



The Buzz

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Volume 25, Issue I

January 25, 2012

Upper Potomac Riverkeeper

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February 29, 2012

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Drawing April, 2012

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Our Speaker this month is Brent Walls, Riverkeeper for the Upper Potomac River.

Brent Walls joined Potomac Riverkeeper as the new Upper Potomac River Manager in September 2009. Brent previously spent several years as the Watershed Coordinator at the Chester River Association, where he worked closely with the Chester Riverkeeper, and he acted as interim Riverkeeper on two occasions. He has extensive experience conducting water quality monitoring programs, coordinating volunteers, investigating pollution, and initiating enforcement actions.

Brent has a BS in Environmental Sciences and served in the U.S. Navy. Brent lives and works in Inwood, West Virginia.

Environmental issues that Brent has taken on include the D&L Coal Tipple Site where there were severe coal-tainted stormwater pollution problems where the sediment would flow into the North Branch of the Potomac River. Thanks to Brent's efforts,

D&L Coal has taken steps to stop the problem. This problem was originally brought to the River Manager's attention by a citizen complaint, reinforcing the need for fishermen to report pollution issues.



Since becoming the Upper Potomac River Manager, Brent has been involved with cases large and small – from investigating abandoned vehicles left in creeks to monitoring the development of fracking wells for natural gas extraction to fighting a proposed quarry that would drastically change the historic town of

Gerrardstown, WV. Brent's profile was certainly raised when he and Potomac Riverkeeper Ed Merrifield, along with their team of pro bono attorneys, went before the West Virginia Surface Mining Board to oppose the approval of the proposed quarry.

Brent has found that he has garnered the respect and admiration of local citizens and continues to be approached more frequently for his advice on water pollution problems. "Potomac Riverkeeper has become important enough to local jurisdictions that residents, municipalities, and agencies are now notifying me of pending issues far before these matters become public or reach the news," commented Brent.

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Upcoming Items

Potomac River Smallmouth Club - William Herezniak

Wednesday, February 29, 2012

Our next meeting will be Wednesday, February 29, 2012, at the Vienna Firehouse in Vienna, VA. Learn more about what lurks in our Nation's River from its headwaters of the North Branch of the Potomac River. William Herezniak of Eastern Trophies Fly Fishing will speak about fishing for Trout, Smallmouth and Musky from Western MD to the Upper Potomac. He will show examples of flies, lures, techniques and tricks to not only bring more fish to your net but fish of a lifetime to your hands. You can find more information at easterntrophies.com.

PRSC Picture Raffle - Mark Susinno Print

As a fund raiser, PRSC is raffling off a Mark Susinno print. It was donated to the club by Garnet Kauffman. It is signed by the artist, and numbered 112/400. Tickets are \$4 per ticket, and 3 tickets for \$10. We will be selling tickets until we have the drawing at the April PRSC meeting. We will have the print at the upcoming meetings. Here is a photo of the print.



Fishing Shows - Jan. and Feb.

NHBA Fisherman's Flea Market. January 28, 2012, 8am - 2pm. Sterling Ruritan Club, 183 Ruritan Rd., Sterling, VA.

Kent Island Fishermen's 2nd Annual Fishing Flea Market. January 28-29. Kent Island American Legion Post #278, 800 Romancoke Rd., Stevensville, MD 21666.

Fisherman's Flea Market. February 4, 7:30am - 2pm. Tri-State Marine, Route 256, PO Box 379, Deale, MD.

Bass Fishing Flea Market. February 4, 8am - 1pm. The Hillendale Fire Dept., 13511 Hillendale Dr., Dale City, VA 22193.

Orange County HS Anglers Sportsman's Expo. February 18 - 19. Orange County High School, Orange, VA.

10th Annual Tie Fest. February 25, 10am - 4pm. CCA Maryland. Kent Narrows Yacht Club, Chester, MD.

Rapidan Chapter TU 2012 Annual Fishing Show. February 25. Fauquier County Fair Grounds, Old Auburn Rd., Warrenton, VA.

President's Thoughts

By Steve Moore

At 59, I am proud of the fact that I have been fishing for over half a century. My father, Hal Moore, co-author of the New York Times bestseller, *We Were Soldiers Once... and Young*, started me fishing at the early age of five on small ponds at Fort Leavenworth, Kansas. It got serious when the family moved to Norway on one of his military assignments and trout were added to the mix. After pulling in massive trout on mountain streams, I was addicted with no hope of a cure. I hope to bring that addiction-fired passion to my term as President.

I am a graduate of the United States Military Academy and served 20 years in the Field Artillery including time as a commander in the 7th and 3rd Infantry Divisions. Upon retirement, I ran my own business until being recruited by IBM to recover troubled projects; a company I continue to work for today. Thankfully, over the course of those careers, I set the proper priorities and carved out time for our shared passion. Since 2006, I have been an active writer who posts three articles a week to CatchGuides.com (formerly SwitchFisher.com). The primary focus is on places to fish in Maryland, Virginia and West Virginia with maps, pictures, directions, and discussion of what I encountered during my visit. The content on that website eventually grew into my six books on local waters currently available on Amazon.com. While I am an avid fan of the Upper Potomac, I have to admit that my default fishing preference is to be part of the "fishing infantry" and wade for smallmouth on the Rapidan and Rappahannock rivers. I also have an obsession for making the long, hard hike into the backwaters of our Blue Ridge trout streams.

As I take over the responsibility of being president of PRSC, I am especially grateful to Randy and the other board members for providing a solid foundation, coupled with their unstoppable energy and enthusiasm, to be the springboard of what I hope will be an exceptional year of fishing as we implement our annual program. My key goals for the coming year are:

- 1) Develop better relationships with the "Friends of the Club" to provide them the business justification for their continued and, hopefully, increasing level of donation support of our key events.
- 2) Work with Bill to find the right speakers aligned with our member's interests.
- 3) Work with Steve to tailor club trips to the locations of greatest interest as well as provide a long-range schedule that will allow you to plan and increase participation.
- 4) Work with Steve to implement social networking technologies to make signing up for trips easier and provide a central location for trip information.
- 5) Increase the visibility of the club on the web to make it easier for prospective members to find us.
- 6) Build relationships with other fishing organizations to coordinate activities and provide our members more recreational and competitive options.

And, finally, pay close attention to the wise advice "if it ain't broke, don't fix it."

At our January meeting, we will distribute a survey to the membership that will form the basis of many of these initiatives. I encourage you to think about what you would like to hear at the meetings and where you would like to fish to provide our leadership team with the key input we need to better align the club with your interests.

Member Night

By Jamie Gold; Photos by Herschel Finch

On Wednesday, November 30, PRSC held its annual Member Night Celebration. With a full house of members, excellent BBQ, and tables full of prizes, we all had a great time. MC duties were ably handled by Ernie Rojas, Jack Cook handed out the awards for the fishing contest (final results are provided on the last page of this issue), and Herschel Finch awarded the Sanford Cup to Below are some pictures from the happy event. I hope that you enjoyed your holidays and look forward to seeing you in 2012.



PRSC On the Water

By: Jamie Gold

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

PRSC's New President with a Nice Smallmouth.



Steve Moore and Friend.

Monster cold weather Chesapeake Bay striper.



Jim Bullard.

That is a pig largemouth bass!!!!



Steve Adams.

Beautiful trout from the Patagonia region of Chile.



Dominic D'Ambrosi. Photo by Scott Roberts.

Fishing Rods and Reels Collection to Benefit *Food For The Poor (FFP)*

PRSC'ers – Your old gear can change lives! Terry Cooney, a PRSC member, is working with five churches collecting those rods and reels that have been gathering dust in attics, garages, and basements for donation to the south Florida-based *Food For The Poor (FFP)*. *FFP* is a highly rated charity that serves the destitute in 17 countries. Haiti and Jamaica are very poor, but they are blessed to be surrounded by the sea. The greatest need for *FFP's* Fishing Village program is salt water rods and reels, but all gear, except fly rods, are accepted.

At the February PRSC meeting, he will take any donations of rods and reels to add to the church collections. Functional rods and reels only, and leave any line on the reels. No tackle (hooks, lures, sinkers, etc.) please.

FAST FACTS - FISHING VILLAGES

- Currently Food For the Poor has 37 operational fishing villages in Haiti and 17 in Jamaica.
- Food For the Poor supplies destitute coastal villages with fiberglass boats with outboard engines, global positioning systems (GPS), fishing tackle, 100-quart coolers, safety equipment, a gear shed with freezer, a generator and powerful solar light for the village common area and training in deep-sea fishing.
- Fishing villages transform communities by offering residents hope and an opportunity to improve lives.

For more information about Food For the Poor's fishing villages visit: <http://www.foodforthe poor.org/about/work/spotlight-fishing.html>

Forbes Magazine — In a survey of the 200 largest U.S. charities, Food For The Poor was ranked the fifth-largest recipient of private support. Food For The Poor's charitable commitment ratio was an impressive 97%. *Forbes* magazine reported an average of 86% for this rating measure, which shows how much of an organization's total expenses are applied to its charitable purpose, excluding management, overhead or fundraising. Food For The Poor's fundraising efficiency ratio of 98% contrasted with an industry average of 90%.

From the PRSC Librarian

By Chip Comstock

Please check out the following list of books and DVD's available at club meetings. All it take is a \$5 deposit on the book. Return the book at the next meeting and get your deposit back. If you have borrowed a book for winter reading please remember to bring it to the January meeting. This is a partial list, so visit at the meeting to see our full collection.

Type	Title	Author
Book	A Sportsman's Life	Leigh Perskins
Book	An Honest Angler	Patricia Miller Sherwood
Book	Bass Fishing (An American Tradition)	George Kramer
Book	Bass Fishing in North Carolina	Buck Paysour
Book	Bass Fishing is Structure Fishing	Jon Ely
DVD	Bass, The Movie	
Book	Big-Bass Secrets	Outdoor Life
Book	Black Bass and the Fly Rod	Charles F Waterman
Book	Book of the Black Bass	Henshall
CD	Books of the Black Bass	Clyde Drury
Book	Canoe Paddles	Graham Warren
Book	Classic Virginia River: A Paddler's Guide . . .	Ed Grove
Book	Dances With Trout - A Good Life Wasted	John Gierach
VHS	Fishing Lake Moomaw	Old Dominion Outdoors
Book	Fishing Rivers and Streams	Dick Sternberg
Book	Fishing the New River Valley: An Angler's Guide	M.W. Smith
Book	Fishing the Rivers of the Mid-Atlantic Copy 1	Bill Anderson
Book	Fishing The Upper Potomac River	Ken Penrod
Book	Fly Fishing	Michael Rutter
Book	Fly Fishing for Smallmouth Bass	Harry W. Murray
Book	Fly Fishing the MidAtlantic	Beau Beasley
Book	Fly Fishing Virginia	Beau Beasley
Book	Flyfisher's Guide to Virginia	David Hart
Book	Guide to Floating Whitewater Rivers	R. W. Moskimins
Book	Guide to Maryland Trout Fishing	Gelso & Cobrum
Book	How to Fish for Smallmouth Bass	Hank Andrews
Book	In Pursuit of Trophy Smallmouth Bass	Jeff Little
Book	Ken Penrod's Tidal Potomac River Bible	Ken Penrod
Book	Knowing Bass	Dr. Keith A. Jones
Book	L.L. Bean Fly Fishing for Bass	Dave Whitlock
Book	L.L. Bean Fly Fishing for Bass	Dave Whitlock
Book	Largemouth, Smallmouth, Close Kin Copy 1	Dave Bowring
Book	Largemouth, Smallmouth, Close Kin Copy 2	Dave Bowring
Book	McClane's Angling World	A. J. McClane
Book	Mid-Atlantic Budget Angler	Ann McIntosh
Book	Paddling Techniques	
Book	Pennsylvania Trout Streams and their Hatches	Charles Meck
Book	Potomac Journey (History)	R.L. Stanton
Book	Pursuing River Smallmouth Bass	Ken Penrod
Book	River Smallmouth Bass	Dan Gapen
Book	Saltwater Fishing - Made Easy	Matin Pollizotto
Book	Sex, Death and Fly Fishing	John Geirach

Shenandoah Winter Bassin

By George Thurston

On Saturday, January 7th, I met up with a couple of guys from KayakBassFishing for some wintertime fishing on the Shenandoah. We were all trying to capitalize on the warming trend after the frigid temperatures at the beginning of the week. Air temps were up to 60°, but water temps only rose to 38.3° after starting out a 37°. We fished from about 10:45 until about 2:45.

We did a single access trip to hit a known winter area. The river had been slowly falling throughout the week, so the plan was to start off fishing deeper areas/ledge trenches in the middle of the river.

I started the day off right in the first 20 minutes by calling out a hit, then setting the hook a few seconds later and landed a nice 18" small mouth on a Winco Flutter Head and Swim Bait.

The kayak was anchored on a ledge below a small pool. Cast to the top of the pool, drug the swim bait over the ledge at the top of the pool and let the bait sit. All I was doing was taking slack out of the line and paying attention to the 'feel' on the rod & the line.

The smallie had a beautiful bronze color and was very light. The hit was hard hit. It was down in a ledge trench where current was very minimal.

I had a 78 Pointer and a tube tied on at first. When I got to the area, I took the Pointer off because I wasn't feeling like the conditions were right for a jerkbait. The sky was cloudy and overcast and it was very cold outside, so I tied on a swim bait. The flutter head is virtually snagless on the rocky river we fished.

It was a typical winter day, even with the warmer air temps. Just a few hits were had, but all were bigger fish and all were landed. The water was clear and levels and good paddling for the kayaks. The sun was in and out of clouds the whole time, so I was right, the jerk bait bite wasn't happening. It was nice to get out with a couple friends and enjoying the time on the water.

Figured we'd have a better day since the big smallie came early, but as always, winter fishing is working for a couple rewarding bites.



George Thurston with a winter prize. Photo by Unknown.

Late Fall Fishing

By Jack Cook

(Editor's Note: Jack submitted this article in November, so it talks about late fall fishing).

My recent fishing has only been fair. The other week, Bill Pearl and I were on the James River looking for winter holes. First we put in at Howardsville and ran down to a deep hole with a ledge that was along one side. In this spot we were primarily fishing the bottom with creature baits and tubes. We caught about 10 fish, all of them decent, with most of them between 14-17" in length. But we did not catch any monsters out of that hole. I don't think they had settled into their winter holes yet.

We fished there for a few hours and then pulled out and went to Columbia. The James River was running at 3.5ft at Bent Creek and we were just barely able to get through the rapids above Columbia. We caught about 20 fish there, but they weren't as nice as the ones we caught up river.

On Wednesday November 9th and Thursday November 10, Bill and I were on the Susquehanna River with Lenny Machowski and his partner Bob. Between the four of us we caught about 30 fish at Montgomery's Ferry. Bob and I stayed up river and we caught 12, but they were all 14-17" fish. Lenny and Bob fished down river all the way to the campground and caught about 20 fish; but they said most of theirs were smaller than ours.

The next day we all put in at Fort Hunter and fished the pool below the Statue of Liberty. Fishing there was relatively slow. The fish are there, because at one point there were 23 boats all fishing that pool. Bill and I got bored and ran all the way to above the Duncannon Bridge. But we only caught a few up there.

Overall, Bill and I ended up with 16 fish and Lenny and Bob got about 20. We caught no fish in shallow water either day, so it appears that the fish are starting to winter up.



Here is one from the archives of Jack Cook and a fishing partner with some nice river smallmouth.

Ground Hog Float

By Herschel Finch

Did a 'Ground hog' float with Pete Pfothenhour and Tom Ehrheart over the New Year's weekend. We were trying to exploit 3 days of calm, stable, weather and river levels before a cold front moved through the Valley and were amply rewarded for doing so. On Dec. 3, the 3 of us headed out for known wintering holes on the Doah, Pete and Tom in their toons and me in my Coosa. The day was supposed to get up to into the low 50s, but we started out in some very chilly temperatures, probably in the high 30s or so. We didn't spend a lot of time on the beginning of the float as that area was generally good summer water and instead made steady progress downriver to a specific area all 3 of us were familiar with. Pete and I knew this area very well and have fished it the week of Christmas as a tradition almost since we both have that week off from work. We usually just pick the warmest day and hope for the best. But the weather was particularly cooperative this year we got almost a full week of calm, unseasonably arm weather and stable river levels. It did take long to find the fish either... they were right where Pete I knew they would be. Pete and Tom did well on Black/neon tubes. Several fish in the 16 to 18" range were landed and Tom managed a VERY nice 20.25 bruiser in the mix. Several big Greenies were landed as well out the same area where they were catching the smallies. Pete also managed to pick up a decent fish on a jerk bait that day. Which seemed very surprising to me for late December, but after a little thought after the float, I decided to file that tidbit away for future reference.

ME? You're asking ME how *I* did?...um...weeeellll...not so much. Water was elevated and current was rather pushy. By fishing out of toons, Pete and Tom could anchor above the hole and fish a still tube on the bottom with a 1/4 oz of weight, anchoring the bait to the bottom. I had a little trouble keeping my boat still in that current and kept swinging back and forth. Same with the baits, I would toss up in the hole and the baits would just roll along the bottom back toward me. This was not a recipe for success given the pattern that had been established. Plus, on a winter float in Kayak, you have a tendency to pay a LOT more attention to your boat handling and less to the fishing so your concentration can be divided somewhat. Tm and Pete both had banner days with at least 15-20 fish each. I had a few nibbles here and there, and I took a lot of "swing and miss" types moves. But it was an absolutely beautiful day to be out there, so I wasn't all that upset about the 'skunk'.



Now Tom E. has a tradition of fishing on New Year's Day come h**l or high water and I told him if the Rapp continued to display high and dirty, I'd be more than happy than to do the same float we did on Friday, even if it meant another 'skunk' on my part. But that jerkbait fish Pete caught on Friday had gotten me thinking and I

Ground Hog Float cont'd

felt like maybe I had a piece of information that might pay out. Tom was more than eager to come back since the Rapp wasn't quite down to floatable levels on New Year's Day. Pete wussed out, claiming papers to grade and SEC responsibilities or some such 'responsible adult' nonsense. We sure missed ya Pete, and as the guys always tell ya after the party where YOU left early: "Ya shoulda hung out maaan!"

I played it smart this time, broke out the toon and got it pumped up and ready to go in the dark but it was totally worth it. I also tossed extra black tubes and the jerkbait box in the tackle mix as well. We headed back to the same area, not even stopping to hit any other spots till we got to where we wanted to be. We spent the next 4 hours working a single half mile and were amply rewarded. Tom, once again, had some success on tubes early, including another nice 18 incher, but I was having trouble feeling the subtle pickup on a tube and seemed to take a lot of "swing and miss" type hook sets. I decided that since the fish had two more days to settle into the stable weather pattern that just maybe.... I broke out a baby bass pattern jerkbait and started working the area.

...and that was the ticket.

I picked up two or three quick 14-15 inchers...and then a bruiser of a largemouth at about 3 lb. The bite seemed to die after the sun got covered up by passing cloud cover. So after about 30 minutes with no action, we moved down a bit, took a break, I ate some lunch, Tom stretched his legs and we hit another area in the same section. Tried the tubes again and got nothing, but again, Tom was picking up the occasional fish on tubes. I broke out the JB rod again and they suddenly were on fire. I was catching 14-15 inch fish pretty steady for the next hour. I was making long casts and rarely brought the bait back to me that I didn't have at least a strike or 'rub' on it. One smallie broke me off diving for the bottom and I lost my bass patterned Xrap I was having such good success with. (yes, some very un-Conservation Chairman-like words were spoken). I tried an all white w/blue flanks Xrap and got nothing. Then I went to a dark purple top, white bottom and they were 'on' again. But just as earlier...clouds roll in...bite shuts down...clouds move away and sun breaks out...and the bite was on again.



So they needed the sun to accent the 'flash' of the white-sided jerk bait to get their attention. They always nailed the bait on the pause, never on the retrieve or when I would rip it along for 6 feet or so to simulate like it was trying outrun a predator. They would always grab it when it was on the dead stop. The fight was always down deep as well. No jumpers all day. A couple came up and wallowed on the surface but for the most part, they would grab the bait and then try to get to the bottom.

It was one of the best winter fishing days I've experienced...and on jerk baits in 42 degree water no less. Crazy you might say, but think about it. If they're feeding in winter, prior to a front passing...what are they gonna be feeding on? Not crayfish or Hellgies or bugs on top. Those tasty morsels are hibernating, as are frogs and lizards. No...they're chowing down on bait fish. Makes sense when you think about it.

So now I'm watching the long range forecasts, watching for a slight steady warmup into the mid 50s, to be followed by a sharp cold front and planning to play hooky the day before the front rolls through.

Fishing Contest Rules

By Jack Cook

For the purpose of this contest, the Potomac River and its tributaries are divided into three (3) sections.

Section I - The Potomac River above Dam 3 and the Shenandoah River above the Warren Dam.

Section II - The Shenandoah River below the Warren Dam and the Potomac River from Dam 3 down to the mouth of the Monocacy River. The Monocacy River itself is included in Section II.

Section III - The Potomac River below the mouth of the Monocacy.

Please note that all tributaries are included in the sections into which they flow.

The contest starts on January 1 of each year. (So this year's contest has already started...get fishing!). The contest runs through October 31st of the same year. Prizes are awarded at Member Night in November.

Prizes

1. Prize for the biggest fish caught in each section, so 3 prizes are up for grabs.
2. Prize for the best/biggest total of five fish caught in each section, again 3 prizes up for grabs.
3. Grover Cleveland Award - overall prize for the biggest fish caught (must be from one of the sections).
4. William Shriver Award - overall prize for the best 5 fish caught (the fish must be from the contest sections).
5. Prize for the biggest fish caught on a fly rod (it must be caught in one of the sections).
6. Prize for the biggest fish caught by a new member of PRSC (it must be caught from one of the sections).
Members who joined PRSC as of November of the prior year or later are eligible.

How the Contest Actually Works

1. For biggest fish - when you catch a big fish, measure it, and then report the fish to Jack Cook.
2. For 5 biggest fish - when you go fishing on the eligible water, measure the first five smallmouth bass that you catch. Then, as you catch more fish, replace the length of the smallest fish with the length of a longer fish. Report the results to Jack Cook.
3. Measurements are reported in half-inch increments. Tails may be pinched to make the measurement. Round up from 1/4th inch increments. Round down from 1/8th inch increments. A 19 1/4th inch fish is reported as 19 1/2. A 19 1/8 inch fish is reported at a 19" fish.

Jack Cook is the official record keeper for the fishing contest. To be eligible, you must report your results to Jack within one month of being caught. Do not submit them to the Buzz editor, or anyone else. You can reach Jack at 703-573-4403. He has a message machine, so leave a message for him if he does not pick up. He is good about getting his messages. If you have any questions, please follow up with Jack.

Conservation Corner cont'd

By Herschel Finch

Well, here we go at the top of a new year and for the first time in a long time I have a good feeling about this up coming year. Our rivers, although they have problems, were definitely showing improvement in the last half of the year. Yes, we did have an abnormally abundant algae bloom on the 'Doah that effected the Potomac in the latter half of the summer, but all in all, the work that Ed Merri-field, Jeff Kelble, Brent Walls and the great staff at the Potomac Riverkeeper organization are doing is showing some real results. Jeff's fundraiser on the Shenandoah last year was his most successful ever and he's doing it again, even bigger and better this year. And as they say on the news, more on that as details become available.

But for us here at the PRSC, I have a couple of projects that hopefully will come to fruition this year. I spoke about some monofilament recycling stations last year that we and our friends at the Old Dominion Smallmouth Club are teaming up to build and have installed at various landings on the mainstem and south fork of the Shenandoah. I'm shopping for a place to do the build, hopefully someplace public that will allow some good publicity and result in maybe an influx of new memberships and interest in both our clubs. I have a parts list and stickers from VDGIF to build eight of these stations and I'll be touching base with my counterpart at the Richmond Fishing Show this coming weekend to further this project along.

Later on this year, I'm going to be in touch with Beau Morgan, founder and "American Picker" numero uno for Earth Korp. I'd like to set up a half day cleanup with him for one weekend this summer or possibly on a Friday once we have some warm water. Beau's main focus is scrap metal and tires that have been discarded into the river. He takes these articles and recycles them and then plows the money he makes back into the organization. Don't be fooled, this is going to be a little more intense than just picking up trash at the landings. It involves a lot of wading, and heavy lifting...and some really heavy-duty gloves. But I have a feeling that the experience will be a good one and most rewarding. SO if you're up for either one of these projects, please let me know. I'll be calling for volunteers later on when we're ready to pull the trigger on both of them.

In the mean time....get your reels oiled up, new line loaded and tackle organized. Spring is right around the corner...honest!

PRSC
P.O. Box 1240
Vienna, VA 22183

PRSC would like to thank the following for contributing to Member Night and being friends of PRSC.

Orvis - Vienna, VA

Dave Schindler, Jst Fishin' Guide Service



Big Time BBQ (Scott Cocherell)
 Walt Cary

Rapala

WALT'S POPPERS
 Handmade Virginia Popping Bugs



Urban Angler



St. Croix Rods



Steve Moore, CatchGuide Books

Gary Yamamoto Custom Baits



Simms



2011 Contest Results

January 2012 Report By Wallace Harvey

As I look over the list of winners of the 2011 PRSC Fishing Contest, I am proud to know these dedicated fishermen. Each has worked hard to become a winner. However, we are all winners by knowing them and learning from them. I know them well enough that if you ask, you can learn when, where, and on what they caught the winning fish. Now can we duplicate that this next year? Congratulations to each winner.

Actually, with a bit of luck and hard work, someone should do even better this year. I do not know how it will affect the fishing, but we have had good river levels so far this winter. As we all check river levels from time to time, I see good steady levels so far and hope this will help our fishing this Spring. For those of you who do venture out during the Winter, extreme caution is important. Never go alone and dress for success.

As an avid summer fisherman, I do not venture out until things warm up. I look forward to wetting a line then. I also plan to lead a club trip again this year. I have done it for several years now and find it a great way to meet members and learn from everyone that attends. If you have not led a trip for the club and are not sure what you need to do, ask. I will be glad to help, or our Trip Coordinator will be glad to help. It is one of the easiest things I have done. Try it; you will like it.

For the few of you that did not make it to Member Night, I feel sorry for you. We had the best BBQ we have ever had. Dee David did a great job in finding this Chef. Thank you Dee! I won a set of books from our new President and they are excellent reading for the winter. Although Steve concentrates on wading, there is a lot of great information for those of us that tend to float by. I recommend reading his books. Thank you Steve for donating to our Member Night.

2011 Results

Section 1, Biggest Fish: Randy Chandler, 20.5"

Section 1, Best 5 Fish: Randy Chandler, 82.5"

Section 2, Biggest Fish: Jack Cook, 20"

Section 2, Best 5 Fish: Bill Pearl, 83.5"

Section 3, Biggest Fish: Wayne Tate, 20"

Section 3, Best 5 Fish: George Thurston, 88.5"

Largest on Fly: Wayne Tate, 20"

New Member: Jason Lee, 19.5"

William Schriver Award: Randy Chandler, 235"

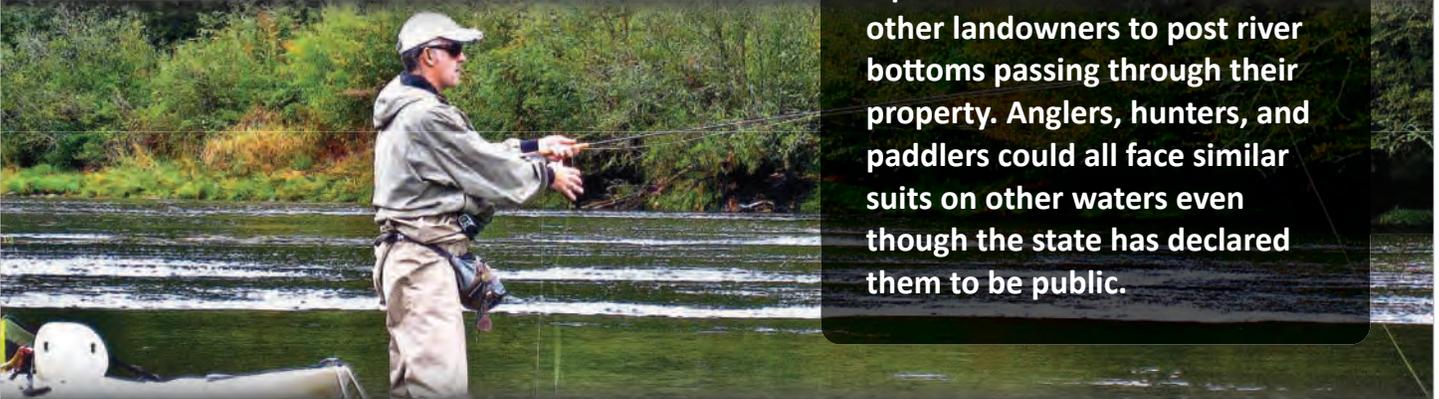
Grover Cleveland Award: Randy Chandler, 20.5"

The Potomac River Smallmouth Club was founded in 1988 as a non-profit recreational club in accordance with IRS section 501(c)(7). Dues are \$35/year. Monthly meetings are held at 7:30 PM on the last Wednesday of each month (except December) at the Vienna Volunteer Firehouse. Club by-laws and member rosters are published once a year and available during meetings or upon request. The Club newsletter, "The Buzz", is emailed to all members prior to each month's meeting and is available at local fishing/tackle shops. Articles, photographs and general information relating to smallmouth bass fishing are solicited. The Buzz reserves the right to edit all materials submitted for publication. Observations, conclusions and opinions expressed in The Buzz are those of the authors and do not necessarily reflect those of the club, its officers, or the editor. All materials submitted become the property of the club. Every effort will be made to return photographs at the monthly meetings, however the printing process occasionally results in the destruction of a photograph. Send copies and make sure YOU have the negative.

VA. RIVERS DEFENSE FUND

www.VirginiaRiversDefenseFund.org

Everyone in Virginia who enjoys its rivers stands to lose if the developer wins and establishes a precedent that will allow other landowners to post river bottoms passing through their property. Anglers, hunters, and paddlers could all face similar suits on other waters even though the state has declared them to be public.



Help Protect Your Right to Use and Enjoy Virginia Rivers



DONATE

To learn more about VRDF at www.virginiariversdefensefund.org

To make a tax deductible donation, one can donate through the website or send checks to:

Friends of the Rivers of Virginia
(FORVA) - a 501(c)(3) registered charity
PO Box 1750
Roanoke, VA 24008
(Please write VRDF in the memo line)

Thank you for your support.

A civil suit in Alleghany County could set a precedent that allows landowners to usurp the state's ownership of miles and miles of public rivers.

A developer of a golf course community, who claims to have centuries' old King's Grants, wants to privatize several miles of the lower Jackson River. He is suing two anglers who point out that the Department of Game and Inland Fisheries promotes this section as public water, where we're all entitled to fish, wade and anchor boats.

All Virginians stand to lose if the developer wins and establishes a precedent that will allow other land owners to post rivers passing through their property. Kayakers, canoeists, hunters, swimmers, tubers and anglers could all face similar suits on other "public" waters.

The Attorney General refuses to step into the fray. As a result, the two anglers are fighting this alone, footing the hefty legal bills to defend not just themselves but all Virginians.

They have set up a legal defense fund called Virginia Rivers Defense Fund (VRDF) to help with their legal fees.