



The Buzz

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Volume 25, Issue 9

September 26, 2012

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We are very excited to be having Beau Beasley as our speaker this month. Not only is he a terrific presenter, but he will be discussing an issue of major importance to fishermen in the Commonwealth...the ongoing battle over access to the Jackson River and asserted property rights under the crown grants. Please join us for this presentation and discussion about this critical topic.

Beau Beasley is just as likely to chase smallies on the New River as he is to track brook trout in the cold mountain streams of the Old Dominion. His father introduced him to farm pond fishing as a child, but he's equally happy to pursue stripers in the Chesapeake Bay or follow the early spring shad migrations across Virginia, fly rod in hand.

Beau began writing in the mid-1990s and has been published in *Fly Fisherman*, *Fly Rod & Reel*, *American Angler*, *Mid-Atlantic Fly Fishing Guide*, *Virginia Wildlife*, *Flyfisher*, *Fly Tyer*, *Chesapeake Angler*, *Richmond Magazine*, *Virginia Living*, and *Virginia Sportsman*. He is a contributing editor for *Fly Fish America* and the Mid-Atlantic field editor for *Eastern Fly Fishing*.

In addition to writing, Beau is the director of the annual Virginia Fly Fishing Festival and is a 28-year veteran career captain with Fairfax County Fire and Rescue Department assigned to Engine Company 427. His first book, *Fly Fishing Virginia: A No Nonsense Guide to Top Waters*, was released in May 2007 and in 2010 he wrote *Fly Fishing the Mid-Atlantic: A No Nonsense Guide to Top Waters* both of which can be found in bookstores throughout the country.



Beau was the journalist that broke the story on the current Jackson River lawsuit concerning crown grants where an angler is being sued for trespassing on land the state says is public property. Beau's talk "Who Owns the River?" has gotten rave reviews and will no doubt prove interesting to our members. Beau lives with his wife and children in Warrenton, Virginia.

To learn more about Beau or his books, visit his website (www.beaubeasley.com) or contact your local fly shop.

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Upcoming Items

Potomac River Smallmouth Club - October Meeting

Join Us Wednesday, October 17 for PRSC's Next Meeting – our Fall SWAP Meet Yes...that date is correct. Due to Halloween, and the timing of Vienna's Halloween Parade, we will be holding the October meeting on the 17th. We will be at our usual location, starting at 7:00pm to allow for swap transactions prior to doing our normal club business. Folks who want to bring gear to sell/swap should start setting up at 6:45. Our October speaker will be John Mullican of the MD DNR who will brief us on the results of the Potomac River smallmouth bass survey – all those little blue cards we filled out and sent in have been analyzed! In addition, Brent Walls, the Upper Potomac Riverkeeper will provide a quick overview of a smart-phone app for users to quickly report water quality issues. The app will permit you to take pictures of a pollution issue, algae in the water or a fish kill and upload it to a publicly available web map where the public can access and track what the Riverkeepers are doing to solve the problem. The object is to make it easier for anglers to report problems and be the eyes and ears of the Riverkeepers. Looks like another good meeting! Please take advantage of this opportunity to not only find out about the quality of the smallmouth bass population on the Potomac, but also to clean out your fishing gear prior to the long cold winter. One man's trash is another man's treasure!!

PRSC Picture Sale

From now until Member Night, PRSC is offering for sale another Mark Susino print. This is a beautifully framed print, still in shrink wrap. The club bought a few of these a few years ago for fund raising purposes. So we are selling this. The starting price is \$200. This will be a silent auction, with a sheet to record bids. Bids will go up in increments of \$5. At member night the high bid will win the picture.



Potomac Riverkeeper

Potomac Riverkeeper Ed Merrifield's Retirement Party. Sunday, October 21 - 3pm-6pm.

They invite Potomac Riverkeeper members and friends to celebrate Ed Merrifield's 10 years as President and Potomac Riverkeeper. After ten years of outstanding service to the Potomac River, Ed Merrifield is retiring as Potomac Riverkeeper at the end of the year. Join them to honor him at a retirement party on board the Cherry Blossom, generously donated by the Potomac Riverboat Company and catered with food by Clyde's. The party is free, but contributions to a special Ed Merrifield Fund for Clean Water Enforcement will be accepted. For more information go to <http://www.potomacriverkeeper.org>.

Potomac Conservancy

5th Annual Potomac River Jam. Sunday, October 14 - 10am-4pm. Join Potomac Conservancy for the 5th annual Potomac River Jam – a full-day celebration of the natural beauty, culture, and history of the Potomac River and C&O Canal. The morning will begin with a sampling of the summer's most popular nature walks at Lock 8, followed in the afternoon by live music from local musicians. We'll also have river-inspired artwork from local painters on displays, children's activities, and canoe rides. This is a free event open to all ages – bring the whole family and join in the fun!

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

PRSC Updates

By Steve Moore

Wade Fishing in the Potomac River

Club members who enjoy wade fishing in the Potomac below Great Falls must wear a PFD to be in compliance with Maryland State regulations. In communications with the club, the Chief Ranger of the C&O NHP confirmed that his officers, as well as those of the United States Park Police, recognize fishing, **while wearing a PFD**, as being authorized. As soon as you take the PFD off, you are in violation of Maryland as well as federal regulations. With the recent drowning death on the Potomac, and the fact that modern PFDs are not bulky, there really is no reason not to wear one.

Club Leadership Positions

At the December meeting, the club must replace several incumbents who have reached the end of their terms of service. Randy has served above and beyond the call of duty as President for two years and Vice President for the last year. In addition, as a result of health issues with his mother-in-law, Steve Moore will end up moving to Wilmington, NC at some point next year - creating the need to transition leadership of the club to whomever is the next Vice President. We need volunteers to step forward and help out with keeping our successful club going. If you are interested in serving in any of the other board positions, please let Steve know by sending an email to president@prsc.org. Some of the other board members have served for years and may welcome the opportunity to hand over the reins to fresh blood.

Fly Fishing Benefactors to attend Oct 17 Meeting

For the fly anglers in the club, Fly Fishing Benefactors will be on hand at our swap meet with a selection of gear for purchase. FFB designs and manufactures their own line of fly rods and reels with quality comparable to what you would expect to find from Temple Fork Outfitters or Orvis. You can also get fly boxes, fly line, and accessories from them. The company usually donates 100% of its net profits to various charitable causes to include Friends of the Rivers of Virginia, Project Healing Waters, Casting for Recovery and others. So, if you need some gear at good prices, come prepared to be impressed. As a side note, Fly Fishing Benefactors is supporting our member night by providing a Mountain Pack Rod as well as a 4wt Shenandoah fly rod for the "big" table. If you can't make it to the swap meet, please visit their website at www.flyfishingbenefactors.com.

S. Fork Shenandoah

Article by Jamie Gold

One of the real joys of fishing is making new friends on the water and sharing our addiction with other addicts. But another joy and privilege is to reconnect with old friends to share a day of fun and camaraderie on the water. On the last Saturday in August I was able to do this in 2 ways. One, some fellow anglers and I decided to fish the S. Fork of the Shenandoah from Raymond R. "Andy" Guest State Park down to Karo. While I fish the Shenandoah frequently, especially the South Fork, this is a stretch that I have not hit in a few years. So fishing this stretch was like reconnecting with an old friend.

This float is about 4 miles in length and offers plenty of good fishing. The put-in is at the Park itself, and there is a very small fee to park there. Even if the Rangers aren't there, put some money in the envelope to help support the Park. BTW, this is a campground, so for those so inclined, camping is an option, and they seem to have some very nice facilities. Also, this stretch is part of the longer Bentonville to Karo float, which is about 8 miles long; so one could do the top part 1 day, camp, and do the bottom part the second day.

I also had the good fortune to meet up and fish with Pete Pfothenhauer.

Pete was a long time member of PRSC, during which he served as Vice President and did a stretch as editor of

the Buzz. In fact, the current look of the Buzz is due to Pete's efforts to redesign its format and content. So if you like the look of the Buzz, give Pete the credit for that. Pete is a teacher in the Commonwealth of Virginia, and these days he is hard at work fighting on behalf of the teachers in the State. While he can't make it to the meetings, or get out to fish very often, I really appreciate all the work he is doing on behalf of

Randy Chandler with a nice S. Fork Shenandoah smallmouth. Photo by Jamie Gold.



From left to right: Pete Pfothenhauer, Randy Chandler, Herschel Finch. Photo by Jamie Gold.



Shenandoah River

education in the state. So it was a real pleasure to be able to fish with Pete again. Joining the fun were fellow PRSC'ers Randy Chandler and Herschel Finch.

While the air temperature was warm, the skies were overcast, and the forecast was for rain off and on throughout the day. As you can see from the pictures, some of us were smart enough to bring rain gear (Pete, Randy, and Herschel) and one of us was not (me).

I mention that because we did indeed get rain, some of it pretty heavy, for much of the day. Until the skies cleared and the sun came out late in the afternoon.

However, this did make for some rather good fishing for most of the day, until it cleared. The water was clear, which usually makes the fish spooky, but the overcast skies had them calm and on the feed.

This summer I have fallen in love with the buzzbait, and spent much of the day fishing that. I can cover a lot of water, catching fish on topwater is simply the most fun way to do it, and it makes the fish angry so the fish fight really hard. I threw that most of the day and caught a lot of fish. At one point I cast it towards river left, just upstream of a downed tree. Suddenly a long shadow emerged from the bottom to rocket up and slam the lure in an explosion of water and piscatorial fury. After a vigorous battle of man vs. beast, including lots of drag being pulled, I landed the 19" beauty pictured above. Just as I was congratulating myself on this fine catch, the others informed me that a few minutes before, Pete had landed a 20" monster (pictured right). Rats....er, I mean congratulations.

The other guys threw topwater as well, but mixed in more soft plastics and other baits than I did. Overall we caught a lot of fish, and a good number of fish 15" or longer. This is a very good sign as to the rebounding fishing quality of the river. In the early 2000s there were a series of fish kills on the Shenandoah that pretty much wiped out the large smallmouth. Its taken several years, but the big boys and gals are coming back.

Pete Pfothhauer with the big fish of the day, a 20" S. Fork pigbeast. Photo by Randy Chandler.



Jamie Gold with a 19" smallmouth...caught on a buzzbait in the middle of the day. Photo by Randy Chandler.



PRSC Trip – Rt. 340 to

By Chris Schaupp

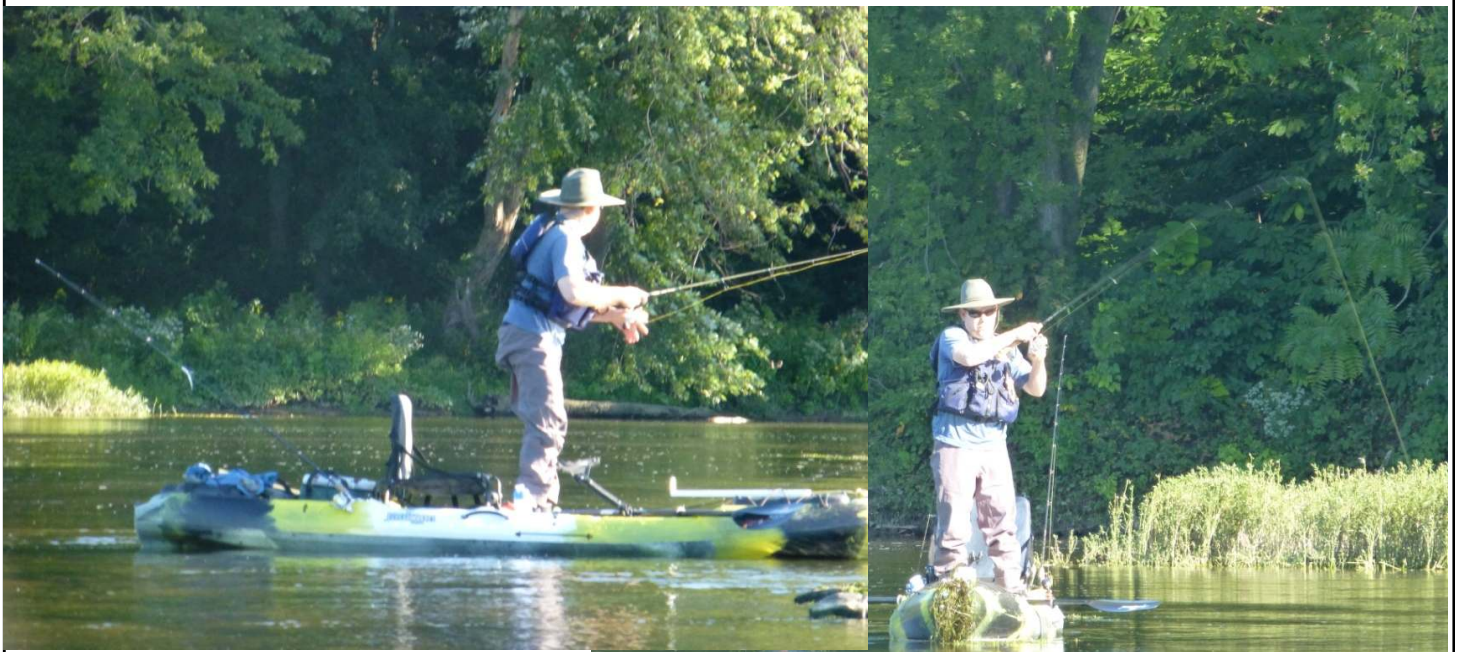
Editor's note: On September 15, Mark Myers led PRSC's Fish with a Friend trip on the Upper Potomac River from just below the Rt 340 Bridge to Brunswick, MD.

Mark Myers led the trip and arranged for "Harpers Ferry Outdoor" give us and our kayaks a ride up to a put-in below the Rt. 340 bridge. We met at the Brunswick boat ramp. I arrived at 6:50am and Mark and the guys from HFO were already there. Marty Burkard showed up a few minutes later and we had our boats and gear loaded quickly for the ride up river.

I was surprised to find out there was a put-in below the bridge on the VA side. I was going to miss the opportunity to fish in the water above the bridge, but I didn't miss having to haul our boats all the way down that steep trail above the bridge. HFO dropped us off right next to the water and the three of us got our boats ready for the journey.

I was impressed with Mark's kayak, a Jackson Coosa, which provides the opportunity to stand up and fish. I need to get something like that not only to see more fish, but also to save my back from sitting for a long time in one position.

This being my first club float trip of the year, I prepared several days in advance and brought with me a ton of lures and tackle that I wanted to try out. However after hitting the water for a few minutes I did what it seems like I always do, I quickly retreated back to the two lures that always work for me, small Senkos and tubes. Work they did and once I get on a roll catching fish, I find it very hard to stop doing what is working to try something new.



Mark standing up in his kayak. On the left he is working a spot, on the right, fighting a fish. Photos by Chris Schaupp.

o Brunswick Revisited



Marty Burkard. Photo by Chris Schaupp.

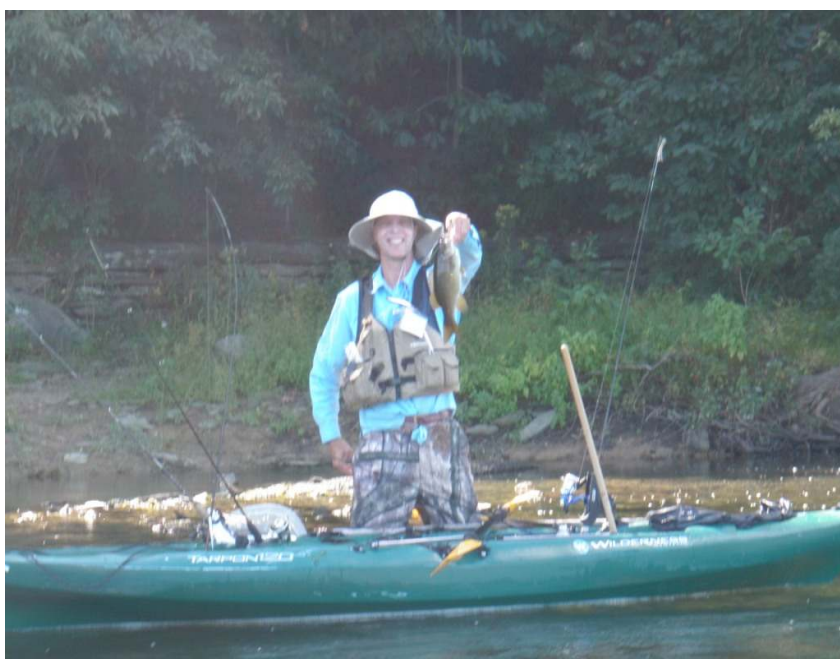
a while I had to decide that enough was enough and I started letting my boat drift with the current while I was taking the hook out of a fish's mouth, even though I was probably drifting right past another great fishing hole. Marty and I fished the rest of the float together without any more anchoring, but Mark stayed behind to continue his slow and thorough standup stalking method of fishing.

This being my first real fishing trip this year above Seneca Breaks, I finally had a chance to fill out one of those Maryland DNR survey cards we received at a PRSC meeting back in the spring. I put down 39 fish total with 8 over 12 inches. My largest was a 15 incher that Marty snapped a shot of. As far as size, nothing to write home about, but a great fun filled float filled with constant action. After the trip Mark reported 26 total with 14 over 12 inches and two 16s – thanks to his stand-up site stalking method of fishing (gotta get me one of the SUP yaks). Marty reported 14 fish total with five over 12". I snapped a photo of him with a nice smallie on the latter part of the float.

The conditions were 70s, clear blue sky, crystal clear water, and a strong wind pushing against the current for most of the float. I made it home to my wife and kids, as I promised my wife I would, by 4pm. Perhaps she will let me out on another float this year before the season ends.

We were on the water a little after 8am and we discussed probably getting off the water around 3pm. However, we found the fishing so good that I noticed that by 11am we could still see the 340 bridge and I estimated that after the first three hours, we had not even floated one mile of the 5-6 mile trip. I found the most success fishing the VA side under the shade of the trees on the shoreline. There were so many good productive locations to fish. Sometimes I would bring one in and notice three or four other nice size smallies chasing the one attached to my line.

There was a group of hunters waiting in ambush right where we put in. The sound of their occasional gun fire, reminded me how much water was still ahead of us. So, after



Chris with a nice smallmouth bass. Photo by Marty Burkard.

Angler Go Lite

Article and Photo by Terry Cooney

In a previous *Buzz*, I wrote an article about downsizing tackle and using plastic lizards. In accordance with the adage of “practice what you preach,” I was at Riverbend Park in Great Falls, Virginia, with my friend and neighbor, for morning trips on the 8th and 16th of September. On both days the river was gin clear (didn’t taste like gin though, it tasted like goose poop) with a lot of grass (not the smoking variety). We were both in yaks; my tackle included a fairly “wimpy” K-Mart special rod, with a #10 Bass-pro reel, and four pound mono. Yes, 4 as in four or IV.

At the last PRSC meeting, Ernie Rojas was offering Case baits at cut rate prices so I stocked up on the 5” lizards. I had been using the Zoom 4” and 6” lizards with good results but Case seems to have the best size. I like the natural colors and apparently so do the fish. Actually, I think the smallies hate the bait by the way they attack it. People have told me that salamanders (AKA lizards) raid smallmouth beds during the spawn, hence a mortal enemy relationship. I have not been able to confirm that. The smallmouth I have caught have been rather tight lipped on the subject but I assume a fellow angler would never lie.

Back to the tackle. I Texas-rigged the lizards using a 1/16 ounce sliding bullet weight and a wide gap Gamakatsu 1/0 hook. With all the grass I was sure I just buried the hook in the lizard. The 4# test was Trilene XL Smooth Casting.

On the 8th, a warm sunny day, I got about 20 which include one pan-sized blue gill. The largest smallie was 17 ½” with a 74 ½” top five. I did have one break off which felt like a good sized fish. I attribute this to not checking my line and/or not retying after hooking a good-sized smallie on the previous catch.

The 16th was cooler, both air and water, and partly overcast. There were also quite a few other fisherman and other paddlers out. I even had the chance to use my gausthaus Deutsch on two young men in a canoe. “Gutten tag.” The fishing was a bit harder. I caught less numbers (12-15) but the fish were bigger, including a 20” named George (see photo), at least that was the name he told me. Again, he would not discuss the issue with the salamanders; he was probably Government EEO* trained and didn’t want to offend the terrorists, something akin to the current Administration philosophy in Washington. Damn, I digress again.

*EEO – Equal Employment Opportunity

e - Follow Up

My smallest of the day was a nice 12 ½" but it was one of those smallies with well defined "tiger stripes" and the bulkier shape rather than the streamlined. My first five were a 15," 14," 13" 12 ½," and a 13 ½." The top five came in at 77 ½." I never retied so I guess I didn't learn my lesson but I always rechecked for frayed line. One of the 14" did a really sweet (sweet as in Jackie Gleason, "How sweet it is") tail walk right next to the yak. All my strikes were on long casts.

Finding the 17 ½" and the 20" required wade dragging my yak though some fast moving, waist deep water. Going up river on river right (the Virginia side) I pulled the yak up above Minnehaha Island (real name, I swear). The 17 ½" was waiting in an eddy next to some fast water. The 20" was in a big pool to the river left of Gladys Island in a deep (8') pool of the main channel push water above where the motor boats cannot get. I need to tell you it is "play and pray" fishing with a 20" smallie on 4# test. I was glad I had the net but it is interesting to try and get a 20" fish in a 13' x 9" net. On neither day did I have a deep throat hook which the fish and I both appreciated.

Also, on the 16th I threw a few Case Magic Sticks (no hits) with my back up, stiff, 6' Bass-Pro rod with 8# test, and it felt like casting with a 38 ounce Louisville Slugger. I really felt the difference in my right shoulder. So, you might want to give light tackle and lizards a try.



Twenty inch smallmouth caught on four pound test at Riverbend.

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.

I like to see the kids out catching fish.



Nolan Dunkel. Photo by Mark Myers.

Young kayak master.



Max Schaupp. Photo by his dad Chris.

17.5" Potomac smallmouth.



Michael Ward. Photo by his proud dad Bob Ward.

Action shot....fighting a fish....on fly rod.



Michael Filchock. Photo by unknown.

Good looking smallmouth bass..



Max Schaupp. Photo by his proud dad Chris.

Fishing is for people of all ages..



Grandma Joy Rosten. Photo by Chris Schaupp.

Nice Potomac River smallmouth.



Marty Burkard. Photo by Chris Schaupp.

20" Shenandoah Smallmouth.



Pete Pfotenhauer. Photo by Randy Chandler.

Fly casting from a kayak takes a lot of skill.



Michael Filchock. Photo by unknown.

Man vs. Beast.



Mark Myers. Photo by Chris Schaupp.

Conservation Corner

By Herschel Finch

I was down at New River Junction last week and was a total slacker in getting a Conservation Corner to Jamie before I left. So I just sat down at the computer to write this on the 17th. But of course, being the cybernaut that I am, I had to check FaceBook to make sure I had no pressing PMs about “hey where ya been dude?” from an old High School FB buddy who wouldn’t have even looked my direction back in the day...or an invitation to play Farmville, or some advertisement to buy the iPhone5..or...

And then I came across this. Some of this may not register with our younger members, but there was something to be said for the “old days”. Maybe there’s hope for the Internet yet.

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Checking out at the store, the young cashier suggested to the older woman, that she should bring her own grocery bags because plastic bags weren't good for the environment. The woman apologized and explained,

"We didn't have this green thing back in my earlier days."

The young clerk responded, "That's our problem today. Your generation did not care enough to save our environment for future generations."

She was right -- our generation didn't have the green thing in its day.

Back then, we returned milk bottles, soda bottles and beer bottles to the store. The store sent them back to the plant to be washed and sterilized and refilled, so it could use the same bottles over and over. So they really were truly recycled.

But we didn't have the green thing back in our day.

Grocery stores bagged our groceries in brown paper bags that we reused for numerous things, most memorable besides household garbage bags, was the use of brown paper bags as book covers for our schoolbooks. This was to ensure that public property, (the books provided for our use by the school) was not defaced by our scribbings. Then we were able to personalize our books on the brown paper bags.

But too bad we didn't do the green thing back then.

Conservation Corner

We walked up stairs, because we didn't have an escalator in every store and office building. We walked to the grocery store and didn't climb into a 300-horsepower machine every time we had to go two blocks.

But she was right. We didn't have the green thing in our day.

Back then, we washed the baby's diapers because we didn't have the throwaway kind. We dried clothes on a line, not in an energy-gobbling machine burning up 220 volts -- wind and solar power really did dry our clothes back in our early days. Kids got hand-me-down clothes from their brothers or sisters, not always brand-new clothing.

But that young lady is right; we didn't have the green thing back in our day.

Back then, we had one TV, or radio, in the house -- not a TV in every room. And the TV had a small screen the size of a handkerchief (remember them?), not a screen the size of the state of Montana. In the kitchen, we blended and stirred by hand because we didn't have electric machines to do everything for us. When we packaged a fragile item to send in the mail, we used wadded up old newspapers to cushion it, not Styrofoam or plastic bubble wrap. Back then, we didn't fire up an engine and burn gasoline just to cut the lawn. We used a push mower that ran on human power. We exercised by working so we didn't need to go to a health club to run on treadmills that operate on electricity.

But she's right; we didn't have the green thing back then.

We drank from a fountain when we were thirsty instead of using a cup or a plastic bottle every time we had a drink of water. We refilled writing pens with ink instead of buying a new pen, and we replaced the razor blades in a razor instead of throwing away the whole razor just because the blade got dull.

But we didn't have the green thing back then.

Back then, people took the streetcar or a bus and kids rode their bikes to school or walked instead of turning their moms into a 24-hour taxi service. We had one electrical outlet in a room, not an entire bank of sockets to power a dozen appliances. And we didn't need a computerized gadget to receive a signal beamed from satellites 23,000 miles out in space in order to find the nearest burger joint.

But isn't it sad the current generation laments how wasteful we old folks were just because we didn't have the green thing back then?

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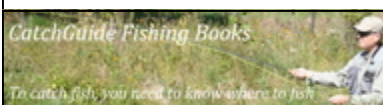
I don't know who wrote this, but I think I'd like to subscribe to their blog.

PRSC

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



Big Time BBQ (Scott Cocherell)



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

PRSC Wishes to Thank our Recent Speakers

January 2012 - Brent Walls, Upp. Potomac Manager.

February 2012 - William Heresniak,
www.eastern trophies.com.

April 2012 - Capt. Steve Chaconas.

May 2012 - Richard Martin, Potomac Paddlesports.

July 2012 - Capt. Charles Wright, Chokoloskee Charters.

August 2012 - Jeff Turner, 50 Trophy Waters in 50 Days in 50 States.

2012 Contest Results

September 2012 Report By Wallace Harvey

Well, fall is upon us and we love this time of year to float down the local rivers. The leaves begin to turn to add color to the trip. Animals are plentiful on the river banks. Fish are becoming more active getting ready for the winter. A great time to be on the river fishing. With a bit of rain the rivers are at an acceptable level to enjoy to keep from "walking" down the river. I sure wish I could be there.

I have not had much in reports for the summer. I did get a call that George Mason has a 21 incher on Section II. Nice catch, George! Unfortunately, it needed to be another inch longer to match the current leader. I am hoping to have more of these reports as we move into the fall fishing season. Please keep me informed.

I got a call from Jack Cook that he will be out of town until Mid October. If you have a report to make, please contact me at my email at wwharvey@comcast.net. I hope to get all reports published before the deadline. However, as I said earlier, I am not fishing any more this year. Later this month I get a new hip. I'm tired of limping and being in pain. As I won't be totally available at first, I will have access to my email about the first of October. So send in the reports. If you can't email, please let Jamie Gold know. I'm sure he will take care of your report. Thanks to all for your support. I hope to be back at Member Night meeting. Keep Fishing!

2012 Results

Section 1, Biggest Fish: Jay Eiche, 21.5"

Section 1, Best 5 Fish: John Lipetz, 89"

Section 2, Biggest Fish: Larry DiJoseph, 22"

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

Section 3, Biggest Fish: Bill Pearl and Wayne Tate, 20"

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

Largest on Fly: Wayne Tate, 20"

New Member: No Entry

William Shriver Award: Randy Chandler,
245.5"

Grover Cleveland Award: Larry DiJoseph, 22"

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.