

Fishing & Hunting TM Journal

Jonathan Irons age 9 from Queenstown, MD is holding up his personal best a 40" 25lb rockfish caught on 4/23 on a white tandem near Poplar Island. He is assisted by his older brother Daniel who netted the fish. The fish was post spawn and had 12 menhaden in her stomach in varying stages of digestion. Jonathan said #13 was unlucky!



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- RELEASING BIG PANFISH...WHY IT MAKES SENSE
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FREE

DNREC's Sportsmen Against Hunger program distributes nearly 19,000 pounds of venison to Delawareans in need

DOVER – During the 2012-2013 deer season, hunters donated 18,761 pounds of venison from 708 deer to the Delaware Sportsmen Against Hunger Program. DNREC Division of Fish and Wildlife staff is working to distribute the frozen ground venison to more than 30 charitable organizations and food pantries throughout the state to



provide meals for needy Delawareans. The venison was processed by nine participating private butchers plus a butcher shop located at the Sussex Community Corrections Center in Georgetown. The venison processing facility is staffed by offenders in the SCCC's Violation of Probation Center, who have been specially trained as butchers. Since the Delaware Department of Correction program began in 2005, the Sussex facility has processed more than 70,000 pounds of venison. This year, the facility processed 268 deer into 7,636 pounds of venison at substantial savings to the Sportsmen Against Hunger program.

Since Delaware Sportsmen Against Hunger was founded in 1992 by a coalition of sporting groups, hunters have donated more than 400,000 pounds of venison, providing nearly 1.5 million meals to Delawareans in need. The amount of venison donated this year was less than the 2011-12 season, in which 23,762 pounds of venison was donated from 725 deer.

For more information, please visit the DNREC Division of Fish & Wildlife website at Sportsmen Against Hunger, or call 302-284-1077.

Maryland Natural Resources court program expands

A Maryland program that sets aside certain days to hear only natural resource cases has expanded to Calvert, Charles and St. Mary's counties. The program ensures that natural resource related violations are tried under the same precedent, so that judgments are just and equal. The Maryland Department of Natural Resources (DNR), the Office of the Attorney General, and the District Court of Maryland kicked off the program in 2010 in Anne Arundel County and, upon its success, expanded it to lower Eastern Shore counties in summer 2011.

"Expanding this program to additional counties will further protect and preserve our natural world today and for generations to come," said DNR

Secretary John Griffin. "By trying these cases together, we can give each violation the attention it deserves, and deliver penalties that fit the crime."

Under the program, natural resources cases including fishing, hunting, boating and tree expert violations from Calvert, Charles and St. Mary's counties are heard in the county where the case originated, on specific days each month, and prosecuted by a designated State's Attorney from that county. For example, all Calvert County cases are heard on the third Friday of each month at 1 p.m.

"Thanks to other agencies helping DNR carry out its mission of increased enforcement and stricter penalties,

we can help ensure that those who choose to exploit our natural and living resources do not get away with it," said DNR Deputy Secretary Joe Gill. "Our goal is to ultimately expand this program to every county in Maryland."

In May 2011, Governor Martin O'Malley signed into law legislation to protect Maryland's fisheries and encourage shellfish aquaculture. As part of an overall focus on enforcement efforts to better protect Maryland's public fishery resources, DNR also established a tougher penalty system for commercial fishing

violations. Previously, a waterman had to receive multiple convictions before the Department could impose a suspension; the new system allows the agency to impose suspensions for a single conviction. Additionally, the State increased the penalty for engaging in commercial fishing with a suspended license, a revoked license or without a license, by establishing a fine of up to \$25,000 and imprisonment for up to one year.



Justin Synon bagged this buck in Baltimore County which scoped 157 7/8. Photo Courtesy of Gun Shack.



Steve Tappa caught this Snakehead in Mattawoman Creek. It weighed in at 16.3 lbs. Photo courtesy of the Md. anglers log



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These customers of Clyde's Sport Shop are showing off some nice white perch



“HOOKED ON FISHING”

The Science of Fishing

By Lenny Rudow

As you prepare to head out and target fish on the Chesapeake Bay this year, there's a new way for you to put science to work for you. It comes to us courtesy of NOAA, and if you love to hate the federal government as much as some independent-minded outdoorsmen, you'll hate to admit how much it helps you boost your success rate. But if ever there was a case study in tax dollars benefiting we anglers, this is it: the Chesapeake Bay Interpretive Buoy System.

This buoy system has been active for a couple of years, and now NOAA is reaching out to recreational fishermen, to get the word out. I'm going to help them, because once I started playing around with the data these buoys collect I realized I'd be traipsing through their web site the night before virtually every fishing trip this season—and you should, too. The reason why is simple: the info the buoys send to www.buoybay.noaa.gov is going to help you and me catch more fish.

The list of pertinent, real-time data you can pick up here is one heck of a lot longer than what you can get from the old-fashioned buoys that told us wind speed, wave height, water and air

temperature, and the like. Along with those old stand-bys, here are a few of the highlights: dissolved oxygen level, chlorophyll level, current speed and direction, turbidity, and salinity.

This is data that can tell you where the fish are more or less likely to be, on any given trip. Let's take dissolved oxygen, for example. When it drops below 5.0, rockfish feel stressed and are likely to leave for waters with a higher oxygen content. We all know that at certain times of the year, much of the bay's waters are oxygen-depleted, leading to dead zones. Fishing in a dead zone is, of course, a waste of your precious fishing-time. Now let's say there was a hot bite at the mouth of the Severn last weekend. During the week there was an algae bloom, oxygen levels plummeted, and the fish moved out. If you check the Annapolis buoy the day before you go fishing, you'll see this and choose a different spot. If you don't, you'll be fishing in a dead zone for half the day before you figure things out the hard way.

Now let's say you're planning a day of light-tackle casting in the northern bay. It rained a lot a day or two ago, and you're not sure if a slug of muddy water is has shut things down. Click on the Susquehanna buoy, and you'll get a good read on water turbidity from right in your living room. You

were thinking of fishing somewhere entirely different? There are 10 of these buoys anchored up and down the bay, covering the Susquehanna, Patapsco, Annapolis, the Gooses, upper Potomac, lower Potomac, Stingray Point, Jamestown, Norfolk, and First Landing.

This is cool stuff, but it gets better. Once you get to a buoy's web page, you can click on the graph column and pull a graph in one, seven, or 30 day increments from any time frame. So you can take a look at your catch logs for any given month, then compare them to trends in water clarity, chlorophyll levels, or other water quality trends, at any of the spots these buoys are placed. Nifty.

FLOUNDER ALERT!

Guess what, folks? This year's flounder regs have been announced and they are awesome: four fish per person, with a 16" minimum. That means it'll be worth putting in some time to focus on flatfish, from the Bay Bridges clear on out to Ocean City. But many of us haven't gone after this species in a while, due to a lackluster bite and tough-to-meet minimum sizes. Ready to change that? Here's a one-two-three flounder primer.

1. When fishing with bait, never set the hook upon the initial strike. You'll feel a “twang-twang-twang”

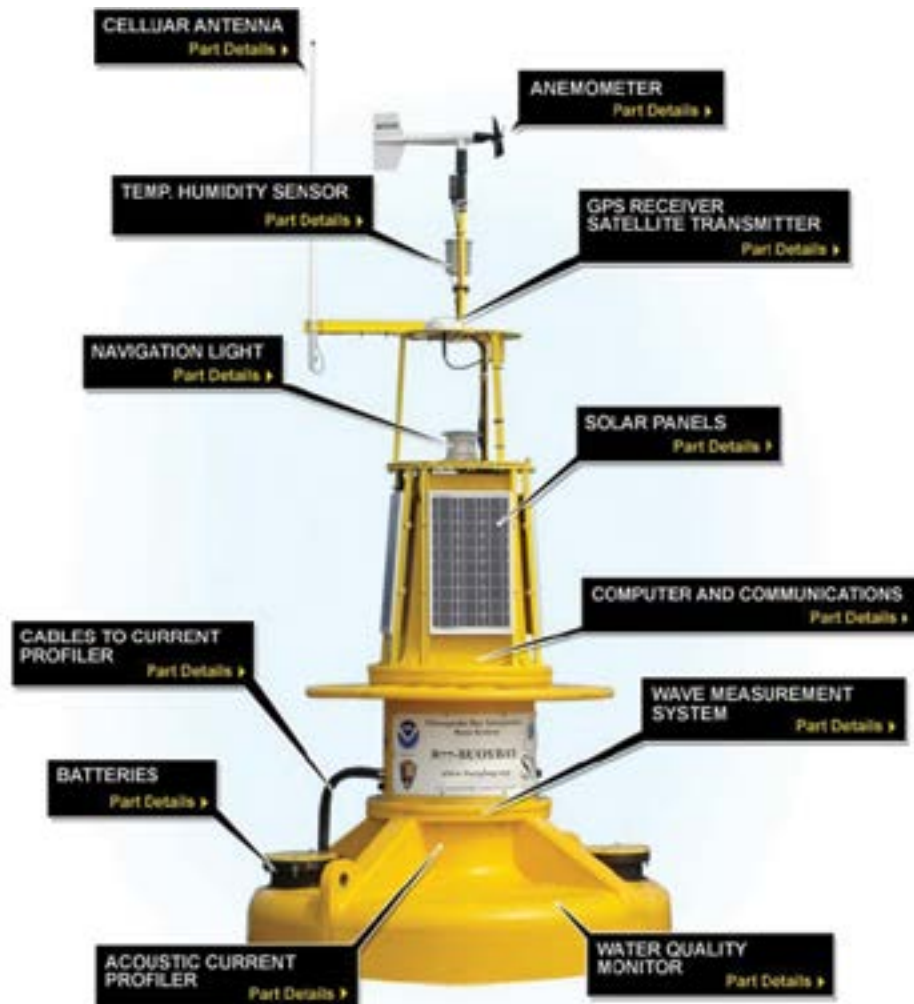
on the line but that's just the flounder trying to kill your offering. Wait until you feel the “thump-thump-thump” of the flattie trying to swim away, before you set the hook.

2. Look to find them on sharp drops and edges with good current. Depth should range between eight and



28 feet, and the sharper the drop-off, the better. When you catch a fish work that same depth range, as others are

See Rudow Page 5



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FAITH OF OUR FATHERS

The 14th President of the United States was Franklin Pierce. After serving in the Mexican war he was elected to the Presidency. He was truly the dark horse candidate among the democrats, but won the nomination and was elected by a narrow margin. Two months before taking office he and his wife saw their eleven year old son killed when their train was wrecked. Grief stricken, he entered the Presidency nervously exhausted. So overtaken by the loss of his son, he looked for someone to blame and he blamed God. At his inauguration he refused to have a bible used at his swearing-in ceremony. He was the only President to have done so.

Oftentimes after great tragedy we look to blame, and many times God is the recipient. We become consumed by thoughts such as how God could allow this to happen to me. Ultimately, when we encounter unjustifiable problems, if we do not deal with them properly we become bitter. The bible warns of this in Hebrews, "Looking diligently, lest any man fail of the grace of God, lest any root of bitterness springing up trouble you and thereby many be defiled."

In other words, if you don't handle bitterness, then bitterness will handle you!

Sad to say, many in life are filled with the blight of bitterness. Adrian Rogers says that, "Bitterness is a blight - an emotional cancer which consumes many a person who once had the bloom of eternal springtime upon them." Bitterness is that feeling of hurt, resentment, anger, hate and even revenge that often builds up in the heart when we have been bitten by certain inconsistencies. We have heard of the kudzu plant. Imported from Japan it thrives in the warm environment of the South. It grows up to one foot a day in the growing season and it will choke out all live plants and anything else in its way.

Bitterness and unresolved hurts are much like the kudzu plant. It will crowd out everything else in your life and overtake you. Friend, give your heart and your hurts to the Lord. He understands! Even on the cross he prayed for those who did him harm. And, when we forgive, bitterness leaves and love, joy, peace, contentment and happiness will fill your soul.

This was the faith of our fathers and I trust it is yours.

Pastor Mel Brindley - Chestertown Baptist Church

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- "I See It Now"
- "As Any Fool Can See"
- "If the World Had a Front Porch"
- "If You Loved Me"
- "Texas Tornado"
- "Is That a Tear"
- "Stars Over Texas"
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Rudow ...

Continued from Page 3

likely to be feeding at similar depths.

3. When fishing jigs, always keep your up-swings vigorous. First because the flounder like a lot of action, and second because they often strike the jig as it's falling. Most of the time you won't even know the fish has taken it. But if you always swing up hard, you'll make a good de-facto hook-set.

Bonus Tip: You can get a collection of flounder fishing hints, tips, and tricks the new Rudow's e-Guide to Flounder, Catfish & Panfish – which costs a whopping \$2.99 at www.smashwords.com



Lisa Cugle with her 20 lb. Tom with a 10" beard.



Alexis Johnson bagged this 19.5 lbs 9 3/4" beard with 40mm spurs.



Captain George Bentz aboard the "Drizzle Bar" was able to find this customer a 49 inch Rockfish which was a personal best aboard the "Drizzle Bar."

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“TACKLE BOX TIM”

The Flippin' Truth

There are many presentations bass anglers use to entice Mr. Greenback into biting. Cranking, skipping, waking, pitching, and shaking come to mind for those deeply entrenched into bass fishing. However, no presentation is as up close and personal as flipping. Flipping is a way to catch bass from exact targets in cover, often times very dense in nature. It is a technique that calls for short, precise, and stealthy casts and it takes practice. I, for one, can make flipping look ugly as I don't fish for bass as much as I should. There are tournament level anglers that can flip all day long and make it look second nature.

So what is “flippin” all about? It's a short cast where the fisherman pulls the line out to the side from between the reel and the first guide. The angler raises the rod tip, then lowers it in a flipping motion while slowly bringing the line in hand back to the rod.

Flipping is truly a rhythm technique. Done correctly, it allows a fisherman to present big baits -- jigs, creature baits, crawfish imitators, and worms -- to exact targets with very little disturbance as it enters the water.

Flipping allows an angler to dissect cover. The best flippers have the precision of a surgeon. Piers and docks are targets that many fishermen work over with the short string technique. The best piers have some other type of cover under them: oyster shells, rocks, pieces of old piers, brush to attract fish. The best flippers can pick apart the pilings and secondary cover in minutes with a jig or soft bait.

When big bass hide in fallen wood along the shoreline, you can bet that they will stage under the gnarliest mix of limbs in the tree. A presentation that allows the lure to drop on the bass' nose the first time will likely be struck before it ever reaches the bottom. However, if you make an errant cast, you've made it aware of your presence. That big bass is cunning and will likely not bite after the first misplaced cast even if you barrage the tree with repeated flips.

You will also find many fishermen

who flip baits into grass beds. Some find this tactic to be a tedious hunt and peck tactic; yet it can produce some very big bass for the anglers who are fond of it. Flipping to bass in vegetation often requires heavy slip sinkers that punch through heavy mats. The bait is often a slender creature bait or crawfish lure that doesn't grab the grass as it descends. Flips are not arbitrary. In their mind, these anglers have a

virtual grid laid out over the grass bed and make repeated machine-like flips every couple of feet as they move along with the trolling motor. The work ethic is truly impressive to see.

Gearing up properly for flipping is a must. Your prototypical rod is a 7 to 8-foot, heavy power rod with a fast to extra fast tip. This rod isn't exactly a pool cue, but flipping rods are definitely designed to power big fish from



Capt. Jerry Sersen flips a crawfish bait to pier pilings in Seneca Creek.

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heavy cover. Today's bass fisherman will use 50 to 80-pound test braided line when flipping. Casting reels with a high speed ratio are preferred. Along with the long rod, the 7.1:1 ratio will help power bass out of cover. Hook



Capt. Jerry Sersen shows a quality bass caught using his finesse flipping technique.

manufacturers are making stronger hooks to work with braided line that has no stretch. In years past, the hooks could be the weak point as they would bend due to being overpowered by the rod and braided line.

While flipping is typically a power fishing technique, it doesn't always have to be. When high pressure systems roll in from late spring through summer bass often shut down to power fishing tactics. This doesn't mean that flipping won't be effective ... to the contrary. Feeling the pressure, bass will hold tight to cover, which calls for the accurate casts that flipping affords you. However, bass aren't willing to react to a big jig or creature as it plummets

to them. By lightening up your tackle, flipping is still viable.

I've witnessed on several occasions where Captain Jerry Sersen has flipped small crawfish baits and 1/16-ounce sinker with spinning tackle. He works pier pilings and pockets along shoreline vegetation and allows the bait to lazily fall giving a bass more time strike. With this form of finesse flipping Sersen can use light spinning tackle because he is not working extremely heavy cover.

Flipping is heralded for having a high strike to hook up percentage. It's one of the reasons many tournament anglers become proficient with the method. While flipping does take some practice, it's a method of casting that can produce big bass for the majority of the year in our bass waters. With time spent on the water with a flippin' stick in hand, you, too, can catch bass on the short string. And try a little finesse flipping, too.

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Natalie Larrimore, an emergency room nurse from Easton, MD. opened up spring trophy season on a positive note with this impressive rockfish.

IGFA and Columbia University team up for Phone App



The International Game Fish Association and Columbia University have partnered to develop a new application – called IGFA CatchLog – that will allow anglers to contribute to fisheries data collection efforts using Apple's iPhone. As they near completion of a pilot version of the App, the IGFA is offering anglers the opportunity to test it out and earn some great incentives, including a free LifeProof case for the iPhone, Costa sunglasses, and more.

A unique feature of IGFA CatchLog will be a visual recognition component, developed by computer scientists at Columbia University, which will help anglers identify a fish from an iPhone photograph. Researchers at Columbia have pioneered similar visual recognition systems for plants through projects like the Leafsnap app.

The basic application will be modified from the existing IGFA app, IGFA Mobile, and allow anglers who want to participate in research and management efforts to do so quickly and easily. While the data collected will contribute to specific fisheries research and management efforts, a companion angler catch log will allow users to store complete details of their catches for their own use or to share with others if they so desire.

"As evidenced by the popularity of IGFA's current app, anglers are thirsting for opportunities to catalog their catches in an easy- to-use application," remarked IGFA Conservation Director Jason Schratwieser. "Adding the capability to easily share much-needed catch data will also help improve recreational fisheries."

The initial pilot area for testing this app will be the near shore marine waters of Everglades National Park in south Florida. Anglers who fish this area between April and December are encouraged to apply to be part of the testing team at www.igfacatchlog.org. Project personnel will also be consulting with state and federal data managers along the Atlantic seaboard to determine elements and features of the app that might be helpful in other areas where angler generated data might be useful.

Funding for the project is being provided by the Gordon and Betty Moore Foundation.

For more information, and to find out how to become a member of the IGFA CatchLog evaluation team, visit www.igfacatchlog.org or contact Leah Baumwell at lbaumwell@igfa.org or 954-924-4317.



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"HUNTING PASSION"

Gobblers from a Blind and String

By Mike Monteleone

Bagging a gobbler with a bow and arrow is no easy task. The birds have incredible eyesight, second-to-none hearing, and can disappear in a heartbeat if they catch you bringing your bow to full draw. Add a small kill zone to the equation, and you can have your hands full in the woods this spring trying to knock over a wild turkey.

So how can you affix your tag on a longbeard with archery tackle? No so surprisingly there are several common denominators that lead to success.

You have to do your homework. Begin by looking for roosting areas and then unravel a travel pattern the birds use on a more or less regular basis. Next, erect a ground blind along one of their travel routes and fit it with a comfortable stool. A stool that will allow you to sit upright with minimal effort. You will spend more time sitting than walking, and a high quality seat has become my best bowhunting partner when hunting turkeys with a bow.

Concealment is also very important. The inside fabric of most ground blinds are black so wear lots of black, not camo, and paint your face rather than wear a head net because it is much more comfortable. In hot weather a face mask in a tent is the most uncomfortable thing ever. Paint your bow black if it is not already black. Use dark colored vanes or feathers. Preferably vanes due to the lack of noise they make when drawing your bow to your face. Limit all movement when in the blind especially if a turkey is approaching or in the immediate area. When it comes time for the shot, draw your bow low in the blind and slowly raise it for the shot. Shoot a low poundage bow so that if you need to stop mid stroke you can hold it in that position if need be.

Also practice shooting at 3D turkeys from inside the blind so when it comes time for the shot your confident in your shooting abilities.

I credit most of my success to pre-season scouting and the use of ground blinds. When scouting rural areas for birds, I often ask farmers or nearby landowners for the whereabouts of local flocks. I do a lot of sitting and listening based in part on the information gained to help me pinpoint roosting sites, feeding areas, and travel routes. If I can find an area where the birds are

visiting on a regular basis, I will set up a ground blind nearby.

Ground blinds are ideal because it is so difficult to draw down on a bird while sitting out in the open. I like to weave brush around the blind so that it fits in better with the local habitat. When it comes time for the shot, I like to have the gobbler facing away and I aim for the center of his fan. He can't see me from this position and the arrow passes right through his vitals. If he happens to be facing me then I aim for the top of his beard; if he is broadside, I aim for the butt of the wing. Some bowhunters tell me they aim for the head but I am not that confident in my shooting skill when under such pressure. I like a bigger target!

I use decoys on occasion, but if I can find an area where the birds are showing up on a regular basis, I will forego the decoys. If I decide to use a decoy, I place the decoys – facing away - about 5 yards directly in front of the blind.

Decoys not decoy. I use two to three decoys if I decide to use them. Primarily, if I can't find an area that is frequented on a regular basis but I know the gobblers are in the area and are workable.

After things settle down I will use a slate call and make clucking sounds. I will also gobble on occasion if needed. This is when decoys earn their keep. The scenario must be believable when the birds approach the blind. They must be able to see something that looks like what they are hearing or they will become especially wary.

When hunting from a blind always remove two arrows from your quiver. One gets nocked, the other sits within easy reach. At blind setup ranges the birds should be close but if you miss there is a good chance that you'll get another shot. Staggering birds get another shot and the second arrow within easy reach can be a game changer. It takes an average of 1.5 shots to take a gobbler. That means for every 3 arrows that you launch, 2 birds will hit the ground. Turkeys aren't always easy to hit, and they aren't that easy to anchor.

I've found that the most effective broad head is a fixed-three-blade if you're shooting low poundage. 50 pounds and under. If you choose to shoot a heavier weighted bow, an expandable 2-inch 3-blade will do some serious damage.

Turkeys are tough to hunt especially with a bow. Setting up a blind correctly and in the right spot will maximize your chances of bagging that bird with a bow this spring.



Don Travis of Travis Taxidermy was on his Illinois Farm for the third morning in a row and said "they were playing late and hard to get in cold rainy conditions but the good Lord sent me one in." 23 pounds sporting 1&1/2 inch spurs.



Chris Lingerman and his son Thomas bagged this turkey on youth day in Rock Hall, MD.



Jimmy Wright III from Rock Hall MD. bagged this nice gobbler during the 2013 Youth Turkey Hunt.



Captain Brian Councell's Parties aboard "Sea Dux" are having a good spring season.



Rich from Clyde's didn't give Bill a chance to use his Muzzleloader with these does. Rich even had to make sure that Muzzleloader still worked. Photo Courtesy of Clyde's Sport Shop.

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Mr. Alvie Sickle caught this 9 lb. 14 oz. Rainbow Trout on April Fools Day 2013. The only thing fooled that day was this impressive Rainbow Trout with 28 inches in length a girth of - 16 1/2".



The "Professor" Bill Raeder bagged this Mule Deer on a trip out west. Photo Courtesy of Ron's Bay Pro Shop.

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“FISHIN’ BACK EAST”

RELEASING BIG PANFISH... WHY IT MAKES SENSE

By Jim Gronaw

‘I just don’t understand it’ said the disappointed angler as he settled in for an effort for crappies. ‘Last year, we were catching all kinds of 13 to 15 inch crappies in here, and this year they just don’t seem to be around. I don’t know what the problem is.’

I asked the angler if he kept those fish... ‘Yeah, we kept all the big ones.’

Well I’m not a fisheries biologist, but I think I know what the problem might be. When I informed him that it might not be the best idea to keep every single large fish they caught, he actually laughed at me and said ‘Naw, there’s a ton of big fish in here, they’re just not here this year. They’re out there, somewhere else.’ Interesting... I had just come off the lake and had caught 41 crappies, not one of which exceeded 12 inches in length. And 13 to 15 inchers were coming out of the woodwork last year? Not here anymore? Wonder where they went? I think I know.

Truly, the final frontier in catch and release angling is in the world of panfishing, that is, fishing for bluegills, crappies, perch and the like that make up the bulk of many a fish fry, nationwide. Panfishermen are out to catch fish for the skillet, and they are among the most delicious of fish that swim.

Most state wide limits are very high, or non-existent, on panfish numbers. In Pennsylvania, an angler may keep 50 panfish per day, of varying species, to total that number. If a fishery has a lot of top-end crappies, in the 13 to 15 inch range, and anglers are keeping 50 per man, per day, it only stands to reason that those fish will be targeted, and decimated, in a short few years, and maybe sooner, depending on the size and dynamics of the waterway.

In many southern waters, panfish species are permitted unlimited harvest by the angling public. Also, in certain areas of the country, traditional concepts in sustenance fishing has never changed in logic or conservation outlooks. If a fish is big enough to clean and eat, you clean and eat it! It’s that simple. Load the freezer and ask questions later, when the fish seem to be going downhill. When one water body gets fished down, we’ll just hammer another one.

Clearly, there is nothing wrong with keeping some fish for the pan and I do it several times a year to enjoy delicious, fresh fillets. We try to selectively harvest mid-sized panfish and release the larger individuals to make for genetically superior offspring remaining in the system. And there is nothing



wrong with keeping that rare, trophy sized panfish when that great moment occurs. But to harvest every single adult member of a specific specie and then complain about the lack of big fish just doesn’t make sense. Add to that the fact that most of the guys I see hauling out lots of fish could stand to miss a few meals or get involved in an exercise program. Different waters can tolerate higher harvest rates and have the potential to recover from overharvest of top-end adult panfish. Of all the different species of fish in freshwater, the ones I have seen ‘fished-down’ the most are the adult to trophy-sized populations of bluegills, crappies and perch. Not bass, not trout, and not catfish species.

Let’s face it, releasing the majority of top-end panfish just makes sense to sustain quality fisheries.

Although most of today’s panfishermen desire to see quality fisheries with big fish, the vast majority of these anglers are not willing to admit that their harvest rates can adversely affect panfish dynamics. Labored down with decades old theology based more on

myth than truth, they continue to selectively harvest only the very largest of each specie, and can significantly reduce the top-end size structure of bluegills, crappies and yellow perch. Back in the day, when they were keeping bucket loads of 10 inch class bluegills, the concept was that the smaller fish will fill in and recruit to the desired ‘bull bluegill’ size. Same thoughts with crappies, and so on. But the truth is that this almost never happens today, especially with the increasing amount of panfish anglers nationwide and the advanced technologies they now employ. Let’s face it... today’s panfish freak has more and better gear, electronics, boat handling skills, varied tactics and superior knowledge of the fish than ever before. Today’s panfish angler is not just cane pole and corks and kids stuff.

Other factors also play a role in panfish populations. Good and bad spawning years, water levels, major storm events and their timing, natural dynamics like introduced weed species or other fish species and of course fishing pressure... the X factor in panfish angling. To top it off, few state DNR agencies pay much attention to panfish management strategies or adjustment in size or daily limits of fish. Many

See Gronaw page 13



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Jim hides behind this 11 inch plus sunfish for a quick photo, and quick release.

Gronaw ...

Continued from Page 12

states have no daily creel limit, and many states are so liberal that it would be hard to believe a man would keep 50 panfish a day for twenty days a year. True, panfish do not appear to be the 'money' fish like bass, trout or walleye. But many surveys show that they are among the most sought after species in the nation and provide food and sport for family fishing scenarios. I believe the state of Maryland was very wise to put a 15 fish limit on bluegills and crappies about 10 years ago. But still, there are public waters that could stand for a little more harvest, and many more that cannot.

With all things considered, it just makes sense to release the majority of large panfish and keep that rare trophy for the wall when it does come your way. Yes, some waters just have bigger fish and can withstand more harvest. But imagine what our bass fisheries would be like if everybody kept every 5-pound bass they ever caught. Don't giant bluegills, crappies and yellow perch deserve the same respect?



Billy Graham was fishing with a minnow recently in a Cecil County lake when he caught this behemoth of a crappie that came within a half ounce of the state record of 4lbs. 7oz caught by Jason Morrison in 2004. Courtesy of MD DNR.



James Thompson - aka the brick man was out last month and his smile tells the story.



Doc Reinoff with a beauty aboard the Canvasback out of Rock Hall, MD with Captain Bob Ritchie.

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The last of Rabbit season was a good one for the Rabbit Commanders. Left to right: Timothy Hamilton, Timothy McGee Captain Willie Dykes (Out-door Delmarva / Ch. 16) Jostin Kelly, Robbie Wink, Brian Wink and Maribeth Kulynycz. Photo Courtesy of Wink's Sporting Goods.



Captain Greg Jetton's crew were all smiles aboard Blind Faith when they boated this pair of Rockfish at the same time out of Rock Hall, MD

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Coastal Report

By Capt. Mark Sampson

Compare the tackle used by someone trolling offshore for blue marlin to that used by some guy trying to catch a yellow perch through a hole in a frozen Minnesota lake and you're not likely to find any bit of hardware that both anglers have in common, the techniques and the very fish the two fishermen pursue are so radically different that there's really nothing to compare. Well – almost nothing.

No matter what type of fishing they do or for what type of fish, one thing every traditional recreational fisherman has in common is that we all use hooks. But that's about where the similarity comes to an end, because between size, design, and what they're made of, there are as many variations in hooks as there are fish in the sea. Hooks were used back in the days when fishermen were covered with more hair than clothing, and I expect they'll still be used when our descendants are exploring fishing opportunities on distant planets. But as important as hooks are to fishing, there are a lot of common mistakes made by anglers when selecting and using them, and considering that a hook is the only part of an anglers tackle that truly connects fish to fisherman, a little knowledge about hooks can go a long way to making for a better angler.

Rods can break and reels can malfunction in the middle of a fight and resourceful anglers may still manage to land their fish, and more than just a few times I've even had the line break and was able to capture the fish by getting hold of the line trailing behind it as it swam away. But when a hook pulls from a fish's jaw it's "game over" so anglers should always strive to use the proper hook for the job and make

sure it's tuned and maintained.

Tuning a hook means prepping it for the job ahead and in most cases that means sharpening it, although the process could also involve removing the barb, or bending the hook to alter the shape for one reason or the other.

pressure is applied to the line. Fishermen targeting large, tough-mouthed fish will often want to have not only a sharp point but also a cutting edge on the inside "blade" between the point and the end of the barb. There are all kinds of hook sharpening devices on



It used to be that almost all big game hooks had to be sharpened before use but these days a lot of them come through pre-sharpened and ready to go. Whether or not a hook is "sharp enough" depends in upon what it's going to be used for. Fish with tough jaws such as billfish, sharks, and tarpon typically require a very sharp hook to get enough penetration that they'll stay put. But regardless of the species, a sharp hook is required about anytime someone is fishing with relatively light tackle because "light line" means "light drag settings" and very little pressure applied to the hook-set.

For most applications a properly sharp hook will feel "sticky" when you try to drag the point across your fingertip. Such a hook will immediately start to dig in rather than slip as soon as

the market but there is nothing that beats a simple hardware store file. Files should be matched to the size of the hook; big files for big hooks, small files for small hooks and for really small hooks a fingernail file work just fine.

Hooks are made in many metal compounds, but fishermen need only worry about whether they are made of stainless steel that don't rust, or from other compounds that do. Because stainless hooks don't corrode they're a poor choice for everyday fishing because when fish are released or lost with hooks in their mouths those hooks can stay with the fish indefinitely and might eventually lead to its death.

Stainless steel hooks are, therefore, usually reserved for use on artificial lures where they are less likely to be lost. Stainless hooks are more difficult to sharpen and typically more expensive.

Compound hooks are the most commonly used, with most having some sort of plating on them that slows the corrosion process so the hooks won't rust away in our tackle boxes. However, when these hooks are submerged continuously in saltwater, such as when a fish is swimming free with a hook left in its mouth, the plating and the hook begins to dissolve away within the first few days. Anglers should also be aware that where a hook is sharpened plating is filed away and the hook will begin to rust in that area. A felt-tip pen can be used to coat the sharpened area of a hook to add a little rust protection until the hook is put to use. Some companies are now producing catch-and-release friendly hooks. Usually bronze in color, these hooks have no plating so they dissolve away even quicker. Anglers should be aware, however, that these are pretty much one-use hooks, because after being used in saltwater they will start corroding to the point that you won't want to store them on your boat or in your tackle box.

No discussion of hooks is complete without a mention of "circle-hooks" which are more circular in shape than the standard "j-hook" design. Circle-hooks are available in all the different sizes and can be either stainless steel or a compound. Circle-hooks have become very popular in many fisheries because they have the advantage of usually setting in the corner of the mouth by locking over the jaw, thus giving them both greater holding power and making them the best tool for catch-and-release fishing. That's a "win" for fish and a "win" for fishermen.

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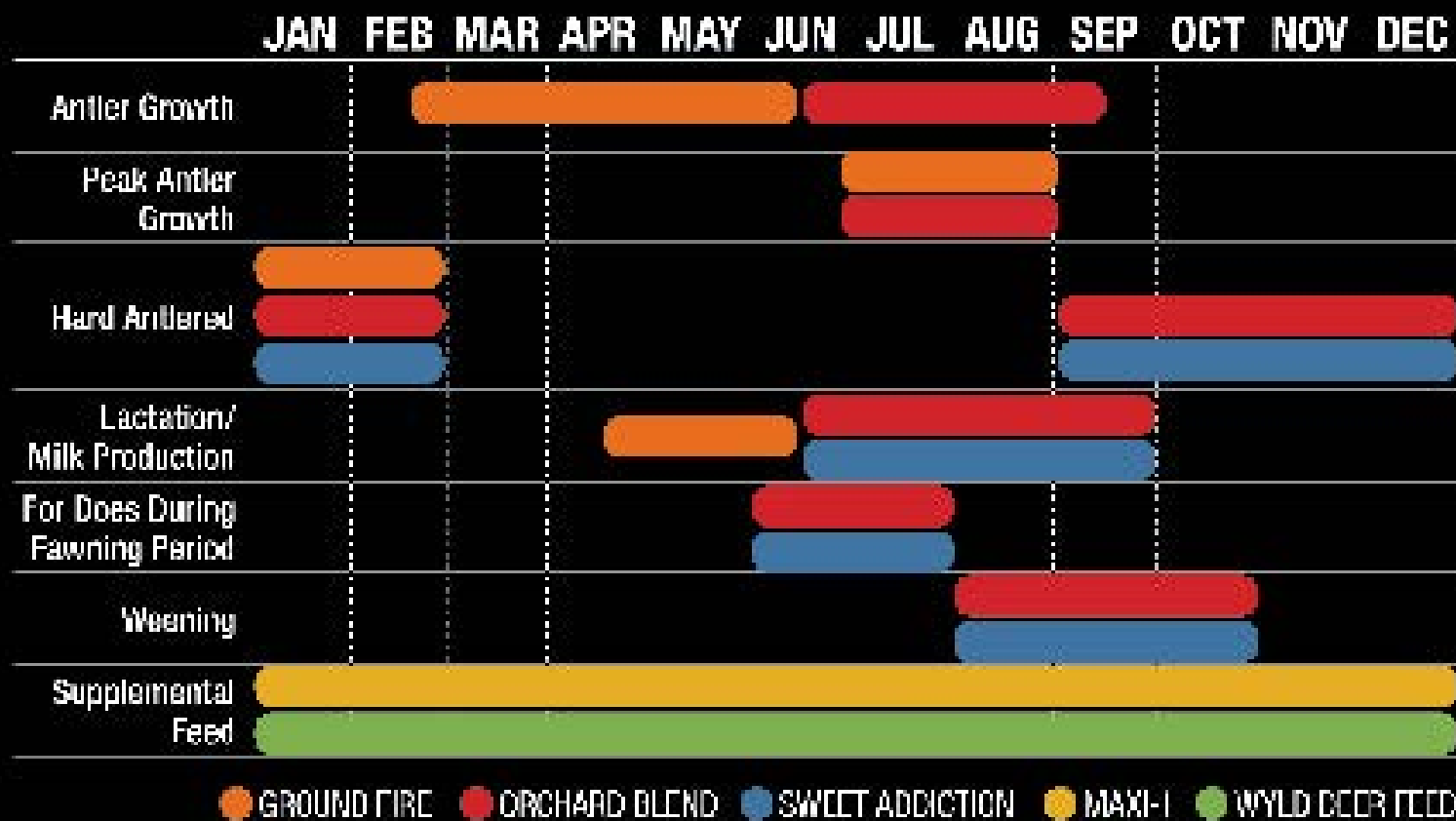


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Change Coming to Maryland's Commercial Striped Bass Fishery

DNR Sets a May 10 Striped Bass Commercial Control Date for Quota Allocation

The Maryland Department of Natural Resources (DNR) Fisheries Service is making a significant management change to the commercial Chesapeake Bay Striped Bass fishery. DNR is working to meet fishing industry goals, create a more sustainable system, increase accountability and make it easier for police to enforce the law. The system will also comply with new Atlantic States Marine Fisheries Commission requirements. These changes are the result of extensive meetings with the Tidal Fisher-

ies Advisory Commission's Striped Bass Industry Workgroup over the past 18 months.

The proposed change is the allocation of individual quotas to fishing permit holders based on their Striped Bass catch histories from January 1, 2001 through February 29, 2012. New regulations will impact Striped Bass permit holders fishing in 2014.

DNR has set a cutoff (control date) of May 10, 2013 as the date when a waterman with a record of catching Striped Bass must possess a commercial Striped Bass permit in order to be eligible for a 2014 allocation.

"There are watermen who participated in the Striped Bass fishery in the 2001 to 2012 period but no longer have a Striped Bass permit. There are also watermen working with a temporary transferred permit who have accumulated a catch history, which could justify a quota allocation for them under the new management program," said Mike Luisi, director of DNR Fisheries Estuarine and Marine Division. "It's important that these watermen understand that their catch history will not be considered if they don't possess a Striped Bass permit on May 10."

"We are asking that any permit owner or potential buyer considering a permanent Striped Bass permit transfer after May 10th consult with us before committing to a sale. We want fishermen to be well informed regarding the allocation impacts when making this business decision," said Luisi.

Fishermen with any questions may contact Mike Luisi at 410-260-8341 or mluisi@dnr.state.md.us, or Janelle Mueller at 410-260-8270 or jmueller@dnr.state.md.us.

MSSA Youth Angler Club Welcomes Lenny Rudow

The MSSA and Youth Angler Club is excited to announce Maryland's own award winning author and angler, Lenny Rudow to the Youth Fishing Seminar Series. Lenny will be speaking on August 8th at Alltackle in Annapolis about Shoreline Fishing. As you know, shoreline fishing is the number one access opportunity for a majority of anglers, especially youth anglers, and Lenny will discuss the tackle needed, tactics, and some locations to shoreline fish throughout the state.

Don't forget, next month Bill Goldsborough discusses basic fish biology and the ecosystem. There is no better way to become a better angler than to understand the fish and the environment they live in.



Craig Miller from Cecil County, who is 13 years old caught a fish of lifetime aboard Brawler with mate Dave Shultie.



The Long crew with Mr Sonny had an impressive limit aboard Fish Fear Us with Captain Bob Ritchie.




This crew was fishing aboard the "Rockaholic" with Capt. Ron Jayne when they hooked this 50", 50 lb. spring trophy off of Kent Island, MD

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4 Servings Prep/Total Time: 25 min.

Ingredients

2 eggs

1/2 cup milk

2 cups butter-flavored cracker crumbs

1/2 teaspoon garlic salt

1/4 teaspoon dried oregano

1/4 teaspoon dried tarragon

1/4 teaspoon pepper

1 pound lake perch fillets

Vegetable oil



Directions

In a shallow bowl, beat eggs and milk. In another shallow bowl, combine cracker crumbs, garlic salt, oregano, tarragon and pepper.

Dip the perch in egg mixture, then coat with crumbs. Heat oil in a skillet over medium heat. Fry fish for several minutes on each side or until it flakes easily with a fork. Yield: 4 servings.

Nutrition Facts: 1 serving (4 ounces) equals 397 calories, 16 g fat (3 g saturated fat), 212 mg cholesterol, 717 mg sodium, 33 g carbohydrate, 1 g fiber, 30 g protein.

Wine: Light-Bodied White Wine: Enjoy this recipe with a light-bodied white wine such as Sauvignon Blanc or Pinot Grigio
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Book of the Month

HUNT, GATHER, COOK: FINDING THE FORGOTTEN FEAST

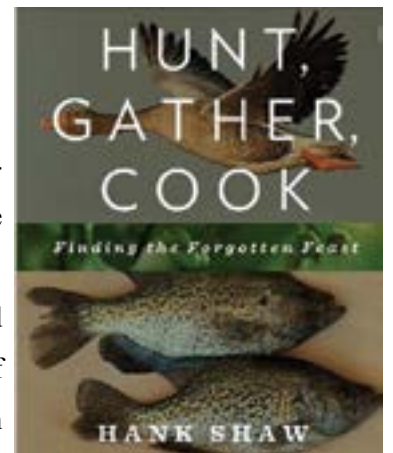
From field, forest, and stream to table, award-winning journalist Hank Shaw explores the forgotten art of foraging.

If there is a frontier beyond organic, local and seasonal, beyond farmers' markets and grass-def meat, it's hunting, fishing and foraging your own food. A lifelong angler and forager who became

a hunter late in life, Hank Shaw is dedicated to finding a place on the table for the myriad overlooked and underutilized wild foods that are there for the taking -- if you know how to find them.

In *Hunt, Gather, Cook*, he shares his experiences both in the field and in the kitchen, as well as his extensive knowledge of North America's edible flora and fauna. Hank provides a user-friendly, food-oriented introduction to tracking down and cooking everything from prickly pears, to grouper to snowshoe hares.

"In *Hunt, Gather, Cook*, [Shaw] makes a powerful argument for joining him in a few of those pursuits, if only to become aware of the great bounty that surrounds us in the natural world, even when we live in urban environments—and perhaps particularly then." --*The New York Times*



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Tim Delaney holding a 50" cow he hooked for a client who was tired from the fight on April 23rd aboard Casey Michelle III charters with Capt. Brady Sweitzer at the helm.



Jason Healey and his wife Amanda Healey were White Perch fishing off of the Bill Burton Pier in Cambridge last month. Bloodworms were the bait of choice. They did catch 6 hefty perch. Bill would be proud. Photo courtesy of the Maryland Anglers Log.



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158 +/- Acre Property: Located in Crapo, Md comprised of woodland and marsh, one flooded impoundment for ducks, and one permanent pond in woods. 5 acre open space allows for another pond. Perfect habitat for waterfowl, whitetail, sika, and turkeys. A real sportsman's paradise. Asking \$499,000.

270 Acre Dorchester County Marsh that is boat access only. This property is an excellent waterfowl and sika deer property. Asking \$295,000

390 Acres Timber: Bucktown RD/ Stone Boundary RD, Dorchester County. The tract of timber consists of .3 acres of ponds, 1.5 acres of food plots for Deer and Turkeys. Perfect investment for Timber Harvesting or Deer and Turkey Hunting. Asking \$1,200,000.

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135 acre Talbot county Farm with Roughly 70+/- tillable acres with the remainder in woods. great location for goose, duck, deer, and turkeys. Asking \$938,250.

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	MAY		JUNE	
DAY	RISE	SET	RISE	SET
1	6:08	8:00	5:42	8:27
2	6:06	8:01	5:41	8:28
3	6:05	8:02	5:41	8:29
4	6:04	8:03	5:41	8:29
5	6:03	8:03	5:40	8:30
6	6:02	8:05	5:40	8:30
7	6:01	8:06	5:40	8:31
8	6:00	8:07	5:40	8:32
9	5:59	8:08	5:40	8:32
10	5:58	8:09	5:40	8:33
11	5:57	8:10	5:39	8:33
12	5:56	8:11	5:39	8:34
13	5:55	8:11	5:39	8:34
14	5:54	8:12	5:39	8:34
15	5:53	8:13	5:39	8:35
16	5:52	8:14	5:39	8:35
17	5:51	8:15	5:39	8:35
18	5:50	8:16	5:40	8:36
19	5:49	8:17	5:40	8:36
20	5:49	8:18	5:40	8:36
21	5:48	8:19	5:40	8:36
22	5:47	8:20	5:40	8:37
23	5:47	8:20	5:41	8:37
24	5:46	8:21	5:41	8:37
25	5:45	8:22	5:41	8:37
26	5:45	8:23	5:42	8:37
27	5:44	8:24	5:42	8:37
28	5:44	8:24	5:42	8:37
29	5:43	8:25	5:43	8:37
30	5:43	8:26	5:43	8:37
31	5:42	8:27		



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“THE LAST WORD”

Annapolis Review 2013

By Steve Huettner

Thankfully the 2013 general session has come to an end and as someone who has been involved with hook and bullet legislation for more the fifteen years I can honestly this

was one for the books.

For those who wanted more hunting opportunities (Sunday) it was a mixed bag. If you work six days a week and don't have access to private lands, Dorchester County has expanded turkey hunting to include Sunday hunting on public land joining the western counties. Deer hunting in Carroll County just added more days to hunt with expanded Sunday hunting starting the first Sunday in October through the middle of January. The upper eastern shore had mixed results with Queen Anne County adding more archery Sunday hunting for deer but lost on turkeys, while their neighbors next door in Kent County struck out when trying to expand Sunday hunting for turkeys and deer.

Its seems that every large parcel of land eventually gets carved up into smaller lots and which makes archery hunting a lot more difficult with 150 yd from an occupied dwelling rule. Archery hunting for deer in suburban zones has gotten a bit easier in a few counties. Carroll and Frederick all ready had their distance decreased from 150 yards to 50 yards and Harford County has joined them by lowering it from 150 yards to 100 yards.

Hunters in the western Maryland once again brought forth legislation to allow archery hunters to carry a handgun for personal defense from bears. As anyone who has hunted, fished, or lives in that part of Maryland can attest bears seem to be anywhere and everywhere. The bill after being heard, never received a vote, and died when the session ended.

The ability of the Department of Wildlife and Heritage to fund itself via an increase in the cost of

a hunting license once again defied common sense in the House of Delegates, who slow played the bill to ensure it did not pass. The bill was supported by both sportsmen's groups (Maryland Bow Society, Maryland Guide and Outfitters, Western Maryland Sportsmen's Coalition just to name a few) and the animal rights community. The bill would have increased the cost of a resident license by \$12,

supported by both sportsmen's groups (Maryland Bow Society, Maryland Guide and Outfitters, Western Maryland Sportsmen's Coalition just to name a few) and the animal rights community. The bill would have increased the cost of a resident license by \$12,



would have increased non-resident by \$20, decrease cost for junior hunters, would have for the first time mandated non-hunters on wildlife management areas to purchase a stamp (similar to wildlife

refuges), and transferred wildlife violation penalties from the court system from the general fund to the wildlife and heritage. The money for hunting licenses by federal law must remain in DNR and could not be transferred to the general fund. The bill passed through the Senate once again, only to be delayed and held up in the house. In the end, with wildlife and heritage receiving almost no monies from the general fund, and the loss of almost two million dollars, one wonders how it will affect the wildlife and heritage and how they operate. No one knows what is next on the chopping block, but hunters will wind up with less.

No recap of the 2013 session would be complete without discussing SB 281 otherwise known as the gun bill. The bill was comprised of 62 pages legislation pertaining to mental health, firearms, AR style guns, magazine capacity, handgun licensing, dealer records and anything else elected officials could include in the bill. Opposition to the bill by firearm owners was evident by the thousands of gun owners who took time to call, email, fax, and show up in person to testify against the bill. The debate was spirited and personal in both the house and senate with over 100 amendments offered by pro gun and anti gun forces. In the end, despite the best attempts of 2nd amendment supporters, the votes from Montgomery County, Prince George's County, and Baltimore City were too much to override. Some of the aspects of the final product are a list of firearms will not be sold in Maryland anymore, magazines holding more than 10 rounds will no longer be allowed, and new purchases of handguns will require a permit, classroom training and finger printing. As this story is being written, two responses to this bill are in works. The first would be to put the bill the bill to referendum during the 2014 general election. This would prevent the law from going into effect till the results from that election are certified. The second course of action being examined is challenges to the some or all parts of the bill via the courts. Stay tuned to see how this law plays out over the next year.



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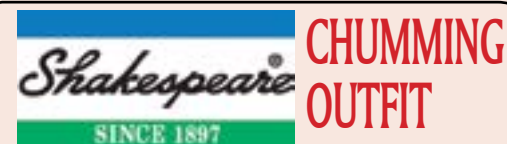
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