



The Buzz

www.prsc.org



Volume 29, Issue 10

October 26, 2016

Chaconas To Speak on Mann's Fishing Products

Upcoming Items

PRSC Meeting Member Night
November 30, 2016

Oyster Riot To Benefit PRKN
November 18-19, 2016

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Captain Steve Chaconas will talk about bass fishing and Mann's fishing products at our October 26 meeting. Also, he recently was appointed to the Maryland DNR Black Bass Advisory Subcommittee, and he will bring everyone up to speed on the changes in Potomac River regulations.

Steve brings 26 years of experience to his bass fishing guide service on the Potomac River. He has been featured locally and nationally in TV, radio, and print. He was the Fox Sunday News Power Player of the Week for two years. He is a recognized expert source on the Potomac River and is featured on WTOP Radio and many DC TV stations.

Capt. Steve is also an outdoors writer with columns in *BoatUS Angler Magazine*, *Sportsman's Magazine*, *Woods & Waters*, and *The Old Town Crier*, among others. He has written for the *Free Lance Star* newspaper, *The Mount Vernon Gazette*, *The Mount Vernon Voice*, The American Sportsfishing Association, and many others. Steve also hosted the National Bass Fishing Radio Show. In addition, Steve is featured as the BoatUS.com and monkeysee.com fishing expert. His reports and commentaries appear on-line at Comcastsports.com, bassfan.com, wfls.com, potomacbass.com, bassnedge.com, and ultimatebassin.com, among other Websites. In addition, he has covered fishing events for radio and TV.

A U.S. Coast Guard Captain, licensed by the Potomac River Fisheries Commission and the Maryland Department of Natural Resources, Steve has been featured in local and national publications: *BASSMASTERS*, *BASS TIMES*, *BASSIN' Magazine*, *Boat US Magazine*, *The Washington Post*, *The Washington Times*, *The Los Angeles Times*, *National Geographic*, ESPN, and others. He's been emcee of the St. Jude Children's Hospital Tournament the past 20 years, a member of Boat U.S. Speakers Bureau and the Southeastern Outdoor Press Association, and the American Sportsfishing Association. Steve has been awarded an Excellence in Craft award from SEOPA and was the recipient of the Mount Vernon-Lee Chamber of Commerce 2002 and 2003 Home-Based Business of the Year Award. He has also been awarded the Potomac Conservation Award by the Interstate Commission on the Potomac River Basin.

Prior to fishing, Steve's careers included teaching high school algebra and selling cars, computers, and surgical products. He also hosted the longest running all-financial morning radio show in the country in Washington, D.C. and is considered to be "The Father of Business Radio."

Steve fishes the Lower Potomac from Pohick Bay into D.C. This includes the Spoils, National Harbor, Broad Creek, Swan Creek, Piscataway Creek, Little Hunting Creek, Dogue Creek and Shoreline. Check out his Website at www.nationalbass.com for more information on fishing with Steve.



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Upcoming Items

Join us Wednesday, November 26th, for our annual Member Night. We will have a barbecue dinner catered by Big Mookies and lots of prizes. 7:30-9:00 PM at the McLean Community Center, 1234 Ingleside Ave., McLean, VA.

Old Ebbitt Grill Oyster Riot to benefit Potomac Riverkeeper Network, 18 and 19 November. Old Ebbitt Grill's annual Oyster Riot is one Washington D.C.'s greatest parties of the year. Always held the Friday (7:00 pm to 10:00 pm) and Saturday (1:00 pm to 4:00 pm) before Thanksgiving, the Riot is D.C.'s premier food and wine event. Each night, nearly 1,000 people devour tens of thousands of oysters while enjoying gold medal winners of the International Wines for Oysters Competition and grooving to some awesome tunes.

And the best part . . . all three Riots will benefit Potomac Riverkeeper Network!!

Tickets for each Riot is \$150 all-inclusive, with a 20 ticket maximum for event. Don't wait! Tickets sell out fast! Buy tickets or get more information here:

<http://www.ebbittoysterriot.com>

PRSC on the Water



PRSC member Ernie Rojas with a "green fish" he caught on a chatter bait in the tidal Potomac on October 15th.

Making the Best of Low Water

By George Thurston

Last weekend [Ed. 15-16 October] I took a trip north into waters [on the Susquehanah] that I'm usually lucky enough to get invited to fish in a jet boat. Since the water was so low due to lack of rain, I brought my yak too, and I'm glad I did. On the first day I had a seat in the boat, and let's just say fishing was marginal in an area that usually produces some nice bass and toothy critters.

So on day two, I strapped the yak on the car and drove it to a take out and hitched a ride with the yak about 3.5 miles up river. Guys in the jet did marginal again, but I had a great time.



I paddled through the area where the jet couldn't go, ran a class I and ended up dragging the yak through since the water was so low. I started catching a bunch of fat averages right off the bat on small swimbaits on a 1/8 oz jig head.

Size started to increase as I got further away from the jet boat area. Then the sun came up and things slowed down a lot, but the scenery was nice. Racked my brain, and remembered a few things I learned and scored. Ended up with 38 smallies and some minnows (not sure what the fish were).



New Water (Kinda/Sorta)

By Herschel Finch

They finally opened the new ramp off of Howellsville Road in Warren County back in early October. This new ramp cuts the Morgan's Ford to RT 50 bridge or Castelman's Ferry if you prefer, into two floats of 4.75 miles and 6.25 miles respectively, instead of the 11 mile float it used to be. Because it was so long, the full float was rarely done by anglers, simply because it was too long to allow you to work all the good structure and cover effectively. So obviously I was excited to be able to get back on this water, and be able to do so regularly and perhaps more effectively than in the past.



When I started organizing the float, none of my usual go-to partners were able to make the float except one, our *Buzz* editor Richard. So I opened it up to the Facebook friends and got a couple of bites: Jeff Singleton, the vice chairman of the George Washington Chapter of Heros on the Water, and his friend Sean, who is something of a semi-pro photographer, jumped on almost immediately.

We met up under the bridge at RT 50 and I led the way to the new ramp off Howellsville Road. For those in the club, Howellsville Road is on your left immediately before you cross the bridge on RT 50 going west. Go about 5.5 miles on Howellsville then turn right onto Meyers Drive and then left on Farms Riverview Road. The ramp is at the end of the road.

We were on the water by 9:15 on what would turn out to be a beautiful day. Personally speaking I could have used a little cloud cover to get the big girls out from under cover, but in mid-October, I'll take a great weather day in whatever form it may come. But partly because of the blue bird skies, the fact that a front had passed thru the day before, and being unfamiliar with the float after about 10 years of being off of it, fish were few and far between. I only managed six fish as did Richard. But they were feisty and fun on light tackle.



New Water

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The BIG fish honors of the day went to a six-year-old! Seriously! Jeff Singleton had brought his twin boys with him. These two junior anglers were paddling their own boats and both handling a spinning rod almost like they were born with it in their hands. Of course there was the usual call for Dad when one of them got tangled up or wanted to change baits. But both of these boys for the most part are self-sufficient out there.

The real angler of the two is Conner, who sticks with a bait and has a little more patience than his brother . . .

and it paid off bigtime. A little bit after lunch Conner set the hook on something and then called for Dad because he thought he was snagged. But then the line started moving and suddenly he was off on a Shenandoah Sleigh Ride. He had a huge carp on the end of his line that had bitten down on a white Beetle Spin. Jeff paddled over close to Conner but did not take the rod from him. He just stayed close, coaching him on how to handle the biggest fish of his young life to date. I had a net with me, so I was called over for the assist but we never managed to get the fish positioned where we could maneuver him into the net. We were on a slow section of the float and we slowly drifted into a mid-river tree-limb that apparently had been recently been blown off a large Sycamore. I was a little concerned about using a strainer for such a maneuver but it turned out to be solidly anchored to the bottom and the current was rather slow thankfully, so all three of us ended up against it. This allowed us to get a good grip on the fish and get it up into the Jeff's boat for the "hero shot" with Conner. The carp weighted in at 13.5 lbs and probably went about 30 inches, conservatively guessing. Jeff's buddy Sean of course was snapping away with the camera for posterity and I took a couple of cell phone shots, sent them to Jeff so he could send them to Mom. Modern technology is a wonderful thing isn't it?



All in all, with six fish each between me and Rich, I have no complaints. Jeff only got one since he was taking care of the boys and, of course, his friend Sean is not a fisherman . . . he's a photographer. He took over 1,000 shots that day! Of course in burst mode with three shots for every shutter push, you can rack up a lot of shots in a hurry. But we had a great time and I want to go back when we have more time to pick apart all the ledges, drop-offs and undercut rocks on this float. I suspect I'll be doing these two floats on a regular basis next spring.

Conservation Corner

By Herschel Finch

I want you to take a look at this newspaper column. First, read the text. Go ahead, I'll wait . . . it's short, it's just one paragraph.

Now take a look at the article's date at the top. Nope, that's not a mistake nor is it a Photoshop job. I thought it was too at first but you will find the original newspaper it was pulled from here:

<http://trove.nla.gov.au/newspaper/article/100645214>

This is a website for digitized newspapers from the past. It's a reference site for reporters, writers, historians, researchers, and just the curious. The column was blown up and framed for one of the board members of the Sierra Club.

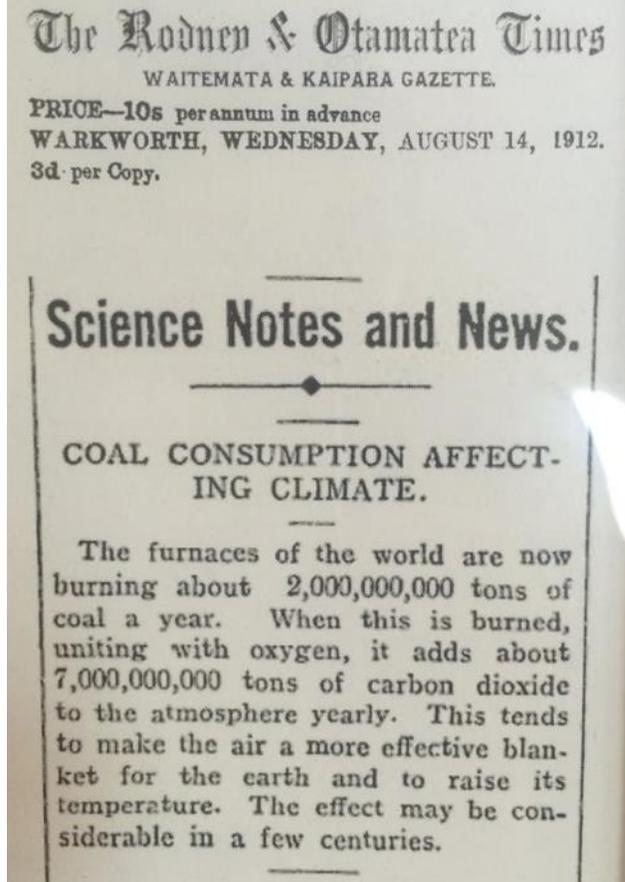
Look again . . . 1912. That's what makes this article so extraordinary. Scientists were warning us, and newspapers were reporting on their findings about the use of fossil fuels as an energy source, and what it was doing to our climate, over ONE HUNDRED YEARS AGO!

I don't know about you. But I saved a PDF of the article from the newspaper website so I can send it to every politician and crackpot talking head on TV who claims Al Gore and the Chinese invented "Global Warming" so it would cause us to stop using coal and fuel oil for energy generation and shut down those dirty old polluting industries, damaging the US economy so the Chinese could overtake us economically and that the Chinese were paying Al Gore to make it happen. Yes, I have heard that put forth on news interview shows with a straight face and have seen it written up in magazines.

As you can probably tell, I don't traffic in conspiracy theories, nor do I have a lot of respect for people who use them as part of an anti-scientific political agenda.

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There was an interesting article in the *Washington Post* this past week about the grasses and algae floating in the Potomac from the Lincoln Memorial on down past Alexandria. Our own Potomac Riverkeeper, Dean Naujoks, was interviewed for the article and he pointed out that river grasses, are in and of themselves, not necessarily a bad thing. Here's the article: <https://tinyurl.com/j8no7xa>



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Conservation Corner

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We need the grasses to ensure a healthy river system. They provide oxygen for fish and other aquatics and food for other species. They serve as ambush points for predators and a place to hide for the young of the year fish when they are spawned. Virtually every species in our rivers depends on a healthy amount of submerged aquatic vegetation . . . or as the biologists call it: SAV.

The problem is when it becomes over abundant due to over-nutrication of the river. And of course we all know by now where **that** comes from. In addition, this time of year the grasses are beginning to die off due to the shortening photo-period, or daylight hours. It's also why our water temperatures are dropping. The change in the amount of sunlight in the fall causes the grass to die off and form floating mats of grass where algae can grow. And as we all know, algae can be, and is, a big problem here in the Chesapeake/Shenandoah Watershed.

All this is to remind everyone that the annual Combined Federal Campaign is underway in the federal government, and nearly everyone else that follows that schedule. I hope you will consider making an annual donation and becoming a member of the Potomac Riverkeeper Network. I have a small amount coming out every paycheck and I never miss it. And being a member has its benefits: the newsletters, the invitations to their events, and knowing that you're doing your part to help contribute to the effort for clean, drinkable, fishable, and swimmable water here in our area.

Come join us in the fight for clean water.

You can join or make a donation at this website: <http://www.potomacriverkeepernetwork.org/>

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Buzz Editor Rick Mrstik battling a feisty smallmouth on the south branch of the Shenandoah on October 16th. The fish were few and far between but all those landed measured 12 inches or better.



2016 Fishing Contest

Fishing Contest

by Jack Cook

Nothing new to report as of press time.

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:	Chip Comstock 12"
Best 5 Fish on Fly:	Chip Comstock 54"
New Member Big Fish:	Randy Hall 18.5"
New Member Best 5:	Randy Hall 75"
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.