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Donna Lynn and her impressive buck.



Chris Gray with a Calvert county monster buck.

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# Fishing & Hunting Journal

Volume 34, Number 7

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*Action On The Bay:*  
*Bluebills*  
*Courtsey Art Brand Studios*

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## BY INSPIRATION MINISTRIES

### PRAISE

*"Praise the LORD! Praise God in His sanctuary. [...] Everything that has breath shall praise the LORD. Praise the LORD!" — Psalm 150:1, 6 NASB*

Hildegard of Bingen was a talented poet and composer, writing music still performed today. Born to noble parents in 1098 in present-day Germany, she developed a deep, personal relationship with God and dedicated her life to serving Him. Even as a child, she was known to have received visions whose messages were confirmed when submitted to spiritual authorities. In one of her visions, she recorded receiving insights about the importance of praise specifically associated with Psalm 150.

Describing her insights, she wrote, "In these words, we are instructed about the interior life through exterior things." Instead of bottling up our thoughts and feelings, we should "direct them as much as possible toward the praises of the Creator," both in instrumental music and music with words.

She wrote, "Consider carefully that just as the body of Christ was born of the Holy Spirit ... just so is the song of praise according to the heavenly music radiated by the Holy Spirit in the church." She encouraged people to remember "the body is truly the garment of the soul, which has a living voice." It is fitting for our souls constantly "to sing praises to God through the voice." Praise is central to the life of every believer. The Bible commands us to praise the Lord. Join with David and the angelic hosts to praise His name. Lift up your voice and give thanks. He is worthy!

*Reflection Question: Compose your own psalm of praise to God for His goodness to you*

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# Natural Resources Police Issue

## Citations in 2024 Black Bear Hunt

*Nine hunters face fines up to \$1,500 for illegally baiting during black bear hunt.*

Maryland Natural Resources Police (NRP) took action to stop illegal hunting during the state's annual black bear hunt, held Oct. 21-26 in Allegany, Frederick, Garrett, and Washington counties. Officers cited several hunters who, although legally permitted to participate in the hunt, were unlawfully using bait to attract and lure bears.

While baiting is legal for white-tailed deer in Maryland on private property, baiting bears is prohibited and is a tightly-controlled aspect of the annual week-long black bear hunt. Due to the nature of the hunt, targeting bears must take place 150 yards or more from a baited location, and if hunting a location previously baited for deer, 10 days must pass after all bait has been removed. Hunters that violate the baiting law for black bears can face up to \$1,500 for a first offense and up to \$4,000 for a second offense.

Each year, 950 hunters are randomly selected by lottery to partake in the state's black bear hunt, and may target the species on public or private lands. Prospective hunters can find more information about bear management in Maryland on the Department of Natural Resource website and can purchase a license and enter the annual black bear hunt lottery when it is posted next summer on the department's licensing portal. Hunters must comply with all Maryland conservation laws, which are strictly enforced by NRP patrols throughout the season.

**During the 2024 black bear hunt, police charged the following:**

On October 21, two Pennsylvania men – a 60-year-old from Somerset and a 72-year-old from Stoystown – were found illegally hunting over a baited area on private property in Garrett County.

NRP officers found the men hunting in separate blinds near a baited area containing cracked corn kernels and a bucket that previously contained grease or lard. This oily substance was also spread on a tree near the hunting location.

On October 21, a 72-year-old Glen Burnie man and an 84-year-old Arnold man were found illegally hunting over bait on private land within Green Ridge State Forest in Allegany County.

NRP officers found corn dispersed as close as 10 yards from two separate elevated blinds occupied by the individuals. Both hunters were cited for attempting to take black bear with the aid of bait, a charge punishable by fines up to \$1,500.

On October 21, a 38-year-old man from Myersville was found illegally hunting over bait on private property in Frederick County.

The hunter received two citations and six warnings after admitting to hunting over a baited area which included bacon grease, chicken grease, corn, molasses, vanilla icing, licorice candy, and a "bear bomb" spray.

On October 22, a 54-year-old Parkville man was found illegally hunting over a baited area on private property in Garrett County.

Bacon grease, cob corn, apple peelings and apple processing waste were found between 23 and 50 yards from the individual's hunting blind. Bacon grease is considered "bear-specific" bait, and hunting over a property baited with bear-specific bait is prohibited in Maryland.

On October 25, a 55-year-old Frederick man was found illegally hunting over bait on private property in Frederick County.

NRP officers found corn piles and a tangerine between 20 and 30 yards from the blind where the man was hunting. Additional citations and warnings were issued to the suspect, including for not wearing fluorescent orange.

On October 26, two Pennsylvania

men – a 62-year-old from McConnellsburg and a 50-year-old from Greencastle – were found illegally hunting over a baited area on private property in Allegany County.

NRP officers found the individuals

hunting over multiple piles of bait, including dog food, apples, animal carcasses, syrup, strawberry jam, and shelled corn, located within 20 to 40 yards of the hunting blinds. One of the hunters was also cited for failure to wear daylight fluorescent orange.



**Jenna Hoffman, Age 8 bagged this nice 6-point Sika in Dorchester County.**



**Mackenzie and Mason who are 11-year-old twins harvested these two does last month. This was Mackenzie first hunt.**



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“Tackle Box Tim”

## SEASON'S STRIPER REFLECTIONS

In all my years of fishing, I've never found it to mondan or boring. It's quite the opposite. Though we may go to the same places, each day is different; and in tidal waters, success can change hour by hour. The aspects of tide, current, and weather factors present the challenges. Venturing out on new fishing ventures on entirely different playing fields are that much more intriguing. These are the things we can add to our fishing data base to help our future success.

In late spring, my wife Gale and I caught up with Captain Mark Sampson on a backwater coastal trip south of Ocean City, Maryland. We set out on his flats skiff where we would be casting for stripers in shallow water. In several locations, sight fishing came into play with Captain Mark staged up on the poling platform. I live for the shallow water bite, but to see the fish I am intending to catch is new to me. Mark also reminded us that, if we could see them, they most likely know that we are there, too.

Gale and I cast paddle tail swimbaits and topwater plugs to the marshy shorelines of lower Sinepuxent Bay. Captain Mark would also call out shots to the small schools of stripers that would bump or strike the lures. Because we were fishing shallow, I opted to rig my swimbaits on weighted wide gap hooks. Wow! In clear water I could see a completely different action to the lure than if it was rigged on a jig head. On the weighted wide gap hook, the lures have a more lifelike swimming motion.

We slid into the cuts and feeder creeks along the shoreline. Mark would call out singular stripers as opposed to numbers out in the bay

proper. I'd cast a swimbait beyond the fish who completely ignored the offering. With no competition from school mates, the solitary stripers had no gumption to charge after a moving lure. Hmm, what to do? I rigged another rod with a Luncker City Freaky Fish fluke-style bait. When the captain called the next shot, I cast that lure beyond and in front of the striper and let the lure slowly sink. The striper moved towards it. With one twitch of the lure, the striper surged forward and engulfed it. Figuring them out is half the fun!

Fast forward to October on the upper Chesapeake in the shallows of the Gunpowder River. On this day, my nephew Ben and constant fishing companion Tom Gittins were aboard. We made the long run out to a point at the mouth of the river. Rattle traps and paddle tails were the lures of choice for the day. We'd feel bumps and caught a channel catfish a small perch. What gives with the stripers?

A few years back, Tom put a numbers game beat down on me at this location with a swimbait in a color pattern known as Slam Shady. Naturally we were flinging that color. Not wanting to give up on the spot, I switched over to a chartreuse/white paddle tail and immediately got bites. Tom and Ben followed suit. We stuck out the tide by bouncing back and forth between a couple spots. I was also waiting for the tide to get right on a favorite spot farther back up in the river.

Heading back to that honey hole, I stopped at a point I hadn't fished before. A hot tip from within my fishing circle strongly suggested the spot. Never having fished this location, I gave it several passes. The east side of the point yielded several



Tackle Box Tim shows a 27-inch rockfish on the Gunpowder River.

taps on the way by, as did the point itself. Nearly 30 yards upriver on the north side, I landed 27-inch striper on a 3-inch paddle tail. With current size restrictions, it was released to swim another day. Working back and forth across both sides of the point we landed a few more stripers. This is definitely a point to fish on future trips. The tide window for my wonder spot was beginning to open, so we headed there.

My favorite Gunpowder River stop is a submerged rock pile that runs perpendicular to a rocky shoreline, and extends out about 50 yards. It is a high percentage spot in fall that rarely lets me down on high water. We settled in by making a few passes while casting rattle traps and our chartreuse/white swimbaits. The bites were just not coming.

Given the history of this spot, I was not about to give up on it. I suggested to Ben that he switch back to the rod with Mr. Slam Shady tied on it. Soon enough, the stripers let me know it was the proper call. After

we all switched back over, Ben and I landed our keeper fish and a few throwback small ones. Tom was kept busy with undersize throwbacks and a 2 1/2-pound largemouth bass.

Looking back on this year's fishing brings great memories with family and friends. Yet, there are new lessons and locations to be learned. First is how rigging a soft plastic bait differently than normal can open your eyes to how that lure gives a more natural presentation. Then, came the lesson in fish behavior, both amongst schooling fish and individual fish.

I got to visit the fisherman's age-old question, "Does color matter?" The subtle change of a lure's color made a difference twice on the same trip ... and no more than 3 nautical miles apart. Stopping at an obvious, but never-fished-before point – and catching fish their – will give me confidence in fishing it in the future. As much as I have to fondly reflect back on this year, I look forward to the quests to be had in 2025. No, it never gets boring!



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Ellis Smith with his buck on youth day. Photo courtesy Shore Taxidermy.



Steve Richardson ...sika from Wicomico county. Photo courtesy of Delmarva sporting clays.



Gavin Todd took this buck in Laurel, DE. Photo courtesy of Delmarva sporting clays.



Nathan Austin from Delaware. Absolute blessing to have watched this deer since August and be able to seal the deal with a compound.



Landon Baldwin with a nice 8 point in Wicomico county. Photo courtesy of Delmarva sporting clays.



Gary Mott with a nice 10 pt buck. Photo courtesy of Johns Butcher shop.

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The advertisement features a large image of a white fishing boat with a Yamaha outboard motor. The boat has "Saltwater Adventures" and the phone number "443-235-9696" written on its side. The boat is decorated with colorful fish and floral graphics. In the background, a city skyline is visible across the water. Three smaller inset photos show people fishing and holding their catches.





## “Fishin’ Back East”

### GOING OLD SCHOOL

By Jim Gronaw

Ahh, yesssss! Crappie fishing in the winter! Co-operative fish, some good eaters and a shot at some really big, slab-sided fish as the waters continue to cool. Actually, it’s not even really that cold yet for what many savvy panfishers consider “good” crappie fishing weather. Me, I like cool, overcast conditions with a slight breeze that puts a good “bobber chop” on the surface. Bright, sunny days can be tough, but once fish are located it can be fast and furious fishing.

Our most recent efforts for these delicious fish turned out to be really crappie, er, I mean good fishing trips. On some occasions we had high numbers of medium sized fish and other jaunts yielded fewer, yet bigger fish. On our kayak trip to a southern Pennsylvania lake we caught close to 100 fish on a variety of 1/32 and 1/16th ounce hair jigs and plastics suspended with a small bobber and some were taken on straight retrieves as the jig would fall on a tight line. Another recent pond venture yielded quality fish in the one-pound range with the occasional fish pushing 14-inches. A quality fishery, we have seen fish over 16-inches from there, but they are indeed rare fish.

The strike of a winter crappie can vary from one day to the next. If they are actively feeding, strikes are often solid “thumps” as fish will really inhale the jig. Other times the bite is more subtle, perhaps just a heavy sensation as if you snagged a leaf. And then again crappies can take slack out of your line and give you an “up bite”. Having ultra-light gear and sensitive rods with quality 4-pound monofilament is basic recipe for crappie fishing success in our smaller lakes and ponds across the Mid-Atlantic region. For their size, crappies have a relatively large mouth and can take 1/8th ounce jigs without a problem. I have even had fish as small as 8 inches hit a #5 Mepps spinner intended for bass. So, if one size jig isn’t producing don’t be afraid to either up or downsize in order to find the proper profile to trigger strikes.

Lines can aid in upping the catch rate. We like 4 or 6-pound test monofilament and I have recently gone to the bright yellow and gold lines simply because I can see it to tie and manage. Plus, you can see “jumps” and “ticks” in your line with the bright hues. Does it bother the crap-

pies? I think not, as I have not noticed any difference in the catching with high-vis versus clear lines. In many circles of crappie anglers throughout the south, expert crappie fishermen have been using the high-vis options for years, with excellent success.

Jig colors can be a tough choice, but most crappie fishing conditions will see chartreuse, pink, black, light blue and white as prime hues for attracting the fish. The “electric chicken” combo of chartreuse and pink has been a standby for years and pearl and light green can score heavy at times as well. It pays to have a variety of colors in your plastic arsenal. The Bobby Garland Baby Shad patterns have been a long-standing favorite among tournament crappie anglers for over a decade. When it comes to jig fishing with small plastics, sometimes size is more important than color, as crappies tend to feed heavily on whatever the available baitfish forage is.

A recent winter favorite of mine is the Z-Man Micro Finesse baits that range from 1.5 to 2 inches long. Various plastic shapes are available and in many standard and alluring colors. We like the Baby BallerZ in the electric chicken color or various chartreuse hues. The StingerZ and TicklerZ are also excellent fished on a 1/32 or a 1/16 th ounce head. In recent years, we have also gone to 10-pound braids with clear, mono leaders in 8 to 10-pound test to make long distance casts from the shorelines when bank fishing using weighted floats. Heavier lines are needed when making long cast with floats like the 5-inch Rocket Bobber as they should be attached to the braided line, not the mono to avoid snap-offs on lighter mono.

At times, crappies will key on a specific size rather than color and if you can’t match the hatch than you might not catch a single fish. The Berkley Gulp! one-inch minnows have been a godsend when paired with a 1/64th ounce jig head and suspended below a small, sensitive float. Then again, crappies will often show a preference for a larger offering in the 2 to 3 -inch range...something you might use for bass even.

So, what is considered “eating-size” as opposed to big or even trophy-class crappies? Well mostly, that depends on what part of the country you are in. Throughout the southern and central portions of the nation

there are quality waters that routinely produce fish averaging 13 to 14 inches, with trophy-class fish of 17-inches and larger showing up annually. In our region, the tidal Potomac is very close to that standard with fish that will occasionally exceed 2-pounds. All of our local drinking water reservoirs have yielded 14-15 inch fish as top-end catches with a rare giant over 16-inches showing up now and then. Local farm ponds and Eastern Shore mill ponds should not be overlooked. However, most waters yield 10-inch class fish as the average size for eating with 12-inch fish considered as “slabs”. Some waters hold only smaller fish that run but 8-inches or so. If you are catching 10-11 inchers, you are doing well in most regional lakes.

As the weather continues to cool and water temperatures drop, crappies will remain active and good catches can be had. Provided we don’t get a hard freeze of surface ice. Keep in mind that Maryland has a

15-fish limit per day, per angler for these fish and Pennsylvania has an “over the top” limit of 50 fish per angler, per day. Crappie numbers can be fished down in heavily pressured lakes, so it pays to harvest wisely, letting the majority of the big fish go and keep more numerous smaller fish for the pan. Good times and good fishing are coming, so get out and enjoy!



Alvie Sickle shows a nice brace of eater-sized crappies during a winter crappie outing.



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# SPANNING THE GLOBE



Andy Fitch and his sons Macon and Henry landed this beautiful 41" Red Drum fishing Ocracoke's surf using fresh mullet from Tradewinds!



Kelly Tyson and her Dad, Scott, were fishing the surf off of Ocracoke Island when she landed this absolutely gorgeous 46" citation Red Drum!



This Lil Man is all smiles with his first fish. Photo courtesy of Tochtermans.



I normally don't share too many of my thoughts on social but this is too good not to share. I lost my dad in January...sitting in a bowstand yesterday enjoying hunting season without him for the first time gave me a chance to reflect on all the hours we spent together on ball fields, basketball courts, and in the deer woods. I was having a conversation with him telling him how much I miss him and thanking him for everything he did for us and our family and the many sacrifices he made. I had a good cry as I wish he was still here for one more hunting season or just to have one more talk...5 minutes after I dried my eyes and focused back on the hunt...out walked an absolute giant...this buck could have gone anywhere in the 6 acre plot but followed a doe to 24 yards under my tree...the shot was true as he bounded out in the middle of the plot and tipped over in seconds! No doubt this was divine intervention courtesy of the man upstairs and #PawPaw ...the great outdoors is home for me...its where I'm probably most comfortable! It's not always about the harvest it's about making memories! This buck will always be know as #PawPaw's Buck!





## “Tuna The Tide”

### MY INTRO TO SEA DUCKS

By Captain Mark Galasso

The moon was full. In fact it was SO full the sun had set and it still seemed like the middle of the day. A friend of mine and I had paddled across Greenwood Creek from his parents house to pass shoot geese on the farm across from his parents pier. We lost track of time as we talked about our new college experiences. Though we were neighbors and friends we went off to two different colleges. ROTC helped him decide and my love of the Shore and Marine Biology were my deciding factors.

We heard a faint honking in the distance and looked at our watches. Mine was about ten minutes behind his so we went by my watch though his was probably the accurate one. That would give us an extra ten minutes for the geese to fly over us and maybe get a shot. It was the longest ten minutes ever and the geese finally went over head just as time was up. We shot anyways. Five geese went over us and five geese continued their flight up the Creek, only now in absolute silence. We looked at each other, shrugged and walked toward the little rowboat hidden under some branches maybe a hundred feet away.

Just as we paddled up to the dock a flashlight beam hit us in the face. And after our eyes readjusted we recognized the gentleman sitting on the dock bench with his eyes narrowed but glued on us. He was the first one to speak. “Well, did you get em?” he asked. My buddy blurted out “Get what?” His gaze never changed. I was silent. I realized the gentleman sitting on the bench was the next door neighbor. Though I didn’t know him that well I new he worked for DNR. At the time I new Mr. Stotz worked for the DNR but I didn’t know whether or not he was on the enforcement side or science side. I kept quiet and let my buddy do all the talking. Eventually I just walked away and let the two of them hash things out.

About a week later I heard the phone ring. I was working on a homework project and let my Mom answer the phone. After a brief conversation between my Mom and the person on the other end She yelled from the kitchen “Mark, it’s for you.” When I picked up the phone it was Mr. Vernon Stotz on the other end. I was hoping maybe it was a call for a job since DNR was on my radar. I was hoping it wasn’t a call

to admonish me for my hunting after hours. Turns out it was something in between.

“So I heard your studying Marine Biology at Maryland.” he started. “And it’s obvious you like to shoot.” he continued. “I’m going Sea Duck hunting tomorrow and would like you to join me he went on. “Before I could wrap my head around this proposal I asked “What time?” He said” I know you like low light conditions but how about 7am?” Ok. See you then we said almost simultaneously.

So much for homework. Now I couldn’t concentrate. I didn’t even know what a Sea Duck was much less how you hunt for them. For all I knew I was taking a one way boat ride out Greenwood Creek and a swim in the Eastern Bay. My head was spinning. I think I told my Mom I loved her before bed that night and told her I was going duck hunting with Mr. Vernon in the morning. “That’s nice.” She said and went off to bed. I went to bed but didn’t sleep much.

The next morning I got up. Got ready. Grabbed some warm clothes and my bag of shells and my old Ithaca Feather lite and walked over to the Stotz’s. He was already on the boat. Decoys were loaded as well as his old shotgun and a note book. The decoys were a mix of black Clo-rox bottles and silhouettes neatly stack in the middle of the boat. They weren’t on V boards like we used for geese, they were actually on square frames that you could stack. Everything was lined and clipped so all you had to do was attach a sash weight and drop it over. I jumped on the boat, a little wooden skiff which barely had enough room for everything and off we went toward the Eastern Bay. We probably looked like one of those Bering Sea crabbers with a deck full of crab pots as we headed south down along Bennet’s Point.

Mr. Stotz didn’t say much until we reached the hand tonger fleet on the north end of Bugsby Bar. Then he explained what we were about to do. He explained that we had to be in a certain area, basically 700 yards from the nearest shoreline, the Eastern Bay Sea Duck Zone. We also needed to be near the tongers since their activity churning up the bottom attracted the ducks. He told me that occasionally a tonger would actually catch a duck in his tongs

they’d get so close. We had to be a least far enough away though that we wouldn’t hamper their ability to move around in search of new live bottom as they worked. We also had to be aware of how our shot would carry and allow plenty of room for that.

We apparently found the right spot and put out the decoys. They were arranged in a large V so we could anchor in the middle of the V. The boat had a quick release on the anchor so we wouldn’t have to pull it up and put it out every time we went to retrieve a bird. Once we were all set I got a crash course on Sea Ducks. Basically Sea Ducks consisted of Scooters, Old Squaws and Eiders. Eiders are more northern and stay off the beach and don’t come into the Chesapeake. Old Squaws are unmistakable. The Drakes have a long pin tail and are black , white and grey. They have a very distinct call and seem to use it as they chase each other around. Scooters come in various kinds and the Bay is the wintering home for at least three pretty common species. Most of what we see in the mid Bay are Skunk heads and Commons. Females all look pretty much the same. Males are shoeshine black and the skunk heads have a white stripe on the tops of their heads. Mr. Vernon obviously knew I wasn’t completely sure about what we were doing but wanted to make darn sure I knew what I was shooting at.

I noticed every time a workboat moved a cloud of ducks would move with it. Usually they hung close to the workboats and after an hour or so I was thinking maybe I should have brought my tongs out though they were probably six feet longer than our boat. But if we didn’t kill any ducks at least maybe I could have gotten us a bushel of Oysters. Hold that thought. Here they come. A line of about 20 Black specs heading right toward our boat. I heard “Get ready.” Just a whisper. I drew a bead on the lead duck, a skunk head. Take em! I never got up just puled the trigger. The fourth duck in line did a summersault and hit the water with a splash. It didn’t fall very far. The birds were only four feet off the water when I fired but they must have been moving fast. I was aiming

for the lead duck a good twenty feet in front of the one I hit.

We started up the motor and headed for the downed duck. He was bobbing belly up a hundred yards down wind of the boat. Over the years I’ve learned that Sea Ducks are not that easy to take down. Their feathers are thick and they fly deceptively fast. Also the advent of steel shot hasn’t helped with shot penetration. Another thing I’ve learned over the years is how hard it is to retrieve cripples. They can stay submerged for what seems like hours and when they do surface for a brief second to get air the kill target is about the size of a dime on the head. Everything else vital is kept under water.

I learned what the notebook was for. These birds that we harvested weren’t for eating. I also later learned THANK GOODNESS. They make poor table fair. We took notes on every bird we shot. We aged and sexed them and they went to a lab for stomach analysis to see what was in their diet. I also learned that Sea Ducks don’t fly over land. They are made for the water. The ones that we see in the Chesapeake actually fly along the coast until they reach the mouth of the Bay before they turn north and head UP the Bay to spend the winters and reverse the migration in the spring.

Back then, in the mid seventies, very few people hunted Sea Ducks. In our area the Canada Goose was king. As seasons and bag limits for the big Canadiens changed more and more people set their sights on the sporty shooting Sea Duck hunting provided. However, this new attention provided to the Sea ducks also educated them quickly. Now larger spreads and choppiier water are key to turning the ducks your way. One neat thing about Sea ducks though is the ability to hunt them and fish for Rockfish in the same trip. A number of guides now provide this “Cast and Blast” service in our area and you have a real chance of success since the seasons overlap for well over a month. So if you haven’t tried it give it a go. You might have a “Blast”. And if you have a friend who says their delicious let them prepare them for you. Just make sure you have a back up meal just in case.

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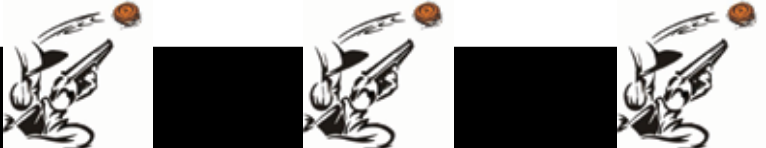
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# Cecil County Angler Named 15th FishMaryland Master Angler

Nick Perez of Perryville has earned a Master Angler Milestone Award under the Maryland Department of Natural Resources' FishMaryland program.

Perez is the 15th Master Angler since the program began in 2019. The award recognizes recreational anglers who catch ten trophy-sized fish of different species in Maryland. Perez's daughter, Lucy Moore, was the 10th Master Angler and was both the first youth and first female award recipient.

Perez started fishing Maryland waters at age two and has "fished nearly every fishery in the state for almost every species we have." Perez became well acquainted with the FishMaryland program after his daughter started submitting fish for her Master Angler Award. "After watching her become the state's youngest angler to receive the award, I figured it was time for dad to join her in the record books," said Perez.



**Nick Perez holds a carp he caught in 2020 while fishing with his daughter, Lucy. Photo courtesy of Nick Perez.**

Perez's qualifying catches, in order, were:

- Chesapeake Channa (northern snakehead) – 34 inches
- Redbreast sunfish – 8.5 inches
- White perch – 13.5 inches
- Largemouth bass – 21 inches
- Bluegill – 12 inches
- Chain pickerel – 24 inches
- Redear sunfish – 11 inches
- Rock bass – 10.5 inches
- Crappie – 16.5 inches
- Yellow perch – 14 inches


Perez's final qualifying fish was an impressive 14-inch yellow perch. Chesapeake Channa, also known as northern snakehead, has become his favorite species to target and a 34-incher was the largest of his ten qualifying catches. The most challenging catch he reeled in while pursuing the award was the redear sunfish.

"I had to drive an hour and a half to Frederick and fish Cunningham Falls because I knew that was my best shot at a big one," Perez said.

"(FishMaryland) is a great way to challenge yourself to become a better angler, and it might force you to get out of your comfort zone and target species you've never tried to catch before," Perez said. "I think my long-term goal is to have every single citation for every freshwater fish in the state."

FishMaryland is Maryland's recreational fishing award program and is a fun way to explore year-round recreational fishing and enjoy affordable, accessible, diverse, and high-quality fishing opportunities. More information on the Master Angler Milestone Award and the FishMaryland program is available on the program's website.




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# Fisheries commission to consider more striped bass restrictions

More striped bass fishing restrictions loom as East Coast fishery managers weigh whether to ratchet down already tightened catch limits for the struggling finfish known in the Chesapeake Bay region as rockfish.

The Atlantic States Marine Fisheries Commission, which oversees near-shore fishing for East Coast migratory fish species, plans to meet on Dec. 16 in Arlington, VA, to consider ordering new recreational and commercial catch restrictions in 2025.

The commission voted on Oct. 23 at its annual meeting in Annapolis to schedule a special December session after hearing that poor striped bass reproduction in the Bay and an expected spike in the catch of the last good crop — spawned six years ago — threatens to undermine efforts to rebuild the coastwide population.

Fishery managers called the December special meeting after hearing an update on the status of the striped bass population, which remains overfished. While catch restrictions ordered in recent years had appeared to be helping, the commission's technical experts warned at the October meeting that fishing mortality likely would increase next year because the cohort of fish spawned in 2018 would reach the size where they could be legally caught along the Atlantic coast. That, plus the below-average spawning of striped bass in the Bay, lowers the probability of rebuilding their numbers by 2029 to less than 50%.

One of the most sought-after commercial and sport fish in the Bay and along the coast, striped bass range the Atlantic from Canada to the Carolinas. The Chesapeake, though, is the primary spawning and nursery ground for 70% to 90% of the entire Atlantic Coast stock. Annual seine surveys for juvenile fish have found evidence of poor reproduction for six straight years in Maryland and two years in Virginia waters.

Under rules that took effect May 1, all recreational anglers in the Bay and its tributaries — including charter customers — were limited to landing just one fish per day between 19 inches and 24 inches long. Ocean anglers also can keep just one fish a day, but with a narrower legal-size window of 28 to 31 inches. The annual harvest quota for commercial fishers was reduced by 7% from the 2023 level.

Those catch limits have been controversial, especially in Maryland. Charter fishing customers in

the state had been allowed to keep two fish per trip until this year while individual anglers could keep just one. Charter captains say their business has plummeted by 50% or more since the change, threatening their livelihood. Others, though, have said without further catch reductions, the chance to rebuild the striped bass population before the end of the decade could be lost.

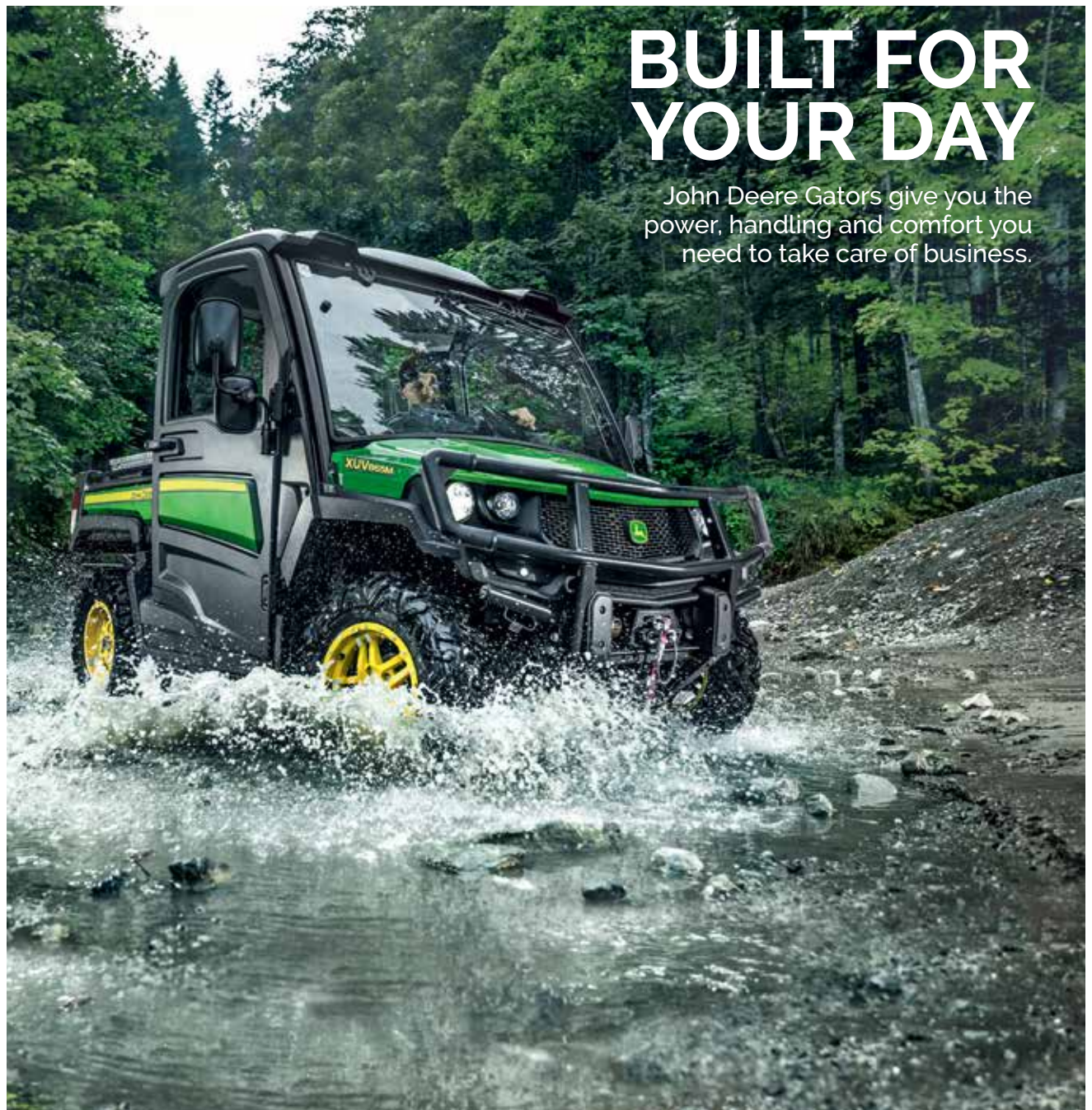
At the upcoming meeting, barring some unexpected good news about the status of the population, commission members plan to con-

sider requiring temporary closures of the fishery or new size limits on legally catchable fish — or both. They'll also weigh reducing the commercial catch quota. Their overall aim will be to reduce the loss of striped bass to fishing or natural mortality by 15% from 2024 levels.

The commission's striped bass management board will meet in person on Dec. 16 from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. at the Westin Crystal City, 1800 Richmond Highway, Arlington, VA. There's an option for attending via webinar. The draft agenda, webinar

information, and a report laying out management options for consideration will be posted here by December 3. A webinar explaining the options to be presented will be held at 6 p.m. Thursday, Dec. 5. To register for that, go here.

Written comments may be emailed to [comments@asmfc.org](mailto:comments@asmfc.org). They must be submitted by 11:59 p.m. on Tuesday, Dec. 10 for them to be included in the material the board has to review before its decision. Article courtesy Tim Wheeler at the Bay Journal



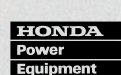
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Justin Johnson This little girl is on top of the world! My daughter tagged a doe which crashed right beside us. 45 minutes later this bruiser came running across the field directly to the doe she had already shot!

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**Brad Miller with his first Buck taken in Millington. Photo courtesy of Saltwater Adventures.**



**Jaxson Brightful age 11 Carroll County, Maryland had a nice hunt on youth day.**



**Tony Harvested a unique one this morning. County - Carroll Weapon - crossbow Broadhead - fixed muzzy 100gr Shot - entrance was high front shoulder, exit seen in the pictures Track - pool of bright red blood at shot location, track was tough to find blood with everything being wet from the rain but there was spots of white hair every 20 yards or so. He went about 200 yards.**

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## “Montana Grant”



By Grant Soukup

### THE BEST ETHICAL HUNTING

Big game hunting is a big sport. We no longer need to hunt for survival or subsistence. Plenty of domesticated meat is available at the grocery store. Hunting big game has changed. It is now about “Sport hunting”.

For some hunters this means big racks, long tails, big beards, full curls, or massive critters. Others challenge themselves using primitive weapons. Black powder, archery, crossbows, single shot rifles, shotguns, antique weapons, and atlals can be their weapons of choice. Bragging rights are about being a “hunter” not just a great shot.

Back in the day, old time hunters were looking for meat. This meant younger and tender critters. “You can’t eat horns”, was a common comment. Rifled barrels on flintlocks and later with percussion caps would get a few hundred yards in the right hands. Just ask Davey Crocket or Meshach Browning.

The first shotgun punkin balls were accurate out to 75 yards. After that, it was a crap shoot. Archers were accurate to 25 yards. Most 30/30 deer rifles were good to go out to around 150 yards. More deer were tagged with a Winchester lever action style rifle than any other weapon ever made.

Fair Chase Hunting means Ethical Hunting. Sport hunters follow the rules and abide by a one shot, one kill mantra. Accuracy was a quality of a great hunter. Mountain men shot just one time to not broadcast their location to the Native peoples that were threats. “Aim Small, Miss Small!”.

Fair chase means that the deer, elk, moose, etc. can use their amazing survival senses. Their senses of sight, smell, hearing, and awareness balance a fair chase with fair sport. To tag out a hunter must learn how to hunt, overcome, stalk, camouflage, and scout. Shooting is just one part of the sport.

Sniping is a skill used in warfare. When snipers were first used in combat, they were considered cowards or warriors without honor. They could shoot accurately to 300 or more yards. Their goal was to pick off officers or strategic soldiers. The skills of stealth and camouflage, along with field skills, make them deadly. If they do their job right, their prey never knows that they were a target.

Is Sniping Big Game Fair? Modern

weapons can easily target Big Game beyond 1,000 yards. This means that the elk, deer, antelope, or... never even has a chance to see, smell, hear, or defend themselves. Snipers can legally shoot across a canyon and make a kill shot that may take them hours to get to the kill.

Archery is also improving in accuracy and range. Modern crossbows can shoot a bolt over 300 feet per second out to ranges of 200 or more yards. Compound bows can do the same. Shotguns with rifled barrels and a scope can accurately kill a critter at 300 plus yards. Even handguns allow accuracy to 150 yards in a trained shooter’s hand.

Just because you can shoot at longer ranges, should you? Marksmanship is impressive but it is not the only skill that makes a hunter. If we needed to be subsistence hunters, perhaps the longer-range weapons are justified.

One of my hunting mentors preached, “Do you want to have sex or make love?” Making love is way more intimate and special. You need to be close. It is the ultimate thrill in true ethical sport hunting. A trained marksman can certainly increase their range but getting close takes many more hunting skills.

Long range shooters will frown upon my writing. They love the skill of spotting critters a mile away and hitting a target that far. In places like Montana where you can see great distances, long range shots are common. But does being a sniper from a long range make you an ethical hunter? Big Game are not the enemy, they are the meat and fair chased reward for being a great hunter.

One of my archery friends tagged a monster 7x7 bull elk on the Missouri Breaks. This area is loaded with lots of big bulls and bow hunters. The bulls do not come to a call like in other mountainous areas. Instead, bow hunters set up along trails that go from bedding to water/food. They hunker down and range their shooting



corridors. When the elk travel past them, the archers launch their arrows beyond sporting ranges. The arrows hit their targets, but not fatally.

A sporting kill shot with a bow is 20 yards or closer. I can hit the bull’s eye beyond

100 yards, but I have never tagged out over 18 yards. With a recurve, crossbow, or compound bow. My friend hit his massive bull 125 yards! It died but when he got to the big bull, there were 7 other non-fatal, long range, arrow wounds on the bull. Several broad heads, and broken shafts, were still in the bull. The meat was festered, and he only took the antlers!

In some areas, where hunting access is limited, baiting can be legal. The goal is to attract critters into an ethical range. Hunters are usually in a blind, stand, or tree stand. At least the critter can make a choice to get into range.

Waterfowl hunters are notorious for long range flock busting. They are not skilled enough to call and decoy in a flock of ducks or geese, so they blast at whatever comes by, even if its beyond gun range. To try and equal the score, they buy bigger guns, longer range shells instead of learning how to hunt better. Shooting a tolling goose or duck at 20 yards is so exciting, why would you do it any other way?

Most of the dedicated long-range snipers that I have run in to share some common traits. They are often physically unable to hunt. They are great shots to overcome their handicaps. Others, that could hunt, lack time to hunt. They are more about filling a tag than hunting. It is not uncommon for them to give or donate their meat.



Kevin Naugle and Company on the Sea Ducks. Photo courtesy of Trick Shot. It does the Trick.com

They just want a filled tag or a trophy for their wall. Money for their weapons or comforts is no object. This is also what gets them a mate.

Another buddy that I know, tags out on a big bull elk, every year, with his long range Lapua. He has never tagged an elk closer than 900 yards! Huge full shoulder mounts adorn his Montana lodge. He owns a big ranch and shoots from his deck. He plants wheat each year and never harvests it. The elk migrate into his field, from public land, in Winter where he gets the pick of the herd. To me, this is baiting and no hunting skills involved. The rich guy is a great shot, from his deck, with a rifle rest, huge optics, and comforts. How good of a shot would he be at 20 yards, when a bugling elk comes into close range, as he hides behind a lawn chair or Weber grill?

My first bow deer was with a recurve, Ben Pearson bow, at 15 yards. I was using cedar shafts and finger tabs. No sights, or other advantages. I was in full camo and had stalked the buck from a few hundred yards. Later I made my own bow from Osage Orange trees, arrows from alder, points from flint and a string from sinews of a roadkill deer. I tagged a buck with a sharp rock, on the end of a stick, fletched with my spring gobbler wing feathers. The buck was 12 yards away when I shot.

Different hunters have different expectations. I get it. My first bull elk was with a single shot 30-06 rifle at 450 yards. I was very proud of that shot, but it did not compare to a bow bull elk at 7 yards! A lifetime of shooting training allows me to hit targets at a thousand yards but...Hunters just need to be honest about what is ethical and sporting. What style of hunting is the most ethical and sporting? There’s more to hunting than filled tags.





Three years chasing this deer. 4th time in bow range. Finally able to get a shot. It was around the backside of my tree, slightly quartered, deer was walking slowly. I tried to stop this buck last year and it cost me. I took the opportunity I was presented.



Lauren Robinson A lot of time and patience went into finally getting this guy. The super short track was the cherry on top.

## Maryland Reports 2024 Early Deer Season Results

### *Deer hunters enjoy successful early season with increased harvest compared to 2023*

Maryland hunters harvested 20,592 deer during the early portion of the 2024 archery and muzzleloader seasons. The harvest was a 24% increase from last year's official harvest of 16,631 deer for the same period.

The annual deer harvest fluctuates from year to year for a number of reasons, including hunter effort, weather conditions, availability of natural foods like acorns, and current population size of the herd. Good weather conditions and increased hunter effort were primarily responsible for the increased harvest this year, according to Maryland Department of Natural Resources Wildlife and Heritage Service Associate Director Brian Eyler.

Along with the annual deer firearm season, archery and muzzleloader deer hunting are essential components of the state's deer management program and assist with controlling abundant deer populations across Maryland.

The two-month harvest included 12,281 deer taken during the archery season and 8,144 harvested during the October muzzleloader season. An additional 167 deer were reported during managed hunts. The archery harvest increased 21% while the muzzleloader harvest increased 29% compared to the previous year. The sika deer harvest increased 19% from 1,477 deer to 1,764 deer.

Hunters harvested 984 deer on Sundays that were open to archery hunting, accounting for 8% of the total archery harvest.

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## Coastal Report

By Capt. Mark Sampson

A few days after a big storm had slipped past our coast we headed offshore for a day of shark fishing. The waters had settled down quite a bit, but upon arrival at our fishing spot I didn't exactly like what I saw. The water was extremely murky; in fact it looked more like we were floating in chocolate milk than the same ocean we had fished prior to the storm. It was so bad that I contemplated running a bit farther offshore in the hopes better (cleaner) conditions, but after reminding myself about effectively sharks use their nose to locate prey and how good the fishing had been in that location, I decided we'd give the dark water at least a couple hours to produce something before we tried someplace else.

We didn't have to wait that long – just ten minutes after putting the first line in the water we had the first shark hooked-up and for the rest of the morning we were getting bites every 15-20 minutes. You've got to hand it to the sharks; they have one heck of an olfactory system!

But sharks aren't the only critters that rely heavily on the use of their "snoots" for their daily routines. Within the entire animal kingdom scent plays a huge role in not only "finding" food but also avoiding "becoming" food for other creatures. The sense of smell also helps animals locate their own offspring, potential mates and even to navigate through areas of decreased visibility or on long migrations. I'm surly not telling my fellow deer hunters anything they don't already know when I say that it's absolutely unbelievable how well some animals can detect and will react to the slightest scent from potential predator or prey.

The sense of smell in some animals is so acute that they're often described as "being able to smell in color." To us "humanoids that concept is pretty much incomprehensible but that's only because over the last few million or so years we've pretty much evolved away from the need to use our noses to put food in our bellies, predators off our backs, and a mate in our cave. They say that now our "larger brains" compensate for the decreased efficiency of our other senses. I dun'obout all dat, but I do know that even though I might be able to tell if one of my neighbors has a barbecue grill going, I can't always discern exactly what they're cooking up for dinner, and I surly don't want to waste a visiting privilege by "just dropping over to say

hello" if all they're doing is grilling a few tube-steaks.

On the other hand, fish (and I don't mean just sharks) have their snoots so well dialed-in that they can indeed tell if the aroma up current is worth honing in on or is better off avoiding. As fishermen we can and often do take advantage of this by considering the scent trail that our baits or lures leave in the water as we work them up, over, and around the fish we pursue. Nothing speaks more to this than our use of fresh baits. In side-by-side comparisons fresh baits almost always out perform baits that have been previously frozen or sitting on ice for a while. Sure there are times when the fish are so intent on feeding that without hesitation they will quickly whack the oldest and nastiest bait in the cooler, but you can bet they know what they're doing and the quality of what they're slurping down, it's just that at that time, for whatever reason - they don't care.

Of course, fishermen also know

that there are too many times when fish "do care" about freshness and the quality of what we have hanging on our hooks, and it's those times when anglers who make the extra effort to ensure that their offerings are fresh and smelling as good as possible will get the bites when others won't. But securing fresh bait isn't always as easy as wandering into a local tackle shop because rarely will such patrons have the opportunity to purchase baits such as squid, shiners, clams, mackerel, or ballyhoo in anything but frozen form. If they absolutely-positively have to have "fresh" anglers can sometimes catch their own bait such as clams, shiners, crabs, sand fleas, bunker, or mullet. Or, if they're willing to pay the premium price folks, can sometimes solve the problem by purchasing squid, fish, clams, soft crabs, or shrimp at a local seafood market.

These days scent appeal doesn't just stop with natural bait. Over the past couple decades tackle companies have put a lot of research into the development of artificial lures and chemical compounds that either attract fish, stimulate them to feed, or achieve some combination of both. Berkley's "Gulp!" baits are an excellent example of just how far this research has come by providing a product that's simple to use, easy to transport and store, and catches the heck out of fish. In many situations the Gulp! lures have proven so successful that anglers have actually had better success with these

scent activated artificials than with fresh or even live bait. Historically lure manufactures have focused mostly on developing artificials that invite fish to bite by sight (size, color, shape, or movement) or by sound (vibrations, rattles) but almost never by smell. Now it's "all" about smell and it will be interesting to see in the future how stimulants to the three senses will be combined to produce products that will surly outperform even the best of what's on the market today.

Anglers will sometimes enhance the scent from natural baits by soaking them in fish oil or certain products made specifically for that purpose. I've experimented a little with that myself but haven't seen enough definite results to for me to consider that the outcome was worth the effort. However, one scent trick that I often use when fish are visible but ignoring my bait is to squish it up in my hand or put a few slices in it to make it release more scent. We used to do that a lot when we would chunk for tuna and have finicky fish that needed a little extra incentive to take the bait. I've seen it work for sharks, dolphin, and different bottom fish as well.

When the wind and rain comes through and our local waters turn into a murky mess it certainly doesn't get any easier to catch a fish. But thanks to a few tricks, some new products, and our scaly friend's keen sense of smell - fishing in chocolate milk can still be both fun and productive.

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Brandon Robinson with his hammer time buck harvested in Wicomico county.

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“The best thing about hunting and fishing,’ the Old Man said, ‘is that you don’t have to actually do it to enjoy it. You can go to bed every night thinking about how much fun you had twenty years ago, and it all comes back clear as moonlight.” — Robert Ruark



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**“The Last Word”**

**2025 THOUGHTS**

**By Steve Huettner**

When you spend a fair amount of time perched in a tree stand, and deer movement is minimal, one has time to contemplate things. With a new year less than a month away, here are some thoughts and musings for 2025.

Black bear hunting in Maryland has entered its second decade, with several thousand hunters applying for roughly nine hundred and fifty permits. Drawing a tag isn't easy and is something that should be appreciated. Every year the Maryland Natural Resources Police (NRP) find and charge hunters with baiting for bears (which is illegal in Maryland). This past season saw 9 individuals charged with hunting over bait. Should individuals convicted be prohibited from applying again for a certain period? Should law breakers be penalized and those chances given to someone else?

Nice weather leads to an increased deer harvest. An exceptionally warm and dry fall got more hunters afield. According to the Maryland Department of Natural Resources (MD DNR) Maryland hunters harvested 20,592 deer during the early portion of the 2024 archery and muzzleloader seasons. The harvest was a 24% increase from last year's official harvest of 16,631 deer for the same period. The archery harvest increased by 21% while the muzzleloader harvest increased by 29% compared to the previous year. Have we become fair-weather hunters or more passionate?

The Maryland Duck Stamp and con-

test has disappeared quicker than mallards that see you outside the blind when answering nature's call. For those that are unaware, MD DNR decided to end the duck stamp and corresponding stamp contest after fifty years. A few sentences contained in a press release were all the heads-up given to the hunting community. The same community helped with the increase in the price of a duck stamp, along with the price of a general hunting license. After a year of meetings, the DNR will replace it with the wildlife photo contest that makes up the DNR calendar contest. Will be interesting to see how it is received.

Will 2025 see an increase in new hunters with the DNR having new funding and staff for the 3R program Retention, recruitment, and reactivation have been the new norms for state agencies. As someone who has participated for the last six years in the adult mentor hunt, I can attest to the success and joy of taking new hunters afield. If you haven't taken a new hunter or a kid afield this year, shame on you. Move it to the top of your to-do list, I promise that you won't be disappointed.

For waterfowl hunters, the biggest question is not how to lay out the decoys, but whether or not birds will arrive. The last few seasons have seen birds lingering much longer up north. If they have open water, food, and temperate weather there isn't much reason for them to leave. With fowl lingering north longer, will the

Atlantic Flyway adjust season and bag limits? In the past, most northern states would be frozen out by mid-November. As someone who hunted North Dakota and Northern Vermont this season, I can attest to the warm weather, lack of migration, and stale birds near the Canada border.

What does the future hold for Atlantic Population Migratory geese and rockfish? Decades ago Maryland saw a moratorium on both geese and rockfish. Rockfish have seen several abysmal years from the young of the year index with a reduction in season length, slot limits, and bag limits. Last season saw an AP goose season of 45 days, this year is 30 days and a two-bird limit, and it looks like next season will be 30 days and 1 bird. Nesting pair numbers haven't been strong in Canada and could we see a closure for the 2026 season? It will be interesting, and depressing to see if history repeats itself.

Sunday deer hunting has been going strong for over two decades. It has proven to be popular, and successful for deer harvest. Roughly 10% of deer are killed on Sundays. Maryland is a patchwork of county-by-county days and times, leading to confusion and frustration among Maryland hunters. Three counties (Baltimore, Prince George's, and Howard) don't allow any Sunday hunting (even on private land). Will 2025 see the legislature and hunting community work on standardizing Sunday hunting across the state?

Drones are becoming popular for deer recovery. Currently, there are no regulations regarding the use of drones in deer hunting. While they are great tools when used properly, they can also be used unethically, not only in deer hunting but also in turkey and waterfowl hunting. What would prevent someone from buzzing birds that are roosting on an adjoining property to get them to fly? Raining outside, so let me fly a drone over the field to see if any turkeys are out. It seems with the pace of technology, the sporting

and legislative communities are playing catch up to ensure fair chase. Let's hope we can come up some ground rules.

I hope all our readers have a happy and healthy holiday season and new year.



**Sammi Blankenship is all smiles during youth day.**



**Not to be outdone by his sister, Easton Blankenship shows off his buck.**



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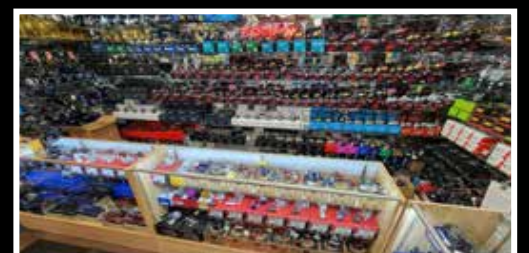
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## Recipe of the Month

# FRENCH STYLE GOOSE STEW

### INGREDIENTS

2 each, goose legs and thighs (skinless goose wings work as well)  
4 garlic cloves, chopped  
2 medium carrots, peeled and diced  
1 stalks celery, diced  
1 medium onion, chopped  
1/4 teaspoon fennel seeds  
1/4 teaspoon of each dried herb (thyme, rosemary, oregano, rosemary)  
1 bay leaf  
2 saffron threads (optional)  
One 14-ounce can of diced tomatoes  
1/2 cup dry white wine  
1 to 2 cups reserved goose broth  
4 red potatoes, quartered or cut into 1-inch cubes  
1 cup sliced smoked sausage links  
Salt and black pepper to taste  
Fresh herbs for garnish



### DIRECTIONS

Place the goose legs and thighs in a large pot and cover with water.  
Cover and bring to a simmer over medium-high heat. Cook until fork tender. This can take a long time (between 2 to 3 and a half hours).  
Add water to the pot if necessary. Remove the meat from the pot, strain, and reserve the broth.  
Shred the goose meat on a cutting board or in a large bowl and set aside.  
In a heavy pot or dutch oven add all of the ingredients except the sausage, shredded goose pieces and goose broth.  
Pour enough broth into the pot so that the ingredients are covered by around a 1/2 inch.  
Bring to a slow simmer and partially cover with a lid.  
When the potatoes are near fork tender, add the remaining ingredients.  
Gently simmer on medium low heat until the potatoes are tender.  
Season with salt and ground black pepper to taste.  
Garnish with finely chopped herbs such as fresh rosemary, chives, parsley, or tarragon.  
Drizzle with a little extra virgin olive oil and serve with crusty bread.

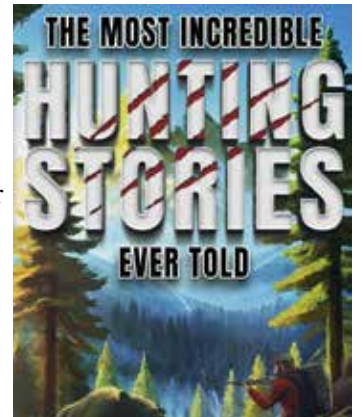


Mike Connolly with an 8 pt buck. Photo Courtesy of Johns Butcher Shop.

## Book of the Month

### *The Most Incredible Hunting Stories Ever Told: True Tales About Hunting, Trapping, Adventure and Survival*

The Most Incredible Hunting Stories Ever Told details the intense struggles and the incredible determination to survive of more than ten hunters across the world who found themselves in the kinds of harrowing situations that all hunters fear and dread will never happen to them.



You'll read about:

Jeremy Dickson, who was brutally attacked and mauled by a Grizzly Bear while elk hunting in the Rocky Mountains of Wyoming.

Dan, a duck hunter who was plunged into the frigid waters of a Minnesota lake when his boat tipped over and found himself trapped under the water.

Dwight Jones found out the hard way that the treestands hunters often use can be a major safety hazard if you aren't too careful.

Scott B. was attacked and nearly shredded apart by a pack of wild dogs while taking down his tree stand in the backwoods of Georgia.

Richard Wesley, a bowhunter who was forced to confront a charging Black Bear with his bow in the forests of Ontario.

Rick Neuman was furiously attacked underwater by an aggressive Bull Shark while spearfishing in the murky waters off the coast of Florida.

These stories are eye-opening and inspirational because of the critical survival lessons that we can learn from each of these hunters.

While each of these stories differ from one another in regards to the unique and extraordinary circumstances that these hunters found themselves in, they are all united in one crucial aspect: the sheer perseverance of each hunter who managed to make it out alive.



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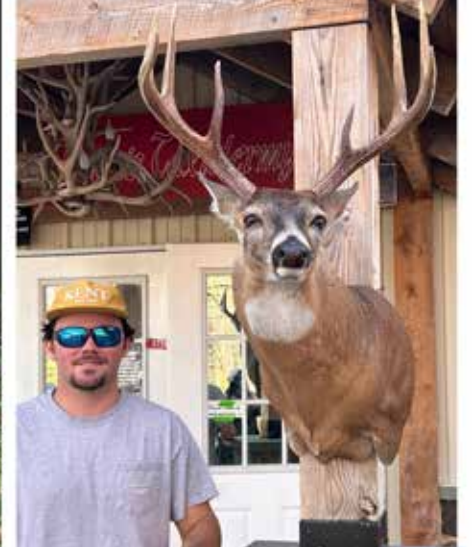




You've taunted me all year, even making a trip to my house in the dark. Finally was able to connect and I couldn't be more happy. Thank you to my wife and kids for being so patient as I hunted as much as possible to make this happen!!



14 year old William (Jake) Fretterd from Denton Md got his deer on youth day weekend. Jake is an avid hunter and tagged his deer in Cecil County on his Pop Pop's land.



Taylor killed a great buck last season. Photo courtesy Fagen's Taxidermy.

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