



The Buzz

www.prsc.org



Volume 28, Issue 3

March 25, 2015

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2015

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Matt Miles of Matt Miles Fly Fishing will speak to our March 25th meeting, during which he will discuss the rivers he guides in Central and Western Virginia. To understand Matt, all you have to know is his business slogan: *The Tug Is the Drug!* How can any fisherman disagree with that?

Matt grew up in Lynchburg, Virginia, and started fly fishing in 1993. In 1996, after graduating from high school, he moved to Colorado to live out his dream of becoming a fly fishing guide. While in Colorado, he met Pat Dorsey, an expert fly fishing guide for the Blue Quill Angler, author, and photographer.

Matt in 1997 started guiding with Pat at the Blue Quill Angler in Evergreen, Colorado, where he guided over 700 trips fishing exclusively for the various types of trout in Colorado. In 2003, Matt decided to return to Lynchburg to guide his home waters.

His passion is guiding, teaching, and being on the water. He also ties his own flies and is a fly designer for Umpqua Feather Merchants. Most of his flies with Umpqua are trout flies. But his favorite smallmouth flies are a black Sneaky Pete or a chartreuse Sneaky Pete for topwater. He uses various white baitfish patterns for streamers like the CK Baitfish, Murdich's Minnow, and Todd's Wiggle Minnow. He also likes Clawdads in brown or black and blue.

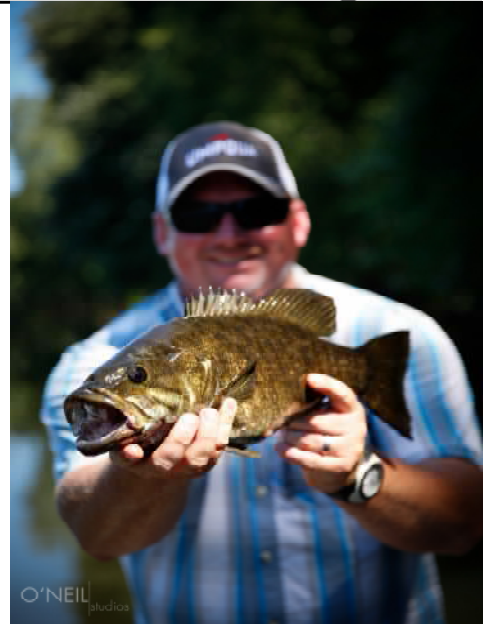
Matt offers guided trips to many public water destinations in Central and Western Virginia. The variety of water he guides allows him to put fishermen on the hottest action in Virginia.

Most of his guiding is done out of a Boulder Boat Works drift boat, but he also guides wade trips fishing for trout. Trips are run on the New, Jackson, Roanoke/Staunton, Maury, and James Rivers. Matt guides for trout, smallmouth bass, musky, and freshwater strippers.

Fly fishing is Matt's passion, and he is comfortable guiding all levels of fisherman, from beginner to expert level. Seeing his clients learn new techniques or experiencing catching a new species on a fly gratifies him and reconfirms his love for the sport.

For more information on Matt Miles' Fly Fishing, check out his Website at www.mattmilesflyfishing.com. Or you can contact him at 434-238-2720 or matt@mattmilesflyfishing.com.

Hope you can make the March meeting, which promises to reveal some secrets of rivers not many club members get to explore.



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Upcoming Items

Potomac River Smallmouth Club - February Meeting

Join Us Wednesday, April 29 for PRSC's next monthly meeting. We will be at our usual spot, the Vienna Firehouse. The speaker in April will be Joe Bruce. He spoke to PRSC before about fishing for snakeheads, but this time will share his approach to fishing for smallmouth in area rivers.

Picture Raffle - Smallmouth Bass Print

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.



15th Annual Virginia Fly Fishing and Wine Festival

Weekend of April 11 - 12, 2015. Waynesboro, VA. Fly anglers from across the country will celebrate the 15th Annual Virginia Fly Fishing & Wine Festival on April 11-12, 2015. Held on the banks of the South River in Waynesboro, 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. See p. 12 in this issue of *The Buzz*.

For more information visit their website at www.vaflyfishingfestival.org.

Potomac Riverkeeper

15th Anniversary Gala

Saturday, May 30 - 4:00pm-9:00pm. Potomac Boat Club of Washington, DC. Join them as they celebrate their 15th year of success. For more information, please see their website at www.potomacriverkeepernetwork.org/potomac-riverkeeper-network-events/.

Potomac Conservancy

Annual Gala at the House of Sweden

Thursday, April 30 - 6:30pm-8:30pm. 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 www.potomac.org/events.

In the image of PRSC ... A Fishing Club is Born

Article and photos by Quinn Lipetz and John Lipetz

On a crisp fall day in September of 2014, Quinn Lipetz met with his biology professor to ask for his sponsorship for a fishing club for students. Five months, a few roadblocks, and a lot of work later, the 1st meeting of the Marshall HS Kayak Fishing Club was held on February 19, 2015. There were eight students that attended the initial meeting and another seventeen that registered for membership, bringing the total to twenty five student members of the club. The attending members elected a board and started planning fishing, kayaking and conservation actions, such as river and stream clean ups. As President and Founder of the club, Quinn is already scheduling events and reaching out to conservation organizations.

Yesterday, March 21, 2015, the first full day of spring, the Marshall HS Kayak and Fishing Club had their first club trip – Fish and Explore provided the kayaks and gear.

We went to a private lake in Aldie, Va where we fished from kayaks for largemouth bass and black crappie. Six club members signed-up, but only two members and myself were able to go on the trip. It was sunny and stayed in the upper 50s all day. There was very little wind, which is unusual for this particular lake. The crappie were actively chasing small jigs, so, everyone caught fish. It was a great first trip for our club and we are already planning another one.



Virginia Fly Fishing



Fly anglers from across the country will celebrate the 15th 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 ([RBF](#)), 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

Spring is Coming, and so are the Shad

Article by Bob Forbes

Every year around the beginning of April, hickory shad (Hshad) and American shad (Ashad) arrive in our local rivers to spawn. These anadromous fish from the ocean are full of fight and provide a good early test of your bass fishing equipment. First come the Hshad, which range from 12" to 22" or more in size. These fish are great jumpers and much more numerous than the Ashad.

The Ashad come a bit later and stay longer, sometimes past mid-May. The all-tackle record for Ashad exceeds 11 pounds. Locally, in the Potomac, a 5 or 6 pounder is about as big as they come. These female (roe) shad are larger than the male (buck) shad and a big one will give an angler an unforgettable fight on light tackle.

Ashad can run far upstream when natural or man-made barriers are not present. Ashad have been found 375 miles upriver in the St. John's River in Florida. Great Falls limits their journey in the Potomac. Many shad return to the ocean to spawn again in northern rivers but tend to die after spawning in southern rivers.

So, where to fish for shad? Locally, the area around Fletcher's Boathouse and upstream to just above Chain Bridge is most popular. A D.C. license is required (\$13 yearly or \$6.50 for 14 days, non-resident, not necessary for 65 and older). You are not allowed to keep Ashad or Hshad in D.C. waters. One can fish from the bank or rent a rowboat at Fletcher's for about \$25 per day. Shad are found in many rivers along the Atlantic Coast and the Rappahannock and Susquehanna Rivers are also popular nearby spots.

Ashad were taken to the Sacramento River in the 1870's and are well-established on some Pacific Coast rivers. The Columbia River experiences a huge springtime shad run, estimated at 4 million fish. At present, there may be more Ashad on the West Coast than here on the East Coast.

Shad darts and spoons are commonly used to catch shad. Local stores such as Dick's and Bass Pro Shops usually carry these lures. Fletcher's Boathouse also has a good selection. On occasion, one may catch fish other than shad on darts or spoons. I have caught largemouth and smallmouth bass, white perch, herring, catfish, crappie and striped bass on such lures. One striper that I landed was 25" long. But sometimes, a really big striper or blue catfish grabs the shad or herring on your line and then it's bye-bye to that spool of line.

If you fish at Fletcher's, pay attention to the tide levels. The tide can vary up to 2.5' and significantly affect your catch. Approaching or descending from the high tide is best. Low tide means few fish and lots of snags.

For up-to-date information, go to www.Fletcherscove.com. Go to "fishing report" and then scroll down on right to "map". Open the map and a daily fishing report should display.

Give shad fishing a try if you've never done it—lots of fish and lots of fun!



Conservation Corner

By Herschel Finch

The King is dead (or promoted, sorta/kinda) Long live the King!! Or at least that's what I started to call this column this week.

If you haven't heard by now, you either live in a cave, or have been fishing somewhere so remote you didn't hear, we have a new Shenandoah Riverkeeper. A lot of us know him already.

Mark Frondorf is a former president of the PRSC and guide for Mark Kovach's Potomac River Guide service. Mark has also been guiding on the Shenandoah for quite some time as well. Mark has been a longtime supporter of Jeff's and there's been very few of Jeff's fund raisers or events that I haven't seen Mark front and center. You can read a full biography and the resume for him here: <http://www.potomacriverkeepernetwork.org/mark-frondorf>. I know we all wish Mark the best in his new role as Shenandoah Riverkeeper. He's got some mighty big waders to fill. But Mark's not the only thing that's new in the watershed. Jeff Kelble has also hired a new Potomac Riverkeeper, which will free up Jeff to concentrate on Public Relations, the legal issues and fundraising for the organization.

Our new Potomac Riverkeeper is Dean Naujoks <http://www.potomacriverkeepernetwork.org/dean-naujoks>

Dean hails from my home state North Carolina and brings 20 years of conservation and river keeping experience to bear on the issues that face the Potomac. I'm looking forward to meeting Dean and seeing what plans he has for the part of the Potomac we fish most often. At some point in the future, our new organization, potomacriverkeepernetwork.org, will be adding a fourth riverkeeper who will be keeping watch on the tidal section of the Potomac

These are indeed exciting and challenging times for our old friend Jeff Kelble. But I suspect he'll pull it off in fine fashion as he always has. This is a good time to remind everyone that if you have not joined Jeff's organization, now is a great time to do so. If you ARE a member, consider increasing your contribution to his work. I can't think of a better organization to contribute to that does more for us in helping to keep OUR drinking water clean.

More happy news out of our watershed:

Down in Rockingham County (central Shenandoah Valley) the Board of Supervisors and the Planning Commission got fed up with the companies that applied for fracking permits down there. The boards had asked for a FULL accounting of all chemicals that were going to be used in their process. Well, the drilling companies hemmed and hawed, the county put the permits on hold and they've been waiting for nearly 5 years to hear back from those drilling companies. With no information or reports coming out of those companies, the Board of Supervisors and Planning Commission down there have now *cancelled* those permits and they are officially dead. If they want to try again to obtain permits, they'll have to start from ground zero, and I suspect it will NOT be looked upon favorably.

And finally, there were numerous reports of dead fish in a number of locations along the feeder creeks, rivers and streams into the Potomac below Alexandria a couple of weeks ago. Numerous reports made in for Aquia Harbor, Mattawoman Creek, and other locations of dead largemouth and bluegill washing up along the banks. After checking into it, VDGIF and Maryland's DNR has determined that the sudden swings in water temperature, and a sudden 'ice-out' we've seen over the past month has stressed the fish badly and it's not relatable to a spill or the other issues we've seen in the past. Fortunately no reports that *I've* heard were from the Shenandoah or Upper Potomac.

Now...somebody better be planning an outing, and soon, or I'm gonna have to hurt somebody. I have two new rigs I need to loosen up and get wet!

PRSC
P.O. Box 1240
Vienna, VA 22183

This is my favorite (sort of) picture for February. This is from PRSC member and club Librarian Chip Comstock. He went out fishing on February 28 of this year. I hope he was fishing from shore! In any case, at the March meeting be sure to ask Chip how he did. Who knew that a librarian could be so wild and crazy?!?!?!



2015 Contest Results

March 2015 Report By Jack Cook

Nothing has been reported in the fishing contest so far. Believe me, I understand why. As soon as the water clears and goes down a little, it will be time to get out there. To report results, call me at 703-573-4403. Leave the results on the recording if you don't get me. I'm good about checking messages.

I heard that a couple of PRSC members tried ice fishing but by the time they cut away enough ice to get the boat in, they were too tired to fish!

Anyway, good fishing days are ahead!

One of our novice fisherman was out in his kayak and he saw another fisherman pull out a minnow and start reflecting sunlight on to the water. He asked the fisherman what he was doing. The man replied that he was reflecting sunlight on the water, and when the fish saw the light they would come up, and then you cast to the spot and catch the fish. Our novice fisherman asked if he had a minnow he would sell him. He did, and charged the novice fisherman \$20. As our novice pulled away, he asked, "Have you caught anything doing this?" The seller replied, "You are the seventh one today!"

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.