



# The Buzz

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October 22, 2014

## Potomac Riverkeeper Jeff Kelble

### Upcoming Items

**PRSC Meeting**  
November 19, 2014

**PRSC Raffle**  
November 2014

**Shenandoah Algae Campaign**  
October, 2014

**Potomac Conservancy**  
November 1, 2014

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Former PRSC president and current President of Potomac Riverkeeper, Inc., Jeff Kelble will visit us in October. After years of service as the Shenandoah Riverkeeper, Jeff was appointed President of the Potomac Riverkeeper in July of this year. Jeff's presentations are always packed with details about the state of our local rivers and his organization's efforts to ensure their long-term viability.

Jeff is well known in the local conservation community and the national Riverkeeper community, having served for over eight years as Shenandoah Riverkeeper. Jeff has also served on the national board of the Waterkeeper Alliance since 2012, and recently on two other non-profit boards. During his tenure as Shenandoah Riverkeeper, Jeff was the model of what a riverkeeper should be: ever-vigilant and tireless in his efforts to understand and seek remedies to the threats to our local waters. Jeff has conducted and supported extensive research on the threats to the Shenandoah, and worked tirelessly to preserve the river, along with the wildlife and recreation it sustains. Kelble has aggressively gone after major polluters, worked to reform regulations and government behavior, taking legal

action when needed, and worked widely with local land owners to mitigate the effects of agricultural activity on the health of the river.

Please join us for what will be an informative and engaging evening for anyone concerned with the state of our local rivers and fish populations.



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# Upcoming Items

## Potomac River Smallmouth Club - See You for Member Night!!!!

Join Us Wednesday, November 19 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 2015. At the meeting, all current members will received one raffle ticket. If you renew at this event for 2015, you'll get an extra ticket. If you want to renew at the meeting, please go to the club's website ([www.prsc.org](http://www.prsc.org)), download a copy of the membership form, fill it out, and bring it with you. Filling out the form before the meeting will make the renewal process faster and easier for everyone.

## PRSC Picture Raffle - Mark Susinno Print

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.



## Potomac and Shenandoah Riverkeeper

### Algae Complaint Campaign

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](http://www.potomacriverkeeper.org).

## Potomac Conservancy

### Help Restore Oxon Cove Park!

**Saturday, November 1 - 9:00am-1:00pm.** Join the National Parks Conservation Association and Potomac Conservancy and help remove trash and debris at the Oxon Cove Park and Oxon Cove Hill Farm. They will meet at 9:00am on Saturday, November 1, and will spend the morning restoring the Park's shoreline grounds. So grab a friend and have fun outdoors while giving back to an important local treasure in your community. RSVP to Edward Stierli at 202-454-3339 or [estierli@npca.org](mailto:estierli@npca.org) today!

# Doah River Trip

Article and Photos by Ernie Rojas

On October 4, George Thurston and I (well, really me) decided to brave the cooler temps and brisk winds to do a float on the very loooooooow 'doah River! George is much more experienced with cooler temps than I am, so I was nervous, but the day turned out to be really nice with temps in the low to mid 60's. But at times, the wind was actually blowing us upriver. And the water was really loooooow! We caught a few fish here and there, enough to keep us happy. George had a nice one grab at lure, but the fish got loose before George could bring him in.

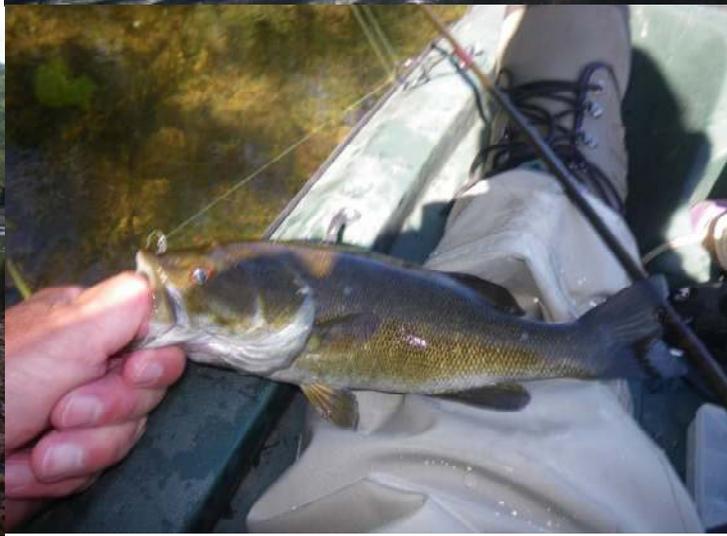
I caught a half dozen smallies up to about 13" in length. They were fighting hard for sure. I also caught a small largemouth at one point. George caught quite a few fish but no monsters this time!

Did I mention that the river was really loooooow. That caused my 13-foot tank of a yak to hit many a rock. So many that the patch I had on a previous crack broke off and I started to take on water again. And we were about 1.5 miles from the ramp!

After that, we hustled ashore and took care of emptying the yak and then the race was on! I needed to get back to the ramp before the bilge filled up again.

Three things happen when you take on water: 1. You lose stability, 2. You lose the ability to track straight, 3. It feels like you are towing someone.

The first mile was uneventful but the last part was hard. My shoulders were screaming but we made it back safe and sound. Unfortunately, we were not able to fish a nice stretch of water. Still, a good day and I learned a lot about reading the river and the water was.....skinny! Good time out on the water.....



# Warrior Bridge Fishing

Article and Photos by Jamie Gold and Dan Grulke

On Saturday, October 11, Dan Grulke, Park Manager at Lake Fairfax Park, hosted a Warrior Bridge Fishing Day at the Park. Warrior Bridge is a rapidly emerging national initiative serving wounded veterans. Warrior Bridge serves as a vital connection to resources and support for wounded veterans as they return to civilian life and seek employment, self-sufficiency and a high quality of life. Warrior Bridge fishing day is a day of fishing for veterans and current military personal with a variety and wide range of disabilities. The representative for this event from Warrior Bridge was Mike Costanzo.



The volunteers with one of the veterans.



The event ran from 9am until 3pm. Food and chap-erones were provided by Fish and Explore, which is owned and operated by PRSC member John Lipetz. Several of the chap-erones were from Potomac River Smallmouth Club, including Bill Owensby and Quinn Lipetz. The all important, rods, tackle, and bait were provided by Fishy Rodz and by the Fairfax County Park Au- thority.

Dan Grulke with Mike and some Lake Fairfax trout.

# Day at Lake Fairfax Park

Twelve people registered to attend the event. Unfortunately the rain and windy conditions caused a few cancellations, but the veterans who did show up had a great time. For the early arrivers, we had a few breakfast treats ready for them. After a quick bite to eat, we got them set up with their fishing gear and took them down to the water. On the Thursday before this event, Lake Fairfax had been stocked with a large number of trout, so everyone was eager to begin fishing. The attendees set up on a wooden walkway the runs along



A Lake Fairfax trout.



part of the shore, and started to fish.

At first things were a little slow, but then Dan found a honey hole and we started catching fish. The go to baits were Power Bait, and little soft plastic trout worms. While they were fishing, the volunteers, led by John Lipetz, set up a lunch of hotdogs, hamburgers and cheeseburgers, baked beans, chips and drinks. The hot food was a welcome lunch because of the wet and chilly weather.

Around noon we took a break from fishing to eat and rest up a bit. Then after that it was back to fishing for the rest of the event. We caught a total of six very nice trout. All in all it was a very good day, and we volunteers appreciated the opportunity to give a little back to those who have sacrificed so much for us. I would like to give a special thanks to Dan and to Lake Fairfax and the Fairfax County Park Authority for hosting this event.

Two of the veterans taking a break from fishing to talk and enjoy the surroundings.

# Big Bend Farm Trout

Article and Pictures by Steve Adams

Big Bend Farm is a beautiful privately stocked trophy sized trout water located on the Cowpasture River in Bath County. Its located about an hour southwest of Staunton, Virginia. The farm is strictly fly fishing only with barbless hooks, and catch and release must be practiced.



This is private section of water so a rod fee of \$90.00 per day is required to access the property. This can be easily obtained through Albemarle Angler in Charlottesville. Once you pay over the phone via credit card, they will send you a packet via email including maps and a parking permit for the farm. Yes some would say \$90.00 is steep, but what it does is buy you low pressure of five or less anglers per day on a stretch of good trout water roughly 1.5 miles long. Note: If you can book a week-day, you may have the river to yourself for the whole day.

The river was fairly low this time around so wading was fairly easy. However, I had fished the river a few years ago in the Spring and it was running much higher and

I spent the day struggling to keep from falling. Be forewarned: felt soles work better than rubber, but studded soles on your wading boots are even better for this body of water to reduce slips and falls. I also recommend a wading staff if the river levels are up.

I arrived in the morning about 8:30am and quickly got geared up with my 4 weight fly rod. I shared the river with two other anglers in the morning, and then had the whole river to myself in the afternoon.

I fished a small hares ear nymph at first, but was not having any luck.. Then I spotted a few of the nice rainbow trout in a shallow pool rising. One of the fish came almost completely out of the water to grab the emerging insects.



# at Fishing Adventure

I realize these trout aren't native, but watching a 16" to 19" brown or rainbow trout shoot up in the air to eat an insect will still get your heart pumping.

I quickly tied on a royal wulff pattern, size 14, because it had a similar white wing like the emerging insects.

After a few drifts I was rewarded with a strike, but as usual, I pulled the fly out of the trout's mouth too quickly due to the excitement.

The next strike I connected and after a great fight, landed a nice 17" to 18" rainbow.

For the next couple of hours I hooked about nine fish and landed seven total including: a smaller brook trout, and the brown trout in the picture. The key to catching fish that day was skating the fly on the surface and stopping it again. When I did this with the right drift, I got a follow or strike almost every time!

Later after lunch in the afternoon, I had luck fishing a black bead head crystal bugger, size 12, on one of the upper sections of the farm.

I landed four more nice rainbows before a heavy rain finally caused me to call it a day.

Big Bend Farm is open for trout fishing from October through May. The summer, even in this area in western Virginia, is too hot most of the time to hold carryover fish.

For more information you can contact Albemarle Angler in Charlottesville. Their website is [www.albemarleangler.com](http://www.albemarleangler.com)



# 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](mailto:jeff@shenandoahriverkeeper.org)

# Conservation Corner

By Herschel Finch

I've been thinking about the upcoming elections here in November and the importance of citizen participation. Too often we have a tendency to become complacent, or worse, apathetic, about our current state of politics in this country. But then I get wind of something that gets me fired up again.

Getting involved as deeply into conservation efforts as I do, I tend to collect friends on Facebook and other places who feed me articles of interest along these lines. Most of them are from people just as involved in the conservation effort for clean water as I am. I got this article sent to me by one such friend out toward Pittsburg.

<http://powersource.post-gazette.com/powersource/companies-powersource/2014/10/06/Testimony-Obsolete-tests-tainted-shale-analysis/stories/201410060075>

This article is about the validity of certain tests being performed by the Pennsylvania Department of Environmental Protection. Seems the issue out there is twofold. The tests they were using to see whether an individual water source was contaminated by shale gas fracking was not state of the art and indeed, had been proven deficient for the job. But it also seems managers of the PA DEP are playing fast and loose with the actual results. I mean a guy's well ends up contaminated with drilling chemicals and the officials doing the testing state that the contamination of the well with fracking chemicals, despite being only 2,800 feet and down-gradient from the site of a gas drilling operation, is "possible but not probable"?!?!

This from the same people who it turns out are using less than state-of-the-art testing.

I was involved in a conversation with another friend recently who's heavily involved with water issues down in the Valley a ways and he made a statement that sorta solidified this column for me: "The Department of Environmental Quality (of Virginia) is NOT an environmental protection agency, it's a permitting agency." After that it became a nice neat package for me.

If we want to put an end to the endless cycle of state regulatory agencies doing nothing but putting a rubber stamp on everything that big business and big agricultural interests want, we have to pay more attention to our politics...and especially politicians. Find out where your candidates stand on these issues. Then find out where their money is coming from...that'll give you a better indication where their loyalties lie. Until we the people get more involved in making sure that politicians do what they were hired to do, government agencies will continue to serve the entities they are instructed to serve.

Don't forget to vote on November 4<sup>th</sup>.

**PRSC**  
**P.O. Box 1240**  
**Vienna, VA 22183**

This is my favorite picture for October. This is former PRSC member Steve Graves and me with fly fishing legend Lefty Kreh. Steve and I were fortunate enough to have several fly casting lessons with Lefty this year, and the picture is from one of those sessions. I'll have an article and more pictures from this incredible experience in the next issue of the Buzz.



# 2014 Contest Results

**October 2014 Report By Wallace Harvey**

Well here we are again at the end of the year and looking for a winner at the last minute. September proved to be a cool month. I would have thought it would have been a good month for fishing. However, I have not heard from anyone as to your exploits on the river. Not even a word on October fishing. I guess you guys are done for the year? I hope not. Perhaps you went and forgot to notify Jack Cook or me. Best hurry, as the end of October is the end of the contest.

As I quickly write this for the BUZZ, I realized my trip to Australia/New Zealand is closer than I thought. I planned to be at the meeting on Wednesday then leave on Friday. But, a quick double check of the schedule and I am away on Tuesday before the meeting. Sorry guys, I won't be around for the meeting. I'll be arriving there about the time the meeting starts. The good news is I'll be back for Member Night in November. And, for once, I may have something interesting to talk about. Unfortunately, it is not a fishing trip, but a vacation my wife wants. What more can I say?

I am hopeful that next year I can pick up my fly rod again and have a go at some smallies. That section of the contest has been very slow as we have lost a couple of members that were fly nuts, and Jamie binged up his shoulder. The good news is that he should be fine for next year. I just may give him a bit of competition. Anyone else thinking of joining the ranks of the fly? Jamie may be good with streamers, but I do pretty good with poppers. For me, fly-fishing is strictly top water. I just love that action. The only problem is I must wait for next summer to give it a go. Here is wishing you all the best. Enjoy the meeting!

## 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.