

Fishing & Hunting

Journal



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- \$1,654,210 WHITE MARLIN
- LURES FOR BASS
- TALKING TO THE DEER

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Spanish Mackerel made easy

By Tim Campbell who has fished the Chesapeake Bay for many years and is an award winning member of the Mason-Dixon Outdoor Writers Association.

Spanish mackerel spawn off the Virginia and North Carolina coasts from late June to late September. They come into the Chesapeake Bay to feed on the abundant baitfish when the water temperatures reach the 80's. Mackerel can be found above the bay bridge, but the most consistent action is well below the twin spans. Catching them by trolling little gold and silver plated metal lures is easy to learn, and the bite is often fast and furious. Bluefish will frequently be mixed in with the mackerel. There might be some small striped bass in the mix too. Look under diving birds for schools of breaking fish. Sometimes you might see

an excited mackerel jumping out of the water. It's called grey-hounding. Look for other boats to help find fish too, especially during the weekends. Anglers jokingly call that tactic "bent rod sonar". Be courteous. There's room for everyone to fish nice and share in the bounty.

Use the same trolling tackle you would for striped bass. A few 6 or 7 foot trolling rods combined with basic, level-wind reels spooled with 30 to 50 lb. test line is all that's needed. Trolling three to six lines at a time is plenty. Attach a two to four ounce in-line sinker between the main line and the leader. To help prevent line twists use a ball-bearing snap-swivel. The 25 to 30 lb. test monofilament leader should be about 24 feet long. The business end of the line gets a small #00 or #0 Clarkspoon, a little Huntington Drone or a Tony Accetta spoon size 13 or 15.

Sometimes the smaller spoons work better. It's smart to take some pre-rigged leaders. Wrap them on convenient plastic leader wheels. In addition to in-line sinkers, use Sea Striker planers. They put the lures deeper than in-line sinkers. Size SSP1 and SSP2 planers are the most commonly used. Tighten the drag enough to pull the planers without having the line slip. See www.sea-striker.com for more info on how to use them. Troll faster than you would for stripers, between four and seven knots is good. Spanish mackerel and bluefish schools move fast.

Light tackle fishing for Spanish mackerel is my favorite way to catch them. My personal best 26-inch Spanish mackerel came using light tackle gear casting into a school of



Ange Harclerode with his first Spanish Mackerel caught just above the Bay Bridge on 9/14/14.

breaking fish at Point Lookout. It was September 7, 2007. I'll never forget it. I was throwing a 6-inch chartreuse Bass Kandy Delight on a 3/8 ounce jig-head. I can still hear the drag screaming as the frantic fish took off. My brother Phil quickly got the net under the toothy critter just as the line was bit in two. Christy Henderson, owner of Buzz's Marina in Ridge, Maryland took our picture when we got back to the dock. The next day Phil got his personal best, a fat 25 incher. That night, we cooked them on the grill and ate them at our campsite.

The Maryland State Record Spanish mackerel was caught on October 6, 2007 by Dean Mitchell at the Middle Grounds, not too far from Point Lookout. I assume he caught it trolling. The monster mackerel measured 37 inches long and weighed 12 lbs., 4 ounces. I can only imagine.

Many people like to eat Spanish mackerel. They are best eaten fresh because Spanish mackerel doesn't freeze well. There are many ways to prepare them. Baked mackerel chilled and mixed with cream cheese and chives goes good with crackers. Mackerel fish cakes are also very tasty. Some people like to smoke

them. I prefer my fish broiled.

Here's an easy Spanish mackerel recipe: Lightly rub mackerel fillets with olive oil. Place the fillets skin side down in a shallow baking pan. Sprinkle with salt, pepper and a dash or two of Old Bay. Top the fillets with lemon slices. Broil 5 to 7 minutes, or when the fish starts to flake. Enjoy.



Christy Henderson, owner of Buzz's Marina with a Spanish Mackerel caught on July 31, 2017 near Point Lookout.



My brother Phil Campbell (he passed away 3 years ago) - caught Spanish Mackerel and Bluefish on 9/7/2007 near Point Lookout.

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Fishing & Hunting Journal

Volume 27, Number 4

September 2017

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**Front Cover - The Buck Stops Here –
Deer Hunting Original Painting**

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Fishing & Hunting Journal
P. O. Box 399 • Crumpton, MD 21628
www.fishingandhuntingjournal.com

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FAITH OF OUR FATHERS

A word from our Pastor-

I read a story about a woman who was stuck at a busy intersection in a stalled car. The man behind her showed his impatience by blowing on his horn. The lady stepped out of her car, walked back to the irritated driver and said: "I cannot get my car started. If you will try and start my car, I'll honk your horn for you."

There are a lot of people who do a lot more honking than helping. You will always find more talkers than workers. I have found, in my business with people, that those who do the most honking do the least working. Many want someone else to do it and they will determine whether it could have, or should have been done a better way.

There's the story of the committee whose members were asked, at a meeting, for their suggestions on an upcoming project. They responded: "You go ahead with the project and we'll tell you what's wrong with it".

Of course it's so much easier to sit back and critique. But, what we need are more people who are willing to be doers, those who are willing to put their hands to the plow and work for what they believe.

Even our churches are filled with more honkers than helpers. Many Christians complain about how dark our world has become spiritually, yet the only time they even think to attend church is on Christmas and Easter. Honking, not helping!

As we go through this week, let me challenge you to keep your eyes open for the opportunity to help, not honk. I promise you'll be blessed!

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First Billfish Catch Nets \$1,654,210 For Stevensville, MD Attorney at the White Marlin Open

Local Boat Takes Top Tournament Prize

Within the first 40 minutes on the last day of weigh-ins at Harbour Island, \$3 million dollars changed hands. To win the biggest share of the \$4.9 million dollars in prize money, a white marlin would have to top the 86-pound white caught off The Griffin from Palm Beach, FL on Wednesday. That's a big white and would have won 36 of the last 43 tournaments. A closer look, however would reveal that it would have only won 4 of the last 8 events. Still, Wilmington Delaware angler Mike Donohue had to like his chances to hold onto the \$2.6 million-dollar prize.

The scale for the last day of weigh-ins opened at Harbour Island Marina at 4:00 PM. Waiting at the 3:30 bridge was MR Ducks from OC, Md. The boat was carrying OC, Md. angler Joe Andrews with a white to weigh. The digital scale judged Andrews' fish to weigh 79.5 pounds which didn't affect Donohue's \$2.6 million, but jumped into 2nd knocking another OC boat, the Berzerker down to third place.

Yet another Ocean City boat, the Wire Nut made the 4:00 PM bridge and cruised toward the HI scale with a quiet confidence. Angler Glen Frost, an attorney from Stevensville, Md. knew that he had to beat a large white, but the crew felt the measurements indicated that was possible. When the digital scale read 95.5 pounds the celebrating started. It was the third largest white marlin ever caught in the 44-year-old event and it was Frost's first white marlin catch!

So, Frost's first ever billfish catch earned first place in the 2017 WMO and \$1,654,800 in prize money. That fish cost Donohue \$1,400,000 but Donohue and The Griffin still earned \$1,525,964 for the 2nd place white. MR Ducks

and fell to third with earnings of \$164,673.

The tuna category produced 8 winners including a White Marlin Open record \$866,553 tuna payout to Joe Sadler off the Intents both from Jupiter Florida. Other top tuna winners were \$90,380 to James Boynton of Situate, MA fishing aboard the Blue Runner out of Manasquan, NJ for their 67-pound tuna. The Warden Pass from Cape May NJ carried Buena, NJ resident Kris Rainear who caught a tying 67-pound tuna and earned \$52,950.

Tuna also earned big bucks for small boats. The Lisa from OC Md. carried angler Mike Cutler who hones his billfishing skills in Leawood, Kansas. Team Lisa won \$112,050 for small boat top tuna and small boat big fish.

Jimmy Michael on the Dawg Haus out of OC, Md won \$51,300 in the small boat white marlin division with his 58 pound tuna since no qualifying small boat white marlin were weighed.

The money in the Daily Meat Fish division is split between the heavy wahoo and heavy dolphin. The dolphin fishing was the slowest in memory and only one dolphin qualified. The one dolphin that did qualify, however, took big money. Ashton, MD angler Andrew Cohen aboard Annapolis based Silly Money weighed the a 23-pound dolphin to win all the daily money for dolphin and earned \$74,841. The 3 wahoo shared the daily prizes and the Hog Wild, G-Force and Karen Marie each won over \$25,000 for their fish.

The Restless Lady from Ocean City, MD took \$7,091 for the only shark weighed when Frank Snover from White Township, NJ caught a 126 mako shark.

In the Daily Release Point division, the Bar South took first with 735 followed by Fender Bender with 700 points and Weldor's Ark with 665 pts. Those same boats took the top three places in the prestigious Billfish Points division.

The top Tournament Anglers who will receive the coveted Master Angler Rings are: Jack Owens off the Rebel, John Roberts on the Weldor's Ark, and Kevin Pento aboard the Singularis.

2017 White Marlin Open Prizewinner Fails Polygraph Test

OCEAN CITY, Md. – One of the winners from the 2017 White Marlin Open has failed a polygraph test, according to the founder of the tournament.

Jim Motsko would not identify the angler, the winning boat or the category of fish. However, the failed polygraph test was not that of the top-prize winning angler Glen Frost, who reeled in a \$1.6 million white marlin.

Motsko said a second test was being administered in Missouri, where the angler lives. Results are pending at this time. He also said a crew member aboard the winning boat is also being tested.

This year's failed polygraph test makes it two years in a row a prizewinner has failed. Last year's winner of a \$2.8 million white marlin, Phil Heasley, subsequently failed his polygraph test and was stripped of the prize money.

According to tournament rules, prizewinners who receive \$50,000 or more may be required to take a polygraph test.



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Lures for Bass in Transition

There are a few times a year when you can count on the bass bite to be tough. The first is right after the spawn. Next is the late summer/early fall timeframe when bass are trying to figure out the transition to fall patterns. They spend their summers in main stems of rivers, then migrate into creeks and coves in fall. With varying daytime and night time air temperatures in early to mid-September, bass can be befuddled as to when they should make the move.

Randy Yarnall and Rick Haber have chased largemouth bass in tidal waters for decades. They each have specific lures they rely on when transition period conditions get tough. And there is one bait that the both agree on. They also agree that bass can be anywhere – in the grass, on rocks, wood, piers and docks. Use the picture of the representing tackle box to follow along with the lures that Rick and Randy rely on.

Rick starts with a swim jig (section 1). For the upper Chesapeake, he suggests swim jigs in colors that mimic shad and perch. He adds a matching swim bait trailer. On the Potomac River, he uses them in green pumpkin with a crawfish trailer. Rick says that the crawfish in the river have a lot of red in them. A green pumpkin/red flake trailer will add to the bite. He will swim them through grass beds, skip them under docks, and ease them through sunken shoreline wood.

If Rick finds bass a bit more aggressive, he opts for a vibrating jig, classified as a chatter bait (section 2). The blade on the front yields a heavy vibration that gets their

attention from far away. He uses the same color schemes for the two

respective areas and uses a swim bait trailer for both. The chatter bait does not come through vegetation like the swim jig; yet Haber will work the lure over the grass on a flood tide and along the edges on lower tide. He will also work them around wood and piers.

Both Randy and Rick agree that the Senko stick worm (section 3) is the ultimate in transition period lure. Randy pitches the Texas rigged model to holes and pockets in vegetation and around wood and piers, while Rick is a master at skipping a wacky rigged version under docks. He does not forego casting the wacky rig to grass and wood. They prefer the 5-inch worm but will downsize to the 4-inch model if the bite is really tough.

The slow-fall stick worm presentation is alluring for bass that are focused on looking toward the surface. A shaky head worm (section 4) is better suited for when bass want a lure on the bottom and in their face. Rick uses the shaky worm painstakingly slow, shaking it in place for bass that are not in the mood to chase down a meal. Focused casts to pier pilings and limbs of sunken wood get him close to the bass.

Contrasting the shaky head, Randy will cast a jig and chunk (section 5) to elicit a reaction strike. He says that sometimes you need a lure that plummets quickly to the bottom. Many times, out of instinct, a bass will strike a rapidly falling lure as it perceives it to be invading its space. Flipping and pitching presentation are the best way to achieve the vertical fall with the jig. Texas-rigged plastic crawfish (section 6, top) and creature baits (section 6, bottom) are good alternatives when bass are turned off to the bulkiness

of the jig. He will also Carolina rig these lures along grass edges when a more finesse approach is called for.

While the jig and Texas-rigged plastics draw reactions on the fall, Yarnall feels that anglers can still get a reaction strike on surface baits. As long as grass beds remain thick and matted on the surface at low tide, Randy is always willing to cast a floating frog (section 7). Sliding and twitching a frog across the matted surface weeds produces those visible, heart pounding, strikes.

As you can see, Rick and Randy are not using straight cast and retrieve lures and tactics for transition period bass. The lures in this box, save for the frog and chatter bait, are more subtle presentations. And while Rick and Randy both use a jig, the design of these baits is different. A swim jig is designed to swim horizontally through vegetation without shagging it. A flipping and pitching jig is made

to be fished in thick wood and rock cover without threat of hanging up on limbs and in rock crevasses. If you are headed to the tidal water bass grounds in the next few weeks, these are the lures that our two pros have suggested.



Jason was teaching his Dad how to catch 4 pounders back to back in the same spot at Post Office Lake in Waldorf, MD.

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“Tuna The Tide”

Situational Fishing 101

By Captain Mark Galasso

As a charter boat operator our main goal is to show our clients a good time. Our second goal is to catch them fish. And frankly sometimes there is a fine line between the two. Some people are just happy to be out on the water no matter what the fishing outcome. Others gage the success of a fishing trip by how many fish are caught. I try and discern what my clients want out of a trip before we leave the dock. For example how do they prefer to catch fish; chumming, jigging, trolling or live lining. I've had customers who would rather catch nothing than troll. On the flip side some people just want to relax and socialize and trolling is ideal for them.

For those who have to catch fish sometimes it boils down to “Situational Fishing”. The other day I had the perfect example. I was part of a 4 boat company trip. Three of us went trolling and the fourth went live lining. The boat that went live lining went north and jumped on someone else's set. They had their limit in thirty minutes. My boat and the other two ran across the Bay to troll the channel edge east of Sandy Point. The other two boats had their limits in a couple of hours. After a couple of

hours my party started receiving pictures on the cell phones from the other boats. Most of the pictures were of full fish coolers.

I could tell my guys were getting antsy. They were being polite but I could tell they weren't thrilled we had only a couple small fish in our box. I was starting to get frustrated. I checked all the lines. I rerigged a couple of baits. I called the other Captains to see if I was doing something wrong. Crazy thing was I did great doing the same thing in the same spot yesterday. Maybe it was just my day to struggle. I stared helplessly at my fish finder. It was showing fish.

They just wouldn't eat. And then it happened. My depth sounder LIT UP. A stack of fish just covered the bottom. It went on and on. My eleven rods never moved. I marked the spot. I turned around and trolled back through them. We actually caught one! Only one. Ouch. I went in the cabin and put jigs on all my chumming rods. I told the guys we were going to try something different. We picked up the trolling rig and put it away. By the time I got out the jigging gear we were about a mile away from the school. I ran back and found them just down current of where I saw them before.

The wind and tide were going in the same direction so I knew we would have a good drift. I gave the guys a quick lesson in jigging and lines

were in the water. The first drift we hooked nine before we drifted out of the school. I came back around and we hooked five more. The clients looked at me kind of strange. I know the question was why didn't we do this three hours ago. And the answer is obvious. The conditions didn't warrant it.

When we left the dock that afternoon the tide and wind were in opposite directions. Winds were light and variable and the tide was getting ready to go slack. The facts were that I caught plenty of fish the day before trolling and the conditions were terrible for jigging.

However, after three hours of trolling I found that the wind had picked up and the tide had started to move in the same direction. The situation had changed. And we adjusted our

technique accordingly. And most importantly trolling for me just wasn't working for whatever reason.

I've had other days where I found a great bunch of fish and just couldn't get them to bite jigging. But put out a few trolling rods and they can't resist. Or on chumming days when the wind and tide are in opposite directions and the baits are all heading to the anchor line I've picked up my anchor and caught the fish jigging.

So the next time your having a tough day take a step back. Analyze the current “and upcoming conditions”. Look at your situation. It may be time to try something different. If nothing else at least your guests know your trying! We all know though there are some days you can't do anything right and you wish you were playing golf.



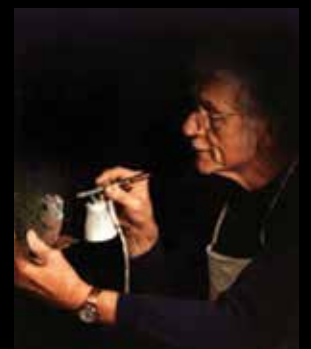
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Dozens of Charges Filed in String of Deer Poaching Incidents in Garrett County

Five Garrett County men were arrested after officers uncovered deer poaching activities that began in 2016 and continued into this year.

Acting on tips from the public and social media posts, Maryland Natural Resources Police officers were able to connect a string of illegal hunting incidents. Last month, officers served search warrants on homes in Garrett

County before filing the following charges:

Tyler Michael DeWitt, 21, of Swanton, was cited for 30 violations that could lead to a total maximum fine of \$45,500 and revocation of his hunting privileges for up to five years. He is accused of hunting during a closed season, possessing of deer in a closed season, hunting deer at night, hunting deer with a spotlight, shooting from a vehicle, hunting without written permission, removing the head or hide of a deer before check-in, failing to report a turkey kill, and obstructing or hindering a police investigation.

Dakota Lee Hinebaugh, 29, of Oakland, was cited for 24 violations that could lead to fines totaling \$39,500 and revocation of his hunting privileges for up to five years. He is accused of hunting without a license, hunting during a closed season, possessing of

deer in a closed season, hunting deer at night, hunting deer with a spotlight, hunting without written permission and removing the head or hide of a deer before check-in.

Michael Allen DeWitt, 42, of Oakland, was charged with obstructing and hindering a police investigation and littering after his son, Tyler, warned him in April to throw away packages of deer meat and antlers kept at the senior DeWitt's home. He could be fined \$1,500 and be sentenced to serve 30 days in jail.

Donald Lee Hinebaugh Jr., 41, of Oakland, received citations for failing to report two deer kills and aiding and abetting hunting without a license. He faces a fine of up to \$1,500.

Phillip Lyle DeWitt, 58, of Mount Lake Park, received citations for failing to report a kill and failing to record the kill on his Big Game Harvest Record. He could be fined a maximum of \$3,000.

In connection with the investigation, Maryland State Police charged Lukas Isaac Holler, 18, of Oakland, and James Wesley Lewis, 19, of Accident, each with possession of a rifle or shotgun after conviction of a disqualifying crime and illegal possession of ammunition. The weapons charge carries a maximum penalty of three years in prison and a fine of up to \$1,000, and the ammunition charge carries a maximum jail sentence of one year and a fine of up to \$1,000.

The investigation revealed that DeWitt and Hinebaugh engaged in night hunting on several occasions from roads in southern Garrett County. The other men were implicated in the activities. In April, officers searched an area near Graham Road and found about a dozen deer carcasses dumped over the embankment. Some of the heads of the carcasses had the skull plate/antlers removed while antlered

deer with small racks were intact, a common practice among "trophy" hunters.

Trial dates in Garrett District Court are pending.

A Washington County man was

charged last month with multiple counts of illegal deer hunting after a citizen reported hearing gunfire near his Clear Spring home.

Jeremy Tyler Gardner, 26, of Hagerstown, was charged with hunting while intoxicated, hunting with a light, shooting across a road, having a loaded weapon in the vehicle, hunting on private land without written permission and hunting coyotes in a closed season. Gardner also was charged by Maryland State Police with driving while intoxicated.

A trial date in Washington District Court has not been set. If found guilty of all charges, he could be sentenced to serve up to one year in prison, pay up to \$10,500 in fines and have his hunting privileges revoked for up to three years.

A Virginia man was arrested for

boating while impaired Aug. 5 on Deep Creek Lake in Garrett County.

Timothy James Mueller, 29, of Ashburn, was stopped at 10:30 p.m. after officers noticed his boat's running lights were not lit. He failed field sobriety tests and registered a blood alcohol content of 0.15, almost twice the legal limit of 0.08.

Mueller received four citations and is scheduled to appear in Garrett District Court on Sept. 20. The charges carry a maximum fine of \$2,500 and up to a year in prison.



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FROM MARTIN L. GARY.....

Curtis Peter Johns, 57, of Marion Station, Md.

Another loss. But not just any other. Like concentric rings, some friendships are closer than others. From the closest rings that include family and best friends, to the more distant ones like Facebook acquaintances, for me at least, some of whom I've never really met (some fishermen and bay related folk). This particular ring however, is very close. And this loss stings badly. Maybe because of the experiences we shared, or the respect I had for him as a person, or maybe because he is the same age as I am. All of that has weighed on my mind. At age 57, one would like to believe there is still a long road ahead in life. But when the very strongest are taken, both physically and spiritually, we are painfully reminded time and time again that there are no guarantees in life. Curtis Johns was such a man. As strong a man physically and spiritually as I have ever met.

Curtis passed away peacefully yesterday morning. When I got home last night, I read many kind remembrances for him. Telling a story, and keeping the very best of those that passed in our memories and carrying their most positive virtues forward is perhaps the best we can do. So for what it is worth, I'll offer up a couple of my stories for anyone who cares to read on.

I can't recall exactly when I met Curtis, but I suspect like many in my field, it was related to work with the various fisheries advisory commissions and committees, task force and work groups and other processes at MD DNR. He was also one of the invitees to represent the charter boat sector at the Striped Bass Summit in the late 1990s (see participant list at: <http://www.andrewloftus.com/reports/mdreport.pdf>). As I've said many times before, if you really want to effect change in fisheries management

that you feel strongly about, you have to show up face to face and state your case. Pontificating from the keyboard never seals the deal. Curtis is one of the many I have come to know that took the time and effort to show up. As I knew it, his work day involved getting up long before the sun rose, taking his fishing parties out onto Tangier Sound or the lower bay and returning late in the afternoon/evening. And often running evening trips. Countless times, Curtis would do this, clean up his boat, and then drive his truck the 125 miles from Crisfield to Annapolis. This to attend meetings of various kinds. In fisheries meetings, I've met all kinds of people. From the arrogant and obnoxious, who have no concerns about interrupting and disrespecting others, to the those that exhibit a more civil, milder mannered, poised and collaborative style of interaction. Dealing with that array of personalities has made life very interesting for me. Curtis fell into the latter category. He would never interrupt another person, no matter how strongly he felt about an issue. He almost always would wait until a cessation in dialogue occurred, and then he would politely raise his hand. Once called upon, he would calmly state his opinion, or ask his question. I never, ever recall



Curtis P. Johns

January 05, 1960 - August 11, 2017

him doing so in a manner that disrespected another's opinion. This isn't really a story, but I felt it needed to be stated because this roughly describes the fundamentals of Curtis's personality and how he treated others.

That having been said, I have two stories for my contribution to Curtis's remembrance. One of the Committee's Curtis served on was MD DNR's Artificial Reef Committee (He served up until his passing, and is still listed on their website <http://bit.ly/2wSfqLt>). When the Woodrow Wilson Bridge project occurred in ~2005, the 50+ barge loads of material from the old Wilson bridge provided the largest windfall for reef buildout




ever in the Chesapeake. As the coordinator of that project, I worked with that Committee and with specific members on specific reefs. Greg Madjeski on Point No Point Reef, Brian Keehn on the Gooses Reef, Sonney Forrest and other Solomons Captains on the Cedar Point Reef, and Curtis Johns on the Tangier Sound Reef. Through many, many meetings, Curtis would make those drives to Annapolis, sit through them and patiently wait his turn. Over the span of a couple of years we built the No Point Reef. Then the Cedar Point Reef. Then the Gooses Reef. And the Hog Island Reef with PRFC. All the while, Curtis never complained and waited patiently for his turn. And when his turn occurred, just like the Captains on the other sites, we involved him as the primary lead in the project. Looking back, this interactive collaboration was essential to the success of those reef build outs. Curtis sited the Tangier buildout, designed the reef architecture, and when the time came for deployment, he was onsite to supervise and make sure the materials went exactly where they need to go. This is the way we worked on all of these sites. Using the experiential knowledge of those that knew these locations the best. Regarding the Tangier Reef, Curtis told me....."If we place material on the sharp break in the SW corner of the permitted site, we'll see fish use that structure." A simple, strong, and to the point statement. I had no doubt he would be right.

His turn finally came. The person who drove the furthest to the meetings, and waited the longest for his turn, finally had his reef. In the several years after the reef was built, we monitored it via hook and line and dive surveys. The H&L surveys immediately validated Curtis's prediction by showing Stripers, blues, croakers, spot, black sea bass and tautog. Big tog. One of the few times in my interactions with Curtis that I saw a look of disbelief on his face was when the first really large tog came up on his boat in the H&L surveys. That size of many of the Tog far

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exceeded his expectations. And it wasn't just a few. Numerous tog were caught. But it was the dive surveys that revealed just how effective the structure was. Anyone that knows anything about that area knows visibility is very fickle. It took us three tries over 4 years to finally get a good day of visibility to dive the Tangier Sound Reef. Myself, Michael Eversmier, and Nick Caloyianis witnessed a staggering number of tog on this reef one December afternoon about decade ago (can't recall the specific year). And for someone like myself who's background is in fish ecology, the behavior of the Tautog was far different than those I have seen on the reefs and wrecks off the mid Atlantic. The coastal Tog are accustomed to seeing divers with spears! What I have been accustomed to with thier behaviour is a wariness that does not allow divers to get to get too close. So it shocked me when the tog on the Tangier Reef actually approached us to within a foot or so! So long as I live, I will never forget the memory of a large tog (~8-10 pounds) swimming right up to me, and turning sideways and almost seemingly cocking his head and eye to check me out. I have never seen that kind of behavior previously or since with Tautog. (Images below of the reef site, H&L caught fish and dive surveys). This was truly Curtis's Reef.

My second and last story is a simple one of a fishing trip I took with him one December, many years ago. Outside of scheduled meetings, my contact with him was always sporadic. I would call him when I had a question, and he would call me when he had one. Except one Friday afternoon in late December of...2007 (I think), he called me to ask what I was doing tomorrow. I told him no plans, but the weather looks pretty sketchy. He said "You need to come down here and see this. I have never seen as large a concentration of big Striped Bass as I've seen over the past couple of days. I'm not sure how long it will last." So, I brought my daughter Kelsey, a couple of her high school friends, Julie and Illiana, and a good friend of mine, Julie's dad Bill Ruppberger. We almost never left the house in Baltimore because of an ice storm. Curtis told me the worst of the weather would be to the north, and we would likely be ok in the Sound. So we gutted out the 100+ mile dicy ride through sleet and ice, all the while thinking....When Curtis says, you need to see this....I better make this happen! So we did, and amongst a group of 6-8 boats working just west of the Shell Leads off Smith Island, we witnessed an aggregation of giant striped bass of enormous proportion. From my estimation, cohorts from the 1993 year class, the 3rd largest in the MD juvenile finfish survey history dating back 60 years to 1957.

At the end, this was an example of Curtis doing what he does best, taking people fishing, finding the fish, and creating the memories of a lifetime. I can guarantee you that those kids (now grownups) will never forget that day, and for that matter, neither will I. I have a tremendous amount of respect for the charter captains as a profession, or as we call them....the "For hire sector." From a cultural perspective, they play a very important role. They very often take people out onto the Chesapeake (or other locations) that do not have the means to do so themselves, and they expose and immerse them into the ecology of Bay. People like Curtis are functional naturalists that use their knowledge and experience to educate people on all aspects of the Bay. From water quality and anthropomorphic impacts, to the identification fish and birds. They play an extremely important role in our society. And their industry has struggled in

recent years economically. Curtis was one of the best charter captains I've ever known, and I have been blessed to know many.

I received word on Monday afternoon (8.7) that those who wanted to say goodbye to Curtis would need to do so soon, as he was losing his hard fought battle with cancer. I left my office in Colonial Beach immediately after hearing this, and joined Phil Langley who was in Annapolis. I arrived at his home in Marion Station just outside of Crisfield nearly at 8 PM, and had a chance to spend a last half hour with my friend. Despite the pain and medication he was taking, I was relieved to see a smile on his face and a positive welcome and embrace as I entered his room. We spoke of a number of memories including the two I outlined above. When it was time to go, I hugged and kissed him, told him I loved and valued him as a good friend. We held hands for what seemed like an eternity, neither wanting to let go. It was hard for me to fathom how a man so physically and spiritually tough, a man that could get his hand mangled in a chum grinder accident, extract his hand from the mechanized grinder, wrap it up and drive his fishing party ~20 miles back from the Middle Grounds to Crisfield could succumb to this disease at his/our age. As I said above, this disease knows no enemies. I parted with him, and the drive home was surreal. Leaving a friend knowing that you will never talk to him again. It almost felt like desertion.

For those of you that really know me and took the time to read this, this is just me as I am expressing my thoughts. I don't hold anything back for those I care about. If you don't really know me and you are taken aback by my expressions, I am unapologetic for my candor. I write these remembrances to make others aware, and also shed some insight regarding those I was blessed to know that you might not be aware of.

Thanks for hanging in there if you made it this far.

Donations in memory of Curtis Johns can be made to the Eastern Shore Evangelistic Church, 5789 Charles Cannon Rd., Marion, Md., 21838, or the Richard A. Henson Cancer Institute, Peninsula Regional Medical Center, 100 E. Carroll St., Salisbury, Md. 21801.

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Gigantic prehistoric fish caught in Eastern Shore creek

FEDERALSBURG, MD. (WUSA9) - With its armor-like scales, the Atlantic Sturgeon looks like a swimming stegosaurus. That's perhaps because the animal is nearly identical to its ancestors that swam at the time of dinosaurs, according to 120 million-year-old fossil records.

This week, awestruck Maryland fisheries biologists announced the capture and release of an endangered Atlantic Sturgeon in the relatively shallow inland waters of Marshyhope Creek near Federalsburg, Md.

The behemoth adult female laden with eggs tipped the scales at 181-pounds and measured seven and a half feet from nose to tip-of-tail.

Two burly men had to leap in the water to help heave the specimen into the biologists' boat, according to Chuck Stence, who is conducting a study of the exceedingly rare fish for Maryland's Department of Natural Resources.

It is by far the largest Atlantic sturgeon captured by Maryland biologists since they began trying to survey for the species in 2014. It is also by far the largest species of fish that swims into Maryland's fresh inland waters from the ocean.

Sturgeon are the fish that provide caviar. But thanks to over-fishing, dams, and other destruction of habitat, these fishy throwbacks to the dinosaur age are endangered on the U.S. east coast.

Sturgeon were once plentiful in the Chesapeake Bay region, but self-sustaining, reproducing populations of the fish have been considered "extirpated" since at least the 1970's.



The capture of the sturgeon in Marshyhope Creek is a hopeful sign. Stence says biologists suspect the fish are in the area for an unusual fall spawning effort. Most sturgeon spawn in spring, but the big female had eggs. Smaller males have been captured in the area that appeared to be ready to fertilize.

Stence says his team has not documented actual spawning and has never captured any juvenile fish so there is no proof that successful reproduction is actually occurring.

Maryland's DNR has captured 23 sturgeon since 2014. The next biggest was about 150lbs.

DNA samples have been taken and tracking devices have been attached to captured specimens. Males have been documented swimming in the Atlantic off the coast of Georgia before migrating back to the Chesapeake, Stence said.

Historically, Atlantic sturgeon as large as 800 lbs have been recorded. The fish can live as long as 80 years.








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It was a picture-perfect morning as 145 boats headed offshore on the final day of the 2017 MidAtlantic tournament. A light breeze made for calm seas and as is usually the case, Day Five would prove to be Moving Day once again at the tournament with fortunes made for some and dashed for others as several significant changes to the leaderboard occurred. Though the billfish bite was somewhat slow by MidAtlantic tournament standards several large white marlin were reported boated during the day. It was shortly after the evening's weigh-in session got underway at 5 p.m. when Scott Poole's Waste Knot from Morehead, North Carolina with Captain Patrick Kannan at the wheel pulled to the scale in Ocean City and weighed a white marlin of 75 pounds for angler Kyle Mayer which hurdled the others to the top of the leaderboard in the category. Poole and his crew of the Waste Knot were among those eyeing the scale as minutes later Captain JJ Logan wheeled Rich Van Camps Reel Rodeo from Fort Lauderdale, Florida into the marina with an upright white marlin flag flying indicating they had a boated billfish aboard. Moments later angler Andrew Kennedy's billfish would weigh 71 pounds and Reel Rodeo would finish with the third heaviest white marlin for the tournament and won \$73,602. Poole and his crew aboard the Waste Knot let out a sigh of relief as their heaviest white marlin gave the crew \$796,509! Ken Hager's Taylor Jean from Tinton Falls, New Jersey held on to take home the second heaviest white marlin prize and a check for \$217,665 for his 72-pound billfish. In other news in the white marlin category on Day Five Captain Pete Ryan wheeled Rich Ryon's Anthracite to the scale in Cape May and weighed a 70-pounder for angler Drew Parker to get on the board while Andy Schlotter's My Time from Hilltown, Pennsylvania weighed a 68-pounder for angler Tom Schlotter to join the crowd on the leaderboard.



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Mike Henderson, owner of Buzz's Marina with Cobia caught on August 1, 2017 near Point Lookout.

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Early August 2017 Hypoxia Report

Dissolved oxygen conditions in Maryland's portion of the Chesapeake Bay mainstem were much better than average for early August, reports the Maryland Department of Natural Resources.

The hypoxic water volume (areas with less than 2 mg/l oxygen) was 0.91 cubic miles, which is much smaller than the early August 1985-2016 average of 1.31 cubic miles. No anoxic zones (areas with less than 0.2 mg/l oxygen) were detected.

Crabs, fish, oysters and other creatures require oxygen to survive with levels above 5 mg/l considered optimal to support aquatic health.

The better-than-average conditions follow similar results from early July. While hypoxic volume estimation was not available for late July, conditions could be more favorable due, in part, to lower than average temperatures in the week leading up to sampling. Higher temperatures

generally cause more stratification of the water column, which inhibits oxygen from mixing into deeper waters. Waters with higher temperatures also hold less oxygen.

In the beginning of June, the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, U.S. Geological Survey, University of Maryland Center for Environmental Science and University of Michigan scientists predicted a slightly larger than average hypoxic volume for the bay due to higher spring flows (January-May) and nitrogen loading from the Susquehanna River.

Scientists and natural resource managers study the volume and duration of bay hypoxia to determine possible impacts to bay life. Each year (June-September), the department computes these volumes from data collected by Maryland and Virginia monitoring teams. Data collection is funded by these states and the Environmental Protection Agency's Chesapeake Bay Program. Monitoring and reporting will continue with late August and September reports.



Jim Gronaw doing what he does best. Corn-fed hen at 10 5/8 inches and a 10.25 inch below.



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SPANNING THE GLOBE

Florida fishermen catch 11-foot alligator, catch even bigger one days later

Four fishermen in Pensacola, Florida, had the hunt of a lifetime when they caught an 11-foot alligator on Tuesday -- and outdid themselves by catching a 12-footer two days later.

The men – Nick Naylor, John Booker, Casey Shields and Kenny Way – caught an 11-foot, 375-pound alligator in Blackwater Bay on Tuesday night into Wednesday morning, the Pensacola News Journal reported. It took them three hours to fully snag the reptile, which they killed and took to a nearby taxidermy.

Then, on Thursday night, the group spent two hours wrangling an even bigger alligator – 12-feet, 6-inches, according to a Facebook post by Booker.

The longest alligator captured on record in the state of Florida is 14-feet, 3 1/2-inches, according to the Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission.



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“Montana Grant”



By Grant Soukup

TALKING TO THE DEER!!!

All critters communicate. The messages may be simple but they can be seen, heard, or smelled by the attentive hunter. Body language speaks more loudly than deer sounds. Learning how to talk to the deer will speak loudly toward tagging a great buck.

What a deer is thinking, and saying, are displayed by its body language. If you see a buck prancing, head up, and his tail halfway out, then he is saying “I am the Big Buck of the woods!” You can understand where the buck is focused by looking at his nose and ears. They will be pointed at the curiosity he senses. If you see a doe, with her tail wagging slowly side to side, she is probably in estrus, and is has a buck on her tail. If you see a buck with its head back, and front lip curled, you are seeing the “Flehmen Posture”. The buck is trying to smell, and locate a doe in estrus. Now is when you should make your doe call. Knowing what the deer are saying, gives the hunter a huge advantage.

Stand hunting is fine, but not the only way to deer hunt. Sitting for hours above the ground is boring. Sure, you can birdwatch, text, snooze, or flex, but ultimately, you need to simply wait. Bait piles, luck, feeders, and natural movements are all dependent factors. Hunting in a tree is about waiting, not hunting. About the time you need to stretch, your movement spooks the deer. Every movement must be calculated and managed.

Tree stands are deadly. They can help you to surprise a deer, but most deer hunting accidents are a result of tree stand use. We have all heard the stories of hunters falling from their perch. Last season, I knew a hunter that tripped climbing a staircase to his comfy, and super fancy, box stand. The stairs are the same you would find on a home. It even had a handrail and tread covers. On the way up the stairs, he stepped on the strap of his cooler, and fell off. His leg hooked into the step and broke. He hung there for 5 hours until the guide returned, after dark, to pick him up.

Still hunting is also a sporting, and skillful, way to hunt. Still hunting may be a more exciting and effective technique. Knowing a deer’s language will help you to interpret what is going on. You will spook some deer, and make mistakes, but you will be “hunting” and not just sitting. The knowledge and skill that you acquire is unsurpassed. Now the hunter is also physically, and mentally engaged in the hunt.

Deer do make sounds and “talk” to each other. The most common sounds

are snorts, wheezes, bleats, and grunts. Become a student of the deer’s language. Bucks also respond to the sounds of rattling antlers, which mimics bucks fighting. Snorts are often the noise a deer makes by clearing their nostrils. Something has alerted them and they clear out their nose so they can get a good whiff of a threat. Usually, this means you are busted. Wheezes and grunts are sounds deer make to announce their presence to each other. Bugling, is an aspect of the deer language found in elk and Sika deer.

When hunting from the ground, knowing “deer talk” is essential. First, make sure you are hunting into the wind, so you can smell, and hear the deer first. You will be amazed how often you will smell a deer, especially on cool fall mornings. Now you need to see the deer to know what they are saying. Learn to see a deer’s ear twitch, a tail flip, antler reflection, and look for horizontal lines. These shapes will often show the back and belly of a deer in a vertical forest. Rarely will you see the whole deer. Don’t look for a deer, look for a part of a deer.

Since so many hunters are high above the ground, deer are more tuned into that threat. Scent is a huge factor as a cone of hunter smell falls from the airborne hunting stand, and spreads over a large area. Deer have become more conditioned to look up. If you hunt on the ground, and into the wind, your scent is closer, and consolidated to the ground.

Interpreting what a deer is thinking, and saying, can allow the hunter to stalk closer. If their tails are down, and generally still, all is well. If the tail is up, stay still. Hoof stomps are when deer warn others of potential danger. A tarsal scent is also being released, from their toes, which will be on site for hours. Now the deer will amplify their eyes, and noses, to identify the threat. Wait until the deer become relaxed, and feed, before you stalk again.

Hunt with the attitude that you expect to see deer at any moment. Do not let your guard down. Calculate every step. It is called “Still Hunting” for a reason. Rarely does a good still hunter move more than 3 slow, and precise steps. Stop by trees, and cover. Use all your senses to scan the cover around you. This form of hunting requires your total focus. No time for texting, snacks, and napping. Time flies by and you will be surprised at the number of deer, and critters you will see.

A deer will hear you 3 times, see you twice, but smell you once! Masking your scent is paramount! Hunting the wind is a must! Identify every smell, sound, and movement. Binoculars are a great aid.

Another great way to talk to the deer, when still hunting, is to carry a spare deer tail, and a bleat call. When you are moving along, and bump a deer, use the bleat call and flick the tail, side to side, in front of you. This works best with single deer and small groups of deer. If they have winded you, forget it. But... this tail flick idea works well early in the season and will allow you to get close enough for a shot.

Humans also give off an electromagnetic field, that animals can sense. Try wearing H.E.C.S., a garment made to mask the electrical signals your body gives off. The human body has a measurable electric field. Every movement is a result of an electric spark, or synapse, that turns muscles

on and off. The HECS suit, “Human Electromagnetic Concealment System”, eliminates this electric field. Weather makes the suit more, or less effective but... I have had all kinds of critters come closer than I ever could imagine. I use it as another layer of camouflage.

Luck is always a factor. You can’t control everything. At least you can learn how to understand what the deer are telling you!

Talk to the animals!

Montana Grant

For more Montana Grant, visit his website at www.montanagrانتfishing.com.



Dave Wildrout and Archie Singleton. They have spent a lifetime fishing the bay, together. This day was at Swan Point catching stripers in a new boat.

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adj. (of water) A little salty. A little fresh.








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Coastal Report

By Capt. Mark Sampson

So often we hear details about someone losing a really big fish, and from the description of what happened it becomes obvious that the crew was simply not properly prepared for success with a fish of those proportions. Every fisherman wants to hook and land a big fish, then they finally have an opportunity to do so and they manage to flub it up! Well maybe not always, but you sure do hear plenty of stories about “the big one that got away” more than you do about little ones that manage to make their escape.

The best way to ensure that you actually land that dream fish when it finally makes an appearance on the end of your line is to prepare ahead of time for the eventuality that some day it’s going to happen. It’s like playing a slot machine - you know that if you pull the handle enough times sooner or later you’ll hit the jackpot, and if you’re prepared you’ll have a little bucket sitting on the floor beside you to collect your winnings, if you’re not ready to win you’re bound to end up crawling about the casino floor scrambling to pick up your winning nickels as they overflow from your shirt pockets. Being prepared to win is the first step in winning!

So how do you prepare to catch a fish that might, if you’re really lucky, only come along once every few years? A good start would be to run some “what-if” scenarios through your head. If you’re chunking for tuna ask yourself “what if instead of hooking the standard 30-50 pound yellowfin we tie into a 200-pound bluefin? Do our reels have enough line capacity and are the drags smooth enough under pressure to handle a tussle with a fish like that? Is the terminal tackle including hooks, knots, leader, and swivels up to the extra pressure that might be necessary to exert on such a fish to successfully land it? In this case I mentioned tuna, but the same questions can be asked of anglers fishing for marlin, sharks, flounder, stripers or any other type of fish that has the potential to grow to gargantuan proportions not often encountered by the average angler.

If in order to fool the average 30-50 pound yellowfin anglers find the need to use light 30-pound leaders and small hooks they are going to be at an immediate disadvantage when that 200-pounder hits. A small hook and light leader attached to a jumbo fish is not a good recipe for success. But if that’s what’s needed to catch the smaller fish then anglers have to work with what they’ve got and make the best of it. To land a 200-pound tuna on 30-pound leader (in a reasonable amount of time) anglers will want to apply as much pressure as the terminal tackle will allow, requiring that

every knot be perfect, the hook stout enough that it won’t straighten out, and the leader be flawless. The reel’s drag will also have to be smooth as silk and the maximum drag setting set so that it cannot over-tax the breaking strength of the leader. Leaders should be checked at the dock by setting the drag at “full,” hooking each leader up to the rod, and with a screwdriver in the bend of the hook someone can take a run down the dock and see how it all holds up. If something is going to “let go” let it happen then, not when that prize fish is on the line. It doesn’t matter if someone is targeting tuna or flounder, knowing that their terminal tackle is put together as best as it can be should give anglers the confidence to push their drag up to “full” if they hook an exceptional fish.

Another part of being ready to deal with a really big fish is having enough line your reel to handle whatever might come along. A monster size fish is likely going to pull out a lot of line and even if you’re fishing from a boat it might take more than just a few minutes to get up and running after a fish and actually regain some line. Anglers fishing from a bridge, pier, or shoreline have it even tougher because they don’t have the option of going after a fish that’s hell-bent on taking all their string! Fortunately, with today’s thin but strong braided lines even small reels and can hold many hundreds of yards of line and greatly extend the radius that a fish can run from the angler. Anglers wishing to be prepared for an exceptionally large fish will need to decide for themselves if it will be to their advantage to use heavier line that will allow for higher drag settings or lighter line that will allow their reel to hold more line.

Of course, even with the most finely tuned tackle, if an exceptional fish comes along but the wrong angler is on the rod – the encounter might be doomed to failure from the start. Anglers come in all sizes, skill-levels, and physical abilities. No one wants to hurt anyone’s feeling, but sometimes you just have to be practical about things and face the reality that, if it’s little 12-year-old Jimmy’s turn to catch the next fish that bites, and suddenly an 800-pound blue marlin slurps down a rigged mackerel set out on 80-pound tackle, it might be necessary to have the little guy miss a turn and allow “Big Jake” to have a go at the fish. Hopefully the day will come when Jimmy will do battle with a monster, but right then and there if that fish is going to be caught every tool used to

bring fish-to-fisherman including the person on the rod’s physical strength, stamina, and angling skills needs to be putting out 100% effort.

Hook, leader, swivel, knots, line, rod, reel, drag, boat handling, and the angler’s capabilities all need to come together in perfect sync to make an unexpected and exceptional catch happen. A failure in a single link in the chain means a lost fish and missed opportunity to land a possible fish of a lifetime.



Angelina Watts is at it again a 6 pound Flounder at the blackfish reef jigging her favorite spro bucktail in 65ft water over the wreck.

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~Saturday September 9, 2017 6:00AM-2:00PM~

Rock Hall, MD. ~Weigh In is 3:00PM Sharp ~ Fish Fry/ Cook out 4:00PM~

~All Rules will be on Website prior to Tournament~

~\$50 Donation Per Angler / \$35 Donation under 16 yrs old~ ~\$25 Donation Weigh-In & Fish Fry Only~

~Paid in Cash or Check to Wyatt Russum Fund or The Crumpton United Methodist Church~

~ALL participants must fill out and return an Entry Form~ ~There will be a Charter Boat & a Private Boat Division~ ~Anyone looking for a boat to fish, please contact JR. I will do my best to help you find a local Charter Boat Captain to fish with. I may be able to combine small groups. You will be required to Charter the Fishing boat along with your entry fee~

~Lots of great prizes for the Lucky Winners~

Wyatt's Story

August 3rd 2015 we took Wyatt to the doctor with a mild fever that wouldn't go away. After some blood work was performed his pediatrician called and told Jen to take him immediately to the hospital. Less than 12 hours later we learned Wyatt had cancer. After additional testing of his bone marrow and spinal fluid we learned his complete diagnosis – Very High Risk Acute Lymphoblastic Leukemia. The cancer was found in his blood, bone marrow, and spinal fluid (which surrounds the brain). For the next five weeks we didn't leave the hospital. Wyatt received a very rigorous phase of treatment in order to aggressively attack the cancer cells. Being able to go home and only return for treatments as part of his regimen was a welcome change. But it didn't last too long. During the past 9 months of intensive treatment, Wyatt's immune system was so fragile that even catching the common cold would put him back in the hospital. Since then we have had numerous week-long stays. A fever in October kept Wyatt there for 21 days.

During our stay, we were connected to an incredible group of young men from the Theta Chi Fraternity at the University of Delaware. These young men "adopted" Wyatt into their Fraternity. Wyatt looks forward to the boys visiting every time we are in the hospital. Their visits allowed Jen and me to eat lunch in the cafeteria or just get out of the room for an hour. I can't even begin to tell you what these young men have done for my son and for my family. I tried to think of how to pay these young men back (just a little) for what they have done. Then all of the sudden it hit me, what's better than a fishing trip? So that is where the idea of a fishing tournament came. I told Kyle, the young man in charge, I want to provide the guys from the Fraternity a free fishing trip. The Frat guys will have to pay the entry fee into the tournament, but I am going to provide boats for them to fish on. Hell, it's the least I could do! I am also looking to provide a boat for other Heroes who are fighting childhood cancer like my son Wyatt. The reason I am asking for Sponsors is to help pay for boats for these Heroes and offset the cost of the tournament. If I am lucky enough to make this work, any money made from the tournament will go towards Wyatt's health bills for the next 2 ½ years. Unfortunately at this point Wyatt still has a long journey ahead. We have been shown so much kindness and generosity during this difficult time. In the future, we really want this to be our way of "paying it forward". To create an annual event to help local families going thru the same things we are going thru. Thank you all in advance for

your consideration and generosity.

~JR and Jen Russum~

JR Russum

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“The Last Word”

Does Outdoor TV lead to poaching?

By Steve Huettner

I have to admit that when outdoor TV channels first appeared, I like many hunters was pretty excited to be able to watch sportsmen hunting and fishing anytime I wanted. Being able to watch an hour of hunting adventures in between days afield seemed like a good waste of time.

As the industry has grown, so have the amount of shows produced and the personalities that host the shows. Following the shows are the sponsors and advertisers who are hoping to capture our attention with their products and our dollars.

An unfortunate byproduct of these shows has been that some hosts have knowingly violated game laws to “get the shot” they need for program. A quick google search shows a disheartening list of violations.

Two Kentucky men pled no contest and face nearly \$31,000 in fines after they killed two Wyoming elk on a national television show. Wyoming officials report that, while watching Mills and Duncan’s show “Hunting in the Sticks” on the Pursuit Channel, a tipster noticed that the two men killed an elk in an area for which they weren’t licensed. “I believe the two defendants were driven to get kill-shot footage for the television show, and that resulted in their making bad decisions,” Mike Ehlebracht, investigative supervisor for the Wyoming Game and Fish, said via a department news release.

Bill Busbice, host of Wildgame Nation on the Outdoor Channel has been sentenced for intentionally allowing an antlerless elk to go to waste and for hunting without a proper license. Mr. Busbice had been filming the

elk hunt to feature on his reality TV hunting show. The video and audio recording shows that Mr. Busbice shot several times at a large bull in a herd of elk and missed several times and then shows Mr. Busbice shooting and hitting a calf. At the end of the video Busbice says, “We have to eliminate that part when I shot a cow.” He also is recorded saying, “Yeah, but we got to get rid of that cow.”

The host of a cable TV hunting show has pleaded guilty as part of an investigation into poaching on a remote national preserve in Alaska. The terms of a plea deal signed by Clark W. Dixon on Monday call for an 18-month prison sentence, a \$75,000 fine and forfeiture of trophies and weapons that the U.S. attorney’s office says were used in the illegal taking of game.

A Chewelah man and host of the former cable TV hunting show “Trophy State of Mind” has been convicted and fined \$12,215 for trespassing and illegally hunting deer and elk in Montana. Matthew Alwine, 28, was sentenced Wednesday for hunting violations on private property in the Crazy Mountains east of Clyde Park from 2010 to 2014, according to Montana Fish, Wildlife and Parks officers.

William “Spook” Spann has been sentenced to 30 days in jail and has been banned from hunting worldwide for one year. Spann, who is a professional hunter and television host of Spook Nation, received the sentence for violating conditions of a probation for a poaching violation he received last year. According to a court document, U.S. Magistrate Judge James P. O’Hara ruled Spann had violated a probation that forbid him from hunting anywhere in the United States for the first half of this year. Back in November 2012, Spann

pleaded guilty to a 2007 violation of the Lacey Act, when he transported an illegally-tagged buck from Kansas to Tennessee. That buck, killed in Stafford County, carried non-typical antlers that gross-scored about 230 on the Pope & Young scoring system.

What is even more depressing is that the case listed above are just a small sample of all the cases that one can find online. It seems that the need to make a living, chase sponsor dollars, and being able to brag about closing the deal and killing a trophy animal has clouded the judgment of some TV hunters.

What is annoying is that cases listed above further the cause of those who may be on the fence about hunting. All it takes is a few cases like this to tip public opinion against hunters. One would hope that those who

make a living from the outdoors, and are in the public eye would want to do the right thing. Those listed above, and others are also an insult to hunters that follow the rules, hunt ethically and do the right thing. We hunt, and realize that sometimes the animal wins; and we’re ok with that.

Hopefully channels will stop airing individuals that are convicted of major game violations and sponsors will not want to be associated with them. This will hopefully make those individuals think before considering violating the law.

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Dan Kilroy with a 45-inch cobia caught while fishing with Frank Bonanno near Point Lookout on August 8, 2017.

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Dove Recipes

Campfire Doves

Any number of doves

Red wine (Cabernet Sauvignon is good)

Lemon pepper spice

Heavy-duty aluminum foil squares

Lay each dove on a square of foil. Cup the foil slightly. Splash a little red wine on the bird, then season generously with lemon pepper. Wrap the bird tightly, being sure the foil is sealed around the edges.

The packages are now laid on campfire coals or an outdoor grill for roasting. Allow at least an hour, turning occasionally. Open one bird to see if it's tender. Give more time if needed.

They need room to cook.

Cook fillets for about 2-3 minutes or until the bottom edges begin to slightly brown.

Carefully turn each fillet and let cook another 1-2 minutes until done.

Remove fillets from hot oil, place on a plate lined with paper towels to drain. Serve hot and enjoy!

Shishkabobs -- Smoked Bbq'ed Turtle Doves

Filet half dove breasts White Onion Green Peppers Bacon

Wrap halved filet dove breasts with bacon. Slice Onions and Green Peppers in big chunks.

Place sliced onion followed by a dove breast wrapped in bacon followed by a sliced green pepper on skewer and repeat until skewer(s) is(are) full (Onion, Dove&Bacon,Green Pepper then repeat until full).

When skewers are full use a basting brush to lightly cover skewed foods with BBQ sauce.

Build a good bed of coals and spread when hot. Place a couple chunks of hickory on coals for smoke.

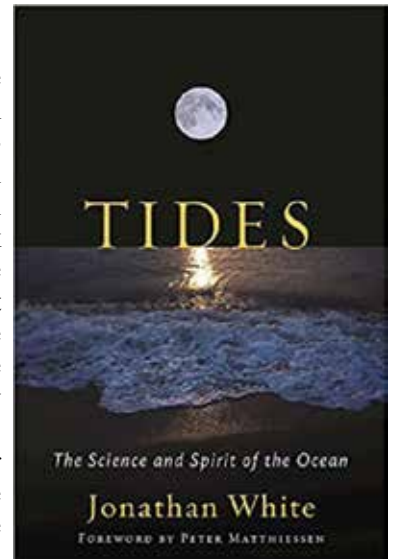
Place skewers on fire until done and enjoy .

Book of the Month

TIDES: THE SCIENCE AND SPIRIT OF THE OCEAN

by - Jonathan White -

In *Tides: The Science and Spirit of the Ocean*, writer, sailor, and surfer Jonathan White takes readers across the globe to discover the science and spirit of ocean tides. In the Arctic, White shimmies under the ice with an Inuit elder to hunt for mussels in the dark cavities left behind at low tide; in China, he races the Silver Dragon, a twenty-five-foot tidal bore that crashes eighty miles up the Qiantang River; in France, he interviews the monks that live in the tide-wrapped monastery of Mont Saint-Michel; in Chile and Scotland, he investigates the growth of tidal power generation; and in Panama and Venice, he delves into how the threat of sea level rise is changing human culture—the very old and very new. *Tides* combines lyrical prose, colorful adventure travel, and provocative scientific inquiry into the elemental, mysterious paradox that keeps our planet's waters in constant motion. Photographs, scientific figures, line drawings, and sixteen color photos dramatically illustrate this engaging, expert tour of the tides.



"Tides: The Science and Spirit of the Ocean offers a grand mix of science history, ocean lore and literary travel writing." — Oregonian

"A fascinating work of literary nonfiction, rich with characters, stories and scenes from around the globe." — Bangor Daily News

"White's research makes *Tides* a fascinating read." — Portland Press Herald

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Casey Michelle has had a stellar year on the Rockfish -

About the Casey Michelle -

Captain Brady is a local fisherman who was born and raised on the Eastern Shore. He has spent many days out on the Chesapeake Bay crabbing, fishing, and oystering over the last 30 years. He grew up on Tilghman Island, the son of a waterman, and one of five children. His experience and knowledge makes him one of the best at what he does.

Captain Brady was the top professional money winner in the 2010 MSSA Spring Rockfish Tournament. He placed 5th overall in the professional divi-

sion. He currently holds a USCG 100 Ton Master license and is a member of the National Association of Charterboat Operators (NACO), the Maryland Charterboat Association (MCBA), and the Upper Bay Captains Association.

The charter boat, the Casey Michelle III, is harbored at Kentmorr Marina on historic Kent Island. She is a 1998 46' Markley finished by Jay Allen in Cambridge, MD. In April of 2012, Captain Brady purchased the Casey Michelle III from another local charter captain who was no longer running charters. After a 4-month overhaul she was placed back in service. She is U.S. Coast Guard approved for up to six passengers. She replaced the 40' Casey Michelle II which was taken out of service on August 19th, 2012.



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-Theodore Roosevelt



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