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## FISHING REPORT

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**July 16, 2014**

Summertime,  
And the fishing is easy.  
Catfish are bitin'  
And the zinnias are high.

My boathouse boys,  
Have gone out fishin'.  
Come on baby,  
Can't you give it a try?

One of these mornings,  
You're going to head to Fletcher's.  
You'll stroke those oars,  
And look to the sky.

But till that morning,  
You can read this website.  
Don't you worry,  
Alex, John and Dan are standin' by.

Full disclosure: A blatant Porgy and Bess rip off. Thank you, DuBose Heyward (author) and Ira Gershwin (lyrics). I couldn't help myself. It seems so appropriate for Fletcher's Cove in the summer.



Spencer Croft lands an impressive catfish while fishing the Virginia shore above Fletcher's.



Alex Binsted with a June Shad

It has been a long time since my last report. Summertime is a more relaxed time around The Cove. We've been blessed with many wonderful weekends and a beautiful, breezy 4th of July. I hope you had a chance to celebrate our nation's birthday in spirited fashion.

The spring shad season ended with a flourish as Alex Binsted landed a rare "June shad" long after most shad anglers had packed away their darts and flies. This seemed entirely appropriate as Alex had recorded the first hickory shad caught on March 22nd. Thus, the loop was closed on successful runs of hickories and whites, albeit runs interrupted twice by flooding.

Fishing action during the last six weeks or so proves, as always, that resourcefulness and



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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)

[Rowin' on the River at Fletcher's Cove](#)  
article in *KidFriendly DC*  
July 2013

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

### CHAPTER SHAD REPORTS



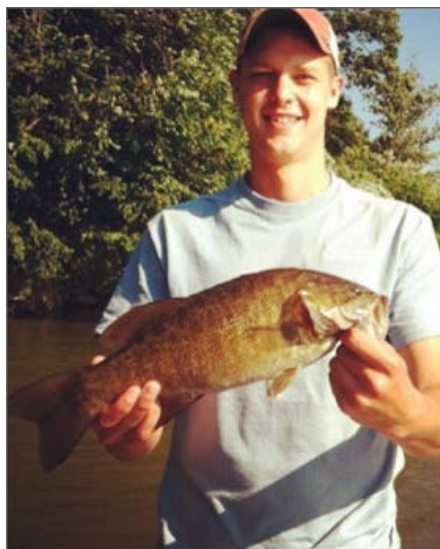
During the shad run (usually April thru mid-June), our chapter sends out reports of fishing conditions at Fletcher's Cove and elsewhere as we receive information. If you know someone who might want to receive these reports, [email NCC-TU](#) with "SHAD" in the subject line and provide your name and email 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)

persistence pay off. Those anglers willing to adapt and change tactics are usually rewarded with some surprising success. While the water temperature has reached the 80 degree mark, bass and walleye action is good. A couple of weeks back, Ryan Jenkins had a little picnic at Fletcher's and then rowed across the river for some vertical jigging on a slow drift. In short order, he boated six walleyes, releasing most to swim again. That is some seriously upper-Midwest class walleye fishing.

My "boathouse boys" referred to earlier (some of our younger employees who like to fish) have had much success catching both large and smallmouth bass in the Potomac and The C & O Canal. The Canal has been yielding some surprisingly large bass of late, especially considering how recently it was drained down to puddles; I think the bass must slip in through the feeder lock at Brookmont when the big ditch is being re-watered. Josh Cohn and Rob Catalanotto, fishing buddies at Fletcher's and at The College of Charleston, have been nailing bass on Gitzits, Gary Yammamoto and Case Plastics. Fletcher's has a tackle order due any day now, so if you need some bass lures we have a small but carefully chosen selection of options to choose from.

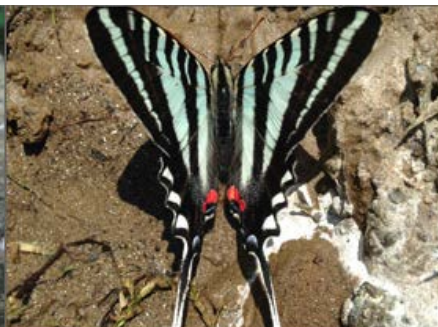
On Saturday, June 14, the "delayed by flooding" Family and Youth Casting Call event was held at The Cove. It was a beautiful day and many families came down to the canal to try their hand at a little angling and learn a little about the aquatic environment and conservation. Thanks to the D.C. Department of Fisheries for making the day such a success! This is an annual event, so look for it next spring. (Hopefully with the benevolence of Mother Nature, it will be on schedule earlier in 2015).



Rob Catalanotto all smiles with a nice smallmouth



A toad finds a sunny spot at Fletcher's Cove (photo by Dan Ward)



A Zebra Swallowtail Butterfly gets a drink from the mud (photo by Dan Ward)

It's wildflower and critter time at Fletcher's Cove. The river bottom land around our little fishing camp is rich with life of both plant and animal variety. Considering the proximity of the boathouse to D.C.'s concrete jungle you may be surprised at the many beautiful, fascinating creatures and plants you will encounter here in the Potomac palisades. Rather than blather on, I will dump a bunch of photos on our talented, ever hard working web mistress to post for your viewing pleasure.

Thanks for reading, have a restful late summer.

Dan



Swallows find a home at Fletcher's Cove (photo by Dan Ward)



Ray's Zinnias in full glory right now! (photo by Dan Ward)



Blue tailed skinks fascinate the children at Fletcher's (photo by Dan Ward)

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