



The Buzz

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June 22, 2015

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This month PRSC held our Annual Boat Night, which has become a Club tradition over the past several years. We held the event at Riverbend Park in Northern Virginia along the banks of the Potomac River. Normally we hold this the last week in June, but because of a scheduling conflict we held the event a



week early. Boat Night typically features an example of every type of boat used for river smallmouth fishing, from jet boats to pontoons, canoes and kayaks. This year was no exception, as we had a large variety of boats on display. Steve Kimm brought his two-person pontoon boat, Dave Lockard brought a kayak, Steve Adams brought an inflatable boat, I had my canoe on display, and Lenny Machowski brought his gorgeous blue river jet boat (that had me drooling with lust). This was a great opportunity to see a variety of different boats, to see how they are outfitted, and to talk to the owners. We were worried about rain in the evening, but it managed to avoid us, so we had a great time.

I'd like to say a big thank you to Bill Amshey and his family for taking care of the food. We had burgers, hot dogs, sausages, baked beans, homemade coleslaw, chips, and home made cookies. And we washed it all down with a variety of drinks. They did a really great job, so when you see Bill, be sure to thank him.

I hope to see you all at this event next year.

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Upcoming Items

Potomac River Smallmouth Club - July Meeting

Join Us Wednesday, July 29 for PRSC's next monthly meeting. Joining us will be noted outdoor writer Bruce Ingram, who will be speaking about fishing for smallmouth bass. We will be back at our usual location and time....the Vienna Firehouse at 7:30pm. Please join us for what should be a very interesting presentation.

Picture Raffle - Smallmouth Bass Print

As a fund raiser, PRSC is raffling off a smallmouth bass print. 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.



Potomac River Festival

Friday July 10 through Sunday July 12, 2015. The annual Potomac River Festival, hosted by Potomac Festival & Great Falls Race, will be held July 10-12, 2015. The Festival will include a short distance river race, a festival party, and various other Potomac River events. The race begins Saturday, July 11, at 11 AM for all interested Class V Whitewater kayakers. Following the race, enjoy music, food, paddling films, camping and more. Online registration is now available. For more information visit their website at <http://potomacfestival.org/index.html>.

Potomac Conservancy

River Center Open House

Saturday, July 25 - 10:00am-2:00pm. What is the River Center? How does that lock work? How can I help join the clean water movement?

Join Potomac Conservancy staff and your River Center Guides for an open house at the River Center at Lock 8 and get answers to these questions and more!

Learn more about the history of the lockhouse, Potomac Conservancy, and ways you can get involved in the fight for clean water.

No registration is required. Can't make this open house? Join us September 19th for a second open house event! For more information, visit their website at www.potomac.org/events.

Message from PA Boat and Fish Commission

"S.O.S. - Save Our Susquehanna!" Campaign Aims To Help Sick Bass

The PFBC has launched an "S.O.S. - Save Our Susquehanna!" campaign to fund water and soil conservation projects along the Susquehanna River, whose young smallmouth bass population has been plagued over the last decade by illness and elevated mortality rates.



From now until the end of the year, the PFBC expects to receive \$3 million in revenue from sales of approximately 130,000 resident annual, senior resident annual, and non-resident annual licenses. Under the S.O.S. - Save Our Susquehanna! campaign, once the \$3 million threshold is met, all additional sales from the three licenses will be dedicated solely to funding Susquehanna River projects.

"To kick off the campaign, we are pledging \$50,000 in matching funds from the Commission," Executive Director John Arway said. "I'm optimistic that we will raise and exceed the \$50,000 from anglers, other conservationists, and anyone who cares about our natural resources and supports our efforts to do everything in our power to protect and conserve them."

"The Susquehanna River is sick and someone has to take steps to fix it before it is too late," said Arway. "This is about conservation and protecting our aquatic resources so they may be enjoyed by future generations as guaranteed by our state constitution. We need leadership to begin working on fixing problems that we know exist."

The campaign coincides with the upcoming start of bass season on June 13.

Arway added that anyone can contribute to the campaign by purchasing a fishing license. "The fishing license is simply the mechanism we're using to raise the funds," he said. "You don't have to be an angler. You just have to care about the Susquehanna River. By buying an annual fishing license, you can help make this campaign a success."

Also, individuals can further demonstrate their support by purchasing a special S.O.S. - Save Our Susquehanna button for just \$10. A fishing license is required in order to purchase the button and all proceeds from the button sales will also go to fund the campaign. Buttons will be available to purchase on June 8.

Arway added that anglers and individuals also have the option of contributing to the campaign by writing a check to "S.O.S. - Save Our Susquehanna" and mailing it to the PFBC headquarters at P.O. Box 67000, Harrisburg, PA 17106.

Fishing licenses and buttons can be purchased online through the PFBC's [Outdoor Shop](#) or at any of 900 licensing agents across the Commonwealth.

PRSC Float Trip - Brunswick, MD t

By Richard Mrstik

I had been looking forward to this trip for a whole month, hoping that rain wouldn't wash us out. Heavy rains Wednesday night had me nervous, but the gauges looked good on Thursday, and trip lead Jamie Gold determined we were a go. Our group of 12 PRSC club members included me, Jamie Gold, Club President Steve Kimm, Jed Woodill, Leon Kates, Victor Hendrix, Wallace Harvey, Jack Godfrey, Dan Batiste, Chris Schaupp and his daughter Sarah, Jeff Hoskins, and John Lipetz.



We met at 7:30 am at the Brunswick launch ramp, prepped our wide variety of boats, kayaks, pontoon rafts, and canoes—even one with outriggers and a trolling motor—then shuttled most of our vehicles down to the Point of Rocks takeout ramp. With the logistics done, we were on the water shortly before 9:00 am, and the river structure near Brunswick looked even better than I expected from my Google Earth reconnaissance—this was my first time fishing this section of the Potomac.



Within 20 minutes I had my first hard bite and set the hook. A nice smallie jetted out of the water so fast I couldn't take up the slack fast enough and he shook my hook loose. Oh well, there would be others. I missed the next two fish because I was impatient and tried to set the hook at the first tap. On the next bite I held off until I was certain the fish had taken the whole bait, then gave a mighty yank. I was rewarded with the hard tug of a hooked smallmouth who quickly came to the surface with a beautiful tail walk and the game was on. I got this 12-incher to the boat and made him smile for the camera!

o Point of Rocks - June 13, 2015



The bites continued reasonably well until about noon. I hauled in over a dozen fish until they stopped biting. Half of them were in the 11- to 14-inch range and the other half 10 inches and below. Every fish I caught fell victim to the 4-inch Strike King KVD Swim'n Caffeine Shad in Baby Bass color, rigged with weighted Owner 3/0 twist lock hooks. This bait is a Zoom Fluke knockoff, but it's been my most effective lure the past two years. I think the combination of a speckled green top, white belly, and floppy tail appeal to the smallmouths. I tried several spinner baits and a buzz bait later on the float but had no bites on any of those.

My last fish came at 2:00 pm as the overcast morning sky began to clear a bit and the sun heated things up. The Baby Bass color worked one last time on a nice 12-incher, but he was my last fish of the day, and the only one I caught between noon and 3:00 pm when we arrived at Point of Rocks. Comparing notes with others as we hauled our boats off the water, I learned that our best fish of the day topped 15 inches and was caught by John Lipetz, who was with Steve Kimm on his pontoon raft. Everyone had caught fish, but the bite had definitely died by noon. After loading our boats several of us met for dinner at Blue Ridge Grill in Leesburg, a great way to cap off a great day of fishing.



Dragnet Fishing Trip Report: Just the Facts and Only the Facts

By Bob Forbes

DATE: Wednesday, May 27, 2015

PLACE: South Fork of Shenandoah River from Andy Guest State Park to Karo (Gooney Creek)

WEATHER: Partly cloudy, very short intense rain storm about halfway through trip

FISHERMEN: John Lipetz and Bob Forbes in John's raft, and Ryan & Tyler, who work in John's summer fishing camps, in their kayaks.

RIVER LEVEL: A bit low for the raft; John had to work hard to go over ledges; kayaks had no problem.

RESULTS: Up to 30 SMB per angler. John – 19 1/2" SMB. Bob – 18", 17" SMB. In general, fish size was very good.

LURES: Plastics worked best. Case Salty Minnows especially good after rainstorm.

OTHER FISH: Several good-sized channel catfish, 4# LMB by Tyler, rock bass, fall fish

NEGATIVE: Only one sunfish. What happened to the formerly numerous sunfish on the Shenandoah? Is this the result of pollution?

SUMMARY: An excellent fishing trip!



Potomac River Trip with Captain Mark Kovach

By Jamie Gold

On Friday, June 12, Steve Adams and I did a guided float fishing trip on the Potomac River with Capt. Mark Kovach of Mark Kovach Fishing Services (www.mkfs.com). The plan was to put in well above the Route 340 Bridge, float down through Harper's Ferry, down past the bridge, and take out at Brunswick, MD.

I was very excited for this trip for several reasons: 1) I first learned how to fly fish from Mark by taking one of his seminars about 10 years ago, 2) I wanted to learn some new fly fishing techniques from him, 3) and the upper part of this float is water that I have never fished before.

The trip did not disappoint; in fact it was a great trip. I started off with the fly rod throwing a hopper-dropper combination (very much like fly fishing) using a Walt Carey Sneaky Pete and a large fluffy nymph. This was a bit slow early, so I switched to fishing a Chuck Craft Clawdad below a strike indicator in a dark brown color. This tactic worked very well and I proceeded to get a bunch of smallies on the fly rod for most of the morning. Steve started with a fly rod and proceeded to quite well as well.

If you remember, that Friday the weather was hot and humid, so after several hours we were happy to pull over to grab some lunch. Mark proceeded to lay out a terrific spread, including tables and chairs set up in the shade. It is one of the very best shore lunches I've ever had on a guided fishing trip. We had sandwiches, several kinds of salad, fresh fruit, plenty to drink, and cookies for desert.

In the afternoon, Steve and I switched places. He moved to the front of the boat and broke out his fly rod, while I moved back to the boat and focused more on my spinning gear (with some fly fishing here and there). The fishing continued to be good. And in the early evening the top water bite turned on and I had a lot of fun casting a buzzbait around the river.

Overall this was a great trip. We caught several dozen fish. As you can see below, we each caught an 18" smallmouth, with Steve's outweighing mine by about 1/2 lbs. I learned two new techniques on the fly rod. Also, Mark said that my casting was fine, but that I need to improve my line management after the cast - especially to focus on mending my fly line on the water to get a good drift with the current. If you are interested in doing a guided float trip on the Upper Potomac River, I strongly urge you to contact Mark at mark@mkfs.com.



PRSC On the Water

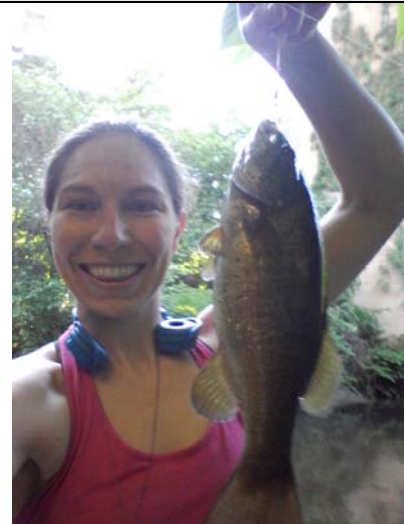
Members of PRSC have been busy this past month catching and photographing some awesome fish. Enjoy, and feel free to submit pictures of fish that you've caught for next month's Buzz.

22" Potomac River Smallmouth.



Larry DiJoseph. Photo by Mark Kovach.

Rock Creek Smallmouth and a Great Smile.



Caught and photographed by Susan Simpson.

17" Smallmouth.



Dave Brenningmeyer.

14" Smallmouth.



Matthew Brenningmeyer.

Ocoquan Catfish.



Potomac River Smallmouth.



Jed Woodill.

Steve Adams. Photo by Mark Kovach.

St. Lawrence River Pike.



Potomac River Smallmouth.



Bill Pearl.

Jamie Gold. Photo by Jed Woodill.

Another Potomac River Smallmouth.



Working a Good Spot.



Jamie Gold. Photo by Mark Kovach.

Bill Amshey. Photo by Bruce Ingram.

Lost Lake Wild

Article and Photos by Joe Bruce

This was my fourth year to Lost Lake Wilderness Lodge and as I learn more about these waters, the fishing gets better and better.

Lost Lake Wilderness Lodge is in Ontario, Canada, about 45 miles west of Elk Lake. The owners are Tony and Melissa Thomas, and you couldn't find more sincere and accommodating folks. The boats are good with many four-stroke motors, food is good and of big portions, and the cabins all have refrigerators, stoves and microwaves. I joke about the fact that all you need to do is fish, eat and sleep.

Tony is doing something that is just slowly catching on in Canada...conservation. This is the reason I picked this lodge in the first place. He has placed strict limits on the number of fish allowed. As most of us are into C&R, this is no problem. The fishery is getting better every year. It is a fly fisherman's haven, early in the season the fish are near shore and are a easy reach for the fly guy.

You can drive to the lodge, from my house in Westminster; it is a 16 hour drive, about 900 miles. We usually leave early in the morning and drive to Barrie or North Bay, Ontario and

stay overnight for the next day's short drive to the lodge.

We usually leave very early for home and drive home in one day, switching drivers on the way. I guess this is up to the fishermen as to what they want to do about travel.

A typical day consists of breakfast at 8:00 am, fishing in the morning if you are so inclined. After breakfast you are off to a choice of lakes, some of which can be walked to, take the boat to a landing and hike to lakes for brook trout to 18" or rainbows in another, or fish the lake at the lodge for walleye, pike and smallmouth bass. There are four lakes on this home water chain, Calcite (walleye & pike), Lost Lake the home lake with big walleye, smallies and pike, Wigwam (walleye, bass & pike) and Bloom, which is a trophy lake for walleye, bass and pike. This lake is catch-n-release only. These waters are typical Canadian Shield lakes filled with rocky shorelines, reed filled flats and surrounded by a pine and birch forest. Beauty is everywhere.



erness Lodge



Both this year and last year experienced a late spring which did put the smallmouth bass a little behind prespawn, but the fishing was still top shelf. Some fish were coming to the shore and every day we had double digit smallies, along with the ever present northern pike. Two or three pound smallmouth are the norm with the bigger boys going into the 4 to 5 lbs. range. I caught my largest smallmouth in Wigwam three years ago that went 6 ¼ lbs. and I caught several over five that week.

Since we go in late May or early June the bigger northern pike are a bit deeper, but there are plenty of 4 to 5 pounders with some 6 or

8's around, our biggest so far were a couple of 11 pounders.

My fishing arsenal consists of a medium weight spin rod and 8 weight fly outfits. This is **my** "got to" list of equipment: Floating and intermediate fly line with a 7 ½' leader, tapered to 30 lb. test. This keeps the bite-offs to a minimum. 15 lb. braid on the spin gear with a 30 lb. bite. Lures, I like include Zoom Swimming standard and super Flukes in Houdini, white and crazy chrome with 1/16 & 3/32oz. nail weights. Flies: White, chartreuse/white Bullethead Darters and Houdini in both standard size and standard & single articulated versions. Pretty simple list, after four years this is all I really have needed. Of course, every fisherman has his favorites and these are mine.

I'm heading there again in 2016 with one of your own... Bill Amshey and his friend, I can't wait for another round of the feisty smallmouth and the northern pike. If this sounds like a trip you would like to try, go to www.lostlakelodge.com. and sign up for a great smallmouth adventure. The folks, lodging and scenery at Lost Lake Wilderness Lodge is just as great.



Virginia Fly Fishing and Wine Festival Announces a New Location

Warrenton, VA: Big changes are afoot for the 2016 Virginia Fly Fishing & Wine Festival (VFFF). “I am very pleased to announce that the 2016 Virginia Fly Fishing & Wine Festival will be held at The Meadow Events Park, just a few miles outside of Richmond, Virginia,” said Festival director Beau Beasley. “The new location can accommodate our growing event. Even better, it will allow us to bring all of our vendors under roof, no longer subject to the vagaries of the weather. I enjoy being outside as much as the next fly angler,” continued Beasley, “but rough weather has—quite literally—dampened festival activities and attendance in the past. At our new location, weather will no longer be an issue.”

The festival—the largest event of its kind in the country, drawing fly anglers from as far away as New York and Georgia—appeals to anglers of all ages and stages. Organizers have deliberately worked to draw new anglers (especially women and children) into the quiet sport and reengage those who may have started fly fishing years ago but gave the sport up for any number of reasons. Festival attendees listen to lectures from various experts and practice hands-on skills at the two-day, family-friendly event. Several wineries from throughout the Old Dominion provide free wine tastings for those 21 and older.

“Never fear: We have plenty to entice the veteran angler. In addition, the festival will continue to reach out to a nontraditional audience—folks who may not be aware of how easy and enjoyable fly fishing really is,” said Beasley. “We are also committed to welcoming more women into the sport—and especially young families. Hey, I’ve got children of my own. So I’m all for getting kids to put down the cell phone, step away from the game system, and get outside.”

Last year’s festival enjoyed record turnout, and the event was flooded with children:

- * The first-ever Family Fly Fishing Classes (3FC), sponsored by the Recreational Boating and Fishing Foundation as part of their TakeMeFishing.org outreach efforts, taught parents and their children the basics of fly fishing. Paul Kearney was selected to head up the 3FC program for the VFFF. Kearney is Director of the Trout Unlimited Tri-State Conservation and Fishing Camp, which is a model program for instilling an in-depth knowledge of fly fishing and coldwater conservation in young people.

- * Members of the Project Healing Waters Fort Belvoir and Quantico Programs taught fly tying to children.

- * The Boys Scouts of America offered free instruction for uniformed Scouts toward completion of the Fly Fishing Merit Badge.

For the past 15 years the Virginia Fly Fishing & Wine Festival (VFFF) has been held in Waynesboro, Virginia, on the banks of the South River. “Construction proposed by the Virginia Department of Transportation on the bridge near the current festival grounds makes the site untenable for the 2016 and 2017 seasons,” says Beasley. “We owe a tremendous debt of gratitude to the fine folks in Waynesboro—and especially to Dana Quillen and Len Poulin, without whom the festival certainly could not have succeeded. We will sorely miss our dear friends Jim and Kay Heafner at the Speckled Trout Bed & Breakfast, which served as the festival’s VIP house for years.”

The 16th Annual Virginia Fly Fishing & Wine Festival will be held April 9-10, 2016, at The Meadow Events Park in Dozwell. New this year is an expanded kayak demonstration area sponsored by Wild River Outfitters of Virginia Beach. Those who have enjoyed the outdoor festival environment for years can rest easy: Although the new facility will enable all vendors to be under roof, the events center is surrounded by extensive grounds suitable for outdoor classes and wine tastings.

Past VFFF festival sponsors have included Temple Fork Outfitters, Orvis, Harman’s North Fork Cabins, and Dominion Power. The Recreational Boating and Fishing Foundation joined the festival last year, and Trout Unlimited was the festival’s conservation sponsor. Wild River Outfitters, Harman’s North Fork Cabins, and Temple Fork Outfitters have already committed to sponsoring the 2016 festival.

To learn more about the 2016 Virginia Fly Fishing & Wine Festival, visit www.vaflyfishingfestival.org or contact Beau Beasley (Fishutopia@comcast.net; 703-402-8338).

Conservation Corner

By Herschel Finch

One of my favorite organizations, Earthjustice, has scored a major victory recently in that they were able to get a lawsuit by the logging industry against the BLM thrown out of federal district court in DC that would have allowed the logging of a 100 year old section of old-growth forest on federally owned land in Oregon. This victory will help ensure clean water and air and protect habitat for wildlife in the Pacific Northwest. To quote one of Earthjustice's litigators; **Kristen Boyles**, "This ruling should discourage logging companies from demanding to cut 100-year-old forests because no one person and no particular private logging company is entitled to log wherever it wants."

What does logging in Oregon have to do with us here on the east coast? The George Washington National Forest has thousands of acres of timber that logging interests would just LOVE to get their hands on. Westvaco is already well positioned in the Shenandoah Valley to take advantage of just such an opportunity. The significance of this ruling will send a clear message that the nations forests **will** be protected, especially when critical waters and habitat would be threatened by such action. It also peripherally sends the same message to the oil and gas industry. Our National Forests, and by association, our clean water and wildlife, are not for sale for private profit.

And lastly, just because I thought it was kinda neat; Washington state is building the first in the Americas, wildlife overpass, that will allow various and sundry critters in a wildlife preserve to cross Interstate 90. These forested wildlife overpasses have been built in a number of countries in Europe, especially Germany and Austria where the Autobahn is as ubiquitous a part of the landscape as our own Interstate highway system is. They have also been built in Switzerland and Scandinavian countries.

As most of us know, highways can be death sentences for various and sundry creatures that attempt to cross them on their way to better food or water sources. They're also almost as effective as wire fences at keeping herding animals and other creatures separated into small gene pools. Overpasses allow these animals to increase the chance of breeding and thus improving the health of the species with a wider and more varied breeding stock. How does this effect water you may ask? Does anyone remember the reports about how the introduction of Wolves back into Yellowstone improved the quality of the water flowing in the streams and rivers inside the park? Deer, Elk, and Antelope had browsed down the vegetation on the banks of these streams to almost nothing. Saplings that normally would have grown into new trees were eaten up quickly by the overpopulation of hooved stock in the park. With the introduction of wolves, these populations were put under natural control again and woody vegetation was once again allowed to take root along the streams, holding back runoff and erosion and improving habitat, water quality, promoting the return of bird species in the new trees and even promoting the return of native trout species to these improved streams. Everything is connected in the natural world. As long as it's given a chance. I'm looking forward to seeing some reports from Washington on how the new 'Critter highway' works out and maybe seeing it implemented in other places.

PRSC
P.O. Box 1240
Vienna, VA 22183

This is my favorite picture for May. This is simply a ridiculously great small-mouth bass. PRSC member Lenny Machowski caught this monster on the St. Lawrence River in New York. It measured 20.5" in length, but weighed in at a whopping near 7lbs!!!!!! I've caught smallmouth longer than this, but none anywhere near this heavy. Congratulations to Lenny on this incredible fish.



2015 Contest Results

June 2015 Report By Jack Cook

Finally I have something to report. Bill Pearl reported an 87.5" total and an 18.5" big fish in Section III. Bill added as he reported this, "This is the year I really kick Randy Chandler's butt." He didn't say "butt", but this is a family organization.

Randy Chandler answered Bill with a 20" big fish and a 74" total in Section II. When I told Randy of Bill's remark, he replied that, "Bill thinks he's hot stuff because he won the William Shriver Award last year. This year he's in for a real a&% kicking!" I reminded Randy that the club has about 100 other members. Randy said, "Bill and I catch fish. The other member talk fish!" Come on PRSC members....are you going to let him get away with that!?!?!?!?

PRSC has been around for a long time and we have a group of members who fished together before the club existed. After a day of fishing, the group (then in their 40s) decided to go to Hooters in Chantilly because they had pretty girls in short shorts. In their 50s, this group decided to go to the Chantilly Hooters because the food was good and they had sports on the large screen TVs. In their 60s, they decided on Chantilly Hooters because of free parking and it was a good value for their money. In their 70s they decided to go to Chantilly Hooters because of the handicapped parking and the steel support bars by the toilets.

Recently, all of them in their 80s, they decided to go to the Chantilly Hooters because they had never been there before!

2015 Results

Section 1, Biggest Fish:

Section 1, Best 5 Fish:

Section 2, Biggest Fish: Randy Chandler, 20"

Section 2, Best 5 Fish: Randy Chandler, 74"

Section 3, Biggest Fish: Bill Pearl, 18"

Section 3, Best 5 Fish: Bill Pearl, 87.5"

Largest on Fly:

Best 5 Fish on Fly:

New Member:

Grover Cleveland Contest:

William Shriver Award:

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 \$40/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.