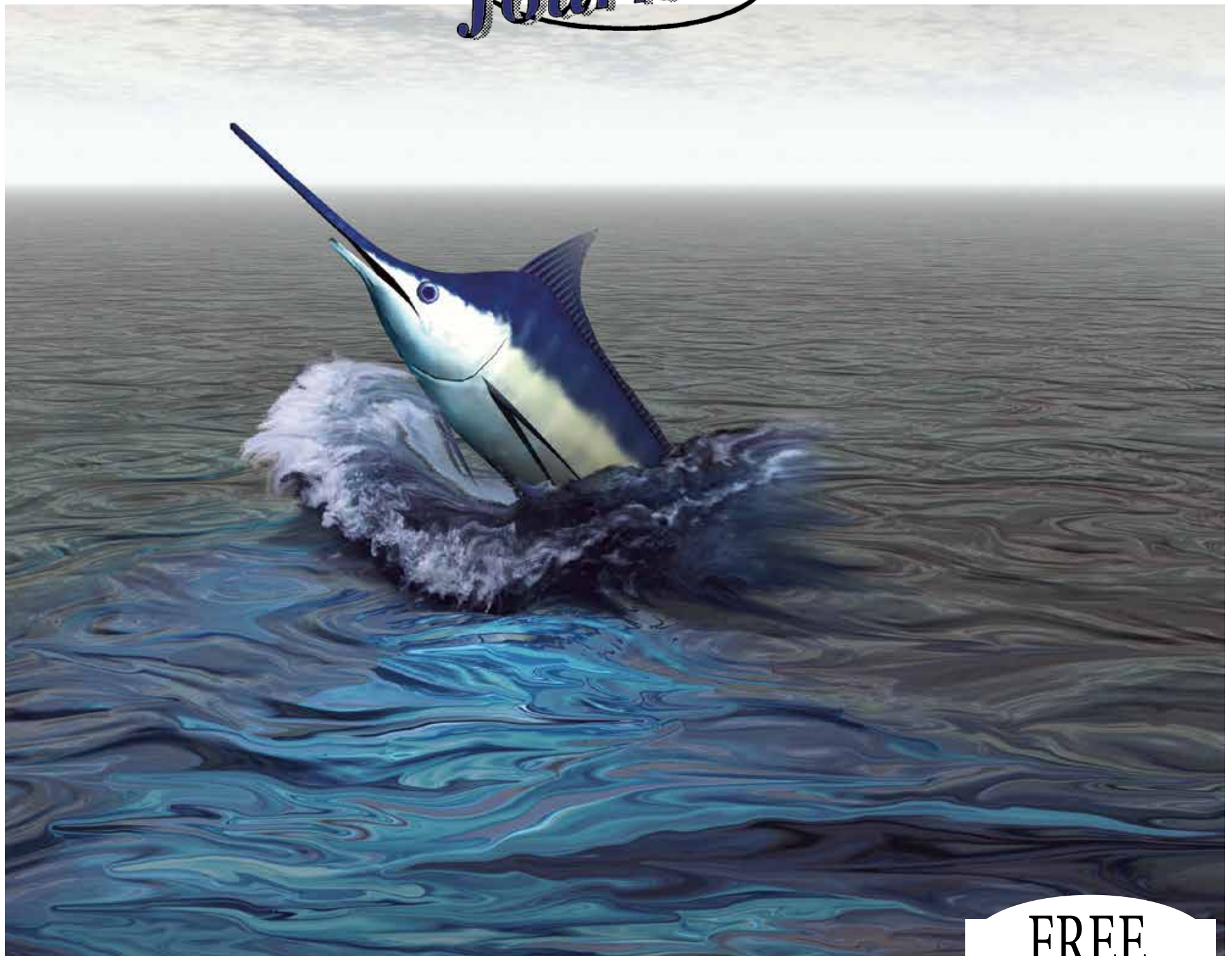


VOLUME 23, NUMBER 3

**FREE**

AUGUST 2013

# Fishing & Hunting <sup>TM</sup> Journal



**FREE**

- SPOT ON, FOR STRIPERS
- MARYLAND RECORD COD
- GUNPOWDER BASS CHALLENGE 2013
- BUCKS OF LATE SUMMER
- MID BAY REPORT

## Pennsylvania angler catches Maryland record Cod

Fred Brungart of York, Pennsylvania caught a Maryland record 38-inch, 24-pound Atlantic cod on May 31 out of Ocean City. Brungart hooked the fish aboard the 80-foot headboat Ocean Princess captained by Victor Bunting.

After recognizing that the Maryland State record fish list did not include cod, Captain Bunting encouraged Brungart to have his catch weighed on the Ocean City Fishing Center's scale. Maryland Department of Natural Resources (DNR) Fisheries Service biologist, Steve Doctor, certified the fish and launched the process to determine if Atlantic cod would qualify as a State record species.

Keith Lockwood of DNR Fisheries State Fishing Record Program said the Atlantic cod is a coldwater fish that can be abundant in the Mid-Atlantic region with recreational catches up to 50 pounds.

"Since the collapse of the cod popu-

lation in the 1960s forceful Atlantic coast fisheries management action has produced a slow recovery, with small fish in the six- to eight-pound range occasionally being caught in Maryland waters," said Lockwood. "While this 24-pound fish is not particularly large in the history of cod, it is a significant catch at this time and worth recognizing as a State Record and a sign of hope for more, and bigger, fish to come."

Delaware's record cod is a 44-pounder caught in 1975; New Jersey lists an 81-pound record fish caught in 1967; and Massachusetts features the cod as its state symbol, with a 92 pound record fish caught in 1987.

The Atlantic cod may join the list of Maryland Angler Award qualifying fish for the 2014 Maryland Fishing Challenge pending input from the Sport Fisheries Advisory Commission and final DNR approval.



Brungart of Pa. and his record Atlantic cod

## DNR to Hold Public Meeting On Waterfowl Regulations

**Who: Open to the Public**

**When: August 19 at 7 p.m.**

**Where: Chesapeake College, 1000 College Cr., Wye Mills**

**Cost: Free**



The Maryland Department of Natural Resources (DNR) will hold a public meeting to discuss the proposed late season waterfowl hunting regulations. The proposed seasons and bag limits will be announced in early August after DNR receives the framework from the U. S. Fish and Wildlife Service.

The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, via the Service Regulation Committee, establishes hunting regulations (seasons, bag limits, etc.) for migratory game birds, with final rule made by the Director of the U.S. Fish and Wildlife. States are then provided with the framework that includes maximum season length, bag limits and hunting dates.

Migratory game bird regulations are established through a collaborative and scientifically sound process that combines the input from the public with that of professional biologists working throughout the Atlantic Flyway. The framework allows some flexibility, so public input is an important element in the final selection of the waterfowl seasons and bag limits.

Citizens who are unable to attend the meeting may comment by email, letter, fax, phone, and on the DNR Wildlife & Heritage website after the proposals are announced. The details for providing public comment will be announced in an early August. Finalized seasons and bag limits will be released in early September.



On the Fourth of July aboard the 'Sea Dux' the bite was red hot for Captain Brian and his crew. Above he had a good day with family and friends.



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## “HOOKED ON FISHING”

### Spot On, for Stripers

By Lenny Rudow

This summer has thus far, without any question, been the hottest in memory for many middle-bay striper anglers. Upper and lower bay anglers have been doing okay too, but from Tolly Point to Eastern Bay to the Choptank, limit catches in a matter of an hour or less have been commonplace. If you've been fishing this area but haven't been catching fish this last month, well, I just don't know what to tell you except that I hear golfing is nice. There has been, for some anglers on some days, however, a fly in the ointment: catching spot for live-lining baits.

This isn't unusual, and in plenty of seasons, you'll spend

more time trying to fill the livewell with spot than you will filling the cooler with stripers. So it seemed a little spot-catching refresher might be in order. Here are a few tips and tricks that will help you get your baits, post-haste.

1. Use bloodworms. And if you think you like a different bait more, switch to bloodworms. By the way, did I mention bloodworms? They will out-catch any other bait when it comes to spot. Not night-crawlers, not grass shrimp, not squid bits, not Fishbites. B-L-O-O-D-W-O-R-M-S.

2. If you can't get bloodworms, get some bloodworms. If this is absolutely impossible, catch one spot using an inferior bait, gut it, and then use its intestine. Yeah, you'll have to sacrifice a baitfish, but for some strange reason spot love eating spot gut.

3. Use small hooks (#6 is about right) and cut the bloodworms into pieces small enough that they only cover the bend of the hook, not the shank. This way when the spot hit they'll get the bend and point of the hook into their mouth more often. If a big chunk of worm is threaded all the way up the shank, you'll miss a lot of nibbles.

4. Start by drifting, finish by anchoring. Drift fishing allows you to locate the schools of spot. Once you know where they are, you'll catch more by dropping down an anchor and letting your top-and-bottom rig sit still.

5. Remember that at this time of year, the dead zone encroaches into many areas of relatively deep water. Focus your efforts in 10' to 25' deep areas, and don't bother spending any time in water over 30' or so.

6. Don't give spot time to eat; set the hook as soon as you feel their jack-hammer style nibble.

7. Don't put more than one fish per gallon of water into a bucket, or two per gallon of water into a livewell. Crowding them will stress the fish, and they won't be as active when you bait up with them.

8. If you're having a tough time getting spot, you can chum them in. Smash up a couple of hard crabs or razor clams in a small mesh bag, weight it down, and sink it to the bottom. It'll draw them in like flies.

9. Ditch the hooks with all those beads and spinners. Fished side-by-side with plain hooks, for spot, they won't make one iota of difference.

10. As you fish for spot, always toss out one rod rigged

with a livie for stripers. Remember—those predators are feeding on the spot, and quite often you'll catch them side-by-side. I can't even count how many times I've never made it to the rockfish hotspot because we caught our rock without ever leaving the spot hotspot.

And now, for a few other summer highlights:

- The redfish are back! Their numbers don't yet seem as high as last year, but the average size has definitely improved and plenty are big enough to go in the cooler. If you want to target them in specific, try fishing the shallows, especially rip-rapped shorelines near the tributary mouths. Thus far this year, white seems to be out-catching chartreuse.

- The speckled trout are back, too! Again, their numbers don't seem to quite match up to what we saw last year, but they were still being caught well beyond the traditional spring run and well beyond their usual range. Thus far this year, white seems to be out-catching chartreuse.

See Rudow Page 5

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Schoolie stripers like this have been on an out-of-control rampage, across the middle-bay. Live-lining for them with spot is a top-producing method.

# Fishing & Hunting Journal

Volume 23, Number 3

August 2013

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## FAITH OF OUR FATHERS

Christians have always had their critics. This was true in the first church when they were accused of drunkenness, cannibalism and subversion against their government. In fact our Lord Jesus was dogged by the scribes and Pharisees throughout his earthly ministry. They accused him of being a friend of sinners and publicans, even to the point that he was called a glutton.

In our day the same is true. If you live for the Lord and hold up His standard you will receive criticism. People will attack your motives, ridicule your faith and mock that which is holy. The question arises, "how does a Christian deal with criticism?" Jesus reminds us in 1Peter 2 that most of the criticisms against Christians are foolish. Critics are like crickets - they do most of their chirping in the dark!

The life of God's people should reflect the love of the Lord Jesus. Our lives should draw people to the Saviour. I've often reminded our church members that most people won't come in the doors of a church and most will never read the bible. Therefore, we are the only bible that many people will ever read, and all of us have a testimony, whether good or bad.

As a young man, one of the first poems I ever heard was:

You're writing the gospel, a chapter each day,  
by deeds that you do, by words that you say.  
Men read what you write, faithless or true.  
What is the gospel, according to you?

The greatest advertisements for righteousness are the lives of Christian people. How we respond to criticism either inspires others or repels them. In a world that is often hostile to our Christian faith, let's respond with the love of Christ.

**This was the faith of our fathers and I trust it is yours.**  
Pastor Mel Brindley

### SKM Productions presents Tracy Lawrence August 25th in Caroline County/4H Park in Denton



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- "My Second Home"
- "If the Good Die Young"
- "Renegades, Rebels and Rogues"
- "I See It Now"
- "As Any Fool Can See"
- "If the World Had a Front Porch"
- "If You Loved Me"

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- "Find Out Who Your Friends Are"

**Tickets from cancelled show of June 2 will be honored at the gate!**  
Ticket Info - [www.missiontix.com](http://www.missiontix.com) or [www.skmevents.com](http://www.skmevents.com) / ticket prices are \$55 for preferred seating, \$45 reserved seats and \$35 general admission.

# Rudow ...

Continued from Page 3

- There are far more stripers in the shallows than usual for summer-time. It's particularly strange since water temperature is already well over 80-degrees, but for whatever reason, the fish have been in their usual fall haunts around rip-rapped points, piers, and boat-houses. Thus far this year, white seems to be out-catching chartreuse. (Notice a pattern, here???)

- The flounder are... where the heck are the flounder? If there's any bad news to cover thus far this year, it's a lack of flatfish in the Maryland portion of the bay. While I can't claim to have spent a ton of time searching them out—that's a tall order, when there are so many different hot bites going off—I haven't heard a reliable report yet nor encountered any myself, even by accident. So if you have a driving desire to go flounder fishing, your best bet is probably to head for the beach.

Sure, the Middle East is imploding, our congress can't get anything done, and it's rained so much here in Maryland that the mosquito population has quadrupled. Who cares? 2013 will go down in history as one of the best summers of bay fishing in modern times. Slap a smile on your face, get some spot bait (I'd suggest—ahem—bloodworms) and head for the marina, ASAP.



The redfish are back! Justin took his first of the year, a 20-incher, casting a BKD in the shallows.

## Blind Site Licensing Dates and Locations Announced

Waterfowl hunters may apply to receive their blind site licenses for the 2013-2014 hunting season starting August 6. A lottery for the opportunity to choose blind sites will occur at the locations listed below. Each license is assigned to a designated location in Maryland waters where hunters may anchor their boats to hunt waterfowl.

Dates and instructions are as follows:

August 6 from 7:30 to 8 a.m. Individuals arriving after 8 a.m. will not be eligible for the lottery drawing and will have to wait until all applicants have selected a site. The drawing will start at approximately 8:30 a.m. Once selected, applicants have eight minutes to select their blind sites; no more than two sites per applicant may be selected per day. Licensing will end at 4:30 p.m. and resume the

following day.

August 7 from 10:30 a.m. to 4 p.m. at all DNR Service Centers and offices as listed.

August 8 and thereafter, the centers will operate on normal business hours.

Citizens must present a 2012-2013 or 2013-2014 Maryland resident hunting license in order to participate in the blind site process (except for landowners or individuals with written permission of a landowner who desire to license their own property). Applicants must also present their Maryland driver's license or other photo ID to verify identification and residency.

Marylanders who would like to license their own land should bring a copy of their property information available online and a tax map or other legible map showing the exact location of the shoreline to be licensed. Preview maps of shoreline licensed by riparian landowners will be available online, and at the locations listed below on July 15.



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## "TACKLE BOX TIM"

### Gunpowder Bass Challenge 2013

By Tim Sherman

Once again it is time for the Gunpowder Bass Challenge. The event pits one angler against the bass in the Gunpowder River and its tidal creeks. The past two years have stamped me as the human high pressure system with the weather patterns that Randy Yarnall and Captain Jerry Sersen had to endure. I warned this year's challenger, Tom Wewerka of BelAir, MD, about my propensity for conjuring up weather fronts; yet he was still willing to take the challenge. Tom is a long time local tournament angler and retired from construction equipment sales in April, 2010. He has started a new business, Tom's Custom Rods, which has taken off in the last 1 1/2 years.

The boundaries for the event remain the same as always: Seneca Creek to the south and Rickett's Point in the Gunpowder to the north. This

expansive area includes, Dundee and Saltpeter Creeks, and as far into the Gunpowder and her creeks and coves as Tom wishes to wander. He has 8 hours to catch as many bass as he can, and the weight from his 5 biggest bass will count. He has not fished the area for over a year.

The challenge was held on July 16, 2013. While no high pressure systems in the forecast, the temperature was going to be in the mid-90s with wind 5 to 7 miles per hour from the west. According to tide-forecast.com, the tides for the day for Battery Point at the mouth of the Gunpowder were low at 9:09 a.m. and high at 1:53 p.m. Tom asked if we could start a bit early to try and beat the heat. We met at the Mariner Point Park launch ramp at 6:00 a.m. to get our day under way.

6:10 a.m. Tom starts the outboard and we start down the canal leading to the Gunpowder River. I ask Tom his strategy for the day. He said he wants to start at the mouth of the canal and work grass beds. He's like to get up in to the Joppatowne quarry if possible, but would like to

do it later in the day if possible. He also spoke of fishing piers and the Gunpowder River railroad bridge.

6:17 We reach the mouth of the canal and Tom drops in the trolling motor. "I'm going to try something new today." He casts a mini popping frog with a medium heavy power spinning rod. "It doesn't cast well on a baitcaster," he notes.

6:22 He switches to a 1/4-ounce black buzzbait.

6:26 Tom switches rods again as the grass is too thick for the buzzbait. He casts a Stanley Ribbit swimming frog. He says, "I love fishing grass, but the area can be so big." The Ribbit allows him to cover the matted grass quickly.

6:32 He switches back to the popping frog. I am thinking that he must have changed his mind and was heading to the quarry early as we rounded the reed grass shoreline and were heading that way.

6:41 A small bass pops the surface and Tom's next cast with the popping frog lands perfectly just beyond the ripples. He moves the frog a few feet and it gets slammed by the bass. It shakes the hook a few feet from the boat.

6:50 Tom switches back to the buzzbait.

6:58 Another bass boils the surface. This bass was definitely bigger than the first. Tom picks up the popping frog and makes another perfect cast. He again connects as the bass strikes his frog. Like the smaller bass, this one also gets off during the fight. Wewerka questions whether the spinning rod has enough backbone to get a good hook set. He engages the Power Pole to keep the boat in place while he cuts off the popping frog to retie it on to one of his custom frog rods.

7:00 He continues in the direction of the canal that leads to the quarry switching between the two frogs and buzzbait.

7:18 Tom casts the buzzer past a large deadfall away from the bank and it gets creamed by a bass. The first bass, a 2-pounder, is on the board. "Number one, were on the books," he exclaims. "I saw that eel grass with clear water over it."

7:26 Tom continues to work the buzzbait over eel grass. A second bass strikes the bait. This one is 2 pounds 4 ounces. With two bass caught, recorded, and released, Tom believes he has a pattern. Both bass have come from an outer grass line edge. The only issue is that we are in skinny water and the tide is still dropping.

7:38 Wewerka stops fishing for a splash of coffee. (Yikes, it's stifling hot already this morning and he wants coffee?!) He ponders further over the two lost bass.

7:48 He has worked his way to the mouth of the canal leading to the quarry and he does not like what he sees for water clarity. He idles back to the stretch where he caught the first two bass thinking there may be a few more there.

8:09 "I just had to get that out of my system," says Tom after no more action. He now has a decision to make. The bottom is falling out of the tide and we have to get off of the flat. He decides not to go up into the quarry for fear of being stuck in there too long because of what he perceives as a lower than normal tide. We idle across the flat to the railroad bridge. From there, it's off to Seneca Creek.

8:38 We start at the southern most point of the creek where there is a long line of broken pilings with rocks around them. Tom has caught fish there before on a falling tide. He casts a chartreuse/white spinnerbait but doesn't like what he sees. There isn't enough water on the poles and rocks. We stay there only a few minutes.

8:50 We've crossed the Seneca to  
*Continued on Page 7*

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**Continued from Page 6**

Hawthorne Cove. From a nest on a pole an osprey chirps her displeasure of our presence. A slight breeze has the surface water moving. Tom says,

“I like the buzzbait when there is a little chop on the water.” He switches between the three surface baits to no avail as we move through the cove.

9:14 The breeze is picking up and causes a thick backlash into Tom’s

reel while casting a buzzbait. He doesn’t waste time picking it out. Instead, he cuts off the buzzer and swaps out the rod with one from his rod box.

9:25 Tom has moved to the grassy flat across from the Carroll Island Power Plant. He flings the buzzbait but gets no takers. He makes the decision to abandon the grass and start fishing some piers with deep water.

9:40 We have crossed the creek and Tom starts with a Texas rigged Fish Doctor worm. He proceeds along a few piers alternating between a chartreuse/Black square bill crankbait, spinnerbait, and a black/blue chatterbait. The breeze has picked up to a light wind. Tom bemoans, “Huh, they said it was only going to be 5-7.” I jokingly replied, “When I’m in the boat, you add the two together.”

10:25 After having worked some piers, Tom takes a ride farther back into the Seneca. He fishes several more piers with adjacent grass with no takers.

10:41 He fishes the outer pilings of Beacon Light Marina and Tom has seen enough. He admits he has only fished the Seneca a few times, albeit successfully, but feels it would be better if the tide stages were more normal.

11:00 Tom makes run back to the Gunpowder. The wind is against the tide and there is a 2-foot chop on the river. This would have been a bumpy ride if not for Tom’s boating skills.

11:23 We reach the railroad bridge and Tom works toward the Harford County shoreline. He is casting the chartreuse/black square bill.

11:32 Tom makes an errant cast and cracks the crankbait against the concrete piling, which clips off a piece of the crankbait’s lip. He ties on an identical lure.

11:38 Wewerka rears back and sets the hook. “Oh no,” he exclaims when he sees it’s a catfish. Even more to his dismay, the catfish breaks off the lure. Tom rummages around and discovers that his other chartreuse/black crankbaits are home in his garage. Not to fear. He has others in the same hue the next size up. “Big bigger bait, big fish” he adds.

11:55 Working farther down the bridge, Tom sets the hook again. This time it is a bass weighing 3-pound 2-ounces.

12:06 p.m. Business is picking up with the larger crankbait. Tom hooks and lands a 3-pound 15-ounce bass.

12:21 The water depth on the pilings is dropping as we near the Harford County shore. Tom has switched to the spinnerbait and catches a 12 ½-inch bass weighing 11 ounces. It completes his limit of 5 bass but he still has time left to fish.

12:49 Tom has worked back toward the draw span. He gets a chuckle as he lands a 5-inch white perch that struck the crankbait.

12:52 Wewerka puts down the power pole so he can enjoy his turkey wrap in the shade of the bridge.

12:58 Back at it. Tom works the upriver side of the pilings.

1:13 Tom retrieves the crankbait next to a piling and sets the hook. He lands a 2-pound 10-ounce bass. This culls the dink 11-ouncer.

1:18 Tom snags, but retrieves his crankbait. He sees that the line is chaffed so he reties the lure.

1:37 Nearing the Harford County end again, Tom has switched back to the spinnerbait and connects with a 1-pound 10-ounce bass. It is not big enough to cull his 2 pounder.

1:42 We’ve sneaked through the pilings and again are working back to draw span.

1:55 Tom casts his crankbait between two limbs of a sunken branch mere feet from a bridge piling. The lure stops dead and he thinks he has snagged ... until a beast of a large-mouth jumps through the surface. The bass swims back into the wood. Tom’s line is caught on one of the limbs. He sees how it is wrapped and gets it off. The bass is still on and makes another leap. Tom battles the bass to the net and we weigh it -- 5-pounds 8 ounces!

1:58 With 12 minutes left to go, Tom concedes to the heat of the day. With a lunger 5 1/2-pound bass to end the day, who could blame him.

Tom Wewerka caught 8 bass in total during the challenge. He best five weighted a total of 17 pounds five ounces, with the late day 5 1/2-pound kicker. As we putted through canal back to the ramp, Tom reflected on the day. He believed that if the tide wasn’t as he perceived as low that normal, he may have had better results at the flat leading into the quarry and in Hawthorne Cove. I think he will scrap using spinning take with a popping frog. He was, however, extremely pleased with his performance noting that he didn’t deviate from his game plan. Thanks, Tom, for being the 2013 challenger. As always, who will be next year’s contestant.



**Tom Werwerka landed this 5.5-pound bass with minutes remaining in the Gunpowder Bass Challenge.**

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**Dave Reynolds landed this 11 1/4 lbs. / 31 inch Catfish in Southwest Park. Photo Courtesy of Clyde's Sport Shop**



## "HUNTING PASSION"

### **Bucks Of Late Summer Boil**

*By Mike Monteleone*

The temperature was in the 90's as I made my way into a stand I had hung just a few days before. A sure sign of the heat was the waterfall of sweat I felt pouring down the center of my back. Luckily, I didn't have far to walk. When I arrived at my stand, I climbed up, repositioned the stand slightly to provide better shooting, and then settled in for the evening. Mosquitoes relentlessly stung me over and over. I ignited my Therma-Cell, which considerably improved the wretched vampire problem.

About an hour into the hunt, a fawn caught my attention as it moved toward a standing bean field. Even with the heat, I expected some does to begin filtering through the woodlot as the evening progressed. Nothing. At least not until the last five minutes of shooting light. That's when I heard footsteps in the swampy creek bottom behind me. Lifting my bow from the hook, I slowly stood up waiting to see what made the noise in the creek bottom. I couldn't hear any leaves crunching, thanks to an orchestra of night screaming insects. However, some movement caught my attention, which materialized into a shooter buck. The 10-pointer was only 25 yards away now, and all I needed was a broadside angle. The buck got a little edgy and turned to leave, so I let out a gentle "Aaaapp!" He stopped at 30 yards, but was facing away from me. Seconds later, he turned broadside and stopped. I was drawn already and I released the arrow to watch the glowingnock disappear into his body. At that instant he turned and ran through some tall weeds on the edge of the field, jumped over a fallen tree and collapsed as he landed.

I was overcome with excitement! I sat in the stand for a few minutes to calm my shaking body so I could safely decent from the tree.

This was the first night of the season, and I had just put down a high quality buck in the hottest conditions I have ever hunted in. What made this hunt come together with such success? The accumulation of a lot of hard work, sweat, and time spent making pre-hunt preparations. Let's key in on the major elements that contributed to this successful, scorching hot, late summer hunt.

Get A Game Plan

I began the planning stages for this hunt in early spring when I received permission to hunt the farm. I knew I would be dealing with bugs and heat, but hunting pressure at that time of year would be minimal. I scheduled time off of work a few days prior to the opener to pound the ground just to see if all of my hunches of deer sign were correct and to hang stands. I scouted low impact mid-day and glasses from a good distance to see what deer might be entering the fields in the evening hours. I knew I was going to focus on water and food and all my hunches proved to be correct.

#### **Scout From Home**

How can you possibly scout from home? My answer is just two words: Google Earth. This well-known Internet service provides aerial photographs of the entire world. There is a standard version that can be downloaded for free and an upgraded version for a small fee.

Wanting to conserve my on-foot-scouting time, I studied aerial photos of the farm. I found every major food and water source in the immediate area, which indicated where to begin my search for deer sign once I had a few days of free time. I narrowed down roughly a dozen potential stand locations just by studying these Google photos. The majority of these spots were near water between suspected bedding and feeding areas.

Remember, bucks won't travel very far in early season to find food. Only when temperatures drop and does come into heat will bucks travel longer distances.

#### **Use Your Binos**

As mentioned earlier, upon arriving to the new hunting property I immediately picked out a field to observe from a safe distance. I needed to take an inventory of the deer using the food source during daylight hours. My efforts over the first couple days revealed a few decent bucks, but I knew the mature buck activity would be more prevalent in the staging areas behind the field.

#### **Best Foot Forward**

With that in mind, I spent each mid-day hiking around to locate staging areas between fields and thick bedding areas. I found several



**In Kansas these whitetails came in big for some local boys last season, Bryan Deli 156", Dan Neutzul 130" and Bill Houchin 184"**

locations like this and immediately selected trees that offered good shooting cover. Not only did these staging areas provide transition from thick brush and open hardwoods and fields, they also provided a very important ingredient when hunting during extremely hot conditions: Water.

When hunting near rivers and

streams, it's no secret where stands should be placed. Deer are typically lazy when it's hot and will take the path of least resistance. Locate some heavily used water crossings, and you will most certainly be on the road to success.

**See Monteleone Page 9**

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# Monteleone ...

Continued from Page 8

## Tracks Don't Lie

River crossings are a great area to hang stands, no doubt. However, when there are multiple crossings in a general area, you will need to pin point the one that bucks are frequently using. Study the tracks at these water crossings. Look for heavy square tracks that you know only a mature buck could make. Mature bucks move in a much more discreet manner than does and fawns, which means you will need to pinpoint their exact travel routes. In addition to finding big tracks near water crossings, examine the edges of crop fields to determine where the buck is entering. You can then back track him into the woods to find a good transition point for your treestand. Don't go too far, though, because once you bump a buck, he might vacate the area or become nocturnal all together.

## Use Scouting Cameras

If you are unsure about a spot you've located or just need to know what time the deer are passing through an area, let a camera do the hunting for you. It makes



no sense to hut a spot that won't produce a whopper if you're after a whopper. A scouting camera can tell you when to hunt, what caliber of deer are in the area, and not to waste your time in unproductive areas. It's really exciting to check photos, so be patient! Don't check your cameras every day, otherwise the deer may feel intruded upon and will pick different travel routes.

When it's hot, these cameras can make the difference in filling your tag. Water crossings, and heavily used travel routes are the places I prefer to set cameras. Placing them directly on food sources can put the deer on high alert. There is no sense in alerting deer by placing these cameras where the local whitetails feel safe.

## Hang To Kill

When bow-hunting big bucks, you cannot afford to be even slightly off mark when positioning stands. Your goal should be killing the buck the first time he comes through; otherwise he might walk by out of range never to be seen again.

Now that you've gathered all the information on local deer activity there's one thing left. Get stands in trees that provide easy bow shots. In early season foliage is thick and tracking a wounded deer can be tough. Setup where you can make a 15-to-20-yard shot, and set your stand in a position that allows you to make fluid motions to get into shooting position when the buck of your dreams shows up.

## Time To Hunt

You've done your homework. Your stands are in position. Opening day is here, and you are ready. With high temperatures, make sure you shower in scent free products,

and use ample amounts of field spray before heading to your stand. Actually, I have a small bottle I carry in the stand with me to spray down after the hike in to my stand. That evening I shot the buck, I tried taking my time walking to the stand but it didn't matter. The sweat was pouring from my body like a sliced squash that just had salt sprinkled on it. I doused myself with the field spray once on stand and I truly believe it saved my hunt that evening. Never hunt in hot weather without using a complete scent-free system.

## You Can Score In The Heat

There is no doubt about it, hunting in early season with heat and bugs can be miserable. But, it can also be the best time to score your next P&Y buck. How so? The hunting pressure is generally minimal, and bucks are still relaxed and on their summer patterns. These are the right ingredients to kill big bucks.

Persistence is crucial to your success. Don't let the heat discourage you. The buck I killed was one of my nicest deer ever. The day I killed him was hotter than any other days I've hunted. I'm far from a professional. My point is, if I can get it done in the heat, so can you! You just need a solid game plan to hunt the bucks of the late summer boil.





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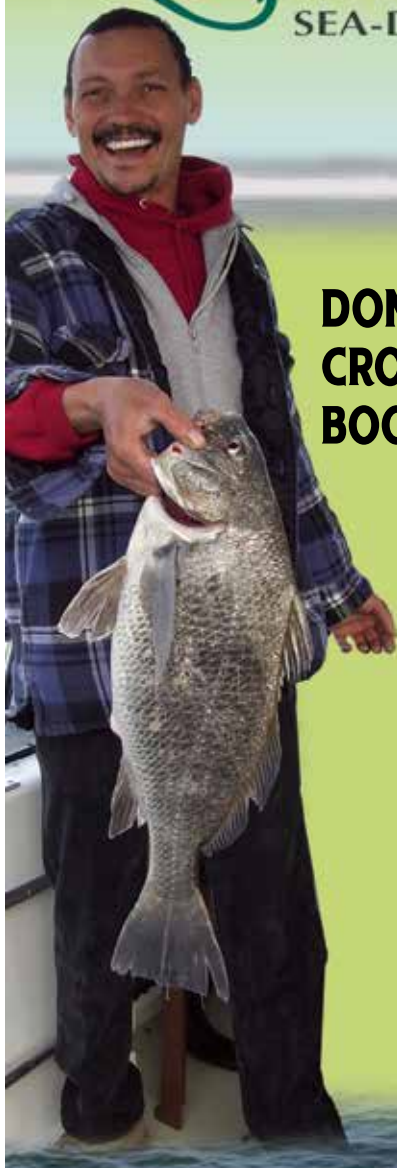
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The Catfish boys are on a roll. Photo Courtesy of Clyde's Sport Shop

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Only in America and especially in Rock Hall, MD do you find the Amish fishing. On this particular day aboard the 'Canvasback' captained by Bob Ritchie of Fish Fear Us Charters the girls sang hymns from the hymnal while trolling and catching fish.

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Dr. Jennifer Wright (angler), Captain Jonathan Mason, FJ Stetson, Justin Taylor, Doug Nicholson & Jeffrey Carroll all of Chestertown, MD took home first place aboard 'Albedamn' in the 2013 Ocean City Canyon Kick Off Tournament with a 209 lb. Big Eye Tuna worth \$10,921.50.



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## “FISHIN’ BACK EAST”

### SIMPLE BUT EFFECTIVE... GRASS SHRIMP JIGS

By Jim Gronaw

I am sure that most anglers today have favorite bait, lure or presentation that has put many, many fish in the boat for them over the years. To the bass angler, it could be a favorite plastic worm or trailer that keeps the fish coming. For the trout fisherman, perhaps a particular wet fly that just knocks ‘em out. And for the avid ice-fisherman, I imagine a particular spoon is the main ticket to tasty walleye and perch fillets.

Over the past 15 years, I have experimented with tying hair jigs of various sizes for bass and panfish, often with admirable results and mixed in have been some real winners and some real duds as well. Jig tying, unlike fly tying, is not quite as precise and complicated as trying to imitate the tiny creatures that trout feed on. A basic gameplan would have a simple body/tail/ collar or head combination to try and resemble various species of minnows, crayfish or, as I have found lately, grass shrimp.

Grass shrimp are exactly that... small 1 to 1.5 inch long translucent shrimp that inhabit many of our East Coast and tidal tributary waters as well as some inland environs and are found around grassy areas of the shorelines and weedbeds. They are a huge food source for not just panfish species like crappies and bluegills,

but serve as a high number forage for bass, anadromous white and yellow perch and other species as well.

Where they are naturally found, they can be tremendous ‘tipping’ bait for small jigs or work very well on a small # 8 Aberdeen hook by themselves. In the spring, Chesapeake area baitshops sell them in boxed containers and they are a hot item for spring fishing. The biggest problem with the delicate grass shrimp is that they are fragile and tend to die quickly once the temperature warm up to 70 degrees or more, making them tough to keep alive, and thus effective, on those increasingly warm spring days when we are all hoping for sun and fun. It was out of this desire to keep them alive, and to see if they could be a year round hit, that led me to tying the most simple, but effective, of jig patterns...the grass shrimp jig.

Colors for the grass shrimp vary slightly from one estuary to the next, but patterns from white to beige to olive or pink tend to cover most of the bases. I use a simple, unpainted ball head jig of 1/32 ounce with either a nickel or gold plated head and hook. Hook size can be #6 or #8. Body material can be either White River Sparkle Braid or core braid of various brands. Lighter colored dubbing makes a good body wrap as well. Tail material can be either craft hair, marabou, or...more recently, I have experimented with filament legs made from spinnerbait skirts from bass lures.

All work, but sometimes fish show a preference for one pattern or another. I have made them in olive, beige, silver, white and pink hues. Pink and olive seem to be the fan favorite so far, especially in the dark waters of Dixie and in local ponds in the Mid-Atlantic.

Just to see if it wasn’t just me, I sent a batch of the grass shrimp



**Pink shrimp patterns are deadly in the tidal creeks and freshwaters as well.**

jigs to Jeffrey D. Abney down in Elizabeth City, North Carolina to give them a good test drive in his local waters. Abney fishes any number of tidal, blackwater rivers off of the Albermarle Sound in the north east portion of the state. The Paskotank, Chowan and Perqueman are just a few of his haunts.

A panfish expert, Abney sits on the doorstep of one of the greatest public systems in the nation, as huge but lightly fished bluegill, perch and crappie populations get bypassed for the sake of a 2 pound bass. He catches hundreds of 10 to

11 inch coppersnout bluegills every season and wards off marauding channel catfish, muscled bowfin and gar along with the bounty of fillets and fun. He works at it, but the results are consistently high quality.

He reported to me back in July that he had caught over 400 fish, mostly bluegills, on a single 1/32 ounce pink grass shrimp jig that I had tied, to include cats over 10 pounds, bowfin up to 10 and several 3 to 4 pound largemouths along the way. Finally, a big cattie snapped the gold hook after a ton of fish. That is unbelievable! His best colors were pink, but silver and olive took a ton of fish as well.

Tipping these jigs can enhance their effectiveness, but some days they do damage fished just plain on a hot bite. He fishes them below bobbars in and around cypress, overhangs, boat slips, seawalls and any tapering banks that have grassy or wooded area nearby.

I have never caught 400 fish on any single lure I have ever owned. But it is cool to hear that someone has had that much success with a small piece of lead made to resemble a tiny but very abundant species of forage. For more info on how-to and success rates these lures have been for many anglers, check out [www.bigbluegill.com](http://www.bigbluegill.com) and read Abneys’ amazing chronicles of his fishing under his blog...

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**Jim caught and released this 12.75 inch hybrid sunfish on a 1/32nd ounce grass shrimp jig.**



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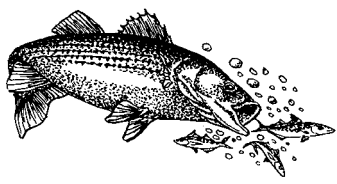


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## Coastal Report

By Capt. Mark Sampson

Have you ever fished shoulder to shoulder with someone and watch them catch fish after while you can scarcely drum up a bite? I see it all the time on our charters, particularly when we're bottom fishing. The crazy thing is, if there ends up being one person that catches dramatically more fish than all the others it's not usually the person aboard who has the most fishing experience. There's often something besides "skill" that's bringing more fish to their hook than everyone else's, and with a little close observation it can be possible to reveal what they're doing different and help level the playing field for all anglers.

Even though you might watch your partner and conclude that they aren't doing anything that you're not, there might be something going on there that you're not noticing. While fishing from an anchored boat with a bottom-rig that has the hooks above the weight, if someone drops their rig to the bottom and then lowers their rod tip or lets out just a little bit more line the baits will lay down on the bottom rather than being suspended a foot or two above it and sometimes fish will be more inclined to eat if the offering if it is presented this way rather than straight up and down. Similarly, some anglers will just naturally lower and raise their rod in harmony with the rocking of the boat thus keeping the sinker and baits relatively motionless on the sea floor while others will let the rod tip ride up and down with the boat providing more of a jigging action with their bait. Here again, some fish will like it one way and some the other, and if you happen to be doing it wrong that day it might be tough to figure out what the problem is.

Sometimes fish are in such a mood that they just won't eat anything but the freshest of baits. Even though all the baits in the cooler are of the same freshness, after a bait has been in the water for a while it will start to get washed-out and lose some of its scent

appeal. Imagine if everyone aboard starts fishing at the same time but go for a spell without any bites. Then one angler loses their bait to a crab and promptly replaces it. That angler now has the freshest smelling bait under the boat, and here comes a school of somewhat finicky fish. The guy with

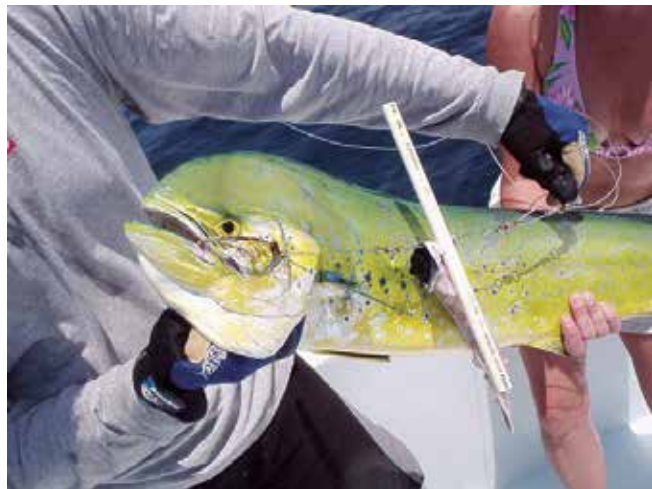
the fresh bait hooks up, lands his fish, rebaits, drops down, hooks another, rebaits, hooks another - and so on, while everyone else is standing there

scratching their heads wondering how anyone can be so lucky and what in the world are they doing wrong? Because they're not catching fish they're not changing their baits often enough to keep them fresh. Maybe a bite from a crab can be good once in a while!

Experienced anglers will usually take the time to cut their baits in a way that allows them to be hooked and presented properly so that they look "pretty" in the water and allow for the best chance to hook a fish after the bite while beginning anglers sometimes just hack a chunk of bait down to hook-size pieces, clump them on a hook and hope for the best. Although precisely cut baits are usually the most effective offering, under natural conditions it's probably more likely that fish feeding on bits a pieces are getting snagged scraps left over from some other fish that was feeding, rather than nice straight cuts strips with tapered ends. So if the guy who "doesn't know what he's doing" next to you seems to be catching all the fish, look at his bait board and how he's putting the bait on his hook and maybe you'll see that "pretty" isn't always "perfect."

While wreck fishing one day it became obvious that even though everyone was catching fish there was one woman who was consistently catching more and bigger sea bass than everyone else. She then caught

a triggerfish, which prompted me to ask her if she was dropping her line all the way to the bottom and she said, "Yes, I've been sending it down until it stops." But looking at her reel I noticed a small backlash was making the line stop going out before the bait got all the way down. She was fishing about 20-



feet off the bottom and shouldn't have been catching anything, but just by chance, that's were the better fish were holding that day.

Sometimes an almost indiscernible difference

in terminal tackle can mean the difference between catching or not. On a standard bottom rig, a slight difference in the distance the hook stands off from the leader or the distance from the bottom hook to the sinker can, for

some reason, make a difference to the fish. Often older leaders won't catch as many fish as new ones because they're no longer perfectly straight and free of kinks or bends. Older mono or fluorocarbon will also start to cloud a bit thus making them more visible underwater

In some situations an angler might be catching all the fish just because of where they are standing at the time. On an anchored boat over a wreck it's possible that one angler might be dropping their line down into a pocket of the structure that is holding most, if not all, of the fish while the other lines are soaking in barren waters. Similarly, if fish are on the move and coming from one direction, like down a channel or along a beach, the person who is positioned on the side that the fish are coming from might intercept all the fish before his buddies get a chance at them. Location-location-location!

Finally, if you're having one of those days when your fishing partner is catching 20-fish for every one you land, and you can't find any differences in bait, tackle, technique, or location, then there's only one variable left to consider - they're "lucky" and you're not!



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# SCHRADER'S YOUTH CAMP

# CATFISH NEWS:

Chambersburg, Penn. – Imagine the buzz surrounding the angling community had the largemouth bass world record been broken seven times inside the past 20 years, and five times in the last decade. It sounds like crazy talk until you consider this is precisely what has occurred with North America's third largest freshwater fish—the blue catfish, whose record has gone from 100 to 143 pounds in just two decades.

Now imagine attending a tournament in which the spectators show up in droves not to see their favorite angler, but to witness catfish the size of 8th graders emerging from livewells with regularity.

Indeed, these are exciting times for catfish anglers, and at last count numbered nearly 8-million savvy souls. That's the "Whisker Nation," and it's growing fast.

Yet despite the great popularity of cats, folks who pursue these hard-pulling fish remain, in terms of available quality fishing tackle and gear, the most underserved angling group in the nation.

Rippin Lips, the emerging Pennsylvania based catfish company, intends to fix that. Recognizing the glaring need for top-tier catfish bait, tackle and gear at retailers nationwide, the cat-friendly company has for several years been quietly developing a premium line of products, with the singular goal of helping anglers catch more catfish and have more fun.

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## 2013 Duck Breeding Population Estimates Released

Duck populations are still strong, and pond numbers are up.

Duck populations are strong, according to the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service \*2013 Report on Trends in Duck Breeding Populations\*. The preliminary estimate of total duck populations from the traditional survey area (north-central United States, south-central and northern Canada, and Alaska) is 45.6 million birds. This estimate represents a 6 percent decrease from last year's estimate of 48.6 million birds but is still 33 percent above the long-term average. The total duck estimate excludes scoters, eiders, long-tailed ducks, mergansers and wood ducks.

The report also notes:

Estimated mallard abundance is 10.4 million birds, similar to the 2012 estimate of 10.6 million birds and 36 percent above the long-term average.

Blue-winged teal estimated abundance is 7.7

million. Although this is 16 percent below the 2012 estimate of 9.2 million, the blue-wing population is 60 percent above the long-term average. Similarly, the green-winged teal estimate of 3.1 million is 12 percent below last year but still 51 percent above their long-term average.

The northern pintail estimate of 3.3 million is similar to the 2012 estimate of 3.5 million and 17 percent below the long-term average.

Estimated abundance of American wigeon is 2.6 million and 23 percent above the 2012 estimate and similar to the long-term average.

The combined lesser and greater scaup estimate of 4.2 million decreased 20 percent from last year and is 17 percent below the long-term average of 5 million. The canvasback estimate of 787,000 is similar to the 2012 estimate and 37 percent above the long-term average.

Despite a delayed spring throughout most of the traditional survey area, habitat conditions during the 2013 survey were generally improved or similar to last year due to above-average precipitation. Most of the Canadian portions of the traditional survey area were rated as good to excellent, in contrast to 2012 where drier conditions existed across northern Alberta and Saskatchewan. Although the U.S. prairies received record snowfall in April, habitat conditions were still rated only fair to poor, similar to last year.

The total pond estimate (prairie Canada and the north-central United States combined) is 6.9 million, 24 percent higher than the 2012 estimate of 5.5 million ponds and 35 percent above the long-term average.

In the eastern survey area -- eastern Ontario, Quebec, the Maritime Provinces and Maine -- estimated mallard abundance is 500,000 birds. The black duck estimate is 622,000. Habitat conditions across most of the eastern survey area generally were good with the exception of Maine and the southern Maritimes, which were rated only as fair.

The surveys are conducted by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service and Canadian

Wildlife Services' Waterfowl Breeding Population and Habitat Survey, sampling more than 2 million square miles of waterfowl habitat across Alaska, the north-central and northeastern United States and south-central, eastern and northern Canada. Information is not included from surveys conducted by state or provincial agencies.

The annual survey guides the Service's waterfowl conservation programs under authority of the 1918 Migratory Bird Treaty Act. The Service works in partnership with state biologists from the four flyways -- the Atlantic, Mississippi, Central and Pacific -- to establish regulatory frameworks for waterfowl hunting season lengths, dates and bag limits.

For more information about the surveyed areas, the survey methodology and the estimates, the Trends Report in Duck Breeding Populations, 1955-2013 report can be downloaded from the Service's Web site at [www.fws.gov/migratorybirds](http://www.fws.gov/migratorybirds).



Looks like William Rothe was dressed for the occasion displaying his 13" 1 lb. 4 1/2 ounce White Perch caught in the Magothy River. Photo Courtesy of Clyde's Sport Shop

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## Philly Roll Tacos with Wasabi Cream

Prep Time: 30 / Cook Time: 20 /  
Servings: 8 (2 tacos each)

### Ingredients

2 pounds Wild Alaska Salmon fillets /  
1 Tablespoon sesame oil  
2 Tablespoons low sodium soy sauce  
Wasabi Cream:  
1-1/2 Tablespoons wasabi powder,  
prepared with water to make a paste  
1 Tablespoon sesame oil /  
1 Tablespoon rice vinegar  
1 teaspoon low sodium soy sauce / 3 Tablespoons Greek yogurt, plain  
2 Tablespoons sour cream / 1 teaspoon lime juice  
Pinch of salt / Kosher salt and cracked pepper, to taste  
16 small (6-inch) white corn and wheat blend tortillas, warmed  
8 Tablespoons cream cheese / 2 cups pickled ginger  
1 English cucumber, diced / 1/2 head purple cabbage, sliced very thin  
2 avocados, diced / Garnish: Black sesame seeds and lime zest,  
as needed



### Instructions

Preheat oven to 400°F. Marinate Alaska Salmon fillets in sesame oil and soy sauce for 30 minutes. While fish is marinating prepare Wasabi Cream: whisk all ingredients together until smooth and creamy; refrigerate until needed.

Remove salmon from marinade and place on a parchment-lined baking sheet. Season with salt and pepper. Bake about 15 to 20 minutes, cooking just until fish is opaque throughout.

Warm the corn tortillas in a dry nonstick skillet.

To assemble tacos: Spread one tablespoon of cream cheese on each tortilla, leaving a 1/2-inch border. Sprinkle a few slices of pickled ginger on top. Crumble large chunks of salmon on top of cream cheese and ginger. Top with diced English cucumber, purple cabbage, diced avocado, and more pickled ginger. Dollop or pipe Wasabi Cream on top of taco. Garnish with lime zest and black sesame seeds.

*Recipe by Meredith Dunn, Birmingham, AL*

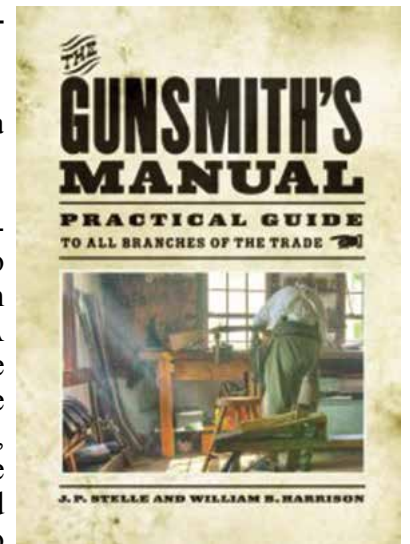
## Book of the Month

### THE GUNSMITH'S MANUAL: PRACTICAL GUIDE TO ALL BRANCHES OF THE TRADE

J. P. Stelle (Author), William B. Harrison (Author)

A history of gunsmithing as well as a guide for the modern gunsmith.

Originally published in 1883, The Gunsmith's Manual is generally considered to be the first substantive work dealing with gunsmithing exclusively and in detail. A comprehensive introductory chapter, one of the manual's best qualities, provides the reader with an extensive history of the gun, including the invention of gun powder, the first rifle, and much more. Once acquainted with firearms, readers can then move on to learn how guns were made and used in the nineteenth century, as well as terms used in gunsmithing.



The real meat of the book, however, is the authors' detailed instruction on gun care and maintenance. Specifics are offered on tools, workbench materials and setup, metalworking, working with wooden stocks, common repairs, and the process of browning, among many other topics. You can even improve your marksmanship with these expert shooting tips for a variety of firearms.

Although first published in the nineteenth century, The Gunsmith's Manual is highly relevant for today's firearms owners and tinkerers. The authors' recommended procedure for removing a rusted-in screw, for example, is still widely used over 100 years later. You can learn to care for your rifle or shotgun as traditional gunsmiths would have. For both the historian and the firearms enthusiast.

The Gunsmith's Manual is an invaluable learning tool.

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Joel Haggerty is an avid outdoorsman and landed this nice Largemouth Bass in a local Farm Pond



Aboard the 'Canvasback' Captain Bob Ritchie (left) and Captain Chuck White (far right) had their hands full with this crew of ladies. Pictured L to R Bob, Jennifer, Jan, Renee and Chuckie.



The 'Kingfish II' with Captain Harry Nield is on the scene again with this nice Hardhead and some excellent eating Spanish Mackarel.



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3	6:09	8:16	6:37	7:34
4	6:09	8:15	6:38	7:32
5	6:10	8:14	6:39	7:31
6	6:11	8:13	6:40	7:29
7	6:12	8:12	6:41	7:27
8	6:13	8:10	6:42	7:26
9	6:14	8:09	6:42	7:24
10	6:15	8:08	6:43	7:23
11	6:16	8:07	6:44	7:21
12	6:17	8:05	6:45	7:19
13	6:18	8:04	6:46	7:18
14	6:19	8:03	6:47	7:16
15	6:20	8:02	6:48	7:14
16	6:21	8:00	6:49	7:13
17	6:21	7:59	6:50	7:11
18	6:22	7:57	6:51	7:10
19	6:23	7:56	6:52	7:08
20	6:24	7:55	6:52	7:06
21	6:25	7:53	6:53	7:05
22	6:26	7:52	6:54	7:03
23	6:27	7:50	6:55	7:01
24	6:28	7:49	6:56	7:00
25	6:29	7:47	6:57	6:58
26	6:30	7:46	6:58	6:57
27	6:31	7:44	6:59	6:55
28	6:32	7:43	7:00	6:53
29	6:32	7:41	7:01	6:52
30	6:33	7:40	7:02	6:50
31	6:34	7:38		



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## Special Mid-Bay Report

Most life-time Maryland Chesapeake anglers started their fishing careers as white perch fishermen.

By Chuck Prahl

As they rose up through the pictorial ranks, they ended up as striper or other top-of-the-food-chain anglers. Many of these guys discovered how to catch perch on artificials at a tender age which enhanced their pursuit of top predators.

As anglers became more and more sophisticated, some forgot the thrill of catching a hard-fighting perch on light tackle, especially in shallow water. Consequently, midsummer fishing for them became a game of long trips to the Bay for chumming or live-lining for stripers. It is fun, but not easy. The search for bait, gas, and the preparations for a trip to the Bay has its downside.

My personal midsummer alternative would be a shoreline trip in the Big Choptank targeting white perch. Don't get me wrong, I like getting my string pulled hard like any angler, but white perch share their habitat with the occasional legal rockfish along with speckled trout and of late a red fish or two. In wet years, like this one, the Middle Choptank also loads up with big catfish from the upper river. The channel cats hit a perch spinner like a striper and pull just as hard. I'm always disappointed upon seeing that whiskered face when I really expected to see stripes.

So, there is enough diversity to make a perch trip more than inter-

esting along with that, you're going to catch a hard fighting pan fish that is almost everyone's favorite when it comes to table fare.

When time, weather, or expense force you to scrap a Bay trip, think about a 3-4 hour trip to a local perch spot that might be within sight of the ramp.

In most of the Bay estuaries, white perch are plentiful, but the good spots are not. When I say "good" I mean places where large fish (10"+) are plentiful.

First of all, we're usually talking less than 6 feet of water. Spinners work best when retrieved close to the bottom and shallow water is where a perch fights best. Structure is important.

Fallen trees and limbs especially if they have been there for several years, produce well, but some will hold large fish and some won't. Check them out. Likewise, piers and duck blinds are often good. It sometimes depends on surrounding structure. One of the best piers I ever fished was one that had an oyster bottom near the end. It was a place where the land owner had thrown empty shells for years, nurturing a healthy oyster bed. We all know that oyster beds are the finest of all structure.

As shoreline property becomes more and more expensive and treasured, we find our rivers lined with rip rap and bulkheading to thwart nature's constant pounding. This fact is providing ever-increasing structure for shoreline anglers.

Riprap and bulkheading are really great places to intercept white perch

and stripers. They love to trap bait (mainly silversides, bull minnows, and grass shrimp) against vertical structure. A spinner or twister tail cast parallel to it will draw a powerful strike.

Targeting stripers or any large predator during hot weather in the estuaries usually results in a slow day. Using smaller artificials like spinners and plastics that might seem slightly large for perch will still appeal to the occasional striper and will cull out the smaller perch.

Strike King's "Mini King" is my favorite. The blade seems almost too large but perch love it. It is a true spinner bait and not cheap. Johnson's "Beetlespin" in a similar size is cheaper and also very effective.

Purists will cringe when I say this, but trailing a Gulp twister increases strikes exponentially. Bait such as

or striper in it's path.

When I feel that the perch are not hitting aggressively, I will turn to one of the above enhancing trailers. Another alternative in their absence are strips of freshly caught white perch. I scale and fillet them, then cut into two-inch long strips. The skin is strong and multiple fish can be caught before adding a fresh strip. You won't believe how well this works.

Your fishing gear for white perch needs to be light but not ridiculously light. Larger fish are frequently encountered and would be sorely missed if your gear failed.

Ultralights are great for perch and pan fish, but really not designed for much else. Tiny spinning reels do not handle 6 or 8-lb. test nearly as well as larger spool diameters. They were actually made for 4-lb. test. Short rods do not cast lightweight lures as well as longer rods. When you fish the shallows for perch, your lures will occasionally land within striking distance of some much larger fish. Be prepared! Forget about the 4-lb. test.

White perch fishing seems to have improved over the last few years. To me, they are averaging larger than ever. Though the commercial white perch fishery seems to be doing quite well, it's impact on recreational fishermen has been minimal. Few will deny that the flesh of the white perch is a delicacy.

White perch are prolific. Their numbers have always been stable. A spike in oyster harvest has removed a few driftnets by giving watermen something else to do in cold weather. White perch are one of the few native Chesapeake species whose future seems bright. Take advantage of this great fishery!



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peeler knuckles, which also trail nicely are possibly the best of all. The scent of crab will turn on any perch

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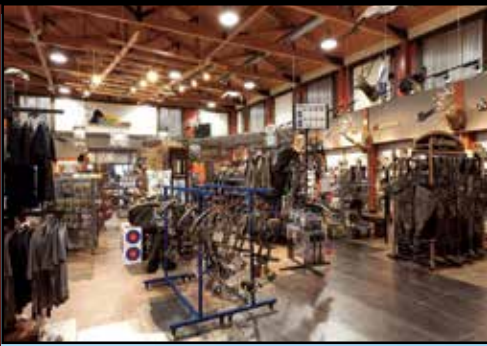
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