



The Buzz

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Adam Lynch

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Our featured speaker this month is Adam Lynch, the Restoration Coordinator for 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. Adam 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.

Adam's background: "Two of my great passions in life are conservation and fishing. Luckily, my job at Friends of the Rappahannock lets me do both, because fishing is downstream from water quality. For example, the most destructive water quality issue we face in the Rappahannock River system is sediment pollution. Sediment erodes from unstable banks that have been stripped of their natural forest cover, and deposits sand and silt on the bottoms of streams and rivers. This smothers benthic habitat and impedes the river's natural ability to "digest" pollutants such as nutrients and bacteria. It also hurts the fishing, because a shortage of benthic habitat limits the population of baitfish, aquatic insects, crayfish, and other forage species that predator fish like to eat. If we can reduce erosion in our watershed, it will improve the health of the river ecosystem and enhance the fishing as well."



"When I'm not working, I'm usually fishing. If you ask me what my favorite fish to catch is, you'll probably get a different answer depending on the season. In the colder months, I hop in my waders and nymph for native brookies on the Rapidan, Hughes, or Robinson Rivers. In the summer, I'm usually found in a canoe or wade fishing for smallmouth bass. In the spring and fall, I do a little of both. My favorite piece of river on earth is the section of the Rappahannock between the Rapidan confluence and the city of Fredericksburg. On top of the great fishing, this section is permanently protected under 4,200 acres of conservation easement established in 2007. I like knowing that this secluded stretch will remain free of golf courses, strip malls, mansions and other development that would pollute our water and distract from the natural beauty of the river."

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

Joe Petty
Webmaster@prsc.org

Past President

Steve Moore

Upcoming Events

Join us Wednesday, July 31st, for our monthly meeting. Our speaker for July will be author, sportsman, photographer, and conservationist Bruce Ingram. He will speak to us about the Roanoke River as it flows through Salem and Roanoke, Virginia. A unique thing about the river is that it is one of the rare places to go in Virginia that offers both trout and smallmouth bass. Come out and learn about fishing this river that also offers quality lodging and restaurants nearby. 7:30-9:00 PM at the Vienna Firehouse, 400 Center St. S, Vienna, VA 22180.

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.



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



Upper Left: Chun Rhee with the 20-inch smallie that created a three-way tie for first place in the PRSC Fishing Contest. He caught the fish June 19th on a War Eagle Finesse Spinnerbait.



PRSC members Jim Stebbins (left w/2lb crappie), Steve V.B. (top w/18" smallie), and Rick Mrstik (above w/18" smallie) spent the first week of June on New Hampshire's Lake Winnepesaukee chasing smallmouth and everything else that swims there. Ask us about it at the meeting!

Rescuing a Kayak From Strong Current

By Jack Turner

Brad, Greg, and I had been enjoying a fishless but pleasant June day on the upper Potomac, the lack of smallies being another story. As we neared the Lander Boat Ramp, I decided to try one more time for some smallies in the current downstream from a long rapids section that stretched across the river. I would anchor on one side and slowly make my way across the river, pulling and dropping anchor as needed.

I had anchored before in slack water, facing the nose of my kayak to shore. I had adjusted my anchor pulley system to anchor from the side of the kayak. I had not thought to pull the anchor *back to the front of the kayak* when I pulled it in. That's what you call a mistake, and a serious dereliction of responsibility for my own safety. You see, the current where the rapids were located was deceptively strong, as it can always be on the Potomac, that "dangerous river." So, when I dropped anchor, and I thought, "Oh, where is my anchor pulling from?", the immediate answer was, "You're anchored on the side, you idiot! And by the way, you're about 2 seconds from going over." Oops, not fast enough.

Yes, I grabbed my anchor line and tried to pull it up - fast - and I tried to adjust the anchor pulley at the same time. If only I had a sharp tool attached to my vest and had thought quickly enough to cut that anchor line. If only. But I was in strong current (remember that word deceptive?) and that great little anchor I appreciate so much was doing an excellent job of going nowhere. I went somewhere instead - into the drink. Fortunately, although I lost some gear, the only injuries from this incident were to my pride. (Silver lining - I have an excuse to blow money on new stuff!)

My PFD helped me get to shore without a terrible struggle. Soon after I got to shore, Brad, Greg, and I were discussing how in the world we were going to free my boat from the anchor. The kayak was bobbing nose up and down in the current, appearing like a miniature breaching whale. That little anchor just held on.

With some advice from a passing kayak club, and after calm discussion about the best way not to get killed, we came up with a plan. Brad, who had a two-seater, would take me alongside my kayak so I could drop into the water and cut the anchor line. Greg stayed close, to grab the kayak - or me - if the situation got out of hand. I cut the anchor line and stayed in the water to hold the kayak behind Greg's Hobie. It took some effort in the current, but with Brad and Greg contributing competent, thoughtful support (and sweat), we finally pulled the kayak to shore at the Lander ramp. Greg's paddle-powered Hobie really worked at towing my water laden kayak and me to the boat ramp. I'll never laugh at those pedal-drivers again! Crisis over, ego bruised, "true stories" to be told. Or as Greg said, "It was a memorable experience."



The point of this story is the same one you hear all the time: Safety first! Wear your PFD because you just never know - that's why they're called accidents. Fishing buddies are great to have along: They might even save your neck! If you have time to think in a critical situation, don't be in a hurry and jump in without a plan. Make a plan, and expect the unexpected to happen. Enjoy the river and stay safe out there, brothers and sisters.

A word on the kindness of strangers: The kayak club members rescued some of my gear that was floating along. One item was a very nice pair of waterproof binoculars that I got for Christmas. I thanked them profusely.

Conservation Corner

By Herschel Finch

I'm going to recycle a subject that I've covered before because, well, we should be recycling whenever possible . . . and it's that time of year.

We're all planning vacations and getaways to new places, new vistas . . . and new waters. But before you pack up the kayaks and fishing gear or hitch up the power boat or camper, make sure you're not the cause of the next invasive species breakout in a new watershed. Get out the car washing gear; the warm water and soap, the hose and give those kayaks a good scrub down with a brush, getting into all those scratches and crevices to make sure they're clean and aren't harboring any dried algae or bacteria that could reconstitute the first time you drop your boat into the lake or river just over the mountain. Open up the hatches on your sit-on-top and get the interiors dried out as well. This goes for you power boaters and 'glampers' with your camper-trailers. Those tires and power boats can carry the same alien invaders on your trailer tires, on the propane tanks and in the cooling lines of prop engines and impellers of jetboat engines. Make sure they're clean as well.

Now, let's talk PFDs and fishing gear. They also need to be cleaned. You can toss the PFDs in the washing machine. And if you have a throw-bag (you do have one right?) then toss that in as well. Ropes and lines are notorious for holding algae and other plant life. And when was the last time you washed those stinky water shoes?

Fishing reels can also hold a lot of critters and other stuff, give them a good cleanup as well. Got some lures that still have stuff on them from that last trip out to Pohick or Mason Neck swamps looking for Snakeheads? Toss them into the top rack of your dishwasher inside one of those plastic lunch meat containers with holes punched in it before you pack up for parts unknown.

You do all this and you can feel better about doing your part to prevent invasive species migration.

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 Red Hot

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

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

Chun Rhee reported catching a 19.75” fish (by rule rounds up to 20”) on a War Eagle Finesse Spinnerbait, creating a three-way tie in Section 3. Can someone find a bigger one?

2019 Entries

Section 1, Biggest Fish:	John Hayes	21”
Section 1, Best 5 Fish:	John Hayes	92.5”
Section 2, Biggest Fish:	Bill Pearl	20”
Section 2, Best 5 Fish:	No Report	
Section 3, Biggest Fish:	Randy Chandler	20”
	Ernie Rojas	20”
	Chun Rhee	20”
Section 3, Best 5 Fish:	Randy Chandler	90”
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.