



The Buzz

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September 30, 2015

VDGIF's Brad Fink to Speak on Fisheries

Upcoming Items

PRSC Meeting
October 21, 2015

Picture Raffle
2015

Potomac River-keeper
Coal Ash Mines

Shenandoah Riverkeeper
Harvest Hoedown
October 17, 2015

In This Issue

UPCOMING P. 2

POTOMAC RIVER-KEEPER LETTER P. 3

RIVER ON FIRE P. 4

PRSC ON THE WATER P. 6

PRO TIPS P. 8

LETTER P. 9

CONSERVATION CORNER P. 10

FISHING CONTEST P. 11

Our September speaker will be Brad Fink, district fisheries biologist for the Virginia Department of Game and Inland Fisheries (VDGIF). Brad is a native of the Shenandoah Valley and received a Bachelor's degree from Virginia Tech and a Master's degree from James Madison University. He has 14 years of experience managing fisheries populations and fisheries habitat across the country, including fish population and habitat studies in Wyoming (Yellowstone and surrounding areas), Indiana (Northern Natural Lakes), Illinois (Shawnee National Forest), and Arkansas (Ozark Mountains).



Brad's current duties involve monitoring the fish populations in small impoundments and the Shenandoah River watershed in Rockingham, Page, Shenandoah, Frederick, Warren, and Clarke Counties in Virginia. During his presentation he will describe how the VDGIF conducts their annual fall sampling efforts on our smallmouth rivers and explain how they determine growth, spawning success, and recruitment, and use these efforts to predict the future of various fisheries. He has also recently been working on



fish mortality issues in the Shenandoah River system with former investigators, and can discuss current efforts to determine the causes of fish mortality events.

This will be a very informative presentation for all of us in the Club who have been watching the situation the past several years on the Main Stem and North and South Forks of the Shenandoah.

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Upcoming Items

Potomac River Smallmouth Club - October Meeting

Join Us Wednesday, October 21 for PRSC's next monthly meeting. We are meeting one week early to avoid the Halloween proceedings in downtown Vienna. Joining us will be Captain Steve Chaconas to discuss fishing for largemouth and snakeheads on the Lower Potomac. We will be at our usual location and time....the Vienna Firehouse at 7:30pm. Please join us for what should be a very interesting presentation.

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.



Potomac Riverkeeper

Riverkeeper Investigates Coal Ash Mines Dominion, one of Virginia's largest energy companies, owns and operates the Possum Point Power Plant, located just south of Alexandria on a peninsula between Quantico Creek and the Potomac River. Since filing Notice of Intent, Potomac Riverkeeper Network has been monitoring the facility for illegal discharges into Quantico Creek and taking water and sediment samples at the site perimeter, to test for unsafe levels of heavy metals. They have also joined state lawmakers in calling for testing of drinking water wells for nearby residents, to find out whether their drinking water has been affected by the coal ash leaks into groundwater. PRKN is using litigation and grassroots political outreach to push for a full cleanup of Possum Point's coal ash pollution, investigation of Dominion's handling of coal ash, and the excavation and removal of all coal ash at the site to a lined landfill away from the Potomac River. Their goal is to make sure these toxic coal ash ponds are no longer a threat to Quantico Creek, the Potomac and public drinking water supplies. For more information, please visit their website at <http://www.potomacriverkeepernetwork.org/possum-point>.

Shenandoah Riverkeeper

Second Annual Harvest Hoedown - Todd Ellis's Limestone Farm in Boyce, Virginia

Saturday, October 17 - 4:00pm-Twilight. Join them to celebrate their Second Annual Shenandoah Harvest Hoedown. This year's event will feature a farm-to-table dining experience, serving a family-style pig roast feast with delicious sides and local brews. They'll also have a live band as well as activities including corn hole games, a late night bonfire and their notorious hay bale throwing contest. For more information, visit their website at <http://www.potomacriverkeepernetwork.org/harvest-hoedown>.

Letter Writing Request from Potomac Riverkeeper

Herschel Finch

PRSC Members, Jeff Kelble has another crusade underway. We need to all copy this letter and affix our signatures to it and send it back to Sara (email enclosed). The Clean Water Act is under heavy assault in Congress and we need to make sure our Senators and Congress members know we support the act.

The Honorable Mark Warner
U.S. Senate
475 Russell Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Tim Kaine
U.S. Senate
231 Russell Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20510

October XX, 2015

Dear Senators Warner and Kaine:

We, the undersigned sportsmen and women of Virginia, write to express our strong support of the Administration's Clean Water Rule and urge you to support it in Congress. Collectively, we cannot enjoy our love of fishing and hunting in the Commonwealth without clean water.

According to the 2011 National Survey of Fishing, Hunting and Wildlife-Associated Recreation conducted by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service every five years, Virginia's 3.3 million sportsmen, women and wildlife enthusiasts spent approximately \$3 billion in 2011 on outdoor pursuits. The economic contributions from hunting, recreational fishing and wildlife watching have continued to grow over the past several decades.

On a larger scale, the outdoor recreation industry as a whole is a key economic driver for Virginia and the surrounding region. The Outdoor Industry Association's "Virginia Outdoor Recreation Economy State Report" finds that outdoor recreation generates \$13 billion in customer spending annually and provides \$923 million in state and local tax revenue to Virginia. Additionally, the industry supports 138,000 jobs and \$3.9 billion in wages and salaries in the Commonwealth alone.

All of these statistics are predicated on clean water. Thankfully, the new rule reduces confusion about the Clean Water Act by clarifying the types of waters covered under the Act. Knowing which waters are covered is a significant step towards ensuring clean water, healthy fish and wildlife populations, as well as sustainable ecosystems. The Clean Water Rule will protect headwater streams throughout the Blue Ridge Mountains and Shenandoah Valley, and waters that feed the Chesapeake Bay, which provide vital habitat for trout and waterfowl respectively. Moreover, the waters protected by the new rule are sources of clean water for downstream communities.

Most importantly, recent studies show that Virginia's sportsmen and women support this new application of the Clean Water Act. Eighty-two percent of survey participants expressed support of the rule, while a near majority of 49 percent indicated strong support. In fact, nearly all sportsmen say that water quality and fish and wildlife habitat issues are at least somewhat significant in their vote decisions (95 percent), but 37 percent regard them as "very important," meaning a "primary factor" in their vote decision. Ultimately, support for clean water is both broad-based and widespread among hunters and anglers in Virginia with 93 percent of Virginia hunters and anglers - and 89 percent of those nationally - say that the Clean Water Act has been good for the country, with majorities of every single demographic sub-group echoing this sentiment.

Clarifying these protections, especially after events like the dead zones discovered in the Chesapeake Bay last year, will bring about healthier ecosystems that will benefit fish and wildlife and allow the people of Virginia places to recreate and our outdoor economy to thrive.

We thank you for your continued leadership on natural resource issues, and we hope that you will stand up and support the new Clean Water Rule.

Sincerely,

Cc: Virginia House Delegation

River on Fire

By Herschel Finch

Well, maybe not literally, but definitely figuratively.

Steve Kimm and I made plans to fish the mainstem of the Shenandoah a couple of weekends ago come you-know-what or high water. Both of us were itching to get out there after we both had been off the river for WAY too long. We put out the call to get some folks from the club to go with us but no one seemed interested.

I was at a bit of loss trying to understand why everyone bailed on us. Saturday was supposed to be very nice weather-wise, not too hot, with two weeks of nights in the low 60s and high 50s, the water had cooled off into the 70s. And with a cold front scheduled to pass thru in less than twelve hours... We just KNEW the smallies between RT50 and Locke's Landing were going to have the feedbag on, and boy we were right.

We started right off catching Smallmouth in the slot that goes by the island at the start of the float. The water was so low I figured all the smallies would be chased out of there, but the 10 inchers were all



Steve Kimm with a very nice Shenandoah River smallmouth.



up in there hitting everything we threw at them. After we tried a few different baits we both settled down with Jack's worms and Senkos. If it was vaguely stick-like, they wanted it. Most of the fish were found near the banks in shade at the start of the float, and definitely close to current. As we moved on down the river they moved out closer to the ledges, hanging back away from the turbulent water close to the rocks and preferring to be in the clear flow after the ledge.

Herschel Finch gets in on the action with a very nice smallmouth of his own.

River on Fire cont'd

Early in the float Steve hooked up with a really nice 18+ inch bruiser who definitely gave us a hard time getting him into the net. About an hour later I got my best of the day with 17.5 incher. Both of these fish were healthy and very strong, although Steve's fish was either deformed or possibly had been injured early in it's life. It's head and mouth were somewhat lopsided. Steve would come up with two 16 inchers, and a couple of 14s to round out his day, I had a 16 and a couple of 14s. In between all these notable fish were numerous fish in the 8-13 inch bracket. We had one short period right around noon where the bite slowed down with the sun at it's highest driving fish under rocks and into cover. But as the sun started dropping about

2:00pm, it started up again and we caught fish all the way down to that last tall ledge and in the rocks just after. Once we cleared all those rocks it was starting to get late in the day and Steve dropped the old Minn-Kota and we motored out. We figured we needed to get moving because with just the 2 of us in Steve's 'barge' ...we had the dreaded double-shuttle to run. By the time we got back to my truck, it was dark and we decided to forgo the usual celebratory evening meal. All together Steve and I figured we both had somewhere in the neighborhood of 40 fish each by the end of the day.

One humorous note; sometime shortly after we started back on the river after eating lunch, we had a female mallard duck start following us. This duck would just not give up on us for some reason. I suspect she's had bread and other food tossed at her by folks in canoes and other boats and she tagged along with us for a good four miles as we made our way down river. She would lag behind on occasion, but always caught up in just a few minutes. When she was close, she was never further away than 15 feet or so. Finally, a small flock of four ducks flying upriver caught her attention, and she tossed us aside like an old shoe in favor of joining those of her own species.

Steve was crushed, but I reminded him that the religious differences between the two of them, and the fact that his complex doesn't allow pets, would just be too great to overcome...and it was just not meant to be.

All in all, this was the best day I've had on the river since early in the spring. And with great weather and great company....who could ask for more?



Steve's interestingly shaped smallmouth.

Herschel with another very nice smallmouth.



PRSC On the Water

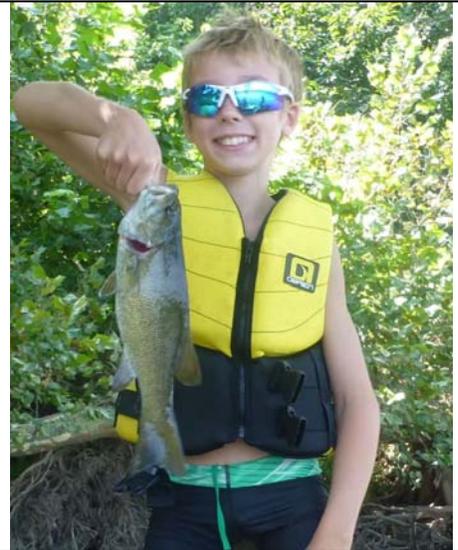
By: Jamie Gold

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.

21" Shenandoah Bronzeback.



Nice Smallmouth Bass.



Randy Chandler. Photo by Herschel Finch.

Max Schaupp. Photo by Chris Schaupp.

Nice Smallmouth.



Her First Smallmouth Bass.



Quinn Lipetz. Photo by John Lipetz.

Jenny Stolper. Photo by Chris Schaupp.

19.5" Shenandoah Smallmouth Bass.



Randy Chandler. Photo by Herschel Finch.

Another Great Shenandoah Smallmouth Bass.



Herschel Finch. Photo by Steve Kimm.

Nice River smallmouth.



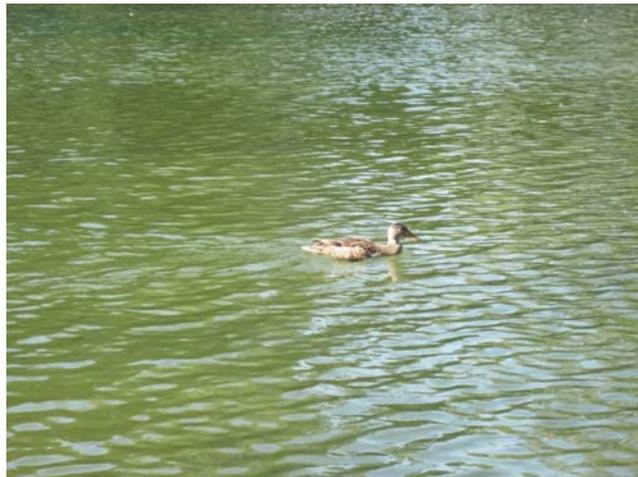
John Lipetz. Photo by Quinn Lipetz.

One More Smallmouth Bass for this New Angler.



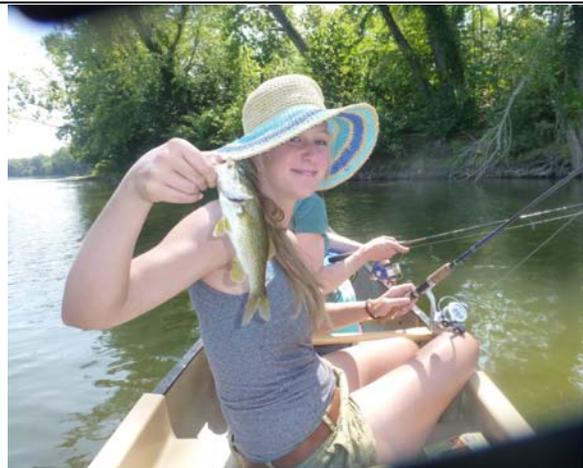
Jenny Stolper. Photo by Chris Schaupp.

Apparently She Took a Liking to Steve Kimm.



Amorous Duck. Photo by Herschel Finch.

Her Second Smallmouth Bass.



Jenny Stopler. Photo by Chris Schaupp.

Pro Tips

By Bill Amshey

Over the years since I joined the PRSC in 2000, I have been lucky enough to hear some great speakers share some of their secrets with the Club. Looking over my notes, it appears that Bruce Ingram was the first speaker I got to hear, and his comments then are pretty consistent with what he's said during presentations the past three Julys.

At the September 2000 meeting, we heard two speakers. First was our old friend Al Pugh, who unfortunately passed away several years ago. Al had the biggest smile in the world, and when he shook your hand, you knew he was your best friend. He was the only person who ever called me Hoss.

On this particular night he introduced the Club to the now-famous Gary Yamamoto Senkos. He showed us how to rig this new-fangled bait and how to fish it. I know there were many Doubting Thomases in the crowd that night, including me, but now the Senko has pride of place in most of our tackle boxes.

Thanks, Al!

The speaker that night was Brook Hoover, who at that time owned and operated Brooks Marine & Tackle in Chambersburg, Pennsylvania, not far from the Susquehanna. Just looking at Brook, you knew this guy could fish. That particular night, Brook shared his thoughts on winter fishing the Susky.

Brook stated that the past few years he had been using more hair jigs with light hair and no trailer. He said that he used a rod with light action, which would allow a good hook set, and he declared that pro jelly and paste are a must. Brook said that he would also fish a pig and jig, and shave the fat off the pig to ensure a good hook set.

In the winter, Brook first fishes the edges of eddies closest to shore. Next, he'd fish the current in the middle of the eddy.

Brook also said he uses tubes in the winter. He explained that the secret to catching fish in the winter is to fish real slow. He said that he typically fishes with one hand in his pocket as a way to keep it slow, as well as to keep his hands warm. He just twitches the rod to move the jig or tube the slightest bit possible.

His favorite winter colors are: avocado, June bug, smoke, blue smoke, and green.

Typically in winter, according to Brook, the best conditions are when the river is heavily stained. He'll fish until the river water temperature is 38 degrees. If you're out with that kind of temperature, you have to be extremely careful.

You Can Make A Difference

From Ernie Rojas

It's easy!! If you agree with the below letter, just email e-mail the Chesapeake Bay Foundation's Senior Naturalist, John Page Williams (jpwilliams@cbf.org) with the subject line:

Anglers for Clean Water.

Include your name and home town.

Thank you for your help!

September XX, 2015

Governor Terry McAuliffe Chairman, Executive Council Patrick Henry Building 1111 East Broad Street, 3rd Floor
Richmond, Virginia 23219

Dear Governor McAuliffe and Members of the Chesapeake Executive Council:

As you approach the 2017 mid-point assessment for the Chesapeake Clean Water Blueprint, we the following Bay anglers write to express our concerns about disappointing overall progress toward the Blueprint's pollution-reduction targets. Clean water and healthy fish habitat are what we live and breathe.

As members of the Chesapeake Executive Council, you have accepted responsibility for the progress--or lack of it--made toward the Blueprint goals. When the Council's members signed the new Bay Watershed Agreement in 2014, you reaffirmed your commitment to the Blueprint's water quality goals, including having programs and practices in place to achieve 60 percent of the nitrogen, phosphorus, and sediment reductions by 2017 and 100 percent in place by 2025.

We celebrate the success of some states in some sectors to reduce polluted runoff; however, at our current pace, Bay-wide efforts to reduce total nitrogen will miss the 2017 target by more than 50 percent. We can and must accelerate our efforts in order to achieve a truly healthy Chesapeake.

Only your leadership can get the Blueprint back on track. If not, this latest attempt to restore water quality throughout the watershed will be relegated by history to the already too-long list of missed deadlines and cleanup failures.

We applaud the magnificent conservation efforts that many farmers have made over the past thirty years, but more of the Chesapeake watershed's acreage is now in agricultural production (25 per cent) than any other land use. To reduce the impacts of intense food production, more farmers must participate in these clean water programs.

For the Chesapeake and its tributary creeks, streams, and rivers to regain true health, the region needs the Executive Council as a whole to exert its leadership. Thus we respectfully urge you, the Council's members, to take strong action in support of the Blueprint, including investing more federal resources, particularly through USDA, to help Pennsylvania accelerate reductions. We ask not only for ourselves but for our children and all that will follow us onto the great waters of the Chesapeake Bay ecosystem. We want them to know the joys that we have known through fishing in this National Treasure.

Tight lines,

[John Doe, Williamsburg, VA]

Conservation Corner

By Herschel Finch

As the title says...it's *that* time of year. The weather has taken a decidedly cooler shift, the weather-guessers on the local news are talking about cold fronts rolling through, and the trees are starting to get that slight yellow-ish color they get as we drift toward fall. I prefer not to think about them going dormant for the winter. Maybe they're just a little tired, and getting ready for a nap.

But as anyone who's a dedicated Smallmouth and Muskie chaser like me, they know the coming of cooler weather puts both fish on the move. Muskies are branching out, leaving those small pockets where spring-water influx kept the water a few degrees cooler, and Smallmouth are moving toward deeper water and putting the feed bag on for the coming winter. This has always been one of my two favorite times of year, the other being Spring of course.

But there's another reason this time of year should be important to those of us who kayak fish on our nation's waters, her rivers, streams, vast lakes and bays.

For those of us employed by companies that keep the same fiscal year as the federal government, open enrollment season is right around the corner. That time when we evaluate our tax withholdings, our insurance enrollments, how much we're socking away in the 401K...and for some of us, our gifts to our favorite charities that are skimmed off the top of our paychecks. If your employer offers this, it's really a great way to give. It comes out of your check every week and you never even know it's gone. For some of us, our employer kicks in a certain percentage as well to help you out. I've been helping to support the Shenandoah Riverkeeper this way for 10 years now.

That contribution goes straight to the Potomac Riverkeeper Network to help support and sustain the Riverkeepers in our watershed here in Virginia. Nobody does more to help maintain clean water in our rivers like the River, Bay, Lake and Shorekeepers of the Water-Keepers Alliance. They do it through education and information, patrolling the waterways, reviewing discharge permits, helping farmers with information about funding to help pay for, and in some cases completely pay for, fences that keep livestock out of the water and alternate cooling stations and feeding stations. It also allows them to hire young scientists and interns who can provide samples of fish, plant life, and other material to laboratories, like the USGS Fisheries Health Lab in Leetown West Virginia. Your membership in their foundations also helps give them standing in courts when legal action against the 'bad actors' becomes necessary to enforce permit requirements, and even against government agencies to force them to do the job they were created do.

So do yourself a favor and take a stand for clean water. When open enrollment rolls around at your company, consider joining your local waterkeeper's foundation and set up a deduction to help support clean water where you kayak and fish.

PRSC
P.O. Box 1240
Vienna, VA 22183

This is my favorite picture for September. PRSC member John Lipetz runs summer camps for kids called Fish and Explore. This terrific picture is of one of his campers proudly showing off a very nice smallmouth bass. That fish is almost as big as he is. Hopefully he will become a future angler and future member of PRSC. Congratulations.



2015 Contest Results

September 2015 Report By Jack Cook

As you look at the contest standings, it is obvious that we have one dominant fisherman – Randy Chandler. He is the current leader for both the “Grover Cleveland” and the “William Shriver” awards. When he called in his last report he said, “Tell Bill Pearl to put that in your pipe and smoke it!” Reporting this to Bill, he growled “The opera ain’t over ‘til the fat lady sings!”.

However, we still have no rookie reports. Remember, you are still in the rookie category if you joined the Club at the 2012 Member Night or later.

As I am writing this it is raining hard. Hopefully we’ll get a little more water in the rivers. September and October have always been good months for me.

One of our older members took his wife fishing recently and had a good outing. The next morning he was on this back porch cleaning his fish. His neighbor asked where he caught them. He thought for a moment and said, “What is that flower that grows on that bush with thorns?” “Roses,” his neighbor replied. Our member turned to his back door and yelled, “Rose, what’s the name of the lake we fished last night?”

2015 Results

Section 1, Biggest Fish:	Randy Chandler, 21.5”
Section 1, Best 5 Fish:	Randy Chandler, 86.5”
Section 2, Biggest Fish:	Randy Chandler, 20”
Section 2, Best 5 Fish:	Randy Chandler, 76”
Section 3, Biggest Fish:	Wayne Tate, 19.5”
Section 3, Best 5 Fish:	Bill Pearl, 87.5”
Largest on Fly:	Wayne Tate, 19.5”
Best 5 Fish on Fly:	Randy Chandler, 60”
New Member:	
Grover Cleveland Contest:	Wayne Tate, 19.5”
William Shriver Award:	Randy Chandler, 224”

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.