



The Buzz

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Joe Bruce on Smallmouth Fishing

Upcoming Items

PRSC Meetings
May 20, 2015 and
June 17, 2015

Picture Raffle
2015

Rock the River
June 6, 2015

Potomac River-keeper
May 2015

Potomac Conservancy
April 2015

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Joe Bruce last visited the Club in March 2014 when he spoke about snakehead fishing on the Potomac River. At this month's meeting, he will come ready to discuss another topic near and dear to his heart – smallmouth bass fishing. As those of you who attended last year's talk know, Joe is an engaging and informative speaker with decades of experience.

Joe will discuss his secrets regarding catching smallmouth bass with a fly rod and a spinning rod. Some of his favorite fishing spots close by include the Potomac and the Susquehanna Rivers. And he travels to Ontario every year for smallies and northerns. He caught his largest smallie, 6 and ¼ pounds, in Ontario. Like many Club members, Joe often uses a kayak as well as wades.

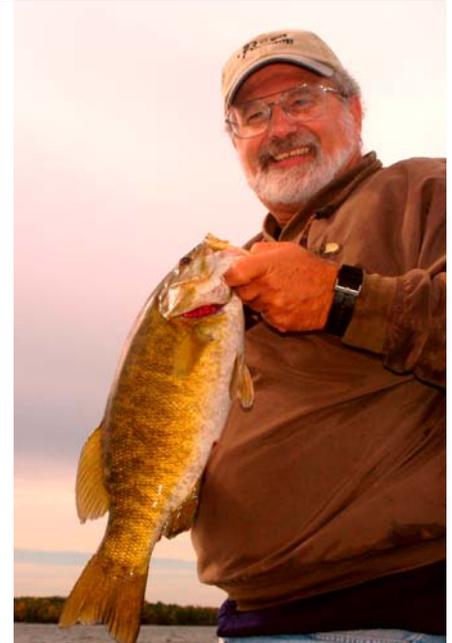
Joe is a writer, former tackle shop owner, and fly designer who started fly fishing some 50+ years ago, and soon after he started to tie his own flies. He developed a love of designing flies that has never left him.

A half century of fishing has given Joe a pretty good understanding of fish and their environment. He opened The Fisherman's Edge Fly Shop in 1989 and operated it for 15 years before he decided to retire and play more. Joe estimates that over the years he has helped thousands of folks to enjoy fly fishing.

In retirement, Joe became a freelance writer and has authored four books and numerous booklets on fly fishing and tying. Among other designs, Joe has developed some interesting adaptations of classic trout streamer patterns for bass fishing

Joe's book *Fly Fishing for Smallmouth Bass – Tips, Techniques & Fly Patterns* has been described as a book that will help you catch smallmouth bass. It was written for the beginning or the seasoned fly fisherman. Joe will teach you where to look, what to use, and how to approach the fish. You will learn to fish the top, the sub-surface, and the bottom, as well as learn to tie time-tested fly patterns that will entice smallies to bite. This 95-page book is full of photos, recipes, and instructions for tying a dozen or so fly patterns, including the Clauser Deep Minnow - Baby Bass.

This is one meeting you will not want to miss if you want to catch more smallies. As this article is being written, Joe is off bone-fishing on Andros Island, Bahamas. Maybe next time he'll share this story with us.



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Upcoming Items

Potomac River Smallmouth Club - May and June Meetings

Join Us Wednesday, May 20 for PRSC's next monthly meeting. Please note that our next two meetings will be held a week earlier than normal. Both are because of scheduling conflicts. In May we'll meet on Wednesday, May 20th at the Vienna Firehouse. And on Wednesday June 17th we'll be at Riverbend Park for our Annual Boat Night.

Picture Raffle - Smallmouth Bass Print

As a fund raiser, PRSC is raffling off a small-mouth 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.



Rock the River FXBG

Saturday June 6, 2015. Fredericksburg, VA. Rock the River FXBG is the first event of its kind for Fredericksburg, Virginia. The event combines activities from various communities who benefit from, are inspired by, and enjoy their time on the Rappahannock River. There is adventure with a multi-sport river and foot race, outdoor activities for grown-ups, kids, and their furry friends, a display of unique art and crafts, as well as the enjoyment of great craft beer, tasty food, and live music throughout the day. For more information visit their website at <http://rocktheriverfxbg.com/>.

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.

HELP FISH AND EXPLORE – AT THE FAMILY AND YOUTH CASTING CALL

Article by John Lipetz

What is the Family and Youth Casting Call? It is the biggest youth fishing event in the area, not an audition for the Disney Channel. Last year we worked with over 500 kids. Many of them caught the first fish of their lives. This is a great way to share your joy of fishing with the next generation of anglers. Get two new shirts, food, and have a fantastic time making a difference.

Volunteers will receive an authentic F&YCC t shirt & meals. This means coffee and breakfast and a nice lunch. If you need it, there will be on-the-job training on how to teach safe, ethical angling to youth. Please log on to www.familyandyouthcastingcall.com and register to volunteer again!

When you register: Remember to state that you are representing Fish and Explore and PRSC and you will receive a Fish and Explore shirt!

Date: May 16 from 9 am-4 pm.

Location: Fletchers Cove on the C & O Canal. For directions visit: [Fletchers Boat-house](#).

Event Description: FYCC is an annual event connecting youth to nature through angling and environmental education activities. Staff and volunteers from the District Department of the Environment, Fish and Explore, Coastal Conservation Association of MD, Orvis, Trout Unlimited, Potomac and Anacostia Riverkeepers, and DC Water will share information and educational activities that teach respect and conservation of our natural resources.

You can have a positive impact on the future of our sport. You will also receive the satisfaction for a job well done when you see the faces of the kids when they catch their first fish. It's priceless.

The Season is Upon Us

By Wallace Harvey

Hot diggity dog! Warmth is finally pushing out the cold from this past winter. Days are growing longer. The water is starting to warm up. I'm tired of my cabin fever. It is time to go fishing! As a member of this fine fishing club, I volunteered to be the Trip Coordinator for this year. I enjoy knowing when some of our finest members volunteer to lead a trip down one of our local rivers. This is what our club is all about, right? A fun day on the water catching those wily smallmouth makes my summer.

You may know a stretch of river that others do not know, or have been with another leader on a favorite run. Either way, are you ready to show others what you know? Think back when you first joined the PRSC. If you were like me, I had no idea where to go or what to do. It took a kind fellow fisherman to show me the ropes. I've been down sections of the North Fork of the Shenandoah, South Fork of the Shenandoah, James River, Potomac River, Rappahannock River, the Rapadan River, and the main stem of the Shenandoah all due to this club. That is the beauty of this organization. We don't limit ourselves to one place to fish. Each river has its challenges and fun.

If you know a unique place to fish on any of these rivers or any other river, we would appreciate your help in showing us new places to find the ever elusive smallmouth. We even like visiting the places we know to learn more about the river. All you need to do is ask us to join you for a day on the river. Every month at the meetings I will have sign up sheets. If you will fill out the top as to where and when you want to go, we will sign up. You will need to let us know where the put in, and the take out are located. We normally make Saturday trips, but there is no reason we can't have trips on other days of the week. It is a matter of who can join you. Another way to let everyone know of a trip, is to contact me. We will post it on our web site and on our Meet Up website. I can be contacted via email at wwharvey@comcast.net, or through the PRSC website. I'll even accept phone calls on my cell phone at: 540-878-0176.

To help you with your organization, attached is a Trip Leader Checklist. It appears to be a long list, but it is a great list for everyone to have for each trip. It reminds of the things we need to be safe on the water. The best news is that we watch out for each other. More than once, I have been the one who received help on the river. I have also tried to help others. That is what makes us safe. I look forward to seeing you on the river.

Wallace Harvey

Trip Coordinator

Potomac River Smallmouth Club

Trip Leader Checklist

1. Check weather conditions.
2. Check flow conditions.
3. Check list on Meet-up site and sign-up sheet to see who is going. Call everyone the night before to confirm they are coming if the trip is a go or to cancel due to weather or river conditions.
4. Check to see if everyone on trip is a member and has signed the waiver.
5. Have maps or charts for your route.
6. Make sure your clothing is suitable for the water and weather conditions.
7. Have sufficient safe drinking water for your trip.
8. Protect yourself from the sun with a hat, sunblock and UV blocking or polarized sun glasses.
9. Know the location of boat launches and access points along the trip.
10. Log a trip/float plan with a friend, spouse, parent or gaurdian and leave their contact information with us before your trip.
11. Have a basic first aid kit, basic tools and spare parts in the boat.
12. Have a cellular phone in a waterproof bag or container,
13. Ensure you have properly fitted personal floatation devices (life jackets) for everyone on board, and wear them!
14. Ensure all safety equipment is in working order.
15. Get proper training before you venture out.
16. Never float/paddle alone. A minimum of three boats is recommended. Maintain visual contact with all boats.
17. Also the use of two way radios on Trips is strongly recommended. The Trip Leader has one radio and other Co-leader carries another. One person stays at the end of the boats the other ahead. So we can keep track of everyone Visually and verbally.
18. At the end of trip make sure everyone is accounted for. (Use club trip sheet again)

PRSC On the Water

By: Jamie Gold

Members of PRSC have been busy this past month catching and photographing some awesome fish. Enjoy, and feel free to submit pictures of fish that you've caught for next month's Buzz.

Rappahannock River Smallmouth.



Steve Kimm. Photo by Jamie Gold.

40" Susquehanna River Musky.



Former PRSC Member Phil Maisel.

A Rappahannock River Smallmouth.



Caught and photographed by Herschel Finch.

Nice Jackson River Rainbow Trout.



Caught and photographed by Chip Comstock.

Potomac River Crappie - Fletcher's Cove



First Shad of the Season for Her.



Caught and Photographed by Marty Burkhard.

Maria Schaupp. Photo by Chris Schaupp.

And Her First Shad of the Season as Well.



Sarah Schaupp. Photo by Chris Schaupp.

Rappahannock River Shad.



Quinn Lipetz. Photo by John Lipetz.

Trout Caught at the Vienna Rodeo.



Quinn Lipetz. Photo by John Lipetz.

Another Nice Shad.



Rachel Lipetz. Photo by John Lipetz.

Chesapeake Bay Trip – March 27, 2015

Article and Photos by Ernie Rojas

For three years running, we have fished with Capt. Dennis on this date. For three years running, we have caught many fish on this same date. But today, it was over the top!



Jeff, Bob, Greg and I got to the boat at 1:15p as in the morning the Bay was not fishable. As it was, the weather was rough and rotten....cold, windy, and rainy. But the fish didn't care! And....we were all happy to be there and get some fishin' in!

Jeff hooked up immediately, but he had a big fish on, so Greg got to bring the 1st one in!

Bob was hooked up as well so pandemonium set in. Then I got slammed but I broke it off trying to horse it in....the big one got away from me....but not from Jeff! The rest

was a blur.....the rain stopped and all we did was catch fish!

This was a special day...one not to be forgotten. Many thanks to Capt. Dennis for working with us and I am hoping his striper hands heal soon.

The last couple of hours were a little slower and things calmed down so we called it a night at 7 and went on in.



Rappahannock River Trip

By Jamie Gold

A group of us got out on the Rappahanock River in mid-April this year. On the trip were Steve Kimm, John Lipetz, Quinn Lipetz, Herschel Finch, Pete Pfothenauer, and Jamie Gold. We did the float trip from the Pumping Station down to Mott's Landing - a 9+ mile trip that kept us on the water all day.

The weather was beautiful, warm with plenty of sunshine and blue bird colored skies. While that was great after this brutal winter, it also made for a very tough day of fishing. Those conditions were combined with falling river levels - uh oh. In fact, one of the members of the trip (Steve Kimm I believe) predicted while at the put-in that we would only catch a few fish, but those few would be some pretty big fish. He turned out to be correct. And as Herschel Finch described the day, "It was the day after a cold front went thru, bluebird skies, and slightly elevated water combined to give the smallies lockjaw, Outside of our 19 inchers, it was tough day for fishing...but a great day for getting together with good friends again.

We tried the usual Spring patterns - suspending jerk baits and jig-n-pigs, and some not so usual Spring patterns, like buzz baits. None turned out to be particularly productive.

But as Herschel mentioned, we did manage to land two very nice fish on the day. Herschel struck first with a beautiful 19" smallie. It was so big, that he could not fit it in this picture. His fish came on a white spinnerbait.

Towards the end of the trip I finally struck paydirt. Up to that point I had caught one fallfish, that was barely longer than the lure I caught it on. Getting desperate, I decided to emulate Herschel and tied on a white and chartreuse spinner bait. I cast towards the middle of the river into nothing looking water and started a slow retrieve. While cranking, I felt a very light pickup and set the hook on what I thought would be a small fish. But when she started to fight, I knew it was a pigbeast. While Steve Kimm scrambled to grab the net, I tried not to lose the fish in the excitement of fighting her. Eventually she



came to the boat, a 19" beauty that was the fattest I've ever caught. She was clearly a female loaded with eggs. While I've caught longer smallmouth, this was the heaviest I've caught, easily 4 or 4.5 lbs with the eggs. After a quick unhooking (I got her right in the lip) a few pictures, and back in the water she went....hopefully to populate the river with smallmouth.



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Sorry, folks, but this is my favorite picture for April. This is another shot of the 19" beast I caught on the Rappahannock River earlier this month. I caught her on a white and chartreuse spinnerbait slow rolled through the middle part of the river. While the bite was light, the fight was fierce. She's the longest fish I've caught in a few years, and the heaviest smallie ever for me.



2015 Contest Results

April 2015 Report By Jack Cook

Finally, I have something to report. Bill Pearl has a 17" smallie in Section III. Bill and I were out on April 15 and it was a beautiful day. The trees are starting to bud. Ducks and geese are paired up. We even had an eagle fly by. I'll bet you have guessed that if I'm talking about nature, how the fishing was. Actually, if Bill had boated every fish he hooked, he would have a five fish total. And I am no longer 0 for 2015. We were at River Bend Park and the water level had just gotten low enough for the park officials to allow us to launch a boat.

Remember, if you want to fish the Susquehanna you have only a few days to do so before they close it to bass fishing until June 15th.

On my way home the other day I was stopped by a cop. I said, "Officer, I was only running with traffic." He said, "I see you're a fisherman. When you went out today, did you expect to catch every fish in the river?"

Prespawn is always a tough time to fish. However, we are only days away from them going on the beds and then the fishing will improve. Get out there.

2015 Results

Section 1, Biggest Fish:

Section 1, Best 5 Fish:

Section 2, Biggest Fish:

Section 2, Best 5 Fish:

Section 3, Biggest Fish: Bill Pearl, 17"

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.