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Report from Fletcher's Cove - August 8, 2010

As Washington stews during this torrid summer of 2010, why not make Fletcher's Cove your own personal oasis from the melt-down. Sure, it's hot down here too, but a cooling breeze often wafts off the Potomac over the popular picnic tables along the river shore. August is the "siesta-month" in D.C. and Fletcher's is a great place for a mental siesta away from the daily routine. A kayak, canoe, boat or bike ride down this way allows you to embrace the heat rather than fight it. Remember... sweat builds character!

I like to tell anglers that fishing is a relaxing endeavor in the heart of summer. You won't load the boat with fish, but there is always the chance for a big blue cat or fat bass. Don't let springtime's abundance spoil you. In fishing, the process is the product. It is lush along the shoreline and beautiful out on the water. In the span of 30 minutes this past week I saw a bald eagle, an osprey, a great blue heron, a kingfisher and, as a bonus, four different types of butterflies flitting on the tidal mud.

We have ice-cream for those out-of-camp kids, Gatorade for thirsty exercise freaks and fishing tackle for those who care to wet a line. Pay us a visit... at Fletcher's friendliness has always been our calling card.



Sherry Rich with Ray Fletcher (photo by Dan Ward)

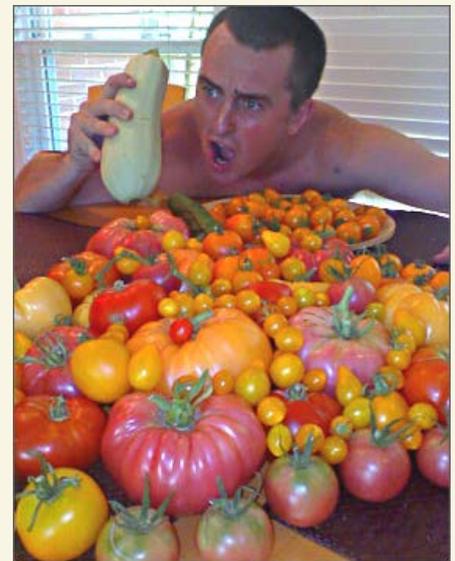
As for this month's photos, first we have Ray Fletcher with Sherry Rich. Sherry has been cycling the towpath since the early days of the Nixon Administration; you can see how youthful she is from all that biking. Sherry is a dear friend of Fletcher's and she always has a happy greeting for us.

Nathan Heath is a regular angler who sent this photo to show he excels at tomato cultivation as well as fishing. I'm not sure if he bags more white perch or tomatoes in one season.

Lastly, one of Ray's zinnias with a pretty little pollinator.

I must end with some sad news of a fellow Washington area angler. Terry Freeman fished at Fletcher's each spring and summer for many years. He was an expert perch and striper angler and often fished with another talented fisherman and good friend, James. We were happy again this year to see Terry out on the water. James called us late last month with the news that Terry had passed away from a heart condition. He will be remembered as one of that core of dedicated anglers who fished come hell or high water, in the lean times as well as the bountiful. We at Fletcher's will miss him.

Dan



Nathan Heath, attacked by a hoard of tomatoes



Up-dose and personal with a zinnia at Fletcher's (photo by Dan Ward).

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