



The Buzz

www.prsc.org



Volume 27, Issue 5

May 21, 2014

Randy Chandler on Smallmouth Fishing

Upcoming Items

PRSC Meeting
June 25, 2014

PRSC Raffle
Summer 2014

Case Plastics Sale
Not at May Meeting

Family and Youth Casting Call
June 2014

In This Issue
UPCOMING P. 2

FAMILY AND YOUTH CASTING CALL P. 3

FISHING CANAAN VALLEY, WV P. 4

PRSC ON THE WATER P. 6

CLARION RIVER TRIP P. 7

CONSERVATION CORNER P. 8

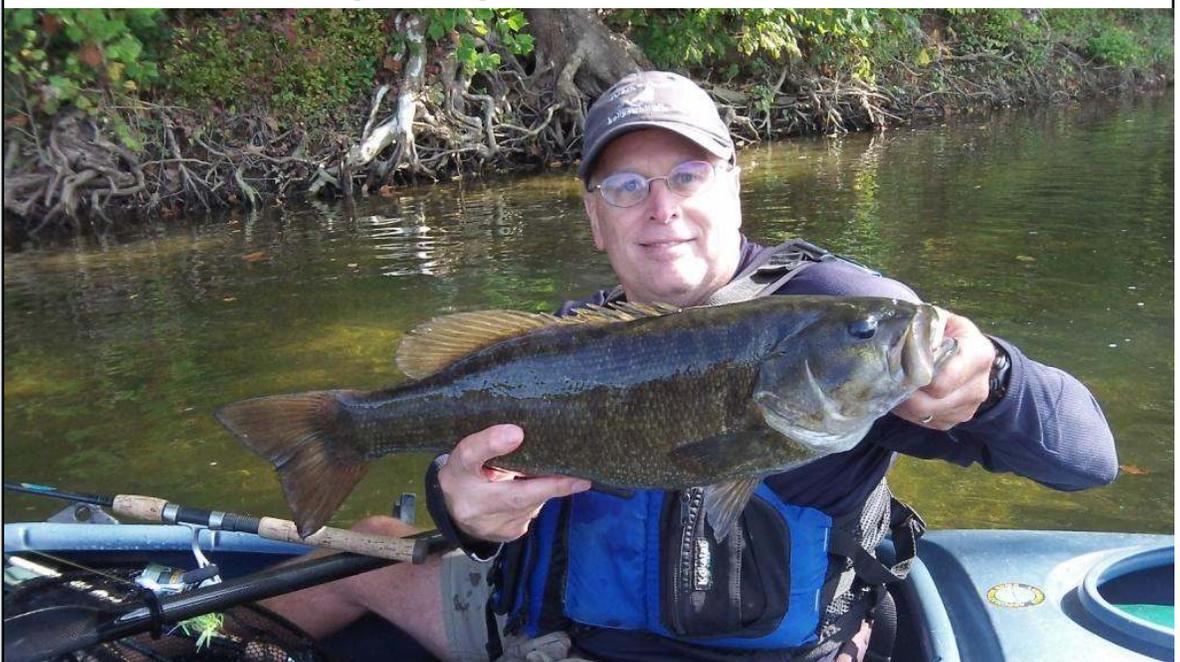
FISHING CONTEST P.10

Ever wonder why some of the same guys end up at the top of certain categories of the annual PRSC Fishing Contest? Do they go fishing more than the rest of us? Maybe, but not necessarily! Some, like former PRSC President Randy Chandler, seem to catch more than their share of big fish. What's their secret? You can be sure that it's more than one magic secret.

Find out more at our May meeting (being held one week early, on May 21st, due to facility availability) as Randy will be our featured speaker. Randy will be talking about tactics, techniques, and skills needed to catch more and larger smallmouth bass. According to Randy, many times fishermen forget that the little things are the important things that can make the difference between landing the big one or regretting the loss of the one that got away.

Randy will focus on tips and tactics that helped him catch fish like the 22" Shenandoah pigbeast he's holding in the picture below. At this writing, his list of items has reached 32, so bring pen and paper!

Randy Chandler is a native of Maryland and has been fishing our regional rivers for fifty years. Over the years he has gained first-hand knowledge of fishing tactics and techniques for smallmouth bass. Randy enjoys pursuing big smallmouth bass and loves sharing these skills and tactics with other fishermen. Randy has been a long time member of PRSC and says he has been fortunate to fish with some very good fishermen over the years and will share some of the knowledge he has gained.



Club Executive Board	<h1>Upcoming Items</h1>	
President		
Steve Kimm president@prsc.org		
Vice-President vp@prsc.org	Potomac River Smallmouth Club - Boat Night - See You in June	
Secretary Dave Lockard (h) (301) 656-1964 secretary@prsc.org	June 25, 2014, 6:30pm. Join us in June for our Annual Boat Night meeting. Members of PRSC will be showing off and talking about the vessels they use to ply our local waters in search of Mr. Bronzeback. We will be meeting at Riverbend Park, in Great Falls, VA. We will be starting early, and we will be grilling up hamburgers and hotdogs. Unlike our monthly meetings, which are open to the public, Boat Night is open to members, their families and invited guests only. Please join us for a great evening by the river (details at www.PRSC.org).	
Treasurer Jamie Gold C (571) 213-4699 treasure@prsc.org		
Trip Coordinator Kris Anderson trip_coordinator@prsc.org		
Program Chair Bill Amshey Programs@prsc.org	As a fund raiser, PRSC is raffling off a Mark Susinno print. It is signed by the artist, and numbered 309/400. Tickets are \$2 per ticket, 3 tickets for \$5 and 7 tickets for \$10. We will be selling tickets until we have the drawing at a PRSC meeting later this year. We will have the print at the upcoming meetings. Here is a photo of the print.	
Conservation Chair Herschel Finch (H) (540) 635-7636 Conservation@prsc.org		
Librarian Chip Comstock Librarian@prsc.org		
Additional Programs		
Fishing Contest Jack Cook H (703) 573-4403		
The Buzz Jamie Gold (C) (571) 213-4699 Buzz_Editor@prsc.org	Case Plastics	
Merchandise Ernie Rojas H (703) 729-0128 Publicity@prsc.org	PRSC Meeting, May 21. Ernie will not be able to join us for the May meeting, so Case Plastics will not be on sale. But save your money so you can stock up at the next meeting.	
Past President Steve Moore	Potomac Conservancy	
Publicity Ernie Rojas H (703) 729-0128	Canal Stewards: Fletcher's Cove	
	Saturday, June 21 - 10:00am-12:00pm. Help the Conservancy clean up Fletcher's Cove in the C&O Canal National Historical Park! This monthly cleanup day is part of the Canal Stewards partnership with the National Park Service, engaging volunteers to become long-term caretakers of a designated site within the park. Typical activities include picking up trash, pruning vegetation along the trails, and repairing the towpath and trails. Wear clothes that you don't mind getting dirty - they will provide all the necessary tools and equipment! This event is open to all ages. Please meet in the lower parking lot. For questions, contact Rebecca Long at long@potomac.org .	

Family and Youth Casting Call

John Lipetz

HELP FISH AND EXPLORE – AT THE FAMILY AND YOUTH CASTING CALL

This is the biggest youth event of the area. Last year we worked with over 500 kids. Many of them caught the first fish of their lives.

We are less than *one month away* from the best youth fishing and environmental education event in the DC area and we need your help to make the 2014 event a success! Please log on to www.familyandyouthcastingcall.com and register to volunteer again!

Remember to state that you are with Fish and Explore and PRSC and I will give you a Fish and Explore shirt as a gift.

Date: June 13 and 14 from 9 am-4 pm.

Location: Fletchers Cove on the C & O Canal. For directions visit: [Fletchers Boathouse](#)

Event Description: FYCC is an annual event connecting youth to nature through angling and environmental education activities. Staff and volunteers from the District Department of the Environment, Coastal Conservation Association of MD, Orvis, Trout Unlimited, Potomac and Anacostia Riverkeepers, and DC Water will share information and educational activities that teach respect and conservation of our natural resources.

Volunteers will receive an authentic F&YCC t-shirt, meals and on-the-job training on how to teach safe, ethical angling to youth. You will also receive the satisfaction for a job well done when you see the faces of the kids when they catch their first fish. It's priceless.

FAMILY & YOUTH CASTING CALL

A FREE FISHING EVENT at FLETCHER'S COVE ON THE C&O CANAL*

Saturday, June 14, 2014 10:00 AM – 3:00 PM

-  **Learn to fish! All equipment and instruction provided!**
-  **Learn how to tie common knots**
-  **Create beautiful fish prints!**
-  **Learn about watersheds and conservation of our aquatic resources**
-  **See live native and invasive species of fish from the Potomac and Anacostia Rivers**
-  **Learn about trout in the classroom hatching program**
-  **Explore the park and play outside!**



Open to the Public - rain or shine!

*For more information & directions, visit www.familyandyouthcastingcall.com



DISTRICT DEPARTMENT OF THE ENVIRONMENT



L.L.Bean



Fishing Canaan

Article and Photos by Andrew Jennings

Immediately after our April PRSC meeting, it was off to Tucker County West Virginia for four days of fishing. The targeted areas were the Blackwater River, some mountain top lakes, and small trout streams all within a ten minute drive from each other. The main stretch of the river holds largemouth, smallmouth, and spotted bass while the shallow and narrow parts of the river that curl through the valley hold mostly rock bass. The lakes up in the mountains are hotspots for big bass and the small streams that run through the mountain sides are native brook trout habitat.



The weather each day was 40-52 degrees, cloudy, 30% chance of rain with 15+ mph steady winds. The majority of my time was spent in the backcountry areas for rock bass in the Canaan Valley National Wildlife Refuge. In this area the Blackwater River twists and winds through the open valley giving a feeling of a narrow river western fishing adventure.

The main lure choice was Case Plastics salted tubes 3.75" in

green pumpkin. It is a little large for the rock bass, so, in the areas where I was specifically targeting them, I had to trim the bait down, but, those Case tubes were home run swings each stretch of water I fished.

In the first hour of fishing the river, at least eight rock bass were landed. Eventually, enough rock bass were caught to lose count when I decided just one more and I was done with them for the trip. I started to lip my last rock bass when I caught movement in its mouth, turns out he had a live crayfish trying to escape its grasp.



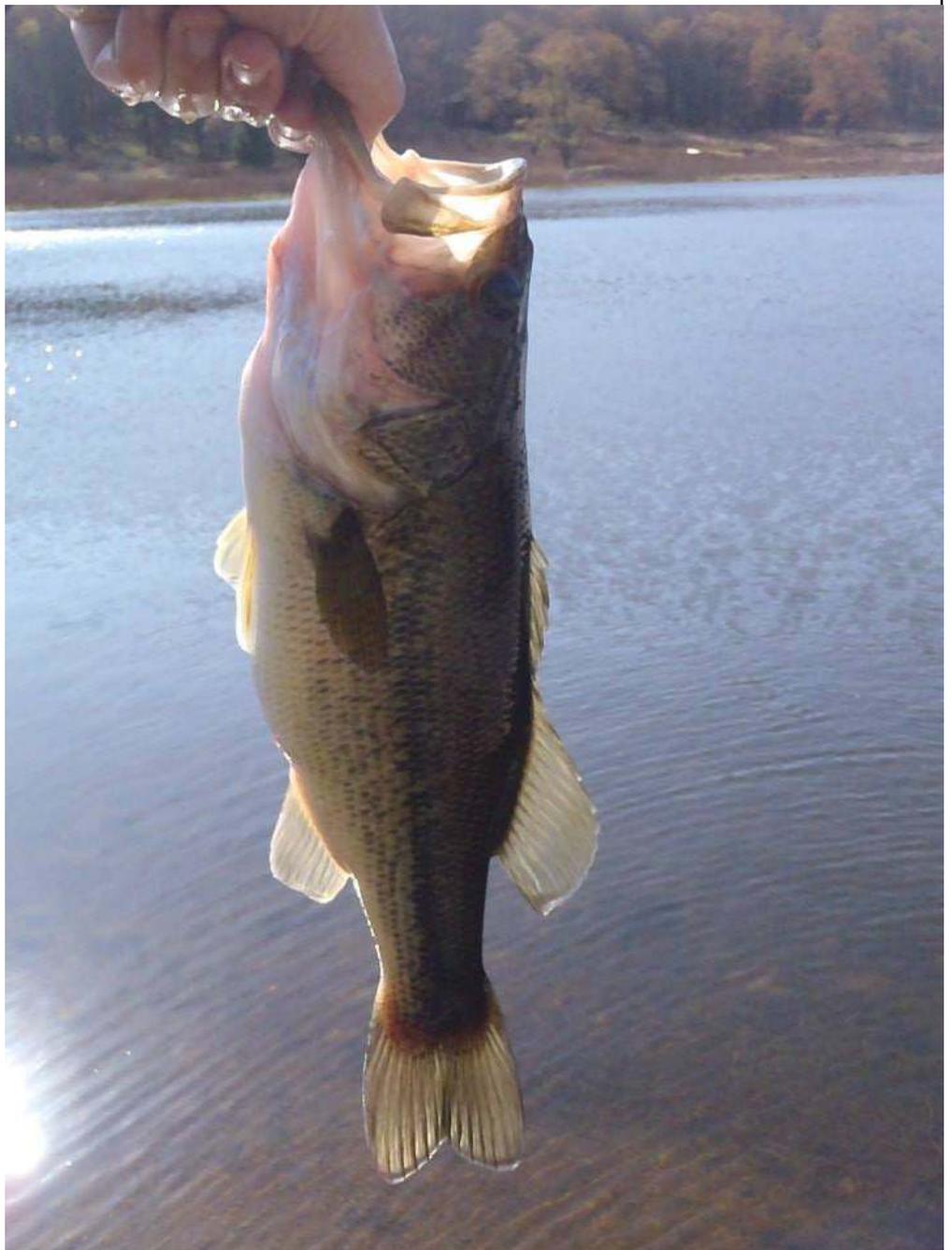
an Valley, WV

After finishing up the river fishing, I moved on to the mountain lakes where I knew the number of fish were high and the big boys were waiting. Still using my green pumpkin tubes, not trimmed this time, I ended up catching several nice largemouth. After about an hour I changed my lure choice to a weedless skirted jig with a craw trailer which I trimmed the skirt down. After testing the action several times in the shallows I worked the water outward from just off the side of a small boat dock. First cast, no hits, second cast went slightly further out and within seconds the largest bass of the trip was on the line.

The last stop was the native trout streams up in the mountain tops where I took out my fly gear. In all honesty, not only am I not a trout fisherman, but I'm probably the most novice fly fisherman you know. But, determined to fly fish the streams, off I hiked into the mountains to catch a wild trout on my own...just me, my overly packed fishing vest of flies that I wasn't sure of, and my budget fly rod and reel setup.

Long story short, I had the most amazing time not catching a single trout the entire afternoon! What I took away from the experience was the importance of practicing with your gear, gain experience by fishing with knowledgeable fly fishermen to pick up some tips, and after losing more than a dozen flies...please buy cheaper flies!

All in all it was a fantastic trip considering not just the number of fish caught, but the quality, health, and fight of each fish.



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.

18" Potomac River Smallmouth.



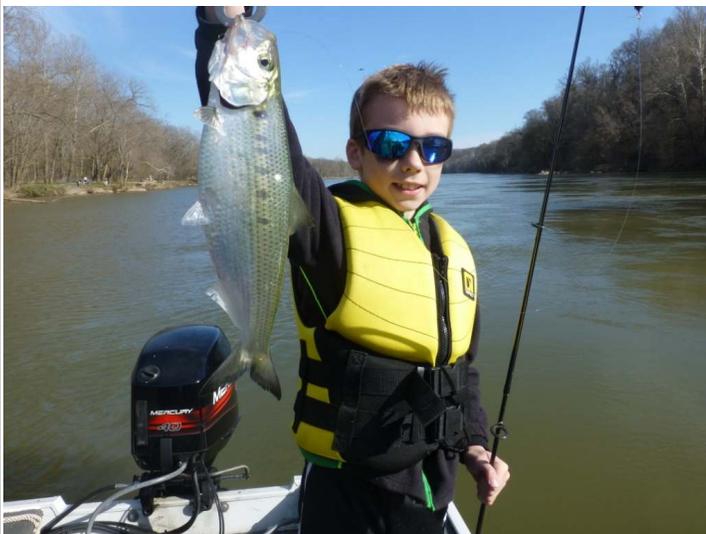
First Smallmouth of the Year.



Fish caught and photographed by Bob Ward.

Sarah Schaupp. Photo by Chris Schaupp.

First Shad of the 2014 Season.



Last Shad of the 2014 Season.



Max Schaupp. Photo by Chris Schaupp.

Maria Schaupp. Photo by Chris Schaupp.

Fishing the Clarion River in PA

Article and Photos by Jamie Gold

Over the weekend of April 25 to 27 I had to go up to north central PA for a family function. The big get together was planned for that Saturday, so I decided to drive up early to go fishing on Friday the 25th. Upon looking at a map, I realized that I would be staying right along the Clarion river, close to Johnsonburg, PA. After doing some research on the internet, I got in touch with Lazy River Canoe Rental (<http://www.lazyrivercanoerental.com/>). After some back and forth discussions about what fish would be best to target this time of year, we decided to do a trophy trout trip.

The 7.5 mile section of the river that flows from Johnsonburg, PA to Ridgeway, PA is managed as “all-tackle trophy trout” water. This used to be a very unhealthy river, but restoration efforts have really paid off. Normally the low flow of the water below the dam makes using a drift boat problematic....you have to get out and drag in a lot of spots. But the water was running a little higher than usual because of the rains, so we decided to give it a try.

I met Lazy River’s owner Tim McClain at his shop early on Friday morning. After loading my gear into his boat, we drove up river to put in at a public boat launch below the dam in Johnsonburg. After a few pictures to log our adventure, we set out.

The weather was beautiful, and the company was a lot of fun. Tim is a great guy and really worked hard to put me on fish. Also, we used a wooden drift boat that he had built, which turned out to be a great fishing platform. We mostly floated, but did get out at a few spots to do some wade fishing. I brought along both a fly rod and a spinning rod, so that I could switch up lures quickly as needed. Tim told me that flash was the way to go, so on the spinning rod I used a Joes Flies spinner, which is actually a spinner with a large blade and a fly pattern on the hook. On the fly rod I decided to use a Kreelex fly.

Unfortunately, the fish were not overly cooperative. I did manage to land one nice brown trout on the Joe’s Fly, and got a good bite from a rainbow trout. However, the most exciting part was when we came across a large golden trout hanging out at the end of a pool. As soon as we saw it, I grabbed the fly rod. I managed to cast my kreelex above the trout and then started to move it. I got excited as the trout turned to look at.

my pulse quickened as he started to chase it. By twitching the fly to give it action, I enticed him to bite on it...and the fight was on. He jumped right by the boat and we could see that he was a nice 18+” fish. Despite the jump, I kept him on the line, so I thought I was in good shape to land him. Then I must have dipped my rod tip, or done something else to put slack in the line, because suddenly he spit the fly and swam off. Arrgghhhh!!! But it was a thrill to be able to watch him turn, chase and take the fly.

Overall I had a very enjoyable trip on the water. So if you find yourself in North Central PA, get in touch with Tim and do a float trip on the Clarion River.

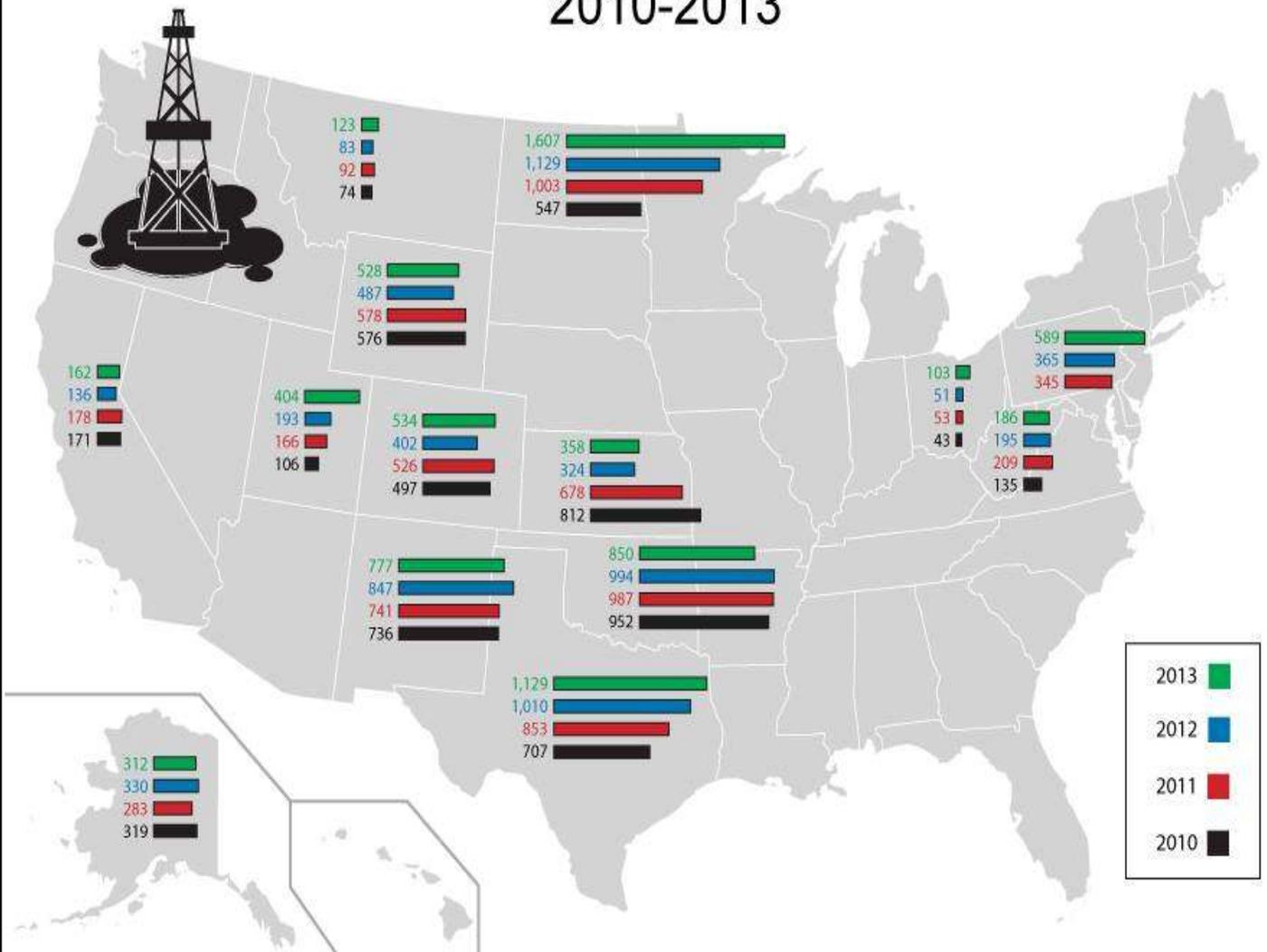


Conservation Corner

By Herschel Finch

So it seems like the country is under siege right now, especially in those towns and cities that have major rail lines running through them. I don't have to tell you the kind of damage that was wrought on the James River when three tank cars derailed and tumbled into the James at Lynchburg. And although it was "only" 25,000 gallons and could have been a much worse catastrophe, 25K gallons of highly flammable crude oil can do a tremendous amount of damage to a river. Pat Calvert, the Upper James Riverkeeper, is going to be quite busy for the next few months trying to mitigate the damage this incident has caused.

Selected Oil Spills by State 2010-2013



Conservation Corner cont'd

But this isn't just an issue for Virginia...this is a nationwide issue. Take a look at the chart on the previous page that I borrowed from the Waterkeeper Alliance. The oil and gas industry spilled 26 million gallons of oil, fracking fluid and various and sundry other toxic fluids last year.

Maybe it's just me...but I suspect we have a real problem in this country. And it's not just with oil and gas companies taking shortcuts in the field or rail lines using out-moded and sub-standard equipment. It's our infrastructure as well.

There's a reason railroad cars derail and it's not usually excessive speed or impaired train engineers. It's old tracks that haven't been properly maintained. That train that derailed in Lynchburg was doing less than 20 miles an hour being in a metropolitan area. So what made it derail? Recent heavy rains had undermined the tracks and caused the rail bed to shift as the train rolled by in all likelihood. So they'll blame Mother Nature. But shouldn't the rail beds be maintained in such a manner that anticipates such events? In an ideal world, of course they would.

But if you study the chart for a moment, you'll notice something. The real issue is that the trend line for these incidents is going up, substantially. Regulation has fallen behind the volume now being moved in this country. These companies need to spend the money to transport it safely, protect lives and private property and our DRINKING WATER and aquifers *first and foremost*. To figure in the liability of spills, lawsuits, and cleanups as a line item in the company budget instead of doing it right in the first place is completely unconscionable in my book.

I'm hoping this becomes a much more high-profile issue in the coming months. If it doesn't, I'm going to be writing some letters to certain politicians who are supposed to be looking after my interests in Richmond and on Capitol Hill.

PRSC
P.O. Box 1240
Vienna, VA 22183

This is my favorite picture(s) that I received this past month. This is PRSC member Andrew Jennings with a rather large grass carp. As Andrew wrote, "I caught this carp in a very small neighborhood pond. I've fished this place for the past two years, never seeing a fish more than 10 inches...until I pulled this thing out of the depths. Certainly was a nice surprise."



2014 Contest Results

May 2014 Report By Wallace Harvey

I see where Randy Chandler is going to speak at the next meeting. I really hate to miss his talk. I have fished with Randy numerous times and he is one of the most serious fishermen in the club. I noted how he always keeps the line wet. No chance for his line to dry out when he is on the river. But, this is not all he can tell you. There is a lot I would like to learn from him, but alas, I am still working on Wednesdays. This will end in another couple of months. Then I'll be able to make the meetings and see all of you again.

Perhaps we should convince Bill Pearl to tell us his secrets at a meeting? He seems to be the one out there this year. This past month I got another report on his exploits on Section II. His Big Fish was 19 inches and his Best Five Total was 84 inches. That is an average of 16.8 inches. Obviously the fish are out there waiting for us to come along and have fun. Where are the rest of you?

I, for one, plan to join John Lipetz's invitation to fish with him on May 17. I am hoping for a great day on the river. Stay tuned for my report. It should be interesting as it is a new section of river for me. I have my fingers crossed for a beautiful day. Who will step up to lead a trip? Anyone up for a trip down the James River this summer? I am strongly considering it. Let me know if you are interested at wwharvey@comcast.net.

2014 Results

Section 1, Biggest Fish:

Section 1, Best 5 Fish:

Section 2, Biggest Fish: Bill Pearl, 19"

Section 2, Best 5 Fish: Bill Pearl, 84"

Section 3, Biggest Fish: Jack Cook, 19.5"

Section 3, Best 5 Fish: Bill Pearl, 84.5"

Largest on Fly:

Best 5 Fish on Fly:

New Member:

Grover Cleveland Contest:

William Shriver Award:

For contest rules and information, visit
<http://www.prsc.org/fishing-contest/>

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.