

INTERSTATE COMMISSION ON THE POTOMAC RIVER BASIN

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POTOMAC RIVER WATCH A Public Service Announcement

FOR THE WEEKEND OF JULY 27-29, 2007

For more information contact Jennifer Dotson, (301) 984-1908 ext.109; info@icprb.org.
Please credit the Interstate Commission on the Potomac River Basin.

This year marks the 30th season for the Potomac River Watch. These weekly public service announcements, which run from Memorial Day Weekend through Labor Day, report on the conditions of the Potomac River and its tributaries, tell of local events along the river, and provide water quality and water safety information. Volunteers throughout the Potomac basin are contacted each week by Commission staff for first-hand information on their area of the river.

The Commission also provides needed information on river-related topics to media throughout the year and would appreciate being informed on environmental problems in their areas of the basin as they arise. **The Commission has experts on its staff that could be interviewed on water quality, water supply, living resources, and other topics.**

RIVER CONDITIONS: Predicted scattered thunderstorms could bring some welcome rainfall to the area and temperatures are expected remain in the 80s throughout the weekend. Water temperatures are in the low 80s in the lower portions of the watershed and are cooler in the northern and western reaches of the watershed. While river levels are low, they could rise quickly should there be significant rainfall. Prepare for on-water activities by checking the weather and water levels just before venturing out, let family and friends know your float plans, and always wear a life vest.

FISHING: Hot, dry conditions have kept some anglers away from the rivers and streams, but there are a few good fishing spots out there. Grass beds have become quite large and thick in many areas, making ideal hiding spots for fish, but snagging fishing gear in the mats. The upper reaches of the watershed remain cooler and trout continue to take the bait. Farther downstream on the Potomac River near Harpers Ferry, W. Va., anglers have been catching walleyes and smallmouth bass. Smallmouth have also been biting near Dickerson, Md., water that is accessible by wading or in canoes or kayaks. Fishing has been slow in the tidal section, but is most productive near grasses and submerged rocks or logs. Near the mouth of the Potomac, croaker have been biting in the shallows, bluefish are biting at the mouth, and small rockfish have been taken just north of the mouth. Fish early in the day or in early evening when the temperatures are cooler to get the best bites.

(*)--Executive Committee
(a)--Alternate

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HIKING/BIKING: With bearable temperatures expected throughout the weekend, take a hike on Theodore Roosevelt Island. The Island is dedicated to Roosevelt, a strong advocate for conservation. Enjoy the fresh air, ambling paths, and quiet spot on the river. The island is accessible only from the northbound lanes of the George Washington Memorial Parkway. The entrance to the parking lot is located just north of the Roosevelt Bridge. Southbound traffic should take Theodore Roosevelt Bridge to Constitution Ave. Then take a right on 23rd St. and cross Memorial Bridge. Once on the bridge, bear right to return to the George Washington Parkway. You can also take Metro to the Rosslyn station. The park is open dawn to dusk. Bicycles are not permitted on the island. Information about the island can be found at www.nps.gov/this/.

KAYAKING/CANOEING: With river levels exceptionally low, paddle on one of the region's lakes this weekend. Jennings Randolph Reservoir, in Mineral County, W.Va., will offer a welcome respite from the busy city. Take advantage of the local campground and paddle on Saturday and Sunday. Launch from the Howell Run Boat Launch for a fee of \$3. For more information about the lake and its amenities, visit www.nab.usace.army.mil/recreation/jenran/recinfo.htm.

EVENTS:

July 29, Green House Tea, Gulf Branch Nature Center, Arlington, Va., 3:30 to 5 p.m.

Join Arlingtonians for a Clean Environment, their neighbors, nature center staff, and Bob Morris, an activist, author, and Sierra Club leader in an informal discussion of the basics of how to tackle the problem at a human level. Every person can make a difference! There is a \$4 fee to cover the cost of tea and treats. Registration is required. Meet at the Gulf Branch Nature Center, 3608 Military Rd., Arlington, VA 22207, 703-228-3403. To register, call 703-228-4747 and reference program number 643203E.

August, Rain Barrel Workshops, various locations and times

Join ICPRB for a late summer rain barrel workshop in August. The workshops provide safety and maintenance information and will help homeowners take the next step in reducing stormwater on their property and conserving precious water resources. Workshops are free and required to purchase a barrel. Anyone can attend a workshop even if you choose not to purchase a barrel. Barrels cost \$80 each. For more information or to register for a workshop, visit the ICPRB website www.potomacriver.org/about_ICPRB/rainbarrelinfo.htm.

Check out our complete calendar of events at www.potomacevents.org.

This week in the watershed: The ICPRB CO-OP (Cooperative Operations for Water Supply on the Potomac) staff have been actively monitoring river flows and have released an updated Water Supply Outlook this week. The CO-OP Section typically releases Water Supply Outlooks at the beginning of the month from April through October to provide information to the public, water utilities, and other users about the probability of water supply releases from Jennings Randolph and Little Seneca reservoirs based on historic and current data. CO-OP staff report that groundwater levels remain in good shape, but precipitation over the past twelve months has been slightly below normal and well-below normal for July. Keep up to date by checking the ICPRB's Water Supply Outlooks online at www.potomacriver.org/water_supply/status.htm.

For information about these and other ICPRB projects, contact the Commission at info@icprb.org or call (301) 984-1908.

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