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FISHING REPORT

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MARCH 28, 2013

A certain well known historical and religious figure, in a widely read book of scriptural literature, was said to have "walked on water." I can assure you, that while surrounded with water, we have not purposely tried this at Fletcher's Cove. The result, I think, would be more embarrassing than inspirational. Not to say that we have never taken a dive, but such dives were not to make a point, merely missteps on our very lengthy dock or a slick rock.

I mention this because, in fact, getting your feet wet is often part of the boathouse experience. Now that fishing season is upon us, our dock is populated with 29 freshly painted rowboats ready for anglers. To get to those boats, one must transit from land to dock. And in recent years, that often means a bit of a wade.

When the tide comes in at Fletcher's each day, we are reminded that when you mess with Mother Nature, there are consequences. You see, along the entire tidal Potomac River every little cove, inlet and stream is being silted-in as a result of man's development in the watershed. This is very evident if you look upon Fletcher's Cove at low tide... a sea of mud, essentially a tidal marsh where once was a deep cove. Multiply this situation times thousands of spots along the river and what do you get? The same amount of tidal water push trying to fill a more shallow "pool." The result for us? A bit of a wade to and from the dock. This type of extra high push used to happen from time to time on exceptionally high tides, but now it is an almost daily occurrence.

So plan ahead and don't be surprised if the need for some water-proof boots or wet dogs are a part of your visit to our little fishing camp.

The boats are in finally in the water for the spring 2013 fishing season. Some white perch, shad and catfish have been caught in the past couple of weeks, but with the cold temperatures and snow in the watershed, the river has been too cold to promote active angling opportunities. Only a handful of the most hardy anglers have given it a shot. That should all change by this weekend when more seasonally appropriate temperatures are forecast. Fletcher's is now posting regular hours, seven a.m. to six p.m. for boating every day, with weather and water conditions dictating to us. Please call (!) for current conditions. Washington is NOT the most reliable environment for accurate weather and water forecasting from mainstream outlets. We will give you the straight scoop with only a touch of optimistic sugar-coating.

I sat on a rock above Fletcher's last week eating my lunchtime sandwich and watching one of our dear customers and friends make



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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)

CHAPTER SHAD REPORTS



During the shad run (usually April thru mid-June), our chapter sends out reports of fishing conditions at Fletchers Cove and elsewhere as we receive information. If you know someone who might want to receive these reports, [email NCC-TU](#) with "SHAD" in the subject line and provide your name and email address. If you received shad reports last year, you don't need to resubscribe to get them in 2013.

a few casts for shad. Sandy is an angling dynamo who just loves the outdoors, hook, line and sinker (or shad dart as the case may be). Sandy was not really expecting much, given the very cold water, but about three bites into my sandwich she yelled up to me that she was hooked-up. I could see her rod bouncing with the pull of a shad and in short order Sandy was proudly holding a beautiful silver roe hickory shad. A true herald of spring, these early season shad bite before one has a reasonable expectation of success. Soon, many thousands will follow, building to a peak and then, depending on water and weather conditions, ebbing into a memory. I hope you get a chance to experience the primal draw that this type of encounter with the natural world provides.



Sandy, happy with a fresh silver hickory shad (released after photo by Dan Ward)

White perch, herring, shad and stripers should all make their appearance out from Fletcher's Cove within the next few weeks. I hope you can visit during this most rejuvenating of seasons. Our tackle shack has the "stuff" you need, including D.C. fishing permits, bait, tackle and refreshment.

Thanks to Mike (Animal), John (boss man), Nathan (the perch king), Alex (McFly) and Chris (Monty) for your hard work getting those HEAVY boats into the water in short order around this morning's high tide.

Come see us soon at Fletcher's.

Dan



Sandy Burke casting for shad above Fletcher's (photo by Dan Ward)

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