

Fishing & Hunting

Journal



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FREE

Governor Larry Hogan Names Captain Eldridge Meredith 'Admiral of the Chesapeake Bay'

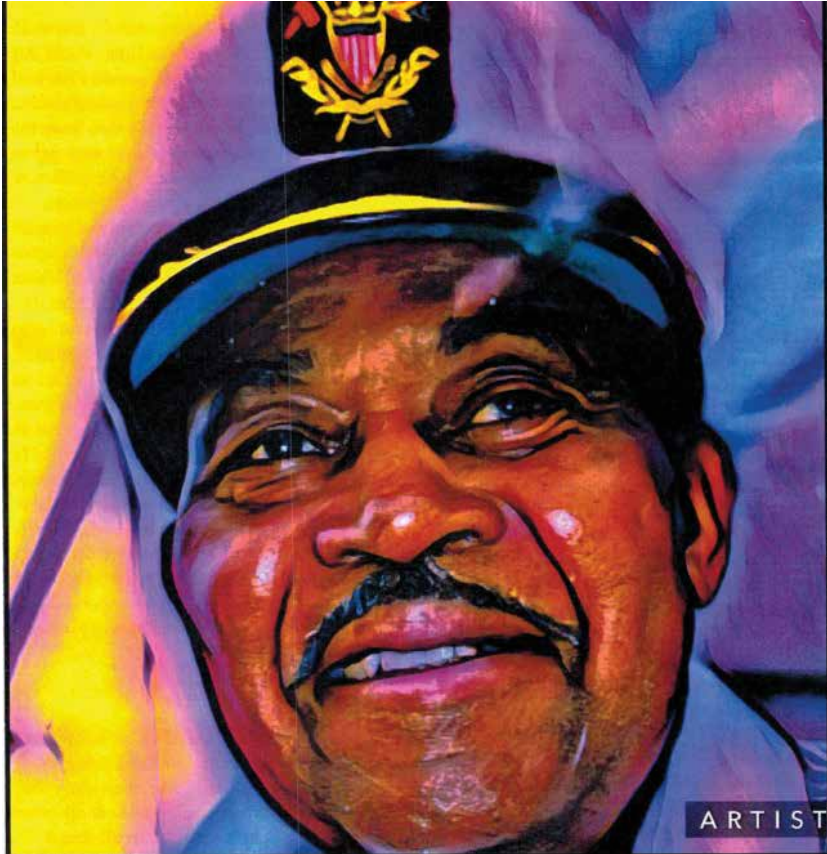
Governor Larry Hogan has commissioned Kent Island resident Captain Eldridge Meredith as the 101st Admiral of Chesapeake Bay, a prestigious lifetime achievement award for an individual's extraordinary commitment to the conservation and restoration of the Chesapeake

Captain Meredith, a third-generation Queen Anne's County waterman and charter boat captain, has worked in and around the Bay for 80 years. He docks his charter boat, the Island Queen 11, at his pier in Grasonville on the Eastern Shore. Captain Meredith is the fifth African-American known to have received this honor.

"As a business owner, charter boat captain, entrepreneur, and veteran, Captain Meredith is the quintessential Chesapeake Bay waterman," said Natural Resources Secretary Mark Belton. "It is truly an honor to recognize his many selfless contributions to his community,



Mr. Gentilini bagged this nice buck in Caroline County Dec 3, 2016 with Schrader's Outdoors.



Bay. Lt. Governor Boyd Rutherford presented the award on February 23, which is also Meredith's 91st birthday. "Captain Meredith has spent a lifetime on one of America's most treasured resources," said Lt. Governor Rutherford. "His unwavering commitment and dedication to the Chesapeake Bay, which is both his home and livelihood, makes him the quintessential waterman and worthy of this prestigious honor."

state, and nation." Instituted by Governor J. Millard Tawes in 1959, the Admiral of the Chesapeake Bay title has gone to prominent individuals from various pursuits including sailors, journalists, shipwrights, watermen, conservationists, elected officials, and many others. Captain Meredith's nomination was reviewed and recommended by the Maryland Department of Natural Resources.

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By Lenny Rudow

“Hooked on Fishing” One Wacky Spring

If the weird weather we had this winter was any sort of indication as to the coming fishing season—and it is—you can expect the rest of 2017 to be just as thoroughly strange. Heck, we were catching perch in spots on the Magothy in January, where they’re usually found in March. The striper bite on the open bay in February was as good as it is some days during the summer. And I heard from a reliable source that a gill netter in Ocean City caught a red drum in the back bay, in early February.

What the heck is going on? Who cares—the more important question is, will your angling intuition be savvy enough to bring you success when historic patterns no longer apply? I’m not in the business of predictions and I can’t pretend to know what the fish are planning to do, but I can tell you one thing for sure: when I hit the water this season, I’ll always keep these points in mind:

1. If the stripers spawn half as early as the perch did, much of the trophy population will be long gone by the time we start targeting them. Remember, they spawn by water temperature much more than according to our calendar. But there’s been an excellent post-spawn run of fish in the mid-30-inch class in the middle and upper areas of the bay for several years running. It makes sense to start your season in areas where they’ve been present, especially if the early reports coming in are anemic farther down the bay. Consider the Dumping Grounds, off the mouth of the Chester and the area off Annapolis where the ships anchor up, as prime contenders. Hopefully

you’ll find plenty of true trophies, but if they depart the bay early, these post-spawn fish (which have come on strong from mid- to late-May through June) could be your ticket to bent rods.

2. For two years running water clarity has been improved through the spring season. And also for two years running, the color white has often out-



January was a shockingly hot month for perch, in areas we’re used to seeing them appear months later.

fished chartreuse—the classic of the Chesapeake. As you walk down the docks this spring, take a close look at that water. If the clarity is once again better than expected, you can bet that white will once again be a winner. That doesn’t mean you should leave chartreuse and yellow and other colors at home, sitting in the garage. There will still be days when they prove to be the best choice. But overall, once again white may well come out on top.

3. Probe the shallows, marshes, and rip-rapped shorelines early on. Extremely early on. In the Tangier, this might mean big speckled trout. Many people don’t go looking for this species until June, and while it’s true

that their numbers don’t commonly get thick until then, historically May was the time to catch the really big ones. This year, it wouldn’t surprise me one bit if those fat early-season fish arrived a full month ahead of time. And when it comes to stripers, note that the past few seasons we’ve encountered large numbers of throw-backs in the mid-bay during trophy season, and schoolies in the shallows as early as May. So similarly, it seems smart to start probing shorelines and shallows earlier than usual for rockfish, too. Even when it comes to perch, their arrival in the shallows is likely to be surprisingly early. Whites had made their way into some of the salt-ponds where they normally arrive in April, by mid-February this year. Those very same fish may shuffle over to the shoreline structure we associate with summer fishing one heck of a lot sooner than the norm.

4. Tuna fishing is a completely different ball-game, and if you’re still waiting for that summer-time chunk bite, you’re probably going to miss out on the best action of the year. Plan to have your offshore arsenal ready for action by the end of April, because May is likely to be a hot month at the canyons. These fish can be tricky to target—one week they’re in Washington Canyon and the next they’ve moved all the way up to Baltimore. But when you get into them, you get into them thick. Dozens of knock-downs in a day of trolling is a very real possibility. So be ready. Very ready. And be very ready very early.

5. Vary your lures and tactics, and try different methods and modes of fishing each and every trip, to test the waters for alternative species. If you plan on a day of casting jigs for stripers, for example, at some point also try tossing a blade-bait that works well for red drum (try a spinnerbait with a gold blade and a red/white or blue/white plastic, for example, which often tempts redfish into biting). If you’re trolling in open waters for stripers, try setting one line deep with a small lure that might tempt weakfish (a red bucktail with a yellow twister tail is a



This striper was hooked up in mid-May, in a mere four feet of water.

good bet). And if you’re live-lining with spot, try sinking a chunk of peeler crab (which just about anything will inhale) down to the bottom. The point is, we simply don’t know what the heck is going to show up, or when, in the bay this year. With an early warm-up and not too terribly much rainfall as of yet (yes, that could change) we may end up with conditions that allow some very interesting and diverse species to pop up here and there.

Remember last year’s rather extraordinary run of cobia? Cross your fingers—and be prepared for just about anything, at just about any time. History, our best base of fishing knowledge, has pretty much, well, become history.



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Fishing & Hunting Journal

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April 2017

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Cover Art from Wild Wings - Spring Fed – Wild Turkeys Art Print
BY JIM KASPER

“Seeing water coming out of a hillside, collecting and forming a fast flowing stream; sap flowing, causing flowers and leaves to burst forth; and the mating forces of the wild turkey driving the gobblers to impressive displays for the hens, I knew I was seeing forces of nature that are ‘Spring Fed.’”

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FAITH OF OUR FATHERS

A word from our Pastor-

It was with gratitude that prompted an old man to walk on an old broken pier on the eastern seacoast of Florida. Every Friday night, until his death in 1973 he would return, walking slowly, slightly stooped with a large bucket of shrimp. The seagulls would flock to this man.

Many years before in October, 1942 Captain Eddie Rickenbacker was on a mission in a B-17 to deliver an important message to General Douglas McArthur in New Guinea. An unexpected detour would place him into the most harrowing adventures of his life. Somewhere over the South Pacific the Flying Fortress was lost and ultimately ditched into the ocean. For nearly a month Captain Eddie and his crew fought the weather, sharks, and other dangers. The worst enemy was starvation. One afternoon all were asleep when something landed on Rickenbacker's head. He reached up and grabbed the seagull. He and his crew ate its flesh and fished with its intestines. That one bird had saved their lives. Their hopes were renewed, and they ultimately made it to safety. It was something Captain Rickenbacker never forgot. Because every Friday evening, about sunset, on a lonely stretch of highway in Florida's eastern coast you could see an old man walking. His bucket filled with shrimp to feed the gulls and to remember that one which, on a day long past gave itself as sacrifice. My mother used to say at times "Oh how quickly we forget", and it's so very true. The parents, coaches, relatives, pastors, and friends who were there for us when we were in need are so quickly forgotten. Jesus said that one of the signs of the end of the age is that the love of many would run cold. All of us can look back at those who sacrificed for us and are forgotten. Today some of us need to go to the sea and feed the gulls and thank that 'one' for their sacrifice.

MEL BRINDLEY Pastor
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Spring into Fishing the Chesapeake Bay

by Tim Campbell

April is one of the best months to fish. Water temperatures are warming and all species of fish are stirring. There are so many species to target, yet so little time. Striped bass are the primary pursuit for a good number of Chesapeake Bay anglers. Perhaps that is one reason why there are so many rules.

According to the Maryland Department of Natural Resources website (dnr.maryland.gov), March 1 to April 14 is open season for catch and release striped bass fishing in the main stem of bay from the Brewerton Channel (mouth of Patapsco River) south to the Virginia line. Special rules apply so check the DNR website. Essentially, barbless or circle hooks are required with no stinger hooks and no eels allowed. Tackle shops and local fishermen report striper catches almost daily. Check the internet too.

This year the trophy striped bass (catch and keep) season starts Saturday, April 15 and goes to May 15. Striped bass fishing is permitted in the main bay from the Brewerton Channel to the Virginia line. The limit is one striped bass per person, per day measuring 35 inches or longer. Boaters trolling big lures in search of trophy stripers dominate the bay. By mid-May, most striped bass have spawned. Afterwards, the big females make a beeline for the ocean. Troll east west and zigzag across the channel to intercept big stripers.

Eager anglers go searching the Susquehanna Flats in March for striped

bass. Granted, the water is still usually cold, but there is a chance for catching (and releasing) some big stripers. That said 2017 could be called the winter that wasn't. Since the upper bay stayed relatively warm it would not be surprising to have an early striper bite. In fact, there have already been reports of stripers being caught on the Flats.

Catch and release season on the Flats closes on May 3 until May 15. It reopens on May 16 when one striper can be kept. The rule is one fish per person, per day measuring 20 to 26 inches. Then on June 1, the entire Maryland portion of the bay is open allowing two fish per person, per day. Striped bass must be 20 inches long and only one of the keepers can be over 28 inches. The season ends December 20, 2017. By the way, that's about the time to start fishing for yellow perch in the upper bay.

Last year the Flats catch and release season was good for numbers of small striped bass, not so much for the big female stripers. Every year is different. Most of the stripers caught on the Flats are small males. It takes stealth to catch a large female striper - and a little luck. Avoid the crowds by fishing weekdays, use sharp single-hooked lures, and tie good knots. Handle fertile female stripers with care. Wear wet gloves to protect your hands - and the fish. If taking a picture, have your fishing buddy ready with the camera. Hold the fish horizontally not vertically, and return it to the water quickly but gently. Let some water flow through its gills before turning it loose. Respect of the resource is key to the future of fishing.

Between striped bass trips, many anglers fish for shad. Some people call them "poor man's tarpon" because they fight so hard and often make acrobatic jumps out of the water. It's fun to watch. Shad fishing is strictly catch and release. It has been so since Maryland closed the fishery in 1980. Nowadays there seem to be plenty of Hickory shad. It's not easy for many people to tell American shad and Hickory shad apart. Maybe that is why DNR keeps the moratorium in place for both species. In spite of

ongoing recovery projects, including trucking shad upriver, the American shad fishery has still not recovered.

Wading below Conowingo Dam is a good tactic to fish for American and Hickory shad. Fishing from the platform is another good spot to try. Shad darts and small spoons are standard lures. Gold and silver are the most popular spoon colors, but many colors have fooled all kinds of fish. My go-to shad lure is a silver #13 Tony spoon with the barb smashed down.

Incidental catches might include carp, catfish, perch, largemouth and smallmouth bass, striped bass, walleye or even a muskellunge. Deer Creek is another favorite area among shad anglers. Some folks like to fly fish for shad, while others prefer a light spinning outfit. For more shad fish-

ing opportunities, add the Bush and Gunpowder Rivers on the western shore, and the Northeast and Sassafras Rivers on the eastern shore.

White perch spawn late March into April, May and June. They move into the lower Susquehanna and other rivers about the time the shad run is over. Abundant, easy to catch and good to eat, white perch are a fisherman's favorite. Use the same tackle for perch as for shad. Some years are better than others regarding quality and quantity. It depends on the weather, the previous year's spawn and many other factors. That's why they call it fishing.

Tim Campbell, a native Marylander has fished the Chesapeake Bay for many years. He is an award winning member of the Mason-Dixon Outdoor Writers Association.



Chris Duffy & Tim Burnum with Flats striper 4-30-16.



Tim Campbell with Deer Creek hickory shad caught on a #13 Tony spoon.

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“Tackle Box Tim”

Spring Smallmouth Forecast

What a difference a year makes when it comes to winter weather. Winter 2016/2017 was the complete opposite from the previous year. The mid-Atlantic has seen minimal snow fall. The March “Nor’easter of the century” produced little more than a mixed mess. Leading up to, and through winter, there has also been very little rain. Air temperatures have provided us with mild days, having many fair-weather anglers contemplating early fishing trips. The lack of rain and melt off from snow have left area rivers and reservoirs with low water levels. Smallmouth bass anglers will find themselves fishing differently and, in some cases, looking for the bronze backs in other areas of rivers and lakes this spring.

Bryan Kelly, guide with White Fly Outfitters in Harper’s Ferry, West Virginia, says that he is on pins and needles about what spring fishing will bring on the Potomac. “It’s gonna prove to be an interesting year.” Anglers with jet propped boats were making jaunts to the river in late February and March. They were able to take advantage of low water on mild days when and where smallies are forced to be in deeper community holes. Water temps were in the upper 40s and Bryan said, “On sunny days, river temps spiked into the mid-50s.” Yet with yo-yoing temperatures so, too, was the bite. On those mild 60-degree days, the jerkbait bite was strong. With more seasonal temps, the standard hair jig presentation was called for.

Kelly believes the spawn will be early. Big female smallmouth bass were full of eggs in early March. Potomac and Shenandoah River smallies spawn in 55 to 57-degree water. He says a 3 to 5-day window

of stable water temps in that range will prompt them to spawn. Bryan believes the first spawning wave will occur in early April.

The Shenandoah may be a little earlier than that. Current on the ‘Doah is slower than on the Potomac, and slower water warms faster.

Maryland reservoirs are not to be overlooked for smallmouth bass. Lifelong reservoir angler Scott Thompson knows that Liberty and Prettyboy both have great populations of smallies. He has fished reservoirs long enough to see low water conditions in spring. He agrees with the river experts that the spawn may come early, likely starting in mid- to late April rather than mid-May. However, locations and patterns don’t change as much as on the flowing rivers.

Thompson says that smallmouth bass gang up on points in both reservoirs. As the water line falls on the drinking water lakes, the bass will merely fall back further along the point. As of late February, the Liberty and Prettyboy Reservoirs were at 87 and 88.5 capacity respectively. Scott estimates that the lakes are down about 4 feet from normal pool.

The prime patterns are casting suspending jerkbaits and tandem Colorado blade spinnerbaits around the points. With the jerkbait, Scott says his cadence is, “3 hard twitches and a pause for 5 heartbeats.” He casts out the spinnerbait, in ½ to ¾-ounce sizes with gold blades, and cranks it just fast enough to feel the blades turning. He makes presentations parallel to the point, and also casts up onto the point and brings either lure from shallow to deep.

Smallmouth bass look for shorelines with a combination of rock or gravel, and sand to make their spawning beds. Thompson says areas with goose egg-size rocks are best. There is one more key element to a bed. He says that rarely will you find one without a piece of wood for one-sided protection.

During low water conditions, the predictable spawning areas are dry. Unlike rivers where smallies may have to find completely different areas in which to spawn, reservoir bass merely fall back to the next piece of rock/sand/wood.

Scott says there is as much unseen wood in these areas as that which is visible. When the water level drops, what was only visible only with electronics is now visible to the eye.

Targeting smallies on beds is fun, no doubt. Their instincts tell them to keep the bed clear of anything foreign. This gives a big advantage to fishermen, especially in clear water environments. Scott advises to keep a conservative mindset when fishing during the spawn. Obviously, leaving spawning bass alone is the best practice. He suggests, if you must fish for them, to release bass quickly and with as little harm as possible so they can have a productive spawn. He also suggests not harassing the same bedding bass day after day. This will bring undo stress to the spawning ritual.

All in all, the smallmouth forecast looks favorable for river and reservoir anglers. Bryan Kelly hopes for the best-case scenario in an early spawn and no spring storms that bring subsequent flooding. Given these factors, he says tough post spawn bite will be out of the way by early May. The fishery, then, will be bustling earlier in the year than he can remember. As smallmouth enthusiasts, let’s all hope for an early season.



Potomac River guide Bryan Kelly shows off one of the river’s finest pre-spawn smallmouth bass.



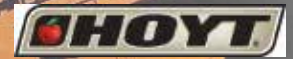
Angelina Watts is at it again this time with limit of fat yellow perch at Tuckahoe.

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Guide Lou McKenzie with his son Joe bagged this Turkey in Caroline County with Schrader's Outdoors.

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Crosman Corporation Communications Manager Jason Reid says, "We are very pleased to learn the state of Maryland has approved the Benjamin Pioneer Airbow for use in the general firearms season for big game like whitetail and sika deer. The Airbow will provide expanded opportunities for hunters across the state to ethically harvest game this fall."

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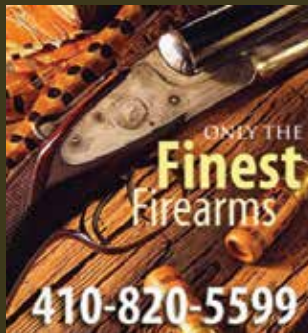


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Thanks to Blackwater Refuge and the opportunity it provides for hunters with disabilities, I was able to harvest this 90 pound 6 point Sika stag during the early 2016 black powder season. From George Venker.

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Two Men Sentenced Under Maryland's New Anti-Poaching Law

Community Service and Restitution Mandated; Forfeiture of Rifle and Trophy; Hunting Privileges Revoked

Two men became the first sentenced under a new state anti-poaching law after they were found guilty of multiple charges Wednesday in Dorchester County District Court.

Andrew Collison Harding, 21, of Vienna, and Toby Allen Hughes, 21, of Seaford, Delaware, were convicted of casting rays with an implement (jacklighting), hunting deer at night, hunting deer from a vehicle, hunting deer during a closed season, and having a loaded weapon in a vehicle.

Judge Melvin J. Jews ordered each man to pay \$2,000 in restitution to the state's Wildlife Management and Protection Fund under the terms of the Poaching Restitution Act of 2016. Payment is due by March 31. Each man also must perform 80 hours of community service.

Officers on surveillance near Vienna on the night of Nov. 19 saw people in a pickup truck shine lights on a field off Maiden Branch Road. After several passes, the officers heard gunshots and the truck reappeared on the road.

They stopped the truck and saw a freshly killed 9-point buck, untagged, in the back and a rifle in the passenger compartment. Officers arrested Harding and Hughes and seized the rifle and deer.

The two men pleaded not guilty to the charges.

In addition to restitution, the judge revoked their hunting license privileges for two years. Hughes and Harding also received a six-month jail sentence which was suspended, and one year of supervised probation.

The rifle and scope used in the incident, along with the head of the 9-point whitetail buck, were forfeited to Maryland Natural Resources Police. The deer meat was donated to Farmers and Hunters Feeding the Hungry.

The anti-poaching law took effect June. It requires judges to order restitution and community service in cases of deer poaching. The monetary penalty is based on the measurement of the antlers – in gross inches – as scored on the Boone and Crockett Club system.

A buck with antlers scoring 150 or fewer points requires restitution of \$2,000 to \$5,000 and 80 hours of community service. A buck with antlers scoring more than 150 points requires restitution of \$5,000 to \$10,000 and 80 hours of community service. A deer without antlers requires restitution of \$300 to \$500 and 40 hours of community service.

With warmer weather and spring just around the corner, anglers are reminded to keep an eye out for tagged pike as they venture out to Deep Creek Lake! Tagged pike will have a yellow tag along their dorsal fin with a phone number and 4-digit tag number. The tag may be covered with brown/green vegetation/algae. If you catch a tagged fish, simply scratch away the vegetation from the tag with your fingernail, report the tag number, the fish's length, where/when it was caught, and whether it was kept or released by calling the phone number on the tag (301-689-7168).

Anglers are also reminded that if they release the fish, **NOT** to remove the tag so that we may continue to learn from those fish!

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Six Men Charged with Striped Bass Violations

A recreational fisherman whose fishing privileges were suspended after multiple striped bass violations was arrested last month in Dorchester County after he was caught fishing again.

Officers on surveillance saw Ricardo A. Alvarado, 43, of Washington, D.C., on Fishing Creek Bridge at 1:43 a.m., catching and keeping striped bass. When questioned, he gave officers a false name and said he did not have identification. Officers pieced together information and realized that Alvarado's fishing privileges had been suspended.

A records check showed that he had been caught fishing on a suspended license in 2014, 2015 and 2016 and had been fined more than \$3,000 over the last four years for a variety of fishing violations.

Alvarado received citations for fishing under suspension, possessing striped bass in a closed season and fishing without a license.

Officers arrested Alvarado after learning that he was wanted on an outstanding warrant from Virginia. He waived extradition Monday.

A trial date has not been set in Dorchester County District Court. If found guilty of all three charges, Alvarado could be fined as much as \$2,625 and be sentenced to jail time.

Officers on surveillance March 18 around the Bill Burton Fishing Pier State Park charged six men with

illegally catching striped bass.

Jose L. Castro, 45, of Alexandria, Virginia; Manuel De Jesus Lazo, 52, of Silver Spring; Jose Francisco Pleitez Figueroa, 30, of Washington, D.C.; Jose Guevara, 50, of Alexandria, Virginia; Juan Carlos Valladares, 40, of Silver Spring; and Elvis Rodolfo Carreto, 25, of Hyattsville were all charged with possessing striped bass in a closed season. Carreto also was charged with fishing without a Chesapeake Bay Sport Fishing License.

Officers found 13 striped bass the men had hidden near the pier.

The men are scheduled to appear in Talbot County District Court June 15. If found guilty, they could each be fined

as much as \$1,500. Carreto faces an additional fine of \$125.



Justin Fair with a nice 9 point bagged last November with his bow. Courtesy of John's Butcher Shop.

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| 1:30PM | T/C IMPACT 50CAL CAMO | 4:10PM | FRANCHI AFFINITY 12GA WAL/BLU |
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| 1:50PM | STOEGER UPLANDER SXS WD/BLU | 4:30PM | REM 700SF ULTIMAT MUZZLDR 50CAL LAM/SS |
| 2:00PM | BROWNING GOLD NWTF 12GA TURKEY | 4:40PM | LEGACY ESCORT YTH 20GA SYN/BLU |
| 2:10PM | SAVAGE 220 SLUG GUN CAMO/BLU 20GA | 4:50PM | WEATHERBY VANGUARD 2 223REM |
| 2:20PM | BENELLI NOVA PUMP 12GA 3-1/2" CAMO | 5:00PM | BENELLI SBE THREE 12GA CAMO |
| 2:30PM | LEGACY POINTER OVR/UNDR 410GA WD/BLU | 5:10PM | STOEGER M3500 12GA 3-1/2" SYN/BLU |
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| 3:10PM | TIKKA T3 LITE 22-250 SYN/BLU | 5:50PM | SAVAGE MOD 320 YTH PUMP 20GA |
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 Cut up into pieces.
 3 strips of bacon
 4 cups of cubed potatoes
 3 teaspoons of paprika
 1/4 cup of parsley
 2 cloves of garlic
 1 cup of sour cream
 2 cups of chopped carrots
 3 cups of water
 3 tbsp. of oil
 Salt and pepper to taste
 1/3 cup of flour
 Dredge the meat in the flour, salt and pepper and set aside. Fry up the bacon in a dutch oven or large pot. Drain the cooked bacon on a paper towel. Crumble when cooled. Brown the floured meat in the oil and bacon drippings. Once the meat is browned, add the other ingredients and bring to a boil over medium to high heat. Reduce the heat to low and allow the stew to simmer for an hour or so. Stir in the sour cream and fresh spices at the end prior to serving.
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85,193 Deer Harvested During 2016-2017 Hunting Season

Maryland hunters harvested 85,193 deer during the combined archery, muzzleloader and firearm seasons (Sept. 9, 2016-Jan. 31, 2017), according to the Maryland Department of Natural Resources. The harvest exceeded the 2015-2016 total by more than 1,000 deer.

Included in the statewide total were 7,684 deer taken on Sundays open for deer hunting, representing an increase of 19 percent compared to last year.

“Our Sunday harvest continues to grow as hunters take advantage of additional weekend days to spend in the woods,” Wildlife and Heritage Service Director Paul Peditto said. “This growth is remarkable considering some counties have only one Sunday open to hunting in firearm season and three of our highest deer density counties have no Sunday hunting at all.”

The 2016-2017 statewide harvest included: 29,042 antlered and 53,318 antlerless white-tailed deer; and 1,284 antlered and 1,549 antlerless sika deer.

The harvest in deer management Region A (Garrett, Allegany and western Washington counties) decreased 8 percent, from 9,190 to 8,490 deer this year. These hunters reported 5,067 antlered and 3,423 antlerless deer.

Hunters in Region B (the remainder of the state) harvested 76,703 deer, up 3 percent from last year’s 74,832. From this year’s total, 25,259 antlered and 51,444 antlerless deer were reported in this area.

Frederick County led the harvest totals again this year with 7,556 deer, followed by Carroll County at 5,663 and Baltimore County with 5,367. Montgomery and Washington counties rounded out the top five with 4,873 and 4,736 deer, respectively.

Deer harvest results by county and type of deer harvested, with comparison to the previous season, are available below:

County	Antlered		Antlerless		Total	
	2016-17	% Change	2016-17	% Change	2016-17	% Change
Allegany	1,662	-16.2	1,245	-10.0	2,907	-13.7
Anne Arundel	900	2.0	1,890	4.4	2,790	3.6
Baltimore	1,628	11.3	3,739	6.6	5,367	8.0
Calvert		614	4.8	1,253	16.1	1,867
Caroline						
whitetail	918	13.5	2,033	2.2	2,951	5.5
sika	0	*	1	*	1	*
Carroll		2,002	10.6	3,661	6.8	5,663
Cecil		1,099	6.4	2,311	10.3	3,410
Charles	1,096	2.2	2,000	-2.5	3,096	-0.9
Dorchester						
whitetail	896	8.3	1,820	7.9	2,716	8.1
sika		1,185	3.6	1,459	-7.9	2,644
Frederick	2,680	5.0	4,876	6.1	7,556	5.7
Garrett		2,623	-1.3	1,719	-1.8	4,342
Harford	1,103	5.3	2,537	4.6	3,640	4.8
Howard	685	-2.3	1,715	5.0	2,400	2.8
Kent		1,232	12.7	2,182	5.7	3,414
Montgomery	1,505	7.4	3,368	0.7	4,873	2.7
Prince George’s	832	-1.5	1,645	-1.3	2,477	-1.4
Queen Anne’s	1,141	-2.1	2,583	2.6	3,724	1.1
Saint Mary’s	852	-5.5	1,760	-1.5	2,612	-2.9
Somerset						
whitetail	718	-1.2	1,598	-11.8	2,316	-8.7
sika		5	*	2	*	7
Talbot		812	-2.9	1,981	-1.1	2,793
Washington	2,062	-10.8	2,674	-10.0	4,736	-10.3
Wicomico						
whitetail	931	4.6	2,189	1.8	3,120	2.6
sika		74	*	66	*	140
Worcester						
whitetail	1,051	2.7	2,539	-6.9	3,590	-4.3
sika		20	*	21	*	41



First ever Sitka stag bagged by Vincent Price Jr. in Dorchester Co. - Photo Courtesy of All About Bait & Tackle

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Big thanks to Alan Poore and Scott Kiger of Ironmine Farm in Trappe, MD. These boys had a great Youth Day Hunt.



Hunter Gottleib with his buddies Anthony and Billy Massaro (Anthony and Billy were along for fun to see the hunt, they don't have their licenses yet but were very interested in learning all about hunting) Hunter (below) bagged his first canvasback that afternoon.

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Cole Jessop, caught this big trout (25 1/2 inches, 8.7 lbs, 15 inches around girth) out of Sharpsburg pond in Washington County. - courtesy Md. Anglers Log.

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Eastern US Predator Calling Championship that was January 13-15



Myself and Jeremy Brown, competed in the Eastern US Predator Calling Championship that was January 13-15. It started at 6pm on the 13th. Teams could hunt anywhere East of the Mississippi and check-in was at 4pm on Sunday in Wytheville, Va. There were 154 teams registered and the categories were "Most Coyotes", "Biggest Coyote", "Biggest Bobcat", "Biggest fox" and "Most Overall Combined Kills". We won 2 categories of Biggest Fox which weighed in at 14.4 pounds and Most Overall Combined Kills with 31 fox, 28 reds and 3 grays. The first night the weather cooperated and we ended with 20 fox, and the second night we hunted through the heavy rain, and ended with 11 before we had to make the 6.5 hour ride to check-in.

Thanks

Mike Burgess is from Centreville, Md. and Jeremy is from Greensboro, Md.



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-Theodore Roosevelt



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By Grant Soukup

“Montana Grant”



feels more comfortable and exciting to her than a sofa and video

KAT HAAS..... OUTDOORS-WOMAN AND “COOL KAT”

The doe slipped into the Eastern Shore field, and began to feed. She never sensed that Kat was stalking closer for her first bow shot at a deer. Finally, Kat was in bow range and released her arrow. The deer was hit and ran back into the cover.

This was Kat’s first time shooting a deer, so now what? Fortunately, she had her trusty cell phone handy. A quick call to her boyfriend in Frostburg, then on to looking for the blood trail. This part of the hunt was a surprise, but as she followed the blood drops, they led her to her first bow kill, a 3 ½ year old doe!

After checking to make sure the deer was dead, she broke into an exciting “Deer Hunter” dance which included singing, yelling, and howling! All hunters know the feeling, experience, and dance steps. Uh oh, so how do I dress this 150 pound surprise? Another quick cell phone call to her boyfriend would help. A little long distance digital coaching, and the deed was done. Now for a picture-perfect memory but, “How in the world can I take a picture of me and my first doe?” Kat just happened to have a selfie stick in her hunting pack! I am woman, hear Kat Roar!

No Real Man that I have ever hunted with would ever carry a selfie stick! I need to hunt with Kat! This story has all the parts of many a great deer hunt. What is unique is that the hunter was a lone, successful, young woman, embracing technology to assist her in accomplishing her task.

Kat Haas is a “Huntress” and a Sportsman! The lure of the outdoors



game. Her new business venture, Kat Haas Outdoors, allows her to field test, demonstrate, and experience new products and adventures. Whether wielding a new Remington semi-auto shotgun, or exploring the forests with her dog Hershey, Kat loves sharing the outdoors with others.

Men and women are Hunters and Gatherers. Hunting, fishing, and outdoor adventures are for all to enjoy. Thanks to new products and technology, outdoor sports are now more gender friendly. The only way to discover what is in our DNA is to do it!

Women often feel intimidated or reluctant to discover the male dominated world of hunting and fishing. These sports are often very competitive, and can be threatening and uncomfortable to some. Outdoor sports need all the members it can get. Women are welcome!

Mentors are essential for bringing new sportsmen into our ranks. Some guide services and outfitters focus on this concept. Eventually, Kat Haas Outdoors will also be filling this niche. Teaching young girls and boys how to enjoy the outdoors is just great FUN! These sports also teach shooting safety, marksmanship, discipline, limits, skills, and communication. These are important life skills that

young adults need to learn.

“Many girls and boys wear camo, but few ever become hunters. I have never seen a newbie not excited over their first bulls eye, antler, feather, or fin”, says Kat. Her goal is to share this excitement with future sportsmen and sportswomen.

“Hunters and fishermen are their own worst enemies. When sportsmen are divided and not part of the same coalition, the future of our sport will look bleak. Working, voting, and celebrating our sport together can be amazing!”, Kat adds.

Many boys and girls have few positive role models in their life, as so many single parents are often just trying to survive. As experienced sportsmen and women evolve in their sports, they eventually discover that the best part is teaching someone else how to be successful. Great sportsmen and women need to find this untapped resource of future sportsmen, and embrace it. Get permission to teach a new sportsman the ropes.

“Shooting, hunting, and fishing are

empowering. The feeling of success, and making a good choice, are how we learn”, says Kat. Shooting sports can be more about targets, than hair, feathers, or fur. Fishing can be Catch and Release. “Outdoor Sports have many choices and opportunities that all can enjoy. There is never just one thing to learn.”

Kat had few “Outdoor” role models when growing up. Fortunately, she was lucky that a few found her. Now she wants to find a few more. Hunting for women and newbies that want something new and different in their lives, is what Kat writes about, teaches, and preaches. Kat’s weekly Blog shares her stories and adventures with all. Simply search www.kathaasoutdoors.com to see how to get started.

Get your limit of fun, adventure, and the outdoors!

Montana Grant

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



Maryland Midwinter Waterfowl Survey Results, 2013 – 2017 (Figures rounded to the nearest hundred)

Species	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017
Mallard	33,100	75,900	50,000	41,800	45,300
Black Duck	22,500	39,300	30,900	19,200	25,500
Gadwall	7,400	4,000	5,100	3,200	11,200
Wigeon	500	800	2,200	500	1,400
G-W Teal	6,300	3,900	700	2,400	2,100
Shoveler	1,700	100	100	100	100
Pintail	1,300	4,000	1,800	2,600	2,300
Total Dabblers	72,800	128,000	90,800	69,800	87,900
Redhead	16,700	15,900	32,200	17,900	20,700
Canvasback	18,400	68,400	64,200	19,800	75,100
Scaup	27,500	47,100	55,600	91,800	138,800
Ring-neck	1,900	1,600	300	700	400
Goldeneye	800	1,500	600	1,100	700
Bufflehead	15,600	21,800	19,100	26,700	12,900
Ruddy Duck	17,200	34,000	20,000	88,000	35,000
Total Divers	98,100	190,300	192,000	246,000	283,600
Scoters	2,000	7,600	1,300	7,100	4,900
Long-tailed Duck	600	200	100	100	2,700
Mergansers	2,000	6,200	3,000	1,100	2,100
Total Ducks	175,500	332,400	287,200	324,000	381,200
Brant	1,500	600	900	1,000	900
Snow Goose	83,300	44,200	44,900	32,600	21,300
Canada Goose	462,000	512,100	504,700	293,800	394,700
Tundra Swan	17,300	16,100	17,800	11,200	14,500
Total Waterfowl	739,600	905,500	855,500	663,000	812,600



Coastal Report

By Capt. Mark
Sampson

Anglers are accustomed to reading, hearing, and watching a lot of instruction about how to get a fish on the line. Where to go, to what type of bait or lure to use, how to set the hook, how to gaff-em, fillet-em, and cook-em, it's not hard to find precise details about all of "that" for just about any type of popular fish. But a critical bit of business that's not so often covered is how to actually "fight" the fish after hook-up.

Ask most fishermen what is the best way to fight a fish and most will likely respond by saying the most important thing is not to give the fish any slack line. While I will not disagree that giving a fish slack line is something most anglers fighting a fish should make efforts to avoid, I'm more inclined to say that "maintaining steady-even pressure" on the fish is the most critical key to successfully keeping a fish on the line. Even with a tight line, sporadic snatching and yanking on a line can easily end a fight in favor of a fish.

Anglers never really know for sure how well the hook is imbedded until a fish has been brought close at hand and they can see for themselves. The hook could be firmly stuck in a thick portion of the fish's jaw and have almost no chance of coming out no matter what the angler does or doesn't do, or it could be just barely hanging on to a tiny bit of flesh and be ready to tear or fall out at the slightest extra pressure.

When the fish shoots out on its first run, and pulls drag from the reel, the connection between fish and hook is put to the first and most crucial test, and if the fish doesn't come loose then, it should be safe to say that, if the angler fights the fish smoothly without increasing or decreasing the amount of pressure they are applying down the line, the fish should stay attached.

During the fight, the fish will add additional pressure to the line when it surges away on runs. For anglers to keep steady pressure on a fish it's critical that the initial startup of the line slipping off the reel begins smoothly when a fish takes off on a

run. Quality reels with precision drags are designed to help make that happen. The flex in the rod will also add a measure of shock absorption when a fish kicks its tail into high gear and long-flexible rods are best for doing this. Anglers can provide additional cushioning by dropping the rod tip and extending the rod out toward the fish when it's obvious that the fish is going to take off and start pulling drag.

The technique used by most anglers when they are working a fish is to smoothly and repetitively lift the rod tip and crank it down, which is the right way to do it "providing" the fish is still a fair distance away from the angler. Once the fish has been brought in close, the angle of the line changes such that raising the rod tip will be more inclined to raise the fish "up" rather than "in" which is OK if the fish is straight down in deep water, but if it's on or even relatively close to the surface the technique exerts undue pressure on the hook as the applied force works to lift the fish's head out of the water rather than slide the fish closer to the angler.

Instead of lifting it straight up, if the angler will sweep the rod to the side, a much more steady force will be applied at the hook and the result will be that the fish is brought "in" rather than lifting the head up. Of course, anglers seated in the fighting chair on a boat cannot use this technique so a better option than pumping the rod can be to keep the rod tip relatively low and just "crank" until the fish is to the boat.

Even when anglers are not in a chair there are a lot of times when the technique of pumping a fish will not provide the best chance of landing it. Depending upon the tackle being used as well as the size and stamina of the fish, if line can be gained by just turning the handle it's usually much better to simply hold the rod steady

and smoothly crank in the fish. I've seen a lot of fish come off the line when overzealous anglers subject their quarry to excessive surging back and forth in the water when they unnecessarily pump the rod during the fight.

Finally, anglers need to be extra careful about being smooth with their actions when the fish is in very close and about to be landed. With just a little bit of line between rod tip and fish, and the angle of the line being more vertical than horizontal, with a simple shake of its head, or a rock of the boat, there can suddenly enough extra pressure applied to pop the hook just when it's thought that the fish is at hand.

In those final moments before the fish is netted, gaffed, or grabbed an angler needs to be very responsive with the rod by dipping it, raising it, moving it to one side or the other, and sometimes even plunging the tip into the water to keep the line from fouling on something under the boat and to maintain the steady pressure that's so crucial to success.



Zeljko Koretic and Tim Burnum aka "Zeeman" and "Talking Tim" with a two-man limit of yellow perch caught in Middle River area on February 5, 2017. Photo by Tim Campbell.

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Jamie Kimbles bagged this long brow 9 point on December 8, 2016 during shotgun season.

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By Steve Huettner

“The Last Word” Maryland Anti-Poaching Law and the Kent County Buck

In the October 2016 issue of the Hunting and Fishing Journal we reported on a story of a 200” plus whitetail deer taken at the beginning of the Maryland bow season, and the subsequent investigation surrounding it. Since the initial October story, a lot has transpired.

An investigation of the hunter, Ronald Wayne Roe was opened when the landowner (Mr. Bogdan) who owns the property adjacent to where Mr. Roe was hunting, became suspicious about where the deer was killed.

According to charging documents, Maryland Natural Resources Police (MD NRP) arrived at Mr. Bogdan’s property and were taken to the area in question. On Mr. Bogdan’s property were two large bait piles, (one in a soybean field and the other in a hedge row). One pile comprised of ACORN Rage and the other Big & J. The pile in the hedgerow was several yards from a ladder stand located on Mr. Roe’s property. The officer was then shown the gut pile (located on Mr. Bogdan’s property as well). Also observed on the Mr. Bogdan’s property was a blood trail between the baited area in the soybean field and the gut pile in the hedge row. Also documented were 4 property line markers saying “No Trespassing, Private Property”.

Three days after visiting Mr. Bogdan, the NRP visited Mr. Roe to conduct a field interview to hear Mr. Roe’s version about how the deer in question was killed. Mr. Roe was asked to show the location

he shot the deer, where he pointed to a tree stand in a different location, approximately 200 feet from Mr. Roe’s other tree stand that Mr. Bogdan believed Mr. Roe harvested the whitetail deer. Mr. Roe explained that he first saw the whitetail deer in the field belonging to Mr. Bogdan. This area was approximately 125 yards from where Mr. Roe was sitting in his tree stand.

Mr. Roe said that the deer got up and walked into the woods that Mr. Roe has permission to hunt and then walked towards the deer stand that Mr. Roe was sitting in. He shot the deer, at which time, the whitetail deer ran past Mr. Roe on his right side and into the soy bean field owned by Mr. Bogdan. Mr. Roe said that he could not see the whitetail deer as it crossed into Mr. Bogdan’s soy bean field. As Mr. Roe walked down the edge of the soy bean field belonging to Mr. Bogdan, he said he heard, what he thought, was the whitetail deer taking several more bounds and then falling. Mr. Roe went to the area where he last heard the whitetail deer and found the whitetail deer expired on Mr. Bogdan’s property. Mr. Roe said that he back tracked the blood trail from where the whitetail deer expired, but was only able to follow it a short distance (approximately 25 yards) to the edge of the soy bean field belonging to Mr. Bogdan. Mr. Roe said that he field dressed the whitetail deer, which was on Mr. Bogdan’s property, and called a couple friends to help him drag the whitetail deer out of the hedge row and to his residence. Mr. Roe said that he had not found the cross bow bolt that he used to harvest to kill the deer.

Follow up interviews with the friends found conflicting statements than that given by Mr. Roe. One witness stated Mr. Roe told him the deer was standing at Mr. Roe’s corn pile that was in the bean field for 7 minutes before Mr. Roe shot the deer. The witness also observed Mr. Roe’s wife take pictures of Mr. Roe, his crossbow, the whitetail deer and the bolt used to harvest the whitetail deer. According to the charging document Mr. Roe used the two attractants (Acorn Rage and BIG & J) hoping to make it look as if the two bait piles were put out by different individuals and thus confuse any investigation.

Regarding the missing crossbow bolt, the witness stated Mr. Roe displayed the cross bow bolt in several of the pictures that Mrs. Roe took. Mr. Roe was going to place the cross bow bolt somewhere on his property, so if NRP came looking and found the crossbow bolt on his property, that would prove he shot the whitetail deer on his property and not Mr. Bogdan’s property.

Another witness stated he and two others received a call from

Mr. Roe on the Saturday Mr. Roe harvested the deer and asked for help him drag the deer out of the woods. When they arrived, Mr. Roe took them to where the whitetail deer was on Mr. Bogdan’s property. Mr. Roe was talking about how the deer was just over the property line, and he had a corn pile 20 yards out on Mr. Bogdan’s property.

After dragging the deer back to Mr. Roe’s garage, photos were taken of Mr. Roe with the whitetail deer, bow and bolt used to harvest the deer.

After the investigation Mr. Roe was charged. Over two months and 2 trial days Mr. Roe was found guilty on all counts of trespassing and poaching. He will pay \$5,000 in restitution (mandatory), perform 80 hours of community service, received a \$500 fine (\$250 suspended), along with three years of unsupervised probation. His hunting privileges were suspended for two years.

This was a watershed test for the recently passed law and the sentence handed down by the judge is string start in the right direction.



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Pan Fried Wild Turkey (Recipe)

This is a simple wild turkey recipe, but tastes fantastic. You can even use this for fish. It's very versatile.

Ingredients:

2 cups bread crumbs (I use Old London plain bread crumbs)

6 eggs

1 TBS garlic powder

1 TBS onion powder

2 lbs. turkey breast, cut into strips

canola oil for frying

Instructions:

PREHEAT oil to 375 degrees.

Place the bread crumbs in a shallow bowl or on a plate. In another bowl, whisk the eggs with the garlic and onion powder. Dip fillets in eggs, then coat with crumb mixture.

In a large skillet over medium-high heat, heat oil and test cook with one fillet before cooking fillets in batches. Fry for 3 minutes on each side or until fish flakes easily with a fork, and is deep golden brown.

NOTE:

The amount of ingredients used should be adjusted accordingly to the amount of turkey you want to fry.

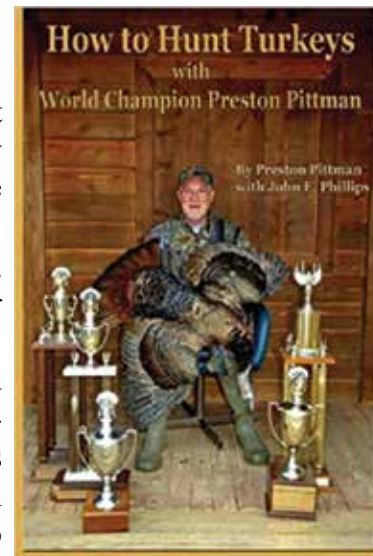
<http://www.misshome-made.com/friedwild-turkeyrecipes.html>



Book of the Month

HOW TO HUNT TURKEYS WITH WORLD CHAMPION PRESTON PITTMAN

by John E. Phillips



You easily can take a turkey if you don't make any mistakes, but you have to know what the deadly sins of turkey hunting are to keep you from making those mistakes. If you understand how to hunt a turkey, you're far more likely to take a gobbler than if you just know how to call a turkey. Of course, calling is important, and if you want to learn to call a turkey, Preston Pittman will teach you how to call turkeys with box calls, friction calls, diaphragm calls and other turkey sounds. You'll also learn why Preston Pittman once put turkey manure all over his body to kill a tough tom.

When you have turkeys that strut and drum in the middle of a field, when you know there's no way to get close enough to get a shot, Pittman will show you some weird tactics that have worked for him to help you hunt tough ole toms. But the main thing you'll learn in this book is how to become the turkey. "I try to look like a turkey, walk like a turkey, talk like a turkey and think like a turkey," Pittman emphasizes. "When you become the turkey, you increase your odds for taking a gobbler by at least 1000%." Few men have dedicated their lives, futures and fortunes to understanding a single animal of God's great creation.

The wild turkey gobbler, wherever it is found, has been Preston Pittman's passion his entire life. Using what he's learned while hunting wild turkeys, he's also become a master woodsman who can take most game, regardless of where he hunts. To learn more secrets about how to be a turkey hunter from one of the world champions of the sport, this turkey-hunting book by Preston Pittman is a must.

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from Carlos Villegas - In my sailing days it was explained to me that women carry life. Any vessel that can sustain life in an environment that people could not normally sustain life functions without her body should, appropriately, have a feminine name.

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Mark Chassereau with Middle River area yellow perch February 11, 2017.

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Seven year old Noah Nichols carrying Grandpa John's geese out of the field on the last day of Maryland goose season.

Photo by Roger Everett
 April 2017

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