



The Buzz

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Upper Potomac Fishing With Jeff Greene

Upcoming Events

**Float Trip
Brunswick to
Point of Rocks**
May 20, 2017

**Family & Youth
Casting Call**
May 20, 2017

PRSC Meeting
May 31, 2017

In This Issue

UPCOMING	P. 2
VDGIF SMB OUTLOOK	P. 3
PRSC ON THE WATER	P. 4
UPPER POTOMAC EXPEDITIONS	P. 6
GO WEST FOR SMALLIES	P. 8
CONSERVATION CORNER	P. 10
TIDAL POTOMAC EXPEDITION	P.11
FISHING CONTEST	P.11

Whether lifelong resident and professional fishing guide Jeff Greene of Montgomery County, Maryland is alone on the Upper Potomac River fishing from his custom made jet boat, guiding clients for trophy smallmouth bass or fishing other bodies of water around the United States like his favorite fishing destination the Florida Keys, it's not hard to figure out why he is who he is today. His love for fishing and the outdoors started as far back as he can remember. Some of the best and earliest memories fishing were with his Grandfather on Grand Lake in Grove Oklahoma. That's where he and his grandfather chased catfish, crappie, and white bass. During his childhood he would spend summer vacation with his grandparents, who managed the Honey Creek Resort Motel in Grove Oklahoma on Grand Lake. That's where Jeff started to hone his skills and become the fisherman he is today.



After graduating from High School, Jeff went to Glenville State College in Glenville West Virginia, where he graduated with a bachelor's degree in criminal justice and a minor in psychology. During this time Jeff never stopped fishing or stopped fishing the Upper Potomac River. The state of West Virginia had a lot of water that offered great fishing opportunities and he took full advantage of that.

After college Jeff spent 14 years as a police Officer with the Washington, DC Police Department. During his police career, Jeff thrived as a second-generation police officer with MPD. Jeff worked in uniformed patrol, narcotics, the First District Warrant Squad and on a uniformed street robbery tac unit. His dad and uncle were also on the job. Both were homicide detectives with the department and retired in the early 90s. Even as a police officer, Jeff fished as much as he could and never lost the passion for fishing. In fact the passion for fishing grew even more as he got older.

In 2014 Jeff really took his fishing abilities to the next level. He started a small fishing guide service, which later became Shallow Water Fishing Adventures LLC. Fast forward to present day and he has only become more passionate about what he does and how he does it. These days Jeff can be found fishing out of his custom made jet boat year around on the Upper Potomac River, chasing monster smallmouth bass. Jeff enjoys every aspect of being a professional fishing guide on the Upper Potomac River. He enjoys nothing more than to see one of his clients hook up with a trophy size smallmouth bass.

<http://www.shallowwaterfishingadventures.net/>

Club Executive Board

President

Steve Kimm
president@prsc.org

Vice-President

Craig Bishop
vp@prsc.org

Secretary

Dave Lockard
 H (301) 656-1964
secretary@prsc.org

Treasurer

Jamie Gold
 C (571) 213-4699
treasure@prsc.org

Trip Coordinator

Marty Burkard
trip_coordinator@prsc.org

Program Chair

Leon Kates
Programs@prsc.org

Conservation Chair

Herschel Finch
 H (540) 635-7636
Conservation@prsc.org

Librarian

Aaron Otte
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

Publicity

Ernie Rojas
 H (703) 729-0128
Publicity@prsc.org

Webmaster

Kris Andersen
Webmaster@prsc.org

Past President

Steve Moore

Upcoming Events

Join us Wednesday, May 31st, for our monthly meeting. We'll bring back "Experts Night" in May where our club's most accomplished anglers will discuss their favorite lures and techniques. They will be located at various stations throughout the room so you can rotate through each station and share thoughts and ask questions. 7:30-9:00 PM at the McLean Governmental Center, 1437 Balls Hill Road, McLean, VA 22101.

Club Float Trip, Saturday, May 20th. Jamie Gold will lead this trip from Brunswick to Point of Rocks, meeting will be at 7:00 AM at the Brunswick, MD launch ramp.



**FAMILY & YOUTH
CASTING CALL**

A FREE FISHING EVENT

Constitution Gardens Lake
 17th and Constitution Avenue NW

Saturday, May 20, 2017
10am- 3pm

LEARN TO FISH!

All equipment, bait, and angling instruction provided. Learn how to tie common knots; create beautiful fish prints; and find out about DC watersheds and conservation of our aquatic resources.

**OPEN TO THE PUBLIC
RAIN OR SHINE**

If you would like to volunteer or register for this event, visit: doee.dc.gov/event/family-and-youth-casting-call-2017

★ ★ ★ DEPARTMENT
 OF ENERGY &
 ENVIRONMENT

VDGIF SMB Forecast

Editor's Note: The forecast below is an excerpt from VDGIF's *2017 Annual Virginia Rivers and Smallmouth Bass Fishing Outlook*. Read the full report here:

<https://www.dgif.virginia.gov/fishing/forecasts-and-reports/river-fishing-report/>

The **South Fork** and **Mainstem Shenandoah Rivers** are known in angler circles as a “numbers” fishery, meaning anglers can expect to catch a reasonable amount of bass and sunfish on any given day. Based on the most recent VDGIF 2016 fall sampling, it appears the Smallmouth Bass (SMB) fishery has recovered nicely from the disease/mortality event that occurred spring 2014. The number of adult SMB greater than 11” is currently above the 19-year average. Most of these fish came from above average spawning success in 2010. The number of smallmouth greater than 14” collected also increased from 2015 to 2016 by 34 percent. Biologists documented a large number of SMB in the 7 to 8” range during 2016 fall fish population monitoring. These 7 to 8” bass are from a record 2014 spawning year and should grow up to 10” throughout the 2017 summer. There was also good spawning success in 2012, and these fish (10 to 12”) offer anglers a better size fish to target. Spawning success was below average in 2008 and 2009, so even without the 2014 disease event; there would be low numbers of bass greater than 15” in 2017. Successful SMB spawning in 2010 and 2012 improved fishing the past two years. Barring any fish disease outbreaks, the population should continue to improve over the next two years. Spawning success in 2016 was average when compared to the last 20 years. The 2016 year class should help maintain smallmouth numbers in the future. Thus, SMB catch rates in the South Fork and Mainstem Shenandoah Rivers should be above average compared to recent years with a lack of larger (> 15”) fish. Anglers should also expect good catches of Redbreast Sunfish. Anglers should not overlook Largemouth Bass, as this river harbors a quality population; and finding good numbers of 2 to 4 pound fish should not be difficult in deeper, slower sections when woody debris are targeted. Anglers again reported fair musky catches and sightings in 2016 mostly in the longest and deepest pools. Channel Catfish in the 2 to 6 pound range are common, and anglers should concentrate on the lower South Fork and Mainstem when targeting catfish. There is always the strong possibility of a mixed bag on the Shenandoah. Don't be surprised if you catch quality-sized Pumpkinseed, Bluegill, Green Sunfish, Fallfish, Black Crappie, or even a Walleye. In spring 2014, VDGIF began stocking walleye fry in the Shenandoah River annually to supplement the natural population and increase the number of walleye present. Sampling indicated low survival of the 2014 stocking. However, the 2015 stocking seems to have survived well; and anglers should expect to see an increase in the catch of walleye in 2017. Due to a shortage of supply, walleye were not stocked in 2016. Most 2014 and 2015 stocked fish should reach legal harvest size during 2017. As future annual stockings are added to the Shenandoah River, the population should increase to an acceptable fishery. Anglers fishing for walleye on the Shenandoah River should focus their efforts in the deeper pools during daylight hours. Walleye will move out of the deeper pools into shallow bedrock ledge areas to feed at night.

Consistent spawning success should also aid in improving the Smallmouth Bass (SMB) population in the **North Fork Shenandoah** in 2017. Anglers should mostly encounter SMB in the 7 to 8” range from the 2014 year class. These fish should grow to between 9 and 10” throughout 2017. There is always the possibility of encountering larger fish when fishing the best habitat. Fallfish are plentiful in some sections of the North Fork, can exceed 14” and should not be overlooked. Anglers may also encounter adequate numbers of Redbreast Sunfish in most areas, Bluegill in deeper pools, and the opportunity to catch a quality-sized Largemouth Bass, Channel Catfish, or musky. Pool habitat is limited, so seek out deeper water when targeting these species. If you plan a float trip here; stick to spring and early summer, as low flows and possible dense vegetation can make fishing and navigation difficult later in the year.

PRSC on the Water



April means shad fishing, and a Schaupp family outing to Fletchers. Clockwise from left: Maria Schaupp with her first fish of the season; Max Schaupp with his first shad in the net; Mom (Lisa Schaupp) gets in on the action too!



PRSC on the Water



Clockwise from left: Maria Odelgova with a nice shad; Maria Schaupp with her first fish of the season; Chris Schaupp hams for the camera, shad in hand.



Upper Potomac Expeditions

By Ernie Rojas

On Friday April 14th, I met George Thurston at the Algonkian ramp at 8:00 AM. He was ready to hop in. George was loving the weather front, and hooked up first. Not big, but the first smallie caught on my new ride!

We worked some ledges and the shoreline with maybe one bite for the two of us. Finally, I got to where I've been trying to go for months . . . the breaks!

Nothing there but one bite that George thought was a catfish.

After a nice lunch, we headed up river and



fished around Edwards Ferry and into Goose Creek.

Maybe one bite there. I am blaming the full moon for the lack of bites. We threw everything at 'em! Water temp started out at a hair over 60 and rose to 64 by the time we pulled out.

I sure hope the smallies start biting soon in this stretch.



Upper Potomac Expeditons

Every time I cross the American Legion Bridge, I look over and wonder if anyone ever fishes down there? On April 17th I did, joining John Nguyen to fish with Duncan McGrath. We started at Angler's Inn and took out at Lock 7. This is an unbelievably beautiful stretch of river!

I was able to catch some decent fish on tubes, but the big one got away (what else is new). I threw a swimbait with my George-built rod and got smacked hard. The fish took a huge jump but I still had him when he went back in the water. It was when he ran into the weeds that I lost him. All I got was a hook full of sticks to show for the effort.



Well, the big one always gets away, but both John and Duncan saw it, and I definitely heard someone say, "Oh my God!" Oh well. I did have another one get off by the boat and forgot to take a picture of my biggest one.

John was using his fly rod and struggled at first in the catching department, but towards the end he hooked some nice fish!

Towards the end I got a hit but it felt different. He was right in the middle of prime smallie area and put up a decent fight! For the day I hooked 15-18 smallies, landed 10-12, plus the walleye. A great day!



Speakers Share Fishing Tips . . .

Nevada, Arizona, Colorado and New Mexico

By Bill Amshey

The following is Part 3 in a six-part series of articles on smallmouth bass fishing out West. At our April 2002 meeting, outdoor writer Charlie Most, spoke to the Club under the title, "Vacation Out West Bass Fishing," which sparked my curiosity of smallie fishing possibilities west of the Mississippi.

Nevada

Bass can be found in most of the southern waters in Nevada and throughout the Colorado River system of lakes. The major lakes in Nevada with healthy populations of bass include Lake Mead, Lake Mohave, Ruby Lake, Rye Patch Reservoir, and the South Fork Reservoir. The record smallie weighed 8 lbs 11 oz.

Lake Mead, which is located on the Colorado River about 25 miles southeast of Las Vegas, is the largest man-made lake in the U.S. This lake contains an abundance of fish species such as rainbow trout, largemouth bass, smallmouth bass, channel catfish, crappie, bluegill, sunfish, etc.



Arizona

Arizona Game & Fish reports that smallmouth bass were introduced into Arizona in 1921. They are abundant in the Black River, Verde River, Roosevelt Lake, Lake Powell, and Lake Havasu. They are also found in the Colorado River for many miles below Lake Havasu in the Parker area and downstream. Our speaker back in 2002 also liked the Salt River outside Phoenix, Oak Creek, Beaver Creek, and the lower Colorado River below Yuma. The state record stands at 7 pounds 1 ounce.

Most experts consider Lake Havasu, on the Colorado River, to be a superb largemouth impoundment and one of the best smallmouth lakes in the nation. About 450 miles of shoreline highlight this 25-mile-long lake. For information, contact BassTackleMaster in Lake Havasu City at (928) 854-BASS. There are no guides on the lake. Roosevelt Lake, in Tonto National Forest, lies about two hours northeast of Phoenix. A nutrient-rich forage base of shad and bluegills grows bass quickly. The bass population really exploded in 1990 with the implementation of a slot limit.

Colorado

Stephen Carpenter, writing for *Colorado Game & Fish* in April 2014, wrote that "Centennial State bass anglers have a corner on the market. Because the state's biggest draws are big-game and bird hunting, trout fishing and skiing, Colorado's exceptional bass fishing opportunities often fly under the radar." The state smallie record is 6 lbs 8 oz.

"The Pueblo Reservoir is fed by the Arkansas River and rests at an elevation of 4,690 feet. The lake has 4,500 surface acres with over 60 miles of shoreline and depths from six to 100 feet. Lake Pueblo offers great fishing opportunities for largemouth, smallmouth, and spotted bass. The 6.5-mile-long Horsetooth Lake Reservoir was constructed as part of the Colorado-Big Thompson Project by building four large earth-filled dams: Spring Creek, Dixon Canyon, and Soldier Canyon dams, each approximately 210 feet high. The Horsetooth Reservoir contains largemouth and smallmouth bass and is open to fishing year-round.

. . . Go West for Smallies

“The McPhee Reservoir has a maximum surface area of 4,470 acres and is located on the Dolores River in the San Juan National Forest north of Cortez, Colorado. The lake has over 50 miles of shoreline and several long, narrow tree-lined canyons. It is one of the largest lakes in Colorado with a maximum water depth at the dam of 270 feet. Because McPhee is in a river canyon, much of the best fishing is accessible only by boat. Home to some king-sized smallmouth bass, fish under 15 inches in length must be released immediately.”

New Mexico

At our April 2002 club meet, Charlie said he liked fishing the Yeba River, the Delores River near Durango, and in the Slick Rock Canyon, and the Purgatory River. The New Mexico Department of Game & Fish reports that the smallmouth bass populations are very good at Navajo Lake, Ute Lake, and Conchas Lake. Though the highest abundance can be found at Navajo, Ute and Conchas have good numbers of larger fish as well. Numbers and size also have improved at Elephant Butte Lake. The state record stands at 6 lbs 14 oz.

In an article in the October 2010 issue of *Colorado Game & Fish*, Lynn Burkhead wrote: “Known for its superb trout fishing, the state of New Mexico offers surprising fishing opportunities for anglers hoping to hook a spunky largemouth or smallmouth bass! The state’s benchmark largemouth bass, checked in at nearly 16 pounds, and the best New Mexico smallmouth bass was a solid keeper weighing more than 6 pounds. According to the New Mexico Department of Game & Fish’s Assistant Chief of Fisheries, Richard Hansen, fish of this size are not anomalies.

With Hansen’s assistance, Burkhead picked New Mexico’s top bass waters: “Bill Evans Lake, some 29 miles northwest of Silver City, seems to have a lock on big largemouth bass. Conchas Lake, fed by the Canadian River and located some 34 miles northwest of Tucumcari, is one of the state’s biggest lakes, boasting a length of 25 miles and roughly 9,600-surface acres. Hansen says, “You can expect to catch primarily smallmouths, with some largemouths thrown in. It’s a rocky lake with cliffs – it’s in a canyon, so the sides are pretty steep. There are drop-offs, underwater ledges, humps, and that kind of thing.”

New Mexico’s biggest lake, the 4,500-foot elevation Elephant Butte, is nearly 35 miles long and boasts about 36,500 surface acres. Accessed 5 miles northeast of Truth or Consequences, the state’s most popular water recreation spot was created in 1916 with the damming of the Rio Grande. “Historically, Elephant Butte has fished well for largemouths and smallmouths,” Hansen said. “Right now, folks are still catching bass, although not like they used to. We’ve observed that the smallmouths are doing a little better than the largemouths in there right now.”

“Mention Navajo Lake, some 25 miles east of Bloomfield, and most thoughts immediately turn to the cold water spilling forth from Navajo Dam into the trout-rich tailwater of the San Juan River. On the other side of the imposing dam is a sparkling 15,590-surface-acre aquatic jewel known for growing feisty smallmouth bass. In fact, the state-record smallmouth, tipping the scales at 6 pounds, 14 4/10th ounces was pulled from this 6,100-foot elevation lake.”

Conservation Corner

By Herschel Finch

April has been one crazy whirlwind of a month for me . . . almost all of it having to do with Conservation, or some related matter. It started off with being contacted by my friend Jeff Lehey, formerly National Conservation Chairman of the Izaak Walton League of America and now the Senior Manager of Public Lands and Conservation Policy for the National Wildlife Federation. He roped me into going on another Conservation Fly-In up on Capitol Hill, this time in conjunction with the Virginia Conservation Network. It was pretty much the same drill as the last time I did this two years ago. Except this time without the after-gatherings with an open bar and heavy hors d'oeuvres and dinner at Farmers, Fishers, Bakers in Georgetown on the riverfront.

We pow-wowed with the legislative staff for Senator Kaine and Senator Warner. They were looking for information they could hang their hats on to help craft the effort to retain the Clean Water Rule and preserve funding for the EPA, especially where our water is concerned. It was quite productive I thought. The staffers did more listening than they did talking. Their questions were direct and knowledgeable for being rather young. It never ceases to amaze me what dedicated and capable young people are up on Capitol Hill trying to make a difference. It gives me hope.

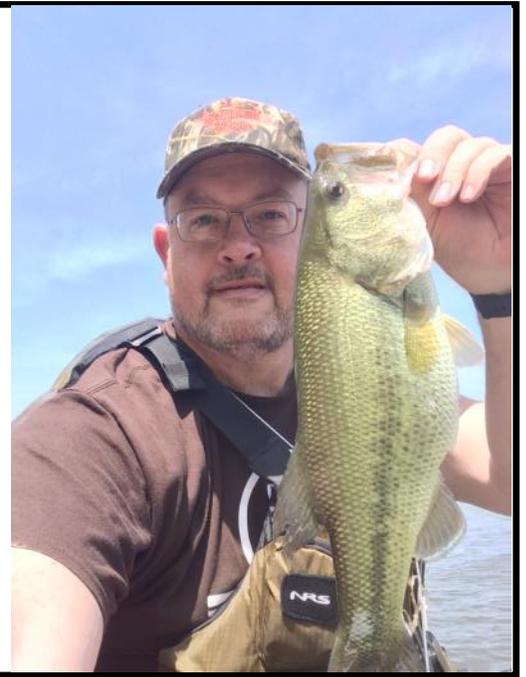
It also brought to mind another thought. Our Senators and Congress members cannot possibly have every piece of information and knowledge that would allow them to craft smart effective legislation into laws that will be effective, do the most good for the widest number of people or situation. That's where we come in. We need to engage with our representatives both on the Hill, and in Richmond to make sure they have the information they need to make smart decisions. I know I hammer you guys constantly about writing letters and making phone calls to our politicians, but they really do work and get their attention. Remember: An addressed letter in an envelope has to be opened and read according to federal law and phone calls have to be answered and summarized for our Congress members. Emails are easily ignored, the first two . . . not so much.

Next up I'm working with Mark Forndorf and the Conservation Integrity Project to get the word out on a report the CIP has authored. They are gathering all the data generated by the USGS, most major research universities, and most of the DEQ, DNR type agencies, especially those from Virginia and Maryland, and in the mid-Atlantic in general, and the work done on the Shenandoah Fish Kill Task Force back in 2004. The CIP has condensed all that data and information into a clear, concise 34-page report that will be released to the public the day of the April meeting. I have a PDF copy of this report if anyone would like to read the full report (conservation@prsc.com). It's easy to read and you don't have to keep a scientific dictionary at your elbow while reading it, unlike some of the reports that came out of the task force. Mark, Tom Pelton from the CIP, and I will be taking reporters from Valley newspapers and other media fishing on the South River on Monday afternoon where we will discuss the report and what it says about our waters in the Shenandoah Valley. We'll also be on a telephone press conference on Wednesday discussing the same subject with other members of the press. I'll tell you how it went Wednesday night at the meeting.

PRSC
P.O. Box 1240
Vienna, VA 22183

Tidal Potomac Expedition

On April 15th I made the first solo launch of my recently acquired 16' Tracker boat from the Pohick Bay ramp on the tidal Potomac. I billed this as my final "sea trial" for the boat because I wanted to self-launch and test the operation of a new trolling-motor-mounted transducer and fish finder. After launching I motored through the main river channel down to the mouth of Maryland's Mattawoman Creek. I located a gravelly bank with plenty of wood cover that looked like it would hold bass—and it did! This 16" female LMB wasn't quite ready to spawn. Everything worked well that day with the exception of two new baitcasting reels, but after several backlashes, I got at least one of them dialed in. A successful day!



2017 Fishing Contest

Fishing Contest

The 2017 Fishing Contest began on 1 January. Visit our contest page for rules or to submit an entry.

<http://prsc.org/fishing-contest/>

2017 Leaders

Section 1, Biggest Fish:	Herschel Finch	16"
Section 1, Best 5 Fish:	No Report	
Section 2, Biggest Fish:	No Report	
Section 2, Best 5 Fish:	No Report	
Section 3, Biggest Fish:	No Report	
Section 3, Best 5 Fish:	No Report	
Largest on Fly:	No Report	
Best 5 Fish on Fly:	No Report	
New Member Big Fish:	No Report	
New Member Best 5:	No Report	
Grover Cleveland Award:	No Report	
William Shriver Award:	No Report	

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 Governmental 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.