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FISHING REPORT

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June 8, 2013



One of Ray's famous Zinnias
(photo by Dan Ward)

A gentle transformation into the summer season is progressing along the Potomac at Fletcher's Cove. The pansies have finally succumbed to the one short heat wave of late May; now, a few of "Ray's zinnias" have opened and the canna lilies are a warm week or two away from blooming. After one spike into the 80's, the water temperature of the river has dropped back into an ideal range for productive angling.

The amazing luck of April could not last forever, of course, and with May came a week-long period of high water with no boat rentals possible. Many of our avid spring shad anglers took that as an end to the runs of hickory and American shad -- in fact, good, if

slightly spotty shad fishing continued until the end of the month. It was truly a great run for the hickories, while for the whites, a little less so. Interestingly, there seems to be a plentiful stock of American shad in an area a few miles below the Wilson Bridge. Long time (old) river watchers like me wonder if there is something peculiar causing these fish to stay downstream. Could it be the mass of hickories "crowding-out" their bigger cousins? Or possibly something in the chemistry or hydrology of the river itself. While loving the hickories as an appetizer, all of us shad fanatics would love to see a sustained and plentiful run of "main-course" American shad next year. We can hope.

With the moderate water temperatures, striper season is providing many anglers with the opportunity to fish for and then keep two fish per day, one 18 to 28 inches and the other anything over 18. Joe Fletcher caught 11 one day this week and Dick Tehaan managed to jig-up seven in the murky water on Friday. Alex Binsted (a.k.a. The Quillback Kid) boated a 29 inch striper earlier last week and promptly grilled us up a fine lunch. Whether using artificial lures or cut-bait, one never knows what might be caught while angling for the stripers. Ryan Jenkins hauled up a nearly seventy pound blue catfish on May 21st while jigging a silver buddy. A fair shake of small mouth, largemouth and walleyes have also provided variety for our visitors.



Ryan Jenkins with a BIG blue catfish
(photo by Alex Binsted)

It's another banner year for bird watching along the palisades and floodplain of the



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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 Fletcher's 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.

[Click here](#) for a great interactive map of The Boathouse at Fletcher's Cove Area Fishing and Outdoor Fun (opens in new window)



A cedar waxwing visits Fletcher's Cove
(photo by David Gwynn)

Potomac. Just yesterday I got a spectacular view of an American bald eagle swooping down to fetch an early morning meal, its tail feathers as white as the brightest snow. When the mulberries were just about ripe a flock of cedar waxwings took-up temporary residence around the store and vied with the mocking birds and grackles for a juicy treat. The summer swallows are back and Baltimore orioles are waging air-to-air combat with marauding hawks. (That's like Luke Skywalker's X-Wing fighter vs. The Death Star!) In one fifteen minute period recently, friend of the boathouse and wildlife expert Gordon Leisch counted 14 different species of

birds from the view of our picnic tables. Come take a look for yourself sometime.

Before signing off, I have to put a plug in for a recently published book by Bill Heavey. The book is titled "It's Only Slow Food Until You Try to Eat It." Bill is a local author and outdoorsman who has written for the Washington Post and Field and Stream. He has produced a book that marries themes of the outdoors and wildlife to our relationship with the food we eat and the current "foodie" subculture. With a good dose of humor thrown in, you will find that much of the book takes place around the D.C. area as well as Fletcher's Cove. If you are a regular visitor to Fletcher's, you may even recognize some of the characters mentioned in the work.



A Baltimore oriole selects a mulberry above Fletcher's tackle shack (photo by David Gwynn)

That's all for now. Remember, more frequent updates on fishing are now available on our [Facebook](#), [Twitter](#) and [Instagram](#) tabs as well as the T.U. report and [interactive map](#) connections.

See you at The Cove,

Dan



A very hungry great blue heron
(photo by David Gwynn)



A bittern fishes along the Potomac
(photo by David Gwynn)



Dick Tehann with a 22 inch striper
(photo by Dan Ward)