



The Buzz

www.prsc.org



Volume 29, Issue 2

February 24, 2016

PRSC's Ernie Rojas - Fishing From Havana to the Chesapeake

Upcoming Items

Potomac Stewards at the River Center

March 12, 2016

PRSC Meeting

March 30, 2016

VA Fly Fishing & Wine Festival

April 9-10, 2016

In This Issue

UPCOMING P. 2

BOOK REVIEW P. 3

PRSC SPEAKERS
SHARE FISHING
TIPS P. 4

BASSIN' AT NEABSCO
CREEK P. 6

RAPIDAN TROUT UN-
LIMITED SHOW P. 8

DOMINION COAL
ASH UPDATES P. 10

CONSERVATION
CORNER P. 12

FISHING CONTEST
P. 13

Long-time PRSC member Ernie Rojas was born in Havana, Cuba. Ernie came to the United States in 1960 when he was 9 years old. He became a US citizen and has been living in Northern Virginia since his arrival. He proudly served in the US Navy Reserve from 1972 to 1978.

His first memories of fishing are off a pier at the Havana Yacht Club. He doesn't remember what he caught his first time out. But later he fished out of a rowboat off Varadero Beach, a long isthmus that juts into the sea pointing at Florida, and caught some great snappers. He claims, "I had no clue what I was doing." But, like today, he was putting fish in the boat.



Ernie with a nice Chesapeake Bay striper

Ernie's grandfather, who he never got to meet, was a shark fisherman.

Talking with Ernie over the years, I have learned that he fishes just about everywhere and for just about everything. His talk at the February 24 meeting is titled *Ernie's 2015 Fishing Expeditions -- A Picture Story of a Year's Worth of Fishing*. Fishing trips he will talk about include outings on the Potomac River to the Chesapeake Bay and tributaries and to South Florida.

While Ernie started fishing at a young age, and it was always enjoyable, it wasn't until he started fishing with his friend Carl in 1984 that he became a passionate fisherman and fishing became a lifestyle. Carl made fishing an "excursion." Everything about it was to be enjoyed. Riding in the car, getting breakfast, being skunked, or catching tons of fish. Everything was a memorable event, and today Ernie follows the same philosophy. Carl passed away five years ago, and in memory of his good friend, Ernie tries to instill his passion for fishing in others.

Ernie says that he is probably happiest when fishing for white perch, which he calls "the Carl influence." Catching a 12-incher is a "monster." He says that the largest fish he has ever caught were a mid-40s tarpon and striper as well as a 50+" wahoo. He explains that he doesn't measure and weigh fish much anymore, except white perch, where 1/4" makes a big difference.

Ernie caught his first fish with a hand line and a bait-less hook when he was 6 or 7 years old. Now he uses St. Croix and Loomis rods, Shimano spinning reels and Abu Garcia Revo baitcasting reels with artificial bait, and likes to throw the long rod as well. There are not too many species that he won't chase. He says that his favorite lures are soft plastics, jigs, and top-water plastics. He adds that most are interchangeable in concept.

So don't miss our February 24 meeting, as it will be a very special night with Ernie.

| Club Executive Board | <h1>Upcoming Items</h1> | |
|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|--|
| President Steve Kimm president@prsc.org | | |
| Vice-President Craig Bishop vp@prsc.org | | |
| Secretary Dave Lockard (H) (301) 656-1964 secretary@prsc.org | <p>Join Us Wednesday, March 30th for our monthly meeting. C.T. Campbell will speak on fishing in Page County in the Shenandoah Valley. 7:30-9:00 PM at the McLean Community Center, 1234 Ingleside Ave., McLean, VA—Stedman Room.</p> | |
| Treasurer Jamie Gold C (571) 213-4699 treasure@prsc.org | | |
| Trip Coordinator Kris Andersen trip_coordinator@prsc.org | | |
| Program Chair Bill Amshey Programs@prsc.org | <p>Potomac Riverkeeper</p> <p>Potomac Stewards at the River Center. Saturday, March 12, 2016, 10:00 am to 1:00 pm. The River Center at Lock 8, 7906 Riverside Drive Cabin John, MD 20818. Believe it or not, spring is just around the corner, and that means more time on the river! Join Potomac Conservancy at the River Center at Lock 8 along the C&O Canal as they celebrate Spring in one of the most popular National Parks in the country! They will be working to keep the Potomac free of litter and maintaining trails so this national treasure can remain a great place to bike, hike, paddle, and fish. For more information and to register, visit:</p> <p>http://www.eventbrite.com/e/potomac-stewards-at-the-river-center-tickets-20703263017</p> | |
| Conservation Chair Herschel Finch (H) (540) 635-7636 Conservation@prsc.org | | |
| Librarian Herman Yam Librarian@prsc.org | | |
| Additional Programs | | |
| Fishing Contest Jack Cook H (703) 573-4403 | | |
| The Buzz Rick Mrstik (C) (703) 380-7992 Buzz_Editor@prsc.org | | |
| Merchandise John Lipetz Merchandise@prsc.org | <p>The festival — the largest event of its kind in the country, drawing fly anglers from as far away as New York and Georgia — appeals to anglers of all ages and stages.</p> <p>Festival attendees listen to lectures from various experts and practice hands-on skills at the two-day, family-friendly event. Several wineries from throughout the Old Dominion provide free wine tastings for those 21 and older.</p> | |
| Past President Steve Moore | | |
| Publicity Ernie Rojas H (703) 729-0128 Publicity@prsc.org | <p>New this year is an expanded kayak demonstration area sponsored by Wild River Outfitters of Virginia Beach.</p> <p>Those who have enjoyed the outdoor festival environment for years can rest easy: Although the new facility will enable all vendors to be under roof, the events center is surrounded by extensive grounds suitable for outdoor classes and wine tastings.</p> <p>For more information go to: http://www.vafllyfishingfestival.com/</p> | |

“Fish, Frogs, and Fireflies – Growing Up With Nature”

A book by Robert U. Montgomery reviewed by Bill Amshey

Last October when he spoke, Potomac River fishing guide Steve Chaconas mentioned the latest book by Robert U. Montgomery, who I thought had spoken to the Club in the past, but that was King Montgomery. Robert is a retired high school English and journalism teacher who has covered fishing conservation issues for some 30 years. His articles have appeared in *Southern Outdoors* magazine, *Bassmaster* magazine, and *B.A.S.S. Times*, among other publications.



Unfortunately he has retired and settled in his home state of Missouri, so we won't be getting him to speak to the Club. So I took Steve's suggestion and read Robert's book, “Fish, Frogs, and Fireflies – Growing Up With Nature.”

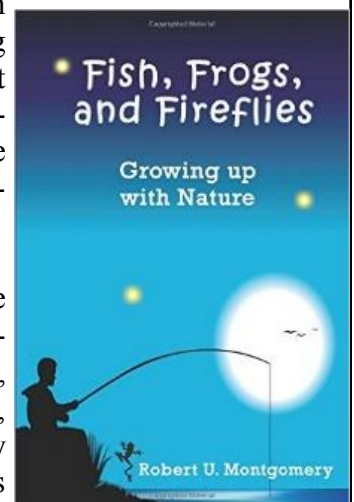
The book comprises a series of short stories by Robert and 13 of his friends who “care about nature.” Robert explains, “I hope these tales will inspire you to watch a summer storm, take a hike, enjoy a sunset, study a bug or swim with the fishes. And don't forget to take a friend along.”

Robert's stories and those of his friends many times took me back to my youth. For example, in the chapter “Fish, Frogs, and Fireflies,” Robert wrote about catching fireflies in big jars and keeping them in his bedroom overnight. My brothers, Pete and Tom, and I used to do that. I can't remember my kids ever catching fireflies. I don't really see many anymore around my home in Northern Virginia.

The Chapter “Nature's Best” reminded me of my best friend Ricky Reynolds when we were in 5th and 6th grades. We were always exploring the woods and catching box turtles and other critters. In the chapter titled “Free,” Teeg Stouffer writes about fishing with his Father, which brought back memories of fishing with my Grandfather, Father, and Uncle Eddy on a lake in Massachusetts when I was a kid. Those were special times with special men sharing their love of the great outdoors and fishing with me.

Our friend Steve Chaconas wrote the chapter “The Fishing Triangle,” in which he writes about teaching children and those new to fishing how to fish. This is a wonderful chapter that brings back memories of teaching my own children – Eric, Becki, and Greg – how to fish. Steve closes by saying: “Some refer to fishing as a hobby, or an addiction. I prefer to think of it as a lesson in life. It allows us to spend quality time in a quality environment, forgetting everything except the rod in hand. It allows us to focus on something that, in the big picture, isn't that important. As far as being an addiction? It's only an addiction if you're trying to quit.”

Bob, Teeg, Steve, and all the other authors: Thanks for the memories! I'm glad I put this book on my Christmas list, and I thank my Daughter for buying it and getting after me to put away my history books to read it.



PRSC Speakers Share Fishing Tips

By Bill Amshey

Our speaker at the May 2002 PRSC meeting was Brian Bodine of the Razorback Guide Service, which specializes in fishing between the Rockfish and Hardware River tributaries of the James River. Brian has been fishing the James for some 20 years and guiding for more than a decade. His stretch of river produces citation smallies in the 5-pound range. He fishes the river year-round out of a customized jetboat that has a steel reinforced hull that is tunneled out, allowing it to run in 4 inches of water. Brian uses the Howardsville boat ramp above Scottsville, which is about 12.5 river miles downriver. He also does the Warren to Scottsville run. Brian explained that when the bite is on, you can catch 50 or more fish. He said that the James has lots of downed trees and rock structure, ensuring great smallie fishing.



His favorite lures are flukes, spinnerbaits, shallow-running crank baits like the Minus 1, grubs, and watermelon/pepper-colored Mad Toms. For the fly fishermen, he recommended streamers and poppers.

In closing, Brian said that his favorite topwater lure is Smithwick's Devil's Horse. He commented: "In Heaven, all fish will hit topwaters." Brian can be reached at: *Razorback Guide Service*, PO Box 449, Scottsville, VA 24590-0449; (434) 960-5549 (Office); www.razorbackguideservice.com.

My most vivid memory of that evening was watching Bill Pearl drool all over Brian's jetboat, which I have to admit was very impressive.

We had a special treat at our September 2002 meeting with Potomac and Susquehanna Rivers legend Ken Penrod, who started off by quoting long-time Yankee catcher Yogi Berra: "Half the game is 90-percent mental." I agree.

Ken operates *Ken Penrod's Life Outdoors Unlimited*, which has been in the guiding business for about 25 years. His is one of the country's largest and most respected fresh and brackish water guide services. His staff guides across Maryland, Delaware, the District of Columbia, Virginia, and Pennsylvania.

Ken said that he uses Gator rods with Shimano reels and 8- to 10-pound Excel line from Bass Pro Shops. A trick Ken shared is that he likes to wrap his grips with rod wrap, which he feels makes his grip more comfortable. A couple things that Ken said he always has in his boat are a radio, so he can check the weather; binoculars, to watch for birds and to see what other fishermen are using; and a hand-held GPS, to mark hot spots, structure, and hazards.



PRSC Speakers Share Fishing Tips Continued

Commenting on his favorite lures, Ken said he uses:

- Charlie Case hellgrammites with light hooks.
- Senkos and 4-and-½-inch Case Magic Sticks.
- Only plastics that are salt-impregnated.
- 2/0 Gamakatsu hooks with Senkos and Magic Sticks rigged Texas style.
- Case Salty Sinking Shads with a 1/0 nose hook or a 2/0 through the back.
- Mismo tubes in green pumpkin are his favorite. Ken caught the big bass above on a tube.
- Buzzbaits in low-light conditions.
- Little “O” in blue for topwater.
- Speed Traps by Luhr Jensen (see below) and Little One by Bomber in crawfish patterns; he said he uses crankbaits to hit the bottom to attract fish.



Ken spoke at length about fishing with tubes, explaining that you need to fish them slowly and work them like a crawfish. When fishing a tube, he holds his rod at 10 o'clock and slowly moves the tube along the bottom. He said that when you feel a “tick,” drop the tube, set the hook as the fish is swimming with it, and then quickly set the hook a second time. Never leave slack line on the water, as you will lose a lot of tubes. He uses an 1/8th ounce jig head on his tubes.

He explained that in the winter, you want to fish out of the current, but in the summer, to fish the current. He commented that in the winter we stay out of the wind, but like it in the summer. He said that if you are fishing rising water, fish the shoreline, as that will be where the fish are. But in low water, fish the middle of the river.

Giving advice on how best to find and fight a big fish, Ken said that every time you cast, you should have a “target.” He said that you need to check your line every 5 to 6 casts and to re-tie the knot if it gets nicked. He explained that it is very important to check your drag and never reel against the drag, as that will cause serious line twist. He added that you should never put a bow in your rod until you have thumbed the fish.

During his presentation, Ken passed out a long list of fishing tips that I still consult. It would not be fair to Ken to give all of them, but here are a few:

- When fish are dark-colored, fish bottom cover with bottom-bumping baits.
- Only small, stupid bass try to eat dragon flies.
- Your first cast to any hole is critical. Be precise. Over-casting is best.
- “Wimpy” rods are better tomato stakes than fishing rods.

I found this the most instructive night in the many years I have been attending PRSC meetings. Ken can be reached at 240-447-2206 (cell, best way to reach), 301-937-0010 (office, answering machine), or kenpenrod@comcast.com.

Bassin' at Neabsco Creek

By Jed Woodill

A very pleasant late February Saturday greeted a pre-planned outing to Neabsco Creek in pursuit of those other bass that some like to catch. Rick Mrstik and yours truly (Jed Woodill) launched the Bos-Mon at Leesylvania State Park and cruised into the creek right away heading for the outfall. A brief grounding on the way in didn't deter us. We worked our way back into the channel and made sure we didn't stray out of it again.

Rick quickly put the skunk out of the boat with a feisty largemouth that set the tone for the day by chomping down on Rick's newly acquired secret weapon and then fighting well above his weight.

I then landed what stood as the largest fish of the day for quite a while using a favorite bait of mine - Green Pumpkin Brushhog dipped in "Dip-It." It was also my last one for the day while I tried out some new baits on a new rod and reel.

This spot has much to recommend it, including a very large goldfish that I could not entice to bite the many lures I threw its way. We could see him swimming all around the place doing whatever gold fish do once they are out of the bowl.



Two kayakers eventually arrived on scene - no doubt dismayed that we were already in the slot. They had to have launched from somewhere upstream - probably off Blackstone Road - but they never got close enough for me to ask them.

Rick landed his second fish on his new bait, then it slowed down for a while and he switched to a green Senko.

Bassin' at Neabsco Creek Continued

That lured in his third before another lull set in.

We had planned to leave by 1530 no matter what but around 1330 we decided to make one more cast each then head for another spot. Sure enough, the biggest Largemouth of that day chose that moment to acquaint himself with my boat and chose Rick's well-presented new plastic as the means to get there.

So we stuck around another 20 minutes then headed out to fish some docks. That was when the sun came out. Under full daylight we could see just how murky the water was and after another 30 minutes of trying to drop a lure right in front of any lurking bass we made good on our original plan.

We weren't the only ones out enjoying the mild weather. We saw a personal watercraft out on the Potomac and a sailboat as well as a large crowd fishing from the Leesylvania Pier.

This marked the fourth time I have had the Bos-Mon out this year. So far I and my fishing buddies have put 22 Largemouth in the boat and have had a few long distance releases. A great start to what should be a good year of fishing.



Rapidan Trout Unlimited Show

By Herschel Finch

As is our tradition, the PRSC had our presence known at the annual Rapidan Trout Unlimited Chapter's Fly-Fishing Show at the Fauquier County Fairgrounds outside Warrenton. This is the best little Fly Show in the entire region as far as I'm concerned. Lots to see, do, and hear at this show. Lots of vendors and exhibitors, almost every one of them a friend of the club and several past speakers are usually there as well.

Jamie Gold, Steve Kimm and Ernie Rojas were also there to help man the booth and schmooze with potential new members. This year we had a number of really good prospects drop by the booth. And we also had an entire family, with two fly-tying sons express interest in the club and they took membership forms for all four of them. The boys really tie some nice flies as well. I bought two wooly buggers myself. It would be my only show purchase besides lunch. I sampled both the chili and the pulled pork Barbeque that was offered and both were excellent!



Mark Fordorf, our new Shenandoah Riverkeeper, was there as well, winning friends and influencing (hopefully) people alongside a representative from VA Game and Inland Fisheries. Casting for the Cure, an organization that helps women who have had breast cancer surgery recover from that surgery, was also there. It turns out that the motion of fly casting is an excellent exercise to do that. Mossy Creek Fly Fishing from Harrisonburg was there with what looked like the entire store. It's always very tempting and I struggle every year to keep my wallet in my pocket when I see their offerings.

Rapidan Trout Unlimited Show Continued

“Grizz” was there selling his photographic prints and had a few tubs of miscellaneous fly fishing items that he apparently gleaned for the closing of Urban Angler in Alexandria. Grizz is an awesome photographer and his prints seemed to be selling well. But the most striking thing was that Grizz was without his long, salt and pepper locks!! The answer to the question, “Dude, what happened to the most awesome head of hair in the fly fishing world?!?!?” Is: “Man, I’m looking for a JOB!!” We suspected an impostor had taken Grizz’s identity so we had him arrested by a retired federal law enforcement friend of his.

I also got the opportunity to give my old Master Chief of the Command, Walt Cary, a little something I had made for him. Back when the Navy sold the *USS Forrestal* for scrap, the company that bought it offered up 2 x 2.5 squares of ¼” plate from the ship for those of us in the Forrestal Association if we wanted them. They etched and numbered each piece and it had a certificate of authenticity included with it. I bought two (for only \$40, it barely covered their cost) because I knew Walt wouldn’t see the offer on Facebook. I had shadow boxes made up for both of us. Mine is only different in that it has a vintage



Zippo cigarette lighter with the ship’s logo on it. I lost my last one years ago and no longer smoke. But the lighters, especially the vintage ones, are out there for a price. My son sought out and purchased the old lighter on eBay, ensuring that the serial number confirmed it was from my era of service.

I didn’t want to embarrass Walt by making a big deal out of it. But as it turned out, I got to give it to him in front of some old friends of his, some mutual fishing friends that used to hang out in his shop when he lived closer to us, and his sister Polly and his daughter April. It was a good day.

After the show, Jamie, Steve, and I drove north to a Barbecue truck Ernie recommended that was on the side of the road on Route 29 in New Baltimore. That also turned out to be a stellar idea for all three of us! Nice find Ernie! The bad part is that trailer (Smokin’ Billy’s) is not that far from Gainesville . . . where I work. I can feel my cholesterol climbing already!

So this was a particularly fine show this year. You folks need to join us next year, fun gathering, lots of stuff to part you from your money, good people and good food. It doesn’t get any better!

Court Fight Looms Over Dominion Plan

Dominion Power's controversial plan to treat and flush millions of gallons of coal ash water from the Possum Point power plant into Quantico Creek is heading to court. The Southern Environmental Law Center announced Monday it will appeal a permit modification that allows Dominion to continue cleaning up five coal ash ponds at the Dumfries-area power plant by treating and releasing an estimated 200 million gallons of coal-ash contaminated water into the creek.

The center and its client, the Potomac Riverkeeper Network, say the permit sets too lax limits and fails to require Dominion to use water-treatment technologies to more thoroughly remove toxins from the water. "The permit allows Dominion to pollute Quantico Creek and Potomac River with arsenic, a cancer-causing chemical, at levels up to three times higher than the state's own safety threshold to protect aquatic life and 30 times higher than comparable water permits in neighboring North Carolina," the center said in a statement announcing the appeal Monday.

Potomac Riverkeeper Dean Naujoks has been a vocal critic of the Dominion permit modification, which was approved by the Virginia State Water Control Board last month. He said his organization has no choice but to appeal "this very bad decision" on behalf of those who live near or rely on the Quantico Creek and Potomac River for boating, fishing and recreation. "The Commonwealth of Virginia has given Dominion a free pass to dump hundreds of millions of gallons of contaminated wastewater from its coal ash ponds and threaten the health of our nation's river and those who rely upon it," Naujoks said.

The announcement comes just a week before the Prince William County Board of Supervisors is scheduled to discuss taking its own legal action against Dominion's plans, possibly by filing an injunction to keep the clean-up from progressing. The county board is scheduled to discuss Dominion's coal-ash permit on Tuesday, February 9.

The Southern Environmental Law Center appeal pits the Potomac Riverkeepers against Democratic Gov. Terry McAuliffe and his administration. Attorney General Mark Herring (D) will have to defend the permit in court. Herring's office did not immediately respond to a request for comment Monday afternoon.

In response to the lawsuit, Dominion spokeswoman Le-Ha Anderson issued a statement saying the permit is "appropriate, properly issued and consistent with federal and state regulations. As part of the process to close coal ash ponds, water will be filtered, treated, monitored and discharged in a controlled manner into nearby waterways," the statement said. "This process meets the very stringent limits imposed by the Virginia Department of Environmental Quality and ensures the safety and health of the public and aquatic life."

Coal ash is the byproduct of burning coal, which Dominion did at the Possum Point plant from its construction in 1948 to 2003, when it switched to burning natural gas. As was routine at other coal-burning power plants across the nation, Dominion stored its coal ash in holding ponds that covered with toxic ash with water with the intent of keeping it from contaminating nearby properties or waterways. But that storage method proved risky in recent years when coal ash ponds in Tennessee and North Carolina gave way to the water's pressure, resulting in massive coal ash spills into adjacent rivers.

Maryland Challenges Virginia Coal Ash Permit

The state of Maryland has filed an appeal with the Commonwealth of Virginia calling for an official review of a recent Virginia Department of Environmental Quality decision to approve a coal ash water discharge permit for Dominion Virginia Power. That permit would authorize the release of potentially toxic pollutants into Quantico Creek and the Potomac River. The appeal will go before the Circuit Court for the City of Richmond.

The Maryland Departments of the Environment and Natural Resources informed Virginia of the appeal in a letter from Environment Secretary Ben Grumbles to Virginia Executive Secretary of the State Water Control Board and Director of the Virginia Department of Environmental Quality David Paylor.

“We look forward to working with Virginia on additional safeguards and monitoring protocols for the river. The Commonwealth has followed basic requirements and worked hard to include measures that will help but Maryland believes more can be done, particularly if our two states work together,” Secretary Grumbles said.

“Maryland’s Department of the Environment and Department of Natural Resources are focusing on metals in the ash, water quality monitoring in the river, where freshwater and saltwater are mixing, and additional measures for the closure of the ash ponds, including the types of protective liners and ground water monitoring wells,” added Secretary Grumbles.

Maryland called for the review to ensure that the discharge of pollutants from the Dominion Virginia Power plant, located at Possum Point, along Quantico Creek, does not adversely impact the sensitive ecosystem of the Potomac River watershed.

In January 2016, the Maryland Department of Natural Resources outlined its potential concerns with the Dominion permit in an eight-page letter detailing several serious points on the potential negative impact to human health and aquatic life, including the vast array of diverse fish species that live or pass through the river basin and the Chesapeake Bay.

“Any time we are releasing potentially toxic substances into the watershed, we need to ensure that we are doing our utmost to protect the ecosystem, the environment and – most importantly – human health, especially in the Chesapeake Bay watershed,” Natural Resources Secretary Mark Belton said. “We are confident that additional efforts by our two states working together will benefit the river and reduce any risks to the people, fish and wildlife that depend on its health.”

Maryland’s Office of the Attorney General provides the legal counsel and support to the Environmental and Natural Resources departments.

“Being good stewards of the Potomac watershed means taking extreme caution so that that untreated or improperly treated coal ash does not foul waterways,” Attorney General Brian Frosh said. “Any plan to dump waste in or near the river needs heightened scrutiny and rigorous analysis, and that is what this legal step is ensuring.”

Conservation Corner

By Herschel Finch

So I suspect everyone has heard about the issues with Old Dominion Power Plant and their coal ash ponds and the oil spill that was traced back to an OD transformer repair yard. The humorous part on that particular issue was Old Dominion Power initially denied it was their spill. That was at 3 p.m. on an afternoon last week. By 6 p.m. they had to do a mea culpa, song-and-dance press conference when investigators found that the chemical makeup of the oil matched samples that had been taken at their repair yard. Oops.

And of course, we all know about the uproar over DP's desire to de-water their coal ash ponds directly into the Occoquan River so they can move the coal ash while they install permanent clay liners. The permits went sailing thru DEQ offices with nary a blink of an eye. And then it turns out they had already dumped 33 million gallons prior to the permitting revision they had applied for, with absolutely NO public notice. And again it seems, with the full knowledge of the VA DEQ offices.

That second incident has pretty much drawn every conservation organization in the region, including our own personal heroes at the Potomac Riverkeeper Network into a massive lawsuit that's going to be filed against Dominion Power and the Virginia DEQ for the shenanigans that have been perpetrated against the Potomac River and the people of Virginia and Maryland, not to mention the damage that is being done to fish and wildlife along the Potomac.

Did anyone see that Striped Bass have now been placed on a "Do Not Eat" proclamation? What that's related to is that oil from the transformer repair yard. Large electrical transformers are cooled by this mineral oil that was spilled into the Potomac and part of that problem is not just the oil . . . PCBs can be part of the makeup of transformer oil. PCBs, ingested in large quantities, have been linked to a number of nasty health issues, two of which are various cancers and birth defects. There is a 'cancer cluster' out in Warren County, where folks who had their water wells contaminated by the old Avtex plant in Front Royal are still being studied by the CDC and the NIH. The culprit? . . . PCBs. So word to the wise . . . take the "No Striper Dinners" warning seriously until such time as they figure out if the Potomac now has a PCB problem.

Here's what I have done. Go back and read that second paragraph. Seems to me there is an awfully cozy relationship between the Virginia DEQ and Dominion Power. You can't just dump 30 million gallons of heavy-metal laden coal-ash water on a whim. That's an awful lot of water and someone must have known it was being done with no public notice. As a citizen of Virginia, I have written to the Virginia Attorney General's office and asked for a full investigation into the DEQ and Dominion Power relationship.

Something about that whole situation just doesn't pass the smell test to me.

PRSC
P.O. Box 1240
Vienna, VA 22183

On Sunday, February 7th, I was desperate to get out and fish to fight the winter blues. The temperature for the day was supposed to reach 42 degrees, and a Maryland DNR e-mail had alerted me that Middle Creek near Myersville, MD had been stocked a few days earlier with 1,000 rainbow trout.

Alas, snowmelt had this pretty little creek running high and very cold at 35 degrees. Nonetheless, I waded knee deep for four hours. Using my Tenkara rod, I drifted pheasant tail and prince nymphs in current seams, but the fish must have gotten an e-mail from DNR alerting them to my presence. Thus no fish pictures.

If you want to see less of me in this space, send your fish pictures to me at Buzz_Editor@prsc.org



2015 Contest Results

Report by Jack Cook

The 2015 contest is over (see results at right) and the 2016 contest is under way.

If you have entries to report for the 2016 contest, please contact Jack Cook.

For contest rules and information, visit <http://www.prsc.org/fishing-contest/>

2015 Results

| | | |
|----------------------------------|--------------------|--------|
| Section 1, Biggest Fish: | Jay Eiche | 20.5" |
| Section 1, Best 5 Fish: | Randy Chandler | 86.5" |
| Section 2, Biggest Fish: | Randy Chandler | 21.5" |
| Section 2, Best 5 Fish: | Marcel Counterbelt | 81" |
| Section 3, Biggest Fish: | Randy Chandler | 20" |
| Section 3, Best 5 Fish: | Bill Pearl | 87" |
| Largest on Fly: | Wayne Tate | 19.5" |
| Best 5 Fish on Fly: | Randy Chandler | 60.0" |
| New Member: | Marcel Counterbelt | |
| Grover Cleveland Contest: | Randy Chandler | 21.5" |
| William Shriver Award: | Randy Chandler | 221.5" |

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.