



The Buzz

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Volume 27, Issue 9

September 24, 2014

Wes Hodges on Fishing the New River

Upcoming Items

PRSC Meeting
October 22, 2014

PRSC Raffle
Fall 2014

Shenandoah Algae Campaign
September, 2014

Potomac Riverkeeper
October 5, 2014

In This Issue

UPCOMING	P. 2
LOCKE'S LANDING TO RTE 7 BRIDGE	P. 3
CHESAPEAKE BAY TRIP	P. 4
RUSTIC CABIN	P. 6
PRSC ON THE WATER	P. 8
ALGAE LETTER	P. 10
CONSERVATION CORNER	P.11
FISHING CONTEST	P.12

Our speaker will be Wes Hodges of Bearded Lady Fly Fishing, a guide service on the New River. He will be talking about fly fishing for muskies on the New. Be sure to check out his video; there is a link to it on our website, www.prsc.org.

Wes Hodges was born and raised on a large ranch in Texas, where he had access to every possible outdoor activity imaginable. It was in this isolated area of Texas where his passion for fishing bloomed. He spent every minute of his free time chasing the largemouth bass that lived in the three ponds on the family ranch. It was also here that he was introduced to fly-fishing. During a Boy Scout camping adventure, he saw his scoutmaster methodically pick apart the grass beds with a deer hair frog. He was awed by this foreign approach to catching fish. He fell in love with the challenge of fly-fishing right from the start, but he was also thrilled with the feeling of accomplishment when you land a fish that took your hand-tied fly.

In 2002, Wes enlisted in the US Army and volunteered to be a paratrooper in the 82nd Airborne Division. For eight years, three of which were served overseas, he served with the finest military personnel imaginable. In the spring of 2010, he was medically discharged from the military because of injuries sustained while on active duty. During his transition from the military, he often found his mind wandering back to his past, as if he was searching for something to fill a void; that's when he remembered how much he loved fly-fishing.

With all the free time imaginable, he found himself wandering deep into the Appalachian Mountains stalking the trout that thrived in the freestone streams. It was in these mountains that he found his life's journey; a journey that would heal his damaged spirit.

In the fall of 2011, Wes attended Virginia Tech to pursue a degree in International Relations and Spanish. To pass the time and earn some money, Wes started taking people fly-fishing. He witnessed first-hand the power that fly-fishing holds: He watched fathers and sons come together as cast after cast unveiled a connection that had been lost for so long. He watched businessmen detach themselves from the stressors of their work. And he witnessed Veterans forget the deep secrets that haunted their every thought.

Guiding fly-fishing trips opened his eyes to the most basic things in life and made him appreciate life. Once he realized that, Wes knew he would be consumed by the sport for the remainder of his life.

Wes's Bearded Lady Fly Fishing is a fly-fishing guide service that focuses first on teaching the necessary skills to pursue your own fly-fishing adventure later in life, but also ensuring that you have a trip that will never fade from your memory. The guides at Bearded Lady pride themselves on being the only fly-fishing guide service on the New River, and the experts of all things fly-fishing in Southwestern Virginia. They pursue angling adventures for trout, smallmouth bass, and muskie. Utilizing the newest and most comfortable equipment on the market, they promise to give you the most comfortable and affordable guided trip in the area.

Club Executive Board	<h1>Upcoming Items</h1>	
President		
Steve Kimm president@prsc.org		
Vice-President vp@prsc.org	Potomac River Smallmouth Club - See You in August	
Secretary Dave Lockard (h) (301) 656-1964 secretary@prsc.org	October 22, 2014, 7:30pm. Join us in September for what should be a terrific presentation. Our speaker will be Jeff Kelble, newly installed as President of the Potomac Riverkeeper. He will be talking about the organization's efforts on behalf of the river. Please join us for what will be an informative and entertaining evening.	
Treasurer Jamie Gold C (571) 213-4699 treasure@prsc.org	PRSC Picture Raffle - Mark Susinno Print	
Trip Coordinator Kris Anderson trip_coordinator@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.	
Program Chair Bill Amshey Programs@prsc.org		
Conservation Chair Herschel Finch (H) (540) 635-7636 Conservation@prsc.org	Potomac and Shenandoah Riverkeeper	
Librarian Chip Comstock Librarian@prsc.org	Algae Complaint Campaign	
Additional Programs Fishing Contest Jack Cook H (703) 573-4403	On August 5th, 2014, then Shenandoah Riverkeeper, Jeff Kelble, initiated a legal challenge (litigation) against the United States Environmental Protection Agency to compel them to do something about our algae problems on the Shenandoah. Jeff is now looking for our help to write letters to send to the EPA. Please see his letter asking for help later in this issue of The Buzz. He needs letters ASAP, so please write them and send them to him as soon as you can. For more information visit their website at www.potomacriverkeeper.org .	
The Buzz Jamie Gold (C) (571) 213-4699 Buzz_Editor@prsc.org	Potomac Riverkeeper	
Merchandise Ernie Rojas H (703) 729-0128 Publicity@prsc.org	The Last Paddle. Get out on the River with the Potomac Riverkeeper!	
Past President Steve Moore	Sunday, October 5 - 3:00pm-5:00pm. The Last Paddle is an afternoon of on-the-water fun for all ages at Key Bridge Boathouse (3500 Water St., NW, Washington, DC 20007). Join Potomac Riverkeeper staff, Board, and members for kayaking, canoeing, or stand up paddle boarding! Get there early and participate in a guided paddle led by a local river expert. At 5:00pm, join Potomac Riverkeeper at Clyde's Restaurant in Georgetown for a post paddle meet-and-greet. \$10 gift certificates for Clyde's will be awarded to all participants upon paddle completion. Proceeds will go to support Potomac Riverkeeper's efforts to make the Potomac swimmable, drinkable, and fishable. For more information, visit their website at http://www.potomacriverkeeper.org . Or contact Maelaine at madelaine@potomacriverkeeper.org .	
Publicity Ernie Rojas H (703) 729-0128		

Locke's Landing to Rte. 7 Bridge

By Bill Owensby

On September 6, 2014, PRSC did a float trip on the Shenandoah River from Locke's Landing to the Route 7 bridge, led by Steve Kimm. This trip is about 5 miles long. The weather was hot and humid, with a blue bird colored sky.

We met at the Lockes put in at 7:30 am, and unloaded our equipment. A couple of the guys stayed behind to watch the fishing gear, while everyone else headed to the take out at Rt 7 to drop off the cars. The return trip to the put in was a bit rough for some, as they packed into Kris Anderson's vintage Toyota 4 Runner. Seeing the body parts pressed against the windows reminded me of a circus clown car.

By 8:30, everyone had entered the water with the anticipation of catching some lunkers. However, shortly after entering into the water Hank Firey discovered a pencil size crack in the hull of his yak. Unfortunately, he was unable to repair the leak. Poor guy had to paddle the five miles straight through to the landing, stopping three times to bail out his sinking yak. Hank safely arrived at the take out, unable to enjoy any of the fishing.

Plenty of fish were biting early in the day, but the catch slowed as we paddled through calm water. The fish did cooperate a bit better as we moved into areas with white water and shaded banks. Still, you worked hard for a catch at this point. Plastic creature bait was the preferred bait of the day. I was having success using a fluke.

As we floated down the river, I noticed other activities going on along the riverbank. About one and half miles downstream, we passed Watermelon Park Campgrounds. People were wading in the river. I also noticed other camping sites along both sides of the river. Other than Watermelon Park Campgrounds, the sites on both sides of the river were mostly empty - a sure sign school is back in session.

By lunchtime the temperature and humidity were really soaring. At one point, Terry Cooney took a quick dip just to cool off. Shortly after lunch, we heard a rumble of thunder off in the distance. From this point on the fishing came alive. Prior to lunch I had only caught two fish, but after lunch I lost count of how many I caught. Apparently the pressure change was all it took to get the fish biting. I was told that Quinn Lipetz lost a 15-16 inch bronze back at the boat's edge.

The storm was moving our way quickly, so a few of us paddle hard that last half mile to stay ahead of the rain and lightning. I believe everyone had good numbers for the day, but no monsters were recorded. Overall it was a nice trip. What started out as a blue bird day ended up being a fun adventure of fishing, kayak mishaps, and a storm that lead to copious amounts of fish.



Chesapeake Bay Fishing

Article and Photos by Jamie Gold

On August 15, PRSC member Bob Forbes and I got the opportunity to fish on the Chesapeake Bay with the folks from the Northern Virginia chapter of the Coastal Conservation Association. Bob and I are both proud members of this terrific organization. The trip was organized by CCA member George Leonard. The plan was to fish on Captain Frank Carver's boat The Loosen Up, with a captain who works for Frank and an assistant. Two other members of CCA joined us for the trip. I got lucky in that at a CCA meeting earlier in the year I

won a raffle for a free pass on this fishing trip.

We needed to be at Deale, MD by 6am, so I met Bob and George at Bob's place a little after 4am on the morning of the 15th. George had kindly agreed to drive us all to Deale, so I hopped in the back and immediately fell asleep. After a long drive, and a quick stop at Wawa for breakfast, tea (lots of tea) and sandwiches, chips, drinks, etc. for lunch, we arrived at the marina.

The morning was unseasonably cool, and the forecast for that day was for mild temperatures, cool breezes, and clear skies. So we dressed in long sleeved shirts, blue jeans, and hats and were very comfortable all day.

After meeting the captain at the marina, getting on the boat and organizing our gear, we headed out. Our first stop was at a popular fishing location as evidenced by the other boats that were already there, and the boats that soon joined us.

At this location we were live-lining spot for stripers and blue

Bob Forbes with a very nice Chesapeake Bay striper.



ng - Stripers and Blues

fish. I haven't done much fishing with this technique before, so it was a good learning experience. The rods had reels designed for this type of fishing. We would cast out our live bait, set the switch on the reel, and wait...usually not for very long. With the switch flipped on the reel, the drag offered no resistance, so the stripers wouldn't drop the bait. The stripers would mouth the fish, and jerk on the drag a bit. We had to wait until the fish was steadily pulling line out, then we would flip the switch, set the hook and



start to reel. In a relatively short amount of time we filled the cooler with our limit of legal stripers for the day, and a few blue fish.

We wanted to keep fishing, so we decided to move to other spots looking for working birds and breaking bait fish. We used artificial lures, so as to not gut hook the fish so we could release them relatively unharmed. Given the weather conditions, I didn't expect to catch many fish this way. But we did find several groups of working birds that we were able to follow for awhile, and managed to catch decent numbers of both stripers and blue fish.

At the end of a very fun day of fishing, we went back to the marina, collected our fish that the mate had cleaned and went home. I enjoyed my striper and blue fish filets two days later with good friends and good wine. It was a great trip and I hope to get back out on the Bay very soon.

Rustic River Cabin

Article and Pictures by Terry Cooney

WANTED Wife wants summer getaway with our daughter's family (son-in-law, and two grandsons ages 4 ½ and 7), and knows older grandson and husband are fishing addicts.

SOLUTION Shenandoah River cabin.

But, wife is a Princess from Queens, NY, so “rustic” is well ... not. So Lil found www.getaways@aabovetherivercabin.com. In March we looked at three properties before settling on Rustic River Cabin, near Elkton, VA.

Queens-girl “rustic” – four bedrooms, 2 ¾ baths (one with Jacuzzi), large screen TVs everywhere, hot tub on a large deck with alfresco dining for 12, large gas barbecue, LG appliances, etc. on a private road feet off the Doah and just above a nice rapid.



“Rustic” my bass!

Grandson #1, age 7 had already started fishing with Pop (me – I don’t look old enough to be a grandfather, do I?), and Pop and Mom-Mom had sent him to John Lipetz’s kids fishing course in July through Fairfax County (strongly recommended). He was “all-in.” The younger one found the hot-tub on the deck and was a different “all-in.” Constant adult oversight of course.

We swam and caught fish right off the bank of the property, none whoppers. But my daughter, who minutes before I had just given instruction on a spinning reel, got a 14” smallie (no justice). My fishing grandson did well also. There is an easy put in at Island Ford (see Bruce Ingram’s book)

on the Shenandoah

for a short 3 ½ mile float to the cabin's dock. The owner provides two canoes and two kayaks along with PFDs. All six of us did the float. Had we done a PRSC float, we would have taken longer and caught more fish. There was some good water. There is also a 10 ½ mile float from Port Republic to Island Ford.

While Lil and I were out antiquing (not us aging – the stuff in the shops) my daughter told us the Doah Riverkeeper had floated by in a canoe. Of note, there was none of the algae this far up river – very clean. My daughter's family also took an excursion to Luray where the boys did the caverns, a high-rope adventure, and a maze.



View from the lawn of “nice rapid.”

It was a great family adventure/vacation. I have to give two plugs. First, John's course really made a difference in my grandson's fishing (can start at age 7) and Becky, of TRW Rentals LLC really, was great.

On the way home we hit one of the antique shops at Ruckersville and I bought a beautiful old Daisy BB rifle, eventually for the boys. We did a wine tasting at Barboursville Winery and ate at their great restaurant, Palladio. When we got home my daughter informed me my younger grandson, now living in the socialist state of Maryland, wants to become a Virginian, wahooooo! A Rebel at 4 ½!

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.

New Hampshire 17.5" Largemouth Bass..



David Brenningmeyer. Photo by Caryn Graham.

First Time Ever Fishing...First Smallmouth Ever.



Sally Scholz. Photo by Chris Schaupp.

26" Rainbow Trout, Caught in this Area.



Steve Graves.

17.5" Shenandoah Smallmouth.



Kris Andersen. Photo by Kris Andersen.

Chesapeake Bay Striper.



Nice Smallmouth Near Harper's Ferry.



Bob Forbes. Photo by Jamie Gold.

Steve Kimm. Photo by Mark Myers.

Invasive Species Cleanup Effort...Pohick Bay

Another Chesapeake Bay Striper



Clean up crew. Photo by Roger Brown.

Photo by Jamie Gold.

On the Water.

Getting Ready to go Fishing.



Shenandoah River. Photo by Bill Owensby.

CCA Gang. Photo by Jamie Gold.

Algae Letter

By Jeff Kelble

Dear PRSC and Shenandoah Riverkeeper Members,

Are you tired of the algae in the Shenandoah River? I know I am, and I need your help doing something about it. On August 5th, 2014 the Shenandoah Riverkeeper initiated a legal challenge (litigation) against the United States Environmental Protection Agency to compel them to do something about our algae problems.

NOW IS OUR TIME TO BE HEARD.

Background: Every year I hear endless citizen complaints about murky green Shenandoah River water, snot-grass or slimy algae covering the bottom of the river, floating algae clumps that smell, etc. I'm told the algae ruins people's time, and diminishes their use and enjoyment of the river whether they're fishing, swimming, wading, paddling or just picnicking and walking their dogs.

These algae blooms are caused by polluted run-off and I am trying to get Virginia to:

- a) Recognize that the river has this problem
- b) Add it to their 303D/305B list of "impaired" or unhealthy waters
- c) Develop a plan to solve it, and then solve it

Please write a complaint letter including the eight pieces of information below then email or mail it to me by September 1, 2014. Please follow each number and relay all experiences you have had with algae by September 1st. Please include the details of your experience as outlined below:

- 1) You must include your name and address (other contact information could be helpful too)
- 2) Describe when and how often you use the river and describe what you do (fish, swim, walk dog, etc.)
- 3) Provide a description of specific locations and times you've experienced problems with algae (when, how often and what the impact this has had on your use and/or enjoyment of the river). I cannot emphasize this enough, please be as specific as possible about dates or months of the year, exactly what stretches of river, etc.
- 4) Tell me if the algae makes you less likely to use the Shenandoah River for recreation
- 5) Tell the Virginia Department of Environmental Quality (VA DEQ) if the algae has diminished your use or your enjoyment of the river. Please use the words "has diminished my use" and/or "has diminished my enjoyment" if in fact the algae has impacted your enjoyment or use of the river
- 6) Tell me anything else about the algae (ie. dog got sick after ingesting, made your picnic smell, etc.)
- 7) Request that VA DEQ include the North Fork, South Fork and/or Main Stem on its impaired waters 303D/305B list
- 8) Tell DEQ if you believe the algae is worse in the Shenandoah than other rivers

Address the top of your letter to:

John M. Kennedy
DEQ Office of Water Monitoring and Assessment
P.O. Box 1105
Richmond, Virginia 23218-1105
RE: Draft 2012 305(b)/303(d) Water Quality Assessment Integrated Report

Email your letter TO ME ASAP:

jeff@shenandoahriverkeeper.org

Conservation Corner

By Herschel Finch

This won't be a 'normal' Conservation Corner (not that many of them actually fit that definition) but it's more about changes and big doings out here in the Shenandoah Valley, and specifically about things going on along our favorite stretches of the South Fork among other things.

First off, the EPA is set to finally release the Avetx Fibers super-fund site in Front Royal in the very near future. This is slated to 'officially' happen next month but there's going to be a ceremonial 'handoff' off of stewardship on Saturday morning at the site itself. The EPA has finally concluded that the cleanup is now sufficient to safely turn over the site to the Shenandoah Valley Planning District for redevelopment and use by the public for...whatever we want use it for and formally sever its interest in the site.

Right now, the town and county, along with some funding from USSF have, so far, constructed a new soccer complex and skate park / playground on the former Ed Stump Playground section. They have also used some of the settlement money to make some nice improvements to the Luray Ave. landing. But what I'm really looking forward to is: there is going to be an extension of the bike trail that will run from our new Skyline High School, all the way down to the river, and along the south fork, wrapping around the site and back into town. The trail at that point will be officially 5 miles long with it's start beginning at Main Street next to Stoke's General Store. And there is with another 5-7 miles slated to be built in the future to close the loop back with Bing Crosby Stadium Park and back up to Stoke's General Store.

The Ceremony will kick off at 10:00am on Saturday morning and a lot of environmental and conservation organizations are going to have display booths and such there along with the planning commission's proposal displays for the site. I'll be there with the local Izaak Walton's booth, that is, after I get done photographing our quarterly litter pickup along Browntown road. I would have had PRSC's booth there as well, had I found out about the event sooner. But as it is, you folks are most cordially invited to come out and celebrate a major environmental victory / milestone in the history of our town and county with us.

I know I mentioned this before at the meetings but I thought an update was in order: The new bridge and take-out/put-in at Bentonville is nearing completion. They say they will be pouring concrete for the new bridge and approaches next week. Meanwhile they're reworking and relocating the road to both ends of the bridge and the whole she-bang should be complete by Thanksgiving. That is almost a month ahead of schedule! When was the last time you heard of THAT happening on a road project?

Back toward town at Simpson's landing, they will complete a brand new canoe slide and other improvements at this little-used access next week. Simpson's Landing is just past the big flat pool after Karo rapid on river-left. I may start doing Simpson's to Front Royal on a more regular basis with the improvements at Simpsons as it cuts out the half mile of dead water that starts the float just after Karo rapid. Someone you all know and tolerate 'may' have snuck around a gate with the adjacent land owner (Skip Simms) to get sneak preview of what the landing is looking like. Bring your best climbing legs...the canoe slide is 23 steps high.

And speaking of landing improvements, the new landing slated for halfway between Morgan's Ford and RT 50 is slated to begin construction at the end of October. They are not sure they will have it complete for the Fall bite because they'll be pulled off to put the finishing touches up at Bentonville, but they hope to have it ready by early December...weather permitting.

We're going to have some new floats to do come next Spring and I'm kind of excited about that.

PRSC
P.O. Box 1240
Vienna, VA 22183

This is my favorite picture that I received this past month. This is former PRSC member Steve Graves with a 26" rainbow trout. He caught this beauty with guide James Harris. But I've been sworn to secrecy as to where he caught this magnificent fish. Great job Steve.



2014 Contest Results

September 2014 Report By Wallace Harvey

First I have to give congratulations to John Aucella, new member, for an excellent entry in our contest. John caught a 19-inch Smallie in Section III. We have a real contest going for New Member. Keep up the good work guys. However, we have a deficit in a couple of areas. Section I has no entries at all. Is there a problem here I don't know about? Section II and Section III are looking competitive, as is Fly Fisherman, and New Member.

What can I say guys? We are reaching the season's end and we need lots of new entries. Do we not want to have a contest? If no one enters, then the contest is in jeopardy. Although the weather is cooling down, it should be a great time to get out there to look for the fish that need to fatten up for the winter. Who will hit Section II and become an instant winner for any fish? It is supposed to be a bad winter again, so get out there and catch something before we all get snowed in.

As I am running out of words for this article and we have the end of the year sneaking up faster that we want, is anyone interested to show their talents to write a monthly article for the BUZZ for the Fishing Contest. It is easy and fun to come up with new ideas. And, you have inside information as to who is catching what. I'll see you at the next meeting and will be willing to discuss this with anyone. See you there!

2014 Results

- Section 1, Biggest Fish:** George Moran, 20.5"
- Section 1, Best 5 Fish:** Dave Lockard, 84"
- Section 2, Biggest Fish:** Bill Pearl, 19"
- Section 2, Best 5 Fish:** Bill Pearl, 84.5"
- Section 3, Biggest Fish:** Wayne Tate, 20"
- Section 3, Best 5 Fish:** Wayne Tate, 92"
- Largest on Fly:** Wayne Tate, 20"
- Best 5 Fish on Fly:**
- New Member:** John Aucella, 19"
- Grover Cleveland Contest:** Jack Cook, 19.5"
- William Shriver Award:** Jack Cook, 92"

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.