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FISHING REPORT

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JUNE 5, 2012



A great shot of Mike Alper taken by talented fisherman and photographer David Policansky. Note Chain Bridge in the background.

The summer season arrived at Fletcher's Cove on Memorial Day weekend, along with the nation's tribute to our fallen heroes. Boats, canoes, kayaks and bikes were in high demand, as folks from all around enjoyed the freedom to relax provided by the sentinels of our liberty. As somber ceremonies were performed to commemorate servicemen and women from our nation's infancy to the present, hopefully most of us took at least a moment of introspection to appreciate the depth of their dedication and sacrifice.

Torrid weather during the last week of May popped the water temperature in the Potomac to mid-summer levels and blew taps for the perch and shad seasons. It was a great spring

for angling at Fletcher's Cove: Many days of mild-mannered water and weather conditions spelled fishing success for a majority of our customers. If you missed out, remember next March to come early and come often, if you can.

Just before the recent deluge of rain, many schoolie-sized striped bass were being caught with both lures and bait. Trolling deep-diving lures like the Cordell Redfin became the de rigeur angling technique. In a return to the 1980s, when trolling was a popular angling technique, Alex Binsted churned up the waters rowing a boat over long-ignored and unseen humps and ridges of the river bottom to hook up with many keeper stripers.



A blue tailed skink out for a little sun bath at Fletcher's Cove

The river is very muddy today, but should clear as the week passes. The water has cooled significantly after the holiday heat-up. This new and lower temperature flow portends an extended period of striper season success. At opening this morning, I witnessed one of the largest schools of herring seen this spring making its way along the edge of the cove. It was a beautiful sight, the push-pull of a totally natural process in the midst of a twentieth century, techno-synthetic society.

If you hang around Fletcher's long enough, and are sensitive to such things, you may become aware of something intangible that gives the place character and makes this little collection of dirt, water and people just a bit

magical. I'm speaking of the transfer of knowledge, wisdom and spirit from an older generation to the young. We are fortunate to have a collection of young employees who take Fletcher's personally



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[Check out Dan's article on Fletcher's Cove in the March 2012 issue of *The Buzz*](#)
(pages 6-7)

[March 2011 issue of *The Buzz*](#)
(pages 11-12)

[Click here](#) for a great interactive map of the area around Fletcher's
(opens in new window)



Dick Tehaan with two schoolie stripers caught on his custom jigs

and who think of the place and the job as inseparable parts of a whole. Seeing this happen to a new generation of "kids" brings forth memories of old Julius Fletcher and his sons Joe and Ray showing me the how and why of boathouse life many moons ago.

I hope you will come to Fletcher's this summer and partake of the place and all it has to offer. The Cove and its surroundings represent an important intersection for people and the natural world.

Thanks for taking the time to read this. See you down by the river!

Dan



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