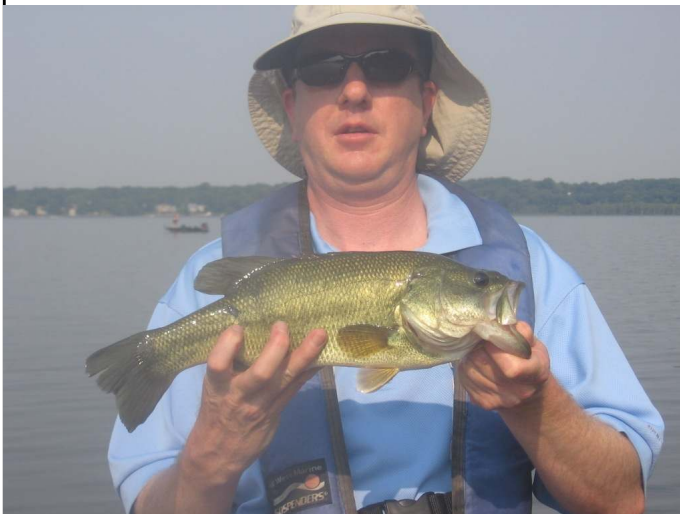
Maria Schaupp. Photo by Chris Schaupp.

From Veterans Fishing Day on Lake Anne in Reston..



Photo by Mark Baum.

Potomac River Largemouth.



Steve Adams. Photo by Jamie Gold.

Another Nice Potomac River Largemouth.



Jamie Gold. Photo by Steve Chaconas.

Military Vets Fishing from the Dock at Lake Anne.



Photo by Mark Baum.

Another Nice Lower Potomac Largemouth.



Steve Adams. Photo by Jamie Gold.

Conservation Corner

By Herschel Finch

The weekend of the 14th was the Shenandoah Riverkeeper Rodeo and...what?...you FORGOT!?!?! Gee that's too bad, now you have to wait a whole year until you can have as much fun as we did THIS year. But rest assured, you'll have another chance to savor good food, good music and good fellowship next year. All the usual suspects were there, the guides, the fishermen, the boys from Roanoke and even the PRSC had a good showing with almost a dozen club members in attendance. But I sure would like to see more next year.

We started out with the erection of the tents late Friday afternoon in some brutal heat. But we had a good time doing it, with good-natured joshing, and harassment of each other. Those large rental party tents actually go up pretty rapidly if you have enough man-power and at least one person who's done it before. We had both tents up and set inside an hour and half with short breaks to greet the guides and other folks who were camping as they came in.

Festivities kicked off as usual with the gathering of the guides and laying out the (bordering on farce) rules for the fishing contest. A couple of the guides that are usually there couldn't make it this year so Jeff prevailed upon Ben Hines and Brian Hilsabeck to step in as guides for a day in case he needed some extra backs on the oars for paying 'clients'. And once again, for like the 4th year in a row, I got to sit in a boat and take part in the contest. The icing on the cake was we got to fish a stretch of the south fork that is virtually virgin water as far as float fishing goes. The stretch below the Luray Hydro dam to Bixlers Ferry is hemmed in on both sides by private property and no access points anywhere along the stretch. Mr. John Selser, a riparian landowner and big supporter of Jeff's had given permission to Jeff to use his property, just 500 yards downriver of the dam as a put in for the contest. So you know where we chose to go.



Getting set up. Photo by Herschel Finch.



Above, Jeff Kelbe stating the fishing contest rules. Right, on the water. Photos by Herschel Finch.



Conservation Corner cont'd

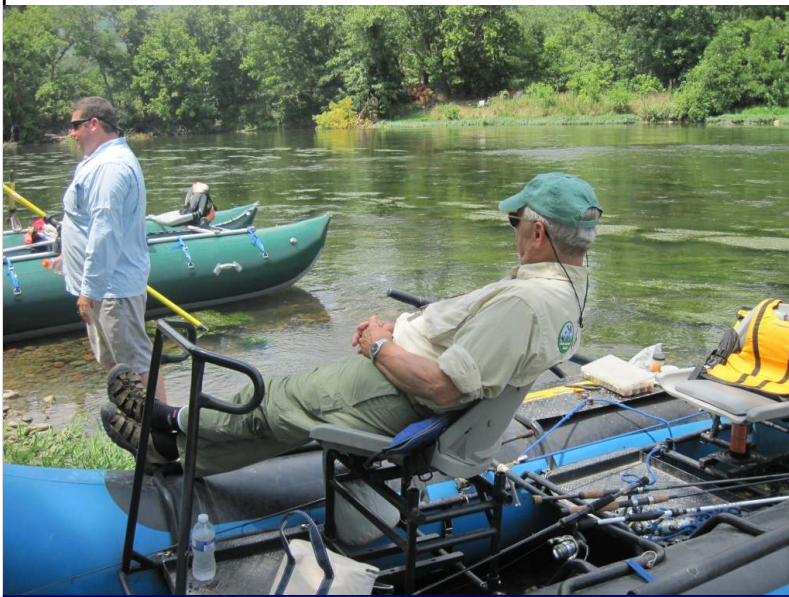
Getting to boats down and back out proved to be quite a challenge, but the fishing between the two locations wasn't that bad. Just as it's been the last three weeks, it was mostly 10-11 inchers with an occasional fish pushing 13-14 inches showing up. The scenery was very nice and the company even better. Two Largemouths kinda put the slam on any chance of winning the contest but when we got back to the campground, Brian paid off our 'penalty' and got us back into the hunt. As it was we still lost, but that's okay. We came in second...and it was definitely for good cause. Thanks 'Jeff'...you da man!

As usual, the spread Bundy put on for the masses was superb, especially that pulled Jerk chicken with a Chutney relish he tried out this time. Bundy never fails to 'bring it' when he comes to the Rodeo with his grills and smokers.

So now you know, you missed a heck of a party. But you're gonna get a second chance...

On August 11th, The Shenandoah Riverfest is going to be held at Andy Guest State Park. This is the

"other" part that got added in last year when it was held at the VFW Hall in Front Royal. Jeff decided it was just too much to try and do all at once, so he separated the 2 activities and commandeered the State Park to hold the Riverfest. There will be canoe rides, displays, demonstrations, food and lots of activities for the kids. So come on out to the Park and join us.



Enjoying the festivities. Photos by Herschel Finch.



PRSC

**P.O. Box 1240
Vienna, VA 22183**



Big Time BBQ (Scott Cocherell)

WALT'S POPPERS

Handmade Virginia Popping Bugs



PRSC would like to thank the following for contributing to Member Night and being friends of PRSC.



PRSC Wishes to Thank our Recent Speakers

September 2011 - Walt Cary of Walt's Poppers

October 2011 - Capt. Steve Chaconas,
www.nationalbass.com/steve.htm

January 2012 - Brent Walls, Upper Potomac River Manager

February 2012 - William Heresniak,
www.easterntrophies.com

April 2012 - Capt. Steve Chaconas

May 2012 - Richard Martin, Potomac Paddlesports

2012 Contest Results

July 2012 Report By Wallace Harvey

Well here we are again in the heat of summer. And as in years past, it appears that no one is fishing. With temperatures reaching triple digits on land, who knows how hot it is on the water. I know I have been down river on hot days, and it takes lots of water to drink to keep from having heat problems. Do you have room for an extra gallon or two on your boat for days like we have had? With rising air temperatures we also get rising water temperatures. This will drive the fish to the deep holes and rapids looking for cool waters. If you go, that is where I would be looking to fish.

When fishing deep holes you need to get the bait down to the bottom. My favorite way is to add a small split shot about 6 inches above the plastic worm. It gets down quickly and still allows the worm to free float and look natural. It depends on the whether fishing rapids or pools as to the weight that I use. I like to try and use 1/16th ounce in all cases, but some rapids require a bit more. The only drawback I have noted is that you may get hung up on the bottom a bit more. Personally, I don't mind the trade off to catch more fish.

Now that you have my "secret" for summer fishing, what is yours? This is a club that likes to talk about our techniques when at meetings. Anyone able to help me pass along your trade secret? I also want to put in a word for our last meeting, Boat Night. Our Program Chairman, Bill Amshey did an excellent job in preparing and coordinating the boat show. I know he had lots of help from our members, and hats off to them. However, it takes leadership to make it happen and Bill did an excellent job. Thanks!

2012 Results

Section 1, Biggest Fish: Jeff Kelble, 21"

Section 1, Best 5 Fish: Mike Harmon, 79"

Section 2, Biggest Fish: Larry DiJoseph, 22"

Section 2, Best 5 Fish: Bill Pearl, 87.5"

Section 3, Biggest Fish: Bob Ward, 21"

Section 3, Best 5 Fish: Bill Pearl, 86.5"

Largest on Fly:

New Member:

William Schriver Award: Randy Chandler,
235.5"

Grover Cleveland Award:

The Potomac River Smallmouth Club was founded in 1988 as a non-profit recreational club in accordance with IRS section 501(c)(7). Dues are \$35/year. Monthly meetings are held at 7:30 PM on the last Wednesday of each month (except December) at the Vienna Volunteer Firehouse. Club by-laws and member rosters are published once a year and available during meetings or upon request. The Club newsletter, "The Buzz", is emailed to all members prior to each month's meeting and is available at local fishing/tackle shops. Articles, photographs and general information relating to smallmouth bass fishing are solicited. The Buzz reserves the right to edit all materials submitted for publication. Observations, conclusions and opinions expressed in The Buzz are those of the authors and do not necessarily reflect those of the club, its officers, or the editor. All materials submitted become the property of the club. Every effort will be made to return photographs at the monthly meetings, however the printing process occasionally results in the destruction of a photograph. Send copies and make sure YOU have the negative.