



The Buzz

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Captain Brady Bounds

Upcoming Events

PRSC Meeting
September 27, 2017

Herschel Finch To Present at Kayak Events
September 16 & 24, 2017

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Captain Brady Bounds is a part-time licensed guide with over 30 years experience operating in the Chesapeake Bay and its tributaries, including Susquehanna Flats, Chesapeake Bay Bridge Tunnel, and the Potomac River.

Offering kayak ferry and mother-ship trips, Captain Brady uses his guide boat to transport kayaks into areas of Chesapeake Bay and tributaries that kayakers cannot get to easily because of distance, lack of access, or safety concerns. Many of these places have no fishing pressure; you may not see another boat all day, except the guide boat standing off ready to assist if needed.

Under the ferry service he transports kayaks, gear, and anglers to a pre-arranged location and drops them off. At a later time the guide boat returns to an arranged pickup point and then transports them back to the final destination. The cost is based upon the total round trip mileage of the guide boat.

Under the mother-ship service, the kayaks, gear and anglers are loaded into the guide boat and then taken to certain fishing locations where Captain Brady assists the kayaks to launch, load gear, and depart to fish. The guide boat stays in the immediate vicinity of the kayaks and services them as needed, including reloading them into the guide-boat as needed to move to other areas. The cost of this service is a flat daily rate.



Captain's License:

- U.S.Coast Guard (federal) since 1982.
- Licensed guide in 3 districts: MD, VA, and Potomac River.
- Former Diamondback endorsed guide, former Cortland Pro-Staff.

Conservation/Fishing Associations:

- Trout Unlimited
- Maryland Saltwater Sportfishing Association
- Federation of Fly Fishers
- Coastal Conservation Association of Maryland

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Upcoming Events

Join us Wednesday, September 27th, for our monthly meeting. Our very own Bill Amshey will talk about his recent fishing vacation at the Lost Lake Wilderness Lodge, 400 miles north-northwest of Toronto. 7:30-9:00 PM at the McLean Governmental Center, 1437 Balls Hill Road, McLean, VA 22101.

Herschel Finch To Present at Kayak Events: "If you folks have a hankering to hear even more of my yammering than just at the monthly meetings, I'll be at the new Gainesville Cabela's on the 16th of September sometime about noonish giving a Kayak fishing seminar. I will have the club display with me trying to sign up new members. I will also be at Jake's Bait and Tackle in Winchester on the 24th of September doing the same thing . . . talking about kayak fishing, the Shenandoah, the Potomac and all things Smallmouth related. You can come on out and at least heckle me at both events. Hope to see you there." -- Herschel Finch

PRSC on the Water



Marcel Courtillet had a good day on the Shenandoah on August 12th. His best fish (pictured) was 18" and his best five totaled 79.5" He caught most of his fish on a green pumpkin tube rigged weedless.

PRSC on the Water



Lisa Schaupp caught this nice smallmouth on Pennsylvania's Juniata River on a recent outing with her husband Chris.

Maria Schaupp caught this fine smallmouth while fishing with her dad on the August 12th PRSC float trip on the 340 to Brunswick stretch of the Potomac.



340 To Brunswick August 12th



By Rick Mrstik

On August 12th I lead a Club float trip on the 340 to Brunswick section of the Potomac River. Joining me were Club President Steve Kimm, Leon Kates, Chris and Maria Schaupp, Edgar Diaz, Ms. Shawn, and Jack Turner.

I think everyone would agree that the morning bite was slow, but by early afternoon that had changed for me. I was fishing from the front of Steve's pontoon raft, a prize I had claimed at last year's member's night (hint: it's one of the best prizes available!).

During the trip, I told Steve it was a "guilty pleasure" because I felt a little bit guilty that he had to do all the work to maneuver the raft while I was completely free to fish. I took entire advantage of that too!

Despite the slow start, this turned out to be one of my best days on the Potomac. I caught over 30 fish for the day with my best (pictured above) measuring 18 inches and his near twin (pictured right) about the same. My best five fish totaled 82 inches. I caught several of the bigger fish on a Cotton Cordell Big-O.



While not everyone had the advantage of fishing from the front of Steve's raft, everyone caught fish. Leon Kates hauled in 12 fish for the day. His best was 14 inches. A paddle tail swim bait and a white fluke were his best producers.

Take a look at the nice fish Maria Schaupp caught (see p.3) while fishing with her dad on this trip. At the end of the day, the sky blackened and we could hear thunder, but we all managed to get off the water and load our boats just before the storm hit.

Ontario Silver and Adirondack Bronze

By Rick Mrstik

Every summer in late July, my wife Amy and I head to a place in upstate New York we affectionately call “camp.” Located just outside New York’s Adirondack Park, camp consists of about 3 acres of ground, a rustic cabin, and a boat dock at the bottom of a steep hill that overlooks the Great Sacandaga Lake.

I begin my week of summer vacation with a side excursion to Sodus Point on Lake Ontario where I fish for King Salmon and Brown Trout with my nephew Jeremy and some of his friends.



Although the salmon fishing was excellent this year—our first morning produced a 12-fish limit by noon—I was itching to chase bronze. My first morning on the lake was also a good one, with the smallmouth willing to bite crankbaits with abandon.



The week in the north country held a number of “firsts.” Although Jeremy has had some bass fishing experience, it turns out he had never caught a smallmouth. We fixed that problem right away! He had also never caught a walleye and neither had Amy. An evening’s trolling checked both of those off the list. Sacandaga has a reputation for plentiful 14-to-15 inch smallmouth with larger ones hard to find. But we found a few that made the 18-inch mark!

I’ll be heading back for a week at Labor Day. I’m hoping to get Amy to catch her first smallie and find out why I love them so much . . .



Conservation Corner

By Herschel Finch

Once again calls, letters, and comment periods have left their mark. Earlier this summer it was announced that Secretary Ryan Zinke was reviewing 27 National Monuments for possible downsizing and even elimination. Those set-asides found to meet their criteria for downsizing (which was never fully explained) would be returned to the states for disposing or preservation. Most of the states where these lands are located were not that happy about this turn of events. Those National Monuments that are long-standing have become tourist stops that bring much needed cash into nearby communities. Those that have had infrastructure additions like visitor's centers and/or camping areas and hiking trails require on-going maintenance. This costs money that neither the Department of Interior nor any other federal agency has included with any proposed downsizing. It would be left to the states to pick up the tab.

The 60-day comment period that was opened earlier in the summer garnered 2.4 million comments, most of them overwhelmingly in favor of preserving these areas. So in the end, NO National Monuments will be eliminated, but that's not the end of it . . .

Four set-asides—Bears Ears, Grand Staircase-Escalante, and two others—have been slated for downsizing. And in the case of Bears Ears, drastically so, by a full 90 percent. You can speculate on the reasons for it but it's no coincidence that oil and gas concerns have had their eyes on the Bears Ears area for decades and would desperately like to have it opened up for exploration.

Stay tuned, this fight isn't over.

In other preservation news . . . A federal court upheld New York State's DEQ decision not to grant clean water certification to an intrastate project named the Constitution Pipeline. The situation surrounding the proposed NY pipeline is very similar to the arguments we're hearing against granting certification of the Dominion/Duke Energy's Mountain Valley Pipeline. In NY, the Constitution Pipeline was to cross miles of unstable karst topography, and numerous streams and tributaries of Pennsylvania's Susquehanna River and New York's Hudson River. This would have endangered drinking water for millions in those states, including New York City.

In both these situations, those responsible for pipeline construction are trying get Clean Water Act 401 water quality certification for their respective projects without actually complying with the requirements of the Act. Both LLC's have tried to do this by currying favor with politicians (and you know how that's done) in both states instead of actually insuring they would take those steps in their respective projects that would bring them into compliance. For now, the situation in NY seems to be settled. No pipeline construction will be permitted unless full compliance with the requirements of the Clean Water Act's section 401. Let's hope this federal legal precedent will at least be used as part of the argument for denying the permits needed for the Mountain Valley Pipeline here in Virginia.

Riverbend Park Out and Back

By Herman Yam

The trails along Riverbend Park in Fairfax County provide a sneaky backdoor into Great Falls National Park. Tucked into a remote river setting, visitors to Riverbend find more than adequate picnic and hiking grounds, which overlook prime smallmouth bass fishing waters. This part of the Potomac makes for an easy paddle. Just be sure to respect the buoys downstream of the ramp that mark the wing dam at Great Falls. The usually mild currents in the water provide good smallie fishing conditions, with sufficient rocks to discourage jet ski enthusiasts from running donuts. The Park Authority rents out canoes, kayaks and jon boats during the summer and early fall.

Attempts to fish at Riverbend this summer had been challenged by the fairly frequent occurrence of end-of-the-work-week thunderstorms blowing out the Potomac River. On a hot Saturday morning recently, five PRSC members gathered to launch their boats from the Riverbend ramp to try their luck fishing in the park. Concerns about the Potomac swelling up from the previous afternoon's thunderstorms were allayed by promising gauge readings (dropping from 3,900 to 3,680 cfs in a few hours) taken at Point of Rocks and Edward's Ferry.

Taking a tip from the PRSC Facebook administrator, the group set out for a spot on the Virginia side of the river. While this stretch was fishable, the water level had risen and become slightly muddy. At this point, I rigged up a big, loud Rat-L-Trap style lipless crankbait and started casting to mid-strength current. After a couple of good leaps, a chunky 14-inch smallmouth was the first fish in a boat. Aaron landed a bigger smallmouth on a spinnerbait in the same type of current. Clyde caught one on a fish shaped bait that wasn't a fluke but still fished in mid-water as did new member Lloyd on another soft plastic. I then caught another solid bass on his lipless crank. This was the pattern for this stretch, which the group worked for nearly two hours. As the PRSC members left to make their way over to the Maryland side, Steve made the most exciting catch later in the morning with a 15-to-16 inch fish rising to a topwater plug.



The Maryland stretch is usually productive, but while still appearing very fishy this day, it did not generate as many sizable fish. Lloyd caught a number of smaller bass on a Swim Senko, but the rest of the group had only taps from aggressive sunfish. After another 90 minutes of failing to replicate Lloyd's success, the group made its way back to Virginia to a different spot. Along the way the team worked the deep water ledges without success. Once in the deep water by the Virginia shore, I picked up a small bronzeback on a tube with a nail head jig. Things settled and became quiet, however.

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By 12:45pm, the heat had become too intense, so the group made its way back to the ramp for unloading. Everyone had boated decent hauls, with a respectable ranges of sizes from typically well pressured waters. The five PRSC members closed out the day with lunch at the Old Brogue in the village of Great Falls, exchanging stories of fishing and the weekly Coffee n' Cars event there.

Aaron Otte (right) with a nice Riverbend smallie.



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: | Marcel Courtillet | 79.5" |
| Section 2, Biggest Fish: | Rick Mrstik | 18" |
| Section 2, Best 5 Fish: | Rick Mrstik | 82" |
| 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.