

Fishing & Hunting

Journal



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(LOOKING AT 2018 IN THE REARVIEW MIRROR)
- UPPER BAY BASS STOCKING PROGRAM

FREE



14 year old Emma Fannin of Lincoln, Delaware took her first deer while hunting with her Dad during this year's Youth Hunt with a 20 Gauge H & R Slug Gun.



from Wayne Gatling Guide Service...The State says we had a good hatch this year. I have to believe it. Thousands of these little "tikes" in the chum line the last couple of weeks. In 46 years of running charters, I have never seen anything like this. We can't keep bait on the hooks. I don't know how you can catch fish this small with the tackle we're using, but we are.



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“Campbell’s Catch”

Upper Bay Bass Stocking Program

In the year 2000, a huge fish kill occurred in Middle River. Thousands of dead fish including largemouth bass, chain pickerel, yellow perch, crappie, bluegills, carp, gizzard shad and other fish species were washed up on the shore. Something needed to be done. Enter the Upper Bay Bass Stocking Program.

Scott Sewell is President of Middle River Bass Club and has been the Conservation Director for Maryland Bass Nation since 1997. Scott, who owns a home on Middle River, became aware of the fish kill and wanted to do something about it. That’s why in 2001, the Upper Bay Bass Stocking Program was formed by Scott and other alarmed anglers. It was then that Scott began working with the Maryland Department of Natural Resources to help stock largemouth bass in Middle and Gunpowder Rivers.

Here’s how it works. Farm raised largemouth bass are purchased from Frey’s Fish Ponds, a hatchery approved by MD-DNR. Frey’s, located near Philadelphia, specializes in premium sized sport fish. Raising fish is owner Mark Frey’s passion. He graduated from North Carolina State University in 1984 with a degree in Wildlife Biology. Mark drives down to MD from PA in his big, red pickup truck outfitted with two large, aerated fish tanks. Scott and other eager volunteers meet Mark at the Wilson Point Park and Mariner Point Park boat ramps. There the

bass are dip-netted from aerated tanks into 5-gallon buckets while Mark counts them out. Then the bass are poured into the live-wells of the volunteer’s bass boats and transported to the backs of the creeks and released.

On October 18, 2018, Scott and stocking program volunteers helped DNR Fisheries biologist, Joe Love stock over 400 largemouth bass in Middle River. DNR purchased the bass from Mark Frey in 6-8 inch sizes. DNR also released over 100 bass in the Bush River and another 100 in the Patuxent River that day.

This year, M. R. Bass conducted a fund raising campaign to buy large, 10-12 inch bass to augment the DNR stocking. Because they cost more to take care of, the larger bass cost more than the smaller ones. They aren’t cheap. Each adult size fish costs \$15, and just like everything else, the price is going up. Thanks to many generous donors, enough money was raised to buy 200 adult size bass. On November 7, 2018, half of the bass were released in Middle River tributaries and the other half in the tidal section of the Gunpowder.

Largemouth bass populations in the Middle and Gunpowder River systems aren’t what they once were. Bass fishing in those two upper bay tidal rivers was pretty good in 2015. In fact, that summer the Bassmaster Elite Tournament was won in Middle River by pro angler Aaron Martins.

Sadly, in November 2015, a

fish kill essentially wiped out the largemouth bass in Middle River. An investigation by the Maryland Department of the Environment showed toxins produced by an unusual algae bloom were to blame. No evidence of a chemical spill was found. Nevertheless, local anglers were skeptical.

Then yet another devastating fish kill happened in December 2016. This time it affected the tidal Gunpowder River near Rumsey Island. A severe cold front moved in causing an algae bloom which caused oxygen depletion. Thousands of fish died. Upper bay fish kills are caused by many factors, but most are linked to poor water quality, insufficient oxygen levels and/or sudden changes in water temperatures.

The Upper Bay Bass Stocking Program has grown and improved since 2001. Scott now buys fish later in the year since they are bigger and healthier. The fish also survive better when stocked in the

fall because the water is cooler. In the early years of the program some of the stocked bass were tagged to see where they went after release. Tagging was discontinued because of possible infection where the fish’s skin was pierced by tagging

needles. Besides, of the 40 plus tagged bass that were reported, all of them stayed in Middle River.

The fund raising campaign for upper bay bass stocking goes on year round. Every dime donated is spent on largemouth bass. Special thanks to local businesses and community members who generously donated to the stocking program including the Maryland Bass Nation, Marco Club, Essex/Middle River Fishing Club, Perry Hall Fishing Club, Rotary Club of Middle River, Baltimore County Marine Trades Association, Baltimore Boating Center, Joppatowne Marina and others.

The goal for 2019 is \$10,000. Donations can be accepted anytime. A generous donation would make a great Christmas gift. Checks can be made out to Upper Bay Stocking Program and mailed to M. R. Bass, P.O. Box 18002, Middle River, MD 21220 or contact Scott directly at 443-909-9786.



Scott Sewell releasing largemouth bass in Middle River on October 18, 2018. Photo by Tim Campbell.

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Canada Geese
David A. Maass*

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FAITH OF OUR FATHERS

A word from our Pastor-

Miraculous was the birth of Jesus. Trying to understand it with human perspective is impossible. However, the Virgin birth is like the resurrection. It is a miracle, and miracles cannot be proven. They simply exist. The star that guided the Wise Men also was a miracle. No other star has done or ever will do what that star did that night.

We have a rich heritage in Christmas. It is a time of reflection on the past and hope for the future. Christmas has its own sights, sounds and smells that no other time has. The gathering of friends and the warming yule-tide spirit of families cause this holiday to be so special. However, we need to remember that "Jesus is the Reason for the Season." His virgin birth is the miracle of Emmanuel - "God with us".

My wish for you is a Merry Christmas, and a prosperous New Year. May the Christ Child make his light to shine in your heart this holiday season.

MEL BRINDLEY Pastor
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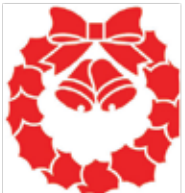
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Will Bridges with this his Talbot County buck sure made his Dad proud.



Jim Busick is all smiles with this nice buck. Photo courtesy of Denton Rod and Tackle.



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“Tackle Box Tim”

Fishing Prospective

Weather-wise, 2018 was one of the worst years for fishermen. We started out with a very rainy spring. In late July, torrential rains sent a sea of debris through the Conowingo Dam that inundated the Chesapeake for weeks. From my recollection, we had about 7 weeks of normalcy in June until that fateful storm in late July. From that point all the way through November, Mother Nature played the foil. Like me, most fishermen count heavily on weekends to go fishing. Many trips were negated by the rains or wind-pushed high pressure systems that followed.

There were several times this year when I did get out, the fish were not cooperative. In May, Randy Yarnall and I found a minimal catch of bass on the current-swipe Susquehanna River and Flats. In June, bass did not bite in Middle River. Was I on the wrong pattern or have the bass simply not recovered from the 2015 fish kill. There were even times when my favorite perch patterns did produce much. On the upper bay, the late summer weather patterns stayed well into fall. Couple that with a quick cool down and the striper fishery was put in a funk. Water temps dropped 19 degrees in a two-

week span. All this being said, it does put fishing as a whole, into prospective.

When we first started fishing, we didn't know what we didn't know. For the most part we just took it in stride that the fish simply were not biting. We didn't know seasonal bass patterns. We didn't know about natural current effecting the tides. We weren't schooled in knowing what lures work best for rockfish throughout the year. We didn't know what depths to look for perch in the heat of summer. Now, armed with decades of fishing knowledge, it's hard to accept days when the bite gets tough or non-existent.

However, having knowledge can be our downfall. Yes, we have it, but we don't know it all. Yet it's up to us to use what we know to figure out how, where, and with what to catch fish. Randy has a saying that sums this up perfectly, “Do the best you can, with what you've got, where you are.” And if that doesn't work, go someplace else and try something a little different. Then, repeat his theorem.

That is what we did that day in May. Nothing was working for us in Furnace Bay or Swan Creek. Save for a few small bass we had no pattern to work with. We salvaged our

day at Garrett Island. Randy found the right depth and cover to present a Texas-rigged Rage Craw plastic baits for largemouth and smallmouth bass. Middle River was a totally different story. I tried everything I know about fishing the river to no avail. There, I just accepted defeat.

When it comes to white perch, I really get dejected when the catch is low. Not finding them is one thing; but with the depth finder showing massive schools, it's hard to accept that they just won't bite. One this day, and in this case, it meant that my brother Doug and I only caught a couple dozen in 3 1/2 hours versus the hoards that we “should have” caught. Typically, jigging tandem tiny flukes has us pulling plenty of perch over the gunwale. They load up the ultralight rods and fight hard. It's befuddling that I had to figure out how to get perch to bite. No matter the tide that day, dead-sticking the rigs was the only way to get the perch to bite.

And thank goodness for catfish. I never thought I'd utter those words for all their slim and careful handling requirements. As much as these negatives exist, they provided a lot of hard-fought catches this year. In many places where I target rockfish, catfish were in the mix, or often the dominant or only species.

On Columbus Day, Tom Gittins and I went to the Bush River looking for the light tackle rockfish bite. Late summer weather patterns hadn't loosened their grip. If it wasn't for catfish, including one 15-pounder that Tom caught, we would have been at a loss. No, we didn't take chicken livers

or stink baits along. These cats struck the rattle traps and naked chatter baits we were casting for rockfish.

Winding down the year, I headed to the Patapsco on Veteran's Day and the federal holiday that recognizes it the following day. Wouldn't you know it, Mother Nature brought in a gully washer the Friday before and a front with high winds the next day. I should know better than to get my hopes up on fall day after a cold front blows through. Long story short, on Veteran's Day, Rick Haber caught a throwback rockfish and a lost yellow perch in the river out from a Sparrow's Point shoreline. I was left holding the skunk bag.

The next day, Randy Yarnall was along. I made him no promises about the catch. Here again, catfish saved our day in the river by choking down our rattle traps. We each had the elusive striper on momentarily, only to have it dislodge from the hook. Hoping to save the day (so to speak), I ran into Bear Creek. I brought along ultralight rods to catch perch—white perch, yellow perch, any perch—a plan that had failed the day before. I hit a different shoreline this time and found yellow perch ... and big ones.

It's funny how yellow perch can bring fishing into prospective. This was the species that sparked my interest in fishing decades ago, when I didn't know what I didn't know: theories about tides, weather patterns, water temperature, and fishing patterns. These Bear Creek yellow perch not only gave me prospective for the season, but an appreciation for what I did catch this year.



Tackle Box Tim shows he yellow perch that put the season in prospective.

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“Tuna The Tide”

Chesapeake Bay Rockfishing (Looking at 2018 in the Rearview Mirror)

By Captain Mark Galasso

The year 2018 Rockfish Season will go down as a rollercoaster ride for most Chesapeake Bay fisherman. And even though mid Bay fisherman fared pretty well we too had our ups and downs. And as you read this compare it to what you might have seen in your adventures.

In April we started out with a trophy season that was probably the worst since the season was opened back in 1996. Few boats were lucky enough to catch their limit of one fish per person. In fact most charter boats averaged less than 2 fish per day. That coupled with bad weather prompted many boats to cancel days while the big coastal fish were in the Bay, usually less than three weeks of fishing. The big concern was that there just weren't many fish available. However, the YOY index (Young of Year) data that was just released showed that the spawning success of the fish that did show up was above average. Perhaps it was just a matter of timing. Good for the fish and bad for the fisherman.

New regulations were put into place lowering Maryland's Bay Striper size limit from 20 inches down to 19 inches. As a conservation measure it became a requirement that when fishing for Striped Bass with bait a nonoffset circle hook would be required. These two changes met with mixed reviews. Most dead bait fisherman accepted the changes, the chummers as well as fisherman fishing with soft crabs. However, liveliners had strong reservations about trying to hook stripers with the same circle hooks. In my humble opinion I liked the inch drop in size. It didn't make much difference in the summer chumming season but it did help a lot in the fall jigging and trolling. As for circle hooks, used properly, I believe they really helped cut down on gut hooked fish. We found larger, size 5 and 6 light wire hooks fished on tight lines not free spooled really helped. It wasn't bullet proof though and we still gut hooked some fish. Though we didn't liveline this year I don't see how circle hooks can be fished with live bait. The fact is you need to pull the hook out of the Spot to hook the Striper. And if you pull the hook out of the Spot with any force it will just pull the hook out of the Stripers mouth. And the other fact is most of the fish that eat a whole Spot are keepers anyway. If I made the rules circle hooks wouldn't be required to fish live bait. The caveat being that there is no catch and release while Spot fishing. You catch your limit your done. Same with chumming. There were plenty

of Catfish out there this year. Go fish for them.

This summer in the upper Bay we had a great chumming and live lining bite. Anyone who went North of Swan Point in July and August caught plenty of fish. That's great. The problem was that the fish were concentrated in just a few spots and everyone knew it. Ten years ago there were lots of those spots up and down the Bay. Most boats wouldn't travel more than 15 miles to fish. Now when a spot like Hodges or Brannock's Bay get hot boats travel from as much as 30 miles to get there. So that puts ten times the pressure on the same number of fish.

As good as the fishing was up north of the Bridge it was that bad below the Bay Bridge. It wasn't until September that decent numbers of fish started trickling down the Bay spreading out the fleet. Weather was once again a factor. Not so much for the availability of fish but for the fishability of the Bay. Two major storms dumped massive quantities of fresh water and debris into the Bay. At times it was almost unfishable. I'm sure this not only affected the salinity but the dissolved oxygen as well. Large numbers of dead fish could be seen floating close to the chummers. But many fish were seen floating in areas where there was little fishing pressure. And the fact was most of the dead fish were the 20 to 30 inch fish that MOST people wouldn't throw back.

The fall was back to some tough times. Good numbers of fish showed up in the mouth of the Choptank. The Eastern Bay was decent as well. The Chester River, usually our fall hot spot, was a virtual dead zone when it came to Rock. One day in late August we saw three dead Black Drum floating outside the Kent Narrows. Could it be that the second major runoff event this summer created a nutrient load that hurt the Chester? It happened during a Northwest wind pushing a lot of the debris towards the mouth of the river. It may also be likely that so many fish were taken off Hodges and Tolchester this summer that coupled with the bad water there just weren't any Chester River fish left by October.

Recently a group of fisherman got together to discuss the 2018 season in Annapolis. They were a mixed bag of commercial, charter and recreational fisherman. This is GREAT. We all need to figure things out to create a future for all of us. The fact is each state should do the same thing. And it should be taken to the next step. A working sub group should be formed to talk about OUR interests in the fishery. I was reading a post on a fishing site from Massachusetts the other evening. Do you realize that many New England fisherman feel we shouldn't have a trophy season and a 28 inch

size limit in Chesapeake Bay? Even though Massachusetts catches 50 times the number of coastal spawners that Maryland catches. Did you know that Charter, recreational and commercial fleets up and down the coast want to open the EEZ (Exclusive Economic Zone) to fishing for Stripers? And in fact a Politician representing Long Island, New York has already made his intention to introduce legislation regarding opening up the EEZ public. Really.

And the white Elephant in the room is the quality of Chesapeake Bay's water. It's obvious Maryland can't do it alone. We are the nursery for over 75 percent of the east coast's Striped Bass. But the nursery has problems. And as long as our waters can't support a healthy nursery the Chesapeake stock of Striped Bass will always be on the verge of problems and the population will always be dependent on varying weather patterns. Weather patterns that are becoming more and more unpredictable.

So what CAN we do? Educate fisherman up and down the coast about the fishery in general so we all know how we affect it. If you are catch and release fishing do it under certain parameters always keeping conservation in mind. There should be no commercial fishing for fish over 36 inches. Maryland waterman aren't allowed to keep them. Why should anyone else? Open Maryland and Virginia's general fishing season May 1st and run until December 1st. Get the dead zones under control. And that means get the algae blooms under control. Which means either an explosion in numbers of Oysters and Menhaden or controlling the runoff of the Susque-



hanna River. I know the Bay states commission is SLOWLY working on both, but if we have a hard winter it will mean a lot of spring runoff from up north in 2019. And last but not least. Keep the EEZ off limits to fishing for Striped Bass! Hard winters not only contribute to heavy spring runoffs but they concentrate the coast population offshore where they would be easy targets. The old one two punch our favorite fish just can't survive.

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George Donn of Brentwood, MD; pickerel caught on the Choptank River & The Snakehead caught on the Potomac River; while fishing with friend & neighbor Bill Graham.

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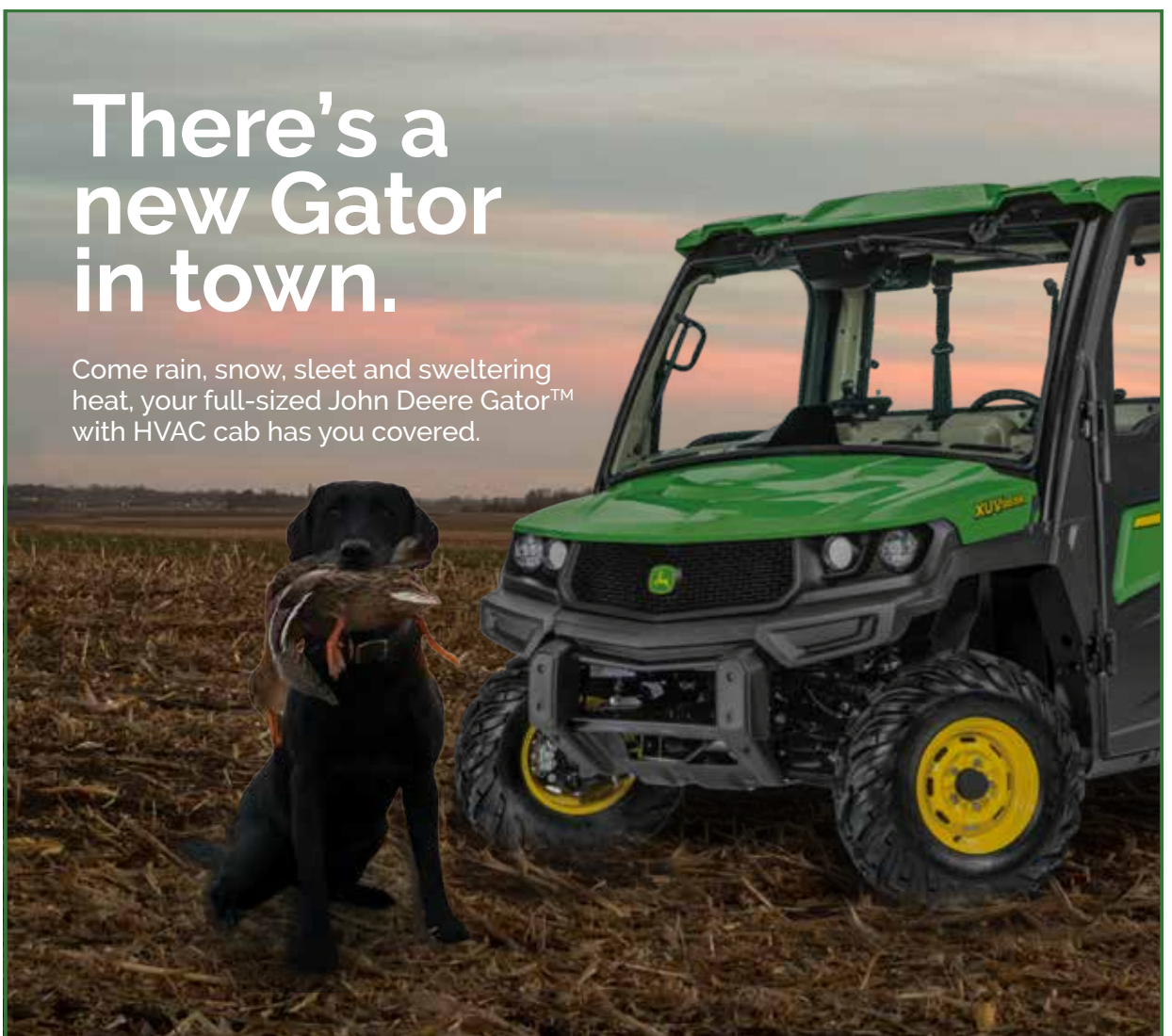
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Colin Clerval with his grandfather Brian Miller harvested in Queen Anne's County 11/11/18.



Ronnie Lee Swartz pictured above has learned a lot about hunting by the expert in the family, his father.

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Jen Clark November bow harvested in Caroline County with Schrader's Outdoors.



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Justin Ashe with his youth day buck taken on 11-10-2018 Talbot county.

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Brian Councill*
www.councillcharters.com
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Mike Mashino and his 2 year old son with his awesome bowkill. Photo courtesy of CJ Fegan.

Maryland Reports Early Season Deer, Turkey Hunt Results

Harvest Tempered by Unusually Warm and Wet Weather

The Maryland Department of Natural Resources announced today that hunters harvested 18,805 deer during the early portion of the archery and muzzleloader seasons.



The harvest was a 16 percent decline from last year's official harvest of 22,250, which was largely attributable to abnormally warm and wet weather that caused poor hunting conditions.

The two-month harvest included 9,695 deer taken during the archery season and 8,967 harvested during the October muzzleloader season. An additional 143 deer were reported during managed hunts.

Hunters harvested 631 antlered and 557 antlerless sika deer as part of the total.

Hunters harvested 683 deer on the Sundays open to archery hunting during the period, accounting for 7 percent of the total archery harvest.

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Kent Island Fishermen's

9th Annual Fishing Flea Market

**Where: Kent Island American Legion Post #278
800 Romancoke Road
Stevensville, MD**

(1.5 miles south on Rt. 8 off of Rt. 50)

When: Saturday (Jan. 26th, 2019)

from 8AM to 4PM

Sunday (Jan. 27th, 2019) from 8AM to 3PM

Admission: \$3.00 (16 yrs. & under Free)

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getting ready for the 2019 fishing season!**

Contacts: Dave Stith: 410-979-0715 / Islander655@atlanticbb.net

Tracy DePasquale: 410-643-7625 / depas9@verizon.net



Randy Flannery (L) guided Peter McElinney from Mass. to this heavy Whitetail that dressed out at 230 lbs. Photo courtesy of Widerness Escape Outfitters.



Corbin Goles bagged his first and second deer in Caroline county.

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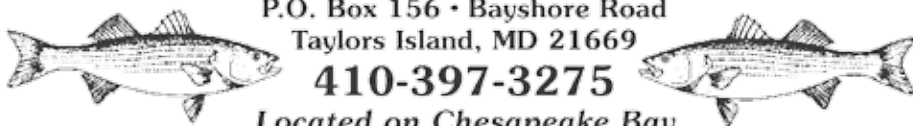


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Crazy Kansas unicorn buck killed by Matt McCormick.



Matt Hargrove from St. Michaels, Md traveled to Victoria, Seychelles to catch this impressive Giant Trevally



Marc Bridges from Tilghman Island bagged this nice Wahoo in St. Thomas USVI

The Kentucky Department of Fish and Wildlife Resources posted a photo last week on Facebook of an unusual harvest: A buck with two heads.

One head was attached to the recently shot buck. The other was decomposing and tangled in the other head's antlers.

"It's unclear exactly what circumstances led up to this buck's carrying around another set of antlers and part of a decomposing carcass. Regardless, it was truly a rare harvest," the Thursday post read.

Hunter Bob Long of Marshall County, Kentucky, bagged the deer the previous weekend, the hunter told KFVS-TV, Cape Girardeau, Missouri.

Sgt. Tony Dunker with Kentucky Fish and Wildlife told that he suspects the decaying head belonged to a deer who had been dead for weeks after locking antlers in a fight. Ballard County, where the deer was shot, is in far western Kentucky where Illinois and Missouri meet, about 30 miles southeast of Cape Girardeau.

Dunker thinks that the bucks fought over territory or mates. After one died, its body decayed to the point where the head came loose, according to Dunker's account.

"He packed it around a little while until Mr. Long came along," Dunker said of the deer and the extra head. Residents in the area previously had spotted the buck alive with the decaying head in its antlers and taken pictures.





“Montana Grant”



By Grant Soukup

New Gun Fun!

So, you want to buy a new deer hunting rifle or gun. With so many choices, laws, prices, and accessories, where do you begin? Keep in mind that guns can make great holiday gifts. My favorite 30-06 was a Christmas gift from my wife years ago. The Ruger #1 single shot was a special and perfect choice that has served me well for decades.

One of the first steps is to find a hunting or shooting mentor. Shooting is not a “do it yourself” proposition. It is safer and more fun to have an instructor, or experienced Mentor, show you the ropes. Their priceless experience and your enthusiasm will help you become the marksman you wish to be.

Explore what type of rifle or gun you are looking for. If you are planning to deer hunt with a rifle, then look at popular calibers and choices. There are many choices for every budget. Some hunting requires a certain caliber, gauge, or style. Do your homework before you pull out the wallet.

Buying a used gun is not a bad way to go. A hunting rifle with all the accessories can be a big investment, so do your research carefully. There are many Gunsmiths, gun shops, Shooting Clubs and internet connections that can help you stay on target.

The truth is, whatever firearm you purchase, will only perform as well as you can shoot it! The average deer hunter will only be hunting in the field a few weeks each season. We all want perfect accuracy. No one chooses to miss. There are no short cuts to buying an accurate rifle. The key is practice. Once you buy a new rifle, own it. You will improve accuracy with each trigger pull.

What type of rifle offers the best accuracy? More deer have been shot with a 30-30 lever action rifle than any other caliber or action. This style rifle is usually inexpensive and reliable and is more than enough rifle for the novice hunter. Most hunting shots in the eastern deer woods are less than 100 yards! Quite frankly, a practiced shooter using iron sights can fill their tag each season. A 30-30 can be effective out to 250 yards with practice and the newer ammunition.

Bolt action rifles are very popular and accurate but many of the

newer semi-automatic rifles offer excellent accuracy and follow up shots that don't require you to take your eye off the scope. Whatever rifle you decide upon, make sure it is SAFE and legal! Used guns may need a qualified Gunsmith to give it a good inspection and proper cleaning.

The single shot rifle is also an interesting choice for the “Ethical Hunter”. Normally when I hunt with this rifle, I only take 3 rounds with me. The first round is for the critter, the second is if I need a follow up shot, and the third for me if I miss the first two. What this implies is that I pride myself on a one shot, one kill philosophy. This also means that I am planning to eat the meat that I harvest. More bullet holes mean less consumable meat. This one accurate shot philosophy is the result of many shooting sessions at the bench and in the field.

There are also many caliber choices to explore. Specialty calibers match specific shooting needs. Maybe you are looking for a lighter caliber with less recoil. A long distance caliber has different powder and bullet characteristics. The 30 caliber range is best suited for most hunting applications. These bullets comfortably give great range, accuracy and knockdown power.

Recoil can also be reduced with a custom recoil pad. Simply use a quality slip on pad that fits snugly to your rifle butt. A permanently mounted and fitted recoil pad is even a better idea. A Muzzle Brake or barrel porting occurs at the end of the rifles barrel. Holes are drilled into the barrel to allow some gases to release to reduce recoil and help steady the shot.

Rifle slings are essential for the accurate shooter. Not only can you

carry your rifle comfortably and safely, the sling allows you to shoot more accurately. By using a Hasty Sling shooting style, the marksman can wrap into the sling allowing for a more secure, stable and controlled shot.

When you buy your new rifle, you will also need some additional gear. Make sure you get a protective hard gun case. Many folks buy a soft cloth gun case and wonder why their rifle accuracy is inconsistent. Your cased rifle will get bumped, dropped, shoved and hit more times than you will ever know. The hard case does a better job of protecting your investment and accuracy of a tuned in rifle.

Scopes improve accuracy! Select a scope that meets your needs. If you are hunting in forests, you may not need a high powered scope. Scopes gather light and make the images you see appear brighter in low light situations. A variable scope allows you to

adjust the magnification. Most hunters set their scope on 4power. This will help you to safely and quickly identify your target and maintain a clear field of view. In some situations, law requires you to only shoot an antlered deer with a certain size, branched, or length of antler tine. The scope is essential for you to examine your target carefully before you pull the trigger.

Scopes must be securely mounted to the rifle. This is the job of an experienced rifleman or Gunsmith. Using the right tools is important. Screwheads are slotted and fit a certain size driver. Power tools are not essential unless any new holes are to be drilled. Lock tight is a must on all screw threads. This adhesive keeps the scope mounts from coming loose due to vibration.

The great thing about shooting and selecting a new firearm, is that you will never have enough fun, time, or skill. Shooting is a lifelong perishable, obsession that must be practiced. If you do not practice your shooting skills, you will lose them. All you will end up with is a loaded gun safe that your wife, husband or friends will need to sell at the end. Use it or lose it!

Keep your arsenal safe and secure. Build or buy a secure weapons storage cabinet or closet. Ammunition needs to also be secured safely. Organize your weapons so that you can enjoy them easily. Even cleaning, reloading, refinishing, and other shooter skills become great fun. Don't forget to mentor and share your knowledge with others.

Shoot safe, hunt hard, aim small, miss small!

Montana Grant

For more Montana Grant, target him at www.montanagrantsfishing.com.



Don Travis traveled to New Mexico to bag this nice Coues Deer.



Coastal Report

By Capt. Mark Sampson

This first week of November marked an anniversary for me in that it was a year ago that I had a “little” accident while working on my boat in the boatyard. She had just been hauled out that morning and at the end of the day I needed to go aboard but instead of using a ladder to ascend 8-feet up into the cockpit I elected to climb up the side of the boat. A little precarious “yes,” but something I’ve done many times before. This time, however, my hands slipped as I was going up and I came down hard enough on my left leg to shatter the femur. That’s the “thigh bone,” the largest bone in the body and not easy to break unless you do something really STUPID! Lucky for me, after an ambulance ride, a couple nights in Shock-Trauma, and a couple months of rehab all the healthcare providers were able to put Humpty Dumpty back together again - at least 95% of him anyway.

Last month my boat was once again out of the water for the annual boatyard maintenance stuff to help her be ready for next season. For a couple weeks I spent most of the daylight hours doing a lot of sanding, painting, epoxying, and all the other fun stuff that goes along with keeping 40-foot wooden hull afloat. Last year’s little mishap didn’t make me gun-shy about working on a boat, but now that I’m even more aware about how ugly things can get with just the slightest mistake, you can bet that I work with a little more caution these days - I don’t need to go through al THAT again!

Working in a boatyard isn’t inherently “dangerous”, but there are certain aspects of it that if you’re not careful could come along and bite you on the butt (or the leg) if you’re not careful. You can trust me when I say that the “falling thing” is something everyone needs to pay attention to. Falling off a boat in water can be bad for many different reasons, but you also might get away with just an embarrassing bath and a ruined smart phone Fall off a boat that’s out of the water and you’ll quickly learn how hard the ground can be! Much of the work done to boats while they’re “on the hard” involves topside work that has them crawling all over the vessels from bow to stern and up on the towers and bridges. Waxing, polishing, sanding painting, with one or two hands on a tool

or a brush it doesn’t leave much else to hold on with. My feet were only about four feet off the pavement when I came down, the average boat on a trailer is higher than that. Walk around most boatyards and you’ll see folks working 10-20 (or more) feet up with nothing to break their fall but the ground below. Safety harnesses are not necessarily a practical solution to the hazard, but in some cases they could be. At the very least, those working on boats that are out of the water should keep ever mindful of the perils of one misplaced step or handhold. And by all means - use a ladder when you’re going up the side of a boat!

Another concern is the stability of the boat while it’s out of the water. Particularly if you’re working under the hull the last thing you want is for the boat to be improperly blocked and fall over. It’s not unheard of for boats that are chocked on cinderblocks to fall over when the ground under the blocks sinks from the weight of the boat or even when the blocks themselves crack. When a boat is properly blocked up there should be absolutely zero movement in it and all the blocks or jack-stands must be level and sitting on solid ground. Be extra careful to whenever you or someone else is driving around a boatyard because even if your vessel is properly blocked it could be really bad if someone backed into it with a vehicle and downright tragic if someone was underneath when it happened.

More than anything else, sanding and painting is what boatyards are all about and in most cases the paint that’s either being applied or removed is some pretty toxic stuff. Designed to hold up under extremely harsh conditions, most boat paints are a toxic mix of chemicals that you do not want to have on or in your body, because even if it doesn’t whack you out today, long term exposure to much of it can lead to real problems later. Folks need to protect themselves from breathing paint and solvent fumes and make every effort to avoid breathing any dust from paint while they are sanding it. Paper dusk masks will only take care light sanding dust. Quality respirators with replaceable filter cartridges that fit snugly over the mouth and nose offer much better protection from caustic dust and fumes. Ensuring that work is being done in a well ventilated area can greatly help minimize the risk of inhaling too much bad stuff. For outside work this not usually a problem when working in cabins, engine rooms, or if the boat is inside an enclosure it might be wise to add ventilating fans or blowers.

The need for eye protection when using power tools is a no-brainer that should never be over-

looked, but not too many people seem to worry so much about their hearing. The long term effects of whining sanders, saws and grinders takes its toll on our hearing leaving us with a constant ringing in our ears and perpetual “What did you say?” in our conversations.

Most will agree that “working” on our boats is seldom as fun as actually “using” our boats. The greasy, dirty, exhausting, knuckle-busting “work” part of boating that we do while our vessels are in the yard can be drudgery enough without the added risk of physical harm that can occur when we fail to protect ourselves from the many hazards from the job at hand. When we’re young we feel bulletproof and often don’t worry much about the long-term effects from anything. So a little lightheadedness when we’re working with epoxy paints, blue paint-dust on our handkerchief when we blow our nose, or ringing in our ears at the end of the day might be considered as “all a part of the boating experience” to the young and foolish. We take care of our boats so they’ll be around for a long time - we need to do the same for ourselves so we’ll be around long enough to enjoy the fruits of our efforts!



Capt. Roland with a 50 lb wahoo caught in the Sea of Cortez!

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& more with Captain Mark Sampson
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Matt Letts and his son Dominic tagged teamed with Brian Councill and his son Jacob where they both bagged this beautiful 8 point bucks. this was Dominic's first and Jacobs impressive shot at 85 yards out. Both bagged out of enclosed Muddy stands purchased at Molly's Sporting Goods.



Gregory Andrews with his first backyard buck. Photo courtesy of his dad, Greg Andrews.



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	10:15AM	Offshore	Capt. Mark Hoos - Marli Sportfishing OCMD
	11:30AM	Flounder Fishing	Capt. Jeff Grimes - Hel Bent Charters OCMD
	12:45PM	Winter Fishing	Lenny Rudow - FishTalk Magazine
	2:00PM	Light Tackle	Shawn Kimbro - Author/Accomplished Fisherman

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“The Last Word”

On Foot

By Steve Huettner

Deer hunting and how we hunt deer has evolved and changed over the last thirty years. The majority of hunters spends their hunting time in a tree stand, elevated tower, ground blind or hermetically sealed box waiting for deer to cross their path. From a hunting perspective it makes sense. Stationary hunting limits disturbing deer, controls your scent dispersal, alerting deer to your presence, and keeping them on your hunting property.

Like many hunters I spend more than my fair share perched 16 feet in the air waiting for deer. Hours though spent staring at the same the same piece of ground waiting, waiting and waiting lead to boredom. One can only play so many hands of solitaire on those days when the deer aren't cooperating. Over the last few years I've decided to mix things up and hunt with my feet. If figured if our early ancestors could kill woolly mammoths on their feet with a pointy stick, I had a chance against a whitetail.

I was talking with a friend who spent ten minutes telling me why he thought deer drives were not sporting. In the same breath he told me how picked up another pallet of corn and a captain's chair for his blind. Deer drives, when done correctly in my humble opinion, are an art form and can put venison in the freezer.

After opening weekend of firearms season, any deer remaining have been hunted hard since September with bow, crossbow, muzzleloader, shotgun and rifle. They become a different type of animal. Sometimes a deer drive is just what's needed and shake things up. Deer drives are the complete opposite of stand hunting. Drives involve hunters working together, formulating a plan, and executing it. Walking, looking, listening, positioning, safety, and good shooting are all pieces of the deer drive puzzle. When a deer drive works its fantastic feeling, and when it doesn't and all you see are white tails waving goodbye it's humbling.

Getting a deer to break cover, head to a location where a fellow hunter is, hearing the shot, and walking up on a downed deer is something every hunter should experience. Over the last several years we have done deer drives during late muzzleloader season, adding a challenge and forcing the hunter to bear down and concentrate.

Still hunting is a method a hunting I look forward to doing a few times a year when the conditions are right. I look forward to a solid soaking rain, followed by a front the next day brining a solid wind of 15-20 mph. The rain helps deaden the noise of walking on leaves (think walking on a bed of cornflakes) and the solid steady wind helps keep your scent blowing in one direction in your face and helps mask your movement.

Getting on ground level and slow-

ly covering ground is an intimate and challenging way to hunt. The joy of still hunting is walking twenty to thirty yards, stopping behind cover, and observing all of your surroundings for fifteen to twenty minutes. It is amazing how much you see from the ground and how your perspective changes. Trails, rubs, scrapes, and beds you might not see from an elevated stand all of a sudden are staring you in the face.

Crouched behind a tree, binoculars in hand, you spot a doe raising her head from her bed to nibble on some leaves while testing the wind. Looking at the terrain ahead, you try and figure out a potential route

to close the distance. You hope you will find a shooting lane when you get to your chosen spot. Patiently waiting, hoping that the wind stays true, and the doe will rise from her bed giving you a shot.

Regardless of the end result, time spent hunting on the ground will be something you will not forget and will have you doing again when the conditions are right.

As the season slowly starts to draw to the end and woods are filled with fewer hunters, do yourself a favor and climb down out of the stand and put your feet on terra firma. I can guarantee that you will wonder why you waited so long.



Kyle Jernigan with his Southern Md. 166" rut bowkill. Photo courtesy of CJ Fegan

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DUCK AND ANDOUILLE GUMBO

For his take on Cajun gumbo, chef Justin Devillier of La Petite Grocery in New Orleans uses rendered duck fat in the roux instead of butter and quartered ducks in lieu of the classic chicken. In this recipe, we've called for only duck legs, which stay tender during a low-and-slow cooking process and won't run the risk of drying out like breast meat.



SERVES 8-10 4 HOURS, 20 MINUTES

Ingredients

8 duck legs, fat trimmed, thighs and drumsticks separated

1 large yellow onion, finely chopped

3 cloves garlic, finely chopped

12 sprigs thyme

1 sprig sage

1 cup plus 2 tbsp. (5 oz.) all-purpose flour

2 tbsp. hot sauce

2 tbsp. sweet paprika

1 tbsp. cayenne

1 tbsp. Worcestershire sauce

1 lb. andouille sausage, cut crosswise into 1/4-inch-thick coins

1 lb. okra, cut crosswise into 1/3-inch-thick coins

Kosher salt and freshly ground black pepper

Cooked white rice, for serving

In a 12-inch skillet, place the duck thighs skin-side-down in a single layer and then place the skillet over medium heat. Cook the thighs until golden brown on the bottom, about 40 minutes. Flip the thighs and cook until browned on the opposite side, 5 minutes more. Transfer the thighs to a plate and cook the drumsticks in the skillet, skin side down, until golden brown, 20 minutes. Flip the drumsticks and cook until browned on the other side, 5 minutes. Transfer all the duck pieces to a plate and pour the duck fat into a measuring cup. Set 1 cup fat aside to make the roux and save the remaining fat for another use or discard. Return the skillet to medium heat, add the onion and garlic and cook, stirring to scrape up the browned bits from the bottom of the pan, until the onions are soft and beginning to caramelize, about 5 minutes. Remove the skillet from the heat and let cool. Meanwhile, tie the thyme and sage sprigs together with kitchen twine.

In a large saucepan, heat the 1 cup reserved duck fat over medium-low. Add the flour and cook, stirring constantly, until the roux turns dark brown and smells toasty, about 50 minutes. Scrape the cooled onions into the roux along with the hot sauce, paprika, cayenne, and Worcestershire and stir until evenly coated. Add the duck pieces and tied herbs to the pan along with the andouille, okra, and 10 cups water and bring to a boil. Reduce the heat to maintain a simmer and cook, stirring occasionally, until the duck meat is falling off the bone, about 2 hours. To serve, season the gumbo with salt and pepper and serve in bowls with rice.

Book of the Month

THE MEATEATER

From the host of the television series and podcast MeatEater, the long-awaited definitive guide to cooking wild game, including fish and fowl, featuring more than 100 new recipes

"As a MeatEater fan who loves to cook, I can tell you that this book is a must-have."—Andrew Zimmern

When Steven Rinella hears from fans of his MeatEater show and podcast, it's often requests for more recipes. One of the most respected and beloved hunters in America, Rinella is also an accomplished wild game cook, and he offers recipes here that range from his takes on favorite staples to more surprising and exotic meals.

Big Game: Techniques and strategies for butchering and cooking all big game, from whitetail deer to moose, wild hogs, and black bear, and recipes for everything from shanks to tongue.

Small Game: How to prepare appetizers and main courses using common small game species such as squirrels and rabbits as well as lesser-known culinary treats like muskrat and beaver.

Waterfowl: How to make the most of available waterfowl, ranging from favorites like mallards and wood ducks to more challenging birds, such as wild geese and diving ducks.

Upland Birds: A wide variety of butchering methods for all upland birds, plus recipes, including Thanksgiving wild turkey, grilled grouse, and a fresh take on jalapeño poppers made with mourning dove.

Freshwater Fish: Best practices for cleaning and cooking virtually all varieties of freshwater fish, including trout, bass, catfish, walleye, suckers, northern pike, eels, carp, and salmon.

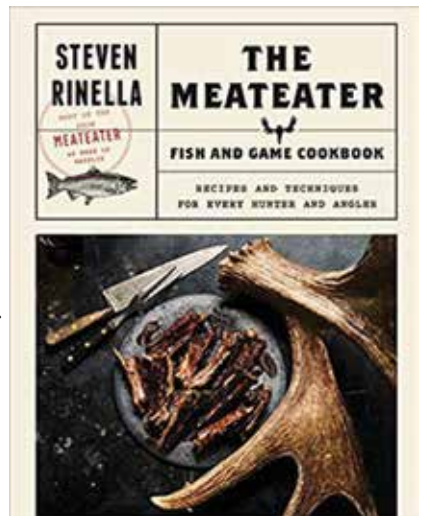
Saltwater Fish: Handling methods and recipes for common and not-so-common species of saltwater fish encountered by anglers everywhere, from Maine to the Bahamas, and from Southern California to northern British Columbia.

Everything else: How to prepare great meals from wild clams, crabs, crayfish, mussels, snapping turtles, bullfrogs, and even sea cucumbers and alligators.

Whether you're cooking outdoors or in the kitchen, at the campfire or on the grill, this cookbook will be an indispensable guide for both novices and expert chefs.

"Rinella goes to the next level and offers some real deal culinary know-how to make sure that your friends and family will dig what you put on the table."—Guy Fieri

"[A] must-read cookbook for those seeking a taste of the wild."—Publishers Weekly (starred review)



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MISC.

Looking to join duck hunting group or obtain a lease for same. Please call Richard. 410.375 8023

Wanted: membership in exclusive deer hunting club with 3-4 members. Will pay top dollar! 609-661-9873

For Sale, 1950s era brick and stone Hunting Lodge, 4500 sq.ft. 4 bed, 4 bath, lg gameroom with walnut walls and ceiling, 180 acres PRIME Sika deer hunting, 7 large ponds 3w/bass and crappie, multiple fields, pine woods, marsh w/1 mile + shoreline on Raccoon Creek for multiple waterfowl blinds Dorchester County Maryland, many other amenities. Must see if this is up your alley. Contact Wayne - 410-924-0673

Prime Sika/turkey/waterfowl Dorchester County properties for sale or possible lease for 2018 -2019 seasons.

15 acs, older house, 2 waterfowl ponds, pines, marsh, Sika, Whitetail and Turkey. 2651 Lakesville Crapo Rd. \$74,000. Contact Wayne - 410-924-0673.

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Wanted hunting property to lease call ray 410-370-9885

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Local man looking for farms and acreage to lease for upcoming hunting season for waterfowl deer turkey 410- 714- 2200

5 - Waterfowl shoreline blind sites for lease on Raccoon Creek, 1+ mile of shoreline. Zip code ,21613.

5 Waterfowl shoreline blind sites for on the Honga River at Piney Point, shoreline runs from Wingate cove to Hearn's cove, Zip code 21675
Contact Owner Tom for above leases 410-253-9048

2 MD Residents looking for farms in Bal/Carroll counties for 2018 season for deer Call Jim 443-961-6204



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Alex Gooding youth day harvested in Caroline County with guide Butch Crist at Schrader's Outdoors.



Timothy S. Price and his harvested Howard Co. 10 point buck. Photo courtesy Of All About Tackle and Bait.



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-Theodore Roosevelt



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