



[HOME](#) [RENTALS/RATES](#) [FISHING REPORT](#) [USEFUL LINKS](#) [TACKLE SHACK](#) [EMPLOYMENT](#)



FISHING REPORT

[ARCHIVED FISHING REPORTS](#)



AUGUST 23, 2011

Late summer at Fletcher's Cove features tropical skies, warm breezes, a gently flowing river and Ray's famous zinnias. The recent rain showers have provided a generous drink for all the lush green that surrounds the boathouse. With Fall fast approaching, this is a good time to take in the glory of our waning summer and pay us a visit. Fletcher's truly feels a lot further out-of-town than it is!



Alex Binsted, 'a.k.a.' Mr. Snakehead, with a fine specimen caught this August (Photo by Kieth Binsted)

During the extreme heat of July and early August, the Potomac's water temperature reached 90 degrees. This is not a good thing for fishing. Now the temperature has dropped down a bit and I am hopeful that anglers will meet with a little more action. One notable catch from earlier this month was yet another snakehead wrangled in by Alex Binsted just upstream from the cove. Not to be outdone, brother Derek caught a beauty of a largemouth from the same area.

Fishing action will pick up as the water cools through the Fall. If you want a little angling break from your daily routine, come on down and rent a boat for a few hours. Just to see the naturally painted landscape can do

wonders for your psyche. Having watched this same scene for decades, I can tell you... it never gets old.

I've been fortunate to work with and get to know many amazing individuals at Fletcher's since 1969. I believe there is something about this place that brings out the best in people who spend time here. One such person was Donny Williams. Our "co-working" time was brief... he was a few years older than me and was about ready to move on when I started my boathouse days. Donny always seemed to have a smile on his face and my memory is that he was always kind to me, with a positive word or funny story. In visits back to the river from his recent home in Texas, Donny would spin stories of Fletcher's in the '60s, when the place was a bit more "apart" from the rest of civilization, an island between the working railroad tracks and the quiet Potomac.

Donny was one of many "Palisades boys" who worked the boathouse over the years. Many of those boys were known to be a little wild, and the boathouse, being off the beaten path, was a choice location for some shenanigans.

In an e-mail from last February relayed by Joe Fletcher, Donny recalled employees sleeping in the old store (pre-1964) with a red-hot pot belly stove for heat and critters crawling around under the floor boards. He re-visited the day a big thunderstorm blew up and he was working the dock, which was connected to a tree on shore by a big chain and metal cable. He felt the hair raise up on his back and laid flat on the dock just as a bolt of lightning flashed across the sky above him and hit the cable. I can remember the scar on the tree from that incident. And in the summer of '69, a fellow employee, Johnny Hill, decided to take a road trip. He asked co-workers Jimmy Brennan and Donny



Copyright (c) 2011 [Potomac River Smallmouth Club](#)
All Rights Reserved

[Check out Dan's article on Fletcher's Cove in the March issue of The Buzz](#)
(pages 11-12)



Canna Lily beauty from the rich river-bottom earth
(photo by Dan Ward)

to go along. But Fletcher's couldn't spare all three, so Donny agreed to stay behind and work. That road trip ended up at a little festival called Woodstock. I know Donny always wished he had gone.

It was with great sadness that I learned Donny passed away earlier this summer. I don't know the circumstances. I don't really need to know. My small vault of memories of Donny and the boathouse just became a little more cherished.

Thanks for reading this. We hope to see you at the river.

Dan



A little sip on Ray's Zinnias, 2011
(photo by Dan Ward)

[Home](#) | [Rentals/Rates](#) | [Fishing Report](#) | [Useful Links](#) | [Tackle Shack](#) | [Employment](#)
[About Us](#) | [Directions/Hours](#) | [Contact Us](#) | [More Recreation](#) | [Sitemap](#)

© 2017 Fletchers Cove Boathouse | 4940 Canal Road, NW | Washington, DC 20007
[Privacy Policy](#)



operated by [Guest Services, Inc.](#)
for the [National Park Service](#)