



The Buzz

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March 27, 2019

John Kuriawa

Upcoming Events

PRSC Meeting
April 24, 2019

CCA Banquet
March 30, 2019

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Our featured speaker for the March 27th meeting will be John Kuriawa, an accomplished angler who will share his expertise in shad fishing. John has been a member of Trout Unlimited, the National Capital Chapter (TU NCC), for a number of years and has been a regular guest speaker/presenter at the club's annual shad night, which draws the largest audience of any TU NCC meetings. You don't want to miss this opportunity to sharpen your skills in preparation for the annual spring shad run.

John states, "Fortunate enough to have a Dad who always made time to take me fishing, I've been casting a line from the shore or dropping one from a boat since my pre-school days. What started with hunting night crawlers in the backyard and loading rods into custom holders on my bike for what felt like long journeys to faraway lakes



has turned into an obsession with becoming a better light tackle angler focused on shad, smallmouth, and saltwater species while working at NOAA (The National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration), the federal agency with coastal and fisheries management responsibilities. The obsession brings me smiling through the tunnel at Fletcher's each spring as there's no place I'd rather be in April than a classic red boat on the Potomac in our nation's capital. The world just feels more alive sitting atop so many damn fish! With 20 years of experience now and having digested virtually every book, video, and article I can find about shad, I hope to be able to share at least a few tips and techniques that will improve your game and I look forward to learning from you as well. We'll cover everything from river conditions to tackle to netting shad, the 'Where, When, What, How and Who' of shad fishing."

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Upcoming Events

Join us Wednesday, April 24th, for our monthly meeting. Our speaker will be Travis Edens of Kingfisher Guiding Service. He will discuss his Harper's Ferry guiding service on the Potomac and Shenandoah main stem rivers. 7:30-9:00 PM at the Vienna Firehouse, 400 Center St. S, Vienna, VA 22180.

Coastal Conservation Association Banquet, Saturday March 30th. The Northern Virginia CCA Chapter invites you to our 18th-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.

CALL FOR VOLUNTEERS

Volunteers are needed for *Flatlick Kids Fishing Day* In Partnership with the Fairfax County Park Authority at the Flatlick Stream Restoration.

Meet up location is on the stream in Flatlick Stream Valley Park. The nearest address is 4143 Placid Lake Ct, Chantilly, VA 20151. Volunteers can park there or nearby at the adjacent swim club parking lot.

Saturday, April 6th | 8:30am to 1:00pm



This is a one day event. You are welcome to volunteer for the entire day.

Help the kids bait their hooks and catch trout, and stay afterwards if you like to catch your own. Participants and volunteers are encouraged to take home their catch to cook for dinner.

To volunteer, please contact: Justin.Pistore@FairfaxCounty.gov | 703-324-5685

PRSC on the Water



Bill Pearl (above left) and Lenny Machowski (above right) got out on the Susquehanna on Wednesday, 13 March for a little smallmouth action. Bill reports that water temperatures were 38 to 40 degrees and they landed 41 fish! No real big ones but plenty in the 13- to 16-inch range. Small swimbaits, tubes, and Ned rigs were the baits that paid off.



Ernie Rojas (above) continues to seek the boundaries of the Upper Potomac fishing envelope, launching from Algonkian on March 15th with the Point of Rocks gauge at 6.6 feet. He and his fishing partner each scored on smallies 18 inches or more. This one taped 18.25".



Buzz Editor Rick Mrstik got out on the tidal Potomac River on Saturday, March 9th and connected with his first largemouths of the year. He and his fishing partner landed 15 bass in a little over three hours on the water. The fish were a bit moody from the cold rain the night before. Downsizing baits and fishing very slowly proved successful. This 2-pound female, which fell for a 4" black and red grub, was beginning to get fat with eggs.

Getting to Know the PRSC Board

Editor's Note: This is the second 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 Craig Bishop and I am the current vice president of the club. I grew up in Vienna, Virginia and attended Stenwood Elementary, Thoreau Middle School, and graduated from George C. Marshall High School in 1979. After celebrating graduation in Ocean City, Maryland, I immediately went to work as a locksmith apprentice in the Herndon, Virginia area. I stayed at that "summer" job for 17 years! I then started my own security company with a business partner and family members, and we are blessed to be in our twenty-third year.

My early fishing adventures included all the local holes: Lake Fairfax, Lake Barcroft, Lake Manassas, Goose Creek, and—my favorite—the South Fork of the Shenandoah River, where in 2016 I landed a 21-inch citation smallmouth. I have added a trip to The Everglades in Florida to my annual excursions. It's a whole different ball game down there!

I joined PRSC in 2013 and volunteered for the vice president position in 2014. I've learned A LOT as a member of the club and as a member of the Board!

- Example 1: You can't just have crankbaits in your tacklebox. Soft plastics work too!
- Example 2: A 5-pound anchor can be VERY dangerous when kayaking in heavy current!
- Example 3: If a big tarpon lands in the boat—GET OUTTA THE BOAT!
- Example 4: Volunteering for any good cause is good for the soul!

I am also a member and board member of a local rod and gun club that hunts and fishes in the Strasburg, Virginia area.

I have two pretty adult-acting children and six grandchildren! And they like fishing too.

Please consider volunteering for any Board position as fresh ideas and new energy are what keep any club moving onward and upward. And bring a friend!

Craig



Cleaning Up Fletcher's Cove

By Jack Turner

In the minds of many local anglers, the spring shad run and Fletcher's Boathouse are irrevocably connected (well . . . rockfish and perch, too). If you've ever been to Fletcher's and enjoyed reeling in way more fighting fish than you thought possible, you don't forget it. A good shad fishing day is nothing short of amazing. Some will tell you, "It's almost too easy." But that doesn't mean they didn't love every minute of it. Yes, good shad days are practically mythological, and Fletcher's Boathouse remains the center of the action in the DC area. So, clearing out flood debris in Fletcher's Cove is essential to having those great shad days.



The entrance road to Fletcher's Boat House before and after the January 26 clean-up.

Photos above: Mike Bailey, Friends of Fletcher's Cove

The Potomac floods up its banks regularly, and deposits all sorts of river debris in its wake. Whole trees, logs, thousands of branches, tires, and plastics large and small, wash up on shore and obliterate boat piers and roadways.



Jamie Gold and Jack Turner stack up flood debris and collect trash (left). Marty Burkard (right) helps with the clean-up.



Cleaning Up Fletcher's Cove

By Jack Turner—Continued

Friends of Fletcher's Cove, "An assembly of dedicated citizens and organizations . . ." whose primary goal is to save and maintain Fletcher's Cove for public recreational use, stepped in to help with things in 2014, when it was announced that the Fletcher's boat dock would be closed until further notice. Clearing out flood debris has become one of their major activities since then, besides keeping the dock open.



John Lipetz and other volunteers collect plastics and cans.

Remember all that rain this winter? It caused more than the usual amount of flood debris in Fletcher's Cove. Friends of Fletcher's Cove partnered with Potomac Conservancy to get as many volunteers as possible to help clear all the debris. On January 26, 2019, more than 200 volunteers—including several PRSC members—showed up in response to a mass emailing. You meet a lot of interesting and generous people at events like this – it's really worth showing up.

More Potomac River cleanups are scheduled. click here: <https://potomac.org/events>

For more information on Fletcher's Cove. click here: <http://www.friendsoffletcherscove.org/>



Speaking of shad and Fletcher's Boathouse:
Jack Turner caught this 17-inch American shad at sunset on March 19, 2019 using a blue shad dart on 4 lb. line and a 5 foot ultralight rod. It was about 50 feet from shore when hooked, Potomac level was 5.0 feet.

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- **Section 1:** All water above Harper's Ferry on the Potomac, all of the North and South Forks of the Shenandoah, and all tributaries flowing into these waters.
- **Section 2:** Main Stem of the Shenandoah and the Potomac from Harper's Ferry to the Mouth of the Monocacy, and all tributaries flowing into these waters. The Monocacy is included in this section.
- **Section 3:** The Potomac River below the Mouth of the Monocacy, and all tributaries.



2019 Fishing Contest

<h3 style="margin: 0;">Fishing Contest</h3> <p style="margin: 10px 0;">Visit our contest page to check out the complete rules or to submit an entry for the 2019 contest. http://prsc.org/fishing-contest/</p>	<h3 style="margin: 0; text-align: center;">2019 Entries</h3> <table style="width: 100%; border-collapse: collapse;"> <tr> <td style="padding: 5px;">Section 1, Biggest Fish:</td> <td style="padding: 5px;">Bill Pearl</td> <td style="padding: 5px; text-align: right;">20"</td> </tr> <tr> <td style="padding: 5px;">Section 1, Best 5 Fish:</td> <td colspan="2" style="padding: 5px;">No Report</td> </tr> <tr> <td style="padding: 5px;">Section 2, Biggest Fish:</td> <td colspan="2" style="padding: 5px;">No Report</td> </tr> <tr> <td style="padding: 5px;">Section 2, Best 5 Fish:</td> <td colspan="2" style="padding: 5px;">No Report</td> </tr> <tr> <td style="padding: 5px;">Section 3, Biggest Fish:</td> <td style="padding: 5px;">Ernie Rojas</td> <td style="padding: 5px; text-align: right;">18.5"</td> </tr> <tr> <td style="padding: 5px;">Section 3, Best 5 Fish:</td> <td colspan="2" style="padding: 5px;">No Report</td> </tr> <tr> <td style="padding: 5px;">Largest on Fly:</td> <td colspan="2" style="padding: 5px;">No Report</td> </tr> </table>	Section 1, Biggest Fish:	Bill Pearl	20"	Section 1, Best 5 Fish:	No Report		Section 2, Biggest Fish:	No Report		Section 2, Best 5 Fish:	No Report		Section 3, Biggest Fish:	Ernie Rojas	18.5"	Section 3, Best 5 Fish:	No Report		Largest on Fly:	No Report	
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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.