



The Buzz

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July 26, 2017

Bruce Ingram Returns

Upcoming Events

PRSC Meeting
July 28, 2017

Club Trip
August 12, 2017

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August 19, 2017

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Author, sportsman, photographer, and conservationist Bruce Ingram will share his knowledge of fishing for smallmouth bass at the PRSC meeting on July 26th. 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. During this meeting he will address the best float trips on the upper James and New Rivers. He will describe five floats on each river that would be worthwhile for members to come down and fish. Bruce will also be available to answer any questions you may have on those topics or his other achievements. We will also have the opportunity to purchase signed copies of Bruce's books outlined below.

Bruce 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*, *The Shenandoah/Rappahannock Rivers Guide*, and *The South Branch and Upper Potomac Rivers Guide*. These books cover 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.

His book, *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 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. His latest book, *Ninth Grade Blues*, is a Young Adult fiction novel. It is expected out this month.

In addition to his books, Bruce has also placed some 2,300 articles in magazines and some 2,500 photos. He regularly writes for such magazines as *Virginia Wildlife*, *Wildlife in North Carolina*, *Whitetail Times*, *Turkey Country*, *Outdoor America*, *Quality Whitetails*, *Game and Fish Publications*, and many others. The Outdoor Writers Association of America has honored Bruce with six writing awards. Bruce and his wife have cooking columns for the Virginia Deer Hunters' Association and the Quality Deer Management Association.

You can learn more about Bruce and purchase his books by visiting <https://sites.google.com/site/bruceingramoutdoors>.



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Upcoming Events

Join us Wednesday, August 30th, for our monthly meeting. Captain Brady Bounds will be our speaker. He will discuss the similarity between river fishing and his methodology for finding fish in the saltwater tributaries of the Chesapeake Bay. 7:30-9:00 PM at the McLean Governmental Center, 1437 Balls Hill Road, McLean, VA 22101.

Club Trip. Rick Mrstik will lead a club trip at 7:30 AM on Saturday, 12 August on the Potomac River from the Route 340 Wayside to Brunswick Family Campground. This float is just over five miles long, and a paid shuttle service is being arranged. Signup information is available on Meetup.com.

Club Trip. Herman Yam will lead a club trip at 7:00 AM on Saturday, 19 August at Riverbend Park in Great Falls, Virginia. The park offers canoe, kayak, and jon boat rentals, so it is a great opportunity for members who do not have their own boat. There is a \$5 charge to launch at the park. Launch and recovery will be at the same location, so there will not be a shuttle.

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Coast Guard Wants To Kick Boats Off Potomac River When President Is Golfing

The Trump family has offended many sectors of establishment Washington since their arrival in the nation's capital, from Langley's spymasters to mansion-dwellers in the District's Kalorama neighborhood.

But 30 miles north of the White House, a conflict is now brewing on the banks of the Potomac River that pits the president's interests against those of a very different — if no less zealous — constituency. This one is armed with paddles.

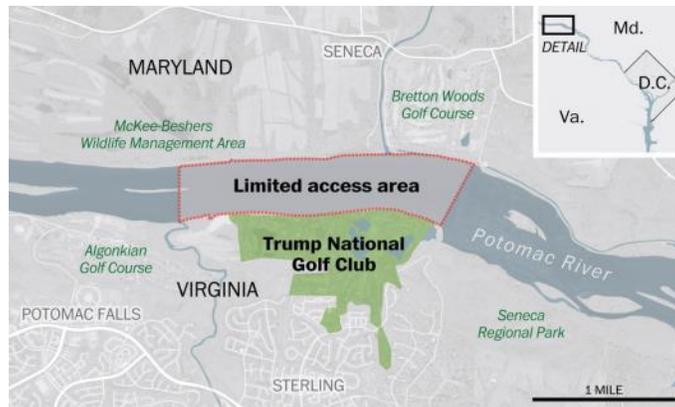
Citing security concerns, the Coast Guard says it is adopting a policy of periodically cutting off access to nearly 2 miles of the Potomac where it borders Trump National Golf Club in Sterling.

The restrictions would clear the water of canoes, kayaks, stand-up paddleboards, sailboats, Jet Skis, motorboats and anglers when Trump or other senior officials of his government decide to spend a day on the back nine.

The buffer zone is stoking concern and opposition among recreational users of the river. The proposed shore-to-shore security area includes Riley's Lock, the embarkation point in Maryland for a popular summer camp and a kayaking program for wounded and disabled veterans.

Continue reading here:

https://www.washingtonpost.com/local/dc-politics/coast-guard-wants-to-kick-boats-off-potomac-river-when-trump-is-golfing/2017/07/17/8ac56828-6afd-11e7-9c15-177740635e83_story.html?utm_term=.a3863697eb78&wpisrc=nl_buzz&wpmm=1



PRSC on the Water



PRSC member Randy Hall went fishing on the New River again last month with his father-in-law Jim and son Hunter. At left, Jim holds a 24.5 hybrid citation next to their guide, Mike.

Below, Randy is pictured with a 31-inch Striper.



Above, Randy and Hunter pose with a 31-inch Channel Catfish.

At right, Hunter and guide Mike are shown with the 24.75 inch citation hybrid that Hunter landed.



PRSC on the Water

David Brenningmeyer and his son Luke fished the New River on June 24th with Tangent Outfitters, based in Pembroke, Virginia. David's best fish of the day (below right) measured 16 inches, while Luke's (below left) topped that at 17.5 inches. Luke also hooked a very nice muskie that he got to within a few feet of the boat before his line broke.

The two of them caught a total of 50 smallmouths over a full day of fishing on the New. Most were caught on a 5-inch plastic purple worm, fished with just enough weight to keep the bait down in the water column.



PRSC on the Water



Marcel Courtillet fished the south fork of the Shenandoah on June 9th and 10th. His two best fish pictured here measured 16.5 and 18.5 inches.



Buzz Editor Rick Mrstik (left) continues to split his fishing time between the tidal Potomac chasing green fish and the upper Potomac chasing bronze.

PRSC on the Water



Chun Rhee had an awesome day fishing at Riverbend Park on Tuesday, June 13th. His five-fish total for the day taped 86 inches, putting him in the lead for Section 3 in the PRSC Fishing Contest.



Speakers Share Fishing Tips . . .

Arkansas, Kansas, Louisiana, Oklahoma, Texas

By Bill Amshey

The following is the last 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.

Arkansas: The Natural State is blessed with large impounds like Bull Shoals and Lake Ouachita loaded with bass along with the Arkansas River. However, its great treasures are Crooked Creek and the Buffalo National River. Both are designated as Blue Ribbon smallmouth streams populated with big, feisty smallmouth in crystal clear streams.

Kansas: Brent Frazee, writing in *The Kansas City Star*, says the Sunflower State has plenty of options for fishermen. He highlighted several lakes and reservoirs for smallie action. "Milford Lake, at 16,200 acres near Junction City, is the largest body of water in Kansas. It is tough to beat as an all-around fishing lake. Let's start with blue catfish. Stocked by the Kansas Department of Wildlife, Parks, and Tourism, Milford has flourished, regularly producing fish 50 pounds and larger. Then there are the wipers (a cross between white bass and stripers) that provide thrilling topwater strikes, especially in the fall. Milford also is one of the top smallmouth-bass lakes in Kansas. Add steady fishing for white bass and crappies."

In August 2008, Frazee published an interview with Jason Heis, who is a passionate smallie fisherman. He is told about an August day in 2004 when he was casting a Senko-type plastic bait into the shallows along the dam at Milford. He got a huge strike; then caught a huge fish. The 6.68-pound smallmouth became the Kansas state record — a mark that still stands.

"Wilson Reservoir, 9,020 acres, is located in central Kansas. It is perhaps the top body of water in Kansas for striper fishing. And its walleye fishing is similarly impressive. It ranks as one of the Sunflower State's best smallmouth-bass lakes, and its white bass and catfish also have a following. Melvern Reservoir covers 7,000 acres and is 35 miles south of Topeka. The big news here is the rapid development of its smallmouth-bass fishing. The reservoir contains some bruiser smallies, which love the reservoir's rocky habitat. Coffey County Lake is 5,090 acres and is located in east-central Kansas. Coffey supports an impressive population of smallmouth bass.

"Wyandotte Lake is 330 acres in size and is located in Kansas City. For an urban reservoir, Wyandotte produces some surprisingly good fishing. It is best known for its late-winter trout fishing. Thousands of rainbows are stocked by the Unified Government, and they provide a good ice-breaker for hardy fishermen. Wyandotte also is stocked heavily with channel catfish, which have a large following at the urban lake. Smallmouth and largemouth bass, crappies, and wipers also tug on the line here. Other lakes and reservoirs that produce good catches include Pomona Reservoir, Hillsdale Reservoir, Tuttle Creek Reservoir, and Elk Reservoir."

Louisiana: I could not find any definitive information whether there are smallies in Louisiana. Following is an exchange I found on a fishing blog, and I will let you decide whether Louisiana has smallies.

First Guy: "I know several people in Leesville that claim they catch smallmouth bass on Toledo Bend. I argue with them of course. So I tell them to go register their catches because they are state records. I tell them they are catching Kentucky bass, at least that is what I call them, creek bass. Yes their mouth might be smaller but they're not smallmouth. Has anyone else heard this before? Are people in Leesville stupid? Or am I?"

. . . Go West for Smallies

Second Guy: "They are Kentucky spotted bass. If u look u will see a patch of "teeth" on their tongues, feels like a piece of Velcro. The state record is less than 5lbs., so anything over 3lbs. is a large one."

Third Guy: "Toledo Bend is loaded with smallmouth. They hang out on ledges. I catch them all the time. It's kinda tough though with all the TUNA swimming around with them... Nothing more pitiful then people that have no idea what species of fish they are fishing for and even keeping!!!"

Fourth Guy: "I can't say whether or not it true or not that they have smallmouth bass in Toledo Bend. But I highly doubt it, also there is no size limit on Toledo Bend for Kentuckys, just possession limits. And Guy Two is correct right in the middle of their tongue is a tooth patch; that's how I check to see if it can be kept or released."

Fifth Guy: "Totally agree with Third Guy. If you can't tell the difference between a Kentucky [also known as spotted, coosa, alabama] bass and smallmouth, you are not an avid fisherman. If they don't know that difference then that means that they have never seen a smallmouth period because there is a distinct difference between a spot and smallmouth. Just Google pics or just watch some fishin' shows. They don't call a smallmouth a BRONZEBACK for nothing."

Oklahoma: Oklahoma has several options when it comes to bass fishing. Broken Bow and Tenkiller Ferry Lake have beautiful blue waters and a healthy population of big smallmouth, spotted bass, and largemouth that bite year round

Texas: I found the following on <http://www.scout.com> -- Everything Smallmouth, dated October 2015.

"Where is the best smallmouth fishing in Texas? Smallmouth bass are often thought of as a Northern Fish, but actually thrive in Southern locations as long as the habitat and forage are compatible with their typical environment. Tim Holschlag, author of "*River Smallmouth Fishing*," says that smallmouth bass can thrive in the warm water environments and grow to impressive sizes due to a longer feeding cycle than they would have during the colder Northern climates.

From the Texas Fishing Forum, here is a nice little thread about smallmouth fishing in the DFW area:

"I've been wanting to go smallmouth fishing for a while. Where are some good bodies of water close to Dallas-Fort Worth? I was thinking of hitting Lake Murray. I hear it has good smallmouth, LMB, and walleye. Anybody here fish Lake Murray or have any other suggestions?"

"Devils River!! Lake Whitney used to have nice Smallies in it. PB SMB 5.8lbs now I have not even heard of someone catching any SMB from Whitney. Texoma has some SMB; lake record I believe is 7 lbs. Texoma has a very healthy population. I have heard some folks catching some out of Grapevine as well. There's a few in Wheeler Branch as well. Got to do the Devils. Some really nice smallies."

In addition to the above discussion, other lakes in Texas with healthy populations of smallmouth bass include: Lake Merideth, Lake Texoma, Belton Lake, Amistad Lake, Bridgeport. Texas has some nice smallmouth bass and the top 50 recorded catches are recorded by the state fish and boat commission. Here are the top three:

- Meredith 7.93 23"
- Whitney 7.72 22"
- Whitney 7.68 23.25"

Conservation Corner

By Herschel Finch

So it seems that the dysfunction in Washington these days is actually a good thing for our environment. With all the delay on filling positions at EPA and at Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (FERC), work on impact statements and other paperwork that needs to get done is at a virtual stand-still. That's due to the health care dust-ups in the Senate and various investigations into the administration's coziness to the Russians. This all leaves little time to hold hearings on nominations to fill critical positions. FERC is supposed to have five members in order to review and vote on critical energy infrastructure projects. Currently, only two are on the board with NO nominees in the pipeline to fill those other three seats. That's the first time that's happened in 40 years.

Not that the administration is being bothered to actually find people to fill those jobs. They seem to be a tad occupied with hiring and talking to defense lawyers these days. Not that I'm complaining mind you. Anything that causes delays in the building of an unnecessary pipeline across our eastern mountains, threatening the Shenandoah River and the Chesapeake Watershed in general, is a good thing in my book.

And speaking of our current President and his pre-occupation with "optics" . . . No doubt everyone has heard by now that President Trump has asked Homeland Security to require the Coast Guard to close down that part of the upper Potomac between the end of Sharpshin Island to the beginning of Seneca Breaks. This area coincides with the location of Trump National Golf Club on the Potomac. You remember . . . the golf course he bought and proceeded to "improve" by destroying the riparian buffer between the course and the river so that now, hundreds of pounds of fertilizers and pesticides can be washed into the river every time in rains in Loudoun County? The explanation entered into the Federal Register argues that this is being done for the Security of the President, and other high ranking U.S. officials. No doubt these officials include his family members as well since they all seem to hold jobs in the West Wing these days. But as our own Jamie Gold pointed out in an email, Clinton stood in line at McDonalds and Obama was a regular at Ben's Chilli Bowl . . . so what's his problem?

Obviously this is not about Security, it's about protesters who may show up in kayaks and other vessels and spoil his perfectly nice afternoon round of golf. That stretch of the Potomac (about 2.5 miles) could easily be secured with a couple USCG patrol boats armed with CG sharpshooters and Secret Service personnel. So as soon as some press releases can get properly written and disseminated to news outlets, look for some sort of water-born protest the next time Trump or anyone connected to the administration plans a day of golf.

There is a public comment period open until August 31 to voice your opinion on this matter. But the regulation has been in place since July 10th. SO . . . Anyone want to see if we can get arrested on the Potomac? . . . and Jamie, does our insurance cover bail money and a "beat-down by *the man*" at a First Amendment protest?

Read an interesting article over the weekend that poses a theory that connects aliens (the visitors from another planet type) . . . or the lack thereof of alien visitors to *our* solar system, and global warming.

The theory goes like this: Given the billions of worlds that scientists now believe exist in just our own Galaxy , there should be millions of planets holding life in some form or fashion. The laws of probability preclude that we are alone in our own Galaxy. And among those millions of planets there are going to be a few, perhaps way more than a few, that will have intelligent life. And some of those . . . will have advanced far enough to have the ability to travel away from their points of origin to explore the further reaches of the Galaxy. We here on this planet have been sending out radio, TV, micro, beta, theta, infrared etc., signals for almost a century now. You would think that an advanced technological society would have long ago had the capability to detect primitive (to them) energy waves like this and would have homed in on them to pay a visit and check us out.

But what if none of them have because none of them have been able to solve their own over-population and/or anthropomorphic warming issues from too much life-form activity? Perhaps in the vast scheme of things, intelligent life only has the capacity to advance to the point where we reach extinction . . . because we all warm our planets beyond survivability. Truly a depressing thought. But hey . . . lets go fishing this weekend. It's only going to be 98 degrees both days. Oh, wait . . .

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Buzz Editor Rick Mrstik caught this 15.5 inch smallie during a float trip on the south fork of the Shenandoah on July 16th.



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:	George Moran	21"
Section 1, Best 5 Fish:	George Moran	73"
Section 2, Biggest Fish:	Randy Hall	16"
	Marcel Courtillet	16"
Section 2, Best 5 Fish:	Marcel Courtillet	74.5"
Section 3, Biggest Fish:	Ernie Rojas	21.5"
Section 3, Best 5 Fish:	Chun Rhee	86"
Largest on Fly:	Jamie Gold	15"
Best 5 Fish on Fly:	No Report	
New Member Big Fish:	Marcel Courtillet	16"
	Randy Hall	16"
New Member Best 5:	Marcel Courtillet	74.5"

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 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.