



The Buzz

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February 27, 2019

John Page Williams

Upcoming Events

PRSC Meeting
March 27, 2019

Flyfishing Shows
Various Dates

CCA Banquet
March 30, 2019

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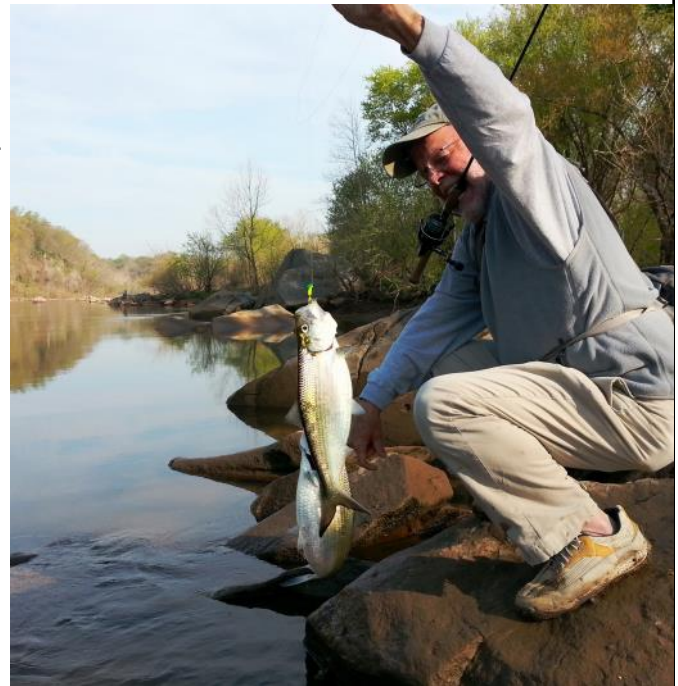
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Captain John Page Williams will speak at our Club meeting on February 27. He is a Senior Naturalist at the Chesapeake Bay Foundation in Annapolis. Awarded the title of “Admiral of the Bay,” he has a more than 43-year career teaching and writing about the Bay, one of our nation’s greatest natural resources. PRSC member Ernie Rojas states “John Page is a fantastic fisherman who knows how and where to fish the Bay.”

JP began the Bay Foundation’s education program in the 1970s, modeling it on his earlier experience with Outward Bound and teaching at a school in Richmond. He also led CBF’s development program and early outreach efforts as a writer and lecturer. He has published numerous articles in newspapers and boating and fishing magazines, as well as three books about the Bay.

Joe Evans, Editor of *Chesapeake Bay Magazine*, has called Williams “one of a kind” for his “steady environmental impact” over the last four decades. “On most any given day, you’ll find John Page Williams on the water, testing fish finders, lures, and tackle,” Evans wrote several years ago. “Or he might be bending the ears of policy-makers and politicians with his well-tuned conservation thesis.”

In an article entitled “Fishing in the Wake of Captain John Smith,” John Page shares his favorite fishing spots along the John Smith Trail. From the Susquehanna to the Rappahannock, Williams tells you about Captain Smith’s wildlife encounters at each site, the types of fish you will find, and which types of bait and tackle to use. A “Boater’s Guide to the Captain John Smith Chesapeake National Historic Trail” is a free online publication that introduces paddlers, skiffers, and cruisers to exploration of the Capt. John Smith Trail. JP weaves practical information for today’s boaters with the historical context of the Chesapeake waters Smith explored 400 years ago. With the mix of history, environmental issues, and fishing the Bay, his presentation surely will be one no one should to miss. If you are interested in joining the Save the Bay effort, check out the CBF Website at www.cbf.org.



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Upcoming Events

Join us Wednesday, March 27th, for our monthly meeting. John Kuriawa will discuss techniques and equipment he uses to catch shad locally. 7:30-9:00 PM at the Vienna Firehouse, 400 Center St. S, Vienna, VA 22180.

Maryland Flyfishing and Collectable Tackle Show, Saturday March 16th. 9:00 AM to 4:00 PM at Towson University. The Second Annual Fly Fishing Show brings together fly fishing enthusiasts and high quality fly fishing dealers for a day of tackle review and conversation. Due to the large crowd that attended our first show, we have moved the show to Towson University's Potomac Lounge. The University has easy access from Rt.95 and the Baltimore 695 beltway. The Potomac lounge is in the University Union and has ample free garage parking right next to the building.

The Fly Fishing Film Tour Comes to Arlington, Tuesday, March 26th. Arlington Cinema and Draft House, 6:00 PM to 10:30 PM. Tickets are \$25 in advance when purchased online and can be picked up at the theatre on the night of the event at theater will call. Tickets will also be available at the door on the night of the event for \$30. Please note there are no tickets sold by F3T online for this event.

Coastal Conservation Association Banquet, Saturday March 30th. The Northern Virginia CCA Chapter is pleased to invite you to our Eighteenth-Annual "Save a Fish – Build a Reef" Dinner and Auction taking place on Saturday, March 30th, 2019 at 6:00 pm. This year's event will be at The Arlington Fairfax Elks Lodge, 8421 Arlington Boulevard, Fairfax, VA.



Thanks to all our volunteers who have worked in the mud or on a keyboard to advocate for FC access. We are pleased to inform you that the National Park Service has authorized the replacement in kind and installation of a new dock for Fletcher's Cove. Should expedited processing and conditions permit the dock replacement will occur in early April. Meanwhile the contractor has agreed to reconnect the floating walkway to the old dock until delivery. We **will have access in time for the 2019 season!**

In our ongoing effort to lobby for a long term fix to the sediment issue new FFC members have successfully lobbied legislators to review and support our short and long term remediation effort. We have additional briefings scheduled with legislators and federal agencies in the very near future as potential funding sources and a cost for Phase II dredging come into focus.

In spite of park wide damage due to flooding The C&O Canal Historical Park has once again stepped up to allow Fletcher's Cove Park visitors continued access to the Potomac River at FC. We are grateful for their continued support.

Thank You Sponsors!

The Potomac River Smallmouth Club would like to extend our warmest thanks to our 2018 sponsors and friends. Thank you as well to all PRSC members and the Board.



Dan Grulke – Custom Rod Builder – Musky13@Yahoo.com

Captain Brady Bounds Guide Service – CaptainBradyBounds@gmail.com

The Backwoodsman Magazine – <https://www.backwoodsmanmag.com/>

Bruce Ingram – Outdoor Writer/Photographer

<https://sites.google.com/site/bruceingramoutdoors/>

Steve Chaconas – National Bass Guide Service

<http://www.nationalbass.com/>

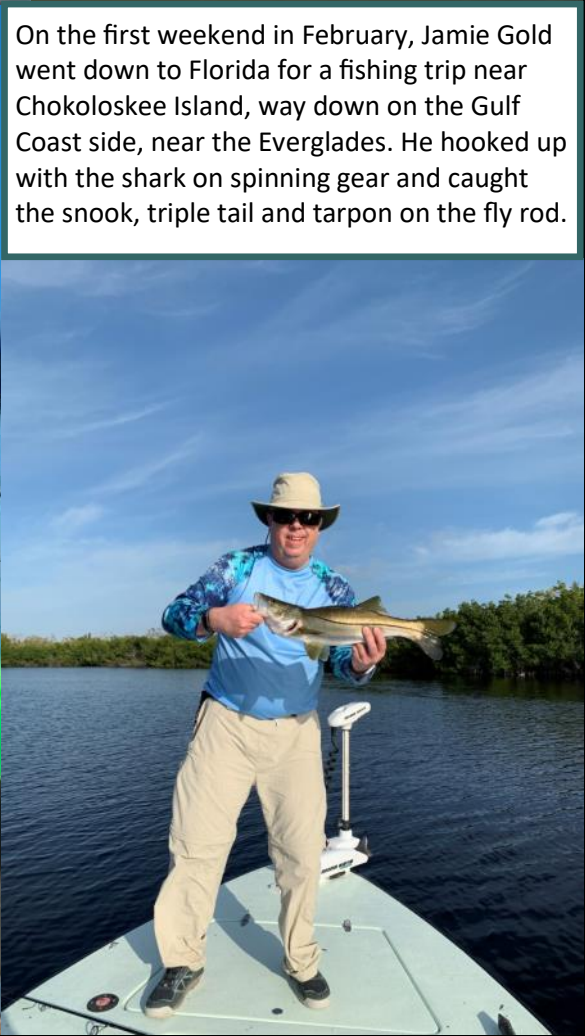


<http://www.bigmooksbbq.com/index.html>

PRSC on the Water



On the first weekend in February, Jamie Gold went down to Florida for a fishing trip near Chokoloskee Island, way down on the Gulf Coast side, near the Everglades. He hooked up with the shark on spinning gear and caught the snook, triple tail and tarpon on the fly rod.



PRSC on the Water



Bill Pearl took advantage of the nice warm day we had on Tuesday, February 5th for a trip to the Shenandoah. He said he “. . . only caught three smallmouth and one BIG musky. The musky was in the 42- to 45-inch range. I had no way to measure him.” The smallmouth pictured (left) taped 19.5 inches.

Conditions were a little different on Thursday, February 7th when Bill went out on the Susquehannah. Bill reports, “The Susky was high, rising sharply, and had lots of floating ice.” He “. . . Only caught nine with the biggest (pictured below) at 19 inches.” Pretty fine fishing for February!



Getting to Know the PRSC Board

Editor's Note: This is the first in a series of articles that will focus PRSC Board members and their positions in the club. We hope to encourage club members to engage with the Board at club meetings as well as consider volunteering to serve as a Board member.

• • •

My name is Steve Kimm and I am the current President of the club. I have been the club President longer than I expected and I have previously served as the club Librarian. I encourage all members to consider volunteering for a Board position. It is very rewarding and a minimal time commitment.

I grew up in McLean, Virginia and graduated from Langley High School in 1985. I graduated in 1990 with a BS in Criminal Justice from East Carolina University. I played rugby in high school and my team won the National Championship. At ECU I continued to play and also ran the club. After college I lived in North Carolina and Colorado but eventually found my way back home. I enjoy working for a very small family owned business as an outside sales rep and have been doing so for the last 15 years.

I believe I started with the club in 2002. In 2003, I purchased the boat I fish from today. It is a two-person Cataraft. I have modified the boat several times in the time I have owned it, including upgrading the pontoons, replacing the trolling motor and upgrading the seats. The club is actually the reason I bought this boat. A couple of members had one at the time, and I saw it as a comfortable way to fish.



Anyone who has fished with me, knows I made the right decision.

Aside from enjoying fresh and salt water fishing, I am also an active member of the Capital Area Landcruiser Club. I enjoy vintage Landcruisers and off roading. I have also been a volunteer with the McLean Volunteer Fire Department for the last 15 years. I am not an EMT or a firefighter, but an administrative member. I spent eight years as the Quartermaster and have also served on the Board of Directors.

Please feel free to ask me any questions you may have. Again, consider volunteering for a Board position as we will be looking to fill positions at the November banquet.

PRSC Speakers Share Fishing Tips

By Bill Amshey

Continuing my trip down the memory lane of past speakers, Dave “Grizzly” Lambert spoke to our meeting on March 29, 2006. Grizzly impressed me as a colorful character, and indeed he does remind one of a grizzly with his head of hair and flowing beard.

On this night, Grizzly spoke about shad fishing on the Potomac River, which is rather appropriate as we are approaching the annual shad run. He told us that since 1995, some 60 million shad fry had been stocked into the Potomac. He said that 2006 was expected to be the best year since the stocking program started.

He explained that the last two weeks of April are usually the beginning of the shad run, but the strongest part of the run and the most consistent good fishing is during the month of May. I’ve also heard old timers peg shad season to when the Dogwoods bloom. Grizzly also uses the Forsythia bloom as a gauge.

Grizzly said that he uses the traditional white/red head flies and shad darts. He added that chartreuse, pink, and orange darts also are quite popular.



He recommended fishing the seams marking the rocky bottom in the mornings. He said that he likes fishing a moving tide, which makes the fish more active. For the fly fishermen, a sinking line is generally going to get you more strikes.

A favorite shad spot in the Metro area is Fletcher’s Cove and Boathouse, located at 4940 Canal Road, NW Washington, DC 20007 (202-244-0461). Since you will be fishing in DC waters, you will need a DC fishing license, which can be purchased at the boathouse, along with all the shad darts you will need. Fletcher’s rents red row boats that can be used to fish for shad. Obviously, the earlier you get there, the more likely you are to get a boat. If you fish from the rocks, be aware that they are very slippery and if you are not paying attention when the tide comes in . . . well, you can figure that out! A note of caution, Fletcher’s Cove took a real beating in all the high water last year, so there could be some issues fishing there. You might want to check with the boathouse before going.

I got to talk with Grizzly while writing this article. He now is working as a consultant for Richard Farino, owner of District Angling, the area’s newest fly shop at 2105 North Pollard Street, Arlington, Va. 22207 (703-268-7500; www.districtangling.com). After a great first year, they will be increasing shop activities, programs, videos, and social media education. Grizzly will soon launch a YouTube channel called Grizzly Fly Fish, where he and guests will be doing a variety of things, including fly-tying, DIY projects, stream and river profiles, guest interviews, and more. Give him a visit!

Conservation Corner

By Herschel Finch

Well, so far this year we've been battling the annual case of bronchitis with two rounds of steroids and cough suppressants, not to mention high water and never-ceasing rain again. So Yeah . . . Retirement . . . whoopee.

As of Friday, there is a spill of fuel or oil coming into Four Mile Run in Arlington. Dean Naujoks, our Potomac Riverkeeper, is monitoring the situation. He's notified the Arlington Fire Department and booms have been deployed to contain the spill, and DEQ alerted to the problem. News media outlets have also been alerted to the issue as well, because a little "feet to the fire" never hurts in these kind of situations as far as getting a little action going. As of Saturday, the 23rd, the spill is still flowing out of the storm drainage pipe. Dean plans to be back down there on Monday to see what's being done.

The emails are flying fast and furious among members of the Izaak Walton League Farm Bill Committee trying to firm up our suggested input for funding, payments, programs and retention of conservation funding that the national organization would like to see in this version of the Bill. Fortunately most of the funding for major conservation programs is intact despite what our worst fears were at the beginning of the process. It seems to have escaped the notice of most of those who never saw an environmental program they didn't want to gut, and bleed dry of funding. Guess they have more pressing business to attend to. I'm still trying to advocate for direct relief to farmers who engage in best practices where our waters, streams and tributaries are concerned. A national program under the Farm Bill that would pay for new fencing, native plantings, stream bank remediation and alternate watering and cooling infrastructure on a dollar-for-dollar basis would be the ultimate goal, but given the damage done to agricultural exports under the current trade war going on with China, most of the discretionary funding like that is going to get eaten up in subsidy and subsistence payments I fear.

As our waters recede and we can start getting back out there in March (fingers crossed, prayers and sacrifices to the river gods etc. etc.) bear in mind that that we have had a full year of very heavy waters pounding down the rivers. I don't have to tell our well-seasoned and experienced anglers that all that water has made some changes out there. Wood piles have been moved or obliterated, new piles have built up in other places, shoals will have been rearranged and holes scoured out . . . or filled in. All these changes are what keeps us coming back to the rivers. It's always a challenge and tests our ability to observe, improvise and realign. The old Chinese philosopher is ever applicable: You can never step into the same river twice.

These changes also present new challenges to your safety as well. Never assume that rock that use to be there is as stable as it was two years ago . . . or even there. Same goes for that old logjam you use to ground out on or the sandbar you used to eat lunch on. And of course, always keep that PFD cinched up tight, from the time you step into the boat, until you step off on dry land.

But also keep an eye out for stuff that doesn't look right. High water and the forces it generates can uncover problems and issues that our riverkeepers need to be aware of. We are their eyes and ears out there. They can't cover it all and need our help, our observations, and input. Check out the "Water Reporter" app for smart phones that comes in both Android and IOS flavors. It's a great piece of technology and makes giving a report to the folks at the Potomac Riverkeeper Network very easy.

Now . . . let's get out on the water . . .

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Maryland DNR Smallmouth Stocking Plan

We all know heavy spring rains can hurt smallmouth spawns. The Maryland Department of Natural Resources has documented higher than average spring flows on the upper Potomac River since 2008 and the resulting decrease in smallmouth recruitment. The DNR has developed a five-year plan to supplement natural smallmouth bass reproduction in the Potomac through stocking. The plan calls for angling events each March/April to collect brood stock, which would then be used to raise fingerlings at state hatcheries. The brood stock would be returned to the section of the river from which they came, and the resulting fingerlings would also be stocked in that section of the river, probably in July.

To read more about the DNR plan click here:

https://dnr.maryland.gov/fisheries/Documents/Potomac_River_SMBass_Stocking.pdf

2019 Fishing Contest

Fishing Contest

Visit our contest page to check out the complete rules or to submit an entry for the 2019 contest.

<http://prsc.org/fishing-contest/>

2019 Entries

Section 1, Biggest Fish:	Bill Pearl	20"
Section 1, Best 5 Fish:	No Report	
Section 2, Biggest Fish:	No Jenkins	
Section 2, Best 5 Fish:	No Jenkins	
Section 3, Biggest Fish:	No Report	
Section 3, Best 5 Fish:	No Report	
Largest on Fly:	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.