



The BUZZ

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November 19, 2014

Member Night 2014

Upcoming Items

PRSC Meeting
January 28, 2015

PRSC Raffle
November 2014

Shenandoah Algae Campaign
October , 2014

Potomac Conservancy
December 2014

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This month marks the return of Member Night. This is PRSC's annual get together for food and fun to say thanks to the membership for making this such a great organization. Because there is so much to do, we will be starting the meeting at 6:30pm. Be sure to get there on time because this is a hungry group of fishermen and women, so the food will go fast.

The main event, as always, will be the raffling off of contributions made to the club from guides, tackle dealers, rod companies and PRSC members themselves. Each member of the club who attends the meeting and their membership is up-to-date for 2014 and will get one raffle ticket. Members can then renew at member night to get a second raffle ticket. New members can join PRSC by paying the dues for 2015 and receive a raffle ticket. Former members whose membership has lapsed can renew to get one ticket. Dues for next year will be at \$40 for the year.

We have a few other activities going on as well. Jack Cook will be handing out awards for the PRSC fishing contest in a variety of categories, including the coveted Grover Cleveland and William Shriver awards.

As an added bonus, David Sikorski will be speaking to the club about river herring and shad. David is an active and avid volunteer, currently serving as Chair of the Maryland CCA Government Relations Committee. He is also Chapter President of the Annapolis, MD CCA, and is Vice-Chairman of the Maryland DNR's Sport Fisheries Advisory Commission. He will provide an update on management actions on river herring, shad and other forage fish happening at the Mid Atlantic Fisheries Management Council.

Thank you for another great year for PRSC and I look forward to seeing you at member night.

2013's Fishing Contest Winners with Jack Cook. Who will win this year? Come to member night to find out.



Club Executive Board	<h1>Upcoming Items</h1>
President	<p>Steve Kimm president@prsc.org</p>
Vice-President Craig Bishop vp@prsc.org	<p>Potomac River Smallmouth Club - See You in 2015!!!!</p> <p>Join Us Wednesday, January 28 for PRSC's first meeting of 2015. We will be at our usual spot, the Vienna Firehouse. The speaker in January will be Mark Burks of Catoctin Creek Custom Rods. He will be speaking about custom rods and trends in the fishing industry. Please join us for a great evening to kick off the new year.</p>
Secretary Dave Lockard (h) (301) 656-1964 secretary@prsc.org	<p>PRSC Picture Raffle - Mark Susinno Print</p>
Treasurer Jamie Gold C (571) 213-4699 treasure@prsc.org	<p>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 Member Night in November. Here is a photo of the print.</p>
Trip Coordinator Kris Anderson trip_coordinator@prsc.org	<p>Potomac and Shenandoah Riverkeeper</p>
Program Chair Bill Amshey Programs@prsc.org	<p>Algae Complaint Campaign</p>
Conservation Chair Herschel Finch (H) (540) 635-7636 Conservation@prsc.org	<p>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. 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</p>
Librarian Chip Comstock Librarian@prsc.org	<p><u>www.potomacriverkeeper.org</u>.</p>
Additional Programs	<p>Potomac Conservancy</p>
Fishing Contest Jack Cook H (703) 573-4403	<p>2014 State of the Nation's River Report: River Friendly Growth</p>
The Buzz Jamie Gold (C) (571) 213-4699 Buzz_Editor@prsc.org	<p>Available Now. Potomac Conservancy's 2014 State of the Nation's River report about the Potomac River calls for urgent action to preserve local water quality in the face of rapid urbanization. They take a close look at emerging threats to the Potomac and offer common sense solutions for clean water. The report is available at their website,</p>
Merchandise Ernie Rojas H (703) 729-0128 Publicity@prsc.org	<p><u>www.potomac.org</u>.</p>
Past President Steve Moore	<p>Canal Stewards at the River Center</p>
Publicity Ernie Rojas H (703) 729-0128	<p>Saturday, December 6 - 9:00am-1:00pm. Join Potomac Conservancy at the River Center at Lock 8 for their monthly Canal Stewards cleanup! The cleanup is open to all ages, and they will provide all the necessary supplies - just wear clothes that can get dirty. Typical activities include picking up trash, invasive plant removal, and repairing trails. For more information, visit their website at <u>www.potomac.org/events</u>.</p>

S. Fork Shenandoah Trip

Article and Photo by Terry Cooney

Editor's note: On Saturday, October 18, PRSC members Terry Cooney and Randy Chandler did a float trip on the South Fork of the Shenandoah River for some fall smallmouth bass fishing.

The weather was overcast all day with temperatures no higher than the mid-60's. There was wind early in the day, but it died down as the day wore on. There was no rain until we got a few sprinkles after we had just taken out. We caught many leaves, some a nice size, but with very little fight in them. Overall it was a beautiful fall day.

The fishing was pretty rough. I only caught eight fish, my largest being a chunky 13" fighter. Randy did better, but it was a marginal day for him (fishing-wise) until he caught the beauty pictured below. He caught this 20" beast early in the afternoon, about one mile from the new Bentonville Bridge on a buzz bait. She was a full 20" trophy.

A new bridge has been installed at Bentonville, and it is a beauty. Not a scrap remains of the old low water bridge. The take-out on the west side (river left) is really nice.

As we were heading home we saw a line of vehicles several miles long trying to get onto Skyline drive to see the leaves. They should have taken a kayak; no, why spoil it for us? Only about five other boats (canoes) seen all day.

Of note - on this trip it was the first time either of us ever saw a dog eating a dead deer on the river bank.



November Fishing

Article and Photos by Ernie Rojas

On November 10 I went fishing out of Crandon Park in Key Biscayne, Florida. The day started with a rain delay, so I was left hoping that we would get started at noon. Fortunately I was able to meet Captain Mark Hall at the Crandon Park Ramp at 11:45am. We have fished together many times, but this was the first time we would fish around Key Biscayne, which is where my mom lives. The ramp is 5-6 minutes from her condo.

We did not catch any fish at our first stop and then we went to a bowl in a flat and there, I caught six species of fish...all on a jig! The species were: Lizzard fish,



Blue Runner, Mutton Snapper, Grunt, Jack Crevalle, and Blow Fish.

After 30 or so fish, we moved on in front of where my mom lives and caught a few more jacks...this time on top water.

Mark spotted some bait and made a couple of casts to fill

'trip to Sunny Florida

the live well full of pilchards! He would use them as a fish magnet. We went looking for snooks at the end of Government Cut, but no one was home except species #7, a needle fish.

As we made our way back to the marina we made a few stops at some beaches that had rock jetties. We even interrupted a late afternoon photo shoot! It was now 5 pm, the sun was setting and I declared that I was done. Mark then said, "we have one more spot to go to".

He instructed me on what to do and on the third cast...it was game on. I have heard all about people hooking a tarpon but not landing it.

When I got hit, the fish took off to Cuba. We chased it for 40 minutes or so. My arms have never screamed the way they did today. The fish jumped twice.....spectacularly! The second jump was with the sun setting behind it. I would have been satisfied with that memory, which I will never forget. Then the fish ran...and ran...and ran...and ran. I had him to the boat 5-6 times but he did not want to be landed. So...I tightened the drag and gave it one last effort and

Mark was able to bring it in. Mark estimated it at 50 or more pounds. Mark kept me calm and made sure I stayed patient even though my arms were searing. He is a master with these animals. Took great care and made sure it was ready to roam the waters before being released.

I have no words! I really don't know what else to say but to thank Mark for getting me on the fish, coaching me through it and then landing it. If you are ever in Miami...hire Mark!!



Fall Trout Fishing in Sou

Article by Jamie Gold. Pictures by Jamie Gold and Pat Masler

When the weather starts to cool and the leaves on the trees start to change colors, I begin to feel the irresistible pull of chasing trout on the fly rod. There is just something I love about stalking stream trout with a fly rod in my hands and several boxes of flies in my pockets.



Also, I knew most of the guys on the trip and was happy to be fishing and hanging out with them again. As an added bonus, Steve invited noted Maryland trout fisherman Charlie Gelso to join us. He is the co-author, along with Larry Coburn, of the terrific book "Guide to Maryland Trout Fishing: The Catch and Release Streams." I couldn't wait to meet him and fish with him and pick his brains about fly fishing for trout.

I took a half day off from work on Friday to drive up to the property. One of the great things about fishing here is that it's less than a two hour drive from where I live.....but it's a whole other world from the craziness of Northern Virginia. By the time I arrived, the other guys had already been fishing for a few

Fortunately a good friend of mine, Steve Graves, is a member of a fishing club with a cabin, land and some private water located in Southcentral Pennsylvania. There are two ponds with trout and one pond with bass on the property. Plus, the club owns or leases about 1 1/2 miles of a local stream that is only open to club members and their guests – and it is full of trout. He invited me, Todd Parks, Shawn Ackley, and Pat Masler to join him for a weekend get away from Friday, October 17 through Sunday, October 19. I eagerly accepted and packed my rods, reels, flies, waders, boots, hat and sunglasses.

I have fished at this property before, so was excited to be returning, because I remembered how good the fishing can be.



outh Central Pennsylvania

hours. I said hello, and then quickly broke out my gear and started to fish. That evening the other guys enjoyed some pretty good action, but I didn't catch anything. But I didn't care - I was just happy to be there.

That evening we enjoyed a great dinner and got caught up on our various adventures since the last time we had seen each other.

The next day the fishing really turned on for me. I woke up before everyone else, so I went down to one of the trout ponds and proceeded to catch seven trout in an hour. The fly that worked was a brown caddis fly. On my second cast, as soon as the fly hit the water, a nice 16" trout swam straight up from the bottom and inhaled it. Then things slowed, so I started to skitter the fly across the top of the water. That drove the fish nuts - one fish chased that fly fifteen feet and then jumped out of the water to grab my fly.

After a quick breakfast back at the cabin, we all hopped in our cars and drove down to the stream to do more fishing. I paired up with Steve Graves and we headed to a different part of the stream from the other guys. We both had good success. I added a dropper fly to my caddis fly. This was a zebra nymph tied to a leader from the hook of the caddis. The trout liked that nymph. Steve did well with a small muddler minnow and a few other flies. At one point we found a hole that held at least fifteen trout, with one that we saw that was at least 18" long.

The other guys also did very well. I believe Charlie had the big fish of the day with one over 20" long. Late in the day we all ended up back at the main trout pond to finish the day with a few more trout. In all, I caught more than 20 trout on the day.



That night we enjoyed a delicious dinner and steaks and pan fried potatoes and plenty of good wine and beer. We also told each other a bunch of fishing stories of varying levels of veracity.

Unfortunately a cold front blew through that night. As a result, the next day the air temperatures dropped quite a bit and the wind really picked up. I'd had a great day of fishing on Saturday, so I decided not to try to fight the elements. After a clean up of the cabin, I hit the road to drive back home, and back to reality. But it was a great trip.

Casting with Lefty -

Article and Pictures by Jamie Gold

On TV fishing shows and in articles on fishing I see the phrases “trip of a lifetime” or “adventure of a life time” thrown around too often and too casually. But this past year I really did have an experience of a lifetime. A good fly fishing friend of mine, Steve Graves, was able to set up a few fly casting lessons for us with legendary fly fisherman and casting instructor Lefy Kreh. I don’t use the word legendary lightly. Do an online search of Lefty and you will see what I mean.



I tell my golfing friends that getting a fly casting lesson with Lefty is like getting a golf lesson from Jack Nicklaus. I was originally going to have three lessons with my friend and Lefty, but my shoulder injury limited me to only two sessions - my friend still took the third lesson.

On the first session, we started by trading stories and getting to know each other. He is a wonderful raconteur. We then went to a local pond for the lesson.

The two sessions were simply an incredible experience. Lefty’s tips to good casting and his principles of fly casting are reproduced, with his permission, on the following two pages. He drilled these principles and aids into us over the course of both sessions. He took us step by step through them, then demonstrated each of them to us, and then had us practice them and corrected us as we worked on them.

Besides those items, he taught me several other lessons as well. First was humility. It was simply incredible to watch a man about ninety years old easily outdistance my with the fly rod. At one point I thought I was casting pretty well. He tasked at me, shook his head and said, “You are working too hard, let me show you.” He took my fly rod, took off the top half of the rod, and proceeded to shoot the fly line out farther than what I had been doing with the complete rod....while making it look effortless Wow!!!

He also taught me to relax, try not to cast so hard and to let the



rod
do
the
work
- the

rod is a fulcrum and the key is to try to use the power in the rod with as much efficiency as possible; not by using too much power with the rod.

Finally, I was reminded of the importance of finding something to do that you truly love. His enjoyment and enthusiasm for teaching us and working with us were wonderful. I hope to still be fishing and passing along the love of fishing I have when I’m that age. Thank you to my friend and Lefty for a truly amazing experience.



Lessons of a Lifetime

Editor's Note: The materials on this and the following page are reproduced here with permission from Lefty Kreh.

Aids to Better Fly Casting

Lefty Kreh

- (1) **If you are right-handed, the right foot should be positioned to the rear. The longer the cast the farther back should be the foot.** Left-handers should do the reverse. This allows the body to pivot and the casting arm to move farther back and forth.
- (2) **Before beginning a back or a forward cast the casting hand thumb should be positioned behind the rod handle from the target. The rod hand should not be twisted throughout the back or forward cast.** Keeping the thumb behind the rod handle from the target insures the casting energy is transmitted directly away from and back to the target.
- (3) **The elbow should not be elevated on the cast.** Imagine walking up to a shelf that is as high as your elbow. Place your elbow on the shelf. Think during the entire cast that the elbow travels back and forth but remains in contact with the shelf. The angle of the backcast is determined by the angle the hand stops. Raising the elbow off the shelf leads to casting problems, torn rotator cuffs and tennis elbow.

Casting with Lefty cont'd

Fly Casting Principles

Regardless of the individual's casting style all casters are governed by the following four principles.

YOU MUST MOVE THE FLY LINE END BEFORE YOU CAN MAKE A BACK OR FORWARD CAST. This causes the rod to bend or load, storing energy. It is also good fishing technique to lift all line from the surface before making a backcast.

ONCE THE LINE IS MOVING THE ONLY WAY TO LOAD THE ROD IS TO MOVE THE CASTING HAND AT AN EVER-INCREASING SPEED AND THEN BRING IT TO A SUDDEN STOP. The sudden stop is often called a power stroke. Applying power often spoils the cast. It should be called a speed up and stop. The faster you speed up and stop the rod tip, the faster the line will travel. The size of the loop is determined by the distance the rod hand moves in the final moment of the cast during the speed up and stop.

THE LINE WILL GO IN THE DIRECTION THE ROD TIP SPEEDS UP AND STOPS. For example if on the backcast the rod tip stops at an angle going up (or rising) the line will go straight in the direction the tip stopped. If the rod tip stops going down and back then a sag is produced in the line that must be removed before a forward cast can be made. With almost all forward cast the rod tip should stop in a direction either parallel or slightly climbing above the surface.

THE LONGER THE DISTANCE THE ROD TRAVELS ON THE BACK AND FORWARD CASTING STROKES THE LESS EFFORT IS REQUIRED TO MAKE THE CAST. The shorter the rod moves through the casting stroke, the harder you must work to put the same load in the rod. When you need to cast farther, throw heavier flies, defeat the wind or make a number of special cast (even when fresh water trout fishing) the rod should travel farther back and forward. Being able to take the rod well behind you on the backcast will allow you to make different casts and produce more fish.

END

Conservation Corner

By Herschel Finch

I spent some time recently browsing through all the Conservations Corners of the past year just to see where were are and what I've already written about. And it seems the year has mostly been dominated by three major themes. Algae in the Shenandoah, the Dominion Pipeline and fracking in the George Washington National Forest.

I hope by now every club member has written a personal letter to Jeff concerning the impairment of the Shenandoah by Algae growth. Jeff and the Potomac Riverkeeper are still accepting these letters, so if you haven't written one...get busy. Every single one of them helps in the fight. And there is more fight coming...stay tuned.

The last two go hand in hand. Dominion, along with partner Duke Energy and two smaller companies, are still planning on building their pipeline through southern Virginia, where it will be crossing the headwater areas of the James and the Staunton/Roanoke Rivers. The pipeline will split at the VA/NC border with a line that will run out toward Tidewater, VA. The other pipeline will cross eight counties in the eastern piedmont of NC to Robeson County in the south. In addition, pressure/pumping stations will have to be built every ten miles along the entire length of the pipelines. The other pipeline of concern will come out of Pennsylvania and run down to supply the LNG plant that's slated to be built at Cove Point in Baltimore.

Both of these pipelines are of concern due to their crossing of some very sensitive areas in both states and the potential for accidents and fouling of local waterways and aquifers. In addition, the folks in Appomattox, VA are especially nervous with the gas pipeline explosion down there in 2008 still being fresh on their minds. That explosion destroyed five homes outright and damaged another 150 more from the shockwave of the explosion. Of course this sudden flurry of pipelines being planned and built are directly connected to the boom (no pun intended) of hydraulic fracturing along the Marcellus Shale deposits under the Appalachian mountain range.

There is still no decision from the US Forest Service over allowing "fracking" in the GW National Forest, but the presence of these pipelines is going to put tremendous pressure on them to allow for oil and gas exploration within the confines of the National Forest. This will place the very source of the waters for the Shenandoah and the Potomac Rivers in danger from this exploration.

I enjoy the cheap gas prices as much as the next person. But at some point, we have to ask ourselves, at what price?

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This is my favorite picture for November. This is from PRSC member John Aucella. John joined PRSC in November of 2013, so he entered this 19" beauty in the New Member contest. He caught this fish on the Potomac River, near Maryland's Dickerson Conservatory Park, south of the Monocacy. Come to member night to find out if this fish will win.



2014 Contest Results

November 2014 Report By Wallace Harvey

I made it all the way to Australia and New Zealand since our last encounter. Wonderful trip! But, that leads us to the end of the year for the Potomac River Smallmouth Club. Yep, we have reached that time of the year where we put up our fishing gear for snow shovels, and heavy clothing. I hate it! An early cold snap has hit us again this year and makes one wonder how cold it will be this winter. I guess we will have to wait and see.

Another thing we will have to wait and see is who won each category in the Annual Fishing Contest. The honors will be presented at Member Night this month. This is an annual event that really brings out the members. Free food has a way of doing that. However that is not why I really like this meeting. I get to see members that rarely come to a meeting. I only wish they would realize that importance of making as many meetings as possible. I always learn something new. Isn't that why we become members, to learn more?

As the year comes to a close, I again, wonder if anyone wants to step up to take over writing the article for the fishing contest. I've begun to run out of ideas and feel that new younger blood would spice it up for you. No, I'm not disappearing from the BUZZ, as I will continue to write articles from time to time, but would like to see a new member step up and become active in the club. Three short paragraphs monthly are all you need to do. Think about this and volunteer to be part of the club, not a bystander. See you there!

2014 Results

Section 1, Biggest Fish: ??????????????????

Section 1, Best 5 Fish: ??????????????????

Section 2, Biggest Fish: ??????????????????

Section 2, Best 5 Fish: ??????????????????

Section 3, Biggest Fish: ??????????????????

Section 3, Best 5 Fish: ??????????????????

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 \$40/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.