



The Buzz

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Susky Smallies!

Upcoming Events

PRSC Meeting
April 25, 2018

Family & Youth Casting Call
April 28, 2018

DMV Bronzeback Yak Challenge
April to September

Kids Fishing Derbies at Lake Fairfax
June 2, 2018
July 21, 2018

Fishing Community Events
Now thru November

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Scott Johnson was born and raised outside Myersville, MD, where as a kid he would spend many days riding his bike to local farm ponds and creeks to fish and catch other wildlife. As Scott entered his teens, his thirst to learn more about fishing really took off and he spent many hours following and reading In-Fisherman, Bill Dance, and other professionals. His fishing experiences broadened with his older brother, fishing local reservoirs and lakes from a canoe, bank fishing, Canadian fishing trips, and of course wading local rivers as much as possible. From here Scott's love of fishing for river smallmouth began.

Scott continued to fish as much as possible through his twenties, from canoes, kayaks, and of course wading the local rivers and streams. Canadian fishing trips were an annual event, from canoe trips in Algonquin Provincial Park to fly in trips in remote sections of Northwest Ontario. Traveling to fish was not limited to Canada, as Scott made trips to Lake Erie, North Carolina to surf fish, and many other locations. As happens in life, family and a career take priority over fishing so Scott channeled his energy into a newly found interest in teaching and coaching. He spent many years coaching girl's lacrosse and acting as den leader for his son's pack.

Today, with older children, Scott is able to again pursue his passion of fishing and has combined that with his interest in teaching others by guiding. Scott guides on the upper Potomac, Susquehanna, and Juniata rivers, fishing year round when possible. With the support of his family and loving wife, he now spends as many days as possible guiding others to experience the thrill of fishing for river smallmouth, or fishing for fun. After guiding for Ken Penrod, Scott has opened his own business, SJ Fishing Adventures and is licensed in Maryland and Pennsylvania, fully insured, and certified in First Aid. Scott proudly promotes the following great companies: Under Armor, St. Croix Rods, Seaguar, Snagler Tackle, and Anglers Express.



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Upcoming Events

Join us Wednesday, April 25th, for our monthly meeting. Our featured speaker will be William Heresniak, who will speak about topwater fishing for smallmouth on fly and spinning rods. 7:30-9:00 PM at the Vienna Firehouse, 400 Center St. S, Vienna, VA 22180.

Kids Fishing Derbies at Lake Fairfax, Saturday June 2nd and July 21st. PRSC will once again support these youth fishing events along with Fish and Explore and New Horizon's Bass Anglers. For more information or to volunteer, please speak with John Lipetz and/or Rick Mrstik. Helping kids fish is a fun way to spend a Saturday morning!

DMV Bronzeback Yak Challenge. PRSC member Chun Rhee is helping to organize this smallmouth kayak tournament series from April through September. See the event description on the next page. For more information speak with Chun or visit the event website here: <https://www.phatbasstard.net/>

FAMILY AND YOUTH
CASTING CALL
 A FREE FISHING EVENT

SATURDAY, April 28, 2018
 10am to 3pm
ANACOSTIA PARK
 outside of the Aquatic Resources Education Center
 1900 Anacostia Drive SE
 (north end of Anacostia Park)

RAIN OR SHINE

LEARN TO FISH!
 Participate in angler education activities and explore displays about watersheds and conservation of our aquatic resources. All equipment, bait, and angling instruction provided for youth participants.

REGISTER ONLINE
 Register online at DOEE.DC.GOV/AREC to secure your spot!

★ ★ ★ DEPARTMENT
 OF ENERGY &
 ENVIRONMENT

Upcoming Events



The **DMV Bronzeback Yak Challenge (DMVBYC)** is Kayak Smallmouth Bass Fishing Tournament Series (online only) for residents of the **DMV** (D.C. Maryland and Virginia...West VA too). We are a Kayak Bass Fishing (**KBF**) Partner with six (month long) online kayak **smallmouth bass** fishing tournaments through [TourneyX](#) from April through September leading to a 6 week long Main Event Championship in October/November.

The purpose of the DMVBYC was to create a kayak bass fishing circuit for those of us in the DMV who live in highly pressured Largemouth Bass waters. For those of us who primarily fish for smallmouth bass, its hard to compete an 18 inch smallmouth against 20+inch largemouth bass. All DMVBYC events are a month long (vs. live at a specific venue.) We offer the flexibility of fishing an entire month in waters close to you versus a specific date that you may not be available for or a venue that is too far to drive to.

Why the Potomac, Rappahannock, and Shenandoah only?

- a. Proximity of the rivers to our area (DMV)
- b. The smallmouth populations in these rivers are similar. The New, James and Susquehanna are not in the permissible fishing area because we don't have immediate access to these rivers (proximity) and I think we can all agree the smallmouth bass populations in these rivers (and the average size of the smallies) would give an overwhelming advantage to those who can fish there regularly.

Here are the basics:

1. You **must** be a resident of the DMV (West Va included).
2. Competition is limited to the following rivers only (and tributaries): **Potomac, Shenandoah, and Rappahannock**.
3. Best 5 fish (measured by length) for each month-long event. Catch, Photo and Release using [KBF Rules Standards](#).
4. **NO DINKS RULE!** Smallmouth must measure a **minimum of 14 inches**.

Upcoming Events



FishingCommunity.Org 2018 Events

Events in February:

SeaFest (Youth Activities) February 24th in Jupiter Florida

TieFest (Trade Show) February 24th-25th Annapolis Maryland

Public Land Alliance (Convention and Trade Show) February 25th-28th Palm Spring California

Events in April:

Fletcher's Boathouse Shad Gala (Veterans Family Fishing) April 20th Washington D.C

Casting Call (Kids Fishing) April 28th Washington D.C

Events in May:

Wheelchair Accessible Boat Fishing (Veterans Family Fishing) May 19th in Riviera Beach
Florida

Events in June:

Ashburn Village Family Fishing Classic (Veterans Family Fishing) June 30th in Ashburn Virginia

Events in September:

Wheelchair Accessible Boat Fishing (Veterans Family Fishing) September 15th in Riviera
Florida

Events in October:

Jupiter Inlet Veterans Family Fishing Classic (Veterans Family Fishing) October 13th in Jupiter
Florida

Events in November:

Lake Fairfax (Veterans Family Trout Fishing) November 3rd in Fairfax Virginia

For more information on FishingCommunity.Org please visit our media pages.
Website: FishingCommunity.Org - **Facebook:** FishingCommunity.Org
Instagram: FishingCommunity.Org2012

PRSC Speakers Share Tips

By Bill Amshey

I'm restarting the series I used to write on speakers who spoke to the Club years ago. Lots has changed over the years, but I'll take fishing tips from guys who know what they are doing no matter how dated the information.

Way back in September 2003, **Ed Keller** of the Potomac Guides Service (info@potomacguides.com, 301-582-9404) spoke to the Club. Obviously, Ed guides on the Potomac River, but he fishes the Susquehanna River quite a bit, too.

Ed runs a 17-foot River Rage with a 90 Optimax jet; a very roomy boat. He can take two people. He does half-day trips on the upper Potomac for \$225.00. Full-day trips on the upper Potomac and the Susky for \$350.00. He does carry extra water, but clients must bring their own food and have their licenses. He fishes the upper Potomac from Hancock to Whites Ferry. On the Susky he fishes the area from the Juniata to Mahantango and sometimes in the Juniata.

He said that if you want to catch "big bass," the very best bait is stonecat madtoms; that is, if you can find them. Back in 2003, they were a buck a piece; no telling how much they'll cost today.

Ed said that his favorite tubes are Right Bight in green pumpkin/purple flake, which he uses on the Susky because of their bigger profile. On the Potomac, he prefers the smaller Cabin Fever tubes. He noted that he makes his own rattles using plastic straws. He melts the ends with a candle after inserting BBs. And he prefers to use 1/8 ounce jigs.



Other favorite smallie lures include Strike King spinnerbaits, Rebel Wee-Crawfish, and Yamamoto Senkos, particularly in watermelon. He noted that there are some deep holes worth fishing in the Liverpool and Fort Hunter areas of the Susky.

Ed is still guiding after all these years. He says he's 71 now, just had a knee replaced, and he's not sure how many more years he'll remain in the business. So contact him soon. He's probably caught and released just about every smallie in the river since he spoke to us in 2003.

Our guest at the February 2004 meeting was **Jesse Stoner**, who was guiding on the Susky for the Fishing Fools Guide Service. I could not find Jesse or his guide service using Google, but I did learn that there are tons of guide services with similar names.

Nevertheless, Jesse gave an information-packed presentation. First speaking on fishing in February, he warned that he will not fish below an ice flow, as it simply is too dangerous. He said he looks for the deepest holes. He explained that he uses 1/8 ounce hair jigs with no trailers or scent. He said sometimes he'll go as light as a 1/16 ounce jig on 4-pound test line. He doesn't fish with line heavier than 6-pound test. The most productive colors are blue, black, and green with black. Early in the year, he will go simple; meaning, he'll drop the line over the side and crank it up just above the bottom. He'll also use small tubes with a 2/0 hook.

In the spring, he said that he likes Cabin Creek tubes in smoke/purple. He considers purple a good color in the spring because the crawfish tend to be in that color. He added that crawfish bed in mud during the winter, and recommended fishing below mud islands at that time of year.

PRSC Speakers Share Tips

Jesse said that in April the smallies move off the banks and to the islands, where darters become the bait. He said to fish tree lines. Just before the spawn, smallies will be feeding heavily, particularly on crawfish, so fish below the many mud islands on the Susky.

In May, the fish will start gathering in their spawning areas. He recommended looking for areas that will warm up faster; for example, look for rocks and gravel. He said tubes will work real well now, and that he uses smaller hooks. He often uses football head jigs with small split tails as well as spinnerbaits that look like crawfish. In May, the rule is to “downsize.” He also pointed out that if you are interested in fishing for Muskies, the West Branch of the Susky is where you want to go.



In June, Jesse said that he switches to a fly rod, although he still uses a spinning rod with crankbaits, tubes, spinnerbaits, flukes, and Senkos. He recommended that if a hatch occurs when you are on the river, downsize. His favorite topwaters are the Zara spook in largemouth color: the G-Bass with a brown back and fire tiger; Pop-Rs and Torpedos in silver and dark colors. He said that he uses scent in June, when the crawfish are molting. A tip that I had never heard before was that if the fish’s mouth stinks, they are eating minnows; but if the mouth smells sweet, they are eating crawfish. Learn something every day!

He said that he uses tubes with orange fleck through the summer and into September. He likes red hooks. He does not like feathers on topwaters, and he colors tails of flukes orange with black dots on the very ends. He noted that when the water is clear, he will use smaller lures, but larger lures when the water is discolored.

Jesse said that his favorite floats are Sunberry and Hoovers Landing. He said there are good wading areas above Harrisburg and above the Juniata River.

He pointed out that Susquehanna Tackle located at 3992 Locust Grove Road in Columbia, Pennsylvania 17512 is a great place to satisfy your fishing tackle needs. Their Website is: www.sftackle.com, and it looks like it would be well worth a visit or two.



Fishing Vermillion Cliffs

By Clyde Wilber

Last month on Super Bowl weekend, I ventured out to Lee's Ferry, Arizona for a fly-fishing trip to Vermillion cliffs. This is a manmade trout fishery protected by federal law, located in a scenic and historical area with abundant but finicky fish.

Getting Where?

Lee's Ferry is in northeastern Arizona on the Colorado river. It is the launching point for floating downstream through the Grand Canyon. That trip is a two-week commitment. Going upstream to the Lake Powell dam is a day trip. It is a trek no matter where you start from. I generally fly into Phoenix and take the 3- to 4-hour drive. Once you get out of Phoenix, the drive is spectacular. Try to time it so you can see the Vermillion Cliffs within two hours of sunset or sunrise.



The Fishery

Above Lee's Ferry there is 17-mile stretch of perfect man-made habitat for trout. Gin-clear, icy water provided year-round at a constant temperature. There are so many fish you may have trouble stepping on them. No kidding! That doesn't mean they will jump on your lure. There is an occasional dry fly hatch. Most of the time, this is technical fishing with that special category of flies that I personally refer to as the "Itsy-bitsy." You stand in ankle to knee deep water and cast into 2- to 6-foot deep fast-flowing seams. A good to perfect drift is required. On my last trip, it was about one fish for every five casts. Or maybe it was every 20 casts? I just remember it was good. This is the Colorado river. You want to wear a life jacket at all times. A mis-step takes you into cold, fast water and the guide will have to retrieve his boat and chase you downstream if you fall in.

The Fish



Fishing Vermillion Cliffs

The Guides

You will need a guide with a jet boat. There are two guide services located in the Lee's Ferry area. In addition, you can find guides on the internet. On this trip I had a guide who is a retired vet originally from Manassas. He was very good considering it was a freezing February day with blowing sleet. Last October I went with Dave Foster of info@leesferryonthefly.com. Dave works for USGS, which is charged with observing and protecting the fishery. He is an interesting guy. His family owns one of the lodges and previously owned several of the remote Arizona trading posts. He had lots of remarkable stories as well as the right flies and techniques.

History

Lee's Ferry is named for John D. Lee of the Mountain Meadows Massacre. It is an incredible story. Mr. Lee had an important but painful role in bringing Utah into the Union. See <https://www.nps.gov/glca/learn/historyculture/leesferryhistory.htm>. There are also abandoned wildcat uranium mines just a short walk off the road.

Lodges

Marble Canyon Lodge 800-726-1789

Cliff Dwellers Lodge 928-355-2261

Lees Ferry Lodge 928-355-2230



Conservation Corner

By Herschel Finch

So this the time of year I start brow-beating you about using weed and dandelion killer-type fertilizers on your lawns. You know how it goes, “nitrogen and phosphorus runoff is bad for the river and our Smallmouth” etc. etc. Bet you’re pretty sick of it after 15 years or so of my yammering on about it.

But this year is different, I figure you’ve heard all the usual stuff about fertilizer use and Roundup® weed killer. But *this* year, I’m going talk about another reason not to use it . . .

Bees.

Everyone, I’m sure, has heard about the demise of whole hives of bees across the US in the last few years. A lot of people just kind of shrug and don’t worry about it, then turn the channel to ESPN. But here’s a frightening thought about that situation. Currently, “Hive Collapse Syndrome” is killing off 50 to 60 percent of all US bee hives every year. At this rate we’re looking at the extinction of entire species of fruits and vegetables. Without bees, humans will be facing famine on a scale that we have never experienced. That’s because the US is *the* number 1 exporter of food products, especially grain. Many grain crops depend on bees for them to survive and flourish. And those grain crops feed not only us, they feed the world. These grains also feed our livestock.

There are competing villains causing this; neonicotinoid-based pesticides, a tiny bee parasite, land use changes and other reasons are suspected. But it’s also looking like the way we treat our lawns and landscapes has a lot to do with it too. Every year, about this time of year the lawn care industry cranks up commercials and fills the airways with their campaign to eradicate the suburban lawn’s biggest enemy: the dandelion. But here’s the thing, the dandelion, as an early harbinger of spring, is also one of the first sources of food of our honeybees. If you kill off the dandelion in favor of that perfect, emerald green carpet . . . you’re ensuring that bees local to your neighborhood will have a hard time surviving. We stopped using any kind of fertilizer or weed killer at our local Izaak Walton league years ago. Every spring, we have a crop of dandelions that would be the envy of any wine-maker out there. But we also have two bee hives up on the hill about 40 yards from the chapter house that are thriving. We will be harvesting about 50 quarts of honey this summer according to our local beekeeper and we’re planning to use it as a fund raiser this fall.

So, stop and think when you’re at your local landscape supply house, do really need to kill *every* dandelion in the yard? Not only will you be doing the river, and our beautiful Smallmouth a favor, you’ll be helping to make sure that steak and salad dinner you have planned will still be around . . . and affordable.

Personally speaking . . . yellow’s one my favorite colors these days.

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Notes and Links

Maryland’s Department of Natural Resources has just published its 2018 *Black Bass Annual Review*. It’s well worth your time to read. Click here: http://dnr.maryland.gov/fisheries/Documents/BBAR_Vol_10.pdf

PRSC Friend and tidal Potomac guide Steve Chaconas has revamped his website. Take a look: <http://www.nationalbass.com/news> and while you’re there sign up for his monthly newsletter.

Fly-fishing legend Lefty Kreh passed away on March 14th at the age of 93. <https://wtop.com/maryland/2018/03/md-fly-fishing-legend-kreh-dies/>

2018 Fishing Contest

Fishing Contest

Visit our contest page to check out the complete rules or to submit an entry for the 2018 contest that is under way. <http://prsc.org/fishing-contest/>

2018 Reports

Section 1, Biggest Fish:	No Report
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

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 Vienna, Virginia Fire Station. 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.