



The Buzz

www.prsc.org



Volume 31, Issue 8

August 29, 2018

Fishing Guide John Hayes

Upcoming Events

PRSC Meeting
September 26, 2018

In This Issue

UPCOMING P. 2

PRSC ON THE WATER P. 3

BOOK REVIEW P. 6

PRSC SPEAKERS SHARE TIPS P. 8

CONSERVATION CORNER P. 10

FISHING CONTEST P. 12

John Hayes, a guide with Mark Kovach Fishing Services, will be our speaker on August 29th. His session is titled “Knots and Fishing Decision Making.” He will discuss how to maximize your catch rate by using the right knots, rigging, and tackle, as well as sharing fishing stories about the Upper Potomac. John has been guiding on the Potomac since 1993 and enjoys teaching clients the finer points of finding and catching fish. John is equipped to guide and talk about both spin and fly fishing—he is a certified fly-casting instructor.

John’s endless pursuit of the smallmouth bass and a love of flowing water fuels his desire to share experiences with other anglers. Fly or spin fishing combined with instructional gab, good food, and a fine cigar make for a special day on the river. Join us for what promises to be a very informative evening.



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, September 26th, for our monthly meeting. Steve Chaconas will talk about the different characteristics of fishing line. He will define applications of mono, fluorocarbon, and braid with various lures under varying conditions. Check out his Website at www.nationalbass.com for more information on fishing with Capt Chaconas. 7:30-9:00 PM at the Vienna Firehouse, 400 Center St. S, Vienna, VA 22180.

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 availa-

ble 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



Bill Pearl shares these pictures from his recent trip to Maine. He reports that in seven days of fishing they landed 1,054 fish, an average of 150 per day. Most fish were caught on topwater baits, with the Buzzbait being the top producer. Bill's grandson, Colton, is pictured above with a 24-inch pickerel and below with a nice smallmouth. The biggest fish for the week was the 19.5-incher Bill is pictured with at right.



PRSC on the Water



The Schaup family camped along Pennsylvania's Juniata river over the 4th of July. Clockwise from above: Maria, Chris, Sarah, Max, and Lisa with their black Lab in the family canoe; Max enjoys some time in the water; Lisa gets in on the smallmouth action; Maria displays a fine bronzeback that she caught. Chris reports that they got lucky with just the right river conditions.



PRSC on the Water



Sarah Schaup with a nice Juniata river smallmouth caught during the family camping trip last month.



Buzz editor Rick Mrstik (below) with a Lake Sacandaga smallmouth. His grandson, Rebel Spain (left), caught his first smallmouth there in late July.



Should the Tent Be Burning Like That?—A Professional Amateur's Guide to the Outdoors

A Book Review by Bill Amshey

I stalked Bill Heavey, the author of *Should the Tent Be Burning Like That? – A Professional Amateur's Guide to the Outdoors*, via the Internet for the 6 or 7 years I was the program chair for our club. My inability to catch him as a speaker, or even just a visitor, is a big part of the reason I finally gave up the position and passed it to Leon, who may eventually bag him after this review.

I became familiar with Bill because he owns the last page of *Field & Stream* magazine, writing a column titled "A Sportsman's Life." While his column might be on the last page, it is the first article I read before opening the front cover.

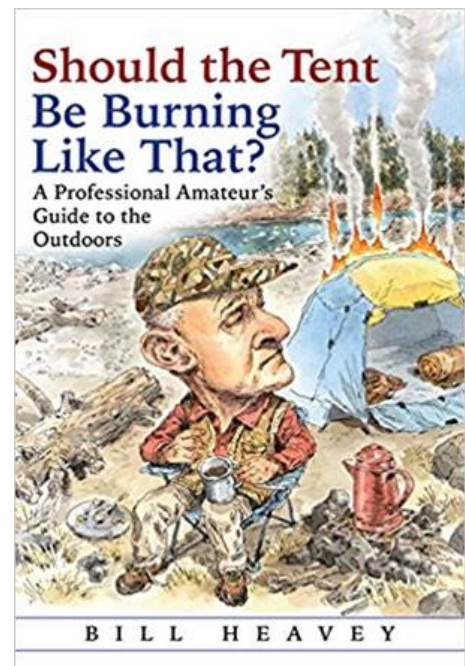
He writes about fishing, hunting, and the friendships that develop among sportsmen. The lengths to which we will go to catch the fish or bag the elk of our dreams. The newest fishing lure or hunting rifle that we have to add to our collection because it will guarantee our success. All the while he uses big doses of humor that makes fun of himself, and us, too.

Should the Tent Be Burning is evenly split between hunting and fishing stories. I'm not a hunter, so I of course enjoyed the fishing tales more than the hunting ones, but Bill's wit and writing style ensured that I enjoyed every chapter.

He opens the book with a Homeric tale of his odyssey with Mikey Dvorak up and down the West Coast looking for a river that wasn't flooded out in order to go steelhead fishing. Mikey owns several fishing boats and an old truck, but had to borrow money from Bill to buy a battery to run the boat. Most people would have ended the fishing trip right there, but for the next week, in horrible storm conditions, Mikey and Bill went on a quest to catch the steelhead of their dreams. This story reminded me of fishing with my buddy Andy, especially one trip where we went up and down the Susquehanna River on what was supposed to be a warm, dry winter day and was anything but.

In a chapter titled "Angler's Paradise," Bill tells us about a fishing tackle store he stumbled upon in Baltimore named Tochterman's Tackle. As Bill describes it, this is a store we all should know because the staff isn't out to fleece you but to help you buy the right tackle, and they'll even help you rig it up.

In the chapter "My Gun Guru," Bill writes about fellow *F&S* writer David Petzal. I know Ernie and Terry won't believe this, but I actually read Petzal's "Ask Petzal" column, in which he replies to readers' questions. In one column, a reader asked why Petzal is such a curmudgeon, something I can identify with. His answer: "Because I've had the opportunity to observe human beings for seven decades, and if you do it for that long and don't have a foul disposition, either you're simple or haven't been paying attention." Right on!



Should the Tent Be Burning Like That?—A Professional Amateur’s Guide to the Outdoors

In “The Odd Couple” Bill tells the reader about his close friendship with Jack Unruh, an illustrator at F&S who drew Bill “wearing pantyhose, in a yellow medieval fool’s costume, with icicles hanging from my nostrils . . . He always gave me a big red nose and vacant, yellow, bloodshot eyes . . . and I would have done anything for the guy.”

I found this book to be a great read that all sportsmen should enjoy. In the Introduction, Bill says: “The knowledge in these pages could prove invaluable. This book will show you why it is sometimes necessary to shoot a hunting arrow into your motel room’s phone book. Why you’ll never be a good bird hunter if you aim your shotgun . . . and you will learn why putting a boy on his first bluegill is as high an honor as a man can aspire to in this life.”

There’s only one chapter missing, the one about me stalking him all those years.

• • •



WVDNR



Online Hunting and Fishing Map Available

As quickly as the leaves turn in the fall, West Virginia's upcoming hunting seasons will be here soon. Now is a great time to get ready by using our [online map](#) to find information about license agents, shooting ranges and wildlife management areas around the state.



Our online map also can be used to plan a fishing trip, search for boating sites, trout stocking locations and fishing lakes. You can even look for a fishing spot by county or body of water. Check it out at mapwv.com/huntfish.

PRSC Speakers Share Tips

By Bill Amshey

Over the 20-plus years our fishing club has existed, we have been very lucky to have some great speakers. *Washington Times* columnist Gene Mueller, who spoke to the Club at our 29 September 2004 meeting, is among the great speakers who have addressed our members. Before the meeting, I remember that several of us dined with this gentleman at a nearby Chinese restaurant and were regaled with his fishing stories, which unfortunately I have long-since forgotten. The following comments he shared are from my notes.

First, I probably need to clarify for our younger members that, yes, there was a time that the *Washington Times* and the *Washington Post* both had honest to God fishermen who wrote columns on fishing in the Washington metro region. Angus Phillips was the writer at the *Post*, and in his last column, which is online and worth reading, he admitted, "When I wrote the first column 30-odd years ago, I didn't know a fish from a duck. What a journey."

Phillips also wrote: "I never took up much with the national outdoor writer fraternity, but my local competitors, Lefty Kreh when he wrote for the *Baltimore Sun* and the late Bill Burton at the *Evening Sun* and later the *Annapolis Capital*, were more mentors than rivals." About Lefty Kreh, a hero to many of us, Phillips wrote: "Kreh, the world's best and most famous fly-fisherman, took a day early on to give me a quick lesson on a Baltimore County farm pond. When I managed to throw a half-decent loop, he congratulated me condescendingly. 'You're actually coordinated,' he said. I bit my tongue, hearing that from a short, fat, bald guy. Then again, Lefty taught Ted Williams how to cast."



That night in September 2004, Mueller declared that the past season had been the "worst year for fishing in 40 years," placing the blame on those "blood sport enthusiasts," the professional tournament anglers. He opined that changes he was seeing in the Potomac include an increase in the number of minimum size fish, even with improving water quality. He said the biggest issue was the growing fishing pressure on the river.

The first person I can remember to talk about the northern snakehead, he commented, "Hey, so what, it's just another species of fish. And we have fish that will eat it, like gar and blue catfish." Based on the latest reports from Virginia Game and Fish expert John Odenkirk, Mueller was right.

Mueller lamented the low numbers of fish in East Coast rivers generally. He said that fish numbers were down on the Shenandoah and the James Rivers because of low oxygen levels and high fertilizer levels, causing unwanted



PRSC Speakers Share Tips

Continued

weeds and grasses to grow. He was frustrated that no one was sounding the alarm bells. Fortunately, since Mueller spoke to our club the Potomac Riverkeeper organization and other groups have done much to promote and protect the health of our rivers.

Commenting on the state of the Chesapeake Bay, Mueller described the situation as “bad.” He pointed a finger at Virginia, saying it really doesn’t enforce any protections in saltwater and enforces no to few restrictions on commercial fishing operations in salt and tidal waters. I think that has improved over the years through the efforts of the Chesapeake Bay Foundation and other groups.

Mueller wrote his last farewell for the *Washington Times* on 1 January 2010, one month after Angus Phillips wrote his good-bye. Mueller wrote: “Saying goodbye to loyal readers never has been easy. I had to do it years ago when the *Washington Daily News* and the *Washington Star* closed their doors and ceased publication. But to this day I’ve never been able to shake the rotten feeling that comes with saying a final farewell to an old friend—even if that friend smells of printing ink and consists only of paper.”

Out of Mueller’s last column, I was quite taken by his comments of fishing in Latin America. I lived in Paraguay for three years back in the mid-80s and got to fish the Rio Paraguay quite a few times. Mueller gave a great description of fishing for golden dorados: “What about several wonderful fishing trips to Argentina where I was able to go after the golden dorados of the Rio Parana, far to the north of Buenos Aires? If ever there was a fish that can humble man or woman, it is the golden dorado—a tooth-laden freshwater species that jokingly has been described as a mix between a salmon, bluefish, and junkyard dog. With their immense strength and double rows of teeth, a 20-pound golden dorado can turn a 12-inch-long wooden fishing lure into saw dust.” Yes, that’s an accurate description.

Even with all the Websites on fishing, I miss the golden days of newspaper columnists sharing their insights on fishing. Hey, I’m an old guy.



Conservation Corner

By Herschel Finch

The Virginia Conservation Network and I held a clean water event at the Front Royal Brewery on Wednesday the 12th of August, just three days after I got back from Florida. We had to change the date a couple of times but we finally got it nailed down and the event was smashing success. Kyle Hart from the VCN provided the free beer tickets and appetizers and I helped gather the warm bodies. In all I think the crowd went about 50 people, which is a really good number for an event such as this.

Kyle spoke to us about how clean water was a important issue to the folks at VCN then turned it over to John from the friends of the North Fork who gave us a great presentation on the importance of clean water to the North Fork of the Shenandoah. Next up was Tom Wilkins. Thomas is the president of the Friends of the Andy Guest State Park and he spoke to us about the importance of clean water in the operation and popularity of our local state park. I gave a few minutes on how I got into advocacy for our local waters and how to effectively get involved in advocacy for our public



lands and waters. All in all it was pleasant evening spent with good friends and like-minded individuals, We all got to meet and make some new friends and do some serious networking with some of the movers and shakers in the environmental movement here in the Shenandoah Valley.

A big shout-out and pat on the back goes to Marty Burkard who drove all the way out from Arlington to join us for the evening. Thanks for the support Marty!

Before our event at the Front Royal Brewery, I got to spend a few days in Florida with the wife for a nice vacation. Given the life changes we have recently gone through, it sure was needed. The best part for me was I got to spend a day with our old friend and former PRSC member Mark Myers down at his place in Homosassa.



Conservation Corner

Continued



If you've never been there, it's well worth it just for the drive west. Once you get off 193 and away from the influence of the Disney Corporation, you get an opportunity to drive through miles of "old Florida." This is what it looked like in and around Kissimmee and south Orlando before Disney arrived in 1966; big cattle and horse ranches, swamps, tannin-stained spring-fed rivers, giant Live and Water Oaks and more Spanish moss than you can shake a stick at. And no Palm trees! The Palmetto palms you see everywhere around central Florida are not native to that area. They were transplanted from the west coast of Florida, where Mark lives. You don't

start to see them until you get in a boat and run out of the bayous toward the Gulf of Mexico.

And toward the Gulf was exactly where Mark took me. It is absolutely beautiful out there, and I can understand perfectly why Mark decided to retire down there. It's quiet, unhurried, and the fishing is superb, or so I'm told. On an unusually high tide, the fish had access to parts of the parts of the grass flats and swampy areas that they normally can't get too. So the spots where they normally are found were basically bare of fish. I did manage one small needle fish on the fly rod, and got a good sized Snook (Mark estimated bigger than 25 inches) took a swipe at a silver spoon I was throwing around a Florida Game Commission enclosure. After a day spent tooling around looking for fish mostly, it was back to Mark's for a couple of beers with an old Riversmallie.com friend Bill Skiver. It was really great to see him and even better to see Mark. Rest assured he is alive and well and living (and fishing) the good life down in the Sunshine State.



PRSC
P.O. Box 685
Vienna, VA 22183

Fishing is special for more than just catching fish. It's quality time spent outdoors with loved ones. Last month I was fortunate to spend two weeks in the New York Adirondacks with my family, enjoying all that Mother Nature has to offer. I spent time fishing with my Dad and my grandson Rebel—the man who taught me how to fish, and the little man who I'm teaching how to fish. Carpal tunnel issues made casting and reeling tough for Dad this year, but we had a lot of fun fishing together. He had surgery on his wrist two weeks ago and is determined to be in good shape for our November deer hunt.



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:	Jamie Gold	20"
Section 1, Best 5 Fish:	Jamie Gold	80"
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:	Jamie Gold	15"
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.