



The Buzz

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Volume 26, Issue 10

October 30, 2013

Lower Potomac Adventures

Upcoming Items

PRSC Meeting
Member Night
November 20, 2013

Case Plastics Sale
October PRSC Meeting

Potomac Riverkeeper
October 2013

Potomac Conservancy
November 2013

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Potomac Riverkeeper's Whit Overstreet and Sycamore Island Caretaker Joe Hage are going to speak about their misadventures on the Lower Potomac River.

In July 2011, Whit Overstreet, staff at Potomac Riverkeeper, and Joe Hage, Caretaker of the Sycamore Island Canoe Club, set off on an adventure down the Lower Potomac. The idea was simple – do a little grassroots fundraising and awareness building for Potomac Riverkeeper while allowing others to enjoy the beauty of the river from the comfort of their personal computers. Using a crooked kayak purchased the night before off Craigslist, the two embarked on a 6 day, self-supported journey that was supposed to be 85 miles in length but turned out to be a grueling 130 miles of paddling. It was a daily-gut check against ripping tides, storms, cold nights, and sweltering days.



The end result? The two survived and found that folks had really taken an enthusiastic interest in the trip and their suffering! So during one of the great decision making moments in history, the two decided to make the journey again, add some distance, plan a 10 day trip, and cross the infamous 11 mile mouth of the Potomac.

Come on out and be treated to pictures and maps from their journey and hear some tales from the uncharted waters of the Lower Potomac!

About the speakers:

Joe Hage is the Caretaker of the historic Sycamore Island Canoe Club, located in the slackwater above the Brookmont Dam, just down from Lock 7. When not manning the island ferry, Joe plays in a honky-tonk band that would put Graham Parsons to shame. Whit Overstreet works for Potomac Riverkeeper. Though he is an avid paddler and has a passion for all things related to the river, he is a terrible angler. Even Jack Cook won't take him fishing!

Club Executive Board	<h1>Upcoming Items</h1>
President John Lipetz (h) (703) 609-8083 president@prsc.org	
Vice-President Kristen Sorensen vp@prsc.org	
Secretary Dave Lockard (h) (301) 656-1964 secretary@prsc.org	Potomac River Smallmouth Club - Next Meeting Join Us Wednesday, November 20 for PRSC's next meeting. We will be at our usual spot, the Vienna Firehouse. However, we will be meeting a week early due to the Thanksgiving holiday the following week. Also, this is our annual Member Night, so we'll be having food and raffling off some great items. Remember, this is a great time to renew your PRSC membership for 2014. At the meeting, all current members will received one raffle ticket. If you renew at this event for 2014, you'll get an extra ticket. If you want to renew at the meeting, please go to the club's website (www.prsc.org), download a copy of the membership form, fill it out, and bring it with you along with a check or cash for \$35. Filling out the form before the meeting will make the renewal process faster and easier for everyone.
Treasurer Jamie Gold C (571) 213-4699 treasure@prsc.org	
Trip Coordinator Steve Kimm trip_coordinator@prsc.org	
Program Chair Bill Amshey Programs@prsc.org	Case Plastics Sale Ernie Rojas has announced that for the Case Plastics - there will be \$1.00 off each bag. This is a great deal, so bring some money to stock up on some Case plastics for the rest of this year and for the start of next year.
Conservation Chair Herschel Finch (H) (540) 635-7636 Conservation@prsc.org	
Librarian Chip Comstock Librarian@prsc.org	Potomac Riverkeeper Riverwatcher Training in Cumberland, MD Tues. 10/29/2013 - 7:00pm-9:00pm. Allegany Museum, 3 Pershing Street, Cumberland, MD 21502. Join Upper Potomc River Manager Brent Walls in Cumberland, MD for a Riverwatcher training session, including a demo of new app The Water Reporter! Brent will give a training on how to be a Riverwatcher -- what is pollution, how to spot pollution and how to report pollution. He'll give a demonstration of their new iPhone app -- the Water Reporter -- so you can report pollution and fun stuff on the river while you are out and about. For more information, visit the Potomac Riverkeeper's website at http://potomacriverkeeper.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	Potomac Conservancy Canal Stewards: River Center at Lock 8 Sat. 11/09/2013 - 10:00am-12:00pm. River Center at Lock 8, 7906 Riverside Drive, Cabin John, MD 20818. They will be meeting at the River Center to clean up the lockhouse area and nearby towpath. This cleanup is open to all ages, and they will provide all the necessary supplies. You can find more information at http://www.potomac.org .
Past President Steve Moore	
Publicity Ernie Rojas H (703) 729-0128	Canal Stewards: Fletcher's Cove Sun. 11/17/2013 - 10:00am-12:00pm. Join them at Fletcher's Cove. They'll be meeting at 10 am at Fletcher's cove to clean up the picnic area and surrounding trails. This cleanup is open to all ages, and they will provide all the necessary supplies - just wear clothes that can get dirty. This is part of the National Park Service's Canal Stewards program. You can find more information at http://www.potomac.org .

Kids with Cancer Fishing Day

By Jamie Gold

Photos by Mark Baum

On September 22, 2013, Phil Maisel hosted his 15th volunteer fishing day on Lake Anne in Reston, VA. In the Spring he hosts a group of injured veterans. In the Fall of last year and this year he has hosted a group of kids and their families dealing with cancer from an organization called Special Love. For those of us fortunate enough to be able to help out on these days, they are some of the most worthwhile hours we spend all year. We had good weather, good food, and caught fish. Most important, the kids and their families seemed to really enjoy themselves. We had a good turn out of kids, their parents, and even a few siblings. I'm looking forward to next year's events already. Here are some comments and pictures from the event.

Mark Baum, one of the boat captains, wrote: "First, as always, it was a great day to be with a special group of folks on Lake Anne. Especially terrific today, given the gorgeous weather. These kids and their parents are truly special; so THANK YOU, Phil for all that you do to make these days on the Lake so extraordinary. It is truly and honor and pleasure for all of us, and we are helping these families create happy and indelible memories. It does not get better than that." Fellow volunteer and PRSC member Wallace Harvey wrote, "As usual, Phil did an excellent job setting up our wonderful day Sunday. Thank you. I did not realize that the kids did so well fishing until I saw the excellent pictures. I want to thank everyone who helped. Excellent job! This is one event I look forward to each year. The kids are the one's that deserve a great day, and hopefully we provide one. I wish everyone the very best."



A Fishing Trip to Killarney Ireland: The River La

Article and Photos by Chip Comstock

A year ago my mother-in-law, aka Big Sal . . . long story, came up with a plan to treat her three daughters and their families to a week in Ireland. It had always been her dream to have her clan all together in Ireland, the birthplace of her parents. When I found out about this I inquired if I would be free to fish, and, in her desire to win me over to the idea of the trip, she promised that I could fish as much as I wanted. From that point on I began to research fishing in Ireland with a focus on fly fishing around the area of Killarney and our historic location, Coolclogher House. <http://coolclogherhouse.com/>

The house outside Killarney was situated right next to the River Flesk. Another river, the River Laune, was also nearby. The Laune is a river that empties from the Lakes of Killarney into the Ocean, about twenty kilometers long. The Flesk flows into the Lakes of Killarney. My research focused on these two rivers and the lakes.

The rivers hold salmon and trout, and, from what I could tell from all the websites I researched, were wadeable. The owner of the house had me call the local tackle store, and I was assured that I could purchase a fishing permit and wade for trout in either river. I discovered that I would need a permit for each day at the cost of 10 euro to fish for trout. The access to the River Laune was controlled by the [Laune Salmon and Trout Anglers' Association](http://www.launeanglersfishing.com/#!Beat-three/c1sq9). <http://www.launeanglersfishing.com/#!Beat-three/c1sq9>.

The Laune Angler's Association website was very informative and provided me with a map, a location to purchase my permits, and a list of regulations such as fly fishing only with a four fish limit. The fishable parts of the River Laune are divided into three sections called "Beats." Beat 1 and Beat 2 could be fished on the same permit and Beat 3 on a separate permit. As for the River Flesk next to where we were staying all I could determine was if I could get to it I could fish it as long as I had my permit.

The week before we left I checked to see if there was any restriction on bringing fishing equipment onto the plane by visiting the TSA site <http://www.tsa.gov/traveler-information/hunting-and-fishing-equipment>. According to the TSA

"Sharp fishing tackle that may be considered dangerous, such as large fish hooks, should be sheathed, securely wrapped, and packed in your checked luggage. Like other high-value objects, you may wish to pack expensive reels or fragile tackle that does not pose a security threat (small flies) in your carry-on baggage."

I ended up packing my two fly rods, fly vest with my fly boxes, waders, boots, etc. in my checked baggage. I carried my fly reels on the plane with me. I read somewhere to do that, so I did! When I checked my bag at Ronald Reagan, I explained what was in the bag and waited by the big x-ray machine to make sure there were no questions. It all went smoothly. Upon arrival to Shannon, August 3, we collected our things and off we went. My wife, Barbara, and I had decided to rent two cars for our



Laune, The River Flesk, and the Lakes of Killarney

own family and since two of our party were delayed a day, I took one car and she and my son took the other. Off we went with maps in hand and proceeded to get separated after the first five kilometers. The drive to the house took two hours. I arrived in Killarney around 11 am. Since I had about five hours to kill due to a 4 pm check in, I proceeded to drive to the River Laune and look for the tackle store and check things out.

My research had paid off. I found the tackle store; it was more like a small convenience store like a 7/11 that happens to sell the permit. It was located directly across from a bridge and the access points to Beat 2 and 3. I went into the store and asked a few questions about the rules and regulations, store hours, and confirmed the price of the permit. The store attendant suggested I check out the river. As I walked along the river I met some fishermen and started asking a lot of questions about how the river was fishing and listened for tips about location, methods, etc. Speaking with the local fishermen was a highlight of my trip. They were all friendly, ready to give advice and willing to tell me that I should pray and consider asking the Pope for help. Most of the fishermen were fishing for salmon using large spinning gear and worms. . . lots of worms. It was a challenge at times to understand the local fishermen with their thick Irish accents. It didn't much matter because all the folks I met along the way for the three days I fished were friendly and encouraging. That was all I needed.



I completed my reconnaissance and headed to the house and met up with my family I had lost earlier in the day. All the other relatives were there and the reunion went into full swing.

I spent my first full day traveling with the family and visiting landmarks such as the Cliffs of Moher.

The next day was my first fishing day. I got up around five in the morning, put together my gear and headed out. I had a permit to fish Beat 1 and 2. The river was high but very clear. Finding entry points was a challenge. I finally found entry near where the lake spilled into the river. I fished this area for a couple of hours. No luck. I worked my way back to the bridge where I parked and made my way to Beat 2 which was on the other side of the bridge. Beat 2 had more structure and I figured my luck would change.

I saw the occasional rising fish but still no luck. I was fly fishing and had to fish from the bank on occasion, so I used a modified roll cast and did what I could to get the fly out to the middle to drift along



A Fishing Trip to Killarney Ireland: The River La



along the bank. I finally found a nice wading area and managed to catch a nine inch brownie.

I used my 7 wt. Wilson rod the first day. I used everything from wooly bugger to small sinking beaded nymphs. I tried top water etc. The only fly fisherman I met was using a fly set up with two flies tied on. I checked out his flies and found the same in my gear and gave that a try. No luck. I called it a day around 7 pm and got home to a home cooked lasagna meal made by my sister and brother-in-law, Cynthia and Tom. It was delicious.

The next day we all hopped into cars and made our way to the Dingle peninsula. To say the least, driving on the left side is a harrowing experience, made more harrowing by all the comments from children, spouses, and father-

in-law! The few time I was the passenger I experience what they did and made my own comments to the driver. Barbara proceeded to give a tour of sorts as she had been to this same location thirty years ago. The views were spectacular and it was a day well spent with family and the Irish country side.

Upon our return from Dingle it was our turn to cook. Barbara and I made my famous jerk chicken meal . . . famous among my immediate family. With a salad and roasted potatoes we had another great meal for real cheap for the fifteen of us. While I was grilling up the chicken I told the caretaker/owner of the house to see what she could do to set me up with a guide and a boat to take out my son and daughter and her fiancé (yup, trial run) fishing.

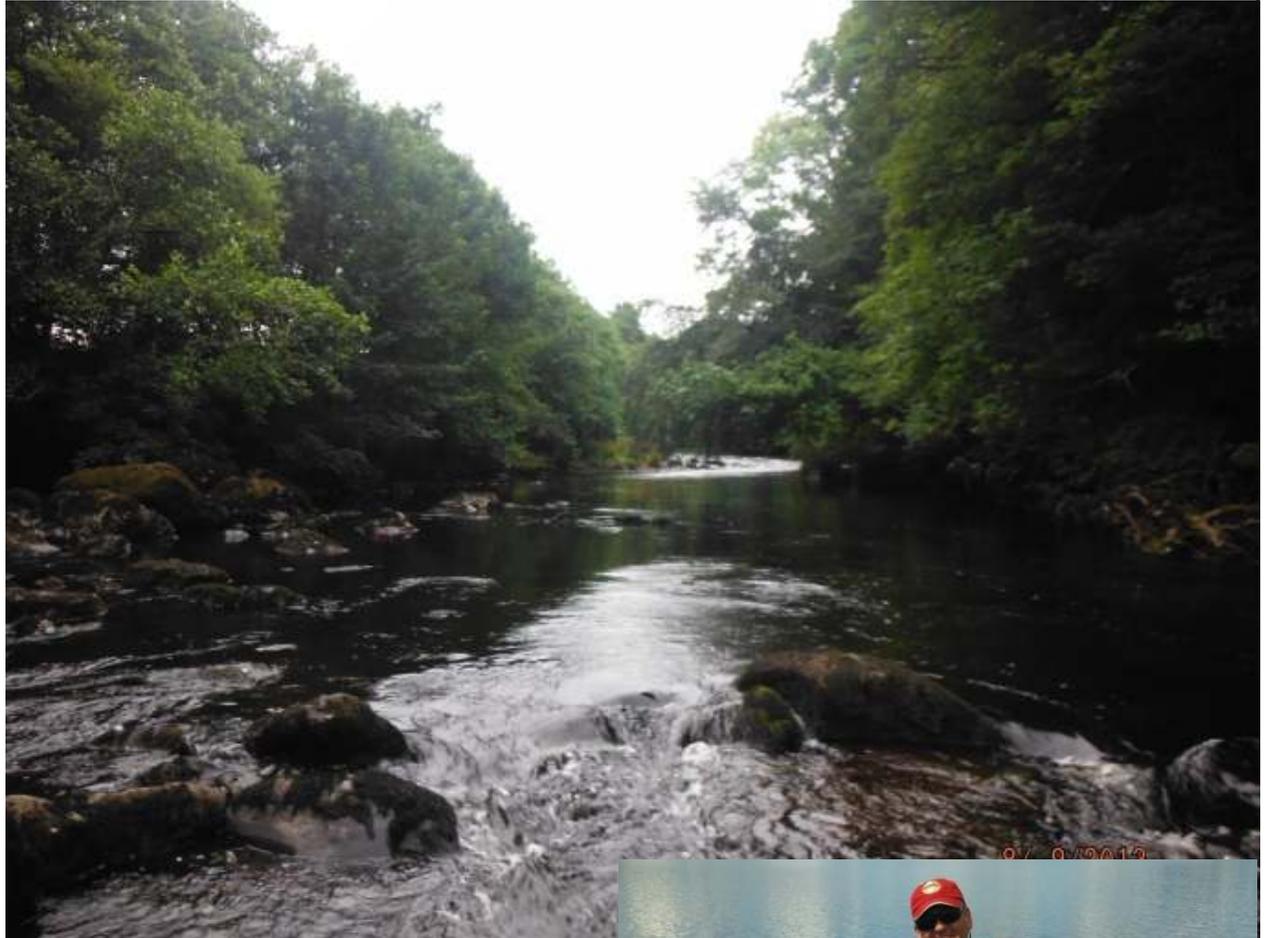


The next day we went to meet our guide on the lake. The boat we used was a 19 footer like the green one pictured here. <http://coolclogherhouse.com/fishing-in-kerry/>

For the most part it was a nice way to see the lake and more Irish countryside. We used huge spinning gear and trolled the lake using a 10 hp motor to move us along. This was not what I had envisioned but when in Rome . . . We caught a lot of perch and a few small trout. The kids had fun and I just enjoyed the three hours listening to the history of the area and the guide's life story.

Laune, The River Flesk, and the Lakes of Killarney

My daughter has only been fishing with me twice. Once on the Shenandoah and on this trip. She said it was nice to feel that familiar tug of a fish on the line. So, even though fishing on the lake was not what I expected, hearing that from her, the stories from our guide, and the scenery made it a great day . . . not to mention that I picked the guide's brain about fishing



the rivers and he gave me some good tips. Later that day, I went back using my 5 wt to Beat 2 on the Laune and fished until sundown with no luck. So much for the tips.

On Friday, my last full day in Ireland, I checked with a campground that was about a kilometer from our house to see if I could access the River Flesk. I was given permission and spent Friday morning fishing the Flesk. It was narrower than the Laune and had good structure with riffles and eddies and pools. I hooked and lost two trout and had many more strikes than on the Laune. After several hours I called it a day and thus ended my fishing in Ireland.

To sum it all up, the research and discovery of a new place to fish is a part of fishing that I love. Researching and discovering a fishery in another country was a great thrill. I find myself thinking about what I would do differently and lessons I learned, and wishing I could go back, like I do on the Shenandoah, and try new techniques or strategies.

Maybe someday I will go back and give it a go. For now I look at my pictures of our family together in a beautiful place and thank God for all his blessing on me - family, friends and fishing.



Conservation Corner

By Herschel Finch

As like so many these days, I spend a lot of time on the Internet at home... Facebook, online magazines and newspapers, both national and local, fishing forums, political sites (supporting both sides of the spectrum), conservation and environmental action sites etc. etc. This is where most of my column ideas come from, unless there's something specific going on that I feel like my fellow club members need to know about. Yes, fellow club members... I do it all for you.

But one site I visit on a regular basis is not connected to any of my regular pursuits. This one is strictly for my pleasure and curiosity and I found a posting from a former Senate intern with some interesting advice. And here it is:

“An email to your senator or representative may result in a form letter response and a phone call to the office may amount to a tally mark on an administrative assistant's notepad. **But, for any given policy concern, if you want to get their attention, a letter to the editor in one of your state's 5-10 biggest newspapers that mentions them specifically BY NAME is the way to go.** If your message is directed to your representative, pick a newspaper that is popular in your district.

That is the crucial thing to know--the rest of this post is an explanation of why I know this is true. I know this because, when I interned in the D.C. office of a senator one summer, one of the duties I shared was preparing a document that was distributed internally both online and in paper format. This document was made every day and comprised world news articles, national news, state news, and any letters to the editor in the 5-10 largest newspapers within the state that mentioned the senator by name. I was often the person who put that document on his desk, and it was the first thing he read every morning after arriving to the office.

I began to suspect that this was standard operating procedure because several other senators' offices share the same printer in the basement of the Russell Senate Office building, and I saw other interns doing the exact same procedures that I was involved in. Since the internship, I've conferred with other Senate and House employees past and present and determined that most--if not all--offices use essentially the same procedure.”

So there you have it. Seems simple and you have to wonder why we didn't actually consider this before. I have written to my local papers before, and had my submissions published. But I never considered mentioning my representatives or senators by name, but I will now. When you think about it, it makes perfect sense. Politicians can't very well poll every individual they represent, so letters to a local or statewide newspaper are a good indications as to what people 'back home' are thinking about. And if someone took the time to share their opinion with the community at large, and knows enough about politics that they can name their representative or senator, then that's an opinion that needs to be considered. All it would take is a simple program that flags a particular politicians name in local, state and even national publications for review. They use to have 3 or 4 people on staff who did nothing but read newspapers and magazines looking for their names...but now...computers compile a list and provide web links for later review.. I suspect I'm going to be writing more to my local newspapers and to the Washington Post more often after this.

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This is my favorite picture that I received this month. PRSC member Herman Yam caught this beauty on the fly rod. Take that Jack Cook! He caught this during his annual fly fishing trip for pike this Fall. The picture was taken by Glen Somogie of Housatonic River Outfitters.



2013 Contest Results

October 2013 Report By Wallace Harvey

In case you forgot to check the calendar, it is October! By the time you read this, the contest is over. To my surprise, we don't have as many large fish as we used to have. Is there a problem of fish in the river? Or, is that a problem of not enough people fishing? Or, is it a problem of people not reporting?

As many large fish that have been reported over the years, and since we are a catch and release club, I suspect that the problem is not the fish. They may have been more scattered, or found new locations, but I firmly believe that there are fish in the river. Maybe we need some new tactic or perhaps a new lure to entice the fish to bite. Either way, we now have the winter to ponder the situation and make a new commitment to try something different.

I am always puzzled that this rather large fishing club has so few true fishermen in it. For some reason, we all like to meet and discuss fishing, learn new techniques or places to fish, but it seems few actually follow through and water a line. I refer to the difficulty we have in getting some one to lead a trip. It seems the same people do it each year. I understand new members that do not know the area, but the "old guys" need to step up and let them know where to go.

I beg, plead and cry when we get no reports of any fishing month after month. You will have to explain that one to me. We make it as easy as possible to report, but only the same people report. Why?

2013 Results

- Section 1, Biggest Fish:** Jay Eiche, 21.5"
- Section 1, Best 5 Fish:** John Lipetz, 87"
- Section 2, Biggest Fish:** Bill Pearl, Jack Cook, Randy Chandler 18"
- Section 2, Best 5 Fish:** Randy Chandler, 87"
- Section 3, Biggest Fish:** Jack Cook, 21.5"
- Section 3, Best 5 Fish:** Bill Pearl, 91.5"
- Largest on Fly:** Wayne Tate, 20"
- New Member:** Herman Yam, 16"
- Grover Cleveland Contest:** Jay Eiche and Jack Cook, 21.5"
- William Shriver Award:** Bill Pearl, 171.5 for 2 sections

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.