

Fishing & Hunting

Journal



IN THIS ISSUE...

- IN DEFENSE OF NONRESIDENT HUNTERS
- NEW STUFF FOR AN OLD FISHERMAN
- THE WINTER MYSTERY FISH, WINTER FLOUNDER
- CATCHING POTOMAC RIVER BLUE CATS

FREE



Rich, John, Bill, Sammy and Tommy on a late season Canada Hunt. Photo courtesy of Clydes Sport Shop.



Day two Scott Adams and Robert Crow another successful morning hunting residence Geese. Photo By Lawrence Tyler



Christopher Baker on the 2018 late Youth Hunt with Rich from Clydes Sport Shop.

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“Campbell’s Catch”

Catching Potomac River Blue Cats

In the spring of 2016 I saw a photo on Facebook of noted photographer Jay Fleming holding a giant blue catfish he caught in the tidal Potomac River. Jay figured the monster catfish weighed about 60 pounds. Wishing to catch a big blue catfish too, I called one of my



Gary Lengerhuis with a big Potomac River Blue catfish.

fishing buddies for help. Gary Lengerhuis is known as an accomplished catfish angler. He has caught many big blue catfish from the Potomac River. Gary’s personal best blue cat weighed 52 pounds. He’s always happy to share his catfish catching tips. And so, what follows is my story of our Potomac River Blue Cat trip.

It was chilly for late April and a light rain fell all morning. I wasn’t too thrilled about fishing in the rain, but Gary didn’t seem to mind. We met at the Gravelly Point Park ramp across from National Airport. After we launched

the boat, we motored up and across the river to buy bait at The Wharf, the oldest fish market in the USA. It opened in 1805. We tied up the boat and made the short walk to the market. Being my first time there, Gary suggested I walk around since it wasn’t too crowded. The market had more different kinds of fish than I had ever seen in one place. A few friendly vendors offered me seafood samples. I was handed a steamed shrimp on a toothpick from one stand and slurped a fresh shucked oyster from another. After that, Gary introduced me to Sonny who has run Captain White’s Seafood at The Wharf for years. We chatted

for a few minutes under the awning. Then, armed with a bag of fresh bunker and a few big mullet Gary and I made our way back to the boat. We continued upriver since blue catfish follow the shad as they return from the ocean to spawn. Blue cats will eat almost anything but remember; American and Hickory shad cannot be kept or used as bait. Also, to legally fish D.C. waters, a fishing license is required. It’s easy to get one online. Go to - doee.dc.gov/service/get-fishing-license.

There are some deep water holes upriver, and this is where we started

looking. Blue catfish can be caught in a wide range of depths. We had our best luck in 20 to 25 feet. Gary eyed his Garmin 545S depth-finder for distinctive marks. Once he saw an area that looked fishy, I gently lowered the anchor from the bow. It’s important not to throw the anchor overboard and make a bunch of noise. The anchor must be set properly so it doesn’t slip. Anchoring is better than drifting in this situation because drift fishing causes too many hang ups and wastes time and tackle. Raising and lowering the anchor to fish different locations is an effort worth the trouble.

Gary had four, medium-heavy catfish rods rigged with sinkers on fish-finders attached above a 24-inch, 50-pound mono leader tied to a 6/0 circle hook. We put a chunk of cut bait on each hook, lowered the lines and put the rods in the holders. Gary put us right on top of them. It wasn’t long before we got a bite and one of the rods bent over. Gary smiled and handed me the rod. The first blue catfish was about a 20 pounder. Nice fish, although I was hoping for something bigger. Gary didn’t make any guarantees, but he was confident I’d get a chance at a trophy catfish. Soon we got bit again. We each caught a few eating size blue cats about 24-inches long. They went in the cooler. Blue catfish are very good to eat.

Around noon the sun came out so we took off our jackets and ate our lunch. Before long, a rod doubled over. Gary could tell it was a big fish and insisted I take the rod. I reeled up the biggest blue catfish of my life and carefully guided it into Gary’s waiting net. The mas-

sive catfish measured 42 inches long.

We had no scale, but Gary said it probably weighed over 40 pounds. After a few photos, it went back in the river. We gave each other high fives and I danced on the deck. All was right with the world.

Blue catfish are not native to Maryland. They were stocked in the Virginia side of the Potomac River some time ago. They’ve been found in other Maryland waters including the Upper Bay. The Maryland Department of Natural Resources urges anglers to keep them. As an incentive, a blue catfish measuring 40 inches and over qualifies for a MD DNR Award certificate. The Maryland State Record Blue Catfish weighed 84 pounds. It was caught by Ed Jones in the Potomac River near Fort Washington on August 13, 2012. Gary is certain a Potomac River blue cat weighing over 100 pounds will be caught soon. If you catch one post it on Facebook so everybody can see it and wish they could catch a giant blue catfish too!

See the MD DNR website for more info – www.dnr.maryland.gov/fisheries/Pages/challenge/index.aspx.



Tim Campbell with his personal best 42-inch Blue catfish caught on the Potomac River. Photo by Gary Lengerhuis



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FISHING

Catching Potomac River Blue Cats

by Tim Campbell Page 3

Custom Tackle

by Tim Sherman Page 6

The Winter Mystery Fish, Winter Flounder

by Mark Galasso Page 7

New Stuff For An Old Fisherman

by Jim Gronaw
Page 13

HUNTING

The TOILET TREE!!!

by Grant Soukup Page 15

REGULARS

Coastal Report

by Capt. Mark Sampson Page 18

The Last Word

by Steve Huettner Page 20

Sportsman's Classifieds

Page 22

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FAITH OF OUR FATHERS

A word from our Pastor-

There's a scene from the war movie "God and Generals", telling of Thomas Jackson. Civil War hero General Thomas Jackson never hid his Christianity. Throughout the film his trust in God is shown. On July 21, 1861, just before the Battle of Bull Run, at dawn, Jackson prayed for God's will to be done. Things didn't go well for the Confederates. The line broke and all out retreat ensued. Seven brigades ran to the next line of reinforcements, which was Jackson's brigade. Their morale was gone. Then someone yelled, "Look at Jackson!" General Jackson was sitting on his horse with cannon fire exploding all around him. His left hand had been wounded from gunshot. Soon the word spread - "Look at Jackson standing like a stone wall!" Jackson shouted, "Charge!" The army now fought with new resolve. And, the legendary name was founded, "Stonewall" Jackson.

After the battle, they returned to see their losses. There were 111 Confederates dead and 373 were missing. Jackson knelt behind a dead soldier. As he did, one captain asked him, "General, how do you keep so serene in battle?" Jackson answered; "...my religious belief teaches me to feel as safe in battle as in bed. God has fixed the time for my death. I do not concern myself about that, but to be always ready..." He was declaring his faith in God - that God rules over all the details of life.

Most of us worship in a small way. We live as though God is limited. One reason for that is that we don't understand who God really is! God existed before anything else! Psalms 90 tells us that before anything was made in this universe, even from everlasting to everlasting, God was here. Run that through your mind. When someone we love is lying in the hospital and we don't know what to do - God does. When our leadership changes - God is in control. When the economy is bad - God is still in control. Nothing, and I mean, nothing will ever enter our lives that God does not either decree or permit. And the best news is, He loves each of us and He desires our fellowship. The God of this universe desires fellowship with US! Every detail of our lives is important to Him. Scripture tells us to cast all our care on Him, because He cares for us. Find time for our great God - he has time for you.

MEL BRINDLEY Pastor
Chestertown, Md., Baptist Church



Mike Maness with his nice buck taken in New Market, MD. early muzzleloader season.

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Maryland Hunters Harvest 86,542 Deer in 2017-2018 Season

The Maryland Department of Natural Resources announced today that hunters harvested 86,542 deer during the combined archery, firearms and muzzleloader seasons, from Sept. 8, 2017, through Jan. 31, 2018.

The harvest exceeded the 2016-2017 total by more than 1,000 deer. Included in the statewide total were 7,204 deer taken on Sundays.

“Sunday hunting continues to be an important component in managing Maryland’s deer population,” Wildlife and Heritage Service Director Paul Peditto said.

“Nearly 10 percent of the total harvest occurred on Sundays, a remarkable number given the limited number of Sunday hunting days available, and the fact that three of our highest deer density counties did not have Sunday hunting opportunities.”

The 2017-2018 statewide harvest included: 30,247 antlered and 53,135 antlerless white-tailed deer; and 1,423 antlered and 1,737 antlerless sika deer.

The harvest in deer management Region A (Western Maryland) increased 18 percent, from 8,490 deer last year to 10,003 this year. Hunters in these counties reported 6,237 antlered and 3,766 antlerless deer.

Hunters in Region B (the remainder of the state) harvested 76,539 deer, nearly the same as last year’s harvest of 76,703. A total of 25,433 antlered and 51,106 antlerless deer were reported in this region.

Frederick County led the harvest totals again this year with 7,354 deer, followed by Carroll County with 5,896 and Baltimore County at 5,559. Garrett and Montgomery counties rounded out the top five with 5,349 and 4,783 deer, respectively.

Several counties on the Eastern Shore, including Caroline, Dorchester and Talbot, saw declines that were likely related to an outbreak of Epizootic Hemorrhagic Disease. The virus is carried by biting midges and can spread quickly through localized deer populations. While deer numbers may be lower in these areas in the short term, the population is expected to rebound quickly in the coming years.

Maryland Reported Antlered and Antlerless Deer Harvest for the 2016-2017 and 2017-2018 Hunting Seasons

County	Antlered			Antlerless			Total		
	'16-'17	'17-'18	% Change	'16-'17	'17-'18	% Change	'16-'17	'17-'18	% Change
Allegany	1,662	2,078	25	1,245	1,283	3.1	2,907	3,361	15.6
Anne Arundel	900	978	8.7	1,890	2,001	5.9	2,790	2,979	6.8
Baltimore	1,628	1,754	7.7	3,739	3,805	1.8	5,367	5,559	3.6
Calvert	614	558	-9.1	1,253	1,130	-9.8	1,867	1,688	-9.6
Caroline									
<i>whitetail</i>	918	756	-17.6	2,033	1,824	-10.3	2,951	2,580	-12.6
<i>sika</i>	0	1	*	1	1	*	1	2	*
Carroll	2,002	2,116	5.7	3,661	3,780	3.3	5,663	5,896	4.1
Cecil	1,099	1,261	14.7	2,311	2,442	5.7	3,410	3,703	8.6
Charles	1,096	1,166	6.4	2,000	2,246	12.3	3,096	3,412	10.2
Dorchester									
<i>whitetail</i>	896	678	-24.3	1,820	1,482	-18.6	2,716	2,160	-20.5
<i>sika</i>	1,185	1,306	10.2	1,459	1,622	11.2	2,644	2,928	10.7
Frederick	2,680	2,666	-0.5	4,876	4,688	-3.9	7,556	7,354	-2.7
Garrett	2,623	3,335	27.1	1,719	2,014	17.2	4,342	5,349	23.2
Harford	1,103	1,211	9.8	2,537	2,466	-2.8	3,640	3,677	1
Howard	685	738	7.7	1,715	1,689	-1.5	2,400	2,427	1.1
Kent	1,232	1,156	-6.2	2,182	2,270	4	3,414	3,426	0.4
Montgomery	1,505	1,457	-3.2	3,368	3,326	-1.2	4,873	4,783	-1.8
Prince George’s	832	828	-0.5	1,645	1,560	-5.2	2,477	2,388	-3.6
Queen Anne’s	1,141	1,189	4.2	2,583	2,701	4.6	3,724	3,890	4.5
Saint Mary’s	852	845	-0.8	1,760	1,847	4.9	2,612	2,692	3.1
Somerset									
<i>whitetail</i>	718	649	-9.6	1,598	1,540	-3.6	2,316	2,189	-5.5
<i>sika</i>	5	2	*	2	7	*	7	9	*
Talbot	812	671	-17.4	1,981	1,830	-7.6	2,793	2,501	-10.5
Washington	2,062	2,135	3.5	2,674	2,458	-8.1	4,736	4,593	-3
Wicomico									
<i>whitetail</i>	931	952	2.3	2,189	2,275	3.9	3,120	3,227	3.4
<i>sika</i>	74	85	*	66	83	*	140	168	*
Worcester									
<i>whitetail</i>	1,051	1,070	1.8	2,539	2,478	-2.4	3,590	3,548	-1.2
<i>sika</i>	20	29	*	21	24	*	41	53	*
Total	30,326	31,670	4.4	54,867	54,872	0	85,193	86,542	1.6



“Tackle Box Tim”

Custom Tackle

The term “custom” comes into play in many aspects of life. To me, it means that something is designed to the specifics of a craftsman or a customer thereof. I have always appreciated the custom craft in cars: the hot rods, the modified everyman car, the classic muscle cars, and yes, even some of the modern-day tuner cars. There are custom motor homes and motorcycles. When renovating our homes, we can add unique features that fit our need or style. Even in fishing, you can find custom tackle to fit your needs. While there are plenty of rods, reels, and lures on the market that help us catch plenty of fish, there is still a need to use things that fit a specific technique or area we are fishing. Some of these things aren’t readily available.

A couple years ago I had a rod built for a single purpose. Yet, I use it for other applications. I needed a 6 ½-foot medium/heavy power, moderate action rod. The shorter rod was needed to help my accuracy in casting jerkbaits between the pilings of the Route 50 bridge in Ocean City. There are plenty of medium/heavy, moderate rods on the market, but it’s not easy to find one less than 7 feet long. I worked with Tom’s Custom Rods in Harford county to make the rod.

Tom Wewerka took a 7-foot blank and cut it down to size without jeopardizing the integrity of it. At that point I thought the process was done. Tom had plenty of questions for me: What type of reel seat? What type of guides? What color threads to wrap the guides? Did I want cork, foam, or Winn grips for the handle? There is plenty of customer input in the making of a custom rod.

In bass fishing, there are numerous lures that use silicone skirts. Numer-

ous types of jigs, spinnerbaits, and buzzbaits come to mind. Standard color skirts from major manufacturers dominate tackle shop pegboards: black/blue for jigs, and chartreuse/white for spinnerbaits. They are so common that, when fishing pressure hits full onslaught, bass can become wary of a barrage of these baits. Sometimes it’s best to look for locally produced lures that are more in tune with area fisheries. Often times you will find the local skirted lures that match the hue of crawfish, and forage fish that bass prey on in area waters.

Head design also comes into play with lead head lures. With spinnerbaits there are vertically flat heads, bul-

let shaped heads, guppy heads, etc. There are numerous sizes and blade combinations—double willow, tandem Colorado/willow, double Colorado to name a few. For jigs, you have ball heads, football heads, swim heads, Arkie heads, and so on. There are endless possibilities to customize these lures to fit conditions, a technique, or location.

The same color scheme theories for skirted lures applies to hard lures as well. Black back/chartreuse, sexy shad, and fire tiger are dominant patterns that are fish catchers. You’ll find plenty of crankbaits, rattle traps, jerkbaits and topwater plugs with these designs, because they do catch fish. However, cast something that looks like the prey species in your waters and the catch rate should go up. Blue gills, sunfish, white perch, yellow perch and gizzard shad are all species a bass will eat in Maryland’s tidal fisheries. In late spring there is always an exodus of hickory and white shad in our tributaries.

There are numerous companies that specialize in putting custom paint jobs on hard baits. Some of the folks are true artists. They can match a baitfish pattern to a tee. Though it is better to match what naturally swims in your fishery, cost becomes an issue. Is snagging a crankbait with a \$20 paint job worth the cost? Is a custom paint job on a popper worth the cost as bass are attracted to the surface disturbance more than color? The answers to these questions may vary. However, a common answer is, “Yes, as long as the lure is more productive then the mainstream lure.”

Custom lures aren’t just for the bass fishing crowd. If you have been to any of the local fishing flea markets, you’ve seen the numerous vendors with their versions of parachute lures, bucktails, and metal jigs. You may find some similarly molded heads, while some lure craftsmen might tweak a mold to make a trolling lure or bucktail jig his or her own. You will also see a rainbow of synthetic and bucktail hair available. Suffice it to say, that if you don’t see something you like, the saltwater lure crafter can quite possibly build you what you want.

When it comes to reels, there isn’t much that can be customized. If you thought of changing the gear ratio of one of your current reels, it may be just as cost-effective to buy a new reel with that ratio. However, in the last few years, ceramic bearings have hit the market. They wear far less than ball bearings, don’t need lubrication, and can add casting distance. Some bass anglers will buy little rubber pads in different colors for their reel handles. These come in handy if they use one model of reel. It helps the angler identify a specific rod. As examples, the fisherman may use red pads for reels with 10 pound-test monofilament or blue pads for 30 pound-test braided line.

There is a market for custom tackle. Most of the time we can find what we want or need through the major manufacturers. Still, when we are looking for something specific—an action/power/length of a rod, a natural looking bucktail, or blade combo on a spinnerbait—custom tackle is the way to go.



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“Tuna The Tide”

The Winter Mystery Fish, Winter Flounder

By Captain Mark Galasso

Every Year around this time I get questioned about a mysterious fish that is great to eat and fun to catch. And unless you are a Chicken Necker from the North you wouldn't even know it existed. And ironically one of it's spawning grounds is / You guessed it, Chesapeake Bay. This fish is caught both commercially and recreationally from Labrador all the way to Georgia although the heart of it's territory is from Falmouth Mass. To Barnegat Light, NJ. This tasty little critter prefers cold water and hides in the deepest parts of the Bay for most of the year.



It is more abundant in the Upper Bay than in the Lower Bay and has been caught as far up as the mouth of the Susquehanna River. They can live as long as 18 years but rarely grow to more than 20 inches long.

In June of 2015, Kevin Twilley of Salisbury, Maryland caught the Maryland State record of 5 pounds 2 ounces on a piece of clam in 140 feet of water 26 miles east of Ocean City. In 1984 commercial fisherman fishing offshore with ground fish trawls caught an estimated 35 million pounds of these elusive Flatfish. However, due to overfishing and spawning habitat

degradation as well as the lack of genetic diversity within the Species by 2010 the commercial catch was less than 3.5 million pounds. And today a commercial licensee is only allowed 50 pounds or just 38 fish.

Winter Flounder, or Black Backs, are a relative of the much more well known (in our area) Summer Flounders that Mid Atlantic Anglers catch in good numbers. But it would seem that other than being flat and tasty they have very little else in common. Summer Flounder range from the Gulf of Mexico north to around New York. It's

only in the mid Atlantic where good numbers of these two species overlap. Summer Flounder grow much larger and much faster. Both are voracious predators though Winter Flounders feed on worms and small crustaceans while Summer Flounder

or Fluke as us Chicken Neckers call them will feed on anything they can ambush. Especially small fish.

Summer Flounder are from the family of left eyed Flounder and Winter Flounder are from the family of right eyed flounder. Remember, when a baby Flounder goes through it's cycle, egg, larval fish and then flounder it has a weird transformation. At the larval fish stage Flounders look like any other baby fish. However, as they settle down to start their benthic lifestyle of digging into the sand so they can ambush their prey one eye has to migrate to the same side of the

head as the other. The UP side becomes darker to blend in with the bottom and the DOWN side stays white. The direction of this eye migration dictates what family the Flat fish will fall into. Now you know.

One of the other major differences is where and when these two species spawn. Summer Flounder generally spawn offshore in the fall. Winter Flounder generally spawn inshore in the late winter.

That might explain why we once caught a Rockfish that had at least 20 baby Winter Flounder in it's belly. They were less than 2 inches long. And yes, I not only counted them, I made sure they were right eyed. And not confused with one of the other Flat fish that call Chesapeake Bay home like Hog Chokers. I later read that it is a common occurrence to find Flounders in Stripers off the coasts of New Jersey and New York.

Growing up on the Jersey Shore I remember being huddled up in a warm car with my Dad. We would drive up to a nearby boat ramp in Barnegat Light. He would lower a Chum Pot filled with punctured cans of creamed corn and tuna fish. We would cast out a couple of rods down current of the chum. Tiny hooks baited with blood worms or clam. Just enough weight to hold bottom. We'd sit in the car and wait for a bite. It gets pretty cold on the Jersey Shore in February! But fresh

Flounder in February was hard to beat.

Winter Flounder are managed by the ASMFC like most other gamefish. In 2008 it was estimated that only about 9% of the targeted biomass was available in the SNE/MA (Southern New England/Mid Atlantic) zone. Winter Flounders actually are managed in three separate zones. The other two being Gulf of Maine (GOM) and the Georges Bank (GBK). Currently the recommendations for States that have a recreational fishery are two fish over 12 inches.

Both Delaware and New Jersey currently have that limit. The season in Delaware is February 11th to April 10th. In New Jersey the season is March 1st to December 31st. I couldn't find any information on fishing for Winter Flounder in Maryland although a few fish have been caught. I also found through some research that most Winter Flounder in Chesapeake Bay tend to be smaller than their coastal counterparts, generally 8 to 16 inches.

Perhaps Marylander's just have too much going on in winter to brave the cold for a couple of Flounder. But hunting season is coming to an end and Perch season hasn't started yet. Hey the glaciers have retreated and the open water is calling. Someone has to try it. Why not you!



Squirrel - It's what's for supper ! Good squirrel hunt last week of February in a Cecil County forest. All were shot with a .22 single shot rifle. Photo by Roger Everett

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Rich Watts with his 30 inch speckled trout jigged up off Hoppers Island late in November of last year.

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Man Charged with Hunting Violations after Joint Investigation

A Cumberland man was charged last month by Maryland Natural Resources Police with 14 hunting violations and faces additional charges in Pennsylvania after a joint investigation by wildlife officers from both states. Christopher Alan Porter, 37, is due in Allegany County District Court May 8. If found guilty of all charges, he could be fined \$5,500.

Late last year, a Maryland officer and a counterpart on the Pennsylvania Game Commission began following leads on complaints of illegal hunting activity and zeroed in on Porter after seeing photos circulating on social media of a dead nine-point buck extending from the trunk of a white sedan.

After determining that the deer was killed in Pennsylvania and illegally brought back to Maryland, officers secured a search warrant and searched Porter's home and other locations in the Cumberland area Jan. 11.

Porter told officers that in late November he killed the nine-point buck from his vehicle in Pennsylvania with a muzzleloader. He loaded it into the car and brought it to Maryland without properly tagging it. The nine-point antler rack scored 135 inches on the Boone and Crockett Club big-game measuring system.

He also told officers of killing an eight-point buck with a muzzleloader from his vehicle in late November in the vicinity of Warrior Mountain Wildlife Management Area in Allegany County. Also in November, a spike buck was killed in Pennsylvania and brought to Maryland and a doe was killed at night with a bow in Maryland.

The skulls of the eight-point and nine-point bucks and the head of the spike buck were found during searches of storage units and a shed. The remains of a doe and the arrow used to kill it were found in the 14000 block of Hazen Road.

Porter was charged with: three counts of shooting from or across a road; two counts of importing white-tailed deer without required documentation; two counts of exceeding the bag limit of antlerless white-tailed deer in Region A during bow season; two counts of



failing to make a reasonable effort to take possession of a wounded or dead deer; two counts of hunting on private land without written permission; hunting from a vehicle; having a loaded weapon in a vehicle; and hunting deer at night.

If convicted, Porter faces additional penalties under Maryland's Poaching Restitution Act of 2016, which states that a buck with antlers scoring 150 or fewer points requires restitution of \$2,000 to \$5,000 and 80 hours of community service. For each antlerless white-tailed deer, a person convicted of deer poaching must pay restitution of not less than \$300 but not exceeding \$500 or perform 40 hours of community service.

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2:40PM	Stoeger M3500 12ga mx5	5:20PM	Henry Golden Boy 22lr
2:50PM	Savage 320 Yth pump syn/blu 20ga	5:30PM	Benelli Super Nova 12ga 3.5 camo
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Florida Man Nabbed for Contraband Snakes and Lizards

A Florida man was fined and sentenced last month in federal court to probation and community service for illegally transporting snakes and lizards in a case investigated by Maryland Natural Resources Police.

William Carl Bartlett, 66, of Eastpoint, was ordered to pay a \$5,000 fine, received three years of probation and was ordered to perform 300 hours of community service. U.S. Magistrate Judge William I. Garfinkel also prohibited Bartlett from entering any Maryland state park or forest.

Bartlett, a snake and reptile collector, pleaded guilty last December to two counts of illegally transporting protected wildlife. He is the fourth person prosecuted as part of "Operation Kingsnake," an investigation spearheaded by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service into individuals who trafficked hundreds of illegally collected snakes from 12 states and Canada.

Between April 29 and May 13, 2015, Bartlett took five Coastal Plain milk snakes from the Chesapeake Forest and the Pocomoke River State Forest in Worcester County, to a home he owned in Connecticut. The snakes were collected in violation of Maryland law.

In May 2016, Bartlett illegally collected four protected snakes and four lizards from the Pocomoke River State Forest, but was stopped by a Natural Resources Police investigator before he could take them to Connecticut.

Bartlett also was charged by federal agents with shipping by overnight courier 10 Outer Banks kingsnakes from Connecticut to a customer in Emporium, Pennsylvania in July 2012.

A Baltimore woman was charged last month with attempting to sell taxidermied owls, a violation of state and federal law.

Chelsea Geordan Werner, 27, was offered to sell a long-eared owl for \$225 on Craigslist. During an exchange of text messages, Werner offered to sell an additional owl to an officer for a total of \$470 and agreed to meet the officer at her apartment.

Two officers met with Werner and saw she had two long-eared owls and a barn owl. Werner said she had paid someone in Germany \$200 apiece for the birds.

Werner was issued three citations, each carrying a pre-payable fine of \$500.

A hearing date has not been set in Baltimore City District Court.

Two Florida men were convicted last month of multiple counts of illegal deer hunting and were ordered to pay \$6,000 in fines and restitution by a Cecil

County District Court judge.

Lawrence Eugene Tatum II, 34, of Port Saint Lucie, received \$2,000 in fines for four natural resources violations and a suspended \$500 fine for trespassing. He was ordered to pay \$2,000 in restitution to the state and perform 80 hours of community service. He also lost his Maryland hunting privileges for a year.

Chett Wade Cockrill, 46, of Boca Raton, was fined \$2,000 for four natural resources violations and received a \$500 suspended fine for trespassing. He had his Maryland hunting privileges suspended for a year and forfeited two rifles, a scope, a gun case and ammunition.

Maryland Natural Resources Police officers were called to White Hall Farm in Cecilton in the early hours of Nov. 21 for a report of illegal hunters. On a gravel road, they found a rented SUV parked on land marked with "No Trespassing" signs.

Tatum was by the SUV and Cockrill was found in the woods, with a loaded Mossberg 0.308-caliber rifle with no scope by his side. An officer later recovered a night-vision scope concealed nearby under some downed trees.

Cockrill and Tatum told officers they had been driving around in the rented vehicle, looking for hay to buy and coyotes to kill. The SUV contained night vision goggles, a thermal imaging device, multiple pairs of binoculars and several flashlights.

The men admitted to shooting an eight-point buck from the vehicle while somewhere between Chestertown, where they rented the SUV, and the farm. Officers found the deer carcass and head in a barn.

Cockrill and Tatum each were charged with hunting without a license, hunting on private land without written permission, hunting deer at night and hunting deer in a closed season.

Restitution to the state is mandated by a 2016 act of the General Assembly.

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By Jim Gronaw

Recently, while walking the expansive hunting and fishing venues at the Great American Outdoor Show in Harrisburg, Pennsylvania, I went by this booth that had a whole bunch of fly fishing equipment and numerous



This 3-weight fly rod outfit could completely change my life, both spiritually and... financially!

“fly-rod dudes” talking the talk and selling their wares. I’ll admit, I have been meaning to dabble in the graceful arcs for a long time now. I have fly fished in the past, but that was almost 30 years ago. And, like everyone else who has gone forth in this most honorable sport, it just seemed like the right time to get re-introduced to the long pole. So, with a few bucks in my pocket and a desire to pursue the dark side, I sprung for an affordable 3-weight rod and reel package that I thought might match nicely with a 10-inch bluegill and other small fish that I am likely to catch in 2018.

Delighted with my new purchase, I immediately went home, took a couple of pics of the outfit and posted it on my Face Book page, claiming the hopes of new glory in the angling world. Yes, this featherweight wand of legend and lore was to be my new passion, as if I needed another “passion” or two to add to my current and growing list of passions. I figured since I already have a dozen or more of just about everything else that this would at least be a good start for some fly fishing fun, which in all honesty, is really all I want out of the sport anyway. Yeah... I think I can do this!

Of course, my vocabulary will have to change drastically. No more of this home-spun jargon like “worms”, “maggots”, “casts”, or “bobbers”. From this day forth I will have to familiarize myself with new and proper speak. Here are a few I have learned already...loops, back cast, mend, emerger, entomology, beadhead (not to be confused with butthead), terrestrials, duns, whip-finish, strike indicator

“Fishin’ Back East”

NEW STUFF FOR AN OLD FISHERMAN

(fancy word for bobber) and rock snot. There are plenty more to learn, and I’m going to try and catch on as quick as I can so I can capitalize on those March Browns coming up at the end of the month. I think that’s bugs, but it could be fish. And all those bad words we say when we are snagged, hung up, caught in a tree, miss a fish or lose a big fish....sheeeesh, I already know all them. So, I’m cool in that department.

Very quickly, I got many offers and invitations from caring fly-rodders who want to help me and make sure I don’t develop any bad habits. Heck, man, bad habits is my middle name! I was also warned of the “money pit” potential and that I could possibly be entering a whole new phase of life that could completely alter and change my way of thinking and reasoning from what I had developed over the previous 65-years of existence. I also received threatening letters and emails from conservative-minded anglers who feared my drifting to the “dark side”. Meanwhile, I also received numerous invites and brochures from a host of liberal-minded groups in a vain attempt to take advantage of my recent “plunge”.

But the real reason I want to get back into fly fishing is that it has a unique charm and peace to it that I believe helps one just enjoy the actual catching of fish, in all environs, and in many situations that are right at our doorstep. No big boats, no tournament blast off, no competition and just you and the fish. Leave the sonar and GPS at home...cell phones, too. Yeah, I think I can do this.

On a different note, I recently received a bubble-wrapped pair of mounted, replica catches that I had been a long time in deciding to have done. I had seen and gawked at the work of master taxidermist Tim Overbaugh of Fridley, Minnesota, for years. His attention to detail, accurate replica casts and remarkable painting has made him one of the premier fish taxidermist in the nation. His end result and artistry did not disappoint.

The fish I had replicated were a 12-inch, 2-pound 2-ounce coppernose bluegill and a 10 3/8-inch 1-pound 4-ounce pumpkinseed sunfish. Coppernose bluegills are found



This remarkable replica shows amazing detail of the author's trophy pumpkinseed sunfish. Wow!

as far north as southern coastal Virginia and down throughout the southeast states and have also been successfully transplanted in the southwest desert states. The big, spawning males are stunning fish with a large copper patch of scales on their forehead. The pumpkinseed, one of the most colorful of all freshwater species, sports blue, yellow and orange coloration. Either would have been a challenge for any taxidermist. However, Overbaugh hit the pair of them right out of the park!

As the replica process becomes more and more refined, taxidermists now can produce almost any specie, any size for those who want have their fish and release it, too. Sure, bass, trout, pike, muskies and walleyes make up the bulk of freshwater replica work today, but there are many options for huge panfish like bluegills, crappies, yellow perch, stripers, big catfish and more. Many saltwater gamesters are replica mounts, and many taxidermist today are doing museum-quality work today. Tim Overbaugh specializes in

freshwater fish and his work is, in my opinion, spectacular.

Two quick things before you consider a replica mount, regardless of the taxidermist. For one, all good taxidermists are busy, and they have a waiting list and the turnaround time can be a year or more. This is just the way it is, and if they are good and have a clientele, then people like their work and are willing to wait. Second, realize that taxidermists, nationwide, are like you and I, that is, they have to make a living, pay bills, raise kids, buy homes, pay for groceries and all the rest. They don’t get sick or vacation days and their insurance options are tough. Spare yourself the embarrassment of haggling over price quotes or silly threats to “take your business elsewhere”. If money is a problem, then you may never truly enjoy that fish of a lifetime, no matter who does the work.



Master taxidermist Tim Overbaugh recently did this 12-inch, 2 pound 2 ounce coppernose bluegill. I am a happy man!



"Montana Grant"



By Grant Soukup

The TOILET TREE!!!

Spring turkey hunting is an annual tradition. The magic of spring gobblers, flowers, leaves on trees, and hunting with family and friends is a great reunion. Perhaps one of the best memories was not the turkeys, but the Toilet Tree!

Back in the day, turkey hunting was not a crowded affair. Rarely did I see other hunters in the forests. The turkey population was coming back, and certain areas could be real hotspots. Each morning, the strategy was to get to a high ridge and listen for a Gobbler to light up the forest.

The Toilet Tree was the perfect set up! I discovered it by accident on one cold spring dawn. As I wandered up a stream valley, I noticed some old barrels and pipes. Broken glass and debris gave evidence of an old illegal moonshine still site. The still had been smashed and bashed with axes. The old Moonshiners must have loved that cool stream and isolated valley until those Revenuers discovered it.

After snooping through the still site, I thought I heard a far-off gobbler. The sun was just coming up and the magic time for gobblers was now. As I scaled to the top of the ridge, the morning cup of coffee and donut began to remind me that it may be time to carry out every hunter's morning ritual.

Toilet trees are not easy to come by. You need a comfortable log that is the right height and width to support a real Turkey Hunter. There are plenty of trees in the forest but not

all are suited for a comfortable and well-located visit. Some logs lay parallel at just the right height off the ground. Some trees have fallen over and are enhanced by rocks that make for a perfect seat. Make sure that the tree, stump, or seat you select is sturdy enough for the job. If the seat fails during mid task, it could be a crappy outcome.

Occasionally, the perfect Toilet Tree can be discovered. On the end of a ridge, next to a grove of trees was the perfect spot. This Toilet tree was the remains of an old stump. A few of the limbs had broken off and some had started to grow back. It was time to check out this new spot!

The Toilet tree was just the right height. Bark had grown over the old trunk and the base was hollow and deep. The bark seat was smooth and comfortable. You could lean into a tree for additional comfort and really relax. There was even a notch that would securely cradle my morning coffee mug. Everything was going fine when suddenly I heard it! A huge Gobbler lit up the forest with a long, raspy Gobble. Two others joined in.

Things were exciting, and it was time to finish my morning ritual and get back to turkey business. I gathered my senses, and gear, and struck off to engage the gobblers. Before long, I was within 100 yards of my quarry. A couple clucks, whines and purrs should do the trick. As I waited for the bird to show himself, I heard a putt and wingbeats behind me. I was busted! That's turkey hunting.

It was so exciting that I was glad I visited the Toilet Tree earlier.

I never shot or flushed a turkey near the Toilet Tree, but I sure tried. My morning starting point was that old toilet tree for many seasons. I showed other buddies my special place and soon there was a line to use that perfect tree. Watching the sunrise at the perfect Toilet Tree, while listening for those sunrise gobbles, is a wonderful blessing. If you find my special toilet tree, please leave some paper.

Gobble, Gobble, cluck, cluck!

Montana Grant

For more Montana Grant, visit his blog at www.montanagrانتfishing.com.



Captain Brian Councill (*Sea Dux Charters*) and his first mate traveled to Marathon, FL. last month were they spent some time on the little boat catching a variety of fish. Pictured below is second mate Drew Walters with a nice Jack Crevalle while visiting them.



SPANNING THE GLOBE

Bullitt County constable catches 50-pound catfish in front yard

LOUISVILLE, Ky. (WDRB) -- The rising floodwaters last month may mean headaches for homeowners who live along the Salt River in Bullitt County -- but to Robert Watkins, they mean something else.

Great fishing weather.

Watkins, the Constable for Bullitt County's First District, is making waves on social media after his daughter posted pictures of the massive catfish he recently caught. In his front yard.

Watkins lives in a home next to the Salt River Bridge, and the water level has risen so high that his yard is completely flooded.

"Anytime the river gets up to where it's at, we'll go out -- me and a buddy of mine will go out in it -- and we'll set limb lines," Watkins explained. "We'll hang lines out of the tree. Then we'll give it four or five hours, and go back and run 'em and see what we got. Normally, the Salt River is good for them big catfish...we'll do it every time the river gets up."

Watkins says the fish seen in the Facebook picture weighed in at around 55 or 60 pounds.

"That scale we had wasn't no good," he said. "We had a 50-pound digital scale from Walmart, but it just -- it maxed out. It wouldn't go no higher."

At the time of this writing, the fish was tied to his porch. Watkins says he'll likely either give it to a friend who has a large pond to accommodate the catfish, or simply release it back into the water.

"We don't eat none of them big ones," he said.

It's not the first time Watkins -- who has lived there since 1964 -- has gone fishing in his yard. In 2011, he says the water level rose to the shutters of his home, and he caught an 80-pound catfish.

In any event, he says the 50-pound fish he caught this weekend is far from his record.

"In 2011, we got 16 of 'em in three days that was bigger than that," he said. "We got 'em up to 85 pounds."

Watkins says the only time he can catch big catfish is during flooding periods like these.

"Them big fish won't stay up in here," he said. "They go down to Fort Knox where it's deep and muddy. So when it floods, they come up here. That's why we take advantage of the floodwaters and get some of them."

Thankfully, Watkins says the waters haven't gotten inside his home yet, so they haven't had to move any furniture or suffer any damage. And as long as that's the case, he says bring on the rain.

"About 4 or 5 o'clock this evening, we'll probably go back out and try for some more," he said.

A lil fishing on first st. In shepherdsville ky.



OFF THE SCALE Angler reels in MONSTER 20st catfish as big as a shark in Italy after battling for 45 minutes to reel it in

Angler Benjamin Grunder struggles to hold on to the catch-of-a-lifetime after hooking a record-breaking catfish. Benjamin, 37, thought his hook

had snagged a submerged tree when the monster fish went for his bait, such was the colossal weight of it.

He quickly realised it was a big fish and spent a gruelling 45 minutes reeling it towards the banks of the River Po in Italy.

German Benjamin estimated the 8ft 8ins Wels catfish - the largest freshwater fish in Europe - at a whopping 286lbs or 20st.

Although the catch broke the existing record on the Po by 60zs it is unofficial as it wasn't weighed on scales.



The next generation. Wyatt Stephens, Rambo Adair and Grey helping with the morning hunt.

Annual Survey Estimates Number of Ducks, Geese and Swans

Each winter, aerial survey teams of biologists from the Maryland Department of Natural Resources and U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service make visual estimates of ducks, geese and swans along the state’s coast and shoreline. This year, teams counted about 1,023,300 waterfowl, well above the 812,600 birds observed during 2017 and higher than the five-year average of 851,980.

In general, biologists attribute much of the year-to-year variation to weather conditions in Maryland, as well as other locations on flyways used by migratory birds.

“Cold weather and accompanying ice and snow to our north will typically push birds south as they search for food and open water,” Wildlife and Heritage Service Director Paul Peditto said. “The more severe that cold weather is the more dramatic migrations to more southerly locations can be.”

Overall, dabbling ducks were higher (108,000) than last winter (87,900). Diving duck numbers (187,200) were lower when compared to last winter (283,600). Survey teams observed the most Canada geese (641,200) since the survey began in 1955. The 641,200 Canada

Midwinter Waterfowl Survey Results 2014-2018 Figures rounded to the nearest hundred

Species	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018
Mallard	75,900	50,000	41,800	45,300	64,300
Black Duck	39,300	30,900	19,200	25,500	38,300
Gadwall	4,000	5,100	3,200	11,200	3,100
Widgeon	800	2,200	500	1,400	700
G-W Teal	3,900	700	2,400	2,100	500
Shoveler	100	100	100	100	0
Pintail	4,000	1,800	2,600	2,300	1,100
Total Dabblers	128,000	90,800	69,800	87,900	108,000
Redhead	15,900	32,200	17,900	20,700	27,500
Canvasback	68,400	64,200	19,800	75,100	60,000
Scaup	47,100	55,600	91,800	138,800	45,300
Ring-neck	1,600	300	700	400	300
Goldeneye	1,500	600	1,100	700	100
Bufflehead	21,800	19,100	26,700	12,900	29,500
Ruddy Duck	34,000	20,000	88,000	35,000	24,500
Total Divers	190,300	192,000	246,000	283,600	187,200
Scoters	7,600	1,300	7,100	4,900	4,500
Long-tailed Duck	200	100	100	2,700	0
Mergansers	6,200	3,000	1,100	2,100	2,300
Total Ducks	332,400	287,200	324,000	381,200	302,000
Brant	600	900	1,000	900	400
Snow Goose	44,200	44,900	32,600	21,300	63,500
Canada Goose	512,100	504,700	293,800	394,700	641,200
Tundra Swan	16,100	17,800	11,200	14,500	16,400
Total Waterfowl	905,500	855,500	663,000	812,600	1,023,300

geese observed in this year’s survey was higher than the previous record of 608,000 in 1981. An above average hatch by the Atlantic, or migratory, population Canada geese coupled with an influx of resident Canada geese from states to the north of Maryland, most likely account for the record high count.

The Midwinter Waterfowl Survey has been conducted annually since the early 1950s. The Maryland survey results are ultimately pooled to provide a measure of the distributional changes and long-term trends of waterfowl wintering in the Atlantic Flyway.

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Hunter Education Courses

The remaining hunter education classes in Kent County, MD. for 2018.

To register for any Hunter Education class, go on the DNR website (<http://dnr.maryland.gov/Pages/default.aspx>), click on Hunting at the top of the page, then click on Hunter Education on the left side of page under Hunting and Trapping, then click on Hunter Education Course Listings on the left under NRP Hunting Safety.

Aug 7, 9, 14,16, 18. Class number - 18219HKE
Sept. 25, 27, Oct 2, 4, 6. Class number - 18268HKE

Classroom portion of course is at Chestertown VFD, outdoor/range portions of course at Kent County Gun Club.

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Coastal Report

By Capt. Mark
Sampson

In only two feet of water the school of bonefish could be easily seen as they steadily zigzagged their way across the flat and toward our skiff. Up on the bow the angler was cocked and ready launch his bait the moment the fish were within range. At 30-yards he punched out a cast that sent his live shrimp flying perfectly to the target. With a light splash it landed ten feet in front of the incoming fish. The school of bones moved forward and I'm "pretty sure" one of them ate the shrimp. But we'll never know for certain because when the angler made his cast he whipped the rod so hard that the shrimp when flying off to the fish and the hook splashed down in the water a few feet from the boat! A bad cast and a lost opportunity to make a great catch - we've all been there.

In the winter I work as backcountry fishing guide in the Florida Keys. The type of fishing we do often involves us poling my 17-foot boat across shallow and very clear water looking for fish. When a fish is spotted the angler up on the bow attempts to hook it by making a cast that will put the bait or lure in the strike zone of the target. Depending upon what type of fish is involved (tarpon, shark, barracuda, bonefish etc.) and what it's doing (moving, or stationary, or feeding) the offering might need to land within a foot or two of the fish, or up to 10-20 yards away, and every cast solicits one of three reaction from the fish; either no response at all - in that the fish ignores the bait or lure altogether, a negative response - in that the fish is spooked by the cast, or a positive response - in that the fish does what we want and actually bites!

There are times when we'll encounter a particular fish or possibly a school of fish that are in such a frantic feeding mode that even a poorly executed or way off target cast will get a bite, but that's a pretty rare occurrence. Each season I watch hundreds of anglers make thousands of casts and there's no doubt that those with the best casting skills catch more fish, and not just a "few" more fish - but a "lot" more fish! It has also become obvious that just because someone does a lot of fishing doesn't mean that they are going to be great casters. Proficiency at casting takes practice, and while the guy who spends a lot of



time chucking baits and lures is going to get that practice, anglers who spent most of their fishing hours trolling or bottom fishing are going to have problems when they need to put a lure within a couple feet of a target 20-yards away.

Accurate casting skills pay off for anglers in more places than the Florida Keys. Both inshore and offshore, Delmarva anglers will constantly have opportunities come along when they can hook fish if they can fire off a cast that lands in the right place at the right time. In our home waters we rarely see the fish before we cast but usually know where we want and need to splash our bait in order to get a bite. When fishing around rock jetties, marsh banks, bridge pilings, or offshore debris an accurate cast can put the offering right where the fish are holding while a wayward cast might fall too far from the strike zone or end up snagging the structure making for a big mess and a lot of wasted down-time.

Casting to structure requires that anglers know how much to flex the rod to get the distance needed to reach the target as well as how to feather the reel's spool with their finger in order to slow up a cast that's going too far. Accurate casting also requires anglers to be able to work with the wind, knowing that a cross-wind will push a cast to the left or right of target while a head or tail wind will play for or against the distance.

Just what exactly the angler has on the end of their line must also be taken into account every time they make a cast. A single jig or a hard-bodied lure is usually the easiest to cast with minimal wind resistance and not as likely to tangle on itself. A rig that has more than one component such as a baited hook a couple feet away from a float or

a sinker can sometimes be challenging to cast because it may want to twist up or somersault through the air and end up in a tangled mess when it hits the water. Gentle, lob-casting or light feathering of the spool might be required to keep such offerings out of trouble on the way to the target. Gentle casts are also required to keep soft baits such as soft crabs, shiners, or clam from flying off in one direction as the hook goes in another.

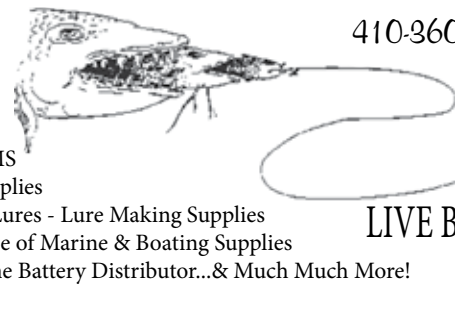
Finally, while being able to cast "far" is not always a prerequisite to catching fish, the ability to do it when necessary allows anglers to cover more water in every cast and, therefore, potentially present their bait or lure to more fish more of the time. Casting distance and accuracy don't come natural to fishermen, they're achieved over time by practice and with Delmarva's just now getting cranked up there's still time to get out in the backyard and sharpen those casting skills. You might just enjoy the practice, and I can almost guarantee it will help you catch more fish!

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Deer Poacher Sentenced in Kent County

The deer poacher convicted of killing a massive deer known as “mega-buck” on someone else’s property was sentenced Monday in Kent County Circuit Court.

Ronald Wayne Roe, 29, of Worton was convicted in February 2017 of multiple poaching charges in district court and appealed the decision. This week, he pleaded guilty to trespassing on private property and hunting without written permission in a negotiated agreement.

Roe killed the 17-point buck—a potential state record—in September 2016.

Joseph Bogdan, the landowner who had targeted the massive buck for several years only to have Roe shoot it, told the judge it was “the kind of deer that makes a good neighbor a bad neighbor.” Bogdan said at first he congratulated Roe but “it went sour” as the facts came out.

“The deer was baited, killed and gutted on my property,” Bogdan said.

A scorer for the Boone and Crockett Club, which measures deer antlers for possible records, said the rack was 212 7/8 total inches. That would have secured the club’s top spot for Maryland crossbow hunters and a top 10 overall state ranking.

By the time of this week’s appeals hearing, Roe had already paid \$2,000 in restitution to the state and served a one-year suspension of his hunting privileges. This week, Roe received a jail sentence of 60 days, suspended, and was given 18 months of unsupervised probation.

The poacher forfeited the antlers, hide and meat to the state. However, the judge ruled that Roe would be allowed to pay for a replica of the deer antlers. He cannot display the replica antlers in public or on social media and cannot benefit in any way from them.



An Anne Arundel County man was charged last month with oyster violations after he was stopped by Natural Resources Police at a commercial seafood buyer during a routine inspection.

Christopher Michael Sullivan, 31, of Glen Burnie, received a criminal summons for failing to deliver his harvest to a certified dealer on the same day, failing to have shellfish maintained at a temperature established by the state and disorderly conduct. He also received natural resources citations for reusing state-issued oyster tags and leaving old tags on oyster baskets. A hearing date in Queen Anne’s County District Court has not been set.

An officer saw Sullivan drive into Harris Seafood in Grasonville Feb. 22 with 26 bushels of oysters in the truck bed — more oysters than a single daily license allotment would allow. Sullivan said his harvest included 13 bushels from the previous day, which he kept in a residential refrigerator. Officers seized 15 bushels that had tags from previous days or were untagged and returned them to a closed shellfish area.

An investigation determined Sullivan violated Maryland Department of Health regulations because he was not legally permitted to store oysters overnight.

If found guilty of all charges, Sullivan could be fined as much as \$3,500.

A Baltimore County man is scheduled to appear in Queen Anne’s County District Court April 19 for illegal fishing of striped bass.

Zeferio Mendoza Gonzalez, 33, of Monkton, was one of several fishermen checked at the Romancoke pier Feb. 25 by an officer on routine patrol. The officer noticed two lines tied to the pier railing that led to the water; at the end of the lines were six striped bass.

Gonzalez, who acknowledged the fish were his, received a citation for possessing striped bass out of season.



Bachelor party released Mallard hunt in October with Schrader’s Outdoors.



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“The Last Word”

In Defense of Nonresident Hunters

By Steve Huettner

At first glance I am sure readers are wondering if I suffered a blow to my head falling out a tree stand with a story supporting nonresident hunters. I can see the derogatory comments now accumulating in the inbox.

When talking with fellow hunters regarding the influx from our neighbors to the north, west, and south of Maryland a common theme emerges. Hunters from Pennsylvania over run public lands during early archery season before the Pennsylvania season opens up. Hunters from Delaware are driving up lease prices for waterfowl. Deer hunters from the surrounding states are shooting every 4 point basket buck. Good Sika hunting ground has tripled in price with out of state hunters purchasing every 50 acre parcel of marsh.

The further one travels west across the United States, the more intense the discussion of nonresident hunters gets. Elk, mule deer, antelope, and sheep are animals that every hunter covet in their trophy room. Management zones, preference points, draw odds, special tags, land owners tags, over the counter tags, and non-resident quotas are the vernacular of anyone who wants to hunt out west. It has gotten so complicated that there are now companies who will deal with the aggravation and time with drawing a tag out west for a small fee. You either need a PhD, two decades of time to wait, a serious lucky streak, or a Brinks truck of cash to hunt out west. The same comments heard in

Maryland regarding non-resident hunters are the same out west. The difference being out west there is more emphasis from a local with five years of facial growth, and a large caliber single action strapped to his side.

I have been on both sides of the fence, having hunted all over the state of Maryland the last 25 years, and also having hunted both public and private land in Colorado and Wyoming. All I can say is that if you want to decrease the amount of non-resident hunters, you better be willing to spend a whole lot more money for your resident hunting license. I'm not talking about a five dollar increase either, but paying double or maybe even triple what you are paying. For citizens of a state like Wyoming, I would suggest taping the kid's college fund if you got rid of nonresidents. The reality is that non-residents subsidize the cost of resident licenses.

Nonresidents are a dream come true for state coffers and wildlife agencies. What other business model allows a state to charge anywhere from two to two hundred times more for the same exact thing as a resident. Imagine ordering an item from Colorado and being told you need to pay \$500 more for it because of where you live. Nonresident not only do that, but also do so willingly. Nonresident just pay their money, do not have a say, and take whatever is given. They are an important part of keeping state wildlife agencies in the black.

Most state wildlife agencies do not receive money from a state's general fund. A majority, if not their entire operating budget comes from license sales and matching Pittman Robertson

dollars from the feds for every hunting license sold. Hunters are the income to keep the people that manage wildlife employed, and ensure future generations have the same opportunities as us.

Let's take a look at the numbers from two states, Maryland and Wyoming for 2017. The figures listed below are generated by the US Fish and Wildlife Service (<https://wsfrprograms.fws.gov/subpages/licenseinfo/Natl%20Hunting%20License%20Report%202017.pdf>).

Maryland

Resident License - Monies

Stamps and tags - 123,833

Non Resident Licenses - stamps and tags - 60,567

Resident Fee's - \$3,454,750.00

Non Resident Fee's - \$3,124,711.00

Total License - \$6,579,461.00

Wyoming

Resident License - Monies

Stamps and tags - 127,198

Non Resident Licenses - Stamps and tags - 70,803

Resident Fee's - \$6,270,837.00

Non Resident Fee's - \$18,357,932.00

Total License - \$24,628,769.00

Looking at the numbers for the state of Maryland show that half the amount of non-residents contribute slightly less than what in state hunters contribute. If one were to remove that three million plus dollars from the budget of wildlife and heritage it would need to be made up by residents.

Wyoming is even more addicted to non-resident dollars. Fifty thousands less hunters contribute three times the amount to Wyoming Wildlife then its resident's hunters. Wyoming would hard pressed to find an agency that is responsible for that much land and species, and do it with a 75% reduction in their operating budget.

So next time you get ready to curse the invasion of out of state plates, you may want to actually thank the person for making your hunting so affordable.



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Pan-Roasted Fish Fillets With Herb Butter

A blast of heat in a cast-iron pan and a basting of golden butter does wonders for plain fish fillets. This life-changing method is adopted from a former chef and current fishmonger, Mark Usewicz of Mermaid's Garden in Brooklyn, who also teaches cooking classes in topics like "How to Cook Fish in a New York City Apartment."

INGREDIENTS

2 5- to 6-ounce fish fillets, like black bass, haddock, fluke, striped bass, tilefish, snapper or salmon, 1/2- to 1-inch thick

Salt and ground black pepper

3 tablespoons grapeseed or canola oil

2 tablespoons unsalted butter

2 sprigs fresh thyme, tarragon, chives or another herb

1 tablespoon chopped flat-leaf parsley, optional

Lemon wedges

PREPARATION

Pat fillets dry with a paper towel. Season on both sides with salt and pepper.

Heat a heavy 10-inch nonstick or cast-iron skillet over high heat. When the pan is hot, add the oil. Place the fillets in the pan, skin side down (if applicable), laying them down away from your body. If fillets have skin, press down gently with a spatula for about 20 seconds to prevent curling.

Lower heat to medium and let sizzle until fish is golden and caramelized around edges, about 2 to 3 minutes. Carefully flip fillets and add butter and thyme to pan.

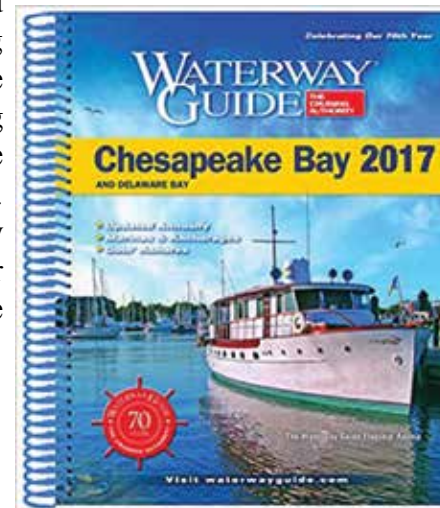
Tilt pan slightly to let the melted butter pool at one end. Use a spoon to baste the fish with the pooled butter. Continue basting until golden all over and cooked through, 45 to 90 seconds more, depending on the thickness of your fish. Serve immediately with chopped parsley (if using) and lemon wedges.

Book of the Month

WATERWAY GUIDE CHESAPEAKE BAY AND DELAWARE BAY 2017 (WATERWAY GUIDE. CHESAPEAKE BAY EDITION)

by LLC Waterway Guide Media

Updated annually, the Waterway Guide Chesapeake Bay 2017 edition is the indispensable cruising companion for boaters exploring the Chesapeake Bay, the Delaware Bay and the Delmarva Atlantic coast from Cape May to Norfolk. The guide features mile-by-mile navigation information, aerial photography with marked routes, marina listings and locator charts, anchorage information and expanded "Goin' Ashore" articles on ports along the way. Helpful cruising data like GPS waypoints, detailed planning maps, distance charts and bridge tables help get cruisers there safely. Flexible spiral binding and heavy laminated covers with bookmarker flaps ensure durability and easy use in the cockpit and at the helm.



Elver fishermen expect high price as stocks dry up

ROCKPORT, Maine (AP) — Members of Maine's baby-eel fishing industry are expecting high prices for the tiny fish this year because of a shortage on the international market, and sushi lovers could end up feeling the pinch.

Maine is the only U.S. state with a significant fishery for baby eels, or elvers. The tiny, translucent eels are sold to Asian aquaculture companies to be raised to maturity for use as food. They're a key piece of the worldwide supply chain for Japanese dishes such as unagi, and some eventually make it back to the U.S.

The elvers are also legally harvested in South Carolina. Massachusetts only has a fishery for older eels, those larger than 9 inches, as do Maryland, Virginia and Delaware.

Elvers sold for about **\$1,300 per pound** at the docks last year, about on par with an ounce of gold, and are already one of the most lucrative fisheries in the country on a per-pound basis. Fishermen in Asia are seeing a poor harvest this year, and European eel fisheries are cracking down on poaching, said state Rep. Jeffrey Pierce, a Dresden Republican and consultant to the elver fishery.

That means Maine's elvers will be in higher demand, and prices could be higher for consumers.

"It was just a bad year in Asia," Pierce said. "With Europe tightening up that market, and us already having tightened up, it should be a good year."

The elver fishing season begins March 22 and ends June 7. They are fished by nets from rivers and streams and sold to dealers in a tightly regulated fishery that uses a swipe-card system to deter poaching. It takes more than 2,000 elvers to make a single pound.

Richie Akizaki, a sushi chef at Benkay in Portland, said he buys his eels from a New York distributor who has told him prices will likely be double the normal amount this summer.

"Eel prices are going to be really high this year. We're having problems with the harvest of baby eels," Akizaki said. "Serious problems with catching baby eels in Japan."

Maine's elver fishery must also abide by a strict quota system set by an interstate commission. The Atlantic States Marine Fisheries Commission limits the fishery to 9,688 pounds of elvers per year and unveiled new rules in February that could increase that total to 11,479 pounds. But an increase won't be approved in time for this fishing year, if it happens at all.

Whether fishermen make quota typically depends on weather and the thaw of Maine's waterways, because they can't harvest elvers from frozen rivers. Fishermen have fallen a few hundred pounds short of quota in two consecutive years.

The fishery is a source of reliable income in rural Maine. Julie Keene, an elver fishermen based in Lubec, is looking forward to a good harvest this year.

"And I'll be able to support my children," she said. "That's what it's about for me."

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Sportsman Event is upon us for the 2018 year. We are excited to announce a BIG event Mother's Day weekend 2018 at the
eMen's Ministry Sportsman Gathering and Expo to be held at Eastern assembly of God in Dundalk on May 11th.

If you have supported us in the past, or participated as a VENDOR, we are reaching out to you again this year for this big main event.
Our special guest will be Steven Chapman, the author of several books such as A Look at Life from a Deer Stand, Another Look at Life
from a Deer Stand, the Deer Stand Devotional and many others.

Steve is a master storyteller and balladeer. Steve and his wife Annie are well-known in the region for many marriage conferences and
other Ministry Outreaches throughout the nation. We are excited to bring them to our gathering this year.

Would you consider being a Donor, Sponsor or being a Vendor at this event?

There are many ways you can help. We need sponsors for

Advertisement Air time Gifts Certificates & Prizes for those who attend.

We do have a significant amount of Youth and Women Hunters who come, so any Sportsman related gifts such as hunting gear fishing
gear including apparel or gift certificates are welcome.

Thank you for your help in the past and we certainly appreciate your help this year!

If you have any questions you can contact:

Rob Shannon 443-600-0286

Russ Tenhoff 410-288-1037



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able to make the trip to Washington.

How many names are on the Wall?

A: As of 2011, the total is now 58,272 names listed on the Wall, as it is in Washington, D.C.

Feel free to take a look at our website, www.travelingwall.us, read about what we have to offer, and please contact us with any questions you might have in regards to the Memorial Wall coming to your town.

Washington County Man Charged in Snake Case

Washington County man known as "VenomMan20" was criminally charged last month by Maryland Natural Resources Police with 23 counts of illegal possession of venomous snakes, animal cruelty and reckless endangerment.

Brandon Joseph Boyles, 28, of Cascade, had six Western Diamondback Rattlesnakes, one seven-foot-long Forest Cobra, one Cape Coral Cobra and two Boomsnangs in his apartment when officers conducted a search. All of the snakes had the potential to deliver a fatal bite to humans.

In 2016 and 2017, under the YouTube screen name "VenomMan20," Boyles posted videos shot in his apartment of him unboxing venomous snakes, including a Gaboon Viper, a Monocle cobra and an Indo-Chinese Spitting Cobra.

An investigator learned that when Boyle left his job at the Catocin Zoo and Wildlife Preserve September he took five venomous snakes, three alligators and a crocodile that he owned. Last November, Boyles turned

over a Dusky Pygmy Rattlesnake to the Maryland Reptile Conservation Center in Montgomery County.

Based on that information, the investigator secured a search warrant for the apartment. The search was conducted Feb. 22.

Officers found snakes housed in plastic bins that could have allowed them to escape into the apartment building. The snakes did not have fresh water in their enclosures and one plastic tub was filthy. They also found two dead cobras in a freezer.

Boyle was charged with 13 counts of illegal possession of venomous snakes, nine counts of animal cruelty and one count of reckless endangerment. He is scheduled to appear in Washington County District Court May 8.



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