



The Buzz

www.prsc.org



Volume 30, Issue 11

November 29, 2017

Member Night!

Upcoming Events

Virginia Flyfishing Festival

January 13-14, 2018

Richmond Fishing Expo

January 19-21, 2018

PRSC Meeting

January 31, 2018

You don't want to miss Member Night! This is PRSC's annual get-together for food and fun to say thanks to the membership for making this such a great organization. We will be starting the meeting at 7:00 pm. Be sure to get there on time because this is a hungry group of fishermen!

The main event, as always, will be raffling off contributions made to the club from guides, tackle dealers, rod companies, and PRSC members themselves. Each member of the club who attends the meeting and their membership is up-to-date for 2017 will get one raffle ticket. Members can then renew at Member Night to get a second raffle ticket. New members can join PRSC by paying the dues for 2018 and receive a raffle ticket. Former members whose membership has lapsed can renew to get one ticket. Dues for 2018 will remain at \$40 for the year.

We have a few other activities going on as well. We will recognize the PRSC fishing contest winners in numerous categories.

Special Note: Our meetings will return to the Vienna Firehouse in January 2018!!!

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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

Rick Mrstik
 C (703) 380-7992

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, January 31st, for our monthly meeting. 7:30-9:00 PM at the Vienna Firehouse, 400 Center St. S, Vienna, VA 22180.

18th Annual Virginia Flyfishing and Wine Festival, January 13-14, Doswell, VA.
 For more information visit <http://www.vaflyfishingfestival.com/>



January 13-14, 2018



Doswell, Virginia

Richmond Fishing Expo, January 19-21. For more information visit <https://www.facebook.com/richmond.expo/>



PRSC on the Water



Dave Lockard and Randy Chandler fished the Susquehanna on October 14th. Dave landed this nice 18" smallmouth and Randy captured the moment.

Opportunities

<https://www.promotion.bassmaster.com/fishwithkvd/>

An advertisement for the 'Bassmaster Fish with Kevin VanDam Sweepstakes'. It features a smiling man in a fishing cap and a dark fishing jersey with various sponsor logos (Toyota, Nitro, Huk, etc.) holding two large yellow perch. A red tag in the upper right corner says 'GRAND-PRIZE VALUE: \$45,000'. The text 'BASSMASTER FISH WITH KEVIN VANDAM SWEEPSTAKES' is overlaid on the left. At the bottom, a red banner reads: 'Your chance to fish with Kevin VanDam, seven-time Toyota Bassmaster Angler of the Year!'. The background shows a blue banner with a Toyota logo and the word 'TOYOTA'.

Three Bills in a Boat: Fishing Ontario's Thousand Islands

By Bill Amshey

My high school (WT Woodson Class of '66) buddy, Bill Rogers, and I continued our quest for 6-pound smallmouth bass in late September. We figured the weather in upstate New York would be in the mid-60s, but our research on NOAA and other websites before we started our 500-mile drive showed the temperatures would be in the 80s during the day and into the 60s at night. The day we arrived, it was in the high 80s. We had planned our trip to coincide with the fall feeding frenzy, but it was more like a typical midsummer day in Watertown, New York.

The next day, we met up with our guide, Bill Lortz. Hence the title, "Three Bills in a Boat." The first order of business was getting names squared away: Lortz became Capt. Bill; Rogers became Billy; and I answered to just about anything they wanted to call me, most of which is not fit to print.

Capt. Bill is a very well qualified guide with fishing experience on the BASS and FLW tours, primarily in the Northeast. He is one of the few guides we could find who specialized in chasing smallmouth. We found that most of the guides in this region fished with live and cut bait and trolled, none of which Bil-

ly and I were interested in. Capt. Bill has a 21-foot Triton that we found comfortable and a stable fishing platform. Primarily a float and wade fisherman, I'm not used to upscale electronics, but Capt. Bill has three Lowrance computer screens that he ably used to put us on fish. I also found it amazing that on one of the screens, I could see where the glaciers had left their mark on the bottom of Lake Ontario. That was cool!

Capt. Bill admitted right from the start that he was not sure whether to fish a fall pattern or a summer one. We told him that while the more fish we caught the better, what we really wanted was to catch big fish. He agreed to satisfy that desire.

The first day, we fished out of Henderson Bay and started fishing the fall pattern. We had some success fishing shorelines and off weed beds, but we weren't pulling in the big ones that the Thousand Islands region is known for. After a couple of hours, Capt. Bill headed us out into the islands, which he called the Gallos.

This was about a 10-mile run, which Capt. Bill's Triton took with ease. Here, we worked some rock formations around the islands, but then the decision was made to go deep. We changed from fishing Keitech swimbaits and diving crankbaits to drop-shot rigs in 30 to 35 feet or more of water. I was told to watch for "lasagna" on one of the Lowrance screens I could see from my perch at the back of the boat. The "lasagna" refers to what schools of goby fish look like when gathered on the bottom. We fished the edges of the schools, where we caught some whoppers.

At the end of our first day, Capt. Bill declared that Billy had one of the best days fishing he had ever seen anyone have. If we had been in a fishing tournament, Billy's top five would have weighed in close to 30 pounds; his



Fishing Ontario's Thousand Islands

Continued

top fish weighed 6 pounds 3 ounces and the rest were all close to 6 pounds. I did well, catching several 4-plus-pounders, but nothing close to Billy's catch.

That night, Capt. Bill posted the pictures of our fish on his Facebook page, and the pictures went viral. It turns out that Billy is the only "tourist" fisherman to catch a 6-pound smallie this year.

The next day, we fished out of Chaumont Bay. Again we tried fall pattern fishing with little success before moving back out to the islands and drop-shotting. As bait on the first day, we used small Senkos, and I had caught quite a few goby. But on the second day, I upsized to Yamamoto crawdad imitators. I drastically reduced the number of gobies that I caught and replaced them with larger smallies, while Billy and Capt. Bill caught countless gobies, which are the prime food of smallmouth but are illegal to use as bait. I caught the big fish that day at just under 5 pounds.



Billy and I really enjoyed this trip and fishing with Capt. Bill. I was supposed to have dinner one night while we were there with my brother-in-law, but when he contacted me the second day we were still on the water at 7PM, and we weren't ready to call it quits. I told my brother-in-law that I thought Capt. Bill had "kidnapped" us. He was very generous with his time; we spent 11-hour and 12-hour days with him.

While Billy and I took our own gear, Capt. Bill also had us use some of his gear that he had already rigged. He introduced me to a 6'8" Temple Fork Outfitters rod that I liked so much I considered "borrowing." I found the grip thinner than most rods, but very comfortable; the action was great. It was teamed with a Lew's reel that I also found very usable.

For anyone thinking about fishing the Thousand Islands region, the season is May 1 to the last weekend in October. However, smallies can only be caught from the third Saturday in June to December. I know that doesn't make sense, but it is what I was told. The best times to go for big fish are late summer to fall and late June to early July.

Capt. Bill described the fishery as very healthy. The zebra mussels have done a great job of cleaning the lake; I found you could easily see 10 feet or so into the water. The gobies, which are an invasive species, have become the primary food source of smallies and other fish in the lake, including walleye, salmon, trout, and stripers.

The drive to Watertown, New York, is pretty straightforward, simply drive Rt 81 north until you see the sign. There are ample hotels at the main exit to Watertown and plenty of restaurants. Capt. Bill's place is about 20 minutes away on Henderson Bay.

NY North Country Bassin' with Bill Lortz (Lake Ontario) bill@nynorthcountrybassin.com 585-738-7455

Conservation Corner

By Herschel Finch

I was asked back in August to help out the new Agricultural Projects Director for the Izaak Walton League's National organization by sitting on an advisory panel to help formulate policy positions on the Farm Bill. The new Farm Bill will be voted on next year by a new Congress, probably around the February/March time frame. A new Farm Bill is formulated and voted on every 5 years. It determines what you will eat, how it will be grown and fertilized, subsidized and regulated for the next 5 years. The Department of Agriculture also administers the Food Stamp and other programs that help get food to people in need, not just here but all around the world. So why should a bunch of Smallmouth anglers give a crap about the Farm Bill?

Another aspect of the Farm Bill is that it requires farmers, both private family types and the big industrial-level operations, to meet certain environmental goals and use certain techniques in order to be qualified to receive subsidies. Things like riparian buffers, use of native grasses and tree plantings, pesticide and fertilizer use is a big part of the Farm Bill. All these issues are of supreme importance to the Izaak Walton League, and should also be on OUR radar as well. I suspect you're already getting the connection . . .

We float through some of the most productive farmland in the lower 48 states in the Shenandoah Valley, and indeed, in the entire Chesapeake watershed. What the farmers and others are doing in this part of the world directly affects our waters. And speaking of crap, or the lack thereof in our waterways, I've put forth that the Izaak Walton League should be in favor of taking Virginia's program nationwide where farmers are compensated 100% with tax breaks for fencing cattle out of rivers and streams and use of alternate watering and cooling stations for their livestock. But I also would like to see that expanded for their preservation, and repair where needed, of riparian buffers between their farm fields and flowing water. How about they be rewarded for reducing the amount of Glyphosate (Roundup) and chemical fertilizers they use on their crops? I've put forward all of these as being sound programs that should be part of the upcoming Farm Bill. Now whether they find their way into the actual bill remains to be seen. Hopefully the Izaak Walton League's Agricultural Projects Manager, Duane Horvoka, will find them worthy for inclusion into the League's position paper that will be presented to the new Congress next year.

The folks at Izaak Walton also wanted to shoot a video as well to help bolster our position on the Farm Bill. So toward that end, Duane Horvoka asked me to be in that video and if I knew anyone else who might be worthy of interviewing to bring them along. So of course Mark Forndorf, our Shenandoah Riverkeeper sprang to mind as did John Gibson, owner of Downriver Canoe Co. at Bentonville. Mark's qualities are well known, but John's may not be to all of you. He's a passionate advocate for the Shenandoah River, not just as a businessman, but as a riparian landowner with almost a mile of river frontage on a 200+ acre farm he owns about 3/4s of the way between Front Royal and Luray off RT 340. For those familiar with the Bixler to Bealers float on the south fork of the Shenandoah, John's farm starts about a half mile past where the Hawksbill comes in on river right and continues all down that side until you're below that set of river cabins on that same stretch. The only part of that strip he doesn't own is the land those cabins occupy. It extends back from the river for a good half mile. It's a gorgeous piece of property and we got to do a little filming on it and John even gave us a tour of his mid-1700s farm house. It was a fun day of advocacy for our river. Even if I did have a video camera stuck in my face for part of it.



PRSC
P.O. Box 685
Vienna, VA 22183

Bill Amshey with the big smallie he caught on his recent Thousand Islands trip. See the story on pp 4-5.



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	18.5"
New Member Best 5:	Marcel Courtillet	79.5"

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.