



The Buzz

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Volume 29, Issue 7

July 27, 2016

Bruce Ingram To Speak on Upper Potomac Floats

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July 23, 2016

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Author, sportsman, photographer, and conservationist Bruce Ingram will share his deep knowledge about fishing for smallmouth bass at the PRSC meeting on July 27th. You can usually count on Bruce to sprinkle in lots of interesting, and sometimes controversial viewpoints on fishing, so even if you've read his books and heard him speak in the past, Bruce always makes it an interesting evening.



When not teaching English in the Botetourt County, Virginia, school system, Bruce spends much of his time fishing, hunting, birding, and enjoying the great outdoors. He has been an outdoor writer/photographer since 1983. His extensive knowledge is reflected in the many books he has published, including *The James River Guide*, *The New River Guide*, and *The Shenandoah/Rappahannock Rivers Guide*. One of Bruce's recent books, *Fly and Spin*

Fishing for River Smallmouth, covers how to catch smallmouth on fly and spinning rods throughout the year, plus such topics as conservation easements, riparian zone creation/protection, taking kids fishing, canoe camping, birding by canoe, and much more.

Bruce's books on the James, New, Potomac, Shenandoah, and Rappahannock Rivers cover a wide range of float trips available on these rivers, plus information on access points, rapids, fishing hot spots, and trip planning. Basically, paragraph by paragraph, mile by mile, Bruce takes you on a trip down these rivers, so that when you go on your own trips, you will have a safe, productive fishing experience. You'll have the opportunity to purchase signed copies of Bruce's books. As an added incentive to buy a book or two, Bruce will be giving away soft or hard plastic lures with each purchase. The only catch to this offer is if the particular lure works, Bruce would like members to send him an e-mail; if the lure is a dud, no need to send one.

In addition to his books, Bruce has also placed some 2,100 articles in magazines and some 2,400 photos. He regularly writes for such magazines as *Virginia Wildlife*, *Wildlife in North Carolina*, *Whitetail Times*, *Turkey Country*, *Turkey & Turkey Hunting*, *Game and Fish Publications*, and many others. Bruce and his wife Elaine recently co-wrote a book titled *Living the Locavore Lifestyle*, about ways to live a sustainable lifestyle by hunting and fishing for food, gathering wild fruits and nuts, and raising a garden, chickens, and fruit trees. It also contains a number of essays on the joys of hunting and fishing.

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Bruce Ingram To Speak on Upper Potomac Floats

Continued From Page 1 by Bill Amshey

You can learn more about Bruce Ingram, as well as purchase his books, by visiting <https://sites.google.com/site/bruceingramoutdoors/> For those of you able to attend the July meeting, this should be a very interesting and informative evening. Bruce plans to speak on fishing parts of the Upper Potomac River that not many of us get to. These include Paw Paw to Bonds Landing (13.5 miles) and Bonds Landing to Little Orleans (8.5 miles). Bruce says, "The first float is the most beautiful on the Main Stem." It is isolated and lightly fished. The second float is very good, too. Class I rapids are the max on the entire junket. Bruce says, "This is a true bucket list float."

Bruce will also discuss other floats, including Taylors Landing to Snyders Landing (4.5 miles), Snyders Landing to Shepherdstown (4 miles), and Shepherdstown to Dargan Bend (8 miles). You won't want to miss Bruce's talk on these little-known floats.

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Upcoming Items

Ashburn Village Veterans Fishing Classic, July 23rd. 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 www.fishingcommunity.org/ncr/ava2016

March on the Mansion, Saturday, July 23rd in Richmond 12:00 noon to 3:00 PM. Join concerned citizens from across Virginia in an effort to focus Governor McAuliffe's attention on environmental matters, including Dominion Power's coal ash pollution. For more information visit this website: <http://marchonthemansion.org/>

Join us Wednesday, August 31st, for our monthly meeting. Chris McCotter will be speaking about fishing Lake Anna for largemouth and striped bass. 7:30-9:00 PM at the McLean Community Center, 1234 Ingleside Ave., McLean, VA.

PRSC on the Water



Steven Van Brackle landed this odd-looking specimen, aptly called a hogfish, while fishing recently near Sanibel Island in Florida.

Steven commented about the picture below, "My quest to catch brown fish in salt water and farm ponds continues to be unsuccessful. This 'green fish' was 19 inches but was no SMB."



PRSC on the Water

Three generations of the Van Brackle family fishing at an “undisclosed location.” The look on his daughter’s face as she holds that fish is priceless . . .



PRSC on the Water



While the Potomac River was too high to fish for smallmouth with her Dad, Sarah Schaupp entertained herself by catching largemouths at a local pond.

PRSC Club Trip, Brunswick to Point of Rocks

By Jamie Gold

On Saturday, July 2, I led a PRSC trip on the Potomac River. We floated the stretch from Brunswick, MD down to Point of Rocks. There were 11 anglers on this trip, which is about the biggest trip I've ever done. This included me, Richard Mrstik, Jeff Hoskins, David Lockard, Bill Owensby, Terry Cooney, Hank Firey, Jed Woodill, Steve Adams, Marty Burkard, and one other member.

Given all the rain we've had, the river was in rather good shape on that day. The water was a bit higher than usual, but with more clarity than I expected . . . in fact the stain on the water probably helped, given the bright sunny day that we had.

Fortunately everybody caught fish, and everyone seemed to have a good time. Most important, everyone got off the water safely. I had about two dozen fish on the day, but none were bigger than 13 inches. My best pattern was a classic mid-summer approach—mid-river below structure using soft plastics, especially magic stiks and senkos.

Here are some thoughts from a few of the other anglers:

Marty Burkard—I caught around 15 smallies, the majority of them were in the 8- to 10-inch range; my best fish measured 13 and 14 inches. I think I caught everything on 5-inch flukes in watermelon seed pattern, with a 1/32 oz. bull shot weight a couple inches above the bait. I didn't have any luck on the shoreline; caught everything either behind rocks and ledges or along eddy lines.

Hank Firey—I had a great day on the water, with many fine fishing companions. But the "fish gods" were not in my camp. I think

my total on the day was about five fish. However, I caught my biggest smallmouth ever on the river. And my smallest. The big fish was down-river from a boulder, caught early morning on a buzzbait. I didn't measure, but would estimate that the fish was well over 20 inches. Another member saw it and thought more. My smallest was also caught downstream of rock structure, and was not much bigger than the tube I caught him on. My other fish were caught on a rigged minnow a fellow member was kind enough to give me at lunch, after what seemed like hours with no fish. Always fun!

Jed Woodill—I hooked about a dozen fish and landed three in the boat. One at 12 inches [pictured at right] and two at 7 inches, all using Texas-rigged black senkos with blue flecks off of mid-river structure. My success started after Jamie Gold clued me in on where they were lurking in the fast water and light following breeze. I had a great time and it was my best day ever using senkos.



PRSC Club Trip

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Terry Cooney—I caught 12 fish. My biggest was 14 inches and three others were 13 inches. I actually caught several close to the banks. Most of my fish were caught on a black Case Magic Stick. And I saw what I think was a mink in the river.

Richard Mrstik—From my perspective it was a good trip. The water level was just about perfect, even if the flow rate and breeze pushed us along faster than I would have liked. The fish were cooperating right away, and I had a good bite going for the first hour or so. I caught several fish around 10 inches on the 4-inch Keitech Easy Shiner (paddle tail) in Silver Flash Minnow color from the middle of the water column. Just before lunch, the bite definitely slowed.

After lunch it picked up again, especially in the section approaching the bend at Lander. I began fishing a 4-inch grub in watermelon candy color along the bottom and was hooking up fish after fish in this section. Nothing bigger than 10 to 11 inches. Terry Cooney caught the 14-inch fish in the picture [at left] in this section. Things slowed again for a while but in the last section along Paton Island I picked up a few more fish, including the 13-inch fish in the picture [below], my

best fish of the day. My tally for the day was about two dozen fish. I heard of at least one 15-inch fish being caught, and one of our guys showed me a picture of one that I'm sure was even bigger.

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I had a great time leading the trip. So I urge everyone to get out and do at least one club trip this summer. And if there is a stretch of river that you really like, or want to learn better, please lead a club trip to share with the other members.

-- Jamie



'Doah Float Trip, Route 50 to Lockes Landing

By Jamie Gold

We are now into the dog days of summer – high heat and humidity . . . UGH!!!! However, on Sunday, July 10, the forecast was for temperatures in the mid-80s with much lower humidity than we'd been having. To me this said, time to get out on the water. So towards the end of the week I sent an invitation out to a few folks to join me for a float trip on the 'Doah. With all the rain and other issues this Spring/Summer, this was going to be my first trip on the 'Doah in 2016.

A few intrepid souls agreed to join me for the fun. So . . . on Sunday morning we met at the Route 50 bridge, did our shuttle, and launched our boats. Joining me were Richard Mrstik, Dave Lockard and Randy Chandler.

The weather was great, except the wind gusted a bit at times, creating real problems for me in controlling my canoe. Also, there must have been a lot of rain in the Valley late in the week, because the water was higher and more stained than I was expecting. As a result (I think) the fishing was slower for me than I expected. Usually this is a very productive stretch of water for me. But I ended up with only about 15 fish. My largest smallie was only about 13 inches long. However, I did manage to land a terrific 23-inch largemouth bass. I caught him in pretty shallow water on river left. He was in the slack water above one of the ledges. He attacked the chartreuse buzz bait I was throwing as soon as it hit the water and started moving. That was fun!!! One other thing I really enjoyed was that once we hit the ledges, I started throwing a green with copper fleck 4-inch Mizmo tube . . . a lure I really enjoy fishing with and usually have success with. Earlier in the day I did manage to catch fish on a white salty sinkin' minnow from Case Plastics.

Here are some comments from Richard and Randy:

Richard Mrstik—I caught somewhere around 30 smallmouth for the day. Between 10:00 and lunchtime (12:30?) was the most productive. The truth is I lost count, but I believe I landed somewhere between 15 and 20 fish before lunch. I caught all of them on a 4-inch single-tail grub, green with red flakes, rigged on a 1/0 Owner twist lock hook with a 1/8 oz bullet sinker. I was fishing this slow along the bottom so I could just feel it ticking along, and the fish would pick it up. My best fish was 14 inches (see picture) and I used my new landing net on that one. The only other notable fish was 12 inches and all the rest were 10 inches or less.



‘Doah Float Trip

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After we stopped for lunch, I started off using a 4-inch dark green tube below some of the ledges as Jamie suggested. I jerry rigged it, using a 1/8 oz bullet sinker and a Mustad 3/0 twist lock hook that has its own 1/16 oz. weight. I caught a 12-inch fish with that tube, the first time I've ever caught anything on a tube, but my jerry rigging only worked once, then the bait was really beat up. I switched back to my grub and picked up eight more smallmouth and two super-fat pumpkinseeds (I concluded they were not rock bass after looking more closely) by the time we got to the take out.

My shoulders are rested and I'm ready to go again!

Randy Chandler—It was a beautiful trip, great weather, the water was up a bit and off color, but visibility was still 3 feet or so. I love this stretch of the river, but it did not produce the quality of big fish that it normally does—but that is fishing. I caught a total of 17 fish, several 14-inchers but nothing bigger. Top producing baits were: Buzzbait, 4-inch black worm weighted, and the fluke.



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I look forward to fishing this stretch several times before the end of the year, and I am sure the results will be better.

-- Jamie

Fishing La Reserve Beauchene Canada

By Leon Cates

George Thurston, AKA “Hookup,” and I fished at Lake Beauchene Canada from 24 June through 2 July 2016. It was nine days of fishing heaven. We shared driving responsibilities and the trip takes about 18 hours one way, depending on how often you stop along the way. George and I minimized stops—Starbucks and fast food places.

La Reserve Beauchene encompasses over 50,000 acres in the high hills of Quebec. It contains over three dozen lakes and seven fish species, offering some of the best fishing in Canada. La Reserve Beauchene is home to seven game fish species, one of the widest variety of any single area of Quebec: Smallmouth Bass, Lake Trout and Brook (speckled) Trout, Walleye, Northern Pike, Whitefish – and even Splake (a Brook Trout – Lake Trout cross). Catch and release is mandatory for Smallmouth, other species can be kept with the expectation that you would only keep what was necessary for one day’s meal.

They offer numerous lodging options that include a main lodge with an American Plan with meals and house-keeping included, or remote “outpost” cabins, or a basic campground. Since George and I are accustomed to rough camping we “upgraded” to the rustic Foley Bay Outpost Cabin which cost \$110 Canadian per person. No electricity, no running water (hand pump in kitchen) but propane stove, fridge and lighting. The US dollar was strong—about 72c US to \$1 Canadian. We especially appreciated the refrigerator to keep our food and ice packs cold, eliminating our need for cooler ice. The outhouse even came equipped with wet wipes and air freshener! We had a cold water pump so we needed to heat our water, especially for the five gallon bucket shower we used

which was greatly appreciated after a full day of fishing. This cabin is located directly in Foley Bay and was on a small island of its own. We had a private boat dock next to the cabin.

We rented a boat each day. Rental costs included petrol and a fully charged battery for the trolling motor whenever we needed one. On the big lake we got a 9.9 hp 14-foot Princecraft jon, and the little back lakes, we got a 5hp 12-foot jon. Trolling motors were provided each day. They buy new motors every year, so the equipment is top notch and reliable. The two padded seats complete with back rests in the Princecraft boat were greatly appreciated on my sensitive back. We were very happy with the arrangement.



Fishing La Reserve Beauchene Canada

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So, how was the fishing? As this is a well-managed fishery the opportunity to catch large fish is outstanding. As we were located on the Foley Bay portion of the lake we found that we didn't need to wander far from our cabin to catch quality fish. George did reserve time on two other lakes, Lake McConnell and Little Beauchene. One appeal of this reserve is that when you reserve a lake, you're the only boat on those waters for that day. In fact, even in Foley Bay, which is unrestricted, we rarely saw more than two boats in our area.



As the lake is huge, our first task was to figure out a workable approach. The majority of the lake is filled with wooden structure with portions containing a rock foundation. The rock banks and points were key catch areas for us although we did catch bass on wood as well. We caught 85 percent of our fish on flukes (George's bait of choice) and stickbaits (senkos, case plastics, my bait of choice). Through persistence George caught bass on a spinner bait, hard body jerk bait, and buzz bait. I caught our only Pike on a 4-inch white grub, which was very exciting. I also caught a 17-inch walleye on an in-line spinner, which was the only fish we kept and enjoyed for dinner.

The feature attraction was the size of the smallmouth we caught. The average size was 16 to 17 inches and they are very healthy. The bite was very subtle, but when hooked the fight was on. Our best day was our second day on the lake, and we were catching large fish after fish with many double hookups. George landed a 20 inch and I had a 19 inch personal best, which I would equal again a few days later. We had a couple pigs unbutton, which was exciting and disappointing at the same time. The day we traveled to Lake McConnell was the hottest and most productive numbers wise of the trip. We easily caught over 100 quality smallmouth bass in this lake alone.

The remote beauty of this location is fantastic. As we were the only inhabitants in the bay, at night there is no light pollution so the stars are bright and numerous, a spectacular sight. We brought headnets expecting an onslaught of mosquitos and black flies. They were less of an issue than expected. We brought two thermacell pest repellants for the cabin and they worked pretty well until the nightly 9:30 PM swarm period. That was our cue to turn in for the night. We were typically up by 5:30 and on the water by 7:00 each morning fishing the entire day.

Luckily for me George is an outstanding camp chef. We had his outstanding smoked brisket, pasta, and the highlight of the menu was his homemade crab cakes. I took care of kitchen cleanup, we were the perfect camping team.

We had been planning this trip for over a year and it exceeded our expectation. If you're looking for a place to consistently catch quality fish you should consider La Reserve Beauchene.



Conservation Corner

By Herschel Finch

Déjà vu all over again.

Well, they are at it again. Dominion Power has now proposed a new route for the Atlantic Coast Pipeline that would affect the headwaters of the Shenandoah River, specifically the South Fork. The new proposed route passes just south of Staunton and Waynesboro, Virginia cross the South River. The South River joins the North River after it flows down from the Alleghenies, through Bridgewater, VA to form the south fork of the Shenandoah River at Port Republic. Here's a map of the proposed route:

<https://www.dom.com/library/domcom/pdfs/gas-transmission/atlantic-coast-pipeline/041516-ferc-filing/acp-project-location-map-va-041516.pdf?la=en>

I know a lot of us thought this fight was over, but it would seem that it has just entered a new phase. Dominion Power has tried to do an end run around objections to this pipeline by painting it as a "public good" and not just as a vehicle for lining their shareholders pockets or the politicians in *their* pocket.

They have approached the fine folks at Virginia Outdoor Foundation (VOF), the non-profit organization involved setting up and holding property deeds for the purpose of creating conservation easements, and asked them to abandon their stewardship on a number of parcels down there so the pipeline can bulldoze its way across the Blue Ridge and the lower Valley.

You would think they could not do this, but not so. The VOF has in the past, released small parcels for projects that are obviously in the public interest, such as VDOT building a turning lane off a busy road, or granting a right-of-way to replace an old and crumbling bridge. The latter having been done right here in my home county of Warren to replace the dangerous low-water bridge at Morgan's Ford on the mainstem of the Shenandoah. It is well and good that these projects went forward. The acreages in question were very small, less than 10 to 20 acres in most cases. Dominion Power wants the VOF to give up stewardship on 4,567 acres, and without the original landowner's involvement.

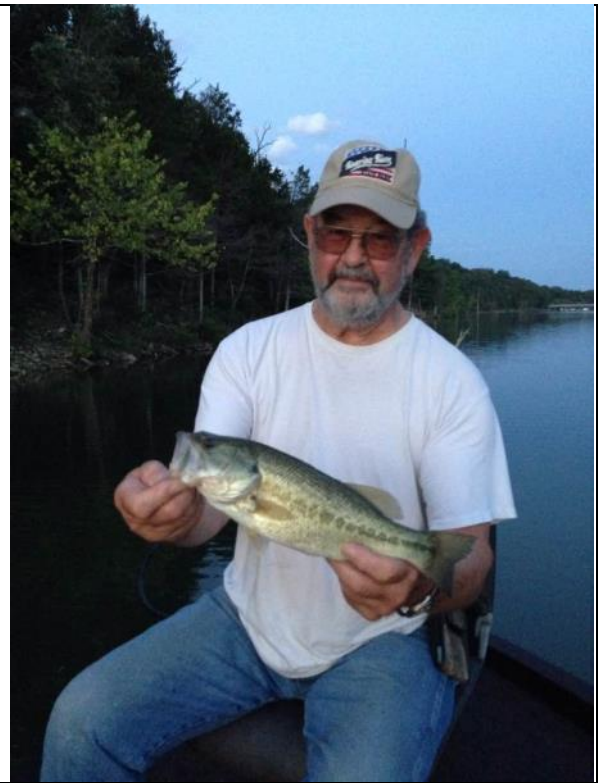
This particularly sticks in my craw for a couple of reasons. We all are familiar with Bruce Ingram and his laudable efforts to bring headwater streams under protection by conservation easement for the James and New Rivers. He does this by buying property where the headwater springs are located that feed fresh, clean water into those rivers. I cannot imagine Bruce throwing up his hands and saying "Oh well" if they tried this on one of his properties that he's placed in a conservation easement. In addition, having recently completed the process of placing our own Izaak Walton Chapter Park into a Conservation Easement, you can bet the membership of our Chapter would not stand for this being done to our 155 acres in Warren County. We worked too long and too hard create a beautiful chapter park that is available for use by the citizens of Warren County to turn it over so a large power conglomerate can make a few more millions.

I can guarantee you that YOU will not see lower energy bills because of this pipeline. Its sole purpose is to make delivery more efficient, and to ease the transmission toward the ports in Tidewater, Virginia for export. There will be no "public good." The only good that will be seen is in Dominion's net profits.

If you are so inclined, there will be a march on the Governor's mansion to protest the building of this pipeline on Saturday, the 23rd of July. The assembly area will be on Brown's Island, directly across from the Tredegar Ironworks Museum at 12:00 noon. For me, letting my opinion be known by phone and email to my local representatives and our governor is the direction I am taking. I hope you'll join me.

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While I was floating on the Shenandoah last weekend with fellow PRSC club members, my Dad (Rich Mrstik, age 73) was fishing with his grandson Cade (my nephew) and caught a nice largemouth on Table Rock Lake in Missouri. I received this photo from my Mom while I was on the river and replied with the smallmouth picture on page 8.



2016 Fishing Contest

Report by Jack Cook

As we look at the standings, we can see the same two names on top of the leader board. Bill Pearl and Randy Chandler have pretty much dominated the contest the last several years. Since there is no love lost between Bill and Randy, I will remind them that the committee took strong action! No shots to be fired, no drilling holes in each other's boats, and no dynamite use any time!

Come on guys, this does not have to be the Bill and Randy show. I know other people in this club can catch fish. Let's get out there . . .

-- 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:	Randy Chandler	21"
Section 3, Best 5 Fish:	Bill Pearl	85.5"
Largest on Fly:	No Report	
Best 5 Fish on Fly:		
New Member Big Fish:	Rick Mrstik	17"
New Member Best 5:	Rick Mrstik	62.5"
Grover Cleveland Leader:	Randy Chandler	21"
William Shriver Leader:	Bill Pearl	160"

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.