



# The Buzz

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Volume 28, Issue 2

February 25, 2015

## Fishing the Boundary Waters

### Upcoming Items

**PRSC Meeting**  
March 25, 2015

**Picture Raffle**  
2015

**VA Fly Fishing Festival**  
April, 2014

**Potomac Conservancy**  
April 2014

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Captain Dennis Fleming is a light tackle charter captain who has been fishing the Chesapeake Bay and the Potomac River since 1972. He owns and operates the Fishamajig Guide Service.

He has fished around the world from Hawaii, to Panama, to Mexico, with multiple forays to Florida and Canada. One of his favorite "fishing holes" is the Boundary Waters Canoe Area, which boasts the best smallmouth fishing in the world.

Captain Dennis is also a devout conservationist who has been active with fisheries conservation for decades. He has been a Commissioner with the Potomac River Fisheries Commission for several terms, working to ensure sustainable fisheries for the future and advocating on behalf of the river's resource and recreational fisherman.

He is the President of the Mason Springs Conservancy, a local group of recreational anglers who purchased property alongside the Mattawoman Creek. The Conservancy has been able to preserve recreational fishing opportunities and kayak/canoe access to a fishing hole that dates back centuries and was a favorite spot of the local Indian tribes. Located on the "fall line" of the Mattawoman Creek where Rte 225 crosses in Charles County, Maryland, it is a traditional hot spot for shad, herring, and yellow perch. Now it is a favorite of those pursuing the Northern Snakehead.

Capt. Dennis is employed by day as the Chief of Environmental Resources for Charles County Government.

There is nothing more he likes to do than to talk and go fishing!

Captain Dennis Fleming can be reached at 240-538-1260 or [CaptainDennisF@gmail.com](mailto:CaptainDennisF@gmail.com). He offers competitive rates:

- The Fishamajig - 23' Maycraft - 4 anglers max: \$250 - 4 hours; \$300 - 6 hours; and \$350 - 8 hours.
- The Lil' Jig - 18' Jon Boat - 3 anglers max: \$225 - 4 hours; \$250 - 6 hours; and \$275 - 8 hours.

\$100 deposit required to reserve each fishing day.



Club Executive Board	<h1>Upcoming Items</h1>
<b>President</b> Steve Kimm <a href="mailto:president@prsc.org">president@prsc.org</a>	
<b>Vice-President</b> Craig Bishop <a href="mailto:vp@prsc.org">vp@prsc.org</a>	<b>Potomac River Smallmouth Club - February Meeting</b>
<b>Secretary</b> Dave Lockard (h) (301) 656-1964 <a href="mailto:secretary@prsc.org">secretary@prsc.org</a>	<p><b>Join Us Wednesday, March 25 for PRSC's next monthly meeting.</b> We will be at our usual spot, the Vienna Firehouse. The speaker in February will be Matt Miles. He will speak about the rivers he guides in Central and Western Virginia. Please join us for a great evening.</p>
<b>Treasurer</b> Jamie Gold C (571) 213-4699 <a href="mailto:treasure@prsc.org">treasure@prsc.org</a>	<b>Picture Raffle - Smallmouth Bass Print</b>
<b>Trip Coordinator</b> Wallace Harvey <a href="mailto:trip_coordinator@prsc.org">trip_coordinator@prsc.org</a>	<p>As a fund raiser, PRSC is raffling off a smallmouth bass print. 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.</p>
<b>Program Chair</b> Bill Amshey <a href="mailto:Programs@prsc.org">Programs@prsc.org</a>	<b>15th Annual Virginia Fly Fishing and Wine Festival</b>
<b>Conservation Chair</b> Herschel Finch (H) (540) 635-7636 <a href="mailto:Conservation@prsc.org">Conservation@prsc.org</a>	<p><b>Weekend of April 11 - 12, 2015. Waynesboro, VA.</b> Fly anglers from across the country will celebrate the 15<sup>th</sup> Annual Virginia Fly Fishing &amp; Wine Festival on April 11-12, 2015. Held on the banks of the South River in Waynesboro, the Virginia Fly Fishing &amp; Wine Festival is the largest outdoor fly fishing event in the country that offers on-stream instruction. Only here can you learn all the latest techniques from the experts and then walk right over to the river and try them for yourself. See p. 12 in this issue of <i>The Buzz</i>.</p>
<b>Librarian</b> Chip Comstock <a href="mailto:Librarian@prsc.org">Librarian@prsc.org</a>	<p>For more information visit their website at <a href="http://www.vaflyfishingfestival.org">www.vaflyfishingfestival.org</a>.</p>
<b>Additional Programs</b>	<b>Potomac Conservancy</b>
<b>Fishing Contest</b> Jack Cook H (703) 573-4403	<b>2014 State of the Nation's River Report: River Friendly Growth</b>
<b>The Buzz</b> Jamie Gold (C) (571) 213-4699 <a href="mailto:Buzz_Editor@prsc.org">Buzz_Editor@prsc.org</a>	<p><b>Available Now.</b> 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, <a href="http://www.potomac.org">www.potomac.org</a>.</p>
<b>Merchandise</b> Ernie Rojas H (703) 729-0128 <a href="mailto:Publicity@prsc.org">Publicity@prsc.org</a>	<b>Annual Gala at the House of Sweden</b>
<b>Past President</b> Steve Moore	<p><b>Thursday, April 30 - 6:30pm-8:30pm.</b> Potomac Conservancy will be holding their annual fund raising event at the House of Sweden. This spectacular venue in Georgetown provides outstanding views of the Nation's River as it winds its way past Teddy Roosevelt Island and the Kennedy Center. There will be special cocktails, fun food and a wonderful program. Please mark your calendars to join them for a truly special evening. For more information, visit their website at <a href="http://www.potomac.org/events">www.potomac.org/events</a>.</p>
<b>Publicity</b> Ernie Rojas H (703) 729-0128	

# Rapidan TU Fly Fishing Show

By Jamie Gold. Photos by Herschel Finch

On Saturday, February 14th (yes, Valentine's Day), the Rapidan Chapter of Trout Unlimited held their 27th Annual Fishing Show. This is their annual fundraiser for the Chapter's conservation projects, annual Youth Conservation and Fishing Camp, Trout in the Classroom, and the other wonderful programs they run. It was held at the Fauquier County Fair Grounds in Warrenton, VA.

PRSC again had a booth at the show. We've attended the show for the past several years and have always had a great time. And we've even gotten a few new members from people who have attended the show. Volunteering at the booth this year were: Steve Adams, Roger Brown, Steve Copps, Herschel Finch, Jamie Gold, and Steve Kimm. Also attending was fellow PRSC member Luke Frazza.

The show was a lot of fun again this year. Presentations were done by Walt Carey and Beau Beasely, both of whom have spoken to PRSC. It was great to run into them and other old friends such as Potomac Riverkeeper Jeff Kelble, fishing guide William Heresniak, and fly tier guru Chuck Kraft. Below are some pictures from the show.



# Fletcher's Cove Access

*Editor's Note: In October, 2014 an official with the National Park Service declared the walkway to the Fletcher's Cove boat dock unsafe for public use, effectively cutting off access to the Potomac River from publicly available row boats, canoes and kayaks. The walkway which once floated at the lowest tide, is now grounded and compromised by siltation. Below is an update on the situation from the National Capital Chapter of Trout Unlimited.*

## National Capital Chapter Trout Unlimited

### FLETCHER'S COVE ACCESS UPDATE

1-31-15

NCC-TU has been an active participant in a coalition of angling organizations working to save public access to the Potomac from the concession at Fletcher's Cove. Please read the important update below and get more information by clicking on the links provided.

**\*Work Begins on Dock**

**\*Enhanced Web Presence**

**\*Last Chance to Help Name the Coalition**

Maintenance personnel from the National Park Service arrived at Fletcher's Cove on Wednesday, January 27 to begin the much anticipated dock repairs. Heavy equipment was used to remove the condemned section and prepare the site. While we are currently unaware of details for the dock maintenance project, C&O Canal NHP Superintendent Kevin Brandt has reaffirmed his commitment to a March 1st completion.

Access to the dock at Fletcher's Cove was closed last October due to safety concerns. A coalition of Potomac River enthusiasts organized in December to raise awareness about the siltation problems at Fletcher's and petition the Park Service to keep the public river access open. The original [Awareness Statement](#) along with a list of supporters remains active. Participation in the petition to help build support for a long-term solution is still encouraged.

A dedicated website is being considered. For check out the re-web presence. up to chronicle actors to news articles ing [Fletcher's Cove](#) graphs of this appear in the album there will be frequent updates as the work



for the coalition effort is being now, we urge supporters to cent enhancements to our A [home page](#) has been set tivity to date and direct visi- as well as a fascinat- [photo album site](#). Photo- week's construction activity "2015 Dock Repairs," and

To prepare for the challenges ahead and explore possible fund raising strategies, our coalition needs a name! The names associated with our email address and web pages have been used on a trial basis and are among the choices offered on the [Vote for a Name page](#). Additional suggestions are welcome. The deadline for submission has been extended to February 7th.

If you have any suggestions, comments, old photographs or want to help out, please feel free to contact us at [Potomacaccess@gmail.com](mailto:Potomacaccess@gmail.com).

# Late Fall Striper Trip on the Bay

By Jamie Gold. Photos by Steve Adams

On November 16, 2014, I went fishing on the Chesapeake Bay with this month's speaker, Captain Dennis Fleming of Fishamajig Guide Service. I went with fellow PRSC member Steve Adams and his friend Gary. We have fished with Dennis before and knew we were going to be in for a great day...especially since the striper fishing the week before had been red hot.

We met Captain Fleming at Buzz's Marina very early in the morning. In what was a harbinger for the coming winter, it was very cold at the start of the day. Fortunately, Captain Flemming has a plastic screen on his boat that we can stand behind, out of the wind, while the boat is moving.

First stop was off of Point Lookout, where we came across probably 30 acres of working birds. It was a beautiful sight to behold...a kaleidoscope of birds diving into the water, with the water boiling with baitfish and stripers. We immediately started catching fish. However, the area was also crowded with lots of boats, so after a while we moved to other locations that Dennis likes to hit.

I can't tell you where we went, but we caught fish pretty much at every spot. The go-to baits were jigs and swimbaits. I believe the size limits at that time of year were 1 fish per person between 20" and 28" and one per person over 30". In any case...we caught our limit. As you can see in the pictures below, we once again had a great trip with Capt. Fleming. If you get the chance to fish with him....do it.



# Virginia Fly Fishing



Fly anglers from across the country will celebrate the 15<sup>th</sup> Annual Virginia Fly Fishing & Wine Festival on April 11-12, 2015. Held on the banks of the South River in Waynesboro, VA, the Virginia Fly Fishing & Wine Festival is the largest outdoor fly fishing event in the country that offers on-stream instruction. Only here can you learn all the latest techniques from the experts and then walk right over to the river and try them for yourself.

This year's festival sponsors include Temple Fork, Orvis, Harman's North Fork Cottages, *Eastern Fly Fishing*, Blue Ridge Oral and Maxillofacial Surgery, *Virginia Sportsman*, DuPont Community Credit Union, Mid-Valley Press, *Blue Ridge Outdoors*, Virginia Department of Game and Inland Fisheries, and Waynesboro Downtown Development Inc. New sponsors for this year include the Recreational Boating and Fishing Foundation ([RBFF](#)), Bethany Christian Services, Ruthless Fishing Outdoors and Trout Unlimited.

The highlight of the weekend is the Festival Foundation Dinner, at which the festival committee presents the 2015 Virginia Fly Angler of the Year Award. Tickets for the all-you-can-eat prime rib buffet are \$50 apiece and sell out well in advance of the festival.

The 2015 festival will feature noted fly anglers from across the Mid-Atlantic, including fly fishing icon Lefty Kreh. Other noted speakers and fly tyers include Ed Jaworowski, Bob Clouser, Beau Beasley, Pat Cohen, Dusty Wissmath, Walt Cary, Blane Chocklett, Captain Gary DuBiel, Linda Heller, Colby Trow, and Don Kirk, editor of *Southern Trout Magazine*. Kayak expert and author Cory Routh will also be on hand to demonstrate how to use this unique watercraft to access hard-to-reach waters.

# g and Wine Festival

Beginner bass bug fly-tying classes will be taught by fly-tying expert Pat Cohen. This is the class for beginners interested in learning how to tie bass bugs from the ground up. Master Certified Casting Instructor Dan Davala and author Bob Clouser return to teach their acclaimed beginner fly casting classes. Last year's classes sold out—don't delay reserving yourself a spot! If you've been casting for a while but need to gain distance or learn how to overcome windy conditions, then you need legendary casting instructor Ed Jaworowski's superior casting classes for intermediate to advanced level casters.

Between lectures, classes, and lunch, sample fine wines from a number of noted Virginia wineries (tastings included with festival admission). Attendees can wash down their wine with live riverside music.

Returning this year is the very popular Children's Catch-and-Release Trout Pool. Children will be able to fish for native brook trout before releasing their catch into the South River (with the help of their parents).

New this year are Family Fly Fishing Classes (3FC) sponsored by the Recreational Boating and Fishing Foundation. Parents and children will learn the basics of fly fishing and casting together, on a level all of them can understand. The whole family will also get the chance to try a little fly tying! All 3FC classes and materials will be provided at no cost to festival attendees.

Attention, Boy Scouts: You can earn your Fly Fishing Merit Badge at the festival through a program taught in cooperation with the Boy Scouts of America. This special class is free of charge to every uniformed Boy Scout. Space is limited, so reserve your spot today!

The festival is also pleased to announce Trout Unlimited as this year's exclusive Conservation Sponsor. "Fly fishermen know that good fishing requires healthy streams," according to Trout Unlimited Chief Marketing Officer Joel Johnson. "Connecting with this passionate angling community at the festival makes great sense for TU, because it's our mission to make fishing better by protecting and restoring our critical coldwater resources." TU, the country's premiere cold water conservation organization, will also be giving programs over the course of the festival educating the public about their 10 Special Places campaign.

Feeling lucky? Try your hand at winning over \$10,000 worth of raffle prizes including kayaks, high-end rod-and-reel outfits, artwork, and guided trips. This year's Grand Prize is a trout angler's delight. The lucky winner and one guest will be treated to a 3 night stay at the famed South Holston River Lodge, complete with 3 days of guided fishing. All meals and accommodations are included as well as guide and drift boat fishing on the South Holston and/or Watauga River based on water conditions. Fishing license and guide tip not included.

The Virginia Fly Fishing Festival is a one-of-a-kind event: Monies received from sponsors, vendors, ticket sales, and raffles are used to cover the cost of next year's festival with the remainder going to the Virginia Fly Fishing Festival Foundation, which promotes conservation and stream restoration projects. Daily admission to the festival is \$20 per person, and the festival runs from 9 AM-5 PM on Saturday and Sunday. For more information about the festival, visit: [www.vaflyfishingfestival.org](http://www.vaflyfishingfestival.org)

# Las Vegas Trip

Article and Photos by Jamie Gold

During the first week of February I went out to Las Vegas to attend a conference for work. The conference was scheduled to run from Tuesday afternoon until Thursday at noon. I decided to take a little vacation time to stay in Vegas on my own for the rest of Thursday through Sunday. I wanted to be warm and to try to do some fishing while I was out there.

Buzz readers may remember that I went to Vegas the same time last year for the same conference. On that trip I did some striper fishing on Lake Mead. While that was a lot of fun, I wanted something different this time. So I reached out to some people online to investigate the possibility of some fly fishing for trout out there. It turns out there are several ponds in and around Las Vegas that they stock with trout this time of year.

On Friday the 6th I swung by the local Bass Pro Shops in Vegas to get my fishing license. Then the first stop was Sunset Park, located close to the Strip. I spent a few hours there, but to no avail. However, I know fish were in there because the cormorants were having a field day gobbling up the fish. Next stop was a beautiful location called Lorenzi Park, which has recently been renovated. There I ran into some local fishermen. They had been catching a few...but I was again unsuccessful. After another few hours, I decided to pack it in for the day. However, I had no complaints, the temperature was 75 degrees, I was wearing shorts, and I fishing for trout.

I'm not a gambler, so on Saturday I decided to get out of town to do some hiking. Just outside of Las Vegas is a terrific park run by the Bureau of Land Management called Red Rock Canyon National Conservation Area. It consists of a visitor's center, a scenic drive through the area, and a series of hiking trails for hikers of all abilities. While the scenery is stark compared to what we have here (it is the Mojave Desert after all), it is still quite beautiful.

After spending the day there, I decided to drive back to Vegas. Luckily, I found a very good BBQ joint called Rollin Smoke. While it was in a shady part of town, where all good BBQ joints should be, it was worth making the effort to find it. The ribs and sides tasted as good as it looks in this picture.



# Conservation Corner

By Herschel Finch

So is everyone else as sick of the cold and snow as I am? I'm starting to suffer twitches and other tics now. If it keeps up like this I'm going full-on psychotic and jump up on desk, start flinging papers around my office and throw paper clips at the door when my coworkers pass by.

I'm trying to fill my need to get out and fish by going to every seminar and talk our Riverkeepers are giving. And thankfully Jeff apparently feels my pain because I'm 3 for 3 since December. Jeff spoke again recently at Samuel's Public Library in Front Royal on the subject of the state of our rivers and the activities undertaken by the Potomac/Shenandoah Riverkeeper Inc. to address the issues we have here. I issued a blanket invitation to the club, my Izaak Walton Chapter and anyone else I knew on Facebook to come and hear Jeff Kelble speak. We had several PRSC members join us, probably half of the local Izaak Walton League (mostly the board members and 'brain trust' type folks), Walt's Posse, Friends of the North Fork, etc. We had a really good crowd of probably 100 people or so.

The meeting followed Jeff's typical agenda: a nice PowerPoint presentation, then ease into a little audience participation with the question "What would you like a Riverkeeper to do?" (We've all heard that one, right?) then quickly devolving into a Q&A session. Which serves Jeff well, since that's the kind of forum where Jeff's personality really shines. But what I have always liked about Jeff is he doesn't shy away from the difficult subjects, nor hesitate to give the right, although maybe unpopular, answers to questions when they come up.

One gentleman, a riparian land owner as it turns out, owns the property immediately adjacent to the location of the new access point that's going to be installed this spring on the mainstem between Morgan's Ford Bridge and the Rte 50 Bridge. He was concerned, as all people are who own property in the immediate vicinity, about trash, vandalism, all-day parties...and his livestock, which includes horses. Jeff allayed his fears as much as he could using the example of the Deer Rapid bridge replacement/canoe access that was installed, which has been a stunning success in tamping down the trespassing, trash and parties that local residents were complaining about. I wished there had been members of the Warren Co. Sheriff's department and/or VDGIF there because they would have been a big help in this regard.

As it turns out, I happen to know the gentleman and was able to get him paired up with Skip Sims, owner of the easement under Simpson's Landing who could show him what they did at the landing that sits on the corner of his property and got him in contact with the County planning commission, and our Parks and Rec administrator to maybe help him understand what was going to be done, and what the results of that would be. I haven't heard from him in about two weeks now (we're also FB friends), so I'm hoping we got him to the right people and they've been able to help ease his fears.

The plan for the new landing includes a full-sized boat ramp, landscaping, parking improvements and a dusk-to-dawn street lamp. It may even include a lockable gate, to be closed in the event of high dangerous water, or as the sheriff's department sees fit. In any case, I'd like to get a list of folks who may be interested in helping out when they put in the landing by spreading some gravel, planting some bushes/tress and maybe even building a full board fence. Come see me at the next PRSC meeting and we'll start a list, and I'll let VDGIF and Warren Co. Parks and Rec know we're ready to give them a hand.

For those interested, a speaker from the Virginia League of Conservation Voters will be speaking at Samuel's Library on March 18<sup>th</sup> at 6:00pm. The subject of the talk will be Fracking. Hope to see you there.

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

This is my favorite (sort of) picture for February. This is from PRSC member Terry Cooney from this past weekend. Terry titled this "Cold, Hard Times for Smallmouth Kayak Angler" and it perfectly captures the cold, brutal winter we've had since the start of the new year. However, I'd like to point out that its been just as bad for us fellow canoe and pontoon boat anglers. Hope it gets warm soon.



# 2015 Contest Results

**February 2015 Report By Jack Cook**

So far there has been nothing reported in this year's contest. With the winter we've had, I can certainly understand this. I'm sure that by next month we'll have some reports.

I spoke to Randy Chandler and mentioned the William Shriver Award. Randy said, "I can't believe I let Bill Pearl win with just a two section total. Not only did he win, but he has been so obnoxious about it. It won't happen this year. I'm going to kick his a\_\_?"

I won't give his name, but one of our club members, who happens to be a lawyer, went deep sea fishing off of Ocean City. They got into a school of blues and were doing really well. All of a sudden, out of nowhere, a school of sharks attacked the blues. Our fellow member got very engrossed in the activity and leaned out to see what was going on, and fell over the stern. Everyone on board panicked. All of a sudden our member appeared with a shark under each arm. The sharks pushed our member back to the boat! Why did the sharks do that? Professional courtesy!

We're going to get warmer weather soon. Let's go fishing!

## 2015 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.