



The Buzz

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June 25, 2014

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July 30, 2014

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Summer 2014

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Join Us June 25th for PRSC's Annual Boat Night at Riverbend Park

Boat Night has become a Club tradition. The event typically features an example of every type of boat used for river smallmouth fishing, from jet boats to pontoons, canoes and kayaks.

After the popularity of last year's event, this year's event will return to [Riverbend Park](#) in Great Falls, VA, offering the opportunity to see boats in their natural habitat and the potential to paddle or ride in some. This is a great opportunity to see a variety of different boats, see how they are outfitted, and talk to the owners. The event will start at 6:00 and we'll be grilling hamburgers, so come hungry! To the right is the picnic area we will be using. For more information on the

park, go to <http://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/parks/riverbend/>.



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Upcoming Items

Potomac River Smallmouth Club - See You in July

July 30, 2014, 7:30pm. Join us in July for what should be a terrific presentation. Many of you will remember Bruce Ingram from the last time he spoke to PRSC for his comments regarding the importance of lure color for fishing. He will be returning to speak about fishing. He will also have copies of his new book on the Potomac River for sale. Please join us for an informative and entertaining evening.

PRSC Picture Raffle - Mark Susinno Print

As a fund raiser, PRSC is raffling off a Mark Susinno print. It is signed by the artist, and numbered 309/400. Tickets are \$2 per ticket, 3 tickets for \$5 and 7 tickets for \$10. We will be selling tickets until we have the drawing at a PRSC meeting later this year. We will have the print at the upcoming meetings. Here is a photo of the print.



Shenandoah Riverkeeper

Shenandoah Riverfest

Saturday, August 9 - 10:00am. Come out and play with the Shenandoah Riverkeeper down at Shenandoah River State Park for canoeing, tubing, swimming, food, music, wild animal displays, and the 2nd Annual Cardboard Boat Race! Entrants will receive a free trial membership to Shenandoah Riverkeeper and get a chance to win a brand new kayak! For more information visit their website at www.potomacriverkeeper.org.

Potomac Conservancy

Canal Stewards: Fletcher's Cove

Saturday, July 19 - 10:00am-12:00pm. Help the Conservancy clean up Fletcher's Cove in the C&O Canal National Historical Park! This monthly cleanup day is part of the Canal Stewards partnership with the National Park Service, engaging volunteers to become long-term caretakers of a designated site within the park. Typical activities include picking up trash, pruning vegetation along the trails, and repairing the towpath and trails. Wear clothes that you don't mind getting dirty - they will provide all the necessary tools and equipment! This event is open to all ages. Please meet in the lower parking lot. For questions, contact Rebecca Long at long@potomac.org.

Action Alert on Beaverda Reservoir

By Ernie Rojas

We were all shocked at this news article (link below) calling for the closure of and suspension of public access to Beaverdam Reservoir in Loudoun County, VA for four+ years, while improvements are made to the dam and unspecified studies are done.

[http://m.leesburgtoday.com/news/loudoun ... l?mode=jqm](http://m.leesburgtoday.com/news/loudoun...l?mode=jqm)

Many of us have made our views known by writing to various officials, speaking at public meetings and signing petitioners.

As well, many of us have enjoyed the fishing in Beaverdam.

We have asked that Loudoun County Water reconsider this action and we are putting a lot of pressure on them (civil) to do so.

Members of the club can help with one last big push to hit 1,000 petition signatures before we meet with Loudoun Water next month. With support from Loudoun Supervisors Wiiliams, Reid, and Clarke, NVRPA, and Virginia State Game and Inland Fish, Facebook friends Clean Up Beaverdam and Loudoun Paddle Club, we have gained valuable attention. This story has had several write ups in our local newspapers with more to come. So now we need each of you to sign the petition and get one or two more people to sign the petition this week to push our message and gain Loudoun Water as a friend to the community. Many thanks to all of you and showing these petitions do matter. Link is below:

[http://www.change.org/petitions/scott-york-allow-continued-access-of-beaver-dam-reservoir-for-the-public?
utm_source=supporter_message&utm_medium=email&utm_campaign=supporter_message](http://www.change.org/petitions/scott-york-allow-continued-access-of-beaver-dam-reservoir-for-the-public?utm_source=supporter_message&utm_medium=email&utm_campaign=supporter_message)

Fishing the Buckle

Article and Photos by Jay Eiche

One of my favorite Jack Nicholson movies is “The Bucket List.” The concept has entered the popular lexicon and represents the idea of creating a list of things to do, or accomplish, before we kick the bucket. Long time club member Jack Cook has as one of three remaining things on his bucket list, to catch a 6lb smallmouth bass. Probably your best shot to do this is to fish the Great Lakes, specifically Lake Erie.

Back in the mid 90s, the club had a couple of guides come to speak about techniques for spring fishing on Lake Erie. The following year I went up with Mike Popp and we caught a number of fish over 5lbs, with a big fish of 6.5lbs. However, as we were to learn later, we hit it just right. Mike and I went up again, and because we didn’t have a boat set up for big water and the weather that you can have on Lake Erie, we ended up only getting out on the Lake for part of one day in trip that lasted a week. Since that trip, we have always hired a guide that has the right boat and knowledge to give you a shot at that elusive 6lber.

We asked around and a few club members all came up with the same name, Frank DiMarcantonio. Frank lives in Canada not far from Buffalo, NY. He launches from just under the Peace Bridge and for big smallies fishes the New York shore south of Buffalo. Frank is a great guy and guide, so I’d recommend him highly. Feel free to call or email me if you have any questions. Here is Frank’s website:

<http://www.niagarasportfishing.ca/>.

Jack Cook holding two nice Lake Erie smallmouth bass.



t List on Lake Erie



Jay Eiche with a great smallmouth bass.

So over the years I've used Frank while fishing with Ken Schultz, Marty Hayden, and of course our own Captain Potomac, Jack Cook. We have caught a number of fish over 5lbs, but alas none over the magic 6lb mark. I should also say that Frank is one of those hardcore guys that will take you out when Mother

Nature puts a beating down on you. Jack would say you are just paying your dues to the fish Gods, but the older you get the higher those dues seem to be. This year was no exception.

We fished two days in the middle of May of this year. Frank works full time as a prison guard, so he takes two weeks of vacation each April/May to guide fisherman for big smallies. You pretty much roll the dice hoping that the days you pick months in advance are when the big girls are in to spawn, and the wind and weather cooperate. We caught some nice fish over 5lbs, but unfortunately no bucket list fish for Jack. We certainly paid our dues to the fish Gods and Frank bravely navigated us through some atrocious wind and weather, but it takes a toll.

Still, I believe that fishing Lake Erie is any fisherman's best shot at a 6lb or better smallie. However, for your own safety I highly recommend hiring a guide, and you'd be hard pressed to find a more knowledgeable and hardcore smallie guide than Frank D. Don't forget your rain gear and warm clothes. Tight lines as they say.

Fishing L

Article and Photos by Bill Amshey

Whenever I receive a phone call from an area code I don't know, I always figure it's some darn telemarketer. But this time it was from an old high school buddy who called to ask me whether I wanted to go on a fishing trip to Lake Erie. Getting invited to the mother lode of smallmouth bass fishing doesn't happen too often.

A few days later, my friend, Bill Rogers, and I drove to Buffalo, New York. It's about a 7-hour drive from the Metro area. Bill had fished Erie several times and had always gone out and had great luck with Capt. Tim Braun. Tim has been fishing the lake since he was a kid and has been guiding for some 10 years.



Tim believes in starting early. We met him both days at 5:30 am. The first day we didn't get off the water until just short of twelve hours later, since the next day would be a "short" seven hours.

The first day on the water when we left the marina it was calm, but when we went out into the lake outside the barrier walls, I was introduced to "weather" on Lake Erie. The winds were blowing 15 to 20 miles an hour; the weatherman said it would hit 70 degrees that day, but it couldn't have gotten out of the high 50s; and Tim's "2 feet of chop" looked more like 3 feet of waves to me. Tim replied with a smile: "Hey, I don't see any white caps!"

Tim first took us to some humps about a half a mile from shore in spots ranging from 20 feet to 30 feet. Tim's lure of choice is green tubes, specifically green pumpkin and melon-pepper. Tim explained that tubes mimic a crawdad and also a wounded bait fish. Other baits he likes include goby lures, grubs, jerk baits, spinner baits, Senkos, and any shad-looking baits. All have their place at certain times off the year. And with a wry smile, he said: "Leave at home any lures that would strictly target largemouth bass."

At each location we fished, Tim told us what was on the bottom, ranging from sand to gravel to chunk rock, and how to fish our tube. Tim also rigged up a rod for each of us with an emerald shiner on it that bounced along the bottom. Both my and Bill's first fish were each caught on the shiners. We caught some on tubes out on the lake, but after a couple of hours of being bounced around, Tim moved us back behind the Buffalo harbor barrier walls.

Here our catch rate picked up. At our first stop, Bill and I must have pulled out about 10 good-sized bass. We also worked some of the outside barrier walls, back in the wind and the "chop," but here we again caught some of our biggest bruisers. Tim explained that the Lake Erie waters are so clear that you "need the wind and the chop in order not to spook the fish." By the time we returned to the marina, Bill had thumbed about 20 smallies, Tim about 15, and me about 10. All of our fish were 15 inches or better, were as round as footballs, and would be classified in the monster category in the Virginia waters I normally fish. Seriously, some of the smallies we caught looked like aliens! These guys don't start considering a smallie big until he's in the 6-pound range.



Lake Erie



The next morning, the weatherman predicted 70-degree weather and a calm breeze. We ignored the forecast and showed up at the marina dressed like Eskimos. As Tim idled his Z21 Ranger out of the marina, the water was as calm as glass and there was barely a breeze. Based on the tough conditions on the lake the day before, Tim decided we'd fish behind the barriers where we had been hugely successful the day before. Nope, they weren't there. We caught a few, however, it was so slow that Tim moved us back out on the lake. But remember Tim's axiom – no wind, no chop, no fish – it proved to be true.

After a couple of hours on the lake, we returned to the area behind the barrier walls and fished the Niagara River area. Here we had some success, but it was still slow. Bill and Tim each caught a few smallies and

one walleye apiece, while I caught one good-sized smallie.

All in all, while we didn't catch the numbers of fish that we would have liked, we did catch some big bruisers that would make most fish around here look small. Tim explained that the fishing in Lake Erie peaked several years ago, but that now the fish are larger because of the introduction of the invasive goby fish, which Erie smallmouth seem to love. I've never fished for smallies in a lake this size and depth, but Tim was a good and patient teacher, pointing out techniques I could use to improve my fish-catching rate. My high school buddy, Bill, and I are already planning our next trip back to Buffalo. This time, I plan to catch a 6-pounder!

Tim Braun has been chasing smallmouth on Lake Erie for nearly 30 years. In the early 80s, he was one of the first fishermen who strictly targeted smallmouth on the lake. He fished local tournaments and then started to fish at higher skill levels with some success. His many years on the water have caused him to change his fishing techniques. Back casting is a great pattern he believes he started, casting the opposite direction the waves are rolling and working the bait back to the boat. He's also a proponent of vertical jigging and dragging a tube along the bottom. He was one of the first to run a bass boat on Erie out of Buffalo.

As we all know, fishing often is about being at the right place at the right time. In an exchange of emails after returning home, Tim wrote: "I am glad you guys had a good time. The weather turned for the better. The last 6 trips have been great. Look forward to seeing you guys again."

Capt. Tim Braun can be reached at Braun's Outdoors Bass Charters & Guide Service (Walleye & Perch Trips Available). Lake Erie, Ontario & Niagara River.
WWW.BRAUNSOUTDOORS.COM
BIGBASSTMB@ROADRUNNER.COM
 716-837-5649 Home
 716 860 5564 Cell

Tim suggests that the best time of year to fish Lake Erie is mid-May until late June; that's "trophy time." Late September until late October is another good target time. July through August is also good fishing, and the weather is stable.



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.

Very Large Potomac River American Shad.



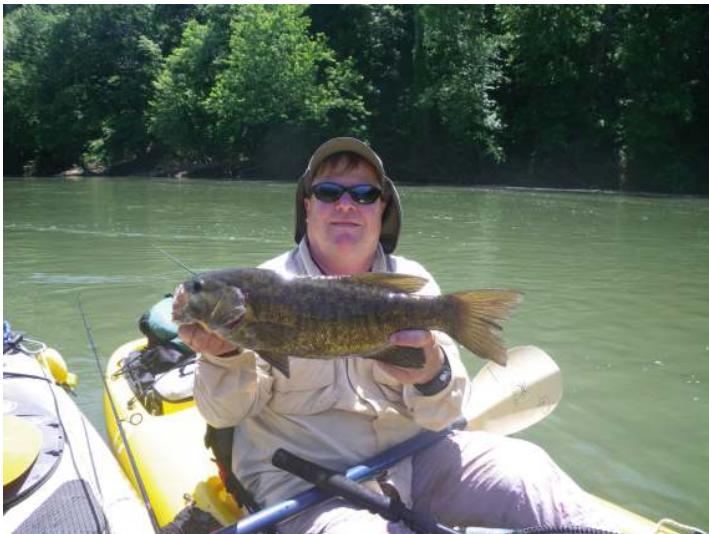
Steve Adams. Photo by Jamie Gold.

A Very Nice Smallmouth Bass.



Sarah Schaupp. Photo by Chris Schaupp.

Shenandoah River Smallmouth.



George Thurston.

Another Awesome Bronzeback.



George Thurston.

New Fishing Book on the Potomac River

Editor's Note: Bruce Ingram will be speaking to PRSC at our July 30, 2014 meeting. A new book he has written about fishing the Potomac River has just been published. The title of the Book is South Branch and Upper Potomac Rivers Guide. Bruce will have copies of the book available for sale at our July meeting. Bring your money so you can get a copy and save money on shipping charges.

Bruce Ingram's books on the James, New, and Shenandoah/Rappahannock cover all float trips available on these rivers, plus information on access points, rapids, fishing hot spots, and trip planning. Basically, paragraph by paragraph, mile by mile, Ingram takes you on a trip down these rivers, so that when you go on your own excursions, you can have safe, pleasant experiences. Designed for float fishermen, paddlers, birders, and wildlife watchers, these three where to go books are the most detailed works available.

Prices include taxes and shipping. Please specify the individual the book should be dedicated and signed to.

James River Guide...\$17.75

New River Guide...\$18.75

Shenandoah/Rappahannock Rivers Guide...\$20.75 (new edition)

Fly and Spin Fishing for River Smallmouths...\$19.75

South Branch and Upper Potomac Rivers Guide...\$20.75

Ingram's fourth book, *Fly and Spin Fishing for River Smallmouths*, covers how to catch smallmouths on fly and spinning rods throughout the year, plus such topics as conservation easements, riparian zone creation/protection, taking kids fishing, canoe camping, birding by canoe and much more.

The South Branch and Upper Potomac book covers from the Smoke Hole section of the South Branch downstream to the Upper Potomac just above Great Falls. The format is similar to the other where-to-go river guides. Send check or money order to Bruce Ingram at 1009 Brunswick Forge Road, Troutville, VA 24175. Prices listed above include tax and shipping charges.

Conservation Corner

By Herschel Finch

So here it is June and we're usually past the time when we're worried about fish die-offs and lesions and such. The water is usually warm enough by this time to tamp down the bacteria and viruses that infect our fish and cause the lesions, among other problems.

But this year is different. With all the rain we've had, water temperatures have been lower than normal, so we're still seeing lesions. We've also had some reports here and there of dead and dying fish. But it's seemed like the last few weeks, every time we started getting reports, we've have a big rain event that would drive up the rivers and wash whatever evidence there may be out into the bay before we could get out there to see if we could find any evidence.

To date, I think everyone has found fishing kind of tough on the Shenandoah and Potomac this year. Most of the time we seem to be getting into the river just as it reaches reasonably safe levels after a high water event. But that's not to say there haven't been some good fish caught. I've caught some of those decent fish in the 17-16-15 inch range myself. Just today, I had two 19 inchers that were caught today, show up on my FaceBook news feed. So I feel fairly certain that we haven't had a catastrophic loss of adult fish this year. But I do think we may have lost more than the usual 10% after the spawn that's thought to be normal by the marine biologists.

As for the spawn this year, I'm not so optimistic. Seems like just as things would get back to being close to a good spawn level, rain would drive the rivers right back up. I know in years past that the smallmouth have been able to hang on until the end of May and even into the first week of June. These things I will leave to the experts and the technicians on the shock boats who'll be doing population surveys later. Hopefully by August we'll know something; keep your fingers crossed.

I think I need to pass this on since so many of you have asked. Given the logistics involved, and the changes that the Potomac/Shenandoah Riverkeeper organization is undergoing this year, there isn't going to be the big fund raising Rodeo with the guides, music and catered meal (usually in July) like in years past. Jeff feels like the event has lost a little steam and maybe laying off a year may help rejuvenate some enthusiasm for it next year. The Shenandoah Riverfest IS still on and will be held at Andy Guest State Park on the 9th of August this year. Don't forget that I'm going to need as many of you to volunteer and to help us out that day since I'm sorta in charge of making that happen. Don't make me look like a fool! Yes John Lieptz...I can do that quite well on my own thankewverymuch!

I'll be setting up a volunteer sheet next month and probably be making a few harassing phones calls and sending spam-mails to the membership. You may be running kids games, parking cars, directing traffic and of course, staffing the PRSC booth. It's really a good time and helps educate folks to what a fabulous resource we have in our rivers. I hope you'll come join us.

BTW, if you haven't heard, Brent Walls is now the "official" Upper Potomac RiverKeeper. His title was 'manager' before, and he's been doing a bang-up job for the organization in that capacity. But now as the official RiverKeeper, his duties are expanded and became more complicated as he ferrets out polluters, old mine discharges and just in general works to preserve and protect the resource up there. Drop him an email sometimes and tell him you've got his back. He'll appreciate it, I guarantee it.

PRSC
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Vienna, VA 22183

This is my favorite picture(s) that I received this past month. This is PRSC member Terry Little with a 20 3/4" smallmouth he caught on the New River on May 6th. He and fellow member Larry Warren were fishing with Steve Journell of New River Outfitters.



2014 Contest Results

June 2014 Report By Wallace Harvey

Good Morning Sports Fans! We have a real update for our fishing contest this month. Jack mailed me a complete update minus one category. I am very pleased to say we have a new member that has joined in the contest. Andrew Jennings has been out on Section III and netted an 11-inch smallie. He thinks this size will be easily broken, but if past years hold, then he will win. We need to get more new members out there on the waters.

The rains have slowed down and the rivers are setting in for the summer. After the typical cold winter and spring rains, the rivers have been up and down like a yo-yo this spring. The good news is that summer has arrived and we only have to deal with late afternoon and evening thunder boomers. With luck, this won't be a bad year for that and we will have some great fishing this year. With my outlook looking good, how about leading a trip down a local river? I need to get out there more. How about you?

After a long time absence from the club meetings, the Gods are finally lining up to allow me to join the group again. It has taken too long to find another person to take Wednesday nights for me to have them off to be at the meetings. I really wanted to join you at Boat Night in June, but I had one more night to work. I only hope I can remember how to find the place. I look forward to seeing all of you at the July meeting. Warm up a chair for me!

2014 Results

Section 1, Biggest Fish:	Dave Lockard, 19"
Section 1, Best 5 Fish:	Dave Lockard, 84"
Section 2, Biggest Fish:	Bill Pearl, 19"
Section 2, Best 5 Fish:	Bill Pearl, 84.5"
Section 3, Biggest Fish:	Jack Cook, 19.5"
Section 3, Best 5 Fish:	Jack Cook, 82"
Largest on Fly:	
Best 5 Fish on Fly:	
New Member:	Andrew Jennings, 11"
Grover Cleveland Contest:	Jack Cook, 19.5"
William Shriver Award:	Jack Cook, 92"

For contest rules and information, visit
<http://www.prsc.org/fishing-contest/>

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.