



The Buzz

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Volume 26, Issue 4

April 24, 2013

Jack Cook - Potomac Fisherman

Upcoming Items

PRSC Meeting
May 29, 2013

Free Fly Fishing Classes
April-May, 2013

Fund Raiser
April 2013

FYCC
May 2013

Potomac Cons.
April 2013

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Jack Cook has been fishing the Potomac River for over 60 years. As a youngster, Jack primarily fished the river between Lander and Noland's Ferry. He learned much about fishing from Bugs Croft, the last lock keeper at Lander. He was a worm and minnow fisherman in those days.

When Jack returned from the Army in 1966, he says that "the river was at its all-time low." The river was so bad then that few people used it for recreational purposes. Jack credits Lady Bird Johnson with starting the clean up of the river.

According to Jack, the best years on the Potomac were from 2003 through 2005. Now, he says, the Potomac and the Shenandoah Rivers are fishing better than ever. His biggest Potomac Smallie, caught at Lander, measured 22 inches, but Jack regrets that he has yet to catch one 5 pounds or over. "That's on my bucket list," he declared.

Jack has been a member of the PRSC since 1988, making him the longest continuous member. He has contributed to the Club in many ways, from serving as President in the '90s to running the annual fishing contest for many years. Jack has mentored many of the current Club members in various aspects of fishing and conservation, and he has a wealth of knowledge and great stories to share.

Jack will focus on the colorful history of the Potomac River, including how and when smallmouth bass were introduced, and the origins of the PRSC. Anyone who has spent time with Jack knows this will be an entertaining and informative evening. Jack promises to tell some interesting stories about several current members, including Ken Shultz, Jeff Kelbe, and Jay Eiche. He suggests they be there to defend themselves. Someone also please ask Jack to tell the classic story of how he once attempted to launch a canoe into space!

May Is Experts Night

Experts Night is where Club members share their skills with other members. Please join in and share your skills, too. To date, the following PRSCers have volunteered (well, not exactly) to present at Experts Night:

Herschel Finch – spinner baits

Randy Chandler – top water baits

Jay Eiche – super flukes and Senkos

Bill Pearl – jet boat operation

Steve Kimm – fishing gear for the beginner

Jame Gold – fly fishing

Steve Adams – Tenkara fishing techniques

Mark Myers – knots (if able to attend)

Club Executive Board	Upcoming Items
President John Lipetz (h) president@prsc.org	Potomac River Smallmouth Club - Next Meeting Join Us Wednesday, May 29 for PRSC's next meeting. We will be having Experts Night. Please see the prior page for more information. Also, PRSC will be holding another Swap Meet event. Bring along gear that you want to sell, and bring cash to buy gear that your fellow members want to sell to you.
Vice-President Kristen Sorensen vp@prsc.org	Free Fly Fishing Classes at Orvis This Spring the Orvis store in Tyson's will be hosting a series of free classes on fly fishing. Please see the flyer on page 4 of this issue for more information.
Secretary Dave Lockard (h) (301) 656-1964 secretary@prsc.org	Upcoming Fund Raiser - Potomac Riverkeeper The Potomac Riverkeeper will be having fundraising event this month. Please see the flyer on page 5 of this issue.
Treasurer Jamie Gold C (571) 213-4699 treasure@prsc.org	The Family and Youth Casting Call Saturday, May 5 - 10am to 3pm - Fletcher's Boat House.
Trip Coordinator Steve Kimm trip_coordinator@prsc.org	Spend a day fishing in the C&O Canal - they will provide the instructors and all the gear the participants will need to catch fish! When not fishing, children will participate in fun, educational activities like water quality testing, fly casting or fly tying, fish art, scavenger hunts, touch tanks and so much more! Partner agencies and organizations will have displays set up to learn about how they are helping fish and fishing across the country! Don't miss this fantastic day of family fun!
Program Chair Bill Amshey Programs@prsc.org	For more information, see their website at http://www.familyandyouthcastingcall.com/ .
Conservation Chair Herschel Finch (H) (540) 635-7636 Conservation@prsc.org	Potomac Conservancy
Librarian Chip Comstock Librarian@prsc.org	River Center Guide Training. Saturday, April 27 - 10am-12pm. Love local history? Are you passionate about the Potomac River? Become a River Center guide! River Center guides will help maintain and staff Potomac Conservancy's River Center at Lock 8 in the C&O Canal National Historical Park. Guides provide information to park visitors, promote the river protection activities and programs of Potomac Conservancy and lead occasional education activities for park visitors. By volunteering as a River Center guide, you will answer visitor questions and distribute information about Potomac Conservancy and the C&O Canal National Historical Park. In the morning, volunteers will open the River Center to the Public. Before closing, they will keep the public areas of the River Center tidy, restock materials, and remove trash and recyclables. Volunteers who are able and interested will lead walks, talks or occasional education programs for small groups of families and children. For more information, contact Lien Vu at vu@potomac.org .
Additional Programs Fishing Contest Jack Cook H (703) 573-4403	
The Buzz Jamie Gold (C) (571) 213-4699 Buzz_Editor@prsc.org	
Merchandise Ernie Rojas H (703) 729-0128 Publicity@prsc.org	
Past President Steve Moore	
Publicity Ernie Rojas H (703) 729-0128	

What's Old is New Again

By John Lipetz

Hello Everybody,

I went fishing a little earlier this week and my best bite came off of a tube. Over the last twelve years a tube has been a staple in my tackle box. In the past five years, I have thrown it less and less. Why? Well, I guess it's because there are newer and better baits that lure manufacturers have persuaded me to buy and use. At times, we need to step back and look at what works from the stand point of the fish. They still eat what they are going to eat. Getting back to my fishing report; I caught 3 nice fat smallies, the largest of which was just over 18". The other two were a respectable 14" with a big belly and a 15.5" that felt like a '73 Buick. Before I saw the 2nd fish, I would have sworn it was much bigger. All three fish were caught in 45 minutes out of two holes that I fished on a short three hour kayak trip. I threw a lot of different baits with little success. In the first hour and a half I caught a two small fish. Finally, I tied an old but true lure on the end of my line and things started to happen. The winning lure was a 4" tube rigged with a 5/16 oz. jig head and fished slowly in the deep pools on the Potomac. For those of you I have been lucky enough to fish with, you can guess the color (hint – it was dark green) and action (very little) used to catch the fish. This story seems relevant because it reminds us to “dance with who brung ya” (a very bad movie reference and I will give a gift to whoever guesses correctly and tells me 1st). In other words, get back to the basics.

It is also a nice analogy to my return to office as the President of PRSC. The things that I remember working are the things that we are going to be doing. The focus will be where and how to catch bigger and more smallmouth; how to protect fish, our natural resources and our watershed; and how to become better stewards of the outdoors with an emphasis on our rivers. It sounds like a lot, but it is a simple formula that the club has pursued since its beginning 25 years ago.

Thank you for allowing me to return to the position of Club President. I am happy to step back into the role and am eager to help the club stay strong. A lot of you may think I am a glutton for punishment, or that I must have a lot free time, or even that I am well suited for the role. The answer is no, quite the contrary, and thanks for your confidence. The truth of the matter is that the team of officers and volunteers in our club make the position easy for me, or anyone, to step into the presidency and succeed.

My first action as President is to appoint a five member Search Committee. The committee will be comprised of long time members and past and present officers. Their role is to talk with members about ideas for improvements to the club and to learn if there are members that are interested in volunteering for leadership positions. This is how we used to find people interested in volunteering for everything from fishing with wounded veterans to club officers. It works and, it keeps members talking to each other, so we are going to reintroduce the service.

For 25 years PRSC has been dedicated to making smallmouth fishing fun and successful for its membership. This really is your club. The club is a place for you to learn how to become better anglers, more involved conservationists, and develop friendships that go beyond fishing.

This can be your best year of fishing if you take advantage of everything your club has to offer. Through the great articles in *The Buzz*, talented guides and speakers, fishing and tackle demonstrations, talking with your friends in the club and in my opinion, the best kept secret to catching more and bigger fish –getting out to fish on club trips!

Learn the fly-fishing basics for **FREE.**



Fly Fishing 101 & 201

Fly Fishing 101

Learn fly-fishing basics in one of our free Fly Fishing 101 classes. Perfect for beginners of all ages, Fly Fishing 101 will provide you with free lessons on fly casting and outfit rigging.

Event Dates

April 20	May 4	May 25
April 21	May 5	May 26
April 27	May 18	June 8
April 28	May 19	June 9

Fly Fishing 201

If you've already completed Fly Fishing 101, you're ready for the next step. Join us for a short outing on local water for a chance to catch your first fish! A nominal fee for the outing may apply.

Event Dates

May 11	June 1	June 15
May 12	June 2	June 16

Upon completion of the course, you will receive special in-store offers valid toward purchase of Orvis products.



Free Trout Unlimited membership—a \$35 value.



Free membership to the Federation of Fly Fishers—a \$35 value.

Class spaces are limited and are first come, first served.
Call today to reserve your spot.

ORVIS
FLY FISHING
101



ORVIS
FLY FISHING
201

Potomac Riverkeeper Event

Raise a Glass to Clean Water: A Benefit for Potomac Riverkeeper

Sunday, April 28, 2013 | 3:00pm--6:00pm

SNR Denton Penthouse

1301 K Street NW | Washington, DC 20005



This year, the Riverkeeper will be hosting its 11th Annual Event at the SNR Denton Penthouse in Downtown Washington DC. They are excited to offer tastings from local breweries and wineries this year, in addition to a light buffet generously provided by Clyde's.

There will also be a small live auction, music, awards and more!

[Buy Tickets or Become a Host!](#)

More information to come, make sure to save the date!

Spring Time Shad Fis

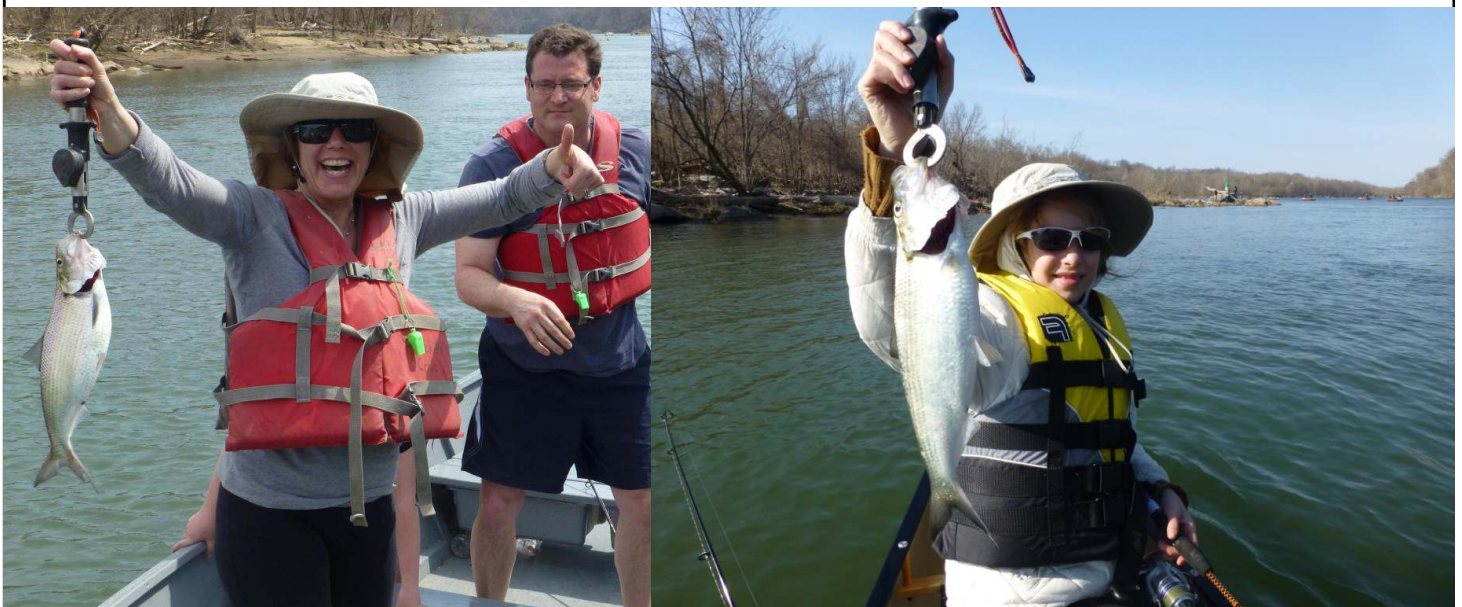
By Jamie Gold

Folks...it is that time of year again. Spring is starting to bloom, the Dogwood trees are in blossom, and most important of all...the shad are in the river. Yes, the clarion call that excites knowing fishermen in this area has gone out. The shad have returned to the waters of the Potomac River for their annual spawning run. Shad are an anadromous fish, which means that they live in salt water, but in the Spring they run up freshwater rivers to spawn. While a shadow of what it used to be, the shad run brings thousands, if not millions, of fish into the river every year.

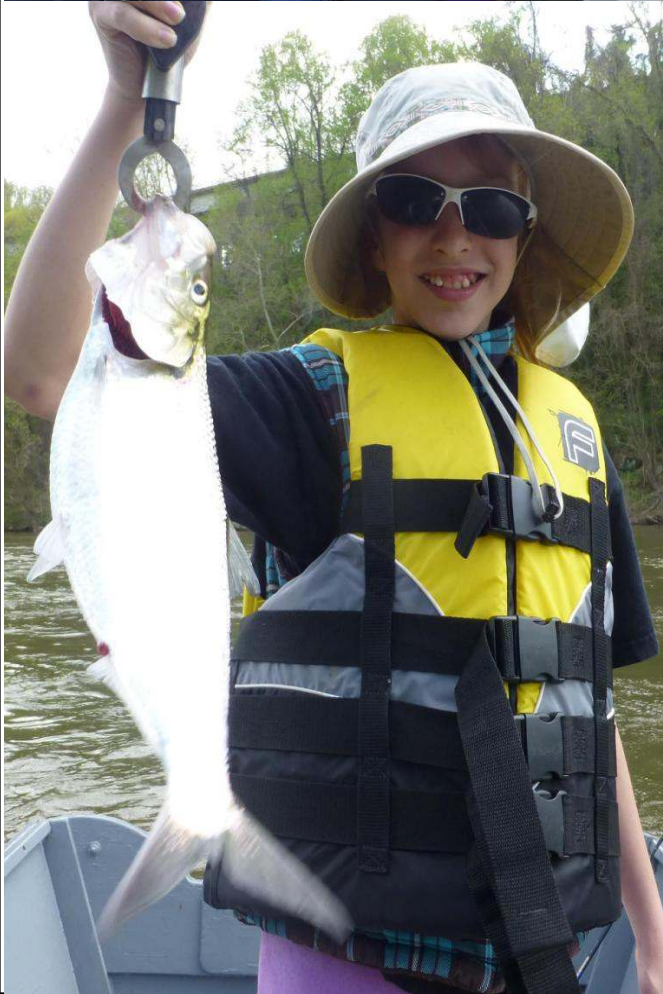
A spot that I really like to go to is Fletcher's Cove, in Georgetown. There the eager angler can buy a license, buy lures including shad darts and shad killers, get a drink and a snack, and rent a boat to go out on the water. Also, the staff are very friendly and very knowledgeable. (For more information see the March 2012 and March 2011 issues of the Buzz for articles about Fletcher's).

I generally take two approaches. During the week, I like to drive over to Fletcher's after work to wind down from the day's labors. On these excursions I fish from shore using spinning gear. Shad darts and shad killers are my go to baits; in red and white, green, and chartreuse. I also like pink shad killers. Usually I'll add some split shot for the extra weight to cast my lures out further. On the weekends I get to Fletcher's around 5:30 to get in line to rent a boat; any later and the boats are gone. I prefer to use a fly rod when fishing from a boat. My rig of choice is a 6wt fly rod with a sinking line, which is needed to get the fly down. I use flies tied specifically for shad. My favorites are brightly colored flies with flash.

Either way, shad fishing is a great way to spend a few hours, and a great way to get warmed up for smallmouth fishing. Enjoy the pictures taken by me, Steve Adams, and Chris Schaupp.



ishing on the Potomac



Early Spring Stripe

By Ernie Rojas

Editor's Note: Earlier this spring I received a note from Capt. Dennis Fleming that he had some open spots on his schedule and that the stripers were biting. I was not able to go, but let Ernie know. He went, and I've been kicking myself for not going ever since.

This trip was quite an adventure as it included a nice day on the bay, a rescue, some good karma and some fish! Wake up at 0350.... ✓ Meet Craig in Annandale at 0440.... ✓ Meet Bob in Forrestville at 0505.... ✓ Meet Capt. Dennis Fleming at Solomons Ramp 0615.... ✓ Start fishing before the sun comes up.... ✓

When we got to the location, we were boat # 11 along with two kayakers. At one point, there were 18 boats but everyone got along. I don't remember who got the 1st fish but it did not take long.



Everything was going great, and in a flash things changed! This kayaker was hooked up with a very nice fish. It was dragging him all over the place. Once he got control (so we thought), he called his son over to take a picture. In the blink of an eye, the yaker that had the fish on lost his balance and in the drink he went. That water is cold and fast! Capt. Dennis yelled out for him to hang on to the kayak, we were

r Fishing on the Bay

coming over. We plucked him out of the water and the rescue was made. The yaker was wearing a wet suit below his clothes but we talked him out of fishing anymore and took him back to where he had put in. He was not hurt, just a little chilly and a hurt pride so we bid him goodbye at the beach. That whole episode took no longer than 20 minutes from going in to the water to being dropped off at the beach. We felt good but it was time to fish some more. Kudos to Capt. Dennis!

Back to more fish (I did NOT take a picture of all the fish we caught, maybe 1 in 6?). By the way, we did not measure or weigh any of the fish. A quick picture with belly support and back in the water they went! Bob then got a strange tug and a dead bird came up with hundreds of yards of line attached.

The fishing really slowed down at around 10 am. We did not catch anything for almost 90 minutes. I was up front and took a snooze. Then Craig got hit...but I still stayed down. Then he got hit again as did Dennis. But it was some sarcastic remark that he made about my lazy behind that got me to start slinging again. I got hooked to the bottom and my line was cut. I had just enough leader to tie on a lure. I got ridiculed for that and almost paid a hefty price.

We had just talked about calling it a day but Dennis wanted to do one more drift....OK, whatever! Thankfully, I got hit, but it was weird. My line went limp as my lure was on the drop so I decided to see why. I was hooked up soon! After a few head shakes, I declared that I was hooked up....with a BIG fish. The fish was taking line at will, I could do nothing to stop her. Several times, Dennis told me not to touch the drag but I was tempted. But I didn't touch it. The gear was a 6'6" Loomis GL3 with a Revo Inshore spooled with 30lb braid and two inches of 30lb leader. Dennis kept me calm as the fish just went down and stayed down. It actually felt like I had bottom except she would move once in a while. We are now 15 long minutes into this thing. Meanwhile, Dennis is calling a few friends over and he is exited. So was I except, this fish was putting a hurting on me. Another 10 minutes go by and I get a look. I think I may have wet my pants! Wow is all I could say. Actually, I was speechless. We visually marked her on the deck and estimated her at 45-46". She was 40+ pounds....a huge head and a huge belly! Every fish that we caught today was taken off the hook by hand and carefully handled. There was no way we would get a picture unless we used the net. We decided to go for it but being extra careful. She came up, Dennis gently scooped her and we rested her on the bow. *Editor's Note: Please see the back page for another picture.*



Two Days of

By Herschel Finch

I started my spring in fine style with back-to-back trips on one of PRSC's favorite floats; State Park to Karo on the South Fork of the Shenandoah. The weather was perfect both days and the water levels were slightly elevated, with a slight stain on both trips. But what made both trips good ones was the company.

The weekend of the 6th of April, I planned a trip with Matt Johndrow of Harrisonburg, VA. and I was able to put John Tipton in my pontoon boat so he could join us. John Tipton, for those who don't know, is the famous "Bbackhunter" from RiverSmallies and was one half of New River Fishing Guide Service, in partnership with Sam Rorrer. If you want to learn a thing or three...John is the guy to go with and stick close to. I've known John over 10 years now and I have benefitted greatly from his tutelage but most of all from his friendship. But the really good news for the club is John has recently moved over the winter to Luray. If you come out to fish with me, chances are good you'll get to become John's friend too because we intend to fish a lot together from here on out.

The trip on the 6th started out very well. My second cast brought a nice fat 19 incher that I didn't get a picture of because my anchor wouldn't



hold at that particular place, and with the elevated water, I didn't want to be floating backwards down the river in the Coosa. So I slipped her into the water after holding her up for John's blessing and turned the kayak around and headed on downriver. The rookery island was alive with Great Blue Herons, and couple that with the Cormorants waiting for an opportunity to snatch an egg or three, we heard quite a racket.

On the 'Doah

With bluebird skies, falling water and a weather front that had just passed the day before, fishing was tough. But we all managed to land four or five good quality fish each. I would end up with an additional 17 inch and two 16s before the day was done. And with the elevated levels of water, we were even getting good fish below the three islands. All in all, it was a very good day on the water. After all those years spent in John's raft...I got to put him in mine and put HIM on some fish for a change.

The very next weekend, I did the same float with John Lipetz, and his son Quinn. I had the privilege of riding in the front of Steve Kimm's pontoon boat. Any time Steve offers up the front seat in his boat is a good day, fish or no fish. But somehow, we always seem to manage to catch at least a few, even under adverse conditions. And although our conditions were far from 'adverse'... it seemed to be a repeat of the previous weekend. We had to work for virtually every fish and we all had four to six fish each, all respectable sized and all healthy. So all and all, it was two very good weekends on the water.

Being higher up in that pontoon seat allowed me to see a lot more as well, and I



saw a lot of "practice fanning" going on behind the ledges. So the smaller males are out there getting their skills up in hopes of attracting a big female...but they'll be waiting a couple of seasons before they get a chance to do their thing. (Hang in their boys, your chance is coming.) So given the evidence I saw, if you're planning to fish the pre-spawn you need to get out there soon, because they're gonna be on the beds in about another week to week-and-half.



PRSC On the Water

By: Jamie Gold

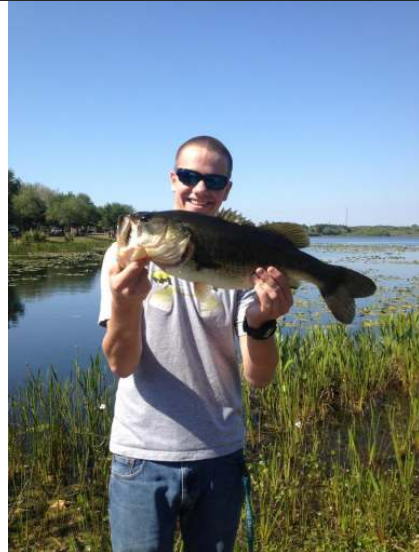
Members of PRSC have been busy this past month catching and photographing some awesome fish. Enjoy, and feel free to submit pictures of fish that you've caught for next month's Buzz.

Great early season river smallmouth.



George Thurston. Photo by unknown.

24" 5 lbs. Largemouth from Largo, FL



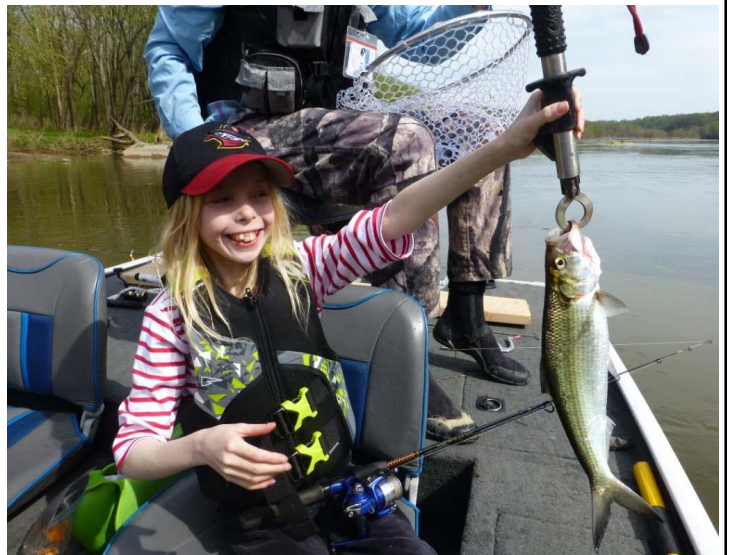
Patrick Brophy. Photo by unknown.

Jackson River Trout Resting after Being Caught.



Fish caught and Photographed by Chip Comstock.

Potomac River Shad.



Maria Schaupp. Photo by Chris Schaupp.

Conservation Corner

By Herschel Finch

Is there anyone who doesn't love this time of year? Days are longer, DST has kicked in making those eight mile long floats doable again, trees and flowers are blooming (sorry allergy sufferers) and the pre-spawn feed is on! So far, no real heavy flooding events have put the 'hoo-do' on the upcoming spawn and we've avoided the high spike in temperatures in late winter that can precede another fish kill. But that doesn't mean we need to drop our vigilance.

We've come a long way since those dark days that started ten years ago. But as Jeff Kelle and Matt Logan, our new Potomac Riverkeeper point out, all the issues that can cause another die-off are still present. At Jeff's urging, the state of Virginia, and Maryland as well, have put some new regulations in place in the Valley and on the north bank of the Potomac that should make a marked difference in the coming years in the condition of both the Shenandoah and the Potomac Rivers. But it will take time and continued vigilance on all our parts.

This is the time of year that I start looking down almost as much as looking 'out' when I'm on the river. It's a habit I developed way back in the early 2000s. And this year, as a reminder... The Potomac/Shenandoah Riverkeeper organization is reconstituting its 'Riverwatcher' program. I'll let you know as soon as I hear where and when the classes will be held. I'd like to see a good cross section of the membership get their RiverWatcher designation under this new program. Remember to bring your smart-phones too. They're gonna go live with a new app for both iPhones and Android phones that will allow you pump a river report directly to the Riverkeeper when you needed. How cool is that?

There's also some new activity around the ramps as well. The next time you guys come out to fish the south fork with me in Front Royal, go to the north end of town and come in on Rte. 522 at the shopping center, and then drive down and take a look at the ramp improvements they made at Riverton under the first bridge across the North Fork. They paved the ramp all the way down the hill from the parking area, and have nice drainage down either side of the ramp, installed a set of steps down that steep hill and improved the picnic area on the other side of the ramp. Allegheny Power provided a lot of new plantings along the sides of the ramp and the manpower to put them in the ground in the form of office employees, given a 'field day' to go participate in this worthy effort. It looks great. No movement yet on building the new ramp between Rte. 50 Bidge and Morgan's Ford yet...but they do have survey stakes in the ground, so I would expect some activity down off Howellsville Road in the very near future. Or at least I sure hope so. Breaking that float up into two 5 mile+ floats will open up some great water for us..and some Muskie hunting as well. I think I got a little excited there for a second!

Anyway..looks like a great year is shaping up folks. Get out there get a line wet!

PRSC
P.O. Box 1240
Vienna, VA 22183

After a hiatus to thank those who have supported PRSC, the picture of the month is back.

This is my favorite picture that I received this month. This is Ernie Rojas with the huge striper he caught while fishing with Capt. Dennis Fleming. Great job Ernie and congrats on the awesome fish. (Please see the full article on the trip in this issue of *The Buzz*).



2013 Contest Results

April 2013 Report By Wallace Harvey

Spring has sprung and we are all ready to hit the water. Careful, it is a bit cool yet. However we do have one new entrant in the contest this month. From, of all places, the North Fork of the Shenandoah, Jay Eiche hit the jackpot, twenty-one and a half inches for a nice smallie! Congratulations to Jay! That puts him in the lead for Section I and for Big Fish. Who is going to beat that?

Now that we are warming up, I expect to hear from more of you that you have been fishing and caught something. I know the shad are starting to run, but smallmouth bass are our stock and trade. River levels are holding good and are pretty clear. Smallmouth should start feeding to get ready for spawning. Lets hope for a great year for the spawn.

I am looking forward to a good year on the rivers this year. With finally getting some winter snow to help the water tables, and rain this winter, we should have good rivers this year. I got tired of bumping bottom last year. With more water and good growth patterns since the fish kills, we should see more and larger fish. We need to get back to the levels we enjoyed only a few years ago. Let's go out there and prove that the larger fish exist and are more plentiful. As you catch them, please let us know. You may not think you have a winner, but who can remember all the categories we have while fishing. Take a pad and pencil to write down your big fish and top five. Who knows you might just win. Good Luck!

2013 Results

Section 1, Biggest Fish: Jay Eiche, 21.5"

Section 1, Best 5 Fish:

Section 2, Biggest Fish: Bill Pearl, 18"

Section 2, Best 5 Fish: Bill Pearl, 80"

Section 3, Biggest Fish: Bill Pearl, 20.5"

Section 3, Best 5 Fish: Bill Pearl, 92.5"

Largest on Fly:

New Member:

William Shriver Award: Jay Eiche, 21.5"

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.