

Fishing & Hunting Journal



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- TIDAL FISHING FORMULA
- MATTAWOMAN CREEK
- TAKING THE PLUNGE
- FIRST SHOT MAKING A DIFFERENCE

FREE



**Angelina Watts is at it again!
Jigged up this fat 24 inch Flounder in the
back bay.**



**John Brown, Kathy & Keith Corbin with rockfish caught on peeler
crab while white perch fishing. Photo by Tim Campbell**

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“Campbell’s Catch”

Mattawoman Creek with Capt. Mike Starrett

One of Captain Mike Starrett and his partner Captain Dave Snellings’ guided fishing trips is northern snakehead combined with largemouth bass. Mike and Dave fish in the back of Mattawoman Creek, a major tributary of the Potomac River. Now everyone knows, but Mike doesn’t much care. He’s always been open about it. Knowing fish are there and catching them are two different things. Besides, it’s a long stretch of water going back 14 miles and a lot of the creek is only accessible to small boats and kayaks. Snakeheads have been there since 2004 or so, largemouth bass much longer. Bluegills, carp, catfish,



Capt. Mike Starrett holding a small snakehead caught "walking the dog" with a spook lure. Photo by Tim Campbell.

and gar are some of the other species. While snakehead and bass fishing, the two stealthy guides use walkie-talkies, working together, quietly poling different areas in and around the spatterdock fields. Sometimes they catch big snakeheads. That is why one goes of course, and that the fabulous bass fishing. The Potomac River is famous for both species.

I’ve been wanting to fish with Mike for a while. He’s been a guide for 26 years. In Mike’s early days as a snakehead guide he counted 276 snakeheads caught on his boat in one year. Then, over the years, the numbers went down to just over 100. This year Mike’s boat has caught 23 snakeheads so far. One reason for the drastic reduction is the popularity of bow-fishing for snakeheads at night.

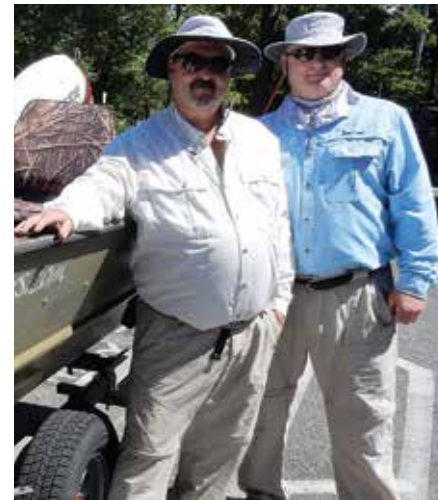
The day to fish came. Saturday, July 7, 2018 was cooler than anticipated with air temperatures around 80 degrees. My fear of a brutally hot day was for naught. A cold front blew in the day before the trip and brought relief from a week-long 90 plus degree heat wave. Captain Mike Starrett prefers hot steamy days for snakehead fishing. The hotter the better, he says snakeheads like it.

We met at Mattingly Park, formerly known as Slavin’s ramp, for a 3:00pm to dark guided trip. When I arrived, Mike and Dave were in the parking lot with BBQ ribs and chicken from George’s BBQ set out on the tailgate to eat prior to fishing. It’s a tasty tradition he does for his customers, and I ate my fill. Mike’s 17’ Lowes Roughneck double aluminum boat with a 40 hp Evinrude is equipped with a railing and casting platform on the bow. Comfort padding

on the floor helps reduce noise and is easy on the feet. Captain Dave’s boat is rigged the same. Boats launched, we then split up to find fish.

Being quiet in the skinny water is imperative. Mike and I acknowledged the beauty of the river while we slowly motored in the no wake zone. We watched a raccoon chewing on a fish in water up to its neck. Osprey and heron flew across the creek. Mike said bald eagles and occasionally golden eagles can be seen here. The flora was beautiful too. Mike pointed out the difference between the pickerel grass, wild rice and spatterdock. This is what I would be casting directly into. He explained that pickerel grass was 20 lb test braid, and wild rice was 40 lb test which meant, if and when you get hung, you can pull this weed out with that lb test braid. There is also some American lotus that started encroaching on the spatterdock fields about six years ago. That stuff is 40 lb test. Mike detailed interesting aspects of the changing river while we idled along. We started fishing about 5 miles in. The gear was a one-piece 7’ rod with a 4000 size spinning reel spooled with 40 lb test braid. The lure was a specially rigged green plastic frog. My instructions were to cast as far back in the pads as I could and reel directly back, but not using the rod. That is, I was told to reel straight in holding the rod level while keeping the lure moving.

Captain Mike’s coaching was helpful. I got into it and fished hard. We saw some signs of life but no snakehead bites, after an hour Mike changed tactics. This time, a lighter 6’ rod with a 2500 size spinning reel was handed to me. It had a popper tied on. That lure caught all my



Capt. Mike Starrett & Capt. Dave Snellings. Photo by Tim Campbell.

fish by working it next to the weed line. We ended up with 12 bass, 10 of which were over four pounds. Mike caught a small snakehead on a little spook lure walking the dog. A really fun trip, but it was over too soon. Trips fill fast so book early.

Go to www.indianheadcharters.com or call Captain Mike at 202-439-1410. Let it ring.



Tim Campbell with a nice largemouth bass caught and released in the back of Mattawoman Creek. Photo by Capt. Mike Starrett.



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FAITH OF OUR FATHERS

A word from our Pastor-

Colossians 3:17 is an admonition to do all in the name of Jesus. Simply put, it means that all we do, secular and sacred, is equally important and should be done to glorify God.

Often people ask me, "Is this right or is this wrong?" I have even had people say, "The Bible doesn't say this is wrong, so it must be okay." God's Word is not a rule book. If God were to give us a book specifying all the possible things that are "good and bad", we would need a truck to carry it!

God's Word is a book of principles. The most important principle by which to measure things is this: "Does this glorify God?" Is what I'm about to do going to give Him honor? All that we, as a people and nation, approve and disapprove should be done with this principle in mind.

You see, all we do is for God's glory. You may think your job is trite compared to that of a minister or missionary, but, in God's sight, the farmer, the sales associate, the homemaker, and the executive all have the same task - to glorify God.

As we learn what real Christianity is all about, we see that every day is a holy day, every place is a holy place, and every deed is a holy deed.

Another Pastor once gave me some good advice. He said, "In all spiritual things be natural, and in all natural things see the spiritual side." One lady put a sign above her kitchen sink that read, "Divine services held here three times dally." God is glorified when we do whatever it is that is before us honestly, heartily, and humbly for Him. Keep that thought in mind as you're working through your day. All you do, both the secular and the sacred, is to be done for His glory.

MEL BRINDLEY Pastor
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6 year old Wesley Johnson with his 1lb. 5oz. White perch with a 9.5" girth. Photo courtesy of Clydes Sport Shop.

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By Jim Gronaw

Back last winter at the NRA Eastern Outdoor Show in Harrisburg, Pennsylvania, I got caught up at a booth that was selling fly rod outfits for the meager sum of \$100. I was toying with the idea of taking up the long pole once again after a 20-year hiatus and thought something light for bluegills might just be my game. So, with a quick, little tutorial by the fast-talking salesman, I was on my way to the dark side of angling, complete with new ways to spend more money. Hopefully, though, to catch some fish in new and exciting ways.

My goal in fly fishing is quite simple: catch big bluegills, crappies and medium-size bass on a light rod and just have fun. Along the way, I wanted to tie my own flies and catch fish on them. Also, I wanted to just slow down a bit and enjoy what God has given us

“Fishin’ Back East”

Taking the Plunge... Confessions of a Fly Fishing Rookie

and not make fishing so much about the “catching”. I wasn’t worried about becoming an entomologist, writing explicit essays about trout and their world or traveling to the far-off corners of the world. With that in mind I gave the fast-talker a C-note and was on my way with a brand, new toy.

Fast forward to May and June of this year. Bugs are out, fish are shallow, and my friend Jud Larrimore has invited me for a day of pond-hopping in deepest, darkest Carroll County in central Maryland. Bluegills and crappies and bass are all shallow and in various stages of the spawn. Terms like “sponge rubber spiders”, “6x tippet”, “back cast”, and “tight loops” are all being thrown around as if they meant something...and they do! So...with my new found, Asian-born 3-weight rod and floating line, I jumped in feet, er, flies first.

The first hour is a little weird and we catch very little on our fly rods. If I recall correctly and am honest, we actually catch nothing. I spotted

some skittish, bull bluegills bedding and spooked them with my sloppy presentation and floundering fly line. Discouraged, I take the long pole back to the truck, grab an ultra light spinning stick and some worms, then sneak up on those gill, catching several 10-inchers before they permanently spook. Take that...all you purists out there!

Later that evening, at our third destination of the day, things changed. We hit a beautiful, one-acre pond laced with lilly pads and fallen brush. Bluegills and bass are everywhere, and they are co-operative. Here, I land a few fat bluegills and several small largemouths before backsliding once again to the spinning tools. But, I have had a breakthrough and have caught fish on a fly that I tied...success! At our final destination of the day we fish a club pond that has spawning bluegills and willing bass that take my chenille-bodied wet fly with reckless abandon. By the end of a long, seven-hour stint I have totaled a surprising 58 count of bass and bluegills on my economical, 3-weight fly pole. I am a happy man!

Since that mid-May outing I have had the long pole out a number of times. Every effort has been geared toward those shallow, willing fish that seem to bite most anything I toss at them...as long as it appears to look even remotely like an insect of some sort. Thanks to Jud and a number of You Tube videos, my fly casting has actually improved to the point where I am only moderately embarrassed when in the presence of other fly fisherfolk.

Hence, the continued need to fish alone or at isolated locations where the viewing public cannot catch a glimpse of my back cast, loops or line management scenarios. Or...I seek out places where only red-necked, lure chuckers invade. I still wear a baseball cap, a cheapo fishing vest and tend to wet-wade rather than don stocking foot apparel with matching wading shoes. My fly box is small, fly selection minimal and still don’t smoke a pipe. I have been fore-warned of the money pit dilemmas and possible maxing out of all major credit cards. I still read books about catfish and continue to drink the cheap stuff. But besides all this silliness, I find fly fishing to be a challenging and rewarding sport that I want to apply to many other gamefish over the coming years.

I quickly found out that in this revisit to fly angling that it is not about how many fish you can catch, but how you “catch” the fish that makes it a little different from what I am used to doing. Like, I’m happy with not having to scrape worm poop from underneath my fingernails in order to catch a few fish. Likewise, it’s nice to not have to dig hooks out of fish with long, long hemostats. I pinch down all the barbs and unhooking fish, and me, becomes much easier. Will I ever graduate to moving water, rising trout or matching a hatch? Maybe, maybe not. But for now, throwing a Gronaw Bed Bug at a colony of spawning bluegills is fly fishing’s “good enough” for me.



I used a cheapo white & black popping bug to fool this 18-inch largemouth on my 3-weight fly rod. Success!



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“Tackle Box Tim”

Tidal Fishing Formula

As fishermen, we know that each outing on the water presents different challenges. Each day is different; and in the ebb and flow of Chesapeake tides, each hour can be different. Variables in weather, water quality and/or temperature, and light penetration can all impact a day of fishing. However, there are constants in our tidal fishery that dictate to us when and where we should be fishing. Before this starts to sound more and more like a math equation with variables and constants, let me explain.

On the Chesapeake, we know our tides change on average every 6 hours and 12 minutes. The tide rises and falls two times each per day. Current is the lateral movement of water that floods and flushes our bay, rivers, and back waters. The two are often confused. We often use the terms “incoming tide” or “outgoing tide”. In fact, it is the current that is incoming and outgoing; where as the tide rises and falls. Both tide and current are constants.

Rising and falling tides, flooding and flushing currents, are all water movement past structure and cover. Structure is the

bottom contour such as channel edges, humps, lumps, rips, and drop offs. Cover is natural or manmade elements along the bottom or shoreline. Examples of natural cover are sunken wood, grass lines, and shell beds. Manmade cover includes bridge and dock pilings, ballast dumps, riprap, wing dams, and jetties. Cover and structure are also constants.

Some may argue the next point, but I consider baitfish a constant as well. The food source for predator fish is somewhere in the bay/river/backwater, although it may not be present where you are at the time. Baitfish are moved along by tidal currents. Knowing what spots are best on a given tide stage—where currents flow past structure/cover—increases your odds of catching fish.

My formula for fishing is: Tide + current + structure and/or cover + a food source = bass or stripers or white perch. Yes, even the feeding habits of perch are dictated by this formula. I have found through the years that the more components you take out of this formula, the less change you have of catching fish.

Already this year I have had a positive trip and a negative trip influenced by the

formula. My wife and I journeyed to our favorite perch/striper. We searched a few of our summer striper hot spots along drop offs during the last few hours of a falling tide. The depth finder was devoid of fish—no baitfish, no stripers, no perch. We went to our favorite dock pilings and the same held true. Save for a couple of feisty 16-inch stripers, there was no sign of other fish on the manmade cover.

Two other spots out in the river were just as fish-barren as the others. We made a run into the tidal feeder creek and that’s where it all happened. We cast inline spinners to the shoreline that has saved numerous trips, and caught numerous white perch . . . small as they were. Over my shoulder I would notice balls of baitfish flashing on the surface. At a closer look, bigger fish were slashing at them from below. I couldn’t tell if they were small stripers or big white perch. The attacking fish would not touch the small spinners as they keyed into the slightly larger prey, (note: often times you need to match your lure to the size of the forage base for predator fish to bite your offering). There were pods of bait all over the tidal creek. One this day, the lack of baitfish at my river spots affects the outing.

Later that week I made a run to the Choptank River to fish with Chuck Prah. We headed down river to one of his favorite summer striper spots. On the ebbing tide and outgoing current, we marked baitfish and stripers. We caught a couple of throwback stripers on his hand crafted bucktails, but Chuck insisted, “the tide isn’t right.” His back up plan was to head up river and cast to day makers and along an easily discernable rip. I had never fished these locations before,

but one thing was obvious on the poles and the rip. The outgoing current was stronger than down river.

Chuck assured me that we would pick up a keeper striper or two from the day markers. He said there were a lot of smaller stripers at the rip, but there was a change to pick up a keeper as well. The events of the rest of the morning unfolded as Chuck had predicted. At the first pole, I landed a solid 22-inch striper that struck a soft jerkbait jig. Other day markers yielded smaller fish. The action at the rip was relentless. During what seemed to be a 15-minute stretch, we landed a throwback striper on every cast. On this day, current was clearly the most important component in the equation.

Tide seems to play more of a role when fishing shallow water. Water temperature and light penetration are variables on tides and shallow water. Tides can drop too low for a fish’s comfort level in the shallows. In many places, stripers vacate the shallows in the summer because the water is too warm. Even on a sunny day with a high tide, stripers/bass/perch may choose deeper water. Yet, on an overcast day, at daybreak, or at dusk, fish often move to shallow cover/structure if there is enough current to push the food source.

I have had a lot of success fishing according to this formula. There have also been days when elements of the formula, and catching fish, were lacking. These are the days that we examine at the formula after the poor outing and think of what went wrong. However, if we look to the formula when on the water, we can make adjustments to find the right tide/current, and structure/cover to improve the day’s catch.



Tackle Box Tim shows a hefty striper from the Choptank River.

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“Tuna The Tide”

Take a Kid Fishing

By Captain Mark Galasso

I think I was about 12 years old. It was early summer and I was living with my Grandmother in Barnegat Light, New Jersey. My father would come down after work on Fridays and spend the weekend with the family. Once in a while a few of his friends would join us and charter a boat to chase Tuna offshore. I could hear them stirring in the kitchen making sandwiches and packing cold drinks early in the morning while the rest of the family slept. I usually just went back to sleep. My job, digging clams didn't start until the sun was up.

In the early afternoon we would all go down to the docks to see what the Tuna boats brought in. You could tell who did what by the number of flags flying from the outriggers. Hopefully Pop and his crew would be throwing fish up on the docks. Excited crowds would gather. People trying to convince the fisherman they really didn't need all that fish and sharing was a wonderful thing.

I'll never forget the first time I was included in one of Pop's Tuna trips. It was later in that same year. Reports were that the Tunas were heading back down the Coast and boats were starting to score big. Though I had been out dozens of times on the larger Head Boats fishing Blackfish and Flounder on the nearshore wrecks I had never been out to the Canyons. My Dad chartered an old friend and Neighbor, Sam Curren on the BobaLou. Sam was a grizzled old offshore veteran from Surf City. The boat was an old Jersey styled canyon runner with two wooden fighting chairs bolted into the deck. Sam was a Tuna master. One time when we were neighbors I remember Sam bringing home a giant Bluefin in the back of his pickup. It took half

the neighborhood to get the giant fish out of the pickup and put it up on a pair of wobbly saw horses. He then proceeded to share it with the whole neighborhood. There was no foreign markets back then.

So about three in the morning I felt my Dad nudging my shoulder. I could already hear his buddies in the kitchen. By the time I got my bearings and shook out the cob webs we were loading into cars and heading to the docks. I noticed the flags on the bait shop were flapping pretty good. We loaded up the BobaLou and headed for Barnegat Inlet. I don't know whether it was the lack of sleep or the excitement or the boat pounding through the Inlet but I started to feel a bit queasy. My Dad noticed and told me to relax in a place I could get some fresh air. It was going to be a two and a half hour ride to where the fish were. All the seats in the cockpit were taken. I could see Uncle Frank, my Dad and two other guys relaxing. It looked like a scene from the Sopranos. Four skinny Italians with flannel shirts, baseball caps and Rayban sunglasses. I curled up in the fetal position just inside the cabin door on the old carpet.

I could hear the guys talking over the engine and Uncle Sam's VHF radio. For the next couple of hours I went in and out of awareness of my surroundings. I remember hearing the engine slow down and people shouting directions. I glanced up and saw everyone pitching in to set up the trolling spread. Back then it was a mixture of Green Machines and Cedar Plugs, nothing fancy.

By today's standards it was pretty basic. Even the rods and reels were pretty basic. Huge Penn Senators with Dacron line on fiberglass rods. The

outriggers had no pulleys just a lot of glass rings.

Most of the day was pretty uneventful. We caught a few small Tunas and a couple of Gaffer Dolphin. I pretty much was in awareness limbo most of the morning. I remember Uncle Frank saying next fish was Mark's, but even that barely registered until I heard the snap of an outrigger clip just seconds later. The shot of adrenaline that coursed through my system overrode any issues I was having. I ran out the door and they strapped me into one of the fighting chairs. Sam's mate strapped me to the rod and I started reeling. Now remember I'm twelve. Probably four foot two weighing in at 60 pounds. The rod and reel weighed that much. Who knows how big the fish is that's trying to pull my little butt overboard. But I kept cranking. And the line kept going out. After what seemed like an hour (probably 10 minutes) I realized no one was really trying to help me. Sam was drink-

ing a beer, Uncle Frank was eating a sandwich and the rest of the crew all seemed pretty relaxed. That's when I notice the long line buoy bobbing off in the distance. To this day I swear that Captain Sam hooked the buoy on purpose to wake me up. I'm sure he would say that he wanted to just get close to see if there were any Dolphin close by. But whatever the reason I was wide awake after that.

The trip back was great. The wind had died down and we had a few fish to show off at the dock. I even got to put the flags out on the outriggers to let the inlet fisherman know we were coming back with fish. I guess the moral to the story is take a kid fishing. Let them do as much as possible. Who knows maybe some day when your old and in your twilight fishing days they will take you fishing with them. Good Fishing.

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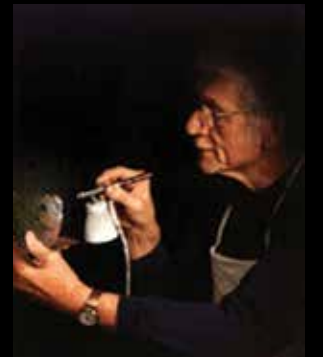
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Hambone with his 23.8 lb turkey. Photo courtesy of Winks Sporting Goods.



Kinsey Robinson with a whitetail buck of a lifetime, taken last fall in Western Kansas.



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Anglers Urged to Help Protect Maryland's State Fish

Fishing for striped bass in Maryland is an annual rite of summer, but anglers are advised to follow a few basic measures to help protect the iconic species during the hottest part of the season.

Seasonal high water temperatures and low oxygen can cause fish to become sensitive and stressed, with increased mortality during catch-and-release. Larger striped bass – 24 inches or larger – will have the most difficulty with these conditions.



The Maryland Department of Natural Resources recommends that fish be unhooked in the water using a pair of needle-nosed pliers. Anglers should also avoid excessive handling that can damage the fish's protective layer, and cause skin lesions and sores.

During these hot summer months, the department also encourages anglers not to practice catch-and-release fishing for rockfish after reaching their two-fish limit.

“Our conservation efforts are designed to keep Maryland's fishing stock abundant and healthy, but a combination of natural factors make midsummer weeks an especially sensitive time for striped bass,” Fishing and Boating Services Director David Blazer said. “Simple fishing tactics, which can and should be used year round, can help assure more fish survive the summer.”

To reduce the mortality rate of rockfish, the department introduced revised regulations that include the required use of circle hooks, which catch fish in the corner of the mouth. These hooks cause less internal damage and also mean less time out of the water. The department recommends using circle hooks in sizes of 9/0-10/0.

Maryland's new striped bass regulations are in effect through the end of the 2019 season. At that time, the department will use new stock assessment data to determine if the new conservation actions and measures are preventing striped bass mortality in Chesapeake Bay as designed and intended.

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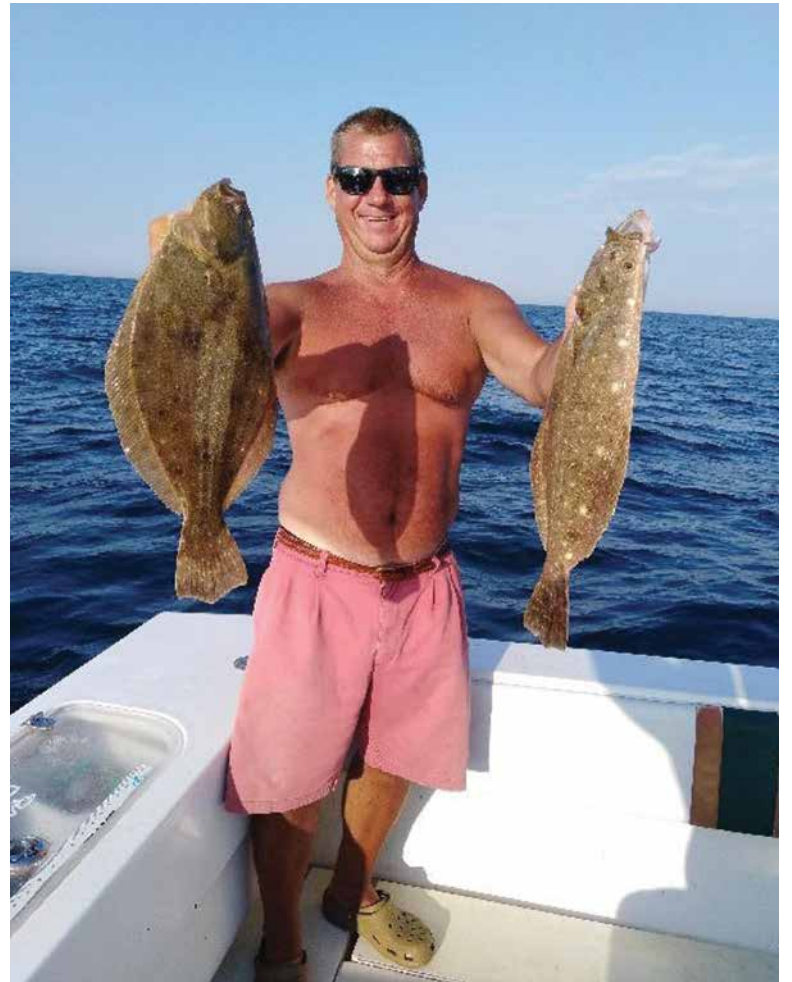
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Rob Newberry of Delmarva Fisheries is pictured above with Mitchell Quillen II, Lt. Governor Boyd Rutherford and Mitchell Quillen at the 42nd Annual J. Millard Tawes Crab & Clam Bake. Pictured below is Mitch Quillen bending Governor Larry Hogans ear.



A good time was had by all at the Annual J. Millard Tawes Crab & Clam Bake.



Mike Lipski checking in from Ocean City, MD. - Great afternoon with a good friend and great Captain and fishermen. Thank for the great time Captain Shannon Pickens.



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Captain Brian Councill out of Rock Hall, MD. has been catching an extremely good grade of Rockfish for summer time as this young lady poses with one of her keepers.

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Norman Schwarzkopf



This group here with Captain Brian Councill are all smiles with these Strippers. Who wouldn't smile with that catch?

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Black Bear Lottery

Applications Now Open

The Maryland Department of Natural Resources is now accepting applications for this year's black bear hunting lottery.

Successful applicants will receive a permit valid for the five-day hunting season, taking place Oct. 22-26 in Allegany, Frederick, Garrett and Washington counties. The department will issue 800 hunting permits that can be used anywhere in those four counties.

The annual bear hunt is an important management tool used to slow the growth of Maryland's black bear population into more suburban cities, communities and counties.

"Maryland's closely regulated, sustainable black bear hunt is now in its 15th year," Wildlife and Heritage Service Director Paul Peditto said. "This hunt has been helping us achieve our management goal of limiting the increase in our bear population while guaranteeing a secure and sustainable future for this remarkable species."

Hunters may apply for the lottery online, by phone at 855-855-3906, at regional service centers or at one of more than 250 hunting and fishing license agents across the state. Each hunter's DNRid number will serve as their lottery number. All entries must be completed by 11:59 p.m. Aug. 31, and must be accompanied by a \$15 non-refundable application fee. Only one application per person will be accepted; duplicates can result in disqualification and forfeiture. The drawing will be held Sept. 4.

The Black Bear Damage Reimbursement Fund is open for voluntary contributions by hunters when they apply for their permits. The fund directly reimburses Maryland farmers who have suffered agricultural damage caused by black bears. Since the fund was started 20 years ago, it has paid out more than \$130,000 in eligible claims.



Anglers from left to right Daniel Irons of Queenstown, Christer Lindengren of Chester, Jonathan Irons of Queenstown caught these Stripers while chunking in the Rock Hall area.

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Maryland Pushes for Electronic Crab Harvest Reporting

EASTON, Md. - A 41-page document released by Maryland DNR lists thousands of commercial crabbers' names. At the top, the document warns if late reports continue, it may result in fishing licenses being suspended.

Rob Newberry of the Delmarva

Fisheries Association says it can be a tedious process to report harvest numbers. He adds many who appear

on the list aren't active crabbers, choosing to fish or oyster instead.

"It doesn't affect crab harvest numbers," Newberry said. "At the end of the year, the people that are crabbing are reporting and Maryland DNR factors that in."

A Mary-



land DNR spokesperson says it isn't unusual to have a list this long, noting many often choose to report later in the month or at the end of the season. Currently, Maryland DNR accepts electronic and paper reports with a push for more electronic reporting to make the process itself easier and more accurate.

Newberry says he's trying to work with the state to also include a text messaging service - streamlining the process of getting more reports in and less names on the list. He adds the list will likely diminish closer to August as more crabbers begin to renew their fishing licenses.

Big news out of Rock Hall!!! BRACKISH LIFE apparel is now available at The Copper Penny on the corner of Main and Sharp St!

Chesapeake Bay Sport Fishing Tournaments

SUMMER ROCKFISH TOURNAMENT - Saturday, August 25th, 2018



Rain date: August 26th, 2018

Largest Rockfish by length: 1st, 2nd and 3rd place
Entry Fee: \$250.00 per boat (Up to 6 anglers per boat)
TWT's: \$10.00, \$25.00, \$50.00, \$100.00 --- \$75.00 for two



Rockfish aggregate
Lines in 6:30 am on 8/25/2018
Lines out by 3:00 pm on 8/25/2018
Weigh Stations: Opened 3:00-4:30pm

1. Sandy Point State Park
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Saturday & Sunday,
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1st, 2nd and 3rd place
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TWT's: \$10.00, \$25.00, \$50.00, \$100.00,
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two flounder aggregate



Lines in 6:30 am and out by 3:00 pm on 9/15/2018 and 9/16/2018
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Hogan Administration Announces Additional Funding for Bay Oysters

Governor Larry Hogan signs the new oyster funding agreement. Photo by Joe Andrucyk.

Governor Larry Hogan announced today that the Maryland Department of Transportation and Maryland Department of Natural Resources have entered into a new agreement that will provide millions of dollars for ongoing oyster activities in Chesapeake Bay.

“Our administration has invested more than \$4 billion to enhance, protect, and restore the health and vitality of our cherished Chesapeake Bay,” said Governor Hogan said. “As the chair of the Chesapeake Executive Council, I am proud the

progress we’ve made and our shared commitment to take on tomorrow’s challenges.”

The new four-year agreement will provide \$2 million annually from the Transportation Trust Fund to the Department of Natural Resources for ongoing and future industry efforts, including dedicated funding for equipment, labor, material, supervision and support.

“The Chesapeake Bay is a great source of business to both the Helen Delich Bentley Port of Baltimore and the oyster industry,” said Deputy Transportation Secretary Jim Ports. “Thanks to our partnership with the Department of Natural Resources, this new oyster restoration agreement provides even more money directly to Maryland watermen to ensure a sustainable oyster industry for years to come.”

The extension was signed by Deputy Secretary Ports and Natural Resources Secretary Mark Belton – witnessed by Governor Hogan – following the dedication of the recently reconstructed Cambridge Marine Wharf, located near Sailwinds Park. The dedication and signing ceremony was part of Governor Hogan’s Mid-Shore Regional Cabinet Meeting that covered Caroline, Dorchester and Talbot counties.

“Working with our partners and stakeholders, we can help rebuild the oyster population while also improving the health of Chesapeake Bay,” Maryland Natural Resources Secretary Mark Belton said. “This funding will go toward ongoing oyster industry programs and projects, and help design and develop new initiatives that could benefit both the bay and our working watermen.”

Increased funding will go toward oyster propagation and replenishment efforts through 2023 with no less than \$925,000 annually going to support the wild oyster fishery, with the Department of Natural Resources

coordinating with county oyster committees and watermen on shared projects and priorities, including the establishment of oyster seed areas, monitoring, sampling, seed and shell plantings, surveying and transplanting.

The Chesapeake Bay Enhancement Program between the Maryland Department of Transportation and Maryland Department of Natural Resources was first signed in 1996.



DJ with a nice trout. Photo courtesy of Ron’s Bay Pro Shop.



Giuseppe Prezioso with his 1st. buck a nice 7 pointer. Photo courtesy of John’s Butcher Shop.

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Congrats to Captain Bull Tolson and his mate Catlin on the catch of a lifetime aboard the Pirates Cove Based “Sea Toy” a Blue Marlin Caught off Bermuda Weighing 1,011 pounds!



'Wicked Tuna' star Nicholas 'Duffy' Fudge dead at 28

Nicholas 'Duffy' Fudge, star of the National Geographic Channel reality television series “Wicked Tuna,” died last week at 28.

Fudge’s death was confirmed to the Associated Press by the Remick & Gendron Funeral Home in New Hampshire. A cause of death has not been released.

Fudge died “unexpectedly” on Thursday, according to an obituary published on the funeral home’s website. The network also confirmed the fisherman’s



passing in a statement released on Twitter.

“Duffy was the first mate on Captain Tyler McLaughlin’s fishing vessel, Pinwheel. We join his family and friends in mourning his untimely loss,” the statement read.

Fudge appeared on “Wicked Tuna,” which follows several fishing boats in Gloucester, Mass., in search of the elusive Atlantic Bluefin tuna. He also appeared on the spinoff series “Wicked Tuna: Outer Banks.”

“Duffy” reportedly got his start in fishing as a child with his father and grandfather.

“Nick also treasured the environment and he took seriously his responsibility to protect it,” the young star’s obituary says. “He was known for his smile, his fearlessness, his adventurous spirit, his mischievous sense of humor, and giving big hugs.”



Destin Fishing Outfitters with their first giant Goliath grouper caught last month.



Steve Richardson recent trip to South Africa in July 2018 on a bow hunt with his good friend Mike Ramos, Steve drew 1st blood on an amazing Sable. Steve helped feed the local village by taking a fine Blue wildebeest cow



Merrill Hippert and his group of friends from PA had a great trip on the 'Kingfish II' fishing for spot.

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

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

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Coastal Report

By Capt. Mark Sampson

So a friend of yours tells you that his boat has motor troubles and asks if you would use your boat to tow him to the local boat ramp a couple miles away. It seems like a simple enough task so you hook up a line between your stern cleat and his bow and off you go. Getting out of your canal and into open water is more challenging than you thought because his boat keeps wandering from one side to the other and your boat doesn't want to steer straight from the force of the towline on your stern. More than once you have to stop and fend off from hitting other boats that are moored in the same canal.

Finally you're out in the open bay and happy that both wind and current are going the same way you are so that your engine is not struggling too much as it propels twice it's normal load. But upon reaching a part of bay that's choked with fishing boats, some anchored - some drifting, it starts to get a little hairy as you try to twist and turn your way through the maize without bumping into anyone along the way.

Traveling down the channel you notice that even though you're just idling along, thanks to the following current, you're making really good time, so that all you have to do now is pass under the bridge and the boat ramp will be just around the corner. But as you approach the bridge the draw span suddenly opens to allow a big boat that's coming from the other direction to pass under the span. The bridge isn't wide enough for the two of you to pass under at the same time so you pull your boat back into neutral to slow down and let the other guy go first. The problem is, the current that was helping so much is now pushing you and your tow at a good clip straight for the bridge and the guy coming through. You can't back up because you'll run into the guy you're towing and you can't do a U-turn because you're too close to the bridge already. You're in quite a pickle that you know is going to end ugly with boats bouncing off each other and possibly even the bridge. Aren't you glad you agreed to tow your buddies boat?!

Sooner or later almost every boater will find themselves in a "towing" situation where either they need to be towed or someone else needs to be pulled somewhere. As in my little story, a boat might need to be pulled all the way down the bay,

or maybe it just needs a short tug across a harbor, off a sandbar, or perhaps a buddy of yours who broke down many miles from shore needs a long tow home through a dark stormy night.

Whatever the reason for hooking onto and pulling another vessel, you'd better think long and hard before agreeing to be the Good Samaritan for a friendly tow, because one slipup and you-yourself could be in big trouble! Simply because there are so many variables involved, towing a boat can be downright dangerous even when done correctly. Natural forces such as wind, current, and tide can be very problematic as can the structural elements and limitations of both vessels.

Boats aren't designed to be towed, they're designed to be pushed through the water by their own power. Once you start pulling a boat on a string it's naturally going to perform differently than if it were under its own power. A boat being towed will often want to "yaw" or wag back and forth on the towline, particularly if there is too much weight at the bow causing it to dig in and make the boat track back and forth. If this motion is too severe the vessel can actually capsize especially in times of choppy conditions.

A huge concern when towing another vessel is what happens if or when you need to stop. With your boat it's no problem, just pull it into neutral and then maybe reverse, and you're dead in the water. But the boat you're towing doesn't have that option, even without any wind or current to help it along the way, the momentum alone is going to keep it moving ahead even when the towboat stops. That can have the towed vessel plowing into a dock, a bulkhead, or even the towboat.

Serious problems can arise if a towline breaks, a cleat pulls out, a strong cross current pushes the towed vessel into a buoy or other object, or if the towboat is unable to steer properly because of the strain of the towline. While towing another boat is always risky business, there are a few things boaters can do to help minimize the threat of calamity:

Tow slow and plan ahead - Sharp turns and sudden stops are out when towing so you have to watch and plan way ahead to keep out of getting into a box that you can't navigate out of. Be extra careful when you first start to pull a boat, if something is going to break that's probably when it's going to happen. If there are passengers in the towed vessel it's important to have both boats pointed in the same direction when

you "slowly" start to pull them. If the towed vessel is pointed in a different direction at startup, passengers could be thrown down or out of the boat if the bow is suddenly yanked to one side or the other.

Trim the lower unit down - When towing an outboard or I/O, trimming the motor down will make it act like a rudder as well as add drag at the stern helping the boat to track straight. If someone is in the towed vessel they should be ready to help steer the boat straight as necessary.

Keep an anchor ready - Since the disabled vessel has no power of its own, the towed vessel should have an anchor rigged and ready to quickly deploy if the towline were to part at the worst possible time. Anchoring could be the only way to keep a boat from drifting into a bad place such as a bridge, jetty, pier or surf-line.

Employ the services of a professional tow company - Towboat U.S. and Seatow are two reputable tow companies that operate in this area. Both are available 24/7, are just a phone or radio call away, and have towboats capable of running many miles offshore and up into the shallow waters of the back bays. For an annual fee, boaters can enroll in insurance programs with these companies that cover the cost of their services if needed. Skippers of these towboats are licensed and trained professionals who have the equipment and experience to safely bring home stricken vessels of all sizes through all kinds of conditions. Considering all potential problems that can arise during what should be a simple tow from one place to another, hiring a professional to help move any boat from point "A" to point "B" is almost always going to be the best option.

Mark Sampson
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From Jim Gronaw....A FISH OF A LIFETIME...at least to me it is, and maybe then some. With a long and storied career in panfishing and outdoor writing, I would have to put this incredible pumpkinseed sunfish at the very top of my angling achievements, regardless of it's mere "sunfish" classification. I was both shocked and amazed when I landed this male pumpkinseed that hit the tape right at the 11-inch mark. Unbelievable power from this awesome creature. Not a scale missing and just a slight tail rub from spawning perhaps weeks ago. The fish took a Gulp! Minnow on a 1/32nd oz jighead. I can hardly believe I held this thing in my hand today...and released it! In the panfish world, this is my defining moment! Lost in the excitement were other bull bluegills and bass to 3 pounds on a variety of plastics and chatterbaits. What a fish!



A nice Catfish for birthday boy Mr. Hightower aboard 'Tuna The Tide'.



Captain Mark Galasso had a wonderful dinner of fresh rockfish stuffed with crab imperial at Big Owls on Kent Island where he ties up. Thank You Ross!

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“The Last Word”

Outdoor Writers A Questionable Lot

By Steve Huettner

Let me fill you in on a dark little secret of the outdoor writing industry, many of us are not the most truthful or ethical. Thumb through the latest issue of your favorite outdoor magazine and you'll realize that there are no bad outdoor products; you can't kill a deer unless you have this type of camouflage, that all guns are equal, and every hunting and fishing trip is an unabashed success. Do outdoor writers have access to the best of everything? Are they exceptionally lucky when it comes to picking guides? One will soon realize nary a negative word is ever spoken in the pages of outdoor magazines.

If I had the opportunity to ask outdoor writers one question it would be, “When did we give up journalistic integrity to become pitchmen for the outdoor industry?” Most of what is written today could be best described as advertorials. Unfortunately, somewhere along the line, a vast majority of outdoor scribes forgot the basic tenants of journalism 101, and flipped over to marketing 101.

You know the story. Outdoor writer gets a call from the VP/Marketing Director for ABC Gun, Gear or Ammo Company. They show up at Super Hunt Lodge where they are treated to VIP service, taken an awesome animal, and lo and behold the gear from ABC Company performed flawlessly. At the end of the story, on the proceeding page is a three quarter page ad for ABC Company and a one quarter page for the Super Hunt Lodge. Coincidence, I think not.

Another personal favorite is when the general public sends in questions

about hunting and fishing and the writer manages to name drop 5 to 6 name brand products in the course of his answer. Shockingly all of those items are sponsors for that writer, so much for an unbiased journalistic opinion. Heck, many of today's outdoor writers look like NASCAR drivers with all of their company sponsors on their camouflage jackets.

I realize that publishing is a competitive, cutthroat industry and advertising pays the bills. I am not a communist, and certainly realize that people need to pay their bills, yet I wonder why newspapers can write critical pieces about industry, government, businesses, etc and still stay in business. A majority of outdoor magazines never question a product or company. Ask yourself when was the last time you saw a less than glowing report about a single item of outdoor gear, or someone report a bad hunting trip and actually name the guide and outfitter.

Could you imagine the uproar if a writer for your local newspaper wrote a favorable piece about a company and you found out they did because they owned stock in the company. The uproar would be instant, and said writer would find himself out a job.

I know certain outdoor writers who will pitch stories to their editor to get themselves onto premier hunting and fishing trips, and you can be sure that never a negative word will be written. You can also bet the house that the outfitter knowing the free publicity he is about to receive will go out of his way to make sure said writer has the trip of a lifetime.

What I would love to see to see is an injection of truth and disclosure in many of today's outdoor stories. If you are hunting at Super Hunt Lodge, let me know who paid for the trip. Did the magazine pay for it? Was it donated

free by the owner of the lodge? Did Company ABC pay for you to come out and try their gear? That in itself will tell me a lot about the tone of article and whether or not to take it with a grain of salt.

How about letting us know if they place you are hunting is free range or high fence? I have no problem if people want to hunt behind a high fence, to each his own, but what about letting your readers know. Don't you love it that they always forget to omit the price of the hunt and what it would actually cost you and me to do such an adventure.

The cost of everything we do goes up every year. Licenses', trucks, ATV's, fuel, ammo, and all the things associated with playing outdoors aren't getting any cheaper. Add in booking a trip out of state or country with an outfitter and you are looking at a substantial investment of money and time. As paying subscribers to said magazine, I feel that the publishers, editors and writers owe their readers a modicum of honesty and disclosure, anything less is a shame. In the end the only thing they have to lose is their integrity.

Jeff Foxworthy
“Look at where Jesus went to pick people. He didn't go to the colleges... he got guys off the fishing docks.”



Joey caught a little blue gill with his new boat, and he's in his glory.

TUSCARORA OUTFITTERS

410-708-1616



Crab Imperial

Author: Chef Dennis Littley

INGREDIENTS

1 lb jumbo lump crabmeat or lump
 1/2 cup Hellman's Mayonnaise
 1 tsp sugar
 1 tsp old bay
 1 tsp finely chopped Italian parsley
 1 large egg lightly beaten
 squeeze of lemon juice

INSTRUCTIONS

Mix mayonnaise, egg, sugar, old bay, lemon juice and parsley together and blend well, this is your imperial sauce.

Gently fold crabmeat into imperial sauce, being careful not to break up crab meat.

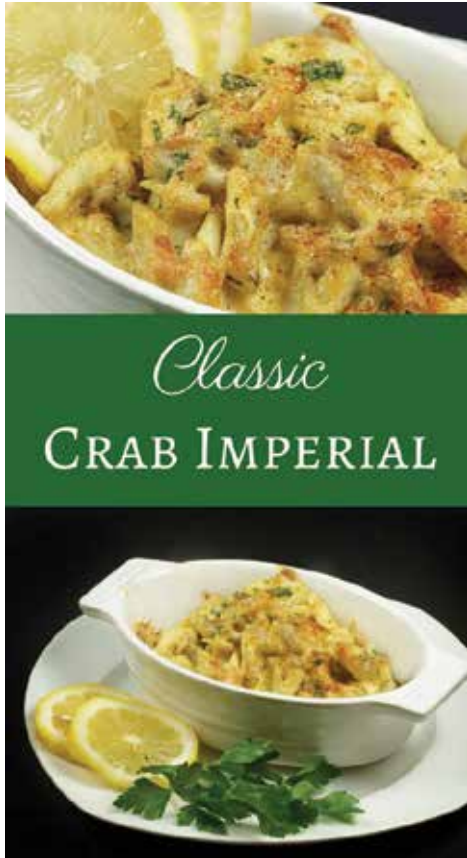
place portions in baking dish using ramekins or small casserole dishes*

Bake in 350 degree oven for 20-25 minutes (top will turn golden brown) or until a thermometer gets an internal reading of 165 degrees

Allow to cool just a few minutes before serving, it will set and be more flavorful as it cools slightly.

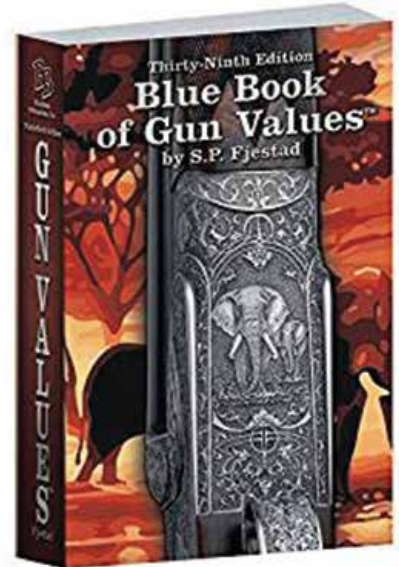
RECIPE NOTES

Depending upon what you serve as a side dish you can get 3 portions out of this. You really don't want to make it any smaller than 1/3 of a pound per person though. If you want to stretch this, think about making stuffed shrimp with the filling, that could easily serve 4 people.



Book of the Month

39TH EDITION BLUE BOOK OF GUN VALUES



This new 39th Edition contains 2,512 pages of accurate information and up-to-date values for modern firearms and many major trademark antiques. With over 1.8 million books in circulation worldwide, the Blue Book of Gun Values once again provides the most firearms information and pricing, including all the new makes/models for

2018. The 39th Edition Blue Book of Gun Values continues to be the "bible" for the firearms industry. This newest edition contains the following: -Over 1,700+ manufacturers and trademarks are listed with brief histories whenever possible. -Almost 24,000 models are individually listed and described. -A staggering 550,000 up-to-date values are provided. No other book is even close. -The 80-page color Photo Percentage Grading System (PCGS) has been revised, making firearms grading even easier and more accurate. -Serialization charts have been expanded, allowing more years of manufacture to be determined on individual makes/models. "Having been in the firearms industry for over 41 years and an avid hunter and shooter before that, I'm continually queried on the value, and special attributes of almost every conceivable type of firearm ever manufactured. My answer has always been - let's consult the Blue Book of Gun Values. Unquestionably, it stands alone as the most reliable reference book available. Never be without it!" -Bud Fini, Executive VP of Ammunition & Special Projects, Sig Sauer



The Maryland state chapter of NWTF sponsors a Jakes Hunt of a Lifetime at Schraders every year. This picture is Dylan Turner, the young man that was chosen for this years hunt.



Captain Jamie Strong had the pleasure of having first mate Sue "Bait Girl" Brown on board last month with the Powell Group last month.

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Fishing & Hunting Journal

Classifieds

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Pair of Cecil County groundhogs eliminated from a July soy bean field. Take advantage of Summer fun if you have a deer stand overlooking a soy bean field. Photo by Roger Everett

Saturday, September 8th

11th Annual BRRC

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Lines may drop in water at Day
Break-must check in by 3pm by boat
at Weaver's starting at 2 pm. Additional tickets
730 Riverside Drive - 21221
www.weaversmarine.net

For More Information Contact:
Larry Farinetti 443-600-0648
Sam Weaver 410-365-8560
Karen Wynn 443-983-2945
savebackriver@gmail.com
www.savebackriver.org

FIRST SHOT, MAKING A DIFFERENCE

The declining number of hunters in this country is a real and well documented phenomenon. Reasons for this decline are numerous, from baby boomers ageing out, lack of opportunity, restricted access to quality land and urbanization. The effects of this trend are far reaching, not only in the loss of funding for state agencies through Pittman- Robertson funds and license sales, but there is the potential to threaten the hunting tradition that for many of us is not just a hobby but a way of life.

In an effort towards reversing this trend the Maryland State chapter of the National Wild Turkey Federation sponsored the inaugural "First Shot" mentored turkey hunt at Blackwater National Wildlife Refuge. In partnership with Maryland's Department of Natural Resources, US Fish and Wildlife Service, Muddy Marsh Outfitters, Whistling Creek Outfitters and Young Life/Tudor Farms the hunt took place the weekend of April 21-22. A total of 14 new hunters were chosen by random lottery from a pool of over 80 applicants, the only requirement being that they had little to no hunting experience. The participants included women, men, youth and handicapped individuals and ranged in age from 10 to 74.

The First shot program was designed to target those who have never hunted and would not have had the opportunity to go on a turkey hunt without this program. First Shot provided the opportunity along with the guidance, equipment and knowledge necessary for a safe and successful hunt. Saturday evening a mandatory orientation was held. This gave everyone a chance to meet and interact with the other hunters and volunteers. The new hunters patterned their guns, learned about turkey calling and hunting techniques, turkey biology and hunting regulations.

Four of our new hunters were successful during Sunday mornings hunt. John Murdock, a disabled veteran of the Vietnam war who hadn't hunted in 50 years, tagged a bird with guide Jeremiah Kunz. Seth Turner put the hammer down on a big tom that had a ten inch beard and 13/8" spurs. Turner, who hunted with guide Wade Bradford, only became interested in hunting after coming to a NWTF Jakes event with his son. Lisa Buhr, had a great hunt with guide Bob Long after Bob had to reach into his bag of tricks and call in two longbeards after it appeared they had lost interest and were leaving. Dorothy Morgan was motivated to learn how to hunt by a desire to acquire food directly from nature. Hunting with guide Wes Cummins, Morgan shot a nice jake and didn't let any part of it go to waste. From hearing turkeys gobble for the first time, seeing a sika deer or a soaring eagle, even our hunters that weren't fortunate enough to tag a bird all had a great experience and can't wait to try again.

Many thanks to all the NWTF volunteers, DNR staff, Blackwater NWR staff, TJ Jenkins, Jeremiah Kunz and Wes Cummins, without all of whom the First Shot hunt would not have been possible. Special thanks to Marcia Pradines, director at Blackwater for her passion and commitment to the program, Bob Long of Maryland's DNR for his many early morning hours scouting for birds and Chris Markin of DNR for all of his administrative work.

Building upon the success of the First Shot turkey hunt a mentored deer hunt at Blackwater for first time hunters is currently being planned. There will be an orientation on October 21st with the hunt taking place on the refuge October 27th. Anyone interested or for more information please contact Russ Leith at rleith6@comcast.net or Chris Markin at christopher.markin@maryland.gov.

Russ Leith Save the Hunt Coordinator Maryland chapter NWTF



John Murdock



Lisa Buhr



Seth Turner



Dorothy Morgan and Wes Cummins

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