

# Fishing & Hunting Journal



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NEW TOURNAMENT SERIES

FREE



# Sportfishing club launches

## new tournament series by F&HJ Staff

The Chesapeake Bay Sportfishing Association, LLC is the vision of Captain Joe Thorpe. Tournament dates have already been approved as required, by the Maryland Department of Natural Resources. Three exciting striped bass tournaments are scheduled for 2018, one spring, one summer and one in the fall. The contests are for amateurs only. Save the dates! Saturday, May 5th and Sunday, May 6th starts the new Chesapeake Bay Spring Sportfishing Tournament Series. August 25th is on the calendar for the CBSFA Summer Rockfish Tournament and November 10th and 11th is set for the CBSFA Fall Rockfish Tournament. Joe promises to conduct the fishing contests openly and honestly. Tournament entries will be posted online so everyone can see the number of boats entered and the payout amounts.

The tournaments are a means to raise funds to support the new organization, but they are also a way to have some fun fishing with friends and family. Joe plans to have the tournaments include Catch and Release categories as well as Catch and Consume. Joe also wants to have a tournament focused on children and families because he says, "the future of fishing is in the hands of our children." Joe would like nothing better than to see like-minded folks join together in this new group to help restore our waterways and thus improve the fishing in the Chesapeake Bay. That is the main idea according to Joe, to have another organization with a voice in Annapolis to advocate for recreational anglers.

Joe has an evolving business plan and is open to suggestions. He and his wife Sherry are volunteering their time and have invested their savings to get this new venture off the ground. The plan is to take any profits made during the first year and apply them toward operating expenses. Joe intends to transition CBSFA into a non-profit entity and is committed to the success of this new organization. Captain Joe invites any local anglers interested in a leadership role in this new fishing organization to contact him. For more information, go to [www.cbsfa.club](http://www.cbsfa.club).



Beautiful Cecil County gobbler taken on the second day of 2018 Spring Turkey Season. Photo by Roger Everett

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## “Campbell’s Catch”

### National Harbor Fish Habitat Project

Back in 2014, Dick Berich, Vice-President of Maryland B.A.S.S. Nation and MBN Conservation Director, Scott Sewell were having lunch and talking about why the bass fishing wasn't as good as it used to be in the lower Potomac River. As avid bass anglers and long-time members of MBN both men saw that many of the weed beds which once held bass were gone, largely destroyed by wind storms and erosion. Gone too was the excellent bass fishing. Smoots Bay, once a sand and gravel quarry, was a prime largemouth bass spawning area long before National Harbor was built. To Dick and Scott, this seemed like a perfect area where

aquatic habitat improvements could be made. Thinking about what the fish needed most, the two men put their heads together to start something big.

First, Scott contacted Joe Love, Tidal Bass Manager of Maryland Department of Natural Resources with the idea to improve the habitat in the waters of National Harbor, formerly known as Smoots Bay. Joe then had someone from MD-DNR contact National Harbor with the proposal. Next, Dick, Scott, Joe and others from MBN and MD-DNR met with National Harbor people. MD-DNR proposed planting eight to ten reef balls, but Dick and Scott wanted to do something bigger. Their suggestion was to put some wood down in addition to the reef balls to provide better

cover and spawning areas. Bass like to build nests near logs so they don't have to look around 360 degrees to guard from predators. Dick, a civil engineer by trade, designed special triangular fish structures made of

wood, PVC pipe and concrete.

It took over a year to get all the necessary permits together. Joe Love was very helpful coordinating all of the parties involved including National Harbor, the Army Corps of Engineers, the Maryland Department of the Environment and the Maryland-National Capital Park and Planning Commission. Grant applications were filed and funds were raised

for project expenses. Generous donations were made by National Harbor, the Maryland Artificial Reef Initiative, and Fish America. The entire project cost \$20,000.

The project material includes 80 reef balls and 12 wood, PVC pipe and concrete structures. Students, volunteers, Chesapeake Bay Foundation members and others made 80 concrete reef balls out of special molds. The reef balls will help reduce erosion caused by boat wakes and wind and help the growth of new grasses. MBN and other volunteers built twelve wood and concrete structures on the shoreline of the Potomac. Each structure is made of tree limbs bolted together with all-thread and weighted down by concrete anchors weighing 200 pounds apiece. PVC piping is set in the middle of the concrete anchors used to attach the logs. Two of the structures are weighted with two anchors, three with five anchors and seven with three, 200 pound concrete anchors. The unique wood structures are set in four to eight feet of water. Structures set any shallower would be unwise because hungry blue herons could then easily get to the fish. Many different species of fish will use the new cover. By November 2016, Phase I of the National Harbor



Scott and crew working on fish habitat structure.

Project was underway. One of the biggest expenses was hiring a barge with captain and crew to deploy the reef balls and structures. Forty reef balls were placed in five to ten feet of water in five clusters of eight balls each. Phase II consisted of placing the other 40 reef balls, this time four to five feet deep. Marker buoys and signs point to where the reef balls and structures sit. The MD DNR Tidal Bass Program will monitor these sites and plan to stock these areas with fingerling bass. There are no prohibited areas for anglers, only the normal fishing regulations apply.

MBN wants to do more structure projects in the Potomac River and elsewhere including the Upper Bay. Dick told me the Maryland Transportation Authority has already agreed to work with MBN and get a demolition contractor to arrange for barges to haul concrete rubble upriver when the Route 301 Bridge gets rebuilt in a few years. Dick would like to see the rubble placed along the six to twelve feet contour lines in the Potomac River so largemouth bass can have a current break, especially in the winter. Dick and Scott would like nothing better than to continue enhancing fish habitat. They have some big ideas.



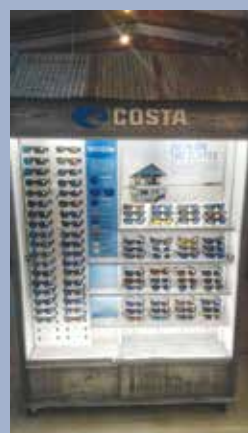
Scott Sewell and Dick Berich working on the habitat project, December 2017.



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# Fishing & Hunting Journal

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May 2018

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## FAITH OF OUR FATHERS

### A word from our Pastor-

One of the basic needs and longings of the heart is for a real, true friend. Many definitions have been given to friendship, both serious and funny. It's been said, "A friend is someone who doesn't go on a diet when you're fat", or "A true friend will go on liking you no matter how successful either of you become." On the more serious side, a friend is one who strengthens you with prayers, blesses you with love, and encourages you with hope.

As we go through life, you and I will meet a lot of different people. There are those who are casual acquaintances. They touch our lives briefly and then they are gone. There are fair-weather friends. When storms come, they abandon ship. Then there are true friends. When they get on board, they stay on board. Through thick and thin, you can count on them.

Out of all the people Jesus knew, he had few close friends. It was Ben Franklin who said, "Be slow in making friends, even slower in changing them." Counseling with people through the years, I have found that having a friend can solve many of the problems that people have. Everyone wants someone to care - someone to walk in when the entire world walks out.

The Native American meaning for the word friend is "one who carries my sorrows on his back." Today, if you have a good friend, thank God for him. If you are in need of a friend, remember that to gain a friend you must be friendly.

Remember that the Bible says, "A friend loveth at all times, and a brother is born for adversity. There is a friend that sticketh closer than a brother." Jesus can be to each one what we need. Turn to Him today with your burdens. He is just a prayer away.

MEL BRINDLEY Pastor  
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# May 12 Fishing Rodeo at St. Mary's River State Park

St. Mary's River State Park hosts its ninth annual Youth Fishing Rodeo 8:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. May 12.

All children, aged 3-15, are eligible to participate in this free event.

The event will include a casting competition as well as educational and informational demonstrations with live animals. Prizes will be given to registered participants who catch the biggest fish of different species. Hot dogs and drinks will also be served during the awards ceremony.

The Maryland Department of Natural Resources works with local partner organizations to host youth fishing rodeos across the state, providing engaging educational opportunities for nearly 5,000 children.

Participation in the fishing rodeo is free. For more information or to register, please call 301-872-5688.



Hunter Gottlieb has had a bumby start to spring to say the least. However, it has been with "True Grit" that he has been stepping it up in the field and elsewhere. Good job on this spring Gobbler.



Robbie Wink with one of his 8 Beaver he caught in a creek in Somerset County. Photo courtesy of Wink's Sporting Goods.



Over the past 40 years Captain Mark Galasso has been fishing and cruising the waters of the Chesapeake Bay and the coastal waters off the Delmarva Peninsula in search of striped bass (rock fish), bluefish, flounder and the many other species that frequent our waters. Whether your style is light tackle, fly, jigging or live lining or the more traditional trolling and chumming we have the experience to put you on the fish. Crabbing is also available for your enjoyment. Trot-lining the traditional Eastern Shore way is a great way to catch your dinner. Sightseeing, cruising and nature tours are also available with flexible hours to fit your needs. Visit us at one of our ports of call at Kent Island, the Susquehanna flats or the Chesapeake Bay Bridge Tunnel (CBBT) and everywhere in between.

For additional information Contact:

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## “Tackle Box Tim”

### Kayak Outdoorsman

In case you haven't noticed, the use of a kayak amongst outdoorsmen is gaining in popularity. It's happened so rapidly that folks in kayaks are now commonplace. Fishermen are using them from ponds and backwaters to the ocean. Waterfowlers can gain access to areas more remote than where the stereotypical johnboat can. With only a few limitations – range, speed, and wind come to mind – a kayak has many up sides.

Harford County native, Chris White, is partial to kayaks. He is in a kayak-based bass club and paddles the Susquehanna for stripers. He uses his kayak to reach shallow waters for duck hunting and runs a line of traps in summer for crabs.

Chris has a Feel Free Lure 11.5-foot kayak. He loves the freedom it affords. He can launch from any ramp; but can also slide in from a roadside bank or into a pond. The kayak packs very well. There is a hatch to access the hollow cavity where there's plenty of storage. It is equipped with flush mouth rod holders.

White recently outfitted his kayak with the Feel Free Overdrive peddle system. This gives him more speed and range. It is an added bonus for heading upriver when there are gates open at the Conowingo Dam. The peddle system can be pulled forward and out of the water when he needs to traverse skinny water. It can be removed completely if he plans to fish or hunt

small bodies of water.

Chris takes a stealthy approach with bass fishing. While he does peddle from spot to spot as depth allows, he sneaks up on the bass by paddle. Having very little draft, he can venture much farther into backwaters than any powered vessel. In many of these areas, fish rarely see a lure and are eager to bite.

Being low to the surface allows him better angles at which to cast to targets. He can skip tubes and worms under the lowest overhangs and docks with ease. Casting surface lures is also a breeze. The angle of his line to the water does not change as it would from a boat, which means the action of his frog, popper, or spook will remain the same. He does recommend a drag setting that is a bit looser than you might use on a boat. The initial surge away from the kayak from a bass or striper will test your reel and line.

The Susquehanna River can be a challenge. Chris advises to pay close attention to the power generation schedule for Conowingo Dam. He says that you can easily be swept away if you are unaware or not paying attention. Nonetheless, moving water means a better bite. White tucks into eddies behind exposed rocks to fish the faster moving waters. There are times where he will fish standing on top of a large rock after pulling his kayak up on to it.

As with the largemouth bass, White likes his topwater baits for

stripers in the river. He's found, like many others, that the Whopper Popper is one of the best surface baits out there. He is also partial to The Rapala X-Pop popper. It pops and splashes with much less effort than other similar lures that he has used. When they won't take lures on top, Chris will twitch a Shadow Rap jerkbait in the current.

Duck hunting by kayak isn't something most have heard of. Yet, Chris has made it work. He has plenty of room behind his seat for decoys. He paddles from Perryville Community Park out into the open waters of the flats where there is plenty of good hunting out 400 yards or more from shore as required by law. He has to miss the early morning hunt because the park doesn't open early enough; but he has had plenty of success on mid-morning hunts. As for stability, he's never concerned that the recoil of his 12-gauge shotgun will would tip him over.

Crabbing by kayak ... White has made that work too. He stacks 12 open top traps and a small cooler behind



Chris White shows a big largemouth from the Susquehanna Flats.

his seat, and a 5-gallon bucket on the bow. He'll set two lines of six traps and makes continuous loops. The water's edges in much closer sitting so low to the water. Grabbing the float and pulling up the trap is as simple as it gets.

The kayaking lifestyle isn't for everyone, yet there is place for a kayak amongst plenty of outdoorsmen. Whether your passion is fishing, hunting, or crabbing --- or all three in the case of Chris White -- you may find a kayak is the way to go.



The Feel Free 11.5 ready for a day of fishing and crabbing

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## “Tuna The Tide”

### Shallow Water Fishing Tactics

By Captain Mark Galasso

Shallow is a relative term. For the large cargo ships that run up and down the Chesapeake Bay any water less than 30 feet is shallow. To someone in a canoe shallow water might refer to water that wouldn't come past your ankles. But to light tackle fishing guides when we refer to the flats or the shallows we are typically talking about water from two to six feet and special tactics are needed to find, and successfully catch fish in water that shallow.

The first thing to remember is fish in shallow water are very wary. They understand that they are vulnerable not only to other larger fish they are also vulnerable from predators in the sky. Therefore they are always on guard. Obviously, if they have to escape they can only move vertically unlike in deeper water where they can move in any direction including up and down. I believe fish understand this and realize that if they find prey in the shallows their prey has the same constraints in escaping. Therefore, predators will risk exposure knowing it is easier for them to run down their prey.

So we know that fish in the shallows are there because it is easier to run down prey. Another reason fish risk the shallows is because the water temperatures might be higher. A prime example of this would be the Susquehanna Flats in the spring. Large Stripers cruise the Flats not only looking for Herring and Shad but hoping to warm up their body temperatures to speed up the maturing process for their eggs so they can spawn and get back to the ocean. In the summer shallow water also tends to hold more oxygen than the deeper waters. This is due to constant wave action and oxygen release by sun drenched vegetation. Fish tend to be more active in water rich in oxygen.

With all this in mind let's think

about how we might approach wary fish in shallow water and try and catch them. Initially the most important thing is the approach. Stealth is the key. If you have a trolling motor on your boat like I do use it. I rarely use my main power in water less than four feet in less I'm leaving. If you don't have access to a trolling motor bring a long pole like the guides use down in Florida. This can also double as an anchor if you find fish and need to hold steady. I'm lucky enough to have a power pole on my Everglades. I can anchor in water up to 8 feet just by hitting a button. If you have to drop an anchor slowly let it out. If you throw it you'll see exactly where all the fish WERE as they leave wakes trying to get away from you.

In the case of Chesapeake Bay we fish a lot of shallow water. The Susquehanna Flats at the head of the Bay can be phenomenal in the Spring. Tangier and Pocomoke Sound hold everything from Specs and Reds to Flounder and Blues most of the Summer. And the mid Bay has thousands of shallow points and stump fields that hold Rock and Perch in the summer and fall. Interestingly enough when my big boat friends struggle trolling and bait fishing in the deeper waters you can be assured many of those fish have gone shallow for one reason or another. One reason might be during a full moon where fish can feed shallow in the dawn and twilight hours. In the mid Bay a lot of the shallow water fishing happens during those hours.

If I'm fishing any of the shallows I'll move in and cut my motor off a good two or three hundred yards from where I think I might find fish. I'll gently put down the trolling motor and head that direction. If I can drift there I won't even use the trolling motor unless I need to correct my drift slightly. If I have two clients I put one on the

bow and the other on the stern. I fish off the middle. We cast in the direction of the drift. We fan cast. The stern guy has a ninety degree area to cover from directly astern of the motor to the middle of the boat. The bow guy does the same thing only he casts straight off the bow and works his casts toward the center. I fill in the gap. We might be throwing top water, small spoons or even light grubs. We'll vary our offerings until we find something that might work. Many times we'll find fish before we get to the destination. I'll drop the power pole and cast until the fish move on.

One thing I've learned over the years is the farther my guys can cast the better our success in the shallows. There is a couple of reasons for this. If you think about fan casting your trying to cover a large section of water before you get to close to the fish and spook them off. The larger the fan the better are your chances. Another reason long casts are needed is to entice wary fish into a strike. Large Rockfish like we find on the Flats are notorious for following a bait a long distance. I've seen 40 inch plus cows follow a Stillwater plug all the way to the boat and try and hit it as the angler is lifting it out of the water. A long cast means your bait is going to be in the strike zone longer. And don't be in a rush to make another cast. Work your lures all the way to the boat.

Recently I had my guys at Shore Tackle build me a couple of specialized rods to increase the customers casting distance. We used moderate action rods that load better than the typical fast tip rods we use for jigging. Microwave guides are something relatively new that dramatically tame the memory of line spinning off a spinning reel lessening the friction of the line as it runs through the guides. We have been spooling the reels with a 20 or



30 pound Power Pro which has very little memory to start with. Were as we use 6 foot rods for jigging we step up to 7 footers for casting. Our casting distance has increased by at least 20 percent making our fan coverage much larger. One consideration however with these new rods. Where we can jig larger lures on these or our jigging rods casting is a different story. You can't cast a four ounce plug on a rod only rated for one ounce. The stress in loading and unloading during the cast will cause the blank to break. Match the rod to the lures you plan on throwing. Bass guys have this down to a science. Us Bay guys not so much.

The next time you go shallow in search of dinner or that once in a lifetime trophy remember these tactics. Go with the right equipment as well as the right frame of mind. Think like a fish. It's more important than ever when your working the shallows. Good luck.



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Craig Mosier, Jr. with his first Maryland turkey shot on 4-18-2018 in Clear Spring at 17 yards with his Beretta A400 12 gauge shotgun. Photo by Jim Emerson, Sr.



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-Theodore Roosevelt



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## In New Jersey, plan calls for killing foxes to protect endangered piping plover

RIGANTINE, N.J. — Residents of Brigantine Island are rallying against the state killing foxes in the North Brigantine Natural Area, while wildlife enthusiasts stress the need to protect the endangered piping plover.

The foxes — which adapt easily to living near people and are common all over the state — are being killed because they eat the endangered piping plover and its eggs. There are only about 100 pairs of the tiny beach-nesting birds left along the entire 127-mile coastline, according to the Department of Environmental Protection.

State data show four pairs of piping plovers nested in the Natural Area in 2017, fledging nine chicks. But in the early 2000s, 17 pairs bred there.

The DEP contracts with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service to trap and shoot the foxes, DEP spokesman Larry Hajna said.

“By law, traps have to be checked every day,” he said, to minimize suffering.

Brigantine summer resident Joseph Oliverie opposes the fox culling. He wrote to The Press that he believes the foxes keep the rodent population under control.

“In the past two years there has been an issue of field rats which seem to be growing,” he said, speculating the loss of foxes is the cause.

But Hajna said the state has always controlled the fox population there, and while the number taken varies each year, it has not increased dramatically.

It averages about 10 foxes a year.

North Brigantine is one of only a handful of undeveloped beaches in the state, Hajna said. So it's one of the few places the piping plover can get from their nests in the high sand to the waterline to feed without having to navigate through groups of people.

“This is a complex wildlife management issue and is not at all unique to New Jersey,” Hajna wrote in an email response to questions about the practice.

Hajna said the DEP and U.S. Fish and Wildlife “have to make tough calls in order to protect endangered species, in this case bird species that are struggling to survive due to habitat loss and human encroachment.”

Foxes cannot be live-trapped and moved, because that would only transfer a potential problem. Not only are they a danger to the plover, but foxes can be a danger to human pets, transmitting diseases like rabies and mange, he said.

Others have suggested fencing in the plovers. Hajna said piping plovers need to move to the waterline to feed, so fencing wouldn't work.

The state has long owned and managed the area, but until this year had allowed the city of Brigantine to manage permits for beach driving there. Driving is restricted in the area where piping plovers are during nesting season.

In 2016, Brigantine residents found traps in the sand dunes in North Brigantine and objected. But it is legal to trap foxes there.

Trapping foxes is a legal commercial activity in New Jersey. Almost 9,000 red fox were harvested in 2015-16, the DEP said.

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## Natural Resources Police Arrest Glen Burnie Man on Gun Possession and Trespassing Charges

An investigation into illegal shooting on private property has resulted in the arrest of a Glen Burnie man on 13 criminal charges and the seizure of four guns from his property.

Kevin Patrick Chetelat, 55, will appear in Anne Arundel County District Court appeared March 24 for a preliminary hearing on the charges, which range from being a felon in possession of guns to trespassing.

Officers responding to complaints of gunfire found Chetelat and another man at the Northern Recycle Center, 100 Dover Road, Glen Burnie Feb. 25. The two men ran into the woods, ignoring police orders to stop, but finally surrendered.

Neither man had a gun, but Chetelat had a holster, a box of 0.22-caliber ammunition and two loaded Walter P22 magazines on him. Chetelat told officers he hid the gun at the edge of Furnace Creek. Two searches by officers and K-9 units failed to find the loaded handgun.

Chetelat received criminal citations for trespassing and failing to obey a police order. A subsequent check with the Maryland State Police Gun Center confirmed that Chetelat was prohibited from owning guns because of a 2007 conviction on a second-degree assault charge in Baltimore County.

On March 13, Natural Resources Police officers served a search warrant on Chetelat's property in the 700 block of Shoreland Drive and found two rifles and two shotguns along with ammunition.

The maximum penalty for being a felon in possession of a firearm is 15 years in prison.

Officers on late-night surveillance at Fishing Creek Bridge in Dorchester County caught two men illegally fishing for striped bass.

Carlos Marin, 36, and Francisco Ortiz, 67, both of Capitol Heights, were charged with fishing out of season after they were caught hiding nine striped bass.

The two men are scheduled to appear in Dorchester County District Court June 20. If found guilty, each man could be fined as much as \$1,500 not exceeding \$500 or perform 40 hours of community service.

Calling fishing a hobby is like calling brain surgery a job.  
-Paul Schullery

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# Maryland's Underwater Grass Exceeds Record 60,000 Acres



The Maryland Department of Natural Resources reports 2017 was the third consecutive record-breaking year for underwater grass abundance in Maryland's portion of Chesapeake Bay.

An annual baywide survey showed 62,356 acres of underwater grasses were mapped in Maryland's tidal waters, a 5 percent increase from 2016. This is the fifth straight year of expansion for Maryland's underwater grasses, which surpassed the 2017 restoration goal of 57,000 acres in 2015 and continues to rise.

Baywide, the total acreage of underwater grasses exceeded 100,000 for the first time, reaching 104,843 acres.

"The continued record growth of underwater grasses shows tremendous progress for Maryland and our partners in improving and restoring water quality throughout the Chesapeake Bay watershed," Maryland Natural Resources Secretary Mark Belton said. "Knowing that the hard work by many Marylanders has gotten us here should provide the incentive to keep moving forward to a cleaner, healthier and more resilient bay."

Underwater grasses respond quickly to improvements in water quality conditions, making them a critical indicator of restoration progress. Less nutrient pollution leads to improved water clarity, which in turn, allows for increased underwater grass growth. Also known as submerged aquatic vegetation (SAV), underwater grasses are a critically important bay habitat that remove nutrients and sediment from the water column, reduce shoreline erosion, provide nursery habitat and protection for species like the blue crab and largemouth bass, and support and sustain migrating waterfowl.

"It's exciting to witness this historic recovery of grasses in the bay," said Brooke Landry, underwater grass biologist with the department who chairs the Chesapeake Bay Program's SAV Workgroup. "Maryland's commitment to improving the bay's water quality is clearly paying off and it provides such a good example of what we can achieve with sustained efforts to reach our goals. While we're only a bit over halfway to our ultimate restoration goal, we have surpassed our 2017 goal two years early and are on track to meet our 2025 goal."

In Maryland, all or part of nine rivers surpassed their restoration goals. These included the Big Annemessex River at 155 percent; Chesapeake and Delaware Canal at 255 percent; the tidal fresh portion of the Chester River at 40,996 percent (the percent of the goal attained is so high due to a very small segment restoration goal); the Elk River at 113 percent; Fishing Bay at 186 percent; the Gunpowder River at 140 percent; the Manokin River at 168 percent; and the Northeast River at 113 percent. The mouth of the Choptank River reached 106 percent of its restoration goal in 2017, exceeding the goal for the first time since 1984.

An additional five river segments in Maryland reached 75 percent or more of their restoration goals. In the lower Nanticoke River, underwater grass was observed for the first time since the survey began in 1984.

The rise in underwater grass is

attributed not only to a continued expansion of widgeon grass in the moderately salty mid-bay region, but to an expansion of freshwater grasses, like wild celery that grow in the upper reaches of rivers and tidal fresh portions of the bay. Maryland's biggest and most iconic underwater grass bed, located in the Susquehanna Flats, has been steadily recovering since 2012, when grass beds were significantly reduced from high flows related to Tropical Storm Lee in 2011, and reached more than 6,100 acres (9.5 square miles) in 2017, showcasing the bed's continued resilience.

The annual aerial survey was conducted by the Virginia Institute of Marine Science between May and November 2017 and covered 189 flight lines. The aerial imagery is used to identify the amount and location of underwater grasses in the Chesapeake Bay and tidal tributaries. For the first time in years, there were no air space restrictions or weather constraints, so a complete survey of the entire bay was conducted.

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Keira Serio with her first Whitetail doe weighing 65 pounds. Photo courtesy of Clydes Sport Shop.



Opening day aboard the 'Kingfish II' with Captain Harry Nield of Deale Island proved to be the place to be this year.



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Len Wilson a frequent customer aboard the 'North Star' out of Tilghman Island, MD. with a nice Permit he caught in Siesta Key, Fl. last month.





**This young man caught this nice perch and has been catching them for years. Photo courtesy of Clydes Sport Shop.**

Gonna vent. I am 79 years old, I have lived through Carter, Reagan, Clinton, 2 Bushes, and Obama. Never, never in my lifetime have I seen a President be scrutinized over every word he speaks, humiliated by the public to the point of wanting to hurt someone, slandered, ridiculed, insulted, lied to, threatened to murder him, threatened to rape our Beautiful First Lady, and have his children also insulted and humiliated. I am ashamed of this Country. I am ashamed of the ruthless, hating, cruel people that have no morals, and feel they have a right to say and do the things they are doing. I don't know how to fix it. I wish I did. Every other President after they got in Office, were left alone, they weren't on the news 24/7 being dissected by every word out of their mouths, ALWAYS being pressured to do this or that, and so now, we have the pleasure of discussing tax reform for how long.... whoo hoo, I am sooo not excited. LEAVE him alone! Let him do his job!



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## “Montana Grant”



By Grant Soukup

### CLUCK, CLUCK, PURR!!!

Turkey time is here! Spring turkey hunting is a wonderful excuse to get out of our winter caves and venture outdoors. The excitement of a sunrise gobbler responding to your calls is unforgettable.

Check the regulations for your areas to hunt. Montana has both eastern and Merriam gobblers. Maryland has just eastern birds throughout the state. Limits and rules vary around the state. Obtain a regulation book or check out the rules on the Dept. of Natural Resources website.

The law allows springtime hunters to harvest “Bearded Birds” only. No beard means no shoot. Hens sometimes have beards just like doe deer can sometimes grow antlers. Gobblers may also be beardless, if their beard froze and cracked off over the winter. Know the law and harvest only a bearded bird.

Calling is an important skill to learn. Hunters can scratch, squeeze, stroke, or use their mouths to make clucks and purrs. A cedar box call requires two hands to use but makes

wonderful sounds. A diaphragm mouth call makes great sounds without needing your hands. Call loudly when trying to get a gobbler’s attention. Once the gobbler is coming in, soften your calls and call less. Hunting critters that respond to calls is so much more fun. Calling, stalking, and hunting skills must be fine tuned for consistent success.

Camo is critical when turkey hunting. A turkey can see you eye blink at 50 yards. Wear a head net and position yourself into some cover to break up your silhouette. Use camo patterns that match the area you are hunting.

Great turkey hunters are great archery elk hunters. The strategy is the same. Make a call, get a response, move in close, call again, set up and wait for the perfect shot. One big difference between these hunts is with elk, you need to beat their nose, with turkeys, you need to beat their eyes.

Aim at the turkey’s head for a kill shot. Use a shotgun, or legal weapon to close the deal. Turkeys have ugly

heads, that you will not want to touch, let alone eat. A head shot will kill the bird without ruining the meat. Sight in your shotgun. Most shotguns shoot high right. Add and adjustable sight onto your gun and shoot a turkey head target at 30 yards. Only a few BB’s will hit the small head and neck. The rest will miss. Concentrating more BB’s onto the head means waiting to shoot closer. 30-50 yards is a good range for most guns. Use a full choke on your gun and allow the calls to bring the



birds closer.

Decoys can work but are also dangerous. Inexperienced, idiot hunters can mistake a decoy for the real deal. I rarely use them on public land. They are a must for archery hunting birds that need to be closer for a kill shot. Know the lay of the land and anticipate any safety risks. In some states, you are required to wrap a florescent orange flag around a nearby tree, for safety.

Jakes and younger gobblers tend to bunch up once the pressure is on. These small bachelor groups can be tough to call. They will gobble back like crazy, march away, but rarely come in. Try using a fall turkey tactic. Bust them up. Once spooked, the birds are more likely to respond to your calls. Get within 100 yards and run at them with your arms flapping. Once the birds have spooked, find a concealed blind near the break up spot and set out a single Jake decoy, facing to your right or left. Allow things to settle for 15 minutes, then make loud kee-kee runs and an occasion Jake gobble. Birds will often come back quiet so be ready to shoot.

Turkeys can gobble all day but are most commonly talking at sunrise. Most of the early gobbles will involve hens. Later in the day, the gobbler you hear is looking for a hen. That is the bird to target. Veteran turkey hunters would give up every sunrise gobble for one at 10. You can stimulate mid-day call responses with a crow call or a coyote call. These loud and shrill calls often will result in a shock gobble return.

Hens tend to mate with gobblers every day and then travel to their nesting site. These nests tend to be along edges and transition areas between cover, forests and fields. Hens only need to mate with a gobbler once

but go through the daily ritual just to be sure. Be aware when walking so you do not disturb any nests. It is not uncommon for nests to have broken shells nearby. The hens lay eggs standing up and some eggs are broken when dropped. The hen will remove the broken shells and place them away from the nest.

Putting birds to bed is a great way to set the stage for success in the morning. Scout likely looking turkey roosts and use your owl hooter to stimulate a gobbler response. If the birds do not call, you may hear them fly up into the trees for the night. Return at first light and set out a decoy or two. Place them where you plan to shoot. Use a tree call and later try a cackle. The birds will often fly into your decoy spread.

Turkeys are wonderful to eat. These wild birds are not the Thanksgiving Butterballs from the food store. Wild birds are free of antibiotics and harmful chemicals. They are the ultimate “free range” meat. Try using a smoker to slow cook and flavor your hard-earned bird. You can also breast out the bird and cook right on a campfire. The legs are best poached, picked, and used in soup or tacos. Save the tails for decorations and some feathers for fly tying. The spurs make an awesome necklace.

Turkey hunting in the spring is a great excuse to be outside. Gobble up some turkey time along with some sunshine.

Gobble gobble, cluck, cluck!

Montana Grant

For more Montana Grant, visit his website at [www.montanagrantsfishing.com](http://www.montanagrantsfishing.com).





# SPANNING THE GLOBE

## 877 pounds! Retired general catches record bluefin tuna off NC coast

A Delaware man reeled in a massive, 877-pound bluefin tuna on March 17 -- and ultimately set a new record for bluefin tuna in North Carolina, the state's Division of Marine Fisheries announced.

It took well over an hour for Scott Chambers, a retired Army general from Townsend, to reel in the fish off of the Oregon Inlet, which is located just off of North Carolina's coast.

Chambers told Fox News last month that he was staying at his home in the Outer Banks when he and some friends went fishing on the "A-Salt Weapon," a charter boat captained by Chambers' longtime friend and fisherman, Dennis Endee.

"That day, we hooked into that absolute monster," Chambers said. After finally landing the bluefin on the boat, the fishermen knew it was massive but weren't exactly sure of its size. But Chambers immediately recognized that the bluefin was the biggest fish he'd ever caught -- it far outweighed a blue marlin he reeled in a few years back, he said.

Once the fishermen arrived back at Pirate's Cove in Manteo, a crane was used to lift the fish off of the boat and onto a scale, which read a whopping 877 pounds.

"Everyone was in disbelief," Chambers said.

The fish measured 113 inches in length and was 79 inches around. The mammoth tuna broke the state record by 72 pounds, thus becoming the biggest bluefin catch on-record since 2011, according to the North Carolina Division of Marine Fisheries, which certified the record.

Still, Chambers' catch is a ways off from the 1979 world record. That year, a 1,496-pound bluefin was caught in Nova Scotia, according to the North Carolina Division of Marine Fisheries.

While the 55-year-old was excited about his catch, he was also ecstatic for Endee.

"To see the level excitement as captain of that boat -- I kept thinking: 'This is so cool for Dennis.'"

Since the catch, Chambers said he had given some of the bluefin's meat to friends. The rest, however, has been used by his wife to make fish tacos that are "absolutely sinful," he said.



**In March Matt Stauch caught this barracuda while fishing with Captain Mark Sampson over a shallow flat in the Florida Keys.**



**Tyler and Katie Hill with a permit Tyler caught while fishing with Capt. Mark Sampson in the backcountry of the Florida Keys in April.**



**Frank Goodheart and his daughter Allie with a bonefish Frank caught while fishing with Capt. Mark Sampson in the Florida Keys in March.**



## Natural Resources Police Cite Turkey Hunters for Baiting

Seven men in Washington and Frederick counties were charged this week at the start of spring wild turkey season with illegal hunting with the use of bait.

Maryland Natural Resources Police officers fanned out before the season opened to locate illegal bait – mostly corn – left near hunting blinds. They returned before dawn Wednesday to issue citations to those occupying the sites. The maximum fine for hunting over bait is \$1,500.

Larry Erick Kessler, 40, of Clear Spring, and Cameron Patrick Pressman, 28, of Ellerslie, were found at 6 a.m. about 110 yards from a bait pile at Elgert's Hunt Club in Hancock and about 10 yards from a turkey decoy. Each man was armed with a 12-gauge shotgun pointed in the direction of the bait pile, which measured 20-yards by 20-yards.

About a half-hour later, officers charged David Lorne Pittman, 61, of Hancock, after officers saw him walking with a shotgun toward a baited area. They watched Pittman spread sunflower seeds on the ground next to a feeder, place a turkey decoy next to the bait and then enter a box blind.

All three men are scheduled to appear in Washington County District Court July 10.

At about 7:30 a.m., officers on surveillance near a baited area and pop-up blind in Hancock stopped Jerry Alan Walberg, 39, of Smithsburg. He acknowledged placing cracked corn and decoys at two locations for friends. Walberg received a citation and each friend received a written warning.

Walberg is scheduled to appear in Washington County District Court June 14.

Also at 7:30 a.m., officers charged Robert James Rush, 56, and Robert James Rush Jr., 27, both of Greencastle, Pennsylvania, for hunting a

baited area off Winchester Road in Hagerstown. They have a July 10 hearing date in Washington County District Court.

In Frederick County, Paul Edward Eyler, 37, of Emmitsburg, was issued a citation after an officer watched him enter a blind after setting up decoy turkeys over an area previously baited with corn. Eyler is due in Frederick County District Court June 14.

Last month, a Dorchester County

man was ordered to pay \$7,000 in restitution to the state and had his hunting privileges suspended for three years after pleading guilty to deer poaching charges.

Jeffery Cherry, 43, of Hurlock, also was sentenced to complete 160 hours of community service and forfeited nine buck antler racks by Talbot County District Judge John Nunn III.

Cherry was charged in January after an investigation found he hunted without a license, did not purchase a bow

hunting stamp, failed to report a deer harvest to the Maryland Department of Natural Resources and knowingly provided the department with false information.

The judge ordered Cherry to pay \$1,000 in fines but suspended an additional \$3,000. Cherry was ordered to pay restitution of \$5,000 for killing a 10-point buck and \$2,000 for killing an 8-point buck. The money will go into the State Wildlife Management and Protection Fund.



Angelina Watts is at it again with another monster Striper release on the Susquehanna flats on top water.

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## Hunter Education Courses

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

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

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

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## Coastal Report

By Capt. Mark  
Sampson

I once took a group of commercial divers out who were doing research work around an offshore wreck. When we arrived at the coordinates and the depth finder confirmed that we were indeed over the wreck, one of the divers slipped overboard, swam down, and attached our anchor line to the structure. When the boat settled back on the line it was exactly where it needed to be for the divers to do their work. At least from my perspective, it was the easiest and most precise anchoring I've ever done. I expect that a lot of anglers would agree that if setting up on a wreck could always be even half that easy it would alleviate a lot of the stress and drama often associated with getting as boat parked exactly where it needs to be so that those aboard can enjoy some good fishing.

Actually, since my trip with the divers didn't involve an anchor at all, I guess it wouldn't be fair to describe it as "anchoring" even though the end result was pretty much the same. However, since this time of the season the vast majority of offshore angling involves wreck fishing, you can bet that every fishable day there are plenty of Delmarva anglers very much involved with the sometimes very challenging task of trying to set an anchor in just the right place so that their boat winds up exactly where they want it to be, and more than a few would just love to have the luxury of having a diver go down to do the work for them.

At times anchoring boat can be as simple as sending an anchor down to the bottom and tying the line off to the bow. Of course, if it's that easy you're probably sitting in the middle of a quiet little pond where there is no, wind or current trying to push or the drag the boat off in one direction or the other. Anywhere else, particularly in our back bays and on the ocean, there is a lot of variables someone must take into account to properly get the job done in a safe and efficient manner.

One of the biggest concerns for someone trying to anchor is, or at least should be, what is the bottom made of and what, if anything, is lying on it. Is the bottom mud, sand, clay, rocks, coral, natural or man-made debris such as branches, trees, concrete rubble, sunken boats, pipes, power cables, or a combination of any these things. Knowing what's down there should clue the boater into knowing what type of anchor and how much chain to use and if

it's even safe to try to anchor in the first place. Knowing that every time an anchor is dropped, it's eventually going to have to be recovered, boaters much keep in mind that there are bottoms with so many snags that no matter how much they might "want" to anchor their vessel, doing so is simply out of the question because, unless they have a diver aboard, they'll "never" get their anchor back.

The aforementioned "wind and current" are common obstacles to easy anchoring. Both forces will push a boat in the direction they are going. But, depending upon which force is strongest, a boat will either end up down-wind or down-current of its own anchor. When wind and current are traveling in close to the same direction it can make it easier for the boater to determine where their boat will end up once the line comes tight, but if both forces are exceptionally strong it can put so much strain on the anchor that holding bottom can become a problem. Boaters should be extra cautious anytime they anchor in a strong current because if the anchor line comes tight suddenly it can snatch the boat forcibly in the direction of the anchor pitching passengers and gear to one side and in some cases even capsizing the boat! Anglers who fish around the Rt.50 Bridge or inlet area should be extra mindful of how hard the current is running before attempting to anchor their boat.

For obvious reasons, very deep water can be a limiting factor for some boaters to anchor in if only because a boater might not have enough line to do so. "Scope" is the term used to describe the length of an anchor line in relation to the depth of the water and is a ratio of line to depth. For example: A 5:1 ratio would be five feet of line for every one foot of depth. There is no hard and fast rule of how much line to put out for every measure of depth, it all depends upon the situation at the time, but suffice to say that there is

almost always going to be a lot more line than depth, and the stronger the wind or current the longer, and the more critical it is that the boat does not drag anchor - the longer the line will need to be.

Last, but certainly not least, before anglers drop anchor they must decide if it's an appropriate place to do so taking into consideration what's going on above the surface of the water. If you want to stay safe and don't want to make enemies it's best not to anchor in areas where there is a lot of boat traffic. The middle of a channel or inlet would not be good, neither would be a place where there are a lot of other boats and fishermen who are drifting or trolling. You also won't make any friends if you anchor directly in front of where shore, bridge, or pier-based anglers are trying to fish their lines. Common courtesy should always prevail when considering where to anchor.

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**Brittany Ashe caught this nice Largemouth Bass and she is all smiles considering it is her first fish she had ever caught. Photo courtesy of Clydes Sport Shop.**

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MARCO Club members Chris Duffy, Bob Hullihen & Tim Jackson with big crappie caught on April 15, 2018 in the tidal waters of the upper bay. Photo by Tim Campbell





## “The Last Word”

### ***Last Laugh and the Printed Word***

By Steve Huettner

“In my own defense, I have nothing against standards. Years ago, I’d even possessed one myself. It was not a high standard by any means, but rather a low one, so low in fact; I was forever tripping over the blasted thing. So I got rid of it.” Patrick F McManus *A Lady of Standards* April 2001

As I was working on my article for this month, I saw an email saying the outdoor writer and humorist Patrick McManus had passed onto the happy hunting grounds. For those that may have not been familiar with his works he wrote a monthly humor column from 1982-2009 for *Outdoor Life* entitled *The Last Laugh*. Patrick was also the author of over 20 books, with a majority of them poking fun of himself in the pursuit of game and fish with titles like, “The Bear in the Attic” and “Never Sniff a Gift Fish”.

The first time I came across a book written by Mr. McManus, I was a boy of twelve at the library and saw “They Shoot Canoes Don’t They Sitting” sitting on the new arrival shelf. I grew up in a pretty much non-outdoors household, yet for some reason was drawn to being “outside”, despite the best attempts of my family. Since this was before the internet, you tube, google and anything that even resembled technology, you went to your library to check out books if you wanted to learn about something.

I will never forget sitting down to read the book and laughing uncontrollably about the misadventures of Pat and his cast of characters; mountain man Rancid Crabtree, his dog Strange, best friend Crazy Eddie Muldoon, and sister aptly named the Troll.

As someone who had never done anything considered “outdoors” it made it sound fun and miserable at the same time. Most important, it was ok not to know what you were doing (something I still subscribe to today). I enjoyed the book and subsequent titles so much that I bought every single one of them with my own money earned working summers at my grandfather’s salvage yard. I still have every single one of those books in my library. The wit, self-deprecating humor, and humility Mr. McManus exhibited in his writing resonated with me.

As I entered my teens and early twenties, I began going on my own adventures. Being clueless and surrounding myself with like-minded individuals of questionable character, I began to see some of my misadventures in the likes of a McManus story.

The time I was sitting in a deer stand (made of wood) during a cold and blustery snow squall. I had lit a hand warmer and placed it in my jacket pocket (this is before disposable and e-warmers). While squinting through the snow in my quest for a deer, I remember the smell of smoke. As I looked down, I realized that my jacket pocket was on fire. The hand warmer had opened inside the pocket, turning

the material into a proverbial roman candle. I took the jacket off, dropped it in the snow to stop the fire, and put the jacket back on. I did not get a deer for my troubles.

Driving to the assigned parking spot on a two-day duck trip, I heard a loud thud from behind my truck. I stopped and backed up and saw that my bumper had fallen off after going over a large rut. Unperturbed, a bungee cord and wire addressed the bumper issue.

As we reached the trail, we loaded up and headed out. It seemed like miles to the blind site with packs filled with 200 shotgun shells, 11 sandwiches, 3 cokes, and 6 blow up decoys. Ten minutes into our march, I stepped into a puddle that was more like a black hole. As I fought to maintain my balance, my hunting partners watched my stumble like a drunk at closing time. Despite my best attempts, gravity won, and I crashed into the water. Cold but determined as ever, we made it to the blind and set up our

spread of six decoys. We could not wait for the wingshooting the awaited us. The sky was devoid of life, and a bird never even looked our way. Two of our decoy lines broke, and set out to sea, leaving us with four decoys. As the day ended, I went retrieve our remaining decoys. Just I reached them, the skies opened up and ducks began to pitch in. We came back for a second day and did not get a single bird for our effort.

As I get older, and think about some of the misery and mishaps that occur when being outside, I think back to the twelve-year-old boy laughing while reading a book. I can only say thank you to Mr. McManus, and tight lines and full skies on the other side.

Comments, rants, and raves are always welcomes at [huttymddu@gmail.com](mailto:huttymddu@gmail.com)



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# BUTTER PARMESAN STRIPED BASS

## INGREDIENTS

1-2 lb  
striped bass filet-trimmed and cut into serving size portions  
-kosher salt black pepper  
4 Tbsp butter  
2 Tbsp white wine, dry-not cooking wine  
2 1/2 Tbsp fresh grated  
parmesan cheese  
1 tsp lemon zest, grated  
1/4 tsp paprika

## PREPARATION

Sprinkle fish with salt and pepper on both sides and set aside.

Place just the butter, in shallow baking dish, large enough to accommodate all the fish.

Place the dish with the butter in a 375 degree oven til the butter browns.

Then dip both sides of the fish in this browned butter and bake for 10 minutes, uncovered, on middle rack.

Sprinkle with lemon zest, wine, parmesan cheese and paprika. Broil on top rack at 500 degrees for 2-3 minutes or til parmesan cheese starts to bubble and brown.

To serve spoon butter/wine sauce over fish.



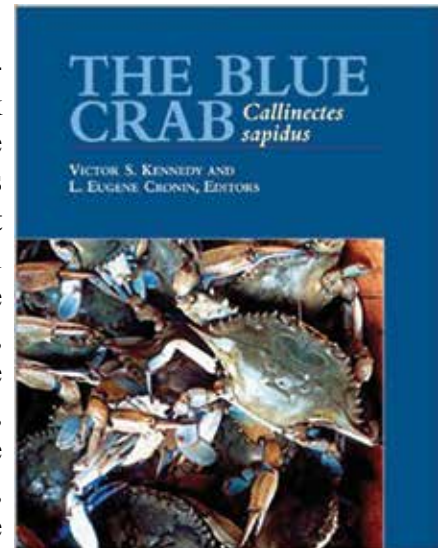
# Book of the Month

## THE BLUE CRAB: CALLINECTES SAPIDUS

by Victor S. Kennedy (Author, Editor), editor (Author), L. Eugene Cronin (Author, Editor)

An essential resource for researchers, students, and managers, this book is the first comprehensive reference work on the blue crab, *Callinectes sapidus*. The blue crab is a significant U.S. commercial and recreational species from the Mid-Atlantic to the Gulf of Mexico. In Chesapeake Bay, the nation's largest estuary, the blue crab has become a regional symbol, as well as the Bay's most profitable seafood product. During recent years, controversies have arisen over the status of blue crab stocks and how

best to manage them. A clear synthesis of scientific information detailing the blue crab's biology and ecology will greatly augment our baseline knowledge about this important crustacean. Well-known marine biologists Victor Kennedy and the late Eugene Cronin edited the volume and assembled scientists who are leaders in their respective fields of blue crab study across the United States and beyond to provide this first comprehensive overview of the science surrounding the blue crab. Kennedy was the lead editor of *The Eastern Oyster: Crassostrea virginica*, the most comprehensive compilation of current scientific knowledge about the Eastern oyster. The new book, *The Blue Crab: Callinectes sapidus*, includes chapters on systematics; anatomy of larval, juvenile, and adult stages; molting and growth; reproduction; diseases and parasites; physiology; ecology of all life history stages; history of blue crab fisheries in the U.S.; and population dynamics. It is the first treatment of such breadth on any major crab species.



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Neil Mertz (right) 86 years young caught this nice striper aboard the 'North Star' with captain Lawrence Tyler at the helm. Pictured with Neil is the Mate.



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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

**If you have any questions you can contact:**

**Rob Shannon 443-600-0286**

**Russ Tenhoff 410-288-1037**





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How many names are on the Wall?

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

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

## New Volunteer Angler Surveys Encourage Citizen Input

The Maryland Department of Natural Resources is launching new mobile-friendly volunteer angler surveys, making it easy to turn a fishing trip into scientific research by submitting catch data right from their phones.

The survey is a simple tool where volunteers provide valuable information to department biologists such as species caught, estimated size and range. This input helps inform managers as they develop, plan and implement activities and seasons like trout stocking.

“With the use of these surveys we can see this data in near real-time,” Fishing and Boating Services Director David Blazer said. “Incorporating a survey gives the angler a direct link to the department right from the site of the catch.”

Volunteer surveys have been an important part of fisheries management in Maryland for decades. The department’s artificial reef initiative, freshwater fisheries and striped bass programs have begun upgrading to mobile-friendly methods.

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A business card for Himmel Firearms llc. The card has a wood-grain background with decorative scrollwork. At the top, a banner contains the phone number (410) 708-1870. Below that, the name 'Himmel Firearms llc' is printed in a large, serif font. Underneath the name is the email address 'HimmelFirearms@gmail.com' and the slogan 'We Buy Estates and Collections!'. At the bottom, the name 'Martin F. Krueger' is enclosed in a decorative frame, followed by '... FFL FIREARMS DEALER ...'. The address '2017 Dudley Corners Rd, Crumpton, MD 21628' is listed, along with the email 'bearsecure@gmail.com', the cell number '(410) 708-4599', and the note 'Located inside Dixon's Crumpton Auction'.

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