



The Buzz

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April 25, 2018

Smallies on the Fly

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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
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Fishing Community Events
Now thru November

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Our speaker this month is William Heresniak, owner and guide for Eastern Trophies Fly Fishing in Alexandria, Virginia. He will speak to us about the history of topwater bugs in relation to fly fishing, techniques, fly patterns and other tips and tricks to catch Trophy Smallmouth Bass. He will also talk about spin fishing techniques and tactics in relation to topwater fishing for smallmouth.

William, who has over 30 years of fishing experience, has been guiding professionally since 2003. Among other rivers and streams, he guides on the Potomac River, Upper Potomac River, the North Branch of the Potomac and Shenandoah Rivers.

William has a professional background in education, athletics, and coaching. Guiding and instructing come naturally to him. He has helped numerous clients catch large trout, smallmouth bass and musky. His efficient techniques and focused presentation will help you to not only bring more fish to your net, but a fish of a lifetime to your hands.

You can find more information about William and his business at www.eastertrophies.com.



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, May 30th, for our monthly meeting. Our featured speaker will be Michael Kashiwagi of the Maryland Department of Natural Resources, who will speak about the current state of the Potomac River and the latest smallmouth bass survey. He will also discuss Potomac River walleye and muskellunge populations. 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 on the Water



PRSC member Randy Hall with a 43-inch musky he caught on a March 29th trip on the New River near Claytor Lake.

Randy's friend Mike with the best striper (26") caught during the three-day trip.



PRSC member and Facebook guru Chun Rhee pictured with a 19-inch smallmouth he caught at Riverbend Park in early April. Should we believe his claim it was caught on a Carolina-rigged buzz bait with 100-pound test line?

PRSC on the Water



Chun Rhee (left) with a 17-inch smallie he caught recently in Goose Creek.



Below left: Sarah Schaupp with her first shad of the season.

Below: Schaupp relative Gordon Kiefer with his first shad ever, caught near Fletchers.



Your New River Ride?

For Sale

PRSC member Fran Steinbauer is offering this 16-foot Grumman ABS river ready canoe for \$550.

Used exclusively for smallmouth fishing on the Upper Potomac and the Shenandoah rivers, the canoe is whitewater rated.

The canoe includes:

- Detachable aluminum motor board
- 25-lb thrust, 3-speed Shakespeare Sigma electric motor
- Drag chain and line
- Detachable back rest
- Anchor
- Gunnel cushions and tie down straps for car top transit
- Assorted paddles and nets

Contact Fran at 703-860-213 or email him at fsteinbauer@verizon.net



Shad Have Arrived

By Jamie Gold

After a long and brutally cold winter, Spring is finally—sort of—here. One crucial sign of that for local fisher people is that the shad are in the Potomac River again. Each Spring the Potomac River and other East Coast rivers experience a migration of these anadromous fish up out of the ocean to spawn. They are similar to salmon in that they live in salt water, but run up fresh water rivers to procreate, but they do not die after spawning.

This spring time piscatorial explosion provides a wonderful angling opportunity. Nobody is quite sure why shad hit the darts, spoons and flies that are presented to them . . . but they do. My favorite explanation is that it's a reaction strike . . . in other words the baits shad fishermen use irritate them. I'm inclined to believe it because once hooked, pound for pound they fight very hard. I will use shad darts, shad killers, spoons, and shad flies for lures. But I've seen others succeed with other baits as well. For spinning gear I'll use a 6' to 7' medium action rod with 10-lb test co-polymer. On the fly rod I'll use a 6wt rod with a full sinking line and a short leader. However, to be honest, a wide variety of equipment can be used to catch these fish. The key for lures for both spinning and fly fishing is to use something bright and flashy. I take a variety of colors to see what catches their eyes.



There are several spots that I know of to pursue these critters. My favorite is at Fletcher's Cove in Washington, DC. Run by the US Park Service, it's a convenient location, offers very good shore fishing above and below the

cove, and has a well-stocked store. At the store, one can also rent one of their row boats to go out on the river. These boats are very well designed for fishing this part of the river. However, a word of caution, the Potomac River here is very narrow, and very deep in certain spots, with strong current and dangerous currents. If you are in a boat, wear your PFD. And even if you are fishing from shore, be careful to not fall in. The Potomac River is more dangerous than people realize, and each year a few unfortunate souls drown in it.



Locally the Occoquan also gets a run of shad. And the Rappahannock River down by Fredericksburg also has a very good run and is a popular place to fish. I'm not as familiar with those two venues, but other club members know them well . . . you just have to ask around.

Shad Have Arrived



Thursday evening, April 12, fellow PRSC members Steve Adams, Marty Burkhard, Leon Kates, and I decided to take advantage of the gorgeous weather to do a little shad fishing. Oh my, am I glad I did! I arrived a little after the others, and bumped into Mark Binstead, a local guru on all things shad. He said that day had been one of the best days of shore fishing for Hickory shad ever. He's a low key guy, not prone to hyperbole, so that got me really excited. Going to the usual location, I met Marty and Leon and started fishing. Steve was a little below us working a two-handed fly rod, spey casting quite well to willing fish.

I started with a two-dart rig, one in chartreuse and black, the trailer in green and black. Both were large darts as I wanted to get the rig down in the fast current. I immediately started catching fish. For the next hour it was pretty much a fish on every other cast or so. There were a few times, where it took several casts. But there were also spurts of getting a fish on every cast. Marty and Leon also did well as we fished, although before I got there things had been a little slow. I suspect, based on what Mark had said, that the fishing was red-hot earlier in the day, but had cooled off a bit as the wind picked up. Talking to Steve later, he also did well on

spinning gear and even picked up some on the fly rod, which is tough to do when fishing from shore.

Afterward, we went to a local joint for good pizza and beer and lots of stories and laughs. Overall it was a great way to spend the evening. While the shad run has already started, it will run for several weeks more. So I urge you to get out and fish for these creatures. Grab your rod and reel, stop at the shop at Fletchers for some lures and advice, and welcome spring with open arms by catching some shad. See you on the water.



PRSC
P.O. Box 685
Vienna, VA 22183

Former PRSC webmaster Mark Myers with a 32-inch snook caught on—what else—a Texas-rigged Case Salty Sinking Shad left over from his smallmouth fishing days! This fish was a welcome sight because of the unusually cold winter, which killed some of the snook population along the central Florida coast.



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:	Chun Rhee 19"
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.