
Fishing & Hunting

Journal



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THIS ISSUE COMPLIMENTS OF

DNR reminds anglers of Spiny Dogfish regulations

Annapolis, Md. —The Maryland Department of Natural Resources (DNR) announces that the commercial spiny dogfish fishery is open; anglers without a permit from the National Marine Fisheries Service may catch up to 3,000 pounds of the fish per day from Maryland waters, within three miles of the shore.

The daily limits may be modified or the fishery may be closed if the National Marine Fisheries Service determines the fishery's quota is reached. Information and regulations are available at hnmfs.noaa.gov/sfa/hms/.

Riverside wildlife management area opens to hunting

Nanjemoy, Md. — The newly established Riverside Wildlife Management Area (WMA) is now open to hunting. The Maryland Department of Natural Resources (DNR) acquired this 373-acre property located in the south-western portion of Charles County in 2010.

"With its diverse landscape,



this new Charles County Wildlife Management Area will provide a variety of new opportunities for Maryland Sportsmen to hunt upland and forest game, migratory game birds, waterfowl and deer," said Southern Region Habitat Manager Jim Bennett.

Riverside WMA is open to regulated hunting for all game species and follows established season dates and bag limits. Hunters can find those regulations in the 2011-2012 Guide to Hunting and Trapping in Maryland. Waterfowl hunting and trapping on Riverside WMA will be by permit only.

Hunter access to Riverside WMA will not require possession of a seasonal permit or daily reservations. Hunters must park in designated parking areas only.

Additional information about the Riverside WMA is available at dnr.maryland.gov/wildlife/publiclands/wmasouthern.asp or by calling the Myrtle Grove WMA office at 301-743-5161.



CJ Wink caught this beautiful 43" rockfish in Tangier Sound this past spring. Photo courtesy of Winks Sporting Goods

Bushnell introduces the Legend Ultra HD crossbow scope

Bushnell Outdoor Products, an industry-leader in high performance sports optics and outdoor accessories for more than 60 years, has introduced a new 1.75-5x 32mm Legend Ultra HD crossbow scope. Crossbow hunting has grown significantly in the last few years with states implementing special crossbow seasons and allowing the use



of crossbow scopes during established hunting seasons as well.

The new Legend Ultra HD crossbow scope is equipped with a host of features for optimal performance and lasting reliability. Built with a sleek one-piece tube design and a slim line power change ring, the scope features fully multi-coated optics to deliver nearly 90 percent light transmission and a clear, crisp sight picture.

In addition to providing optical excellence, the Legend Ultra HD crossbow scope is engineered to withstand abuse in the field and whatever Mother Nature throws its way. The scope is 100 percent waterproof, fog proof and shockproof, and the optics are protected with the patented RainGuard HD coating. The

permanent, water-resistant finish causes moisture to bead up and scatter less light, allowing the scope to perform even in inclement weather.

Featuring the exclusive Dead On Accurate (DOA) crossbow reticle from Bushnell, the Legend Ultra HD helps hunters make every shot count. With easy to identify aiming points at 10 yard increments from 20-60 yards, the DOA crossbow reticle is compatible with

modern crossbows that exceed 300 feet per second.

The 1.75-5x 32mm Legend Ultra HD crossbow scope is available for a suggested retail price of \$199.99.

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“HOOKED ON FISHING”

The Top 10 Fishing Tips of All Time

By Lenny Rudow

Let's face it: our year 2012 brains are over-flowing with information, our cell phones never seem to stop ringing, and our work lives constantly accelerate at a blinding pace. (If you're retired, never mind. And I hate you.) It's tough for us to sit down and read long-winded articles, especially when our reading time is limited mostly to lunch breaks and time spent—let's be honest here, folks—on the porcelain throne. So this issue, in interest of making everyone's life a little easier and everyone's brain a little less taxed, I've prepped you an article that you can read easily and absorb in short snippets. Yet it should still be of great interest to anglers everywhere, whether you spend your time jerkin' perch or battling billfish. Here are the top 10 fishing tips of all time, in no particular order, for your reading

enjoyment.

1. Cut off the last 10 feet of fishing line before each and every trip. No matter what type of fishing you do, the last 10 feet of your line is the section that's most prone to wear and stretching. How many times have you broken off near the hook, on a chaff in the line? How often has over-stretched monofilament snapped a week later? You'll avoid these problems, by cutting off those final feet at the beginning of each and every trip.

2. Remove line twist by towing your line at trolling speed, with nothing tied to the end. Few problems are as aggravating as the loops, twists, and tangles caused by line twist. And there's only one cure: as you move along at five or six MPH, let the line trail your boat with nothing tied to the end, and that twist will come out. Caution: don't forget to tension the line with a finger, as you reel it back in.

3. Be quiet! Sound travels through water better than it does through air, so anything you hear, the fish are going to hear—or rather sense, through their vibration-detecting lateral line. You've just slammed a fiberglass hatch? Everything within 100 yards is now spooked. You yelled across the water to a buddy? Congratulations, you just alerted all of the fish within casting distance of your presence. If you want to boost your catch rate, learn to tone down the sound.

4. Match lure color to water color. I'd love to be able to explain the science behind this, but I'm no scientist. That said, history proves it beyond a doubt—match your lure color to the general water color, and you'll catch more fish. In the Chesapeake's greenish waters, for example, chartreuse is commonly a killer; in tannic-stained waters root-beer is a winner; when night fishing black often works wonders, and so on.

5. Give 'em something to smell. As a general rule of thumb, lures and baits that have a scent will out-catch those without. You don't believe it? Try using GULP! soft plastics side-by-side with an un-scented plastic when the

fish are being finicky, and see if you still harbor any doubts.


6. Hook live baits through the lips when you want them to stay near the surface, and hook them through the back behind the dorsal fin when you want them to swim down through the water column. Again, I can't explain






Fish can't swim backwards - net 'em head-first.

See Rudow Page 3

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Tom O'Brien with a 19.6 lb. turkey with a 11 1/2" beard and 1 1/4" spurs taken in Kent County, MD.



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Annapolis is where all policy-related decisions impacting the traditional rights of Maryland sportsmen to hunt, fish, trap and enjoy the lawful use of their firearms are decided each year. And who represents the sportsmen's interests in Annapolis?

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Enactment of the Maryland *Hunting Heritage Protection Act*
Sunday Hunting of Deer Authorized for the First Time Since 1723

Defeated Efforts to Impose a Black Bear Hunting Moratorium

Fishing Opportunities on the Chesapeake Bay Protected by the *Freedom to Fish Act*

"First" State to Earmark Hunting License Fees for the *Farmers & Hunters Feeding the Hungry Program*

Defeated Efforts to Prohibit the Use of Leghold Traps

Opened up 58,000 Acres of Chesapeake Lands for Public/Private Hunting

Prohibited Offshore Mooring of Boats by Duck Blinds during Waterfowl Hunting Season

To learn more about the Maryland Legislative Sportsmen's Foundation and how you can help protect the interests of Maryland sportsmen: (1) visit our website—www.mdsportsmen.com; (2) contact the Foundation's Vice-Chairman (Bill Miles)—billmiles@chesapeake.net; or (3) write to us at:

Maryland Legislative Sportsmen's Foundation
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OUR HERITAGE AS CONSERVATION-MINDED SPORTSMEN MUST NEVER BE COMPROMISED.

Rudow ...

Continued from Page 3

the science, but try it both ways and you'll see that it's true.

7. Always net fish head-first. Most fish can't swim backwards, but if you chase them from the rear they'll regularly swim away from the net. 'Nuff said.

8. Always cast down- or cross-current, and always retrieve into the current or cross-current. A bit of simple observation will prove that the vast majority of the time, baitfish will swim into the current. If you're casting up-current and retrieving your lure down-current, it looks completely un-natural. A bit of experience in the field will prove that the more natural your baits and lure appear, the more strikes you'll get.

9. Match hook size to bait size—not the size of the fish you're hoping to catch. You can catch a monster of a fish on a tiny hook, but if you use a tiny bait on a large hook, you won't get a lot of interest. And if you've matched the hook to the bait and that finned critter is large enough to eat the bait you're offering up, it'll have no problem getting the hook into its mouth.

10. The next time you sense an opportunity, shut out the rest of the world, turn off your cell phone, take the day off of work, and go fishing. You won't regret it.

And now that you've reached the end of this article, don't forget to wash up!



Live-lining for spot? Hook the baits through the lips to encourage them to stay high in the water column; hook them behind the dorsal, if you want them to swim down deeper.



Todd Sevik with a 23 lb. 40" Rockfish caught near Chesapeake Beach in late April. Photo courtesy of Clyde's Sport Shop.



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“TACKLE BOX TIM”

Post Spawn Tidal Bass

By Tim Sherman

Randy Yarnall, Dave Kilby, Rick Haber. These are names you may be familiar with by reading my articles through the years. Each of these anglers has vast tournament knowledge from fishing waters throughout the region, if not the country. All three have spent an excessive amount of time fishing Maryland's tidal waters. They can tell you for a fact that one of the toughest times of the year to quality catch bass is when they come off of their spawning beds.

During the post spawn period, when you find the beds you will find the male bass. They are feverishly guarding fry from advantageous perch, blue gills, and sunfish looking for an easy meal. The male bass,

though easy to catch, are better left to fend off the invaders. Female bass are recuperating from the burdensome task of reproducing and are difficult to catch in the first few days after leaving the nest. So, how do you go about catching large bass that are not in the mood to eat? Our tidewater bass experts have strategies that routinely catch bass through the post spawn doldrums.

While catching bass can be quite a challenge during the post spawn, Randy Yarnall rather enjoys the timeframe. He says old school thinking is that it takes a female bass a week or more to regain her appetite. In reality, she only needs two to three days to set her metabolism straight. However, the theory about where the lady bass recovers holds true. Randy knows that they don't move far. He looks for the first change to deep water away from the spawning bed. He keys on depth changes around points -- points of land and points in grass beds.

Because not all bass move from the spawning beds at the same time, Yarnall is geared to fish several tactics. Bass that have just moved off

of the bed have a very short strike zone. The Pennsylvania pro says, “They are not willing to chase and they don't have to.” The tide will deliver them a smorgasbord of food that is available in the eco-system. Those bass that have been off the beds for several days have a wider strike zone.

Randy lays out five rods at the bow of his boat. Each has a different lure. He starts with a Senko stick worm for the lethargic ladies. He chooses this worm because it forces him to fish with a slow presentation. Tide plays a big part in three of the other four lures when casting for bass with a more advanced appetite. With a high tide, he'll cast a Mann's Baby 1-Minus. As the tide falls, Yarnall will move to a 1/4-ounce spinnerbait. On a slack tide, he'll flip and pitch a Zoom Ultra Vibe Speed Craw to bass that are holding within the vegeta-

tion. He reserves his last rod for a 1/8-ounce black buzzbait. It's a lure that can generate bites at any tide if he finds aggressive bass in the final stages of post spawn.

Dave Kilby also looks for the first depth change away from the bedding areas. The depth change itself is enough to attract bass, but having other cover is a bonus. He'll look for shorelines with fallen wood in deep water. As a prospective, wood cover may only be in 3 to 4 feet of water as bass will spawn in a little as a foot of water. Dave will also look for the outside edges of grass beds. This is where you'll often find a transition line in the bottom.

Kilby starts by probing wood cover for lethargic bass. He'll flip and pitch a PowerTeam Lures Texas rig jig. When fishing the edges of vegetation, Dave will cast the Ima Rumba wake bait. He retrieves it



BFL tournament angler Rick Haber shows a large post spawn bass that he caught under a pier in the upper Chesapeake.

See Sherman Page 7

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Sherman ...

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differently than must anglers who use a straight cast and retrieve to provoke strikes. Dave pulls the lure several feet with the rod, then reels in the slack. He finds that this presentation gets more strikes when bass come off of the beds.

Rick Haber calls the Potomac River his home waters and makes several trips to the upper bay. He, too, knows that when female bass first move off of the beds they don't stray very far. He'll target known spawning areas and cast to areas adjacent to beds. Rick feels that if there are piers and docks near the spawning areas, the female bass will gravitate to them to recuperate. He has carved a niche in catching bass under piers by skipping Senko stick worms under wooden structures. His second lure of choice for fish-

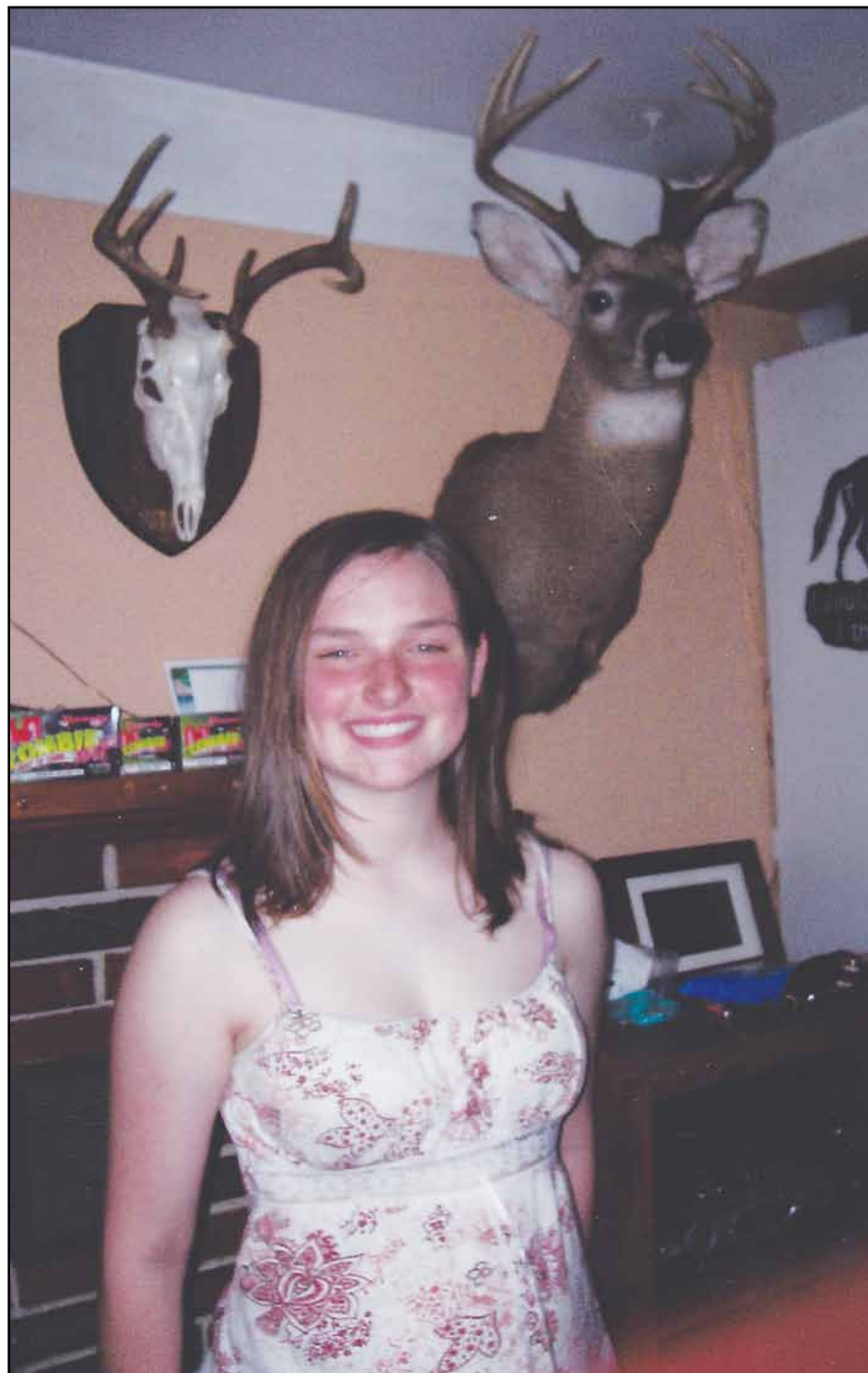
ing piers and other cover adjacent to spawning beds is a jig.

As the post spawn period progresses, Haber knows that bass will move from recuperation to feeding. This signals him to target grass beds with surface baits. He prefers casting buzzbaits because he can cover and area quickly. He'll cast 3/8 to 1/2-ounce buzzers in black to cause maximum commotion on the water. The large bait also offers bass what appears to be a sizable meal. Like Dave Kilby, he'll work the outside edges of a grass bed, yet also target pockets and isolated clumps of vegetation.

Our bass experts agree that if you are looking for post spawn bass; find the first drop in depth near the spawning beds. Fallen wood, piers, points, and grass beds all have potential to hold bass when they leave the nests. Randy, Dave, and Rick have similar, yet varied approaches to catching quality post spawners. Their tactics will work for you, too.



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Katrina "Kat" Sweitzer age 13 during the 2011 hunting season took two bucks. A nine point shot on youth day and a seven point later on. Both were shot with a .243. This was her first year of hunting. *Photo courtesy of Delmarva Sporting Clays.*



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Upcoming national survey to gather dove hunter opinions

An upcoming survey will ask dove hunters from across the United State to share their experiences and opinions about dove hunting. Topics will include time spent hunting, demographics, constraints to hunting, and thoughts about potential effects of spent lead from hunting ammunition on mourning doves and other wildlife.

The survey is a cooperative effort by the state fish and wildlife agencies, all four flyway councils, and the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS).

"We are conducting this survey because hunter opinions and preferences are important and should be taken into account whenever possible," says Dr. Ken Richkus of the Service's Population and Habitat Assessment Branch. "The Service and the states want to make sure we use the best science-based information for the

management and conservation of our migratory bird resources."

There are more than 1 million dove hunters nationally, with seasons in 40 states. "We're surveying dove hunters in every state that has a dove season so they can give us their opinions on a variety of topics," Richkus says. "This approach will give us an excellent picture of mourning dove hunter thoughts and needs by state, region, and nationwide."

The National Dove Hunter Survey is scheduled to begin in late June 2012, and will be completed by the end of the year.

"We really hope each dove hunter who receives a survey takes the time to complete and return it in the post-age-paid envelope provided," Richkus added. "Their answers are very important, and we appreciate their efforts to tell us what they think."



"HUNTING PASSION"

Mastering the Critical Three

By Mike Monteleone

Mentors and experts have schooled whitetail bowhunters from the day they bought their first bow into thinking of deer hunting as a 20-yard sport. We heard repeatedly that the shots would mostly be 20 yards, that we should set our stands 20 yards from the trail, from the scrape, from the rub line, from the funnel etc. You get the idea – it's a 20-yard sport. But even with this beat into our heads, it may turn out that the experts have been wrong all along. Maybe it is not a 20-yard sport.

I went back over the last 25 bucks that I've tagged to see how far I have been shooting. My average distance is just over 25 yards. My shortest shot was 10 feet, or 3-plus yards from the base of my tree, and my longest was 46 yards. Wondering if I was normal, I did an informal poll of 5 of my most serious and successful bowhunting friends to find out what kinds of shots they've been taking.

These hunters spend a lot of time in the woods all over North America, so I figured their input would be a good cross-section of the distances that serious deer hunters are shooting. By the time I was done with my research, I had more than 90 shots represented in total. These were all successful shots, because it would have been too depressing to ask these guys about their misses.

The average distance of these 90 shots came about to be 18.6 yards. Now we are right back to the same assertion by the experts that whitetail hunting is a 20-yard game. However, there is a lot more in these numbers than the average. When you look at the extremes the average shortest shot was 4.1 yards for everyone questioned and the average longest shot was 40.1 yards.

You quickly see that successful bowhunters are killing big bucks on average at distances between 4 and 40 yards. Rather than a 20-yard game, it is more like a 4 to 40-yard game. When preparing for the season, it is best to prepare with that in mind. Focus on all the realistic shots you will and probably face and don't be forced into only practicing for the average 20-yard shot.

Now, I'm going to take this one step further and look back over the number of bucks that were moving either right before I stopped them for the shot, or still moving when I shot. Of the last 36 bucks that I've shot at, 24 were moving. I stopped just two of those because they were too far away

to shoot walking. That means dealing with movement has been a part of more

than 60 percent of my shots. Moving shots are a reality; you will likely face a buck moving this fall.

How you prepare for the season determines how well you will handle the challenging shots that the rut dishes out. Here are some tips to help you fine-tune both your mental and physical execution on tough shots this fall.

The Moving Shot

Suppose a buck comes cruising past your stand at a steady walk. He will pass 15 yards away. Will you stop him for the shot, or will you shoot him walking? Now suppose the shooting lanes on that side of the tree are very narrow because you didn't expect a buck to go that way. Will you stop him now? This is reality in the fall woods. Now is the time to answer these important questions.

Much of the serious whitetail hunting takes place during the rut. It is realistic to expect a buck to walk past your treestand and never slow down. Worse, he may come ripping through chasing a doe like a thoroughbred horse at the finish line. You must decide whether you will take a moving shot.

Most bowhunters elect to stop every moving deer, and that is not a bad decision, definitely the most conservative approach. But, there will be a few bucks during your lifetime that get away as a result. They will either spook at the grunt or jump the string after you've put them on alert. I always try to shoot them walking whenever possible for these very reasons. But that is just my take. I've practiced moving shots a lot and am very comfortable with them. This decision is full of tradeoffs for every bowhunter.

A shooting lane should be a least 6 feet wide to offer a good chance that the buck will stop in the open for a clear shot when you grunt or whistle at him. If they take one more step or don't hear you at first, you will have a problem if the lane is any narrower.

Here is the process I use when deciding whether to stop a walking buck. If the buck is moving faster than a steady walk, or if he is further than 15 to 20 yards away, I always stop the animal first. In addition, I pass up all moving shots when visibility is less than perfect, like early and late in the day. Finally, I didn't start to take moving shots until I had practiced them thoroughly and became very comfortable with my aim point and impact point for various walking speeds.

When dealing with small openings, I've found that it is easier to aim at the opening and time the arrival of the buck rather than try to swing my bow with the deer and time the opening.

Through practice, I've learned that for a 20-yard walking shot I have to trigger the release as soon as the front of the bucks shoulder appears beyond my sight pin—a lead of about 10 inches with my setup. It is slightly less on faster bows.

You can easily rig up a moving target in your backyard or archery range. Simply hang a bag target from two pulleys and release a string so it can run down an inclined rope as you shoot at it. You can vary the speed easily enough by adjusting the angle of the rope; you only need to do this a few times each fall to get the feel for moving shots.

The Chip Shot

A friend of mine missed a giant buck last November at just 15 yards. He estimated the buck at 160 inches, and he justifiably felt terrible about it for a long time. Well he got to feeling a bit worse on opening day of gun season when his buddy shot it and it actually grossed at over 180 inches and netted in the 170's. My buddy is a great shot with a bow and has taken many very good bucks over the years, but he missed a chip shot nonetheless. And he did it at a bad time. It can happen to anyone if you let your guard down and take the short shots for granted. Trust me... I know!

It's easy to get sloppy on short shots. I did that a couple of years ago, too, on a very big 8-pointer. He was 12 yards broadside, but he surprised me on a trail behind my stand and was part way through my shooting lane before I got on him. I rushed the easy shot and punched the trigger before the bow settled into place. That buck looked like a cow he was so big, yet I missed him clean, just under his brisket.

That was one incident when I should have broken with my normal routine and grunted to stop the deer. He would have paused long enough for me to regain my composure and get the pin settled. But I didn't. I figured there was no way I could miss such a short shot.

The fact that I missed that shot at

such a big buck shook my confidence to the core and serves as a great reminder to me anytime I think I can put a shot on autopilot. There is no such thing as an easy shot when hunting big whitetails.

To combat the tendency to take these shots for granted, be patient on the trigger. Put just as much effort and concentration into the chip shots as you do the longer ones.

Short shots are also tough because the angle to the vitals from a treestand is difficult. It is true that deer's vital area is basically as wide as it is tall. But that doesn't mean it is just as accessible from above as it is from the side. From a treestand, you have to penetrate a thick mass of bone and muscle in order to reach the lungs, and there is a high possibility of only hitting one lung. On close shots, the best angle occurs on deer that begin to walk away. At this point you can aim back just a little bit and angle the arrow through the liver into the chest for a sure and quick kill.

The shooting angle of these short ones also effects shooter form. Few bowhunters ever practice short shots from stand height to get comfortable bending their waists as fully as they should to create the needed 90-degree angle between their upper body and bow arm when the angle is steep. The tendency is to lower the bow arm without bending at the waist, a bad habit. It takes practice to ensure that you'll be ready for short shots. There is no such thing as a gimme in the deer woods.

The Long Shot

During the 2010 season, I hunted a massive-antlered buck for 10 days but never got him within bow range. The neighbor finally shot the deer from a stand a quarter mile away from where I had been hunting. He made a great 36-yard shot. I was nearly as happy as if I had shot the bruiser myself.

See Monteleone Page 9

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MACRO KNOW BOWS

Monteleone ...

Continued from Page 8

I'm glad he had been practicing at long-range during breaks before the season, and he had shooting lanes out to 40 yards.

If he had been less disciplined in his approach, that buck would have gotten away. Bucks like that don't come along very often in a lifetime. It is worth doing whatever you can to make every opportunity count.

By expanding your maximum range, the area you can cover around your treestand increases much faster. A bowhunter who feels comfortable shooting out to 30 yards can cover 2, 827 square yards. Sounds like a lot doesn't it? But, he can increase his area of coverage to 5027 square yards - an increase of 78 percent - by extending his maximum range to 40 yards. When bucks are moving through the woods almost randomly, increasing your coverage by 78 percent is a tremendous advantage.

Based on my experience and that of the hunters I polled for this article, 40 yards appears to be a realistic maximum range for serious bowhunters who practice a lot. Any time you set out to increase your range you need to keep a very tight rein on shot selection.

Just because you can shoot 40 doesn't mean you should. Even with excellent shooting form, 40-yard shots are only ethical under the best of conditions. The shot has to be clear and the animal must be at a good angle, motionless and not on alert. You must know the distance to the exact yard.

Two things will help you shoot better at 40 yards. Do at least half of your practicing at 50 and 60 yards. After a few weeks of long-range shooting, a 40-yard shot seems routine. Second, focus on all aspects of the shot, but especially the slow trigger squeeze and the follow-through. They are critical to long range accuracy. Keep everything perfectly relaxed and steady until the arrow hits.

You're not ready until you can put all your arrows into a 5-inch diameter circle at 40 yards. Since most deer have a kill zone that's 8-inches in diameter, this allows a little margin for error on your part. Chalk it up to buck fever, but we never shoot as well under pressure as we do in the backyard.

Those are the money shots, and you should practice them until you have mastered all three of them. We head into each season with hope that the buck of a lifetime will show up this year. Someday it will happen.

The ability to capitalize when it does requires that you be able to make the kinds of shots that you are most likely to face during this exciting time.



Captain Brian Council with his two favorite anglers, his sons, Jacob and Kirby Council.

Captain Brian runs the Charter Boat *Sea Dux* out of Kentmoor Marina on Kent Island and Rock Hall.



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“ON THE SCENE”

From Coast to Coast Westminster, Maryland to Ketchikan, AK.

By Andy Aughenbaugh

Day 1
Thursday April 19, 2012

The multiple possible quotes and cliché sayings to start this journey fill my mind. We've all heard them, but do we really hear and take action. Well, thanks to a few close friends I've mustered the strength to take this crazy journey.

At 2:53 PM on Thursday April 19, 2012 I left Westminster, MD and began the 3,500 mile trek across the country. Yes, at the age of 45, I quit my professional career, loaded my 17 year old pickup truck full of camping gear, kayak and clothes, and am off to Alaska for summer employment.

For the next twelve days or so, I will be making my way across the northern reaches of this grand country of ours, stopping here and there to explore. Then once almost to the western edge, I'll turn right into Canada for another 1200 miles to Ketchikan AK.

Wow, just what have I gotten myself into? I don't know, but it's going to quite the adventure.

Day 2
Friday April 20, 2012

As often is the case with our life journey, we sometimes have to drive long distances of interstate to reach a worthy destination. The big event of the day was making it through Chicago's traffic. I've driven Baltimore / Washington DC traffic for more than twenty years, just more the same.

"More of the same" I guess I could say that about much of the drive

from Carroll County Maryland to Chicago. I have heard it said

that the east coast is just one big large suburb running from New York to Richmond. After today's drive I would tend to agree. The outlining neighborhoods of Chicago eerily look the same as the suburban homes circling the Baltimore beltway.

The Appalachian Mountains have been my escape for many years, and it is with some trepidation, I leave them behind. The Ohio valley with its' rolling green pastures, and wooded valleys, reminds me of a large Carroll County. Since leaving Westminster, the smell of spring has been rolling in the open truck window. The deep lush greens of spring grass have been accentuated with the bright colors of a blooming spring - a time of renewal and rebirth.

The long seemingly endless miles of express toll roads are coming to an end tomorrow. I've put in my miles and now it is time to slow down, investigate, explore and learn, maybe not only about my surroundings, but in turn, about myself.

Day 3
Saturday April 21, 2012

The day started bright with the low early morning sunlight eliminating the white birch trees and red barns in a warm glow. However, the tranquility of a morning sunrise was soon in the forgotten miles. By the time I entered into Superior Wisconsin, rain fell from a grey sky.

Lunch time arrived as I drove down Route 53 in Superior WI. I found Gronk's Grill. A bass boat hung from the ceiling. A massive Northern Pike hung over the door and a light pole

sized arrow stuck in the ground in the parking lot. Just my kind of place. Two hours later, I left Gronk's Grill. Good food combined with meeting new people learning about the local flavor is exactly why I avoid chain restaurants the best I can.

In the beginning of this trip across the country, I was a little concerned that the big box stores and corporate food chains had taken over the country, leaving it sterile and boring with each town and cross roads being the same as the last. But after my stop at Gronk's, I have restored hope for this country maintaining some kind of regional individuality.

Minutes after crossing Lake Superior and out of Duluth, the mountains of the North Woods turned the rain into a wet snow. I pulled off to the side of the road and texted those back in Maryland, "Snow in Minn."

I explored the back roads of the Chippewa National forest. Snow fell in the white birch forest. The wintery scene was quite different from the early spring blooms of Maryland. By day's end, I entered Grand Forks North Dakota, at which time, the winds blew 30 MPH and the temperature was quickly falling through the 30's. Ok, so I wimped out, and looked for a hotel room instead of setting up the tent. Only one problem the local High schools were gathered in town for some kind of sports tournament and there were no available rooms. I pushed on to the next town.

Day 4
Sunday April 22, 2012

I never made it out of North Dakota today.

It all started as I was running full speed, when I decided to take a detour. I'm glad I did. I found the landscape littered with small pot holes filled with waterfowl. From the standard mallards to pintails, coots, red heads,

teal, wood ducks and many more, I attempted my best at taking a few waterfowl photographs. The slowdown diversion exploring the potholes of North Dakota is exactly why I choose to take two weeks for this trek.

The weather today was far from the snow and cold of yesterday. Today was a perfect sunny and 60 degrees. Perfect for camping. I set camp on an Island in Devils Lake ND. For dinner I had venison Kabasa that was shot and made in Maryland, smothered in a barbeque sauce from Gronk's Grill in Wisconsin and cooked over a fire in North Dakota.

Day 5
Monday April 23, 2012

The pre-sun rise temperature hung in the low thirties. I woke to the sounds of whistling wood ducks.

Today's destination - Theodore Roosevelt National Grasslands. I've read most of his books, and The Ranchman was written about this very place.

However, not much planning went into the trip. For a reason, I guess. I wanted to leave my options open, exploring as things came my way. So, with little to go on, other than a state map and a full tank of gas, I embarked to my next destination.

I took to dirt roads the map said would lead to the National Park. The first road led to a dead end at a secluded ranch along the Little Missouri River. No worry there was another dirt track to follow. This one led to the southern unit of the park and after traveling more than 100 miles on dirt roads, I entered the park. Along the way, I spotted pronghorn antelope, mule deer, and just inside the park I was greeted by a few bison. I never

See Aughenbaugh Page 11

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Billy Ho strikes again with a 25 1/2", 6 plus pound Largemouth Bass caught in the Twin Lakes. Photo courtesy of Clyde's Sport Shop.

Aughenbaugh . . .

Continued from Page 10

did locate the Elk Horn Ranch of Roosevelt fame.

Late in the afternoon, I found a campground and set camp for another night.

Today I learned that even with a well laid out plan and a map to guide you, sometimes the road turns from asphalt to gravel. The travel may slow some, but this only allowed me to slow down and take in the sights. Sights I would have missed if I was traveling at 70 MPH. Maybe life's travels could be handled the same?

Day 6

Tuesday April 24, 2012

Day 6 awoke with bright sun and mallards flying up the Little Missouri River. The day just got better.

After breaking down camp, I continued the pilgrimage. Since leaving Westminster, I wanted to stop and see where Theodore Roosevelt called home while in North Dakota. I soon discovered the reason I could not find the Elkhorn Ranch yesterday was because the buildings are no longer there. The site is just a few foundations of what was once there - just as he laid the foundation for modern day wildlife conservation.

But even more impressive, behind the visitor center was a small cabin - his cabin on his first visit to North Dakota. He had left New York for a few days of Buffalo hunting, fell in love with the place and stayed to start his own ranch. To say I was in awe to be

standing in the very cabin that Teddy once lived is truly an understatement.

On to Big sky country. Montana is a state I have wanted to visit for as long as I can remember. Today I made it. The big blue sign along route 94 marked my arrival. I now understand why they call it Big Sky country. It truly is.

Arriving at the Charles Russell National Wildlife Refuge, I set camp on the banks of Fort Peck Lake. It was time to explore.

The fresh smell of sage filled the windows of the truck. With the Old Toyota, I explored the endless horizons, gazing out over the coulees and wind swept sandstone cliffs from the jeep trails. At sunset the mule deer emerged to feed.

Even with all that I experienced today, it was one little item of about 3 feet in length that made my heart completely miss a few beats. While touring the jeep trails, I stepped out of the truck to get a better vantage overlooking a coulee. As I turned to return to the truck, I heard an unfamiliar sound, then it registered - Rattle snake! I froze in place only moving my eyes to find the noise maker. There he was two feet away. I froze. I thought about what to do, as this was my first encounter with a rattler. I remembered that I had packed my snakebite kit in the truck. Good, I thought. The rattler took one last look at me, and I swear we made eye contact. He then turned and went his own way. I slowly backed away and made a big circle of the area. For the rest of the evening, I kept one eye

on ground.

Day 7

Wednesday April 25, 2012

Today, I said goodbye to the Charles Russell Area of Montana. After visiting some landmarks explaining details of the Lewis and Clark expedition, I turned my truck west and continued my own journey.

While traveling along route 2 at 70 MPH, covering the miles quickly and looking forward to the shower that awaited me at the days end, I could only imagine the hardship and conditions the Lewis and Clark team experienced, walking and paddling through the same area.

I reached Cut Bank Montana around 4:00 pm. I had intended to travel a little farther into the next town, but when I asked about that town, a local strongly suggested I not spend the night there.

The local was a young lady who was shaping my new hat brim into my requested shape. One idea I had when I left Westminster was to purchase a new hat in Montana. I cannot think of a better place to buy a new cowboy hat.

With the windows down feeling the unseasonal warm weather here in Montana, and the radio off, I let my mind wander. The passenger seat is cluttered with maps, camera, binoculars, notebook and snacks. I have found that being organized is not the same as being neat.

Tomorrow I'm exploring Glacier National Park. They are calling for possible rain and snow tomorrow. We'll just have to wait and see what comes when it comes. That mindset has been the mantra of this trip. I had planned very little for this trip. Only a few must do's formulated the trip. So far this plan of attack has work well. Maybe the same would work well toward an outlook on life? Set far reaching goals. Work generally in that direction. Accept what comes along the way and deal with the small tasks as they appear.

Day 8

Thursday April 26, 2012

A few miles out of Cut Bank Montana, I pulled to the side of the road, took a picture with my cell phone, and texted to friends, "I can see the Rockies!"

It is still winter here. The famous road to the sun through Glacier National Park was closed. I drove into the Park as far as the closed gates allowed. A sign at the Two Medicine Lake entrance explained the details of Trick Falls. While thinking of hiking to the falls, a local pulled into the parking lot.

Jess was hiking back to the falls, about a 1/2 mile hike, and offered for me to join him. Together we hiked the unmarked trail over the snow drifts and through the pines. Two hours later, we parted as friends.

Jess suggested I take the hike up to Lower Medicine Lake, and lent me his bear spray for the hike. Yep, this place is full of grizzlies. They are fresh

from their long nap and are hungry.

Because of the rain, I did not take the hike but went on to explore Logan's Pass. While driving the short section of the pass that was open to traffic, I spotted about 50 Elk feeding in a meadow. Elk hold a special draw representing the west for me. I cannot totally explain it, but Elk are the western states for me and the trip would not be complete without at least one sighting. Now I just need to see a grizzly.

Driving along the southern edge of Glacier and the only open pass, I enter into Lewis and Clark National Park. The Toyota sees a forest access road and makes a hard left across the road and onto the gravel. A map posted at the access entrance outlines the trails. It is 4:00 PM; I've got a few hours until dark, and plenty of time to get to Alaska. I lock the hubs, just in case.

Not far up the incline, wet snow covers the road. With the truck in 4x4, I creep onto the snow. Tires spin and forward progress halts. I back up and try again with the truck in 4low. I get a little farther before progress is halted. One last attempt, with more speed, moves the limit of my tracks in the snow a few more feet, but again, I'm denied. Looking over the situation, I could lower the tire pressure, give it a real run, and push it up the trail, but I don't. Too far from home, too far yet to go, and stuck in the real wilds of the Rockies with a storm coming does not sound too smart for a solo traveler.

I guess being adventures can be fun, but knowing one's limits can keep you alive, or at least from spending a miserable night stuck in the snow.

Twenty minutes later, a thunderstorm pushes trough the lower elevations in West Glacier Montana.

Day 9

Friday April 27, 2012

Leaving West Glacier, eighty miles to Canada. I crossed the Canadian Border without incident. I had heard stories that the crossing could be difficult, but after only a few questions, and declaring my two guns with the proper paper work, I was in Canada. Yes, I brought my shotgun and rifle along in hopes I might just get in a hunt or two while in Alaska.

So far I've traveled through the rolling hill farm country of Pennsylvania and Ohio, the North woods of Minnesota, the pothole region of North Dakota, the Grasslands of North Dakota and Montana and the U.S. side of the Northern Rockies, but nothing could have prepared me for the sights of today.

Driving along route 93 in British Columbia and Alberta Canada, I traveled through the most majestic snowcapped mountains one could ever dream. Around each bend in the road, a new vista grasped my attention, taking my breath away.

When planning this trip, I paid

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By Jim Gronaw

“FISHIN’ BACK EAST”

MICRO-LIGHT...FOR BASS? ARE YOU CRAZY?

Historically, most of my angling friends have known me as a blue-collar, multi-species angler who likes to fish for bluegills, crappies and perch, along with heavyweights like blue cats and carp. Yes, I’ll do the put and take trout gig in the spring, chase after high-flying shad and I do like to fish for bass, both largemouth and smallies. Most of my bass fishing has come in the form of fishing small ponds and lakes through out the Mason-Dixon area as well as millponds and smaller venues in the mid-south. I do not own a bass boat, nor have I ever fished in any sanctioned, organized tournament venue or in any bass fishing competition. Neither have I held membership in any bass club, or any fishing club, my entire angling career. I will be the first to tell you that the modern bass angling phenomena has produced many, many outstanding and productive evolutions in tackle and tactics, not only for just bass fishing, but for many other types of species as well.

But there is something that is starting to bother me a bit. I have grown tired of watching all the cable shows that depict 275 -pound men skating 1 ½ pound bass across the surface on 50 pound braid. They quickly unhook the fish and toss them back with heave and hurry right back to catch the next dink on overmatched tackle. I know that much of this mentality is derived from tournament venues that require fast and furious fishing to cull the heaviest limit you can within the allotted time frame. And I know too that this is based on competitive angling and the chance to win money and prestige. But the truth is...this type of format makes for very poor TV viewing, and does little to recruit

new converts to the sport. Am I wrong to be thinking this way? Am I the only one who sees this as poor promotion for a great sport?

Okay, I know...not all the shows paint this picture. Recently, I have



Matt Gronaw with a six-pound largemouth taken on micro-gear and 4 pound line, What a fish!

been enjoying the episodes of Jarrett Edwards Outdoors and other shows that have featured big-bass guru Bill Siemantel from California. Much of Edwards’ and Siemantel’s bass shows have them fishing for quality-sized largemouths on very light line, notably, 4, 5 and 6 pound monos with small finesse baits and panfish sized jig heads. They probe the crystal clear, often snag-infested waters of desert lakes throughout the western half of the nation. They’re using lighter, and longer, spinning rods. They play their fish out, but not to exhaustion, releasing them quickly. And, it’s not all sight fishing for bedding fish, either.

Rather they employ these tactics during prespawn and again during fall movements when bass are shallow and vulnerable to these finesse tricks. Having watched them in action for a few years now, I decided I, too, could go super-light, and yes micro-light, on bass in my local venues.

I know that using anything lighter than 14 pound mono or 30 pound braid screams horror to most bass anglers, but understand there is a time and place for everything. You wouldn’t use

would ease out from the cover. With a calm, calculated approach, we lost very few fish.

I have applied this to local pond fishing near my central Maryland home. Most of the ponds I fish have little cover, and playing out a big fish just takes patience and proper drag settings. Our favored lures are Senko-styled worms such as 3 and 4.25 inch options from Yamamoto, Yum Dingers and Stank-X Stix. Small football head jigs in 1/16th and 1/8th ounce are good choices for smaller 2-inch tubes, along with smaller hairjigs you would use for river smallies. You can catch some quality bass on smaller crankbaits as well like the Rapala Floating Minnows #5 and the Strike King Bitsy Minnow. A 6 ½ to 7-½ foot light action rod will propel baits far and enable adequate hooksets. Choose a rod that will have some backbone for the hookset, yet soft enough on the upper third of the rod to allow for surges from the fish.

Everybody has a favorite line, but I have been having good success on with Trout Magnets’ SOS and Sufix Precision Wound Clear Monofilament in 2, 4 and 6 pound test. Two-pound test, you say? Yup, we have been doing the 2-pound bass gig for a few seasons now, and it is great fun, and challenging!

As mentioned earlier, there is a time and place for micro-lighting bass. You don’t want to do it on bedding fish, and you don’t want to do it where the cover is just too thick to allow it. And you wouldn’t want to do it on the lower Potomac, with all the pads, weeds and tidal currents that just wouldn’t work. Fishing the micro gig is not the best for heat –of-the-summer

micro tactics in super heavy situations to wrestle fish from padfields, heavy brush or timber. But you can use it in some cover where fish can be maneuvered to play them out.

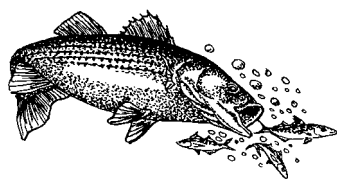
Two years ago in November, my son Matt and I fished bass powerhouse Richmond Mill Lake in southern North Carolina, only our target specie was giant bluegills that exceeded two-pounds in weight. With our 4 and even 2-pound test lines, we got the giant bluegills, but were quite often interrupted with 4 to 6 pound largemouths on the skimpy gear. With water temperature in the high 50’s and bass still aggressive, we simply eased our boat away from cover and into open water to play the big fish out. Just took a little time, that’s all. Talk about fun! We actually got good at it, and when we realized it was a bass, not a bluegill hookup, we



Don’t let light lines scare you...most bass won’t be this big anyway!

angling, either. But it can make for some sensational light tackle sport in a lot of regional lakes and ponds. Where most of the bass run from one to three pounds (which is most places we fish) micro-lighting is a pure blast.

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Aughenbaugh ...

Continued from Page 11

little attention to the Canada portion of the road. Out of ignorance, I did not realize or know what was in store along the 1,200 miles through Canada. I should have investigated this route some more. The trip through the Canada National parks in the Northern Rockies is worth a trip of its own. The ever intense views kept on for the day, and before I knew it, I had traveled over 500 miles and been on the road for 10 hours.

The one thing that really struck me was the avalanches. Large trees tossed like match sticks laid in mounds at the bottom of the slides. While taking a few photos of the slides, I met a Canadian scientist who was recording the movement of the slides. He explained how the forest fires of nine years earlier had weakened the soils and the root system of the vegetation, thus following years of snow melt the ground gives away and slides down the mountain – changing the landscape forever. We both looked at the total apparent devastation, but at the same time realized and discussed how this changing of the mountain landscape often mirrors our own lives sometimes, and through time what now appears to be total loss really is a new beginning.

Day 10

Saturday April 28, 2012

Six hundred and fifty two miles to go. The trip is almost to a close. I'm eager to complete the drive and begin the next stage of my adventure – summer employment as a guide in Alaska.

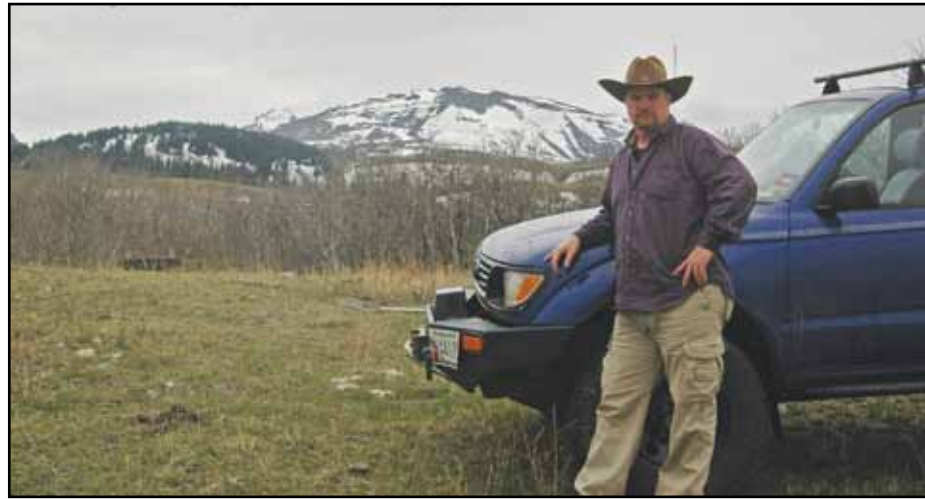
Elk and Mule deer feed in the green pastures along the early morning drive. Every few miles, signs warn of crossing moose, my hard

scanning finds no moose.

After a few hours of nonstop travel, I spot a demonstration forest at the rest stop. I pulled in the parking lot, strapped on my bear spray, tossed my camera bag over my shoulder and go for a hike. Everything out here is bigger than back home. I follow Moose scat and tracks along an old fire road partially covered in snow. The size of the moose signs makes the sign of our whitetails look like mice tracks.

The wind direction on the hike was perfect for stalking moose and deer, but not so good for grizzlies. I make a mile or so loop through the forest. It felt good to stretch the legs and walk around in the woods for a while.

Back on the road, I do not go



On his way to Alaska, Andy stops for a pose with the Rockies behind him.

too far before spotting another trail beckoning to be explored. This time I drove the truck down the muddy trail. It soon becomes snow covered and once again my exploration is cut short. No need to push it too far back and get the truck really stuck. I backed up and pushed on toward Prince Rupert, BC.

I arrive! 4,297 miles and ten days have passed since I left Westminster. I don't know what to say at this point. I guess I should have something profound to say summing up the trip of a lifetime, but I'm speechless. Wow, what a ride. I saw and experienced so much, it is hard to comprehend.

I find the ferry port to Ketchikan, AK. It is a ghost town. I returned into town and stopped a hotel. Checking the ferry schedule, I find that the next ferry does not run until Tuesday. Today being Saturday, I'm stuck but a few miles from my final destination but will have to wait a few days to make the water trip.

Day 13

Tuesday, May 1, 2012

Over the last two days I have

the next 5 months.

In some ways, the trip went extremely fast and in many ways it feels like a lifetime ago I was in Westminster commuting to Baltimore daily.

The final days before leaving was a whirlwind of packing and storing stuff, finishing the preparation of the truck and saying the good byes. Not until I reached the Northwood of Minnesota, did what I was doing really register, even then I was focused on the trip on hand, not giving much thought about the 5 months ahead at the end of the road. But now as I sit on the ferry gazing out at the snowcapped mountains touching the ocean, I cannot help but notice the other passengers.

The feeling of loneliness overcame me. I noticed the others travel in groups. I'm 4,000 miles from my home, my family, my friends and all that is familiar to me. I began to wonder and question what I am about to undertake.

Quietly I pray.

I over hear a group of college aged students talk of their jobs of the summer and their excitement is catchy. A little while later I step outside of the ferry to take photos of a light house on a rocky island. A passenger standing next to me opened a conversation. In a few minutes, I am sharing my photographs of my recent travels. They told stories of past summers. We exchange stories of what has brought us here, and I quickly feel as if I am among likeminded people. A feeling sometimes missed back home.

For the next five months, I will be working as a trail guide in Alaska. What my life beyond that has in store, I do not know. I do know my life is in God's hands and with him I'll be taking this walk.

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Jonathon Mason and company got in on the Yellowfin and Dolphin bite in late May out of Ocean City.

Bananas and Suitcases -- Fishing Folklore

Two of the most enduring crab boat superstitions have to do with, of all things, bananas and suitcases. In both cases, these items are strictly forbidden onboard.

Many charter fishing boat crews have steadfast restrictions about bringing bananas on the boat. In fact, they'll return to the dock to purge the offending fruit. Some charters go so far as to prohibit Banana Boat brand sunscreen or Banana Republic brand clothes onboard. Fishermen have even been known to object to Fruit of the Loom underwear (one sport fisher claimed he's treated wearers to wedgies and then cut the labels out). Oddly enough, the Fruit of the Loom graphic doesn't even have a banana on it, and some say the banana was left off because of this very superstition.

There are many theories on why people believe bananas are bad luck for a boat. One superstition is that boats carrying bananas don't catch fish. The origin of this belief dates back to the Caribbean trade of the 1700s. The wooden sailing boats of that time had to move quickly to deliver bananas before they spoiled, and fishermen had a hard time trolling for fish on such fast-moving boats, which is how the superstition came about. Another superstition

that originated during that time is that bananas will cause a boat to sink. This belief developed after many boats never made it to their destinations, and all of the doomed boats were carrying bananas.

One of the creepier superstitions



is that banana cargo could actually kill a man. In actuality, fermenting bananas do give off methane gas, which could conceivably get trapped below deck and kill any crew members unlucky enough to be working in the hold. Another popular theory was that venomous spiders hitched rides in bananas, and once those bananas were onboard, the boat would be host to any number of lethal critters. And then, of course, there's the theory that banana peels cause crew members to slip and fall on deck.

Suitcases onboard is a fishing boat no-no as well. Even when camera crew boarded crab boats to film Discovery Channel's reality series "Deadliest Catch," they were asked to leave their equipment suitcases on the dock.

The origins of the suitcase superstition are murky, and the superstition has variations. For example, some sailors are superstitious of all luggage; some only ban black suitcases and bags. But everyone seems to agree that a suitcase is a harbinger of death or illness. Black bags are considered bad because black is the color of death and a metaphor for the depths of the dark, cold sea. Some fishermen say that travel bags resemble body bags, another obvious symbol of death.

Why do crab boat captains and crew hang on to these superstitions? Probably for the same reason the superstitions began. Even with



modern understanding of science and weather patterns, we still perceive the sea as a mysterious and treacherous place. Beliefs and superstitions are passed down from generation to generation, from fisherman to fisherman, and it's a brave sailor who turns his (or her) back on tradition. Would you be willing to see what happens when you reject a centuries-old superstition?

Potomac River monster cats tournament trail is on

The Potomac River Monster Cats (PRMC) tournament trail was started in 2012 by Joe Sanbower, Jacob Lehman, and Greg Belknap. It was created to provide anglers of all skills levels a competitive, yet friendly, environment by which to enjoy the excellent blue catfishing afforded by the tidal Potomac River.

There have been five PRMC tournaments to date. The next tournament will occur on August 11th from 7 pm to 7 am and will be held out of the Fort Washington Marina. Be sure to visit the PRMC web site at www.potomacrivermonstercats.com for information about past and future tournaments or contact Joe Sanbower at 410-984-0139.



Dallas Snoke with a 55lb. catfish.



Mr. Sonny with his 45 in striper caught with Capt. Rob of Jim Dandy Charters off Tilghman Island.

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Tripp and Alexander Evans with their first rockfish of the 2012 spring season.



Nick Tegges with a nice gobbler sporting a 10 inch beard from Caroline county.

New Pennsylvania state record Elk confirmed

The largest elk ever recorded in Pennsylvania, a bull taken by a lucky hunter in 2011, has been confirmed as the new state record. The official declaration was made today by the Boone and Crockett Club.

An official measurer determined a final score of 442-6/8 B&C non-typical points, which ranks 9th among all non-typical elk in Boone and Crockett records.

The bull has nine points on the right antler and eight on the left. The antlers tally 190-3/8 on the right and 188-1/8 on the left, with 47-7/8 inside spread and 29-7/8 in abnormal points. The antlers are unusually wide—an impressive 69 inches at their widest point.

The Boone and Crockett scoring system is based on antler size and symmetry, and accepts only trophies taken in fair chase.

Since the early 1900s, the Boone and Crockett scoring system has been used to measure the success of wildlife conservation and management programs across North America.

Elk are native to Pennsylvania but had been extirpated by the late 1870s. Hunters and game commissioners in 1912 began discussing the idea of reintroducing the species. The following year, a shipment of 50 elk arrived by train from Yellowstone National Park. Half were released in Clinton County, half in Clearfield County. It was the beginning of a long elk restoration and habitat conservation effort that by the late 1990s would begin to generate significant tourism, wildlife watching and, of course, hunting opportunities.



Today there are 10 Pennsylvania bulls recognized in Boone and Crockett records. Seven are non-typical elk with a minimum score of 385; three are typical elk with a minimum score of 360. All have been taken since 2003.

The new Pennsylvania record holder, William Zee of Doylestown, Pa., was hunting in Clearfield County, Pa.

“Congratulations to Mr. Zee, and especially to the Pennsylvania Game Commission for its work building one of America’s most up-and-coming elk herds,” said Eldon Buckner, chairman of the Club’s Records of North American Big Game committee.

The previous Pennsylvania state record for non-typical American elk was a bull scoring 441-6/8 taken in 2006 in Clinton County by hunter John Shirk.

Since the Zee bull is a Top 10 entry, its score will be panel-verified during the Boone and Crockett Club’s triennial awards program in Reno, Nev., next year.



Captain Mitch Quillen in his new white boots was all smiles as his youngest Mitchell reeled in this nice striper. Delaney supervised the action.



Jim Helvitch and friend Bob from Pasadena managed three keepers measuring from 17" - 19" on Friday May 4. They also caught a few snapper bluefish. Kingfish aka Sea Mullet/Whiting will be moving in by the end of May. The flounder bite is only getting better with each passing day.

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Dawn White with her first deer shot during opening day of shotgun season. The mount was finished by Whitetail Studios. Photo courtesy of Gun Shack.

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West Virginia revises deer hunting rules to cut population

Charleston, W.Va. (AP) - West Virginia is giving hunters incentives to kill female deer instead of bucks in a move to reduce the animal's population.

The state Natural Resources Commission has created a new three-day firearm season for antlerless deer in late October, before mating season.

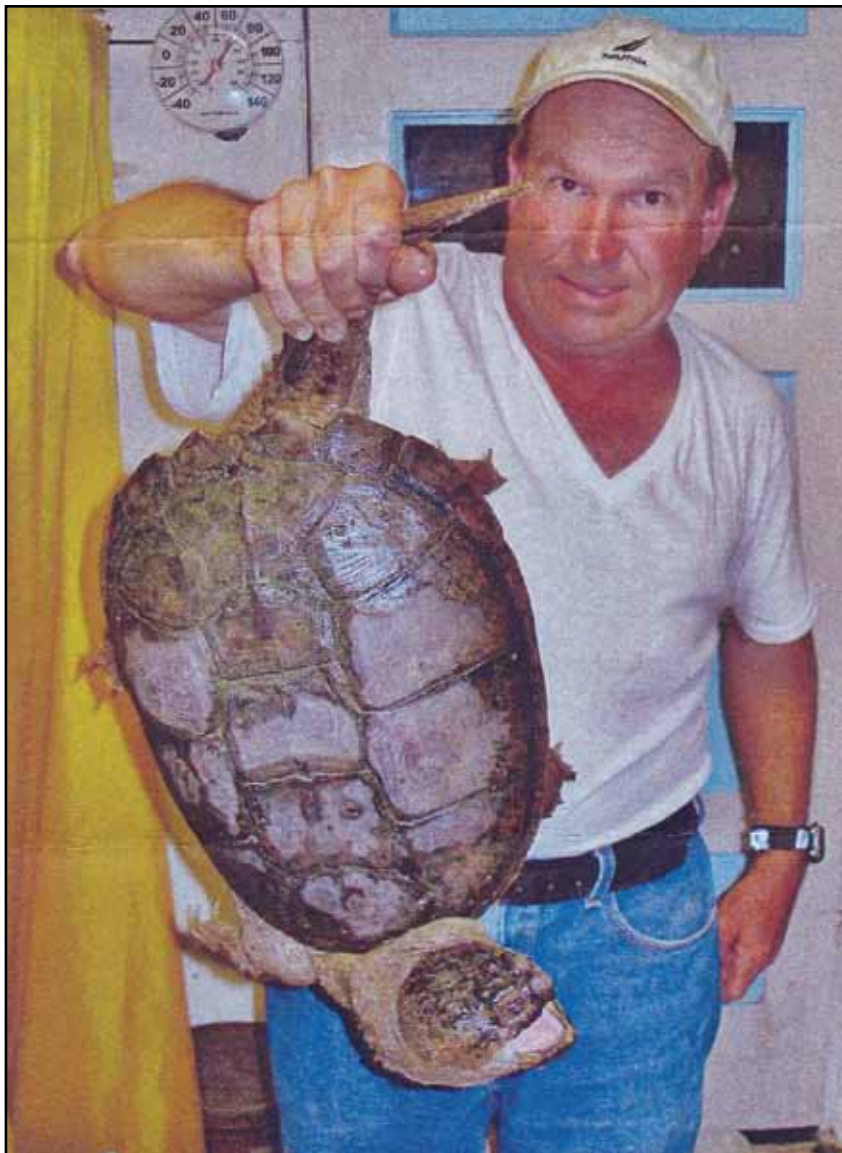
The commission also has increased the number of deer hunters can kill from one to two a day. At

least one deer must be antlerless.

The Charleston Gazette reports that the changes are part of new hunting regulations approved Sunday.

Another change is a statewide bag limit of seven deer during urban hunting seasons. The regulation replaces municipal bag limits that varied from town to town.

Only two bucks can be killed during an urban season. The rest must be antlerless deer.



Chris Flurer of Lanham, MD, caught this 15 inch long shell "Snapping Turtle" on hook and line. The granddaddy of the Manokin River was 40 lbs.

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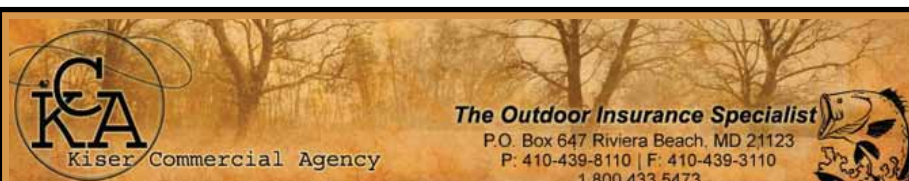
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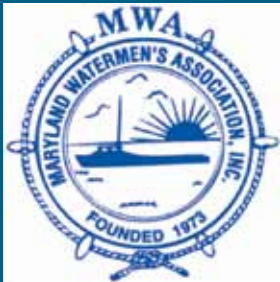
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Matt Dillon (left) with the catch on opening day 2012 aboard the *Kingfish II* with Captain Harry Nield

Skip Doda (above) on the *Kingfish II*, opening day spring trophy rockfish Season 2012.



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NEW WORLD RECORD MOUNTAIN GOAT

A Rocky Mountain goat taken by a hunter in 2011 in British Columbia is the largest of its species ever recorded, according to the Boone and Crockett Club.

Club officials confirmed the goat, a male that scored 57-4/8 Boone and Crockett points, as a new World's Record.

Since 1906, the Boone and Crockett Club's scoring system has been used to measure the success of conservation programs across North America. The system rewards antler and horn size and symmetry—classic symbols of outstanding habitat, strong recruitment of animals into older age classes, sustainable harvest objectives and other elements of sound wildlife management and fair-chase hunting.

More than a thousand Rocky Mountain goats from Alaska to Nevada have met the minimum Boone and Crockett score of 47. But by far the most entries (541) have come from British Columbia.

"British Columbia continues to set the standard for Rocky Mountain goats," said Eldon Buckner, chairman of Boone and Crockett Club's Records of North American Big Game Committee. "The province remains home to more than half of the world's popu-

lation and trophy-class specimens have been trending upward each decade since the 1970s. That testifies to the professionalism of the British Columbia Ministry of Forests, Lands and Natural Resource Operations."

The new World's Record goat surpassed the old mark by a substantial 6/8 of an inch.

The previous record was actually a tie between two British Columbia goats, one taken in 1949 and the other in 1999, scoring 56-6/8.

Troy M. Sheldon of Alexandria, Kentucky, bagged the new record goat on the seventh day of a hunt in the Stikine River area. Sheldon's friend Carey Renner and guide Heidi Gutfrucht of Northwest Ranching and Outfitting accompanied him on the hunt. He used a Tikka T3 .270 WSM to make a perfect 319-yard shot across a ravine.

Following a required drying period and initial scoring, a special Boone and Crockett judge's panel verified the goat's official entry score as a new World's Record.

Sheldon will be invited to include his trophy in a public exhibition held as part of Boone and Crockett's 28th Awards Program in Reno, Nev., next year.



Troy Sheldon, of Alexandria, Kentucky, poses with the record-breaking Rocky Mountain goat he shot in the Stikine River area of B.C. Oct. 8, 2011.

Maryland youth hunter education challenge announces dates

The 2012 Maryland Youth Hunter Education Challenge will be held again this year on June 16th and 17th at the Potomac Fish and Game Club in Williamsport, Maryland. This annual event saw over 100 kids participate in 8 outdoor and shooting events. This year we are looking to have a similar number of kids and anticipate another great year. Come check it out or volunteer if you would like, contact coordinator Lee Esworthy at haf4e@yahoo.com .



Jacob Zieber has the spring trophy citation he has been looking for. He was aboard the *Canvasback* with Captain Bob Ritchie at the helm this past spring.



Ed Sullivan with his nice spring Turkey taken on the Eastern Shore of Maryland..



Turkey Tip: Resist the urge to stalk turkey sounds. It is nearly impossible to sneak up on a turkey. It is also unethical and could lead to an accident.



Even the dog has to admire Craig "Pole" Gagalski of Rock Hall, MD. this past spring with his two beautiful Toms. "Pole" shot one with a crossbow and one with a compound bow.



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Mason Heinefield is the man, with this double header catfish on a top and bottom rig.



Robert Hood with a very impressive rainbow Trout caught in Early April.
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Photo Courtesy of Clyde's Sport Shop



Ken Kirkwood had to had his Compound Bow tuned at Macrotech when before he took this magnificent Eland

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Coastal Report

By Capt. Mark Sampson

Most sportsman will agree that time spent in the woods or on the water is as necessary to their own health (and perhaps sanity) as anything else in life. Getting out and about in the natural world tends to put many of life's problems into perspective; it calms the spirit, and relieves our daily stress. Of course, those with a home and family know that time-off from work doesn't necessarily translate to time spent with rod or gun in hand. Far too many responsibilities follow the family-man or woman around to allow them to go directly from work to play.

Happily, enjoying outdoor recreations and spending time with our children need not be mutually exclusive passions. Combining the two can lead to rewards far beyond anything anyone can achieve by going it solo. Adults who have helped children along to the day that they catch their first fish, or take their first game, know the immense satisfaction derived from introducing a youngster to a part of life

that will never be experienced from an X-Box game or a computer monitor.

But sportsmen who take youngsters out hunting or fishing must also keep in mind that their own priorities will probably have to be altered to accommodate their apprentice tag-a-longs. Rather than worrying so much about the outcome (what is caught or killed), the focus of the day must fall more on the total experience and lessons learned by going through the motions. Sure, a child would like to shoot a bunch of ducks or catch a stringer of flounder, but even if they don't your can bet that they're going to have a ball trying. They'll also be ready to go again the first chance they're given, unless perhaps some adult paints the outing as unsuccessful and a lousy time just because they didn't "get anything."

Taking a child along on a hunting or fishing trip requires that adults slow down and be ready to exhibit extra measures of patience and tolerance. Try as they might, young children simply cannot keep up with, or endure, so much of what adults can - simply because they're small. Children get cold easier, get tired quicker, and hungry more often.

In order to keep up with an adult's normal walking pace, a small child must walk twice as fast. Their little feet will constantly get stuck in muddy

holes, and every time you pull them out their boots will come off. Kids can have trouble keeping quiet, still, and focused for long periods of time as they wait for game to come or fish to bite. They will learn to overcome these setbacks, but in the meantime adults must be patient, take it all in stride, and do their best to make a child's time outdoors as comfortable and enjoyable as possible.

Sportsmen must also be prepared for odd reactions by children who don't always know what to do as events unfold. A friend told me about taking his son along him while bow hunting one morning. The little guy sat very quietly in the tree stand with his father until a huge buck deer stepped into view. Suddenly he jumped up and shouted, "There's one dad!" Needless to say "dad" could only sit and watch as one of the biggest deer he'd ever seen turned tail and ran off. Fortunately my friend had the good sense not to get mad at his son, using the experience instead as a way to explain how easily a deer will react to a yelling, screaming, and jumping six year old.

A while back I had a group book my charter boat for a day of bluefishing. Among them were a couple of young children. Their father was hoping that the sight of a big bluefish would not frighten either of his children. As we waited for the chum to attract something to our hooks, the kids passed their time playing with the small baitfish we had laying in a bucket of ice at the back of the boat. After a while they started periodically dropping a bait overboard and staring into the water as it sank out of sight - or so we thought.

"Better not throw all our bait overboard or we won't have any left to fish with." I said, as another piece hit the water.

"We're feeding the sharks" one replied.

"But that's our bluefish bait." I reminded them.

"Sharks like it too," Another one said.

"What makes you so sure?"

It wasn't until I heard "we see them eating it" that I got off my butt, walked to the back of the boat to see what was going on. I was amazed to find two 4-foot dusky sharks happily snapping up every bait the kids were dropping overboard. I walked into the cabin and told their father that he needn't worry about his kids being frightened by big bluefish.

Adults should look for the chance and welcome every opportunity to take a youngster along their outdoor adventures and remember that, unlike so many of us "old folks," a fun time outside for kids doesn't require that there be a hard and fast goal like catching a cooler full of fish or shooting bunch of game. Certainly children will get a kick out of that too, but they can also have very memorable times poking around local marshes, exploring woodlots, going for a boat ride, or hiking down the beach. In other words - just getting outside.

Remember too the inescapable fact that someday we'll all be "too old" to go fishing or hunting by ourselves, and when we reach that stage of our lives we'll be hoping that our children or grandchildren will remember how many times we took them along on such trips and reciprocate by taking the time and making the effort to do the same for us.

Finally, there's no need for anglers to leave their kids at the dock just because they enjoy the fun and competition of tournament fishing. This summer there's at least four Ocean City tournaments that either have youth divisions or are directed at kids altogether:

June 14-16, Ocean City Shark Tournament, Ocean City Fishing Center, ocsharktournament.com

July 21 & 22, 8th Annual Kids Classic, Ocean City Marlin Club, ocmarlinclub.com

September 9, Bahia Marina Flounder Pounder, bahiamarina.com

September 11, 11th Annual Memorial Spot Tournament, Ocean City Fishing Center, ocfishing.com

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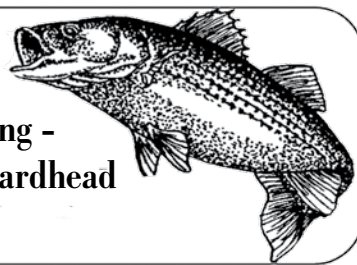
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Congratulations to Joey Dalto (above) of Mechanicsburg, PA, who landed this Palamino Lunker while fishing on the Loyalsock Creek, near Barbour's, in Sullivan County, PA.

And (right) is Adam Jones who volunteered to clean the day's catch in preparation for the evening's Trout Camp Feast!



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David Beacham's first Gobbler weighing in at 23 lbs. with a 11' beard 1 1/8 inch spurs. With a little help from Casey Clatt. Photo courtesy of Chad Reese



Mid-Bay Report

Main Bay trollers will be hanging up their gear during June as live-lining becomes the most popular form of striped fishing. Much of the success of live-lining depends on the availability of spot. Not just spot, but the right sized spot.

Really tiny spot are poor bait because the large (4/0 – 7/0) hook slows

them down and eventually injures them fatally. Large spot, 7 inches and up, though lively on the hook, are often rejected by smaller stripers.

Since spot grow fast and the right size occurs in such a narrow part of their lifespan, we find that their availability is limited even when the overall population is plentiful. By late summer, almost all of them are too large. There are never two year classes that contain fish in the “right size” category.

Though white perch are a strong second choice, they are not a soft-finned fish and are often passed over by stripers. Menhaden in late summer are a great replacement for spot. The

problem is that a source of supply has never been exploited. Pound netters catch them by the millions but they are not equipped to market them alive.

The best way for anglers to catch menhaden is with the cast net. It is an easily mastered skill, especially when menhaden schools are plentiful. It doubles as an equally good tool for catching spot. Rockfish will not pass up a live menhaden and will slurp up fresh dead ones in a pinch.

Rockfishing in the estuaries like the Big Choptank will start the regular season with fair numbers of 18”-plus fish. They do get scarce as warm weather progresses but some are available throughout the summer. The secret is to try them early and late. One of my angling partners likes surface plugs from sundown on. Dedicated shallow water anglers turn up stripers even when most fishermen think they’ve left the river.

Live bait bottom fishermen turn their attention to hardhead, spot, and white perch. If you know where there is some live oyster bottom you’ll find all of the above in abundance. There has been some resurgence in oysters over the last few years. I’m seeing them in places that have been devoid of them for 10 years.

This spring has been dry, and though some tidal species like low salinity, water quality sky rockets in the Bay when we do not experience the heavy runoff associated with spring rains. Emerging underwater grass beds flourish in the clear water that allows the sunlight to penetrate to the bottom. I have already observed lush beds of grass in some of our creeks on the Big Choptank. I would bet

the Bay would receive high marks if a water quality survey were taken in June this year.

Oysters, clear water, underwater grass beds, and now an historical high number of blue crab were discovered in the winter survey. Wouldn’t it be nice if the Bay was also blessed with a good hatch of menhaden to feed our starving rockfish.

Last year’s record striped bass index will be depending on small prey other than menhaden until they reach at least 12 inches in length. Right now, most of them are less than 10 inches. I caught a few in May that were less than 7 inches.

They will be feeding heavily on anchovies, silversides, and grass shrimp but when they begin to feed on menhaden their health and growth are dependent on an adequate supply this high calorie fish. Some of the groups that will be determining how the new menhaden harvest restrictions should be implemented suggest that the health of the striped bass should be the determining factor.

In other words, when we see less disease, lesions, and skinny rockfish we’ll know that nutritional needs are being answered. We can’t allow last year’s great Y.O.Y. class to suffer the stress that surely awaits them if some meaningful action is not implemented in the near future.

I plan to take advantage of this year’s crop of crabs. Trot-lines are swell for people who need lots of crabs for a big family, but one or two dozen is all I need. The hassle of baiting and finding a decent lay for a trot-line is

See Prahl Page 25



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Prahl ...

Continued from Page 24

not worth the trouble.

I'm going to purchase 10 collapsible traps. I can bait them with easily obtained white perch carcasses. While I'm waiting for them to fill up (ha, ha), I can be fishing a nearby shoreline for stripers or perch. Stowing the traps may be a problem in a 16-foot boat which is also used for fishing. Some traps fold flat for storage, while others are ready to drop overboard.

There are also crab rings which amount to nothing more than a wire



ring with a net in the middle. I would think they would only be useful in very shallow water, like off of a pier. You'll never know how many climb

out on the way up.

It's been a long time since I crabbled seriously, but I do recall that no matter how big your boat, there's never enough room for all the stuff. Trot-liners usually have a cull box, salt, bait, multiple baskets, a net, a brine barrel, and chocks or a line roller. The line itself is stored in the brine barrel. Some crabbers dry salt the line which makes handling the line less of a chore.

Bait for a trot-line is somewhat expensive. Even a 1200-ft. line takes quite a bit of bait. Most recreational crabbers use chicken necks. Some like the tougher bull lips, but storage for both is a problem. An old freezer is great for storing bait and also can store a baited line which eliminates the need to salt it.

Commercial crabbers used to replace baits every other day. Bait gets washed out and eaten and certainly catches better when fresh, but I would think recreational crabbers could get by with simply replacing missing and badly mauled baits.



Don Fountain with his impressive Tom sporting an 11" beard. Photo courtesy of Wink's Sporting Goods.

"When I was a boy of fourteen, my father was so ignorant I could hardly stand to have the old man around. But when I got to be twenty-one, I was astonished at how much he had learned in seven years." - Mark Twain

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Clarissa Harris and guide Bonnie Friend with her first Turkey. 7.5" beard, 3/4" spurs. Photo Courtesy of Shore Country Outdoors.

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- 2 medium onions, sliced
- 4 large ripe tomatoes, peeled, quartered, and seeded
- 1/2 C. sliced green olives

Salt and Pepper

Brush fish with 1 teaspoon cooking oil and sprinkle with lime juice, including cavity. Place in well-oiled grill basket, or on oiled aluminum foil with holes poked in it and placed on the grill. Cook over moderately high heat until thickest part of fish is done. Meanwhile, make the sauce. Heat olive oil in saucepan. Sauté onion and garlic until tender, stirring occasionally. Mix in tomatoes and olives and continue cooking over medium heat 6 to 8 minutes, or until slightly thickened. Season to taste with salt and pepper. Remove from heat and reserve; reheat when ready to serve.

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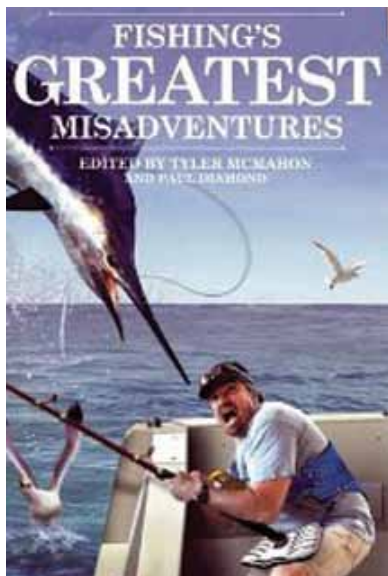
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Book of the Month

FISHING'S GREATEST MISADVENTURES

"Fishing's Greatest Misadventures" presents twenty-six true stories which cover the spectrum from terrifying to comical to downright bizarre. In these pages everyday fishermen, pros, and journalists tell their stories of freak accidents, fishy attacks, pranks, idiotic decisions, eerie or unexplained incidents, and other jaw dropping, adrenalin-pumping calamities. The stories bring to life the strange possibilities that await us once we cast our lines into known and unknown waters. Inside these pages you'll meet: a sport fisherman who gets taken on harrowing underwater ride by an angry white shark; an adventure angler whose boat is over turned by a 200 lb Amazon-river catfish; a group of ice fishermen who lose their cabin, gear and pride to a single sturgeon; a teenager who sabotages a fish farm and frees 300,000 salmon; and a charter boat operator who gets speared through the chest by a leaping marlin. From lakes to rivers to the ocean, this book covers every form of angling, and all that can go wrong.



Biography

Paul Diamond grew up in Washington, D.C. where he had his own break dance crew, did an internship for then senate majority leader Bob Dole, and then sang in a punk band (in that order). He worked as a photojournalist for United Press International in Pittsburgh and later taught writing at Ohio University and then at Tulane University. He spent five summers leading packs of kids at surf camps in Hawaii, Costa Rica, and Baja California. He now lives in Seattle and works as an editor.



Andy Aughenbaugh caught this steelhead after work. His first AK fish. Gotta love Alaska!



Steve Kelly and Terry Crouse with 2 fine gobblers harvested with Horn E. Goose Gun Club.

DID YOU KNOW - The Diet for Yellowfin Tuna?

Primary prey items include fish, cephalopods, and crustaceans. Yellowfin appear to forage rather indiscriminately for any of these items. A study by Watanabe (1958) found 37 families of fish and 8 orders of invertebrates in yellowfin stomachs. Fish species consumed by the yellowfin tuna include dolphinfish, pilchard, anchovy, flyingfish, mackerel, lancetfish, and other tunas. Other prey items are cuttlefish, squid, octopus, shrimp, lobster, and crabs. Yellowfin are apparently sight-oriented predators, as their feeding tends to occur in surface waters during daylight. Other large fish and marine mammals compete with yellowfin for food.

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Maryland MSSA Hosts World's Largest Rockfish Tournament

2012 Champion, Glenn Orr Wins \$69,476

(ANNAPOLIS, MD) – Titled The Championship on the Chesapeake, the World's Largest Rockfish Tournament, concluded on Sunday, May 6th as nearly 500 boats and 3,000 anglers competed for bragging rights as the Champion of the Chesapeake, and of course the big cash payout.

For the past 29 years the Maryland Saltwater Sportfishing Association (MSSA) has hosted this event in Maryland waters of the Chesapeake Bay. MSSA is the largest Sportfishing association in the region with over 6,000 members and 14 chapters.

MSSA's large network of volunteers allows them to successfully pull off The World's Largest Rockfish Tournament. With 11 weigh stations scattered throughout the Bay, both Eastern and Western shores, the tournament is convenient and enjoyable for almost everyone in the state.

Glenn Orr of Severna Park found this year's tournament particularly enjoyable as he caught a 42.1 pound rockfish on Sunday, the last day of the tournament. Orr has been fishing this tournament for over a decade and his catch on Sunday finally paid off. Winning the main tournament, a guaranteed \$15,000 cash prize, and all but one of the skill levels (11 total) brought his total earnings to \$69,476. Orr's payout marks the second largest payout in MSSA spring tournament history behind Lee Slagle in 2008 who won over \$70,000.

Holding on for two and a half days at first place, ultimately finding himself taking second, Joe Klug of Glen Burnie weighed in a magnificent rockfish coming in at 36.65 pounds. Klug took second in the main tournament and placing in multiple skill levels bringing his total earnings to \$13,100.

Third place went to Karl Foster of Chesapeake Beach who nudged out

the fourth place winner by one hundredth of a pound. Foster weighed his 33.15 pound rockfish at Rod N Reel on Sunday. His efforts and fish will bring him \$7,429. Charles Wilson, also of Chesapeake Beach, came in fourth place with his 33 pound rockfish. Wilson also weighed in his fish at Rod N Reel on the first day not long after the scales opened. Wilson will be taking home \$17,617 for his three days of fishing.

In addition, Steve Smith of Hanover, PA took home \$16,763 for his 5th and 8th place fish, along with 1st place in the four fish skill level. Smith won over \$65,000 two years ago in the spring tournament.

Among the numerous skill levels and main tournament prizes are the Ladies, Youth, and Pro divisions. New this year is the Ladies Division. This division awarded the top ten lady anglers who weighed in the heaviest fish all three days of the tournament. The winner of the first ever Ladies Division was Victoria Beard of Owings, Maryland. Victoria received \$500 cash and merchandise from Reel Sassy fishing apparel.

The Professional Division was dominated this year by a few Captains, proving that when they find the fish, they will catch the fish. William Goodermuth of Felton, PA took first place this year as he brought in a 35.05 pound rockfish. Goodermuth weighed in at the Rod N Reel docks in Chesapeake Beach on the second day of the tournament. He will take home \$3,000 for his efforts. Second place went to Thomas Mills of North Beach. Mills was one of the big money winners in the pro division as he weighed in a 32.8 pound rockfish taking home \$6,620. Donnie Scrivener of Huntingtown, Maryland took third overall with a 30.15 pound rockfish. Scrivener also placed in

several skill levels bringing his total earnings to \$5,371.

The Youth Division, which has become more popular over the past few years, awarded the top ten youth anglers ages 16 years and under. This year's winner is Cory Lee Freeman as he weighed in a 20.5 pound rockfish. Cory was fishing on Captain James Watkinson's boat of Chesapeake Beach. Second place went to Austin Garrison of California, Maryland. Austin caught a beautiful rockfish weighing in at 20.35 pounds. Austin and his father weighed this fish in at Point Lookout, both are longtime participants in the MSSA spring tournament. Third place went to Michael Linetty of Smithsburg, Maryland.

Michael weighed in a 20.3 pound rockfish on the first day of the tournament. The top ten winners received a trophy, merchandise, and gift cards from Alltackle. Alltackle is a major sponsor of the MSSA and its tournament series as well as numerous other youth events.

The tournament, always held the weekend before Mother's Day, was particularly challenging this year. Captains were marking plenty of bait and big fish, but they were having trouble getting them to take their baits. There was a lot of talk going on about the moon, the weather, the tides, the wind, you name it. But at the end of the day that is fishing.



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“THE LAST WORD”

Results from the Elk Survey

Some of you may remember from my September 11 story or may have heard elsewhere that the Rocky Mountain Elk Foundation has allocated funds to see if

Maryland citizens and its habitat would support the reintroduction of Elk to the Free State.

The first part of the process was to conduct a survey of Maryland citizens to see how they felt about concept of elk in their state. To perform that task, the groups involved enlisted the services of Responsive Management. Responsive management is a company that conducts studies on public opinion on natural resources, fish and wildlife, and outdoor recreation. If you need public opinion on critters that swim, fly, and walk, they are the go to company.

The study entailed a telephone survey of 809 Maryland residents 18 and older. In the report, entitled Public Awareness of Opinion on the Reintroduction of Elk in Western Maryland, some of the finds found in the study overview found the majority of Maryland residents are satisfied with the overall performance of the Maryland Department of Natural Resources. A copy of the report is at http://www.responsivemanagement.com/download/reports/MD_Elk_Report.pdf

A small percentage of residents have heard something about the proposed reintroduction of elk into western Maryland. Despite low overall awareness about the proposal, nearly three out of four Maryland residents would support the reintroduction of elk into western Maryland. Support for the reintroduction as measured at both the beginning and end of the survey was

largely the same: in an early survey question, 72% of respondents said they supported the reintroduction of elk into the state (37% of whom strongly supported it), while a similar question asked near the end of the survey (after respondents were given time to consider potential problems such as vehicle collisions, property/crop damage, disease risks, and the expense of the reintroduction) found 70% of Maryland residents in support of the reintroduction (35% strongly supporting it).

Despite that a clear majority of Maryland residents support the reintroduction of elk into the

Western part of the state, the survey determined that strong opposition is notable among several subsets of respondents. Individuals who believe that the reintroduction of elk will negatively affect their job or industry (43% of these individuals strongly oppose the reintroduction), individuals who think elk will likely be a nuisance to landowners in western Maryland (36% in strong opposition), individuals who do not support the hunting of elk in western Maryland (22% in strong opposition), and western Maryland landowners of 20 acres or more (20% in strong opposition).

While none of these subsets had a majority of respondents in strong opposition to the reintroduction of elk into Maryland, it remains likely that these will be the groups most vocally opposed to the reintroduction of elk.

Maryland residents place particular importance on the knowledge that the state could benefit economically from tourists who come to watch or photograph elk; at the same time, the chance of a vehicle collision with an elk and the disease risk posed by elk are two of the most important potential concerns to Maryland residents. Additionally, a majority of them believe that the ecological effects of the elk reintroduction should be very important in decisions about whether to reintroduce elk in Maryland.

Roughly three-quarters of Maryland residents support legal, regulated hunting, and about the same percentage would support the hunting of elk in western

Maryland. A little more than half of the residents surveyed said they would be likely to take a trip to view elk in Maryland, and about the same proportion of hunters in the sample said they were likely to hunt elk given a healthy enough population.

Those who were strongly in support of elk reintroduction they could be classified as being very or somewhat likely to try elk hunting in Western Maryland (79% of this groups strongly supported reintroduction), being a hunter (70%), not thinking that potential agricultural damage should be very or somewhat important in decisions about the elk reintroduction (59%), not being concerned about elk being a nuisance (58%), having had damage caused by wildlife in the past 5 years (non landowners 57%), and being very likely or somewhat likely to take a trip to see elk in Western Maryland (51%).

At the opposite end of the spectrum, the group that was strongly opposed to reintroduction, the top categories within this group were thinking elk would negatively influence their industry (43%), elk nuisance on the property (36%), not supporting elk hunting in Western MD (22%), being a landowner of 20 acres or more in Western Maryland (20%), and not thinking the economic benefits of having elk should be important about in reintroducing elk (20%).

Regardless of your view on elk reintroduction, with elk currently in PA, and plans being looked at in West Virginia and Virginia it would be prudent to examine all factors regarding elk and whether or not they are reintroduced.

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Blue Crab Fun Facts:

Callinectes sapidus means "Beautiful swimmer that is savory".

Crabs reach maturity in 12 to 18 months.

Few crabs live longer than 3 years.

The largest crab recorded from Maryland was a male measuring 9 inches; however bigger crabs (10-11 inches) have been captured in DNR crab surveys.

The annual harvest of hard crabs from Chesapeake Bay accounts for over 50% of total U.S. landings.

Cannibalism of young blue crabs by larger crabs is common and may regulate population abundance.

A spring-spawned crab can reach a size of 2 1/2 inches by their first winter.



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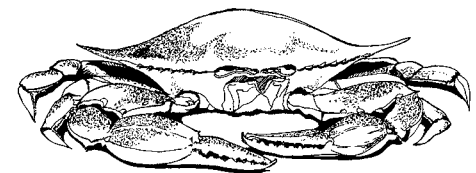


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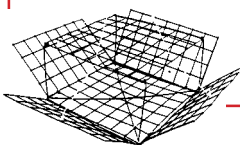
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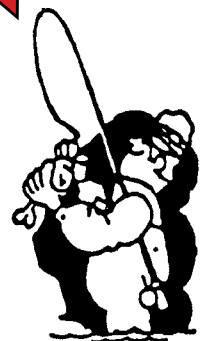
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