



# The Buzz

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Volume 29, Issue 5

May 25, 2016

## David Hu To Speak on Fisheries Policy, Veterans Program

### Upcoming Items

**Kayak Demo Day**  
June 11, 2016

**PRSC Meeting**  
June 29, 2016

**Ashburn Village Veterans Fishing Classic**  
July 23, 2016

### In This Issue

**UPCOMING P. 2**

**INTRODUCING STACKFISH P. 3**

**PRSC ON THE WATER P. 4**

**SENECA TO RIVER BEND MAY 3RD P. 6**

**TRIP REPORT: MEXICO IN MAY P. 8**

**ESCAPING THE RAIN, NEW YORK STYLE P. 10**

**FISHING CONTEST P. 11**



Dave Hu, who serves as the Bureau of Land Management (BLM) National Fisheries Biologist, will speak to the PRSC meeting on May 25. Dave is responsible for BLM-wide fisheries program administration and staff support. He previously worked for the US Forest Service as a Fisheries Program Manager on the Gifford Pinchot National Forest in Vancouver, WA. Prior to that, Dave worked as a Habitat Restoration Coordinator for the USFWS Anadromous Fish Restoration Program up and down California's Central Valley and previously in his home state with New Mexico Game and Fish working on cutthroat, native fish inventories, and fish museum collections.

Dave grew up in southern New Mexico fishing for catfish in the Rio Grande (when still flowing) and agricultural diversion ditches for carp and sunfish. Discovering the bait collecting power of a kitchen strainer taped onto the end of a broom handle, and that catfish can swim in a bathtub with a young boy sitting in it, just shows how tolerant Dave's mom was of his young interest in fish and fishing.

Dave describes himself as a "spincast guy." He uses flies, but hates fly rods. He prefers rubber jigs, spinners, and spoons. Dave loves to fish the shad run at Fletcher's Boathouse. He does most of his fishing out of a kayak, mostly hitting the Triadelphia Reservoir in Maryland, which is near his home. He also spends quite a bit of time kayak fishing the Shenandoah near Front Royal, "and every state when I get out there on business."

Asked to describe the state of fishing across the country, Dave responded: "Hmm . . . wearing a national hat . . . the general state of sport fishing popularity continues to decline. Not a lot of recruitment of new generations fishing, a large reduction in retention, and fewer and fewer people are renewing licenses. However, a rising national trend right now is kayak fishing. General aquatic habitat and water quality continue to decline. Warm water/cool water fishing appears to be doing OK to good, and I expect will continue to expand and do better, provided water quality is maintained. Very cold water fish are getting squeezed pretty good and are expected to crash and burn."

Dave's topic of choice will be to discuss "modernizing government fisheries programs; services provided; funding challenges; social perceptions; and maintaining local community relevance." Dave will also discuss the "Fisheries for Veterans Project," which is an innovative service relationship using public lands fishing as a tool to encourage social, mentoring, and networking that emphasizes health and life-cycle management and serves as a unique community driver connecting veterans and their families, local communities, government programs, and non-profit organizations. Join us for what will be an interesting and informative evening.

Club Executive Board	<h1>Upcoming Items</h1>
<b>President</b> Steve Kimm <a href="mailto:president@prsc.org">president@prsc.org</a>	<p><b>Appomattox River Company will hold a “Demo Day” event on June 11th.</b> The Demo Day will take place at its 614 North Main Street, Farmville, Virginia store location. If you are looking for a new kayak or canoe, this is a great opportunity to test paddle many of the models they carry. ARC also has store locations in Ashland, VA and Hampton, VA. Check out their website: <a href="http://www.paddleva.com/">http://www.paddleva.com/</a></p>
<b>Vice-President</b> Craig Bishop <a href="mailto:vp@prsc.org">vp@prsc.org</a>	
<b>Secretary</b> Dave Lockard (H) (301) 656-1964 <a href="mailto:secretary@prsc.org">secretary@prsc.org</a>	
<b>Treasurer</b> Jamie Gold C (571) 213-4699 <a href="mailto:treasure@prsc.org">treasure@prsc.org</a>	
<b>Trip Coordinator</b> Marty Burkard <a href="mailto:trip_coordinator@prsc.org">trip_coordinator@prsc.org</a>	<p><b>Join us Wednesday, June 29th, for our monthly meeting.</b> Club President Steve Kimm and Conservation Chair Herschel Finch will be our speakers. 7:30-9:00 PM at the McLean Community Center, 1234 Ingleside Ave., McLean, VA.</p>
<b>Program Chair</b> Bill Amshey <a href="mailto:Programs@prsc.org">Programs@prsc.org</a>	<p><b>Ashburn Village Veterans Fishing Classic, July 23rd.</b> Join the Ashburn Village community and Ernie Rojas at the Ashburn Village Sports Pavilion (20585 Ashburn Village Blvd, Ashburn, VA) for this fun family fishing event and salute to wounded veterans. There will be a family fishing event 9:00 AM-1:00 PM followed by an awards luncheon 1:00-3:00 PM. For more information, Wounded Hero sign up, to volunteer, donate or sponsor, visit <a href="http://www.fishingcommunity.org/ncr/ava2016">www.fishingcommunity.org/ncr/ava2016</a></p>
<b>Conservation Chair</b> Herschel Finch (H) (540) 635-7636 <a href="mailto:Conservation@prsc.org">Conservation@prsc.org</a>	
<b>Librarian</b> Herman Yam <a href="mailto:Librarian@prsc.org">Librarian@prsc.org</a>	
<b>Additional Programs</b>	
<b>Fishing Contest</b> Jack Cook H (703) 573-4403	<p><b>Snakehead Fishing Derby To Be Rescheduled.</b> The “Stop the Snakehead” Fishing Derby that had been scheduled for May 21 was postponed due to incessant rainy weather. Maryland DNR plans to reschedule the event. Once it’s back on the calendar information should be available here <a href="http://dnr2.maryland.gov/fisheries/Pages/snakehead-derby.aspx">http://dnr2.maryland.gov/fisheries/Pages/snakehead-derby.aspx</a></p>
<b>The Buzz</b> Rick Mrstik (C) (703) 380-7992 <a href="mailto:Buzz_Editor@prsc.org">Buzz_Editor@prsc.org</a>	
<b>Merchandise</b> John Lipetz <a href="mailto:Merchandise@prsc.org">Merchandise@prsc.org</a>	
<b>Publicity</b> Ernie Rojas H (703) 729-0128 <a href="mailto:Publicity@prsc.org">Publicity@prsc.org</a>	
<b>Webmaster</b> Chris Andersen <a href="mailto:Webmaster@prsc.org">Webmaster@prsc.org</a>	
<b>Past President</b> Steve Moore	

# Introducing Stackfish

by Jed Woodill

Back in January I joined an online fishing club called Stackfish. I met one of the organizers at the Richmond fishing show and he described it as “Facebook for Fishers.” I’m not a Facebook fan but I thought I’d give it a shot and see what happened. It has turned out fairly well so I feel comfortable spreading the word around. I have found it to be fun, profitable and slightly addictive.

It works this way: you join up using your email address and choose a nickname for yourself. This identifies you on the story board. When you post a picture you enter the species of fish (there are “skunked,” “fishing interest,” and “other” categories as well). Then enter the nearest town. Next is the fun part, you get to write in whatever story you want to accompany the photo. Some guys just post a few words, others write a whole column. I try to write something that is interesting but brief. You can provide as much or as little detail as you want. Once posted, other stackers may “like” your story and you earn points according to a schedule based on the class of the person who liked it.

Everyone starts out as “Bait” class. They graduate to “Angler” upon posting their 25<sup>th</sup> story. Once they are an “Angler,” they award a point to every story they “like.” Upon posting 75 stories they graduate to “Blue” class and their likes are worth two points to the story author. Each posted story is worth a point by itself. You can post two stories per day. There are higher classes but no one has reached them yet. My goal is to be the first “Cuda,” a class that awards the author three points per “like.”

All these points accumulate into a Basic Catch Score (BCS) that determines the order on the leaderboard. Stories and points accumulated each month are also counted toward a Monthly Catch Score (MCS) that provides the winner in both “Bait” and “Angler +” class with a \$50 Bass Pro gift card. The two runners up each month in each class win T-shirts.

So far I have won three monthly competitions and placed second in a fourth. I have also learned a whole lot about Striper fishing and a little bit about Bass fishing. I like to think that at some future time I may be able to email one of the Stackers and get out fishing with him on the waters he knows so well. I will offer the same to others who visit my neck of the woods. As well as being informative, some of the stories are funny, a lot feature impressive fish.

You can choose to be a buddy with other stackers and follow those who post stories of interest to you. I am “Canuck” and if you decide to join this exciting online community set me up as a buddy and let me know you are a member of PRSC. If we get enough members posting good stories we can promote the club to a new audience and some of us may win prizes.

<http://www.stackfish.com/Home.aspx>

Get bent and I hope to see you online!

# PRSC on the Water



Mark Myers with a 30-inch snook he caught and released. The fish was part of his first “inshore slam”—a “keeper size” redfish, snook, and sea trout.



Ernie Rojas with a redfish caught in the Chassahowitzka National Wildlife Refuge fishing with former PRSC webmaster Mark Myers.

# PRSC on the Water

Sarah Schaupp with her first fish of 2016, caught near Fletchers.



Maria Schaupp with her first fish of 2016, also caught near Fletchers.

# Seneca to Riverbend, May 3rd

By Ernie Rojas

By all accounts, we should have cancelled this trip after all the rain we had the night before. All of the gauges were spiking, but Duncan McGrath thought that we would have a clean water channel for most of the day. And as it turned out, we did!

You see, Duncan is a river rat. He knows the Potomac like the back of his hand and he is a terrific guide. Plus, he's a nice guy. And John and I like to fish with him. This float has been on my bucket list for years. I never knew what was on the other side of the ledges at Seneca. We put in to a muddy and rising Seneca Creek at around 7:15 AM.



Our plan was to go out to look at the middle of the river to see if it was fishable. Duncan had his shuttle at the ready in case we needed to call it a day and take out. But we would have none of that . . . great looking water; rising water and the rain held off! It did not take long for the skunk to come off the boat!

Fishing off a raft gives you great perspective on the fishing holes. Tubes were the name of the game. The fish were hunkered down with the rising water. We also threw a fly and a spinnerbait but to no avail.



# Seneca to Riverbend, May 3rd

Continued

We steadily picked off one or two fish at each hole. We had probably caught 15 to 16 fish by this time, and it was time for a shore lunch. After lunch, we got back at it again and enjoyed lots of scenery while we caught some more fish!

Then . . . the rising river caught up to us and made conditions very difficult.



But we kept at it and as we were about done, I got this nice 17-incher! We whooped it up like it was a C-class because of what was going on.

All I can say is that we had a great time! Duncan is a pro! John is a pleasure to fish with, and the fish were cooperating. I had seven fish that measured over 16" and about 15 fish total. Even the 14- to 15-inch fish pulled hard as they were FAT! My best five fish totaled 81.5 inches. [Editor's note: this is Section III for contest purposes.]

Time to explore more of this water in the near future!

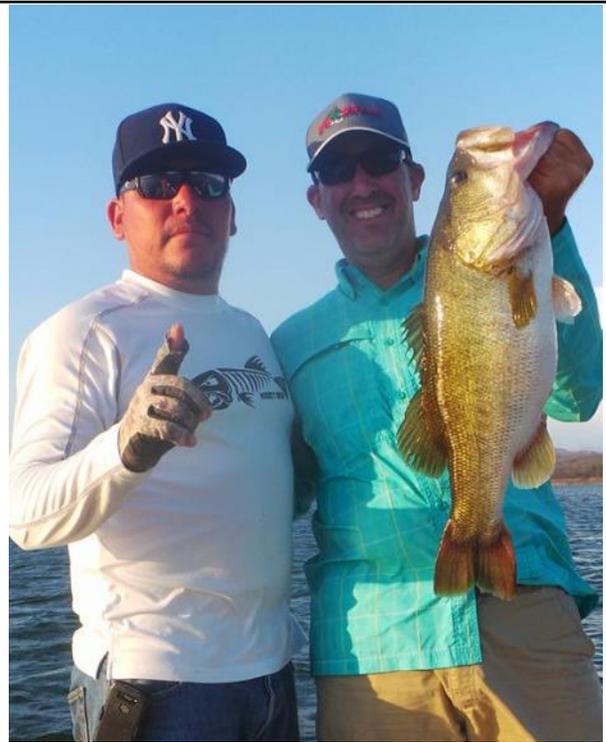


# Trip Report: Mexico in May

*By Pete Robbins*

Ten days after I was welcomed to the April PRSC meeting, my wife Hanna and I hopped on a plane at DCA early in the morning and headed for Mazatlan, Mexico, via Dallas. As we drove through the gates at Anglers Inn that afternoon and staff members greeted us with cold margaritas, Hanna said the same single word she says every time we arrive: “Home!”

This was our seventh trip to Anglers Inn’s El Salto Lodge, and our ninth trip overall to fish for largemouths in Mexico. We were joined by our friend Duncan Maccubbin of Leesburg and a few days later by Terry Conroy from Boston. They’ve also been there multiple times. Indeed, over 80 percent of Anglers Inn’s customers are repeat visitors. That’s because it’s safe, the food and drink are exceptional, and their motto is “Service is our focus.” Perhaps most importantly, it’s the best public bass lake in the world, deemed as such by no less an authority than Kevin VanDam.



We’ve visited El Salto in October, November, December and January, when it’s nice to escape the often cold Virginia weather, and every month has something to commend it, but my favorite bite is in May and June. That’s when the water is at its lowest to irrigate the tomato and strawberry crops and in anticipation of the big rains in August and September. The lake was 60 percent full this time, and that bunched up the fish on offshore humps, points and channel drops. On waters close to home, I tend to fish in less than 10 feet of water—and indeed in less than 5 feet much of the year—which limits the presentations I can employ. In the summer at El Salto, we get to explore other techniques, like swimbaits and ultra-deep diving crankbaits. One afternoon we got into a killer bite on the massive Strike King 10XD deep diver, a 6-inch crankbait that weighs nearly 2 ounces and dives over 25 feet. We’d crank it to the bottom, grind a bit, then pause, and fish up to 8 pounds would nearly rip the rod out of your hands.



# Trip Report: Mexico in May

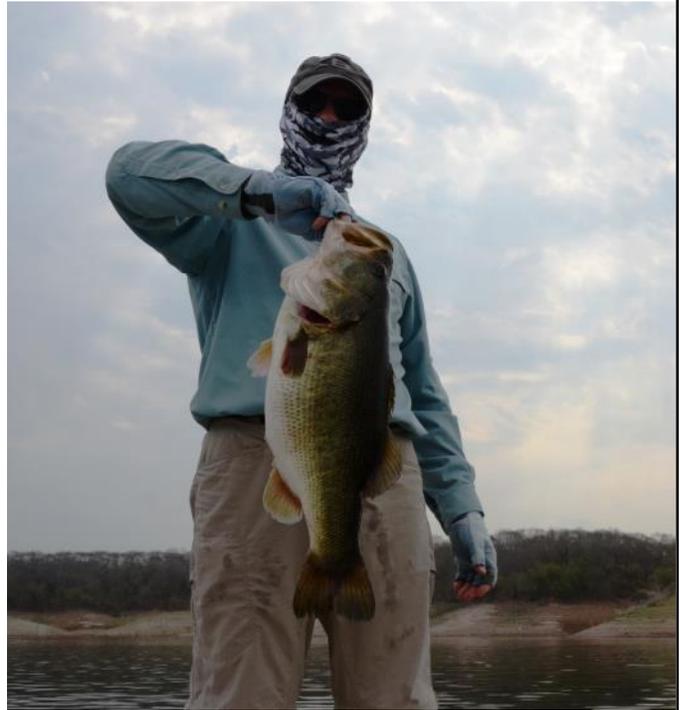
Every day our guide checked one little ledge for a school that had been there the week before. On Day Four, Hanna and I hit pay dirt and caught 42 bass up to 4 ½ pounds in an hour and a half on a Bomber Fat Free Shad. At that point we left for a few hours to look for bigger fish. After nearly three hours of trying we'd only managed 14 fish up to 4 pounds, so we headed back to our earlier spot to enjoy the sunset bite and drink a few Pacificos. Over the next 90 minutes we caught 44 more bass, ending our post-siesta afternoon with an even 100 fish landed.

Hanna and I didn't land a 10 pound "grande" on this trip. Duncan managed the biggest for our group, a 9-pound 9-ounce bass that attacked his Carolina Rig. Terry added a 9-pounder on a crankbait. Every day our group caught multiple 6- to 8-pound bass. When that's disappointing, you know you're spoiled!

We left after 6 ½ days of fishing, still wanting more but not sure if our wrists and backs could take the hard core cranking any more. We've already booked our trip for next summer. Hanna is also leading a ladies trip (at \$500 off the regular price) in January 2017. If you know a woman who likes to fish, or you want to introduce a woman to the sport, this is the perfect opportunity to do so. It would make a great birthday or Christmas gift. Contact Hanna at [LadyAngler@AnglersInn.com](mailto:LadyAngler@AnglersInn.com) to claim one of the few remaining spots.

Either of us can tell you more about El Salto upon request. We also have info on Lake Pichachos, El Salto's newer "sister" lake, as well as trips to the Amazon for peacock bass. My email is [Pete\\_Robbins@hotmail.com](mailto:Pete_Robbins@hotmail.com).

This is a trip that every bass angler should make at least once in his or her life, and we're confident that if you go once, you'll be back again.



# Escaping the Rain—New York Style

By Rick Mrstik

With 20-odd days of rain in the Washington area this month, what's a fisherman to do? Escape to New York!—which is exactly what I did this past weekend. In truth I had two days of this trip planned for many months. But with the blues setting in from so many dreary days without fishing, my wife saw the wisdom in letting me extend the fishing to a third day.

I rose early on Friday the 20th and set off for Sodus Point, NY. For several years I had been meeting my nephew and some of his buddies there in late July to pursue king salmon on Lake Ontario. This time I was joining them to target lake trout, steelhead, Coho salmon, and brown trout. The Friday afternoon bite was slow, with only two lake trout and a steelhead finding our trolled spoons appealing.

Saturday morning provided a beautiful sunrise with improved fishing to match! Our trolling yielded eight keeper lake trout ranging from 24 to 35 inches, a nice steelhead and a small-but-legal Coho. Over the years Captain Ryan Williamson has lived up to the name, *Fishin' Magician*. If you need to escape our persistent weather pattern give him a call. <http://fishinmagiciancharters.net/>

Having received a “kitchen pass” to fish on Sunday only a few days in advance, I contacted John Gaulke, who guides on New York's Finger Lakes for several species, including lake trout and smallmouth bass. My original thought was to have him put me on some bronze-backs, but when we spoke, I decided to “let the guide guide me.” I'm glad I did, because on Sunday morning I was treated to a fisherman's dream!

We set out from the ramp at Long Point State Park on Cayuga Lake about 7:00 AM and motored north a few miles. John teaches an introduction to freshwater fishing class at Cornell University and is a wealth of knowledge on the Finger Lakes fisheries; he also shuns trolling, which was fine by me. He set me up with a 7-foot casting rod spooled with 20-pound braid and 10 feet of 14-pound Invizx fluorocarbon leader, to which he added a 1-ounce jig head with a 3-inch soft plastic paddle tail jig.



He instructed me to drop the jig to the bottom and reel up with a moderately rapid steady retrieve. “When they bite don't set the hook, just keep reeling and keep tension,” he said. With this technique over the next 4 hours I hooked and landed 11 lake trout 18 to 28 inches and one sub-legal Atlantic salmon, while missing hookups on at least that many solid bites. These fish bite hard, fight doggedly, and the big ones feel like you're hauling a concrete block up from the bottom!

Check out John's website:

<http://www.fingerlakesanglingzone.com/>



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

A Lake Ontario steelhead and a lunker lake trout



## 2016 Fishing Contest

### Report by Jack Cook

We still haven't had a report in Section 1, Fly Fishing, or New Member. I know that conditions have been less than ideal, but Bill Pearl and I were on the Shenandoah on May 12th and had a pretty fair day. We caught 35 fish. Bill's and my biggest fish were each 16.5 inches and Bill had a 72-inch total, which wasn't quite enough to help him. Bill and I caught our fish in some pretty stained water, so it can be done. I'd like to see someone else get into the contest and defuse the rivalry between Bill and Randy. Every time Bill caught a fish he'd comment, "Take that Randy Chandler!" Anyway, conditions are getting right. Get out there and go fishing!

- Jack

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

To submit an entry visit <http://www.prsc.org/fishing-contest/entry/>

### Entries Thus Far

- Section 1, Biggest Fish:** No Report
- Section 1, Best 5 Fish:** No Report
- Section 2, Biggest Fish:** Randy Chandler 20"
- Section 2, Best 5 Fish:** Randy Chandler 76"
- Section 3, Biggest Fish:** Jack Cook 20"
- Section 3, Best 5 Fish:** Bill Pearl 85.5"
- Largest on Fly:**
- Best 5 Fish on Fly:**
- New Member:**
- Grover Cleveland Contest:**
- William Shriver Award:**

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 McLean Community Center. 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. 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.