



The Buzz

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Volume 28, Issue 10

October 21, 2015

Chaconas To Speak on Largies, Snakeheads

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Captain Steve Chaconas will discuss fishing for largemouths and snakeheads on the Lower Potomac at our October 21 meeting. Steve brings 25 years of experience to his bass fishing guide service on the Potomac River. He has been featured locally and nationally in TV, radio, and print. He was the Fox Sunday News Power Player of the Week for 2 years! He is a recognized expert source on the Potomac River and is featured on WTOP Radio and many DC TV stations.

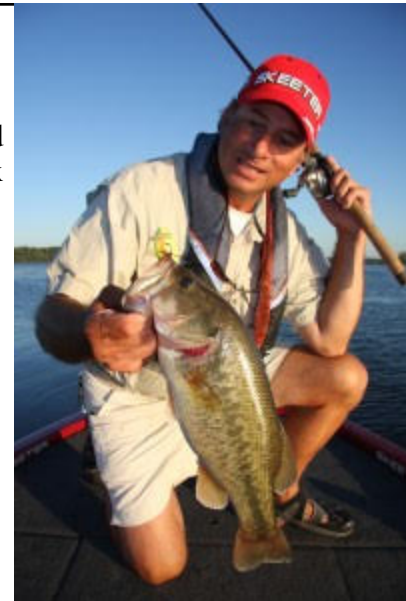
Capt. Steve is also an outdoors writer with columns in *BoatUS Angler Magazine*, *Sportsman's Magazine*, *Woods & Waters*, and *The Old Town Crier*, among others. He has written for the *Free Lance Star* newspaper, *The Mount Vernon Gazette*, *The Mount Vernon Voice*, *The American Sportsfishing Association*, and many others. Steve also hosted the National Bass Fishing Radio Show. In addition, Steve is featured as the BoatUS.com and monkeysee.com fishing expert.

His reports and commentaries appear on-line at Comcastsports.com, bassfan.com, wfls.com, potomacbass.com, bassnedge.com, and ultimatebasin.com, among other Websites. In addition, he has covered fishing events for radio and TV.

A U.S. Coast Guard Captain, licensed by the Potomac River Fisheries Commission and the Maryland Department of Natural Resources, Steve has been featured in local and national publications: *BASSMASTERS*, *BASS TIMES*, *BASSIN' Magazine*, *Boat US Magazine*, *The Washington Post*, *The Washington Times*, *The Los Angeles Times*, *National Geographic*, ESPN, and others. He's been emcee of the St. Jude Children's Hospital Tournament the past 20 years, a member of Boat U.S. Speakers Bureau and the Southeastern Outdoor Press Association, and the American Sportsfishing Association. Steve has been awarded an Excellence in Craft award from SEOPA and was the recipient of the Mount Vernon-Lee Chamber of Commerce 2002 and 2003 Home-Based Business of the Year Award. He has also been awarded the Potomac Conservation Award by the Interstate Commission on the Potomac River Basin.

Prior to fishing, Steve's careers included teaching high school algebra and selling cars, computers, and surgical products. He also hosted the longest running all-financial morning radio show in the country in Washington, D.C. and is considered to be "The Father of Business Radio."

Steve fishes the Lower Potomac from Pohick Bay into D.C. This includes the Spoils, National Harbor, Broad Creek, Swan Creek, Piscataway Creek, Little Hunting Creek, Dogue Creek and Shoreline. Check out his Website at www.nationalbass.com for more information on fishing with Steve.



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Vice-President	Craig Bishop vp@prsc.org
Secretary	Dave Lockard (h) (301) 656-1964 secretary@prsc.org
Treasurer	Jamie Gold C (571) 213-4699 treasure@prsc.org
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Librarian	Chip Comstock Librarian@prsc.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

Upcoming Items

Potomac River Smallmouth Club - Member Night

Join Us Wednesday, November 18 for PRSC's Annual Member Night. We are meeting one week early to avoid the Thanksgiving Holiday. This will be our annual Member Night celebration. Join us for a great evening of food, fellowship, and raffle prizes. Food will be catered by Big Mook's BBQ, who has catered this event in the past. And we have items donated by Bass Pro Shops, Green Top, Dicks Sporting Goods, Jeff Little, Bream Bugs- Walt Cary, PenRod's Dan Grulke, Cabelas, George Thurston, Ernie Rojas and St. Croix Rods. This is always a great event, so please join us. We will be at our usual location, but we will be starting early, 6:30pm, at the Vienna Firehouse.

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 Riverkeeper

Riverkeeper Investigates Coal Ash

Mines Dominion, one of Virginia's largest energy companies, owns and operates the Possum Point Power Plant, located just south of Alexandria on a peninsula between Quantico Creek and the Potomac River. Since filing Notice of Intent, Potomac Riverkeeper Network has been monitoring the facility for illegal discharges into Quantico Creek and taking water and sediment samples at the site perimeter, to test for unsafe levels of heavy metals. They have also joined state lawmakers in calling for testing of drinking water wells for nearby residents, to find out whether their drinking water has been affected by the coal ash leaks into groundwater. PRKN is using litigation and grassroots political outreach to push for a full clean-up of Possum Point's coal ash pollution, investigation of Dominion's handling of coal ash, and the excavation and removal of all coal ash at the site to a lined land-fill away from the Potomac River. Their goal is to make sure these toxic coal ash ponds are no longer a threat to Quantico Creek, the Potomac and public drinking water supplies. For more information, please visit their website at

<http://www.potomacriverkeepernetwork.org/possum-point>.

Chesapeake Bay Stripper Trip

By Jamie Gold

The arrival of Fall always means several things for me. When it comes to fishing, my smallmouth fishing winds down, but my trout and striper fishing gets cranked up. On Sunday, October 12, I had the opportunity to go fishing with fellow PRSC member Steve Adams and a friend of his for stripers on the Chesapeake Bay. We had a trip booked with Captain Brady Bounds out of Solomons Island. It was originally scheduled for Saturday, but wind forced us to move the trip back a day.



We met the captain at the boat ramp at 6:15 am, and shortly thereafter set off fishing.

Our first stop was at a bridge to work around the pilings. The fishing got off to a hot start - they were there and they were hungry. We immediately started catching fish jigging bucktails. Two other boats were there, who weren't catching fish, and they kept creeping in on us as we were catching them. After several minutes, Steve managed to catch our first keeper fish. We were all excited. Then suddenly, the captain decided he didn't like having the other boats close to us and decided to switch locations. Unfortunately, we didn't find another concentration of fish like that for the rest of the day. This is the third Bay captain I've fished with who has done that. Next time I'm going to speak up. I know the fish won't hold in a position all day, but while we are on biting fish, I want to stay and fish them.

We then tried a bunch of different spots around the Bay...including grass islands, rock piles, shore line, and



creeks. Out of respect for the Captain, I won't give away his spots, but he worked hard to put us on fish. We did pick up a few fish here and there, including several keepers. The big fish was a 25" beauty that put up a fun and determined fight. But we never again found the hot action we had at the start of the day. The go to baits were bucktails jigged off the bottom and paddle tail swimbaits. Steve did manage a few fish on the fly rod using a clouser on a sinking line. I tried a Bob's Banger on the fly rod (a top water bait), but only got two blow-ups, both of whom missed. Overall it was a good trip.

Bittersweet

By Herschel Finch

Columbus Day and three stalwart members of your club venture forth to do battle with the wily *Micropterus dolomieu*. But first there be dangers ahead matties. Da freakin morning fog in Virginia

and all dem darn deer (DDD) carcasses littering da road. Fergedabouit – can’t they control demselves?. Although ya hast appreciate da one dead deer on da road ta Brunswick with a



Dave Lockard with the Brunswick Bridge, in the background, drifting in and out of the fog. (Maybe Dave too – it was early.)

dead buzzard lyin next ta it. A glutton gets justice!

Oops, I forgot I’m not in NYC. Anyway, Randy Chandler, Dave Lockard, and I decided to try our luck. It was not to be had – the luck. Sixteen fish between three “supposed” PRSC anglers over seven hours. Geez – bittersweet.

We rendezvoused at Point of Rocks on the Virginia side and put in at the Brunswick public ramp at 7:15 AM. The temp in the morning was in the lower 40’s. It did not break 70 while we were on the river.

et Sixteen

The morning fog was like something from *The Shining*. The Brunswick Bridge could not be seen; and we could hardly see each other.

The morning was the best fishing with top water baits such as nose hooked paddle tail shad and Zara Spooks working – shads and spooks, sounds like a CIA novel. I thought it was game on with my one and only 14” in the first few minutes. Anyway, we tried everything. Randy naturally did the best with eight including a 17.” Dave got two – a 17” and a 15.” I got six, including the 14.” Not a stellar day – 16 total. But the weather was beautiful. There was a light breeze and by noon our outer garments were shed.

So what went wrong? There had been a couple of cool days prior, the river was a good height, moving well but stained. Sometimes we had maybe 3-4’ of visibility and at other times maybe a foot or so. Randy refused to offer or accept excuses. It was just one of those days.

Dave with his first fish, but not a portent for the rest of the day.



An eerie sunrise at Brunswick.



October

By Bill Amshey

Last month I wrote about Brook Hoover's presentation to the Club way back in September 2000. We had some great speakers in 2001, starting with Lou Guisto, who used to be a fixture on the Shenandoah River until he moved away. What I found interesting in Lou's presentation was his focus on madtom and hellgrammite imitators. Lou suggested using a 1/0 hook with a split shot above it to get the Mad Tom bait to the bottom right side up. He also liked using black Senkos curled up on a 1/0 hook so they looked like a hellgrammite dropping through the water.

At our February meeting, Ralph Capasso spoke about fishing the Potomac, Susquehanna, and Juniata Rivers. Ralph's favorite lures were Cabin Creek tubes in smoke with purple flake, watermelon (especially on the Susky), and pumpkin. He recommended white spinner baits with silver spinners in clear water and chartreuse with gold blade spinners in dirty water. The first club trip I went on took me to the Juniata River with several guys. We had a great day and caught some great fish. We even saved a heart attack victim along the highway.



From Wikipedia

Speaking in March about fly fishing, Jeff Kelbe proclaimed that "if you want to catch big fish, you need to use big flies." My notes don't include mention of his favorite big flies.

Pro Tips

And Tim Freese, long departed for a warm retirement in Florida, explained that his favorite lures are torpedoes, Pop-Rs, just about anything with an Excalibur logo, and Senkos. Way back when I joined the Club, Jeff and Tim were two of our Club membership's most authoritative fishermen. I used to seek both of them out before meetings to get their latest tips.

Lou Kalina spoke to the April meeting about the South, Middle, and North Rivers in southern Virginia as well as the South Fork of the Shenandoah, which these three rivers create at their confluence. He described the South River as good for wading with very clear water, even after a heavy rain. Commenting on the Middle River, he said that it flows out of the George Washington Forest past Staunton. It is mostly gravel. He said that there are "stories" of big fish, but cautioned that there is little access to the river. He said that the North River is stocked with trout and warned that there are some pretty good-sized rapids.

Turning to the South Fork, Lou said that some of his favorite floats are New Port to White House, Port Republic to Island Ford, Island Ford to Elkton, and Shenandoah to Grove Hill. I've fished the last float, and I have to agree with Lou that there is some great fishing along that run. He added that his favorite float on the James Rivers is Hardware to Primo Bluffs, which the Club has floated several time, and I have to agree that there is some great fishing.



The South River by Reed-Harris.com.

Some of Lou's favorite lures include: Butch Neal jigs with trailers in cold weather, rattle crank baits, spinner baits fished slowly in the spring, the Gary Yamamoto hula grub fished Texas style on a 1/8-ounce jig.

Hope you find these articles of some use. Next time I'll start off with Tom McFillen's presentation in June 2001.

Conservation Corner

By Herschel Finch

This is the Conservation Corner I meant to be published in August and instead, sent Jamie a 2 year old CC instead. The situation described below has for the most part cleared up, but there is a long stretch of the Broad River that has been depopulated of fish according to RiverBassin.com and RiverSmallie.com guys and Facebook friends I know down there. An investigation is on-going and as I understand it Dr. Vicki Blazer at the USGS Fisheries Health Lab has received samples of the fish involved. But given that these fish are already dead, their usefulness is somewhat degraded at best.

I will be missing this week's meeting as I have been asked to be part of a delegation that will be going up to Capitol Hill to speak to legislative assistants, Congressional Representatives and Senators on the issue of funding for The Clean Water Act. This delegation is being put together by the National Wildlife Federation with help from the Izaak Walton League (who asked me to be there), Trout Unlimited and the Theodore Roosevelt Conservation Partnership. We're trying to impress upon our representatives the importance of the Clean Water Act and insure its full funding in the next budget. Hopefully we can do some good. I'll have a full report for you in next month's Buzz along with photos. Did you ever see a DoahRat in a suit? You will....See ya at Member Night.

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The Broad River (not to be confused with the French Broad) rises up in the eastern foothills of the Great Smokey Mountains, meandering its way thru small NC towns like Gerton, and Bat Cave, south east of Asheville. It gets dammed up to help form Lake Lure, a popular NC resort destination for generations. Lake Lure was the film location for Dirty Dancing. Most of the film crew and actors stayed at a lovely old resort at the lake that was built in the 1930s. After leaving Lake Lure, The Broad continues on its way down into southwestern NC toward Shelby and Boiling Springs about halfway between Asheville and Charlotte. This is one of the most beautiful areas of the state. It's home to lots of the best small Liberal Arts and Teachers Colleges you've never heard of (Gardner-Webb University anyone?), about half of all the NASCAR drivers live there due to proximity of Charlotte Motor Speedway and a lot of small towns working hard to preserve their rural character as Charlotte continues to grow outward. My parents and I spent a lot of time in this area when my sister and I were kids.

Conservation Corner cont'd

We'd find a nice campground, setup that enormous and incredibly heavy canvas duck tent my Dad insisted on using, and that would serve as base camp while we took day trips all over the Smokey Mountains. And of course, the Broad was one of our favorite fishing destinations.

Only a few days later, after the catfish were found, the rest of the fish population began to be involved. Tens of thousands of dead fish have now been seen (and smelled of course) along a stretch of river from the dam below the Cliff Side power plant down to and past the Broad River Greenway offices. As you can imagine, the Greenway offices are NOT happy about this, especially since it's happening virtually right outside their office windows.

Most of those small towns use The Broad River as their primary drinking water source. So my heart broke last week when I heard about the fish kills they've been experiencing down there. At first it seemed that only catfish were involved and Duke Energy Biologists chalked it up to a parasite they had contracted from 'somewhere'. Duke Energy Biologists are involved because Duke Energy has a power Plant down there at Cliff Side that uses the Broad for cooling water. They have been cited for years about a dam they own down there that is structurally suspect and is the only barrier between their coal ash ponds from the plant and many small towns downriver, even reaching into South Carolina, that use the water of the Broad for their drinking water.

There is also a metal coatings plant in that area as well that now has a lot of EPA and NC DEQ folks poring over their operation as well. I don't know if you're familiar with metal coating but it's not the cleanest nor environmentally friendly operation. The Governor down there has called for a full and complete investigation. It remains to be seen if that investigation will be fully funded by the NC State House. Given their past track record and how they feel about environmental regulation in general, I have my doubts. The kayak fishermen I know down there are absolutely up in arms and say they're having to drive many miles to find unaffected water. I'll be keeping you guys posted about this disaster as I learn more about it. But I suspect the Broad River, and my fishing buddies down there, have a long row to hoe to get back something resembling "normal".

PRSC
P.O. Box 1240
Vienna, VA 22183

This is my favorite picture for October. This past weekend I did a float trip with fellow PRSC members Steve Kimm, Chip Comstock, Mark Myers, and Craig Bishop. This picture epitomizes why fishing is so important to me....getting together with good friends to do something that we all love to do. Get out there and go fishing.



2015 Contest Results

October 2015 Report By Jack Cook

There have been no reports this month! I certainly understand this because the Potomac has been high and dirty. However, that has certainly changed. In my opinion, Spring and now are the two best times to catch fish!

Let me remind you that the contest ends this month. And for you rookies, no one has entered that category, so if you still have rookie status, this is a great opportunity. The river is down, so lets go fishing.

The answer is: "Three men and a baby." The question is: "What do you get when four men go fishing and one comes back without catching a single fish."

2015 Results

Section 1, Biggest Fish:	Randy Chandler, 21.5"
Section 1, Best 5 Fish:	Randy Chandler, 86.5"
Section 2, Biggest Fish:	Randy Chandler, 20"
Section 2, Best 5 Fish:	Randy Chandler, 76"
Section 3, Biggest Fish:	Wayne Tate, 19.5"
Section 3, Best 5 Fish:	Bill Pearl, 87.5"
Largest on Fly:	Wayne Tate, 19.5"
Best 5 Fish on Fly:	Randy Chandler, 60"
New Member:	
Grover Cleveland Contest:	Wayne Tate, 19.5"
William Shriver Award:	Randy Chandler, 224"

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.