

Fishing & Hunting Journal



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IN THIS ISSUE...

- BIG BUCKS
- TENNESSEE MONSTER
- YEAR END PRODUCT
REVIEW
- TEN YEARS LATER

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Christmas and
Happy New Year
from the Staff
of the
Fishing & Hunting
Journal*

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By Lenny Rudow

“Hooked on Fishing” 5 Hot Winter Options

In the coming months, local die-hard anglers will look for opportunities to run out to western Maryland and chop holes in the ice, they'll wait for warm afternoons and take a shot at millpond fishing, they'll cast for yellow perch up north, and they'll break ice at the boat ramp so they can run to warm water discharges. Some will also head south—very far south, as in, Florida. I've been lucky in that my work takes me there quite often during the winter months, and on many of those trips fishing is involved. Just in case some of you are thinking about arranging a respite this winter and heading down south for some Florida fishing, here are five opportunities I've discovered through the years that stood out.

Mangrove Madness – Fishing the mangroves in the Marco Island/Ten Thousand Islands area stands out as one of the last areas within reach where you can fish all day and never see another boat. Hiring a guide is a must because there are miles of mangrove that are more or less barren, not to mention the danger of getting lost or running hard aground out there—it's some of the trickiest navigation I've ever experienced. Expect redfish, snook, mangrove snapper, speckled trout, and tarpon. Also expect a very harsh sun and lots of biting bugs. Still, there are few places left you can go and be truly alone on the water. This is one of them. Tip: put a shrimp three feet under a popping cork and chug it as close as possible to the mangrove roots.

Gulf Coast Reef and Wreck Fishing – This takes place from Destin clear



Fish like this grouper can be caught within a few hundred yards of Hawk's Key Resort.

down to Key West, though in many areas it requires long runs since the rule of thumb along central Florida is that you gain just one foot of depth for each mile you run. Still, it's well worth checking out. My favorite is the Crystal River area, because you can fish inshore where speckled trout, reds, and tarpon are thick as fleas on one day, and run out to the reefs for groupers and snappers the next. Once out of sight of land, the main appeal is variety. Reefs and wrecks along the Gulf Coast hold a huge number of different species, and you never know what you'll reel up next—there's an abundance of different snappers and groupers, many with brilliant blue, green, or red coloration. In some areas at certain times kingfish, cobia, and Spanish mackerel are in the mix. GPS

coordinates for hotspots are relatively easy to come by (there are 42 marked reefs listed by Pinellas County, alone) and the fish you find here are almost always willing to bite. TIP: At the reefs and wrecks forget the bait and use jigging spoons instead. You'll find the bites rapid and hard, and you won't have to constantly re-bait your hooks.

Key West—Endless possibilities are what makes Key West so attractive. Head east and you can live-bait for sailfish, fish wrecks for huge permit and amberjack, chum for yellowtail snapper at a reef, and run into cobia, kingfish, Spanish mackerel, and cero mackerel just about anywhere. Head west and you can fish behind shrimp trawlers for blackfin tuna and bonito, or hit a reef for grouper. Even right outside the harbor, fishing is spectacular. There's also one perk to fishing out of Key West that's rarely spoken of: few boats leave the dock before 8:00, and many don't cast of the lines until 9:00. If you want to enjoy seriously lazy fishing but still catch plenty of fish, this is the place to do it. TIP: Contact Capt. RT Trosset, Spindrift Fishing, and you won't regret it.

Miami Night Fishing – Though it doesn't have quite the same variety of species nor is there always the fast-paced action some of these other opportunities present, night fishing under the neon-lit Miami skyline is an awesome experience. Towering buildings glimmer all around you, to the degree that in most areas it's never actually very dark. Meanwhile, the potential for some extremely big catches exists. Huge snook of 30-plus pounds inhabit Government Cut, and big tarpon also pass through. Both species can also be caught from under lighted piers and bridges. TIP: Pitch a live shrimp in next to the ferry dock at Fisher Island, right after the ferry departs and its propellers churn up the water. Then hang on tight!

Hawk's Key Resort – The fishing here is very much like Islamorada (slightly to the north) but the surroundings are what make a trip here so memorable, mostly because of the nature of the resort. Everything you

could ever want is within walking distance: a marina with charter, dive, and rental boats; on-site kayaks and SUPs, tennis courts, restaurants, swimming pools, gyms, a kid's clubhouse—they even offer swimming with captive dolphins on-site, for goodness sakes. This place is tops when you want a mega-luxury vacation for the entire family (rent one of the townhomes and you won't regret it), with fishing mixed in for good measure. TIP: On windy days when you can't get out on the ocean, get in a kayak and paddle down the canal until you see the small inlet with the rockpile in the middle. That rockpile is chock-full of fish, especially on the east side, and can be fished in almost any conditions.



There's a wide variety of snappers, groupers, and other species to be found, prowling among the Gulf Coast wrecks and reefs.

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Fishing & Hunting Journal

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CREDITS

Editor & Publisher:

M. Mitchell G. Quillen
410-708-4005

Contributing Editors:

Steve Huettner, Chuck Prahl,
Capt Lenny Rudow, Capt. Mark Sampson,
Tim Sherman, Jim Gronaw,
Grant Soukup, Captain Mark Galasso

Regional Sales Representatives:

MD: Capt. Lee Buckel 410-708-1616
Marc Van Pelt - Creative Director

Advertising Information: driftrock@verizon.net

(410)-708-0376

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FAITH OF OUR FATHERS

A word from our Pastor-

The dust has settled, the elections are over, and now it's time to put into practice what has been preached. Our nation has undergone many changes in its history, and the last election was one of the most sweeping. We have many difficulties that face us and we are not without problems. However, there is a moral fiber in this nation and it was very evident on November 8th.

We are currently heading in a direction that the moral core of Americans does not want to go. The American people are tired of politics. Our cities have become cesspools of crime and vigilantism and our people have become targets of terrorism both at home and abroad. The Ten Commandments are off the walls and the bible is scorned. The result is a generation that does not fear God.

I'm encouraged that our voice is being heard, loud and clear. And, I trust liberals heard that the vast majority of Americans are tired of the same rhetoric. We want change, and part of that change is to once again rely on the biblical basis that Thomas Jefferson, John Adams, George Washington and our forefathers set for us.

Many say that is going backwards. A thousand times - NO! That is the track we should have been on all along! We're just re-routing to get back on track. Morality and honor are virtues that are learned. They will salvage the dilemma we are in, and they both come from a faith in Almighty God.

— MEL BRINDLEY

Pastor

Chestertown, Md., Baptist Church

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**Brianna Pierce
with her nice Buck!**



Captain Jeff Lewatowsky took a guide day off to celebrate striper fishing with his own kids. Ella, 6 and Jackson, 5 learned how to fish poppers in the Eastern Bay with great success!

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“Tackle Box Tim”

Year End Product Review

Throughout the year I use a number of different products to bring fish to the boat. I’ve got numerous lures that are definitely old standbys. That being said, I am always up for trying new products and things that I haven’t used before. I’ve run into a few things that have impressed me this year.

The most important link between you and your fish is your fishing line. Every angler has their favorite, including me. After using McCoy Mean Green copolymer at the suggestion of bass pro Randy Yarnall, I now have a new favorite. McCoy uses its own blend of nylon resins to produce a line that delivers longer, smoother casts, and has great knot and tensile strength with minimal stretch. Mean Green does not absorb water like monofilament line. If you prefer a clear line, McCoy makes Xtra Clear copolymer line with the same properties as Mean Green.

Admittedly I am a topwater fishing nut. I want to see the water erupt on my lure that either walks, pops, gurgles, or buzzes the surface. What if you could find just one topwater lure that has the ability to do most of these things. Save for popping, the River2Sea Whopper Plopper is a multitasking surface bait. Its offset hard boot tail loudly buzzes the surface, leaving behind a wake on a straight

retrieve. When twitched, it will walk the dog and the tail sputters like a prop bait. The Whopper Plopper comes in three sizes and numerous colors. They are equally effective when casting for bass and stripers.

Natural scents and contrast in color can be a blessing when trying to overcome a tough bass bite. There are numerous products on the market that will add scent, change the color, or both to soft plastic lures. New to tackle shop shelves this year is D2Fishing Dyeing2Fish scented dips and the Dyesafe storage box. With the dyes, you can choose from orange, blue, red, chartreuse, and clear, and combine any of these with garlic bread, boiled crawfish, grape jelly, sweet licorice, or shadstastic scent.

Dyesafe allows you to securely store the up to three 2-ounce bottles in a 3700-size box. The box has foam padding with rectangular holes that perfectly fit the bottle’s length and width. Even better, there is a circular hole to hold the bottle when in use. You can now dip your worms, craws and freak baits without the fear of spilling the dye on your boat’s carpet, on your clothing or hands.

We all have our favorite baits: soft plastics, top-water lures, crankbaits, etc. But what if you had a hand in putting a lure together and have it quickly become a “go to” lure? The more free time I have the more I have been tinkering with building lures. I’ve found that Barlow’s Tackle is a great source for the components I need. There you will find parts for building spinnerbaits from the blades, beads, and clevises, all the way down to the premade skirts and skirt making supplies. They also have several bass jigs from which to build on.

Barlow’s offers unpainted hard body baits that rival those of major manufacturers. I am fortunate to have friends that are proficient with an air brush.

I’ve used the ½-ounce rattle trap for years – painted in various colors – to catch

stripers throughout the Chesapeake. This year I started using the 527004 square bill crankbait and the 103602 popper. Each of these lures ran true right out of the paint booth. The crankbait dressed in black back/chartreuse was appealing to numerous largemouth and smallmouth bass on Conowingo Reservoir. The popper painted in a “royal pain” color has fooled several rockfish from the Patapsco to the Bush River. The Texas-based shop also features unpainted jerkbaits, swimbaits, and spook-type topwaters.

When building these hard baits, I always use premium treble hooks. You can bet they will have Mustad Ultra Point triple grip hooks. These trebles are sharp right out of the package, and have short shanks so there is no tangling on each other. They are also strong. I have yet to bend a hook from the fight of a fish. I replace the treble hooks with Ultra Point hooks on most of the major-brand lures that I buy. They are much better than what comes on most packaged baits.

I continue to be impressed with Lew’s baitcasting reels. Last spring, I bought a Tournament MB Speed Spool reel with a 7.5:1 gear ratio. The benefits of the high speed gears allow me to work buzzbaits over grass beds with a slow crank of the reel. You pick up 31 inches of line with each crank of the handle, which allows you to pitch and flip to targets with greater efficiency. It also aides in keeping them above the mats and headed toward the boat. The reel features 10 double shielded stainless steel ball bearings, a carbon compound drag (14-pound-max), a multi-setting brake, and more. It weighs only 6.7 ounces so it does not add much weigh to heavy rods for those power fishing techniques.

Trying new tackle is as much an adventure in fishing as the fishing itself. I hope you with try some of these products. They have helped me put a few fish in the boat this year. Merry Christmas and Happy New Year!



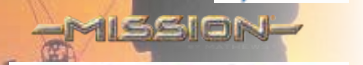
Tackle Box Tim Shows a Conowingo Smallmouth bass caught on a custom painted Barlow’s square bill.

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“Tuna The Tide”

Late Fall Fishing in Chesapeake Bay

By Captain Mark Galasso

Maybe it's me but it seems the end to our Rockfish season is getting later and later. Hardy recreational fisherman are fishing well into December and January pursuing the elusive Rockfish. It wasn't that long ago when the fall disappearance of Bluefish in early October was the signal to start winterizing boats and putting away the tackle. The popularity of the Chesapeake Bay Bridge Tunnel and now the Point Lookout area in the winter has extended many peoples seasons.

It's no great secret that Rockfish are in the Chesapeake Bay year round. What does seem to be a pleasant surprise is the large numbers of fish up to 38 inches that no longer seem to be migrating out of the Bay with the Coastal Migrants. In fact what was once a winter migration of new recruits to the coastal stock down around Cape Henry in December and January now is a stalled migration ending in the lower Bay around Point Lookout. I'm sure like the Canada Goose Rockfish find a shorter migration between breeding areas and wintering areas much to their liking so long as adequate food is available.

So how are we taking advantage of this winter fishery? No great secrets there as well. Rockfish will be where the food is. And water temperatures dictate that. Power Plant discharges like Brandan Shores, Curtis Creek and Calvert Cliffs all pump warm water into the Bay. You generally need a 5 to 10 degree difference in water temperatures to attract and concentrate bait and therefore attract Rockfish.

how other boats are fishing the area. Don't motor through where others are trying to fish. The strike zones in these areas are not large. Figure out the ideal drift and take your turn. Casting and jigging are the key techniques.

Cape Charles, Virginia is another hot spot for truly large Stripers. A few Coastal migrants still come into the mouth of the Bay to feed. This fishery is either a trolling deal much like the Trophy season in the mid and upper bay or a live bait fishery. Live bait meaning drifting live eels under large foam "Strike indicators" through and across the channels. Places like the target ships and the cabbage patch attract the most attention. Also a few fish still forage around the CBBT rock piles and pilings. Thirteen miles of structure in the middle of nowhere has to attract something.

The latest developing winter fishery seems to be the mass of fish being held up from Point Lookout to the mouth of the James River. Most of these fish seem to be foraging on the channel edges. Jigging and Trolling seem to be the best methods of catching them. Soft Plastics and metal jigs work best. Sometimes the jigging takes place in 80 or more feet of water. And even though the fish are usually suspended don't be afraid to use heavier heads on a windy day. Sometimes up to 3 ounces to get down to the fish.

Just one quick note on safety. Remember, it's winter. Dress accordingly. Have safety gear ready and easily accessible. You don't want to be digging through a cluttered console to find your throw ring while your buddy

If the plant isn't generating it's not producing warm water, and everything disperses. If you intend on fishing one of these spots get there early. Boat traffic can be critical. Also use some common curtesy. Observe

is treading in 38 degree water. Don't fish alone if you can help it and if you must fish alone wear a float coat or lifesaving device. Also use your engine shutoff safety lanyard.

Winter fishing can be some of the best of the year. Be safe and enjoy it. April is only a few months away!



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From Lawrence Henry Tyler Jr. - OWNER & OPERATOR OF DIVING DUCKS OUTFITTERS & NORTH STAR CHARTERS

This is John Yanek, a client & friend of mine from Schnecksville, PA. He is holding a wooden working style decoy hand crafted by John Bourbon from Vermont. John Bourbon is a master decoy carver who sometimes showcases his work at the Tilghman Country Store. I purchased the decoy 3 weeks ago as an addition to my own personal collection. After I got it home I thought that John Yanek might like to have this for display in his newly built cabin home. I challenged John to let his friends hunt over it this weekend & shared with him about a team from my church

that is raising money for a mission trip to Cuba. John agreed to match the price of the decoy to a grand total of \$300. Thank you friend for helping to spread the gospel to the people of Cuba.

After the hunt that day I thought of another place in time where a piece of wood was used to make a cross where Our Savior died for the sins of the world. It was just a piece of wood but God used it to show the world that He loved them so much. Today God used 3 men & a piece of wood to show a dark world that there is someone who loves them.

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from Tiffany Lea - Had a blast this morning like always with Pop! I'd rather hunt with them "old men" than anyone else! What a great opening day! Everyone bagged their limit!



Good job Colyer Jones on his first buck this year.



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Eric Sheets 14 pt buck bagged October 22, 2016 with his muzzle-loader. Photo courtesy of Willaimson Outfitters.

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Josh Shelton with the buck he called Bullwinkle taken with his Bowtech. Photo courtesy of Fegan's Taxidermy



Russell Bodine Cincinnati Bengals center with his warren county Ohio bow kill 10pt.

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“When he was young, I told Dale Jr. that hunting and racing are a lot alike. Holding that steering wheel and holding that rifle both mean you better be responsible.” - Dale Earnhardt



Dennis McCain enjoyed fishing on the "Fish Gitter", his Dad's old boat. Stripers were coming over the gunwales. This was his best day this year fishing in Middle River.



Chris Phelps shot this great 8 pointer in Baltimore County on an incredibly windy day.


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SPANNING THE GLOBE

Potential world-record nontypical buck taken in Tennessee

You never know what you'll encounter in the woods during hunting season. An incredibly lucky Tennessee hunter hit the jackpot earlier this month when he harvested quite possibly the largest nontypical whitetail buck in the world in Sumner County. After Stephen Tucker spotted the buck two times before (the first time his muzzleloader locked up; the second time the shot was questionable), he didn't think he'd see the monster again. Lucky for him, he did.

"I was just hoping I would see him again after I passed up the shot the second time I saw him," Tucker told The Tennessean. "My thinking was the second time I saw him was as far away as he was and as big as he was, I wanted to make sure that I killed him. I didn't want to cripple him. I said to myself, 'If I cripple him, nobody will get to kill him.' The last thing I wanted to do was be the guy who crippled a deer like that."

Tucker shot the 47 point nontypical whitetail buck on Nov. 8 with his muzzleloader from approximately 40 yards away.

"There's no doubt it's going to be the new state record; I mean, that's an absolute," Tennessee Wildlife Resources Agency District 21 captain Dale Grandstaff told The Tennessean. "As far as the world record, (the rack) is about an inch over the world record."

Grandstaff is an official Boone & Crockett scorer and measured the antlers. He determined the final green score at 308 3/8, which is considerably larger than the current state record and about an inch bigger than the current world record. According to Fox News, the antlers will be re-measured again in 60 days for a dry score to determine if they beat the 2000 state record held by Dave Wachtel (grossed 256 points; netted 244 3/8) and the 2003 world record held by Tony Lovstuen (38 points; scored 307 5/8).

Regardless of whether it beats the world record (as it will most likely beat the state one), it's a heck of an accomplishment and a memory that will last a lifetime. Congratulations, Stephen Tucker!



When 15-year-old Tony Lovstuen pulled the trigger of his muzzleloader on the afternoon of Sept. 29, 2003, he ended the reign of a buck that already was world famous.

The Iowa non-typical had become known to the hunting world through Ron Willmore and Brian Lindberg's article in the Feb. 2002 issue of North American Whitetail magazine, in which trail camera photos and shed antlers of the then-living buck were shown. The magazine dubbed the deer "Iowa's Walking World Record," and the name was fitting. With a potential score of nearly 300 inches on the Boone and Crockett system, the Monroe County giant would indeed have been a world record if taken with either a bow or muzzleloader.

Read more: http://www.northamericanwhitetail.com/news/naw_0104promo/#ixzz4QkKuz6Bo





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-Theodore Roosevelt



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By Grant Soukup

“Montana Grant”



stands, or require stealth. The style of camo pattern now becomes what is cool. Some patterns show religious symbols, naked trucker girls, oak forests, prairie or marsh grasses, digital cubits, snakeskins, or other unique features. Hunters’ hat wardrobes can now be extensive. It is still advised to attach a static orange safety ribbon around a nearby tree.

I rarely wear a Hunter’s orange hat or gloves when I am deer hunting.

The one thing that constantly is moving when I am in a stand is my head and my hands! My eyes are searching for the movement of a deer. They can see movement better than me, especially if the orange hat or gloves that I am wearing reflects brighter light.

It is the movement of reflected bright colors that critters see. Keep that in mind when you adorn your weapons, heads, and gear with color or patterns.

Years ago, I remember reading an article by the great bowman, Chuck Adams. He described the best camo as different patterns and colors of plaid pants and shirts. The Woolrich generation was born wearing green and red plaid suits. These plaid old hunters shot a pile of deer back in the day.

Law requires that hunters wear safety orange so I do wear a full orange safety vest. My preference is for a camo/orange patterned style vest. The camouflage pattern breaks up the orange enough to allow me to stay hidden, but still seen by other hunters. Always abide by the state’s required laws when hunting.

Today’s hunters wear a variety of head gear. Requirements have changed and every hunter has a personal style. Some wear ball caps, military gear, Beanies, Fred Bear brimmed hats, Ghillie suit headgear, bandannas, or something that is just lucky. Native hunters would wear animal skins and heads to sneak up on the critters. This is not a good idea today when you are afield with herds of other hunters.

Sweat is another reality of a hunter’s hat. Beanies can be hot, ball caps need to be vented, bandannas do not cover your full head, and scent from sweat is a problem. Taking more than one hat hunting is a good idea. Place sweaty headgear into a sealed plastic bag to reduce your scent. Travel safely to your blind or stand wearing Hunter’s orange. Comfort is important too. Switch over to a camo pattern when on your stand. Wear a ball cap with led lights attached when leaving the woods after dark. Never wear a beer can drinking cap when afield. That is just stupid!

No matter what hunters wear, it becomes a statement. For some, it is about being a redneck, trendy, supporting our military, representing a shop, organization, belief, or simply celebrating our hunting heritage. Smart, safe, and stylish statements are good things.

Whatever your hat displays, wear it proudly!

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For more Montana grant, visit his website at www.montanagrantsfishing.com



Mom to be Deanna Ewing bagged her limit on opening day!

Hunter Head Gear has both practical and personal purposes. Not all hunters wear the same style, color, or type of hat. Every hunter has their special, favorite hat.

Years ago, hunters were required by law, in many states, to display florescent orange when hunting. The easiest and most acceptable method was to wear a classic orange ball cap. A generation of orange hat hunters was born. On the opening day of bird, buck, or small game season, the forests and fields were emblazoned in orange!

The Great Pumpkin suit was also the attire for the super- safe hunter. From hat to cuff, the hunter was a walking orange billboard of safety. They could be seen from miles away and their hunter uniform was the style of that day. Sadly, I have seen too many accidents to hunters despite wearing this



safety signpost.

“Hunter’s Orange” is actually not the best safety color. That would be florescent pink or chartreuse! Imagine a generation of rough and tough hunters adorned in pink hats! That may be okay once in a while to celebrate cancer awareness or an event, but not as practical head gear.

Most critters that we hunt are color blind. They lack cells, called cones, in their eyes that allow perception of color. They see the world in black, white, and bright. The next time you watch an old black and white movie, you will see what they see. Critters do see lighter, darker, and brighter images. Bright light is more reflective from a florescent orange surface. If the bright color is also moving, you are busted!

There is just one choice for Hunter Orange, but there are dozens of Hunter Camo patterns available. The trick is to blend them into a combination that conceals our presence from our quarry, but displays our safe location to other hunters.

Not all hunting requires an orange hat. Turkey, bow, and waterfowl hunters tend to be in blinds,

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Coastal Report

By Capt. Mark
Sampson

This past summer I had a guy aboard my charter boat crawling around the cockpit with a paper towel to wipe up some cola that he spilled. I told him not to worry about cleaning it up, but he insisted, claiming that he didn't want to leave a sticky mess on the deck. Thinking about how considerate it was for him to be worried about a little Coke on a fiberglass deck and how much of a switch his actions were from some of the folks who come aboard and absolutely trash the boat inside and out, I jokingly suggested that he must be vying for the "client of the year award." My comment prompted someone else to ask me what traits might help put them in the running for such an honor.

I think my answer sounded something like, "You'd have to be rich enough to book us seven days a week, pay even when we don't go out, and never complain when we don't catch fish." Of course, I've never met a person who conforms to those standards and doubt I ever will, but in 30-some years of working this charter gig I've certainly had my share of clients who have been an absolute joy to have aboard as well those who where, shall I say, more than a bit "challenging" to spend a day on the water with!

The good, the bad, and the ugly - we get them all on charter boats and while very captain has their own definition of what qualities make for a "perfect client," I came up with a shortlist of things that can make some of us happy to see a client walking toward our boat in the morning balanced by what might have some of us breathing easier when we "finally" watch them walking away in the afternoon.

Don't trash the boat!

I sometimes get the impression that certain folks think that at the end of the day some professional cleaning service comes aboard and makes everything sparkle again. The cleanup crew is my mate and myself, and believe me, we know who it was that left the pile of peanut shells in the cup holder, the smashed donut under the table, and the head in the ugly (yuck) condition they did. We don't harp on our clients about these things because we want them to have a good time while they're out on the boat with us so they'll come back next year, and cleaning the boat at the end of the day is what we do. It's just a little perplexing when we have someone who makes absolutely no effort clean up their own mess. My perfect client would always pick up after themselves.

Be careful with the equipment.

Most folks are very - if not "overly" careful with the tackle and other equipment they use aboard the boat. And that kind of concern for the tools of our trade is always appreciated by those of us who not only have to purchase it, but also maintain it in good working order so it can be used every day. Some folks, however, are not so gentle with our tackle and put enough of a hurting on whatever rods and reels they use that we have to spend extra time putting things back to gather. A perfect client would always be careful with the tackle and equipment we use on the boat.

Alcohol would not be an issue.

Every captain wants their clients to have a safe and enjoyable time on the water, and if having a beer or two or three in the course of the day adds to their enjoyment then that's usually just fine. However, whenever someone takes it to the point that alcohol is affecting their words, judgment, or actions, then it becomes a problem. More important than catching fish and driving the boat is the captain and crew's responsibility to keep their clients safe at all times. Having one or more clients who are not firing on all cylinders only adds additional concerns to a crew's already busy and stressful day. Not too many people "enjoy" dealing with others who have had too much to drink, it's even worse when you're responsible for their well being and stuck on a boat with them all day! The perfect client would enjoy their time on the water so much that they would not want it to be altered or impaired by alcohol.

Prepared for seasickness

No one wants to see their clients seasick, but we all know that in the course of the season we will have many-many people yacking over the side of the boat. We never wish to have seasick clients, not only because we feel sorry for their misery, but also because it's bad for business - a seasick client might not be a returning client. Some people are just prone to getting sick and others bring it upon themselves by partying it up too much the night before. For a lot of people the chances of becoming sick can be minimized if they take precautions. Dramamine works for a lot of people and the scopolamine "patch" works for most, getting a good (sober) rest the night before improves everyone's chances of holding down their breakfast. The perfect client will take precautions to help ensure that they and the rest of their party don't have their day ruined by seasickness.

Too much "stuff"

We run a lot of half day fishing trips and I'm sometimes amazed at how much gear some folks think they need to bring along for just five-hours, it's even worse on full day trips! I always recommend that folks bring what they know they will need and use while we are out there but leave behind all the "just in case" stuff that only clutters up the boat. I've had people bring large pillows, blankets, folding chairs, enough tackle to fill a tackle shop, computers, guitars, drones, pets, empty coolers, and enough food and drink to feed an army! It's always a hassle to you spend the day tripping over or working around extra stuff that was brought aboard but never used. The perfect client brings only what

they will truly need for the time they'll be on the boat.

The end of the trip

When we get back to the dock my mate and I have an entire boat to clean and a lot to get ready for our trip tomorrow. It's not uncommon for our clients to wait until the boat is in the slip and tied up before they get up out of the seats or off the bunks and start packing up their gear. It's not that we want to rush them off the boat, it's just that we have a lot of work ahead of us, and if they can use a little of the ride-home time to get their gear in order so the transition from boat to dock doesn't take a half hour, it can help us finish our duties and maybe get home at a somewhat reasonable time in the evening. The perfect client would show consideration for our end of the day workload.

Be prepared NOT to catch fish

Fishing is fishing, and no matter who or how good the captain and crew are at what they do, or how much money was paid for a charter, there is always a chance that a trip will not produce even a single fish. Getting "skunked" is as disappointing to the crew as it is to the anglers they take out. The perfect client will recognize that the crew did their best to get them on the fish and take it in stride that today just wasn't their day.

Of course nobody's perfect, and none of us charter guys can or should expect that any or all of our clients will fit into the mold we cast exactly the way we would like. I'm guessing as well that if our clients were all "perfect" our jobs wouldn't be as interesting as they sometimes are.

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Deer and Striped Bass Poachers Charged

Two Baltimore area men

were charged Monday afternoon with multiple counts of illegal hunting in Anne Arundel County and had their shotguns seized.

Acting on a tip, officers found Eric Michael Nelson, 26, of Hanover and Dominic Salvatore Umstot, 19, of Elkridge, hunting in the woods off Family Areas Road in Hanover.

Neither man had a Maryland hunting license nor did they have written permission to hunt on private property. They were deer hunting with shotguns during archery season and had not purchased a bow hunting stamp. Neither man was wearing fluorescent orange for safety. Additionally, Nelson was in possession of drug paraphernalia.

Each man received five citations and two warnings. They will be scheduled for a hearing in Anne Arundel County District Court. If found guilty, they could each be fined as much as \$1,550.



Officers on overnight surveillance in Dorchester County

last month caught six recreational anglers poaching striped bass.

The officers saw two men catching fish near Fishing Creek Bridge and stopped their vehicle as they drove away. Inside, they found 86 undersized striped bass.

Martin Majano, 41, of Walkersville and Jose Osmar Martinez Gonzales, 44, of Gaithersburg, were each charged with keeping undersized striped bass and keeping striped bass under the legal minimum size of 20 inches.

Both men must appear in Dorchester County District Court. Their court date is Jan. 18. The maximum penalty for each man is \$3,000.

Four people were charged with illegal fishing in the same area after officers stopped their vehicle and found six fish inside.

Lila Del Carmen Hernandez, 54, of Washington, D.C., Idalia Elizabeth Hernandez, 30 and Roberto Carlos Fuentes Joya, 28, both of Beltsville and Jose Maria Hernandez Alberto, 54, of Silver Spring, were each charged with keeping undersized fish, exceeding the daily creel limit and keeping striped bass between midnight and 5 a.m.

They all are scheduled to appear in Dorchester County District Court Feb. 15, where they could be fined as much as \$1,500 for each offense.

Five Montgomery County men were charged

with poaching striped bass last month by officers on overnight patrol in Kent Narrows.

The men, aboard a recreational boat, were stopped as they returned to the public boat ramp on Kent Island. A search found 17 fish, 16 of them under the legal minimum size of 20 inches, hidden away. The largest and only legal striped bass was 20 1/2 inches and the smallest was 12 1/4 inches.

Silver Spring residents Evaristo Hernandez-Ortiz, 44; Gilberto Anibal Contreras, 33; Juan Cristino Jonguitud, 36; and Rene Alexis Salvador, 28, and Rockville resident Carlos Mario Sanchez, 28, each were charged with keeping undersized striped bass, exceeding the daily creel limit and keeping striped bass between midnight and 5 a.m.

If the five men choose to plead guilty and pay their fines in advance of their Queen Anne's County District Court date, their combined penalties will total \$2,025. If they go to court and are found guilty, they could be fined a maximum of \$1,000 per offense.



Pat Latham filled both tags in Wyoming this fall with **WYOMING FINEST OUTFITTER** in Ranchester.

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“The Last Word”

10 Years Later

By Steve Huettner

I had just finished my monthly column for the Maryland Fishing and Hunting Journal and after saving the story in the 2016 folder. I then looked and realized that I have folders containing stories for the journal starting ten years ago! How could that be? I had to stop and check and make sure a Russian hacker hadn't gotten into my files and changed the dates on my computer.

A lot happens over the course of a decade (besides a receding hairline and growing waist). Looking back across some of my stories from the last ten years a lot has changed in the outdoor community.

Over the last ten years Sunday hunting in Maryland has grown from a few initial counties allowing one Sunday on private lands to almost every county allowing multiple days, with many allowing Sunday hunting on both private and public lands. Over the last decade, despite the hysteria of those opposed Sunday hunting has proven to be safe for hunters and non-hunters alike, and allowed more deer to be killed. Here is hoping that sometime in the next ten years we can get rid of all the caveats and exceptions and just make it Sunday hunting across the board.

During the last decade we have seen the Maryland Black bear season grow from a quota for the amount of bears killed to a four day season with no limit. The early days of the black bear season so hunters

having to check in at the end of the day to see if hunt was closed or whether or not you hunters has one more day afield. The amount of tags has steadily grown along with the counties that the hunt takes place it. All these increase have grown as the bear population has slowly grown and expanded. Ten years ago I remember testifying in Annapolis as the anti-hunting crowd tried to reclassify black bears from a game animal. I was greeted by a person dressed in a bear outfit with a sign asking hunters not to shoot him. I heard some colorful testimony and outright lies (it is politics after all), and remember getting some rather colorful emails the next day after testifying and doing some short interviews with the media. Thankfully science, data, and common sense ruled that day, and every day since. Black bears in Maryland are a conservation success story that should be celebrated by both hunter and non-hunter alike.

Deer hunting over the last ten years seems to have jumped from the Stone Age to the modern age. Liberal bags limits, a two day fire-arms season in January, the use of crossbows during archery season, the decreased safety zones for archery hunting, and checking in deer via the internet or cell phone are just a few changes that have occurred. How we hunt deer as evolved if one looks back. Mechanical broad heads, year round food plots, trail cameras that send pictures to your cell phone, bows that shoot at incredible speeds, clothes and boots made from materials more advanced than what the first man to walk on the moon wore are just some of the changes we have seen. Deer hunting has turned into a 365 day a year labor of love for many a hunter.

Over the course of the last ten years I have been fortunate enough to spend time afield with new hunters including my now teenage daughter. I remember taking her “hunting” with me at age 4. Carrying a blind large than my first apartment, snacks, coloring books and even a portable DVD player to keep her interested so dad could get some time afield while mom was away on business trip. I watched her grow over the last ten years and was fortunate enough to be sitting behind her in a blind when she made a perfect shot on a six point buck.

The pure excitement in her voice after she shot and the smile on her face after the sixty yard walk to find her 6 point buck is something that I will hopefully remember till I depart this world.

The last ten years personally for me from a hunting perspective has been rewarding and gratifying. Regardless of where I am hunting or what I am hunting (from squirrel to elephant) I still get that same feeling on excitement when getting outside. I truly hope that I am able to maintain that passion and commitment for the next ten years.



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Gordon's Christmas roast goose

Ingredients

One 12-pound goose, neck and giblets reserved, visible fat removed

Salt and freshly ground pepper
 4 1/4 cups warm water
 1 1/2 tablespoons honey
 1 teaspoon Tabasco
 1 teaspoon potato starch dissolved in 2 tablespoons red or white wine



HOWTO MAKE THIS RECIPE MEANWHILE, MAKE THE JUS

Beginning at the neck end, work your fingers under the goose skin, snipping any fibers and sinews with kitchen scissors; work your fingers as far down over the thighs as possible. Using a sharp knife, cut halfway through the wing and leg joints to help the bird cook evenly. Generously season the goose inside and out with salt and pepper.

MEANWHILE, MAKE THE JUS

Set the goose on a rack in a heavy roasting pan, breast side up. Add the neck, gizzard, heart and 4 cups of the water to the pan. Cover the goose with foil and seal the foil all around the edge of the pan. Bring the water to a boil. Reduce the heat to low and steam for 45 minutes. Remove from the heat and let cool. Transfer the rack with the goose to a rimmed baking sheet and refrigerate uncovered overnight, until the skin is very dry, like parchment. Strain the pan juices and refrigerate. Bring the goose to room temperature before roasting.

MEANWHILE, MAKE THE JUS

Preheat the oven to 350°. In a bowl, mix the honey with the Tabasco and the remaining 1/4 cup of water. Return the rack to the pan and roast the goose for 1 hour, basting occasionally with the Tabasco mixture. Carefully turn the goose breast side down. Roast for about 30 minutes longer, basting occasionally. The goose is done when an instant-read thermometer inserted in the inner thigh registers 170°. Turn off the oven and let it cool to 160°. Transfer the goose to a heatproof platter, breast side up. Return the goose to the oven and let it rest for 20 minutes.

MEANWHILE, MAKE THE JUS

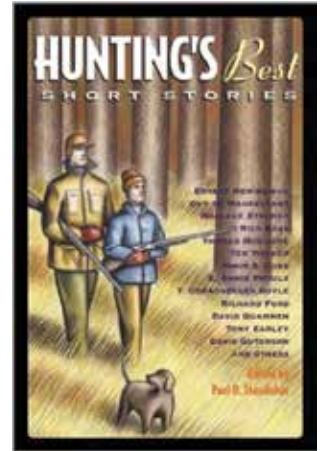
Pour off the fat in the roasting pan. Scrape the solidified fat off the refrigerated pan juices and refrigerate for another use. Add the juices to the pan and bring to a boil, scraping up any browned bits on the bottom. Pour the juices into a small saucepan. Stir in the potato starch slurry and simmer, stirring, until slightly thickened, about 1 minute. Season the jus with salt and pepper and strain it into a gravy boat. Carve the goose and pass the jus at the table.

Book of the Month

HUNTING'S BEST SHORT STORIES

by Paul D. Staudohar

The drama, danger, and energy of the hunt are unsurpassed as inspiration for short-story writers, many of whom have been fine hunters themselves. This collection spans the full range of the 20th century and boasts many prize-winning authors and stories, including Wallace Stegner's "The Blue-Winged Teal," Thomas McGuane's "Sportsmen," and Lawrence Sargent Hall's "The Ledge," as well as Ernest Hemingway's "The Short Happy Life of Francis Macomber" and riveting selections by David Quammen, Rick Bass, and E. Annie Proulx. A lighter side of the sport is provided in Irvin S. Cobb's "The Plural of Moose Is Mise," while T. Coraghessan Boyle's "Big Game" plays wickedly on the Hemingway classic.



Editorial Reviews

- "A book you should buy (even if you don't hunt)." —Esquire magazine
- "A great example of a collection of hunting stories that covers the entire spectrum." —Times Union
- "Packed with fine prose from notable authors both classic and contemporary." —Library Journal
- "Hunters heading to camp can do no better than to pack along Hunting's Best Short Stories." —The Spokesman-Review
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Ryan Helmick with a nice buck he bagged last month.

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Angelina at it again! Her first buck taken 10/21 during early muzzle-loader season was a 8 pointer.



Roger Everett with a monster Cecil County groundhog taken in mid-October with Remington 700 rifle in .243 caliber. Photo by Roger Everett

December 2016 / January 2017

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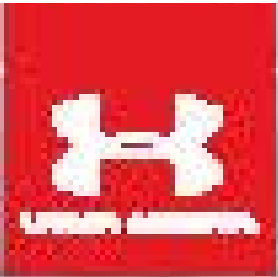
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