



The Buzz

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Jed Woodill To Speak on Fishing Nova Scotia

Upcoming Events

PRSC Meeting
March 29, 2017

Fishing Shows
April 2017

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Canadian club member Jed Woodill will be speaking to us this month about his home waters of Nova Scotia. Jed has been a member of our club since the spring of 2015 after he moved here from Ontario, Canada. He currently works in the Embassy of Canada and will be returning to Nova Scotia when his posting ends this year at the end of May.

"I started fishing at age five with my Dad. We would go to my Uncle's cabin in Cape Breton and fish for Brook Trout in the lake and streams around his property. Eventually my dad got his own boat and we mostly fished the lake. When we weren't fishing for Trout in Cape Breton we would go out around the Halifax area where we lived to fish for saltwater species like Cod, Pollock, and Smelts.

"I moved to Alberta in my twenties and didn't find the time to go fishing while I started a career and then a family. Once my own kids were old enough, I got back into fishing and discovered just how hard it is to find good places to fish when you don't know the local waters and you aren't familiar with the local fish species. Northern Alberta fish are mostly Northern Pike, Muskie, Walleye, and Trout—but not the Brook Trout I was familiar with—different species of Trout, Rainbows and Browns. My efforts to teach my kids how to fish at the same time that I was trying to figure out new territory didn't work out well. My kids are only today learning to appreciate fishing as much as I do.

"Two more moves and in 2010 I arrived at Gananoque, Ontario on the Saint Lawrence River in the Thousand Islands just below Lake Ontario. It is a beautiful area and a great place to fish. I decided it was time to get a boat and really get back into fishing. But I once again had the problem of unfamiliar waters and unfamiliar species, this time Small and Largemouth Bass. I looked up information on the internet, I read books, I watched the fishing shows, and I bought all kinds of gear. I solicited dockside information and sought out fishing buddies at work and amongst neighbours. I was making progress in that I was catching some Bass, but a lot more Pike, and I bought a lot more gear.

"In 2014 I moved to the Washington, DC area, and yet again to unknown waters. The big difference this time was something very unfamiliar to me, fishing clubs. So, I signed up with PRSC and eventually New Horizons Bass Anglers, and between the two clubs I have made lots of friends, learned a whole lot about fishing these waters, fishing for Bass, and what gear to buy and how to use it. More importantly I have had a lot of fun.

"My presentation will be my way to say thank you, and I hope that I see you guys up on my old turf someday soon. I'll do my best to make your foray into unfamiliar waters as productive as possible and we will have a lot of fun. Who knows? There might even be more gear to buy."



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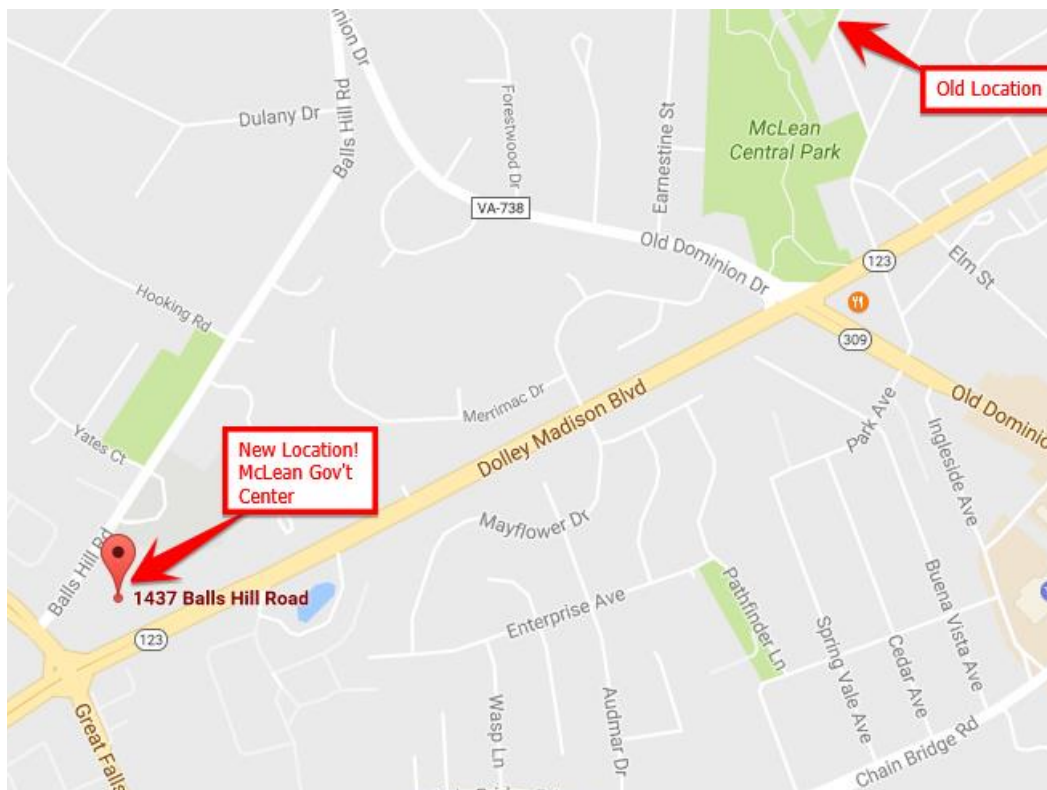
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Upcoming Events

New Location for Monthly Meetings!!! Our **new meeting location** for 2017 will be the McLean Governmental Center, 1437 Balls Hill Road, McLean, VA 22101. We will still meet at the same time 7:30-9:00 PM.



Join us Wednesday, March 29th, for our monthly meeting. Our guest speaker will be Dusty Wissmath, who will discuss fly fishing in the greater Yellowstone ecosystem. 7:30-9:00 PM at the McLean Governmental Center, 1437 Balls Hill Road, McLean, VA 22101.

Save a Fish Build a Reef, March 18th, 6:00-9:00 PM. The Northern Virginia Coastal Conservation Association Chapter is pleased to invite you to its 16th-Annual **“Save a Fish – Build a Reef”** Dinner and Auction taking place on **Saturday, March 18th, 2017 at 6:00 pm.** This year’s event will be at the Shriners Kena Temple in Fairfax, VA. We have been working very hard with our donors and supporters in gathering a wide array of Auction items that are sure to impress. **To purchase tickets, please contact Rob Allen @ 703-626-2668, or e-mail rob.allen@princetoninformation.com**

South River Fly Fishing Expo, April 22-23, 2017. The Expo will be held in Constitution Park on the banks of the South River in Waynesboro, VA. Info is available here: <https://www.facebook.com/southriverflyfishingexpo/>

Upcoming Events

Virginia Fly Fishing and Wine Festival, April 8-9, 2017. The festival is in a new, expanded location this year at the Meadow Events Center, 13191 Dawn Blvd., Doswell, VA 23047. Hours are 9:00 AM to 5:00 PM. More info is available here: <http://www.vaflyfishingfestival.com/>



Welcome!

The Virginia Fly Fishing & Wine Festival is the largest event of its kind in the country and attracts fly anglers from across the United States and the Mid-Atlantic in particular. Nowhere else can anglers learn about the quiet sport in such a beginner-friendly environment.

Our unique event combines fine wine tasting, microbrewery beer, live music, and everything you ever wanted to know about fly fishing but were afraid to ask.

The mission of the Virginia Fly Fishing & Wine Festival is to introduce as many people to the sport of fly fishing as possible, especially young families with children.

We do this believing that people, who are connected to the outdoors in their recreational activities, are more inclined to protect the natural resources they enjoy.

Save the Date!
2017 Virginia Fly Fishing & Wine Festival
April 8-9, 2017
9 a.m. to 5 p.m.
Meadow Event Park
13191 Dawn Blvd
Doswell, Va. 23047

We don't just attract fly anglers, we create them!



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The Healing Power of Fishing

By Jamie Gold

I go fishing for several reasons—to enjoy the outdoors, to find relief from the stresses of work and everyday life, to spend quality time with friend . . . and of course to catch fish. However, I have recently gone fishing to heal from loss and deal with heartbreaking sadness. On January 23rd this year my mother passed away after a long battle with cancer. She spent the last few weeks in hospice care. During her time in hospice, I kept traveling to Pennsylvania to help my dad and my brothers take care of her. I had made a promise to myself that she would not die alone, and that my father would not have to face her death alone. My brothers and I were able to keep that promise. At the end I was there, holding her hand as she took her last few breaths on Earth . . . which is the hardest thing I've ever had to do, although I am thankful that I was able to be there.

For the rest of the day on Monday and on Tuesday, I communicated news of her passing to my extended family and friends, and helped with the arrangements for her memorial service for the following Saturday. By the time Wednesday arrived I was physically and emotionally exhausted and needed to drive back to Northern Virginia to take care of some things at home. On Thursday, with not a lot to do, still feeling drained, and enjoying a surprisingly warm day for this time of year, I decided to go fishing. Some may be shocked by that, but for me it was the best thing I could have done.

Normally this time of year I like to go fly fishing for trout. So I packed my fly rod, some flies, my waders, and other gear, and drove out to Passage Creek by Front Royal to fish the delayed harvest section. As soon as I was on the water I was able to focus on my fishing, thereby temporarily letting thoughts of my mom leave my mind for a while. I'm not a naturally gifted fly caster, so I have to really focus on what I'm doing or I end up making poor casts or decorating the surrounding trees with my flies. When I reach the stage of total focus on my casting and the water and finding the fish, I forget everything else . . . the world and its stresses simply melt away. I was able to do that at times during this trip.

Periodically throughout that afternoon I stopped fishing and just enjoyed the scenery and environment around me. During those breaks I was able to take deep breaths and really think about my mom and her passing, and begin the process of coming to terms with it, my grief about it, and therefore start the healing process. And I felt quite deeply and keenly how pleased she would have been that I was doing that. To her, life was meant to be lived and enjoyed. In addition, she was always a big supporter of my fishing and loved the pictures I would send her from my various fishing adventures. She understood how important fishing is to me. To quote the movie *A River Runs Through It*, "I am haunted by water."

I didn't actually catch any fish that day, the water was too high and stained from some recent rain, but I truly did not care. It was the act of fishing and losing myself in it for a few hours that really mattered.

This past Sunday I went fishing again, to Passage Creek, with fellow PRSC'er Steve Adams. This trip turned out to be a significant part of the healing process as well. That's because it was a return to my more usual fishing excursions. I was there with a good friend, exploring familiar water but also trying a few areas that I had not fished before, and testing out some new flies. In other words, it was about the reasons why I go fishing that I listed at the start of this essay. Meaning that it was an important step to returning to my normal life. In fishing terms, the day was only marginally more successful than the prior outing, as I caught only one brown trout (pictured here). But again, that's not what the day was really about for me. It was about fishing, and time with friends, and partaking in the outdoors, and starting to enjoy life again.



Fly Fearlessly (Sort of) With Fishing Rods

By Pete Robbins

Some people might argue that anyone who wants to fly at all these days is a glutton for punishment. That may be so, but I believe there are too many distant great places to visit to avoid it altogether. However, if you're like me and you enjoy traveling long distances specifically to fish, at some point you're probably going to want to trust your precious rods to the airlines. In that case, you may indeed be a masochist.

Count me in that "glutton for punishment" category because I've probably taken over 30 air trips with a rod tube as part of my baggage. I've been to Brazil, California and Florida multiple times each, and to western Mexico seven times. Some of these times I could have borrowed rods, but if I'm going on the "trip of a lifetime," I want to be sure that I have tackle that's up to the test. Some places provide crappy gear. Others provide good gear, but it gets beaten on and may end up missing guides or otherwise compromised. As a result, when in doubt if it's possible I bring my own sticks.

I've been fortunate. I've only suffered rod breakage on one occasion – nearly two decades ago, when I didn't know some of the little tricks that I've learned over the years. I've had my tube "temporarily misplaced" on two occasions, with no damage resulting from that delay. I've also had TSA go into my tube multiple times, on one occasion leaving the latch open, with no problems. Of course, no system is fool-proof, and now that I'm writing this I'm likely to suffer the karmic injustice of getting my rods broken on the next trip, but I feel that my system minimizes the risk of problems. I hope it helps you, too, and if you have any additional guidance, please send it my way.

BEFORE YOU GO

- First, determine whether bringing rods is altogether necessary. If you can avoid flying with them, that's your best option. Many fishing lodges provide quality sticks to their guests. If you're going to visit a friend, ask to borrow some of his rods. If you're going someplace where you won't be able to borrow rods, and you only need a few, you might just want to buy a few inexpensive ones when you arrive, or purchase them online and have them shipped there, and then leave them there for next time. It might not cost more than baggage fees.
- Second, if you'll only need a few rods, consider investing in three- or four-piece travel rods, which you can likely bring on the plane with you. Most serious fishermen have a bias against multiple-piece rods, but companies like Loomis, Daiwa and St. Croix all now make travel rods that are much better than their predecessors.

<http://www.insideline.net/features/2017/1/20/fly-fearlessly-well-sort-of-with-fishing-rods>

Editor's Note: Our January speaker, Pete Robbins, pledged to share with the club his insights on traveling with fishing rods. The article above is reprinted with permission from *Yammamoto's Inside Line*. Due to space constraints I was not able to provide the entire article. Please click the hyper link to continue reading.

Speakers Share Fishing Tips . . .

California, Oregon, Washington By Bill Amshey

I hope the Club's travelers, like Jamie Gold, find this series of six articles on smallmouth bass fishing out West of some interest and use. At our April 2002 meeting, outdoor writer Charlie Most, who I have not been able to locate on the Internet, spoke to the Club under the title, "Vacation Out West Bass Fishing."

Based on my notes, definitely not my memory, Charlie pretty much gave us a catalogue of places to find our favorite fish species – Mr Smallmouth Bass. Some of the places Charlie mentioned are spelled phonetically, if I could not find their proper spelling. These Internet searches got me looking a little bit below the surface, so to speak, and I am including some deeper ideas of what a traveler could expect in the way of smallmouth fishing west of the Mississippi. There's only one state west of the Mississippi that doesn't have smallies, and I'll save that discussion for the last in this series of articles.

Among Charlie's favorite smallie spots were:

- Little Big Horn River below the lake to Yellowstone
- Missouri River
- Yellowstone River below Billings, Montana
- Fort Peck Reservoir
- Morass River
- Judith River
- Orkspring (sp?) Creek
- Below the Tongue River reservoir in Montana
- The Snake River received special praise
- Payette River
- Columbia River

California

In California, Charlie liked the lower Sacramento, San Joaquin, America, and Humbolt Rivers. According to the California Department of Fish & Wildlife, smallies were first introduced into California in the Napa River in 1874 from Lake Champlain, New York. Historical records indicate that anglers "fished out" the first plant and the introduction was considered unsuccessful. An introduction a few years later into Crystal Springs Reservoir, a water supply reservoir south of the city of San Francisco, was successful and provided an abundant source of smallmouth bass for additional stockings throughout the state. Most trophy-sized smallmouth bass from California have been caught in northern California waters.

Bill Schaefer, writing in the *California Game & Fish* magazine in April 2014, reported on his top places for smallies in northern California. First was Lopez Lake, which is located about 10 miles east of Arroyo. Next on his list was Lake San Antonio. This lake is about the 17 miles long and holds largemouth and smallmouth bass as well as stripers. Schaefer then writes: "I know some of you love to smallmouth fish and the lake in California for you is Pardee Reservoir. Located about 30 miles east of Stockton, California, it has about 37 miles of shoreline and 2,257 surface-acres. This lake is known for its smallmouth fishery. It holds the California state record at 9 pounds, 13 ounces, and has had many 5- to 8-pound fish caught there over the years." Schaefer reports that the California Delta has "thousands of miles of fishing shoreline, and this delta area can be out of this world for largemouth and smallmouth fishing."

. . . Go West for Smallies

Oregon

Our April 2002 speaker didn't go into much detail on fishing for smallies in Oregon, which looks like smallie heaven. The Oregon Department of Fish & Wildlife says that "smallmouth bass are more often found in deeper lakes and reservoirs where water temperatures stay cooler, and in moving waters such as the Columbia, Willamette, South Umpqua, and John Day Rivers."

According to an article posed on www.wideopenspaces.com by Reece Messerly in October 2014 titled "Oregon's 3 Best Smallmouth Bass Rivers," the Columbia, John Day, and Owyhee Rivers are out of this world. With 1,243 miles of river stretching from the Canadian Rocky Mountains to where the river finally empties into the Pacific Ocean, the Columbia is the fourth-largest river in America. Most local guides say the best place on



the river for smallies is the Yakima Delta area where the Yakima River empties into the Columbia. It's not uncommon for an angler to put a 20-pound five-fish limit in the boat and catch well over 75 bass. The reason the Columbia is such an amazing smallmouth fishery is the abundance of forage. Salmon and steelhead smolt, shad, and the jumbo signal crayfish all make up the diet of bass on the river.

Flowing right through the heart of Central Oregon before finally emptying into the Columbia, the John Day River boasts impressive numbers of smallmouth and

even has a few big largemouth. The river is unimpeded by dams for its full 284 miles; 147 miles of this flow is designated as "wild and scenic." The John Day has much of the same forage as the Columbia, creating a smaller utopia for smallmouth. Many anglers take advantage of the smaller and shallower river and fly fish it. It is not unheard to pull out 22-inch and bigger smallies while fly rodding.

Sometimes called "Oregon's Grand Canyon," the Owyhee River runs its 346-mile course from Wildhorse Reservoir in Nevada, snaking into Oregon, then finally emptying into the Snake River. It may be one of the best kept



secrets in western smallmouth angling. The Owyhee River is so full of smallmouth bass that many anglers floating from Rome, Oregon, to the southern end of Lake Owyhee report 100-plus fish days on the seven-day trip.

Along with it being filled to the top with brown bass it may be one of the most scenic float trips in Oregon with 1,000-foot tall canyon walls, mule deer lining the banks, and bighorn sheep in the rocks above. Another river that congress designated as "wild and scenic," you may have the entire river to yourself all seven days of your float trip.

. . . Go West for Smallies

Continued from page 7

Washington State

The Washington State Department of Fish & Wildlife reports that the state record smallie weighed in at 8.75 lbs, caught by Ray Wonacott in the Columbia River, Hanford Reach on April 23, 1966. In Washington, there are significant populations of smallies in the lower Columbia, Snake, Okanogan, lower Yakima (below Horn Rapids Dam), and Grand Ronde Rivers. There's also quality smallmouth bass fishing in large lakes and reservoirs throughout the state.

Writing on www.livestrong.com in December 2015, Brian Lewis described Lake Washington as the "best smallmouth lake" in the state. He wrote: "Smallmouths as large as 8.5 pounds have been wrestled out of the 22,138-acre crystal blue lake where they love to forage for crayfish and yellow perch. Lake Washington is the second-largest lake in the state. It borders Seattle and has plentiful fishing spots."

Wonacott also reported: "If you can stay afloat on the hazardous Hanford Reach of the Columbia River, you will experience some of the best bronzeback fighting in the nation. Just below Priest Rapids Dam, the 51-mile long Hanford Reach is the last non-tidal, free-flowing stretch of the otherwise-contained Columbia River. The Washington state record smallmouth, weighing 8 pounds, 12 ounces, was taken from this stretch by a man wading off shore in water just 4 feet deep. The shoreline and islands are closed to the public except by permission of the Department of Energy. Boaters will fight strong eddies and crosscurrents, and the size and remoteness of the river means capsizing could be fatal. For a little slower pace, try the larger Wallula Pool, from Richland all the way down to McNary Dam."

Conservation Corner

By Herschel Finch

I got a nice ride on the way-back machine early this morning on Facebook. It couldn't come at a more timely moment for me. I've been pretty dis-heartened lately given the direction our country is headed as you could well imagine. (I'm a Democrat of course . . . big surprise there. If it IS a surprise to you . . . you haven't been paying attention to my columns over the years). But given the sort of people being named to cabinet agencies by this president, I keep seeing 40 years of progress, especially environmental progress, going right down the tubes. I'm old enough to remember what it was like before we had the Clean Water Act, The Clean Air Act and the EPA to enforce them. The confirmation of a man that built his political career by suing the EPA for it's insistence that oil and gas extraction companies follow the law was almost more than I could take.

But then an old friend from RiverSmallies.com posted a Youtube video; it was "Hey Lawdy Mama" by Steppenwolf. Which reminded me that John Jay and the boys used to be quite the protest songwriters back in the day. ("The Pusher" anyone?) And then it hit me, their landmark album: "Monster" . . . to the YouTube!! They had the whole album . . . in go the earbuds and for the next 35 minutes I was an angry, angsty teenager again ready to join the SDS. If you're not old enough to remember who the SDS was, ask me at the meeting. This whole album was basically a protest themed endeavor, but the stand out tune is the title song. "Monster" is a nine minute long opus of American history, the history you don't hear in High School and it politically woke up many a young person back the late 60s.

And then not 5 minutes later another old friend from down in Richmond posted a quote from Rachel Carson on my timeline: "Man is a part of nature and his war against nature is inevitably a war against himself." — **Rachel Carson**

Perfect.

I suspect the Supreme Court of this nation is going to be very busy hearing case after case that will be brought to block certain actions that this EPA administrator will attempt. I know a couple of people who are members of this club who will definitely be involved this effort. I for one, stand ready to help in any way I can.

I've heard lots of commentators and read many opinion pieces that say we're just supposed to "get over it" and "give him a chance." Given the potential damage that this president and his supporters can do to our waters and environment in a very short time, I personally say, not a chance. We're going to be very busy the next few years and I will be calling on you to help in writing letters to our Congress members and Senators and making phone calls to their offices to let them know how we feel when they try to roll back regulations that keep our waters clean, and our citizenry healthy.

"The question is whether any civilization can wage relentless war on life without destroying itself, and without losing the right to be called civilized." — **Rachel Carson**

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Vienna, VA 22183

Mark Myers with a 25.5 inch red fish he caught using a fly rod near Homosassa, FL



Jed Woodill (right) with a nice largemouth he caught Sunday at one of his favorite spots in the tidal Potomac. Many thanks to Jed for his coaching and wise counsel during the first outing in my new boat.



2016 Fishing Contest Results

Fishing Contest

If it seemed like there were fewer trophies presented at member night this year than in years past, that's because it was true. Randy Chandler's wins in four categories in addition to taking the Grover Cleveland and William Shriver Awards helped reduce the overall numbers of trophies because we present only one trophy when a club member wins in multiple categories.

The 2017 Fishing Contest began on 1 January. Visit our contest page for rules or to submit an entry.

<http://prsc.org/fishing-contest/>

2016 Winners

Section 1, Biggest Fish:	George Thurston	17"
Section 1, Best 5 Fish:	Randy Chandler	79"
Section 2, Biggest Fish:	Randy Chandler	20"
Section 2, Best 5 Fish:	Randy Chandler	76"
Section 3, Biggest Fish:	Randy Chandler	21"
Section 3, Best 5 Fish:	Bill Pearl	85.5"
Largest on Fly:	Chip Comstock	12"
Best 5 Fish on Fly:	Chip Comstock	54"
New Member Big Fish:	Randy Hall	18.5"
New Member Best 5:	Randy Hall	75"
Grover Cleveland Award:	Randy Chandler	21"
William Shriver Award:	Randy Chandler	232"

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 McLean Community Center. 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. 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.