



The BUZZ

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January 29, 2014

Beau Beasley on River Bottom Laws

Upcoming Items

PRSC Meeting
February 26, 2014

Case Plastics Sale
January PRSC Meeting

NCC-TU Angling Show
March 9, 2014

Potomac Conservancy
Winter-Spring 2014

We are very excited to be having Beau Beasley return as our speaker this month. Beau, an authority on fly fishing in the middle Atlantic region and author of multiple books and many articles, returns to speak about river bottom laws. This is a topic on which he has conducted extensive research and writing. (And it's a good bet he will devote some of his talk to actual fishing as well!) Beau is always an engaging and informative speaker.



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Beau Beasley is just as likely to chase smallies on the New River as he is to track brook trout in the cold mountain streams of the Old Dominion. His father introduced him to farm pond fishing as a child, but he's equally happy to pursue stripers in the Chesapeake Bay or follow the early spring shad migrations across Virginia, fly rod in hand.

Beau began writing in the mid-1990s and has been published in *Fly Fisherman*, *Fly Rod & Reel*, *American Angler*, *Mid-Atlantic Fly Fishing Guide*, *Virginia Wildlife*, *Flyfisher*, *Fly Tyer*, *Chesapeake Angler*, *Richmond Magazine*, *Virginia Living*, and *Virginia Sportsman*. He is a contributing editor for *Fly Fish America* and the Mid-Atlantic field editor for *Eastern Fly Fishing*.

In addition to writing, Beau is the director of the annual Virginia Fly Fishing Festival and is a 28-year veteran career captain with Fairfax County Fire and Rescue Department assigned to Engine Company 427. His first book, *Fly Fishing Virginia: A No Nonsense Guide to Top Waters*, was released in May 2007 and in 2010 he wrote *Fly Fishing the Mid-Atlantic: A No Nonsense Guide to Top Waters* both of which can be found in bookstores throughout the country.

Beau was the journalist that broke the story on the current Jackson River lawsuit concerning crown grants where an angler is being sued for trespassing on land the state says is public property. Beau's talk "Who Owns the River?" has gotten rave reviews and will no doubt prove interesting to our members. Beau lives with his wife and children in Warrenton, Virginia.

To learn more about Beau or his books, visit his website (www.beaubeasley.com) or contact your local fly shop.

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Upcoming Items

Potomac River Smallmouth Club - Next Meeting - See You in February

February 26, 2014. For February we will be back at the Vienna Firehall for another great meeting. Be sure to join us, starting at 7:30pm.

Case Plastics Sale

January PRSC Meeting. At the January PRSC meeting, Ernie will have a selection of Case baits at HALF price. So bring some cash to start stocking up for the 2014 fishing season.

National Capital Chapter of Trout Unlimited

2014 NCC-TU Angling Show

Sunday, March 9, 2014 - 10:00am - 5:30pm. The 39th Annual National Capital Angling Show is set! Mark your calendar and plan to attend their show on Sunday, March 9, 2014, at the Hanley Field House of the Georgetown Preparatory School in North Bethesda, Maryland. They have an all-star slate of speakers and instructors, featuring trophy trout hunter, celebrity fly tier, author, outdoor writer, and TV host **KELLY GALLOUP**, who will give two presentations-- STREAMER FISHING and CRIPPLES AND SPINNERS. Plus activities to attract anglers and conservationists of all ages and levels of experience. Check their [website](#) for more show details as they become available.

The 2014 Show will be the 39th consecutive National Capital Angling and Conservation Show conducted by the National Capital Chapter of Trout Unlimited. The Show is a non-profit event staffed by volunteers, and Show proceeds support Trout Unlimited's habitat restoration, stream conservation, youth education and outreach, and public awareness projects. Each year they strive to contain costs and expand advertising while offering quality facilities and programs to attract appealing exhibitors.

Potomac Conservancy

Canal Stewards: River Center at Lock 8

Saturday, February 8 - 10:00am-12:00pm. Join them at the River Center! They will be meeting at 10 am at the River Center to clean up the lockhouse area and the nearby towpath. This cleanup is open to all ages, and they will provide all the necessary supplies - just wear clothes that can get dirty. This event is part of the National Park Service's Canal Stewards program, engaging volunteers to become long-term caretakers of a site within the C & O Canal National Historical Park. Typical activities include picking up trash, pruning vegetation, and removing invasive plants. Contact Rebecca Long at long@potomac.org with any questions. You can find more information at <http://www.potomac.org>.

Canal Stewards: Fletcher's Cove

Saturday, February 22 - 10:00am-12:00pm. Help the Conservancy clean up Fletcher's Cove in the C&O Canal National Historic Park? For questions, please contact Rebecca Long at long@potomac.org.

Message from the President

By Steve Kimm



My name is Steve Kimm and I am your new President for 2014-2015. I have been a member of PRSC for approximately 10 years. I fish from a two person cataract, which I have owned since 2003. I was born and raised in Northern Virginia, but I have also lived in North Carolina and Colorado.

As your new President, I hope to get both new and old members of the club to go on as many club trips as possible. I also will work with Bill Amshey, PRSC's Program Chair, to continue to bring the best speakers to the monthly meetings. This year we will try to set up some overnight trips, which may include

camping or staying in a cabin.

Club trips are one of the great benefits from being a member of PRSC. They offer a terrific opportunity to learn the local waters, and techniques, from your fellow members. Right now the club position of Trip Coordinator is open, and the PRSC Board is looking for someone to fill the position. This is a low-stress way to get more involved in the club, and the other members of the Board will provide assistance as needed. If you are interested, please get in touch with me or one of the other Board members.

If you have any suggestions for the club, you can shoot me an email at sjkfishes@yahoo.com, or please feel free to talk to me before or after any meeting. Remember, this is your club. I look forward to working together with everyone for another successful year of fishing.

Editor's Note: I and the other Board members would like to express our gratitude to Steve for stepping up to assume the position of President of PRSC. When you see Steve, be sure to thank him for taking on this important role for the club.

Also, we would like to say a very heartfelt thank you to John Lipetz for stepping up to serve as our most recent President. Steve Moore had been President, but had to step down upon moving out of the Northern Virginia area for family reasons. John very graciously stepped forward to serve out the rest of Steve Moore's term. Having been President once before, John knew exactly what he was getting into, and took on the job any way. He did a terrific job, and is now enjoying his well-deserved break from serving PRSC. Please shake his hand and say thank you to John for a job well done.

Increasing Shenan

By Jay Eiche

The Shenandoah Valley has a number of low water bridges that the Virginia Department of Transportation (VDOT) plans to replace. Many of these bridges have no access, or informal and unofficial access points for boaters and fisherman to enter and exit the river. In almost all cases, a new bridge must be built adjacent to the old bridge to maintain access across the river for landowners during construction. After construction of the new bridge is complete, the old bridge is removed. The land at either end of the old bridge provides an excellent opportunity for the Department of Game and Inland Fisheries (VDGIF) to create an official VDGIF boating and fishing access point and parking area.

An excellent recent example of this process is the new VDGIF access point at the Deer Rapids bridge across the North Fork Shenandoah River near Strasburg, Virginia. There are now two new North Fork bridges in the design phase that should include VDGIF access points (Headley Road and Artz Road). Two others will also be built to provide access to the proposed new Seven Bends State Park near Woodstock, Virginia (Reservoir Road and Lupton Road). Finally, the VDGIF is in the process of identifying and prioritizing additional areas where new access points may be established in coming years.

VDOT is currently seeking comments on the proposal to provide river access at the Headley Bridge. They have established this webpage for information about the project:

[http://www.virginiadot.org/projects/staunton/
shenandoah_county_8211_route_600_headley_road_north_fork_bridge.asp](http://www.virginiadot.org/projects/staunton/shenandoah_county_8211_route_600_headley_road_north_fork_bridge.asp)

Also, please see the following page. Comments may be mailed to:

Mr. Keith Harrop, P.E. Project Manager
Virginia Department of Transportation
811 Commerce Road
Staunton, VA 24401-9029
keith.harrop@VDOT.VA.gov

If you support better fishing access, it's important that you voice that support by providing comments to VDOT and VDGIF during any public comment periods on projects such as the replacement of the low water bridge at Headley Road. The comment period for this project ends January 31, 2014. As I've written before, public access points to state rivers and streams can be controversial, pitting adjacent landowners against boaters and fisherman. It is important that your voice be heard. Please consider writing VDOT to request that a VDGIF access point be established for boating and fishing access at the new Headley Road bridge.

A few basic talking points:

1. New bridges require VDOT purchase of right of way for construction. That same land can, and should, be used by VDGIF to provide new boating and fishing access,
2. The proposed new Seven Bends State Park will provide excellent outdoor recreation opportunities, including boating and fishing on the North Fork Shenandoah River. However, those opportunities will be limited unless the VDGIF is able to establish additional public access points above and below the park on the river.

Shenandoah River Access



Route 600 (Headley Road) Shenandoah County Bridge Improvement Project

Find out about the proposed plans to replace the Route 600 (Headley Road) low-water bridge over the North Fork of the Shenandoah River, located in the area of Route 654 (Zion Church Road) in Shenandoah County with a new single-lane bridge.

Review the project information and environmental document in the form of a Programmatic Categorical Exclusion (PCE) at VDOT's Staunton District Office located at 811 Commerce Road, Staunton, VA 24401-9029, 540-332-9075 or 1-800-367-7623 or TDD/TTY 711. Please call ahead to ensure the availability of appropriate personnel to answer your questions.

If your concerns cannot be satisfied, VDOT is willing to hold a public hearing. You may request that a public hearing be held by sending a written request to Mr. Keith Harrop, P. E., Project Manager, Virginia Department of Transportation, 811 Commerce Road, Staunton, VA 24401-9029 on or prior to January 31, 2014. If a request for a public hearing is received, notice of date, time and place of the hearing will be posted.

In compliance with the National Historic Preservation Act, Section 106 and 36 CFR Part 800, information concerning the potential effects of the proposed project on properties listed in or eligible for listing in the National Register of Historic Places is provided in the environmental documentation.

VDOT ensures nondiscrimination and equal employment in all programs and activities in accordance with Title VI and Title VII of the Civil Rights Act of 1964. If you have questions or concerns about your civil rights in regards to this project or special assistance for persons with disabilities or limited English proficiency, contact the project manager listed above.

State Project: 0600-085-309,P101, R201, M501, B659

Federal Project: BROS-085-8(052), BROS-085-8(053), BROS-085-8(054),
BROS-085-8(054)

From: Intersection Route 654

To: 0.20 mile east from Intersection with Route 654

An Early Chris

By Herschel Finch

Ah...Christmas vacation. I get the luxury of 2 full weeks off at Christmas by benefit of a magnanimous employer and just as my mini-sabbatical got started we entered a warming trend with a weather front looming to storm across the valley. Conditions were shaping up to be perfect about Saturday, except for a little breeziness thrown in the forecast. So my personal thoughts were turning away from Christmas sugarplums and to winter-holed smallmouth.

I was starting to twitch since it had been since October and the Jackson Kayak Dealer Summit since I had been fishing, and you can't really call what we were doing 'fishing' since we were trying to teach a bunch of mostly whitewater paddlers to fish out of Jackson's Fishing boat line. Thankfully, just before I sank into clinical depression, Pete Pfotenour (yes, he yet lives...) called me looking for a fishing partner and quizzing me about conditions on the 'Doah since the levels on the Rapp were less than ideal. We settled on the South Fork of the 'Doah and on doing our favorite float.

We didn't exactly get up at the butt-crack of dawn. Being successful in winter on



the 'Doah calls for knowing your floats well and where the fish will be stacking up to rest and tie on the feed bag. And that doesn't start until the sun is well up and the water is warming up as well. We paddled thru the first two miles to where years of winter floats told us the fish would be. Along the way, the paddling was almost as good as the fishing. We even passed by a couple of water fowl hunters getting decoys set up for the day's hunt. Bright hazy sun kept peeking out here and there, warming up the air slowly but surely. The streak of sunlight that

stmas Present

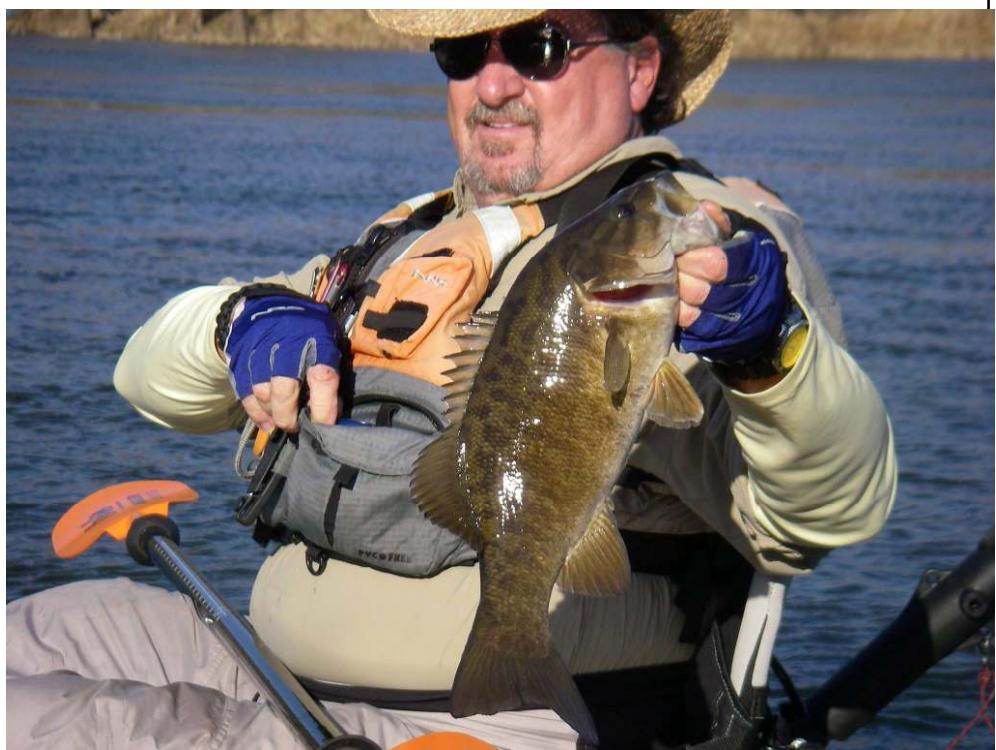


illuminated the tops of the ridges was especially dramatic. But eventually we arrived at our destination and started hunting smallies in earnest.

The water was basically clear down to about 6 feet with a nice green stain. We started out seeing Largemouth hugging close to submerged ledges or slowly cruising in pairs or trios. They really didn't seem all that interested either. After about an hour of throwing tubes and jerkbaits trying to get them fired up we pulled over for break and to wait for a stiff breeze to die down. As it turned out the breeze kept up longer than we thought, so we decided to eat lunch and get caught up since Pete and I hadn't fished together since an August trip on the Rappahannock.

After eating and talking for WAY longer than we would have during warm weather, we pushed off for the area we thought would yield some fish...and boy were we right.

I hooked up first, but he came un-buttoned about halfway to the kayak. From that first fish, I knew the bite was going to mushy at best and virtually non-existent in some case, with only line movement being the sole indicator that you had attracted some interest. I came up with the first fish all the way to the boat... a nice feisty 15 incher. Pete hooked up with an 18 incher after that but declined to have it photographed since my pulling up and paddling over for the shot may have spooked the hole. It kept going like that for the next two and half hours; first one, then the other would land a fish. All were healthy, with no lesions and in the 14 to 17 inch range. We ended up with about 18 fish between us with both of us losing a half dozen due to being slow on the hooksets or just not realizing the fish was even there. As I said earlier, the bite was very subtle and mushy. I got only one of my



Early Christmas cont'd

because I felt a definitive 'tap'. The majority came as I saw the line move one way or the other, or 'jump' or just go slack. One fish was just 'there' as I picked up the bait off the bottom to recast back to the main area after bumping it back toward me over the course of several minutes.

Pete was using his usual green pumpkin, red flake tube on a tube jig with an occasional switch to a black neon tube. I was using the black neon tube as well on a tube jig but switched to a Texas Rig

to cut down on the algae 'hitchhikers'. At one point I switched over to a black jig and pig pattern I make myself when the tube bite seemed to slow down. I modeled it on a black jig Jeff Kelble ties up and it seemed to do the trick. I caught two more fish before we pulled anchors to paddle out and make the take out before dark.



All and all, a very good winter day on the river with Pete. It happens much less often these days and I'm particularly happy when we have good success like this. Wanna try some winter fishing? Get some good waders and give us a call.

All and all, a very good winter day on the river with Pete. It happens much less often these days and I'm particularly happy when we have good success like this. Wanna try some winter fishing? Get some good waders and give us a call.

Conservation Corner

By Herschel Finch

And here we go again! It's resolution time! Yeah Yeah Yeah...lose weight, more exercise, be a better: parent, sister, brother, friend, son, daughter etc., etc.

It all sounds so familiar doesn't it? We make all these grandiose plans, only to feel like total failures by the middle of February (okay, okay...the middle of the first week of the new year) But I came across a new one that is so simple, so easy and goes right along with my personal credo I thought I'd share.

Brent Walls, our Upper Potomac River Manager, wrote a nice article for the Potomac Riverkeeper newsletter about getting (and keeping) plastic out of the river, and he also used it as a personal post on Facebook as well. And to me that was so simple and obvious an idea that I didn't know why I hadn't been doing this all along.

We've all seen what he's talking about: these big sheets of Tyvek sheeting they use in home construction, long black strips of sediment fence that washed out of some development site, dirty, giant pieces of pallet wrap that got away from someone unwrapping palletized goods behind a big box store...and grocery bags...millions of them decorating the trees along the interstate, in power lines, and the trees in your yard. We're talking about tons of this stuff every year that find their way into places where they don't belong, and eventually...into our waterways. I know there's little you and I can do to keep the Tyvek and the plastic wrap out of the river but we *can* do something about one form of plastic that gets into our rivers. Here's where Brent's suggestion kicks in and it's so simple I wanna kick myself: Reusable grocery bags.

I told you it was simple.

I've seen these things hanging at the end of the checkout line and never even gave them much thought. Meanwhile, I'm carrying four to eight plastic bags home with me *every time* I go to the grocery store. Over the years, the plastic bags have gotten thinner and thinner to where I don't like to carry more than four at a time for fear of dumping crap all over the ground and the house due to bags being sliced open by sharp corners and bottle necks. And then I have to fill up half a trash can full of them every time because they are not recyclable. I don't want think about how many I've cosigned to the local landfills over the decades. There are some stores where you can reuse them but how long are they good for, maybe two or three uses tops, right? And then they get thrown away anyway, so why not eliminate them all together?

I bought eight of the coated cloth bags and started using them the next day (since I do a lot of our grocery shopping) and it was a revelation to me. These things are bigger than those plastic bags, so they are easier to load. In addition, I can load them heavier than a plastic bag so I need fewer of them for the same amount of groceries. And the best feature of all?...Handles. They are so much easier to carry than plastic and don't feel like they're trying to slice off your fingers. That's import to anyone who's starting to feel the creeping evil of arthritis in their hands.

Keeping up with and remembering them when you go to the store is easy...keep them in your vehicle with a small bungee wrapped around them, or a big 'bulldog' clip holding them all together. They fold back up very easily to about the size of a newspaper folded up under your arm and I keep mine right behind the driver's seat in the truck so they're always with me and I have yet to forget to use them.

So how about it? Along with that resolution to lose some weight...how about we help to get some plastic out of our trees and out of our river?

Happy New Year!

PRSC
P.O. Box 1240
Vienna, VA 22183

This is my favorite picture that I received this past month. It stars Mark Myers holding a beautiful redfish that he caught in Florida this past December. I don't know about you, but the brutally cold weather in early January had me wishing I was in Florida for some saltwater fishing.



2013 Contest Results

January 2014 Report By Wallace Harvey

Congratulations to all the winners from last year's contest. It was a hard fought contest. However, I see a lot of names I normally see in the contest. Did the rest of you forget to go fishing last year? I hope not. If you hurry out today, as it was three degrees this morning, you can break ice and get an early start. However, I don't truly recommend it. I think I'll give it a few days to warm up. I hate the cold.

What I want is to try and inspire more members, and we have quite a few, to participate in our contest. No, you won't win a fishing trip to South America chasing peacock bass, but there are nice prizes. And, you get the honor of being a top fisherman in an elite club that lowered it's standards to let me in, but not by much. If you participate in our contest it will only sharpen your fishing skills to catch that big fish. And besides, it builds character, and we need more characters in this club.

Therefore, all members are encouraged, nay, beaten soundly about the head and neck to participate in our friendly contest. Use your competitive spirit to make this the best year ever for our contest. It is easy to participate. First, familiarize yourself with the contest rules at <http://www.prsc.org/fishing-contest>. Next, go fishing for smallmouth bass on the Potomac or Shenandoah rivers. Then call Jack Cook, 703-573-4403, or email me at wwharvey@comcast.net with your best fish, and/or your best five fish in length. You are in the running to win. We'll keep tabs and let you know as the year progresses in the BUZZ. Good Luck to all!

2013 Final Results

Section 1, Biggest Fish:	No winner
Section 1, Best 5 Fish:	John Lipetz, 87"
Section 2, Biggest Fish:	George Moran, 19"
Section 2, Best 5 Fish:	Randy Chandler, 87"
Section 3, Biggest Fish:	Bill Pearl, 20.5"
Section 3, Best 5 Fish:	Bill Pearl, 92.5"
Largest on Fly:	Wayne Tate, 20"
New Member:	Herman Yam, 16"
Grover Cleveland Contest:	Jack Cook, 21.5"
	Jay Eiche, 21.5"
William Shriver Award:	Randy Chandler, 249"