



# The Buzz

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May 29, 2019

# Dan Grulke

## Upcoming Events

**PRSC Meeting**  
June 26, 2019

**Kids Fishing Derby**  
June 1, 2019

**Ashburn Village Veterans Fishing Classic**  
June 22, 2019

**Kids Fishing Derby**  
July 20, 2019

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Our featured speaker this month is Dan Grulke. Over the last few years he has generously given a rod building prize at our annual November Member's Night Meeting.

Dan has been a Smallmouth guide for 10 years and has been building custom fishing rods for 15 years. He has extensive experience fishing the 1000 islands area of New York on the St. Lawrence River. Dan will discuss all these topics at the May meeting.

He is also currently retired, which gives him ample time to enjoy family and angling pursuits.

Dan will offer some rods, reels, lures, and tackle bags to sell to members at a substantial discount both before and after the meeting. Be sure to arrive early or stay late to take advantage of these savings.



## Club Executive Board

### President

Steve Kimm  
[president@prsc.org](mailto:president@prsc.org)

### Vice-President

Craig Bishop  
[vp@prsc.org](mailto:vp@prsc.org)

### Secretary

Dave Lockard  
H (301) 656-1964  
[secretary@prsc.org](mailto:secretary@prsc.org)

### Treasurer

Jamie Gold  
C (571) 213-4699  
[treasure@prsc.org](mailto:treasure@prsc.org)

### Trip Coordinator

Marty Burkard  
[trip\\_coordinator@prsc.org](mailto:trip_coordinator@prsc.org)

### Program Chair

Leon Kates  
[Programs@prsc.org](mailto:Programs@prsc.org)

### Conservation Chair

Herschel Finch  
H (540) 635-7636  
[Conservation@prsc.org](mailto:Conservation@prsc.org)

### Librarian

Aaron Otte  
[Librarian@prsc.org](mailto: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](mailto:Buzz_Editor@prsc.org)

#### Merchandise

John Lipetz  
[Merchandise@prsc.org](mailto:Merchandise@prsc.org)

#### Publicity

Ernie Rojas  
H (703) 729-0128  
[Publicity@prsc.org](mailto:Publicity@prsc.org)

#### Webmaster

Joe Petty  
[Webmaster@prsc.org](mailto:Webmaster@prsc.org)

#### Past President

Steve Moore

# Upcoming Events

**Join us Wednesday, June 26th, for our monthly meeting.** Our speaker in June will be Adam Lynch, the Restoration Coordinator from the Friends of the Rappahannock Organization. His topic will be Rappahannock River Public Access: Challenges and Opportunities. The Rappahannock River is one of Virginia's most scenic rivers, and best fishing destinations, but it is also relatively secluded and difficult to access. He will discuss the current state and the future of public access on the Rappahannock and Rapidan Rivers. This will include an overview of the current access points, Friends of the Rappahannock's efforts to share information about river access, and their work to promote new access points via public/private partnerships. 7:30-9:00 PM at the Vienna Firehouse, 400 Center St. S, Vienna, VA 22180.

**Kids Fishing Derby, Saturday, June 1st, Lake Fairfax.** Volunteer to help kids get hooked on fishing! This is the annual June event hosted by Lake Fairfax Park and sponsored by Fish and Explore, New Horizons Bass Anglers, and Potomac River Smallmouth Club. Volunteers should meet at Lake Fairfax at 7:00 AM to help set up. Event cleanup should be complete by 1:30 PM. Volunteers will get lunch once all kids and parents have been served.

**Kids Fishing Derby, Saturday, July 20th, Lake Fairfax.** Volunteer to help kids get hooked on fishing! This is the annual July event hosted by Lake Fairfax Park and sponsored by Fish and Explore, NHBA, and PRSC. Volunteers should meet at Lake Fairfax at 7:00 AM to help set up. Event cleanup should be complete by 1:30 PM. Volunteers will get lunch once all kids and parents have been served.

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**Ashburn Village Veterans Fishing Classic, June 22nd.** To volunteer to help with Ernie Rojas's event (see flier on page 3) click this link to sign up:

<http://fco.ketrick.org/events/avwhffd/signup>

# Upcoming Events



*Open to wounded, injured, and ILL from all campaigns*

## June 22, 2019

Ashburn Village Sports Pavilion  
20585 Ashburn Village Blvd, Ashburn, VA 20147

### Family Fishing: 9 am - 1 pm

Shore Fishing  
Fishing Instructions  
Volunteers to help!  
**All Equipment Supplied!**

### Awards Luncheon 1- 2pm

Prizes  
Raffles  
Comradery  
**Lunch is Provided**



**POC:**  
Ernie Rojas  
203-912-2173  
ernie@ketrick.org



For more information, Wounded Hero sign up, volunteer, donate or sponsor visit  
[www.fishingcommunity.org/events#VA](http://www.fishingcommunity.org/events#VA)

# Getting to Know the PRSC Board

Editor's Note: This is the fourth article in our continuing series focusing on PRSC Board members and their positions in the club. This month features Programs Chair Leon Kates, whose outstanding efforts bring us excellent speakers every month.

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Leon began fishing as a teenager with his father on the beaches of Southern New Jersey on the Delaware Bay. The primary target was speckled trout (known as weakfish locally) using bloodworms or strips of squid. The fish were regularly featured on the family dinner table. Leon and his father also caught small sharks, sea robins, puffer fish, and occasionally large rays. The Kates family didn't really fish for freshwater fish.

Leon joined the U.S. Navy in 1974 and completed a 24-year career as a Cryptologic Technician Senior Chief. His service led to assignments in Scotland, Hawaii, Japan and Germany. Ironically, he didn't fish in any of these locations.

Leon began fishing freshwater when he moved to the Northern Virginia area in 1998. Initially fishing out of a 14-foot sit-in sea kayak, he fished local reservoirs and lakes for largemouth bass and crappie.

Upon joining the Potomac River Smallmouth Club he learned the techniques to catch our favorite species. On a club trip to the James River, Leon learned first-hand that a sea kayak isn't the best platform to use on our rivers. Capsizing at the base of a rapid, other club members helped him bail out the kayak, gave great advice on how to navigate rapids, and provided suggestions on kayaks that were more suited to river fishing. On that advice he bought a Wilderness Systems Ride 115 sit-on-top kayak, which he fishes out of today.

Leon enjoys being part of an active fishing club and serving as your Programs Chair.



# First Fish of the Season

By Chris Schaupp

Seems like it was an exceptionally long winter. Due to family and work issues, my 2018 fishing season ended early. So far, I haven't been one to brave the cold of late winter in order to feel the stretch of my line, and late March this year did not offer many inviting days, so I didn't get out fishing until April.

For me April means Shad fishing down at Fletcher's Cove and as usual, the first fish of the season for me and every member of my family was a Shad caught at Fletchers.

My daughter Sarah caught the first 2019 fish of the family, just fishing from shore.

My son Max was not quite able to hold onto his first Shad long enough to snap a picture. After he dropped it the second time, we just put it back to let it swim away and recover. To make it easier, we took a picture of Max's second shad of the year while it was in the net.

My wife Lisa had no problem catching and holding onto her first fish of the season, long enough for a quick photo.

While the weather was good in early April, I took my friend Duraid Hussein fishing out in a row boat. He is a beginner fisherman, but shows much interest and potential. He had no problem catching and holding onto his first Hickory Shad for the photo in the row boat and he was also able to snap the picture of me with my first American Shad of the season.



# First Fish of the Season

Continued

In late April the river got too high, but a few weeks later, Duraid and I tried a little more Shad fishing from the shore and were pleased to find there were still plenty of Hickory Shad around with an uptick in the American Shad bite. Duraid hooked his first American Shad of the season (also the first one of his life) and we got it in for a picture. Just as I was snapping the photo the Shad bolted out of Duraid's hands, startling him as it landed back in the water and swam off. We both found the event and resulting photo quite humorous. Undeterred, Duraid started casting again and it didn't take long for him to hook another nice American Shad, this one bigger than the first and he was actually able to hold onto it long enough for me to snap the picture before we returned it to the water.

With another high-water level event on the Potomac and the Shad season slipping away. I've started to turn my attention away from Shad, focusing on some local bass fishing. I have found the largemouth bass fishing quite good in the local ponds, taking the selfie of my first largemouth of the season. These black bass hold a special memory for me. As a boy growing up, the local pond offered some quality largemouth fishing that was hard to beat, given the range of my fishing opportunity was determined by how far I could go on my bicycle.

Recently my son and I turned our attention to my favorite fish, the smallmouth bass of course. Within a few seconds after putting his line in the water, Max had his first smallmouth of the season and quite a nice one at that. He caught three of similar size before I caught my first one, which he was nice enough to snap a picture of.

It is likely that my last fish of this season will also be a smallmouth. I'm hoping to have a lot of memorable fishing experiences with friends and family before that last fish finally gets reeled in. Let's hope for some great 2019 conditions with hopefully a little less rain and floods than we had in 2018. Fingers crossed!



# Conservation Corner

By Herschel Finch

It may come as a surprise to some in the Potomac River Smallmouth Club that the number one consumer of electric power in the greater northern Virginia area is not the government, and it's not the military. The three biggest hogs of electricity in NOVA are Google, Microsoft, and Amazon, not to mention Intel, ATT, Verizon and all the other phone companies offering cell phone networks. How you may ask? Server farms.

Take a drive out north of Dulles Airport into Ashburn and Sterling or from Gainesville to Manassas/Bristow/Nokesville area along Wellington Road out past the Jiffy Lube Amphitheater. Large, three-story buff-colored buildings with multiple HVAC units on their roofs and emergency generators two stories high around their perimeters, and all that protected by armed guards and 10-foot iron-bared black fences line the roads in both areas. Iron Mountain is probably the best known corporate entity building these campuses. They use an extraordinary amount of power keeping the hardware cool, and the discs humming as data from the biggest Internet users keeps pouring in.



These movers and shakers in the Internet world move 70 percent of all global web traffic through our area. And in order to do that, they need Gigawatts of electrical power, smoothly delivered and buffered and not subject to the surges and interruptions that we simple homeowners put up with. Although vast improvement on that delivery system has been achieved over the decades since we were kids . . . it's still an issue for these server farms. But one of

the improvements that's coming of age in power generation is solar and wind power. As these two new sources continue to grow in the electrical power generation world, the biggest customers of this power are pressuring the power generators (i.e. Dominion Energy) to deliver that power using solar and wind.

Solar and wind power is more consistent, not subject to the surges and interruptions (cloudy and/or calm days included) that mechanically generated power is because there's no massive turbines, no big burners or water consumption involved that requires mechanical pumps and other devices to generate, and . . . it's MUCH cheaper to generate. And this is good, not just for Iron Mountain's customers, but for us as well. The side benefits are cleaner air, less fracked gas needed (fewer pipelines?) and fewer coal ash pits and less mercury, chromium, selenium, and other heavy metals in our air . . . and in our water.

So welcome aboard the Clean Water bandwagon Amazon, Microsoft, and Google, et, al. Some may think those giant windowless buildings springing up in our area are ugly and ruining the view, but

# Conservation Corner

Continued

they look pretty good to me because they mean more solar and wind power is in our future. And that's a good thing for our air, our water, our fish . . . and our grandkids.

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Memorial Day weekend is weighing a little heavy on me this year. A couple of weeks ago, we lost to suicide one of our veteran volunteers in the Heroes on the Water / Bravo Zulu Outdoor group that I volunteer with. A close friend of Sean's and a fellow combat veteran who drove up from North Carolina found Sean when he couldn't get him to answer his phone. I wish I had known him better because he lived in my area right up on Apple Mountain.

Maj. Sean Miller USMC (ret.) was a truly outstanding individual. He was a multi-tour veteran of Iraq and Afghanistan and fought at Fallujah and other less famous engagements in that part of the world. He was decorated multiple times for valor. We were always glad when Sean was at an event because he was invaluable to the group. He 'spoke the language' of the people we are serving, he had been through what they had been through and felt what they felt. They gravitated to him because of his obvious qualities.

If you don't remember anything else about this weekend, remember the number 22.



That's the average number of veterans that commit suicide in this country every day. If you know one who's struggling, call them. Check on them. Better yet, listen to them, and let them know that people care and there IS help out there. We need to take care of these people and make sure they have the very best care we can give them.

Sean with his service dog "Ronan" on the 'Doah



**PRSC**  
**P.O. Box 685**  
**Vienna, VA 22183**

- **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

### Contest Is Heating Up

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

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

Randy Chandler was out in Section 3 on April 29th and reported catching a 20-inch luncker on a spinnerbait.

### 2019 Entries

<b>Section 1, Biggest Fish:</b>	No Report
<b>Section 1, Best 5 Fish:</b>	No Report
<b>Section 2, Biggest Fish:</b>	Bill Pearl 20"
<b>Section 2, Best 5 Fish:</b>	No Report
<b>Section 3, Biggest Fish:</b>	Randy Chandler 20"
<b>Section 3, Best 5 Fish:</b>	Randy Chandler 90"
<b>Largest on Fly:</b>	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.