



The Buzz

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May 31, 2017

Experts Night Is Back!!!

Upcoming Events

Kids Fishing Derby #1 at Lake Fairfax

June 3, 2017

Ashburn Village Veterans Fishing Classic

June 24, 2017

PRSC Meeting

June 28, 2017

Kids Fishing Derby #2 at Lake Fairfax

July 15, 2017

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This month we're bringing back the PRSC Experts Night. Members of our club will discuss their favorite baits and fishing techniques. All speakers will be located at stations around the room so that you can move to different locations to hear the presentations you are interested in. We will have timed rotations so everyone will have a chance to hear all the speakers throughout the evening. This is an opportunity to learn new skills that work well in our local waters. Questions and sharing of information is encouraged. Our volunteers are:

Herschel Finch – jerk baits and crank baits

Randy Chandler – top water baits

Bill Amshey – soft plastics (Tubes Flukes, Senkos etc.)

Steve Kimm – spinner baits

Steve Adams – fly fishing



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Upcoming Events

Join us Wednesday, June 28th, for our monthly meeting. Our speaker will be Mr. Neal Mason, Owner / Operator of FishN Mason's Lane LLC. He will discuss his guide services on local waters as well as his guided hosting service "Destinations on the Fly." 7:30-9:00 PM at the McLean Governmental Center, 1437 Balls Hill Road, McLean, VA 22101.

Family Fishing Day

2017 Ashburn Village Veterans Fishing Classic



On June 24, 2017, Ashburn Village will sponsor the "2017 Ashburn Village Veterans Fishing Classic" for Wounded Heroes and their families at Pavilion Lake. Starting at 9am and running through 3pm, we will have fishing, food, and fun. This is the third year for this event.

Family Fishing will be from 9am - 1pm and Awards Luncheon will be from 1pm - 3pm.

Please pass the word about this, we'd like to invite veterans from all past conflicts, and the lake paths make wheelchair access particularly good. We'll have prizes and some other fun activities. Come out and support those who have made some big sacrifices serving our country.

Volunteers are needed to help run this event and to make sure that our Wounded Heroes and families have a memorable experience. We need fishermen, residents, veterans and high school students. Please sign up today and you can sign up for more than one (1) shift!

Sponsorships are available for prizes, lunch, snacks and drinks for this event. If you would like to become a Sponsor (or contribute to the cost), please contact Ernie Rojas at Ernie.rojas13@gmail.com

To volunteer to work at this event click here:

<http://www.signupgenius.com/go/9040c4faaaa238-family>

For more information or to register a veteran to participate click here:

<http://fco.ketrack.org//ncr/ava2017>

Upcoming Events

PRSC will be partnering with NHBA to support the **Kids Fishing Derby on June 3rd and July 15th at Lake Fairfax**. To volunteer for this event all you need to do is show up at the Lake Fairfax park at 7:00 AM. If you want more information or to volunteer for a specific task, call NHBA's Greg "Moose" Cronin [Cell 703-395-6661] or email him at raftandfish@hotmail.com I hope to see you all there!



Event: FREE Youth Fishing Derby

When: Saturday June 3, 2017 & July 15, 2017 (Rain or shine)

Where: Lake Fairfax, 1400 Lake Fairfax Drive, Reston, VA



Time: 8:00 am – 9:00 am Registration

9:00 am – 12:00 noon Fish

12:00 noon - 12:30 pm Seminar and lunch

12:30 pm - 1:00 pm Awards

Participants: Kids ages 15 and under

Register: Derby limited to 300 kids.

Pre-registration is encouraged to assure your space.

Pre-registration available after May 1, 2017

[http: www.nhbayouthfoundation.org/derbysignup.html](http://www.nhbayouthfoundation.org/derbysignup.html)

or parents may register kids at the derby !

Hosted by

Contact: Charlie Taylor at: cetaylor2@verizon.net

New Horizon Bass Anglers Youth Foundation

PRSC on the Water



Sarah Schaupp with a nice American shad caught near Fletcher's.

Maria Schaupp trying to find the handle on a slippery American shad.



Randy Hall was out on April 20th floating in Section II of the Upper Potomac. His best fish for the day was this 16-incher. He reported his best five-fish total for the PRSC Contest at 62.5 inches.

PRSC on the Water

Herschel Finch caught this nice 16"+ smallie floating the Bixler's to Bealer's stretch of the South Fork of the Shenandoah on May 20th.



Pete Pfotenhauer with an 18" 3 lb largemouth he caught on the Bixler's to Bealer's stretch on May 20th.

PRSC on the Water



Ernie Rojas and his friends have been fishing machines during April and May. I'll let him tell you the stories.



Goose Creek Expedition

By Herman Yam

Goose Creek, for those not familiar, is the little river one drives over going west on Route 7 into Leesburg, VA. It's the closest smallmouth water to my home and I've done respectably fishing the upper stretches of the river in the past. Last summer I waded the lower stretch of the river several times without much success. Now the time had come to float Goose Creek down to the Potomac. Kris Andersen and I put our kayaks in on Goose Creek on a hot Saturday at the end of April. With the Point of Rocks gauge buzzing at over 10,000 fps, I was banking that while the Potomac itself was unfishable, its tributaries would be productive. Our start was the Kephart Landing launch, a small parking lot tucked behind and between Loudoun County McMansions with a good clean path to the stream.

The water was up a bit since the previous Sunday when I had walked the bank, though the USGS gauge for Goose Creek was falling, which I saw as a plus. Goose Creek is the site of one of the failed canal schemes in our area and the ruins of the canal locks are right at the launch. Those stones, combined with the rapids immediately upstream, made for an obvious area to begin the day's smallmouth efforts. Feeling confident, I tied on a topwater plug while Kris went with a soft plastic swimbait that wasn't really a fluke.

Not seeing any interest in the plug, I moved on after a few minutes. The creek has high rocks on the northwest bank followed by a series of big trees in the water. I worked the topwater, a tube, a Gulp minnow on a dropshot and Senkos over this bank for about a quarter to half mile without result. Eventually Kris and I met up. He had picked up a 10" smallmouth on the swimbait over by a "spring" flow that trickles down the side of the high rocks.

Thunderstorms were forecast and soon we began hearing thunder and feeling the rain. We ducked into a golf course water trap stream on the southeast bank to wait things out. After half an hour the storm made way for clear, sunny skies and launched back into the creek. The current began to slow as we worked both banks of Goose Creek towards its confluence with the Potomac. I hadn't considered that the Potomac being high and fast would result in the current at the end of Goose Creek stalling. It makes sense thinking about it at home, but having never paddled or fished that situation I found myself surprised.



I was really expecting things to pick up at the mouth, having tangled from shore with a largemouth bass there the previous week. However the lack of current with slightly colder than normal water wasn't conducive to action even for the green fish. I stopped about 200 yards short of the mouth, hoping for any sort of bass on an invisible spawning bed under the trees. Kris paddled to the big river and lost another fish, maybe a smallmouth, on the swimbait. We talked to some motorboat guys who had caught 2-3 smallmouth and fished our way back to the launch, where we had to navigate a gaggle of wading kids and some dogs enjoying the water.

I got a few pickups on tubes and while dropshotting a Gulp minnow in a sunken tree, but no solid hits. There was no interest on the topwater, a crankbait and a spinnerbait. Kris was on the swimbait most of the day.

The lower stretch of Goose Creek is scenic and looks to be solid fishing water. Others have caught good smallmouth there. In the spring motorboats are able to reach the rapids at Kephart Landing. Later in the year, water levels and weed growth are very problematic and restrict access to canoes and kayaks. The easy access and literal suburban backyard location could lead to some congestion on summer weekends. The parking lot can only handle about 10 cars and has a port-a-jon. However, this is balanced by the close proximity to a great number of stores and restaurants. Goose Creek should be a good option for a quick, easy float if you're in eastern Loudoun County.

Speakers Share Fishing Tips . . .

Minnesota By Bill Amshey

The following is Part 4 in a six-part series of articles on smallmouth bass fishing out West. At our April 2002 meeting, outdoor writer Charlie Most, spoke to the Club under the title, “Vacation Out West Bass Fishing,” which sparked my curiosity of smallie fishing possibilities west of the Mississippi. Part 4 is only on Minnesota, which seemed to deserve its own article.

Minnesota

Explore Minnesota summed up “16 Great Places for Bass Fishing in Minnesota.”: “Minnesota consistently ranks as one of the best places for bass fishing in the country. Anglers from all over the United States talk about Minnesota’s lakes and rivers as ideal for catching smallmouth and large-mouth bass.”

Central Minnesota

“Minnesota’s central region offers some of the most diverse waters in the state.



“North of Brainerd near Crosslake, the Whitefish Chain of Lakes is 14,620 acres of the most diverse structure found in a Minnesota lake. A favorite place for tournaments, great catches of both largemouth and smallmouth bass can be found in most of the dozen or so lakes that make up the chain. Lake Minnewaska’s 7,110 acres are located just south of Alexandria and are relatively shallow, with a maximum depth of 32 feet and three public access points.

“Otter Tail Lake, at 13,729 acres, is part of the Otter Tail River chain. Almost 60 percent of the lake is less than 15 feet deep, with populations of both large and smallmouth bass. And the large, 132,516-acre Mille Lacs Lake is also a top smallmouth bass fishing lake in Minnesota. With reports of bass over 7 pounds, Mille Lacs made *Bassmaster’s* list of the top 100 bass lakes in the country in 2014.

“The Mississippi River from Monticello to Aitkin has become a world-class smallmouth bass fishery with ample habitat, four dams, and 150 miles that can offer a unique float or boating experience depending on the location. West Battle Lake, south of Otter Tail Lake, holds the state smallmouth record of 8 pounds. Another *Bassmaster* “top 100” is Green Lake near Spicer.

Northwest Minnesota

“Leech Lake is the third-largest lake entirely within the boundaries of Minnesota at 112,000 surface acres. The lake has an irregular shape with large and small bays; its deepest area is Walker Bay at 150 feet deep. In the fall, trophy bass gather in the warmer waters of Boy Bay.

“Woman Lake, to the south of Leech Lake, is considered one of the best “big” smallmouth bass lakes in the area. Tournaments are regularly won on this lake with a five-fish limit weighing in over 25 pounds.

. . . Go West for Smallies

Northeast Minnesota

“The lakes of northeast Minnesota are in the southernmost exposure of the Canadian Shield and mostly composed of igneous rock as a result of its long volcanic history. Rock, wood, and more rock are the keys to finding fish in area lakes. Rainy Lake, at 345 square miles, acts more like an inland sea than a lake. The quality of Rainy Lake’s smallmouth bass fishing is only surpassed by the scenery.

“Kabetogama Lake’s 24,036 acres fish a lot like Rainy but with less expansive waters. Smallmouth bass are preeminent, but anglers can find largemouth in the backwaters of the lake’s northern reaches. Lake Vermilion, at 39,000 acres, is one of Minnesota’s top bass lakes. Its west end has a high population of smallmouth bass, but the east end produces larger fish. Lake Vermilion hosted the 2015 B.A.S.S. Northern Divisional Tournament as well as the Minnesota Governor’s Fishing Opener. Pokegama Lake, near Grand Rapids, is a noteworthy lake in the region.



Southern Minnesota

“Lake Washington, at 1,487 acres, hosts many bass tournaments throughout the year and has a good population of bass that can exceed the 5-pound range. Lake Frances by Elysian is a 797-acre spring-fed lake with a maximum depth of 60 feet.

“The Mississippi River in southern Minnesota offers some of the best bass fishing opportunities anywhere. Smallmouth bass wait in the waters around the numerous islands and below wing dams. The Mississippi River’s 144 miles from Hastings to the Iowa border can be a bass fisherman’s utopia.

Metro Lakes

“The Minneapolis-St. Paul area is home to some of the best bass fishing in Minnesota. Area lakes, as well as the Mississippi River, are highly developed and used heavily by both anglers and recreational boaters. They continue to produce high-quality creels for all anglers, especially bass fishermen.

“Lake Minnetonka has been voted one of *Bassmaster’s* top bass lakes in the United States for many years. Its 14,528 acres host more bass tournaments than any other Minnesota lake. It has deep gravel reefs, rocky points, shallow stained water and weedy bays that hold 5- and 6-pound bass in 18 inches of water. The Mississippi River offers a unique fishing experience in the metro area, and canoe and boat rentals at dozens of urban lakes make it possible for visitors without a boat to enjoy a day of fishing.”

Conservation Corner

By Herschel Finch

Well here is May already and I have done precious little fishing to date since spring was ushered in back in March. Water levels, as most of you know, have been VERY uncooperative this year. It's starting to look like another one of those years when we aren't going to get to fish with any regularity until the end of June.

The spawn, of course, is what everyone seems worried about when water levels don't seem very conducive to the fish version of "pitching woo." For you young folks, that's an old southern euphemism that "polite folks" used in mixed company and around small children (like me back in the day*) when speaking about such things. But I remember decent spawn years even when the water levels didn't look very accommodating for that to happen. We also had some water temps and levels back in March that could easily have accommodated a period of spawning activity. Last year I caught females holding onto eggs in the first week of June! And just this past weekend (the 20th as I type this) I caught a couple of young females that, again, were holding eggs. So fingers crossed gang. We also caught no fish with lesions, or other problems.

They all seemed healthy, feisty, and blemish free, save one 13 inch smallie that was carrying some parasites on its tail. Pete Phfotenhauer, former member and *Buzz* editor, caught a VERY nice Largemouth that probably went 3 lbs. You can see it in the photo pages of this issue.

But we also need to continue with our vigilance for other problems and issues as we move into the warmer parts of the year. And toward that end, I want to remind everyone about the Water Reporter app that's available for both iOS and Android smart phones. This very cool app was developed to allow citizen river- and water-watchers to get photographic and GPS information, in real time, to our Riverkeepers and others who can use that info to take action to correct problems or to collect data points for further investigation and research. Our Riverkeepers use info taken by users to do their jobs. After all, they can't be everywhere at all times and as Jeff Kelble said in *Kayak Angler* magazine a few years ago: "My kayak fishermen are bad-asses! They can go places and see things that no one else does."

I recently got the Chattahoochie River Warden down in southern Georgia hooked up with the Water Reporter people and they're tweaking the 'Hootch' version for Henry Jackson down there now. I also learned that they have recently completely updated the app with some cool new capabilities. So go check it out. Get the latest and greatest version on your phone (it's free) and get to work.

And just so you know...it doesn't have to be a fish with a lesion or an illegal discharge or construction site running mud into the river . . . they like big fish pictures too!!

*Editor's Note: My proofreaders questioned whether Herschel ever was young . . . It remains an area of wild speculation. I had to let this stand. — RM

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Tidal Potomac Bucket Mouths

By Rick Mrstik

To jump-start my education on largemouth bass fishing on the tidal Potomac, I went out on May 3rd with Steve Chaconas of National Bass, who spoke to our Club recently. We launched from Belle Haven Marina near Old Town and fished Broad Creek on the Maryland side with some success until the wind kicked up. Seeking some shelter from the gale, we crossed back toward Belle Haven and began to drop-shot stick worms not far from the launch. This proved to be a very successful pattern for the day and brought my largest fish, the 3-pounder pictured at right. If you want to target bass in our world-class tidal Potomac fishery, Steve knows his stuff.

<http://www.nationalbass.com/>



2017 Fishing Contest

Fishing Contest

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

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

2017 Leaders

Section 1, Biggest Fish:	Herschel Finch	16"
Section 1, Best 5 Fish:	No Report	
Section 2, Biggest Fish:	Randy Hall	16"
Section 2, Best 5 Fish:	Randy Hall	62.5"
Section 3, Biggest Fish:	No Report	
Section 3, Best 5 Fish:	No Report	
Largest on Fly:	No Report	
Best 5 Fish on Fly:	No Report	
New Member Big Fish:	Randy Hall	16"
New Member Best 5:	Randy Hall	62.5"
Grover Cleveland Award:	No Report	
William Shriver Award:	No Report	

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 Governmental 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.