



March 2010

The Conservationist

Potomac-Patuxent Chapter

Potomac Shad Fishing: The Rite of Spring

March 17, 2010

In Mark Binsted's own words - "For most of my life I have been fascinated by American shad. I grew up just minutes from the Potomac River near Fletcher's Cove and discovered the "poor man's salmon" as a teenager. Back then I spent much of my spring weekends on the water, learning from the great shad fishermen of the day and discovering plenty of the river's secrets on my own. These days I can see Fletcher's Cove from my house and still succumb to the run every year. For me it truly is a "rite of spring" more than any other custom in Washington. Sure, go see the cherry blossoms or fire up the barbecue, but wouldn't you rather be fishing for shad on the Potomac?"

Mark will cover fly fishing for both hickory and American shad on the tidal portion of the Potomac Gorge. This is a spectacular setting and fishery right in our (and his) backyard, and is arguably America's premier urban angling experience. Mark worked through his high school and college years at Fletchers Boat House and therefore has seen and experienced it all. He even writes the Shad Report for the National Capital Chapter – TU and is on their board. However he is going to share an infinite amount of information on the river, its shad, the flies, the times, the techniques, choosing the day, and 75% of the places - the product of which should yield an unforgettable fly fishing experience

Although in his other life Mark is a Master Architect with his own business, has three sons, and lives in the palisades, to me it sounds like Mr. Shad and the Potomac are the light of his fishing life. He promises to imprint at least 2 things on you:

1. Get your fly deep if you want to take on large roe American shad, and
2. Don't give up on the run when the hickories leave.

by Nick Weber

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Monthly Chapter Meetings

Time and Day 7:00 PM, Third Wednesday except December, June, July, and August

Place Margaret Schweinhaut Senior Center, 1000 Forest Glen Road, Silver Spring, Maryland

Directions From Capitol Beltway: North on Georgia Avenue (Rte. 97). First right onto Forest Glen Road, then go past Holy Cross Hospital and across Sligo Creek Parkway. The Center is on the right.