



The Buzz

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July 25, 2018

Bruce Ingram Is Back!

Upcoming Events

Kids Fishing Derby

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Author, sportsman, photographer, and conservationist Bruce Ingram will share his knowledge of fishing for smallmouth at the PRSC meeting on 25 July. When not teaching English and Creative Writing in the Botetourt County, VA, school system, Bruce spends his time fishing, hunting, birding, doing habitat improvement projects on his land and enjoying the great outdoors. During our meeting he will cover the 10 best float trips in Virginia with pictures of each section. He also will talk about the VDGIF asking him to update the state's float guides on the James, New, Shenandoah, and Rappahannock and what he learned from doing so. Bruce will be available to answer questions, and we will have the opportunity to purchase signed copies of Bruce's books.

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 the range of float trips on these rivers, including access points, rapids, fishing hot spots, and trip planning. Mile by mile, Bruce takes you on a trip down these rivers, so when you go on your own, 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 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, *Tenth Grade Angst* is the sequel to his first young adult novel, *Ninth Grade Blues*. Bruce's publisher has ordered the third book in the series, *Eleventh Grade Stress* which he is currently writing.

Bruce has published nearly 2,400 articles and 3,000 photos. He writes for *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 seven writing awards. The Blue Ridge Land Conservancy honored Bruce and Elaine as their Land Savers of the Year in 2014. The couple has placed 442 acres under conservation easements. That acreage is in the James and New watersheds. They also have cooking columns for the Virginia Deer Hunters' Association and the Quality Deer Management Association.

You can learn more about Bruce Ingram, as well as purchase his books, by visiting <https://sites.google.com/site/bruceingramoutdoors>. You can follow him on Facebook at <https://www.facebook.com/Bruce-Ingram-479206548880215/>



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Upcoming Events

Join us Wednesday, August 29th, for our monthly meeting. John Hayes, a guide with Mark Kovach Fishing Service, will be our speaker. His session is titled "Knots and Fishing Decision Making." He will discuss how to maximize your catch rate through the right knots, rigging, and tackle, as well as sharing fishing stories about the Upper Potomac. 7:30-9:00 PM at the Vienna Firehouse, 400 Center St. S, Vienna, VA 22180.

Kids Fishing Derby at Lake Fairfax, Saturday, 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. 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 below. For more information speak with Chun or visit the event website here: <https://www.phatbasstard.net/>



The **DMV Bronzeback Yak Challenge (DMVBYC)** is Kayak Smallmouth Bass Fishing Tournament Series (online only) for residents of the DMV (DC, MD, VA, and WV). 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?

- Proximity of the rivers to our area (DMV)
- 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:

You **must** be a resident of the DMV (West Va included).

- Competition is limited to the following rivers only (and tributaries): **Potomac, Shenandoah, and Rappahannock.**
- Best 5 fish (measured by length) for each month-long event. Catch, Photo and Release using **KBF Rules Standards.**
- NO DINKS RULE!** Smallmouth must measure a **minimum of 14 inches.**

PRSC on the Water



Marcel Courtillet hit the South Fork of the Shenandoah late last month and landed some nice smallmouth using a 4" Ned rig. His best fish of the day measured 18 inches with the five best totaling 78 inches. His five-fish total currently leads the PRSC fishing contest for Section 1.

Also on the South Fork, Marty Burkard caught this 19.5" smallmouth on July 8th. Marty was throwing a Ned Rig with a 3" Stik-O worm in green pumpkin-seed. This fish is currently the one to beat for Section 1 big fish honors.



PRSC on the Water



Steve Adams was out on the South Fork near Bentonville for half a day on July 5th. He reports that the fishing was very good, and a 3/16 oz War Eagle spinner bait was the hot ticket for him.

Pete Adams has been in upstate New York for several weeks fishing for everything available. He landed this huge grass carp using a 4 weight fly rod. The beast took an orange size 12 Stimulator dry fly and the fight was on!



Ashburn Village Veterans Classic

On Saturday, June 30th numerous PRSC members and other volunteers turned out to make the 4th annual Ashburn Village Veterans Fishing Classic a great success. Nearly 50 veterans and their family members participated in this event, which is organized by our own Ernie Rojas. PRSC members served as guides, helping the veterans and their families to have fun, catch fish, and enjoy a day outdoors, with a free lunch to boot!



Ashburn Village Veterans Classic



Conservation Corner

By Herschel Finch

Before you break out the bubbly and start celebrating the departure of Scott Pruitt as the head of the EPA, you might want to wait on sending out the invitations to that “Ding Dong the Witch is Dead” party you were planning. Yes, Mr. Pruitt was one of the swampier of the swamp monsters our President brought in to serve in various positions at the EPA and the Department of the Interior. He was corrupt to the Nth degree, profiting from his connections to Congressmen, Senators, and fossil fuel executives and lobbyists. And yes, he should have been fired way back when he built a \$43,000 dollar sound and electronic-proof phone booth at EPA headquarters and started flying on private jets provided by fossil-fuel company executives. But he was doing exactly what the administration wanted him to do: inflicting serious damage on the EPA by changing rules, deregulating the regulated, killing the Waters of America rule and forcing out long-term government service employees and scientists so the EPA would become a Cabinet-level agency in name only and basically be unable to accomplish its 40-year-old bipartisan-mandated mission to protect and clean up our environment.

Scott Pruitt’s number 2 man, Andrew Wheeler, is every bit on board with the administration’s agenda of hollowing out the EPA but is probably going to be more effective at it than Scott Pruitt could ever hope to be. Mr. Wheeler has 20 years of experience as a Washington lobbyist for the fossil-fuel industry, and on Senator Daniel Inhofe’s (the senator with the snowball) staff. He is reportedly a policy wonk and is adept and maneuvering through Capitol Hill and executive branch offices. More disturbingly, he prefers to work behind the scenes, quietly and efficiently to achieve his goals. In all likelihood, there will be little to no scandals that will highlight his tenure and point to what he’s doing at EPA if the president chooses to appoint him to head the agency. The vigilance continues.

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On a happier note, let’s talk craft beer, handmade burgers and clean water advocacy!!

As some of you know, I’ve been working with a young man out of Richmond named Kyle Hart who works for the Virginia Conservation Network as their Wildlife and Sportsman’s Organizer. His area of expertise is preservation of access to public lands and clean water advocacy. We’ve been up on Capitol Hill together and worked on the Virginia Sportsman’s Conservation Roundtable and other letter-to-the-editor writing efforts. He almost killed me back in the Spring when he took me on my first backcountry native Brook Trout fly-



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Conservation Corner

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fishing adventure. If we're Facebook Friends, see my photo album: "Death March into the Back Country." It really wasn't that bad, but it was about all a double-extra fluffy out of shape grandpa could stand! I'll need to drop a few pounds before I try that again!!

I've worked a couple of events with Kyle the last couple of years that are basically consciousness-raising events that highlight the importance of clean water and preservation of our national monuments and access to them by the public for recreation and preservation of our angling and hunting heritage. The last one was quite enjoyable. We had Susan Sherman, Director of the Shenandoah National Park Trust; Tommy Lawhorne, owner of the South River Fly Shop; and Carson Oldham, guide and outfitter from Albemarle Fly Shop speaking on the importance of clean water and access to public lands. Following their short statements, we watched a couple of short films on fly fishing for steelhead and big native brook trout out in Oregon. There were door prizes provided by Tommy and Carson from their respective businesses, free beer and some great food from the 106 Street Food truck. I had one of the best BLTs I have ever had in my life; super thick smoked bacon, plum tomatoes, and spring greens with melted mozzarella and a vinaigrette dressing on sourdough. All in all, a nice way to spend an evening.

So Kyle and I are planning another event to be held at the brand new Front Royal Brewery down on main street in . . . come on now, I bet you can guess where . . .

The beer is excellent, especially the Hefeweizen style German named "Siren of the Shenandoah" and the food is top notch and being done by an actual chef. I highly recommend the roast duck Cuban sandwich they have but the Angus burger is also first rate.

Details are a little up in the air just yet, but I want to see some PRSC faces in the crowd when we get this thing pulled together. If I had to guess it may be held before the end of August, but I'll be keeping you folks informed. Watch the club website, my Facebook and Twitter feed for details that will be coming soon I hope.

PRSC
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When the Upper Potomac is flooded and tidal bass won't bite, sometimes a blue catfish can make your day. As our June speaker, Capt. Dennis Fleming, advised, "Fish the fishery."



2018 Fishing Contest

Fishing Contest

Spring rains have finally subsided and are rivers are returning to safe levels. Many more of us have gotten out on the water in late June and early July. When you land a nice fish, don't forget to snap a picture or two, and when you get off the water register your catch for the contest. We still have no report for Section 2, flyfishing, and other categories.

— RM

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:	Marty Burkard	19.5"
Section 1, Best 5 Fish:	Marcel Courtillet	78"
Section 2, Biggest Fish:	No Report	
Section 2, Best 5 Fish:	No Report	
Section 3, Biggest Fish:	Bill Pearl	20"
Section 3, Best 5 Fish:	Bill Pearl	91.5"
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.