

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



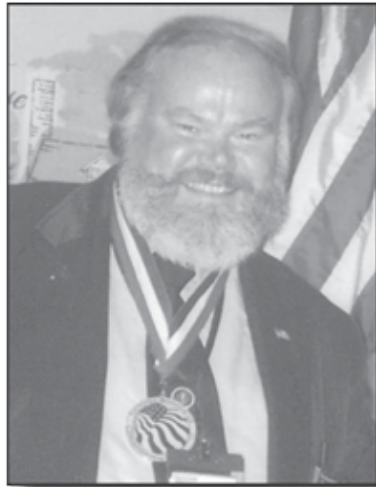
**FREE**

THIS ISSUE COMPLIMENTS OF

## IN THIS ISSUE

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- TOGGIN' TIME
- SO...YOU WANT TO BE AN OUTDOOR WRITER?
- LAKE TOHO
- A PAIR OF DRAKES
- DUCK HUNTER VS. DEER HUNTER

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## Lyme Disease Symptoms

1. Unexplained fever, chills, sweats
2. Unexplained weight changes—gain/loss
3. Fatigue, tiredness, especially around 3 p.m.
4. Chronic sore throat/sinus infection
5. Unexplained swollen glands
6. Testicular/pelvic pain
7. Unexplained menstrual irregularity
8. Irritable bladder/dysfunction
9. Sexual dysfunction/loss of libido
10. Stomach problems
11. Constipation/diarrhea
12. Chest pain
13. Shortness of breath/cough
14. Heart palpitations/racing/slowing
15. Joint pain, swelling, comes & goes
16. Muscle pain/cramps
17. Headaches
18. Neck creaks/cracks/stiffness
19. Stiffness in the joints or back
20. Tingling, numbness
21. Burning/stabbing sensation
22. Bells palsy
23. Double or blurry vision/floaters
24. Light sensitivity
25. Ringing/buzzing in ears, sound sensitivity
26. Dizziness, poor balance, motion sickness
27. Light headedness
28. Confusion, difficulty thinking
29. Difficulty with concentration
30. Short term memory loss
31. Disorientation, getting lost
32. Speech—think one thing, another word comes out
33. Mood swings, irritability, depression, crying for no reason
34. Nightmares, night sweats
35. Do you feel like dying?
36. Have you seen multiple doctors without success?
37. Do people say you are a hypochondriac/ do they say it's all in your head?



## “HOOKED ON FISHING”

### Toggin' Time

By Lenny Rudow

One of the best things about living in Maryland is that no matter what time of year it is, there's fishing to be done. Be it spring, summer, fall, or winter, there's some type of finned critter within our state's borders which is ready, willing, and able to bite. And right now, it's a good time for togging.

Tautog are a rather unusual species to many Marylanders, mostly because you don't catch them very often by accident. To get a tog on the line, you really need to target these fish in specific. That means fishing with mole, peeler, or green crabs, in hard-shell chunks that few other species will usually be focused on (especially in the case of green crabs). On top of that, these fish feed in a unique manner; they have a set of large buck teeth which you can clearly see when you swing one into the boat, but they also have a set of crusher teeth, set far back inside their mouth and throat. They'll grab and rip with those front teeth, but it's the back set that grinds their food into edible portions. That's because tog are partial to eating those

hard-shelled critters. As a result of this unusual method of feeding, it's particularly tough to hook a tog. Quite often they'll strip the meat out of the bait's shell, and swim off long before we even think about setting the hook. And just as often they'll nibble with those front teeth before truly eating the bait, spit the bait back out before taking it all the way down, and we swing for the stars during the half-second that the bait's out of the fish's mouth.

So, what's the secret to sticking that hook? If you fail to react on the initial nibble (and most angler do, most of the time), put yourself on super-secret double-mega ultra-high alert. Usually that initial tap-tap is followed up with a second series of nibbles, as the tog reclaims the crunched bait and moves it back to those grinding teeth—this is your best opportunity to hook 'em. Since you're aware that a fish is interested in your bait, you can set that hair-trigger and slam the hook home the moment you feel it suck the bait back in.

Now let's say you're fishing for tog in specific, with the right bait and the right technique. If you're using the same gear you'd use for fish like stripers or blues, you're still not going to boat very many tautog. You also need to be using specific rigs for this species. Single hooks just don't seem to



Dress warm, and gear up - it's toggin' time. Photo courtesy of John Unkart.

be enough to regularly nail them, and you'll do much better with twin-hook rigs. One hook goes into each side of the crab, in through the bottom and out through the top of the corner of the shell. With this rig, whichever way the tog sucks in the crab it'll have a hook in its mouth. Rigs should be made up with tough, heavy leaders in the 40 to 60 pound class, not only to survive the tog's chompers but also because you'll be fishing around a lot of snags and

sharp edges. These fish are hard-core reef dwellers, and you won't find them out in open waters. In fact, plan on bringing along at least four or five rigs per angler, because if you're fishing in a good togging spot, you're going to encounter an awful lot of snags.

Another thing you'll need to get thoe tog out of the craggly, snaggy

See Rudow Page 5



10 year old Max Rudow hoists his first tog, a husky six-pounder caught 12 miles from the OC inlet.

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Volume 21, Number 8 February / March 2012

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Fishing & Hunting Journal

P. O. Box 399 • Crumpton, MD 21628

[www.fishingandhuntingjournal.com](http://www.fishingandhuntingjournal.com)

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On the front cover we have Tuscarora outfitters. In a three day hunt in early January they worked on the snow goose population. Their hunters bagged 675 in three days. The cover shot was the most impressive day, they had 320 snow geese in the morning hunt.



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

It is the Maryland Legislative Sportsmen's Foundation—a non-profit organization comprised of volunteer sportsmen who advise the Maryland Legislative Sportsmen's Caucus...the largest Caucus in the Maryland General Assembly dedicated solely to protecting these traditional rights on the statutory, regulatory and budgetary front. This unique PARTNERSHIP has resulted, among other things, in the following achievements since its inception four years ago:

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

**Defeated Efforts to Impose a Black Bear Hunting Moratorium**

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

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

**Defeated Efforts to Prohibit the Use of Leghold Traps**

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

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

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

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**OUR HERITAGE AS CONSERVATION-MINDED SPORTSMEN MUST NEVER BE COMPROMISED.**

# Rudow ...

Continued from Page 3

areas they live in: short, stout rods, with gobs of backbone. The moment you get a fish on, you'll want to apply maximum pressure to lift them away from the wreckage. Otherwise, tog often will swim right into the thick of it, and either cut or tangle your line on the structure. For the same reason, you'll want to use at least 40 pound test as your main line. Braid gives you the no-stretch advantage, but remember that it also makes it very, very difficult to break off lines that have become ensnared in the wreck. Pick your poison.

The final piece to the tog-catching puzzle is where you choose to fish. During the colder months of the year you'll find these fish at wrecks that even relatively small boats can reach. Sure, better fishing is often found at wreck sites 15 or 20 miles from home, but close-in sites like the AT & T barge just outside the Ocean City Inlet, or Delaware's site #10 off of Indian River Inlet, will also hold plenty of tog. And getting numbers for these locations and dozens like them are easy. Ocean City anglers should go to [www.ocreeffoundation.com](http://www.ocreeffoundation.com), and join the Ocean City Reef Foundation. It only costs \$25, and they send you mapped coordinates for dozens of wrecks and reefs within shooting distance of OC. Indian River anglers will want to go to <http://www.fw.delaware.gov/Fisheries/Documents/2009-10%20Delaware%20reef%20guide.pdf>. Yes, I know that's a lot to type in, but it'll take you to a PDF document that charts

## Waterman charged for Oyster sanctuary violations

Annapolis, Maryland - On January 10, 2012 at 9:30 am, the Maryland Natural Resources Police charged three people for oystering with in the Tangier Sound Oyster Sanctuary. The Officers were on patrol in an 18 ft Boston whaler in the fog on Tuesday morning and found five commercial workboats in the oyster sanctuary. The foggy conditions enabled the Officers to get within about 200 yards of the vessels before the Officers were spotted. Upon seeing the patrol boat, the five vessels attempted to flee the area. Officers were able to stop two of the vessels and identify the occupants.

Officers identified the two occupants of the commercial vessel Lady Victoria as Thomas L. Ford, 51 and Ryan S. Ford, 32 both from Princess Anne. The second vessel was identified as the Miss Emily II and was operated by Albert Hoffman, 37 from Princess Anne. All three individuals were charged with oystering with in an oyster sanctuary and face a \$3000 fine and a suspension of their tidal fish license. Five bushels of oysters were seized from each vessel and returned to the sanctuary. A trial date of March 13 has been set in the District Court of Maryland in Somerset County.

out a dozen artificial reef sites, including five off the Delaware coast—and it's free. Naturally, however, my favorite source for hotspots along the coast is Rudow's Guide to Fishing the Mid-Atlantic ([www.getgup.com](http://www.getgup.com), \$20), which details not only where (GPS numbers included) but also how to catch fish, tautog among others, both inside and outside of the inlets.

You can't make good use of these hotspots, because you winterized your boat? Then consider jumping on a party boat like the Morning Star ([www.morningstarfishing.com](http://www.morningstarfishing.com)), which runs out of OC all winter long and focuses on finding these challenging critters.

Yes, it's chilly out. Sure, the weather often stinks at this time of year. But be glad you're a Marylander. Because no matter what season it may be, fishing opportunities await—and right now, it's toggin' time!

Tautog are particular to shelled critters, like this green crab.



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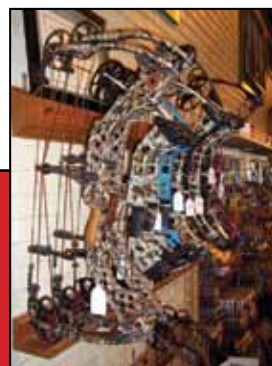
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## "TACKLE BOX TIM"

### Products for a New Year

By Tim Sherman

Last year was interesting, to say the least, when it came to fishing. The mid-Atlantic endured big rain events in April and September that influenced the catch rate of many anglers from the Susquehanna to the mouth of the Chesapeake. Although conditions were often challenging, I found some new products that helped me navigate to my favorite the fishing holes, and to locate the fish and catch them. A lot of the old tackle and lures still remain steadfast in my fishing, but there is nothing like trying new things.

While some of these items may have been on the market for some time, discovering how productive they are, and how much better an angler they can make you validates the cost of the product. And in the

same respect, you may even save money in the long run.

#### TACKLE TIME

I wouldn't be living up to me nickname -- Tackle Box -- if I didn't try different things. This spring I thought of how to improve my ultra light white perch fishing. Since I mainly fish near areas with rocky cover, I often snag my tiny plastic jigs. Round and minnow jig heads in 1/16 and 1/8-ounce sizes have a knack for sliding into cracks and crevices way to easily. Reaching into my bass fishing background, it occurred to me that a wide football style jig head would help eliminate some of the snag factor.

The problem is finding a source for football jig heads so small. Yet find them I did and my theory was correct. I was snagging jigs far less frequently and catching more perch. If you can't find small football style jig heads, ask your local tackle shop if they can make them for you.

I'm a fan of casting swim baits for stripers. My favorite, by far, is the Z-Man SwimmerZ. But in the fall of 2010, the SwimmerZ and I got

spanked by two anglers casting a 3 1/2-inch YUM Money Minnow. The SwimmerZ is slender like a silverside or bay anchovy. The Money Minnow has a more robust build like that of a shad or white perch. It definitely has found a place in my tackle box. I rig it on a 3/8-ounce jig head when fishing depth down to 15 feet.

Quality is what you will find in Captain Chuck Fisher's BFG Tackle. He is renowned for his tandem trolling rigs, but he also offers lures for the light tackle angler. What I am most impressed with are his minnow head bucktails. Made in weights from 1 to 2 ounces, these hair jigs have a beautiful paint job (especially the white perch model) and distinctive eyes. They work well when jigging

goes into the line to make it sensitive, ultra thin, and have no stretch, there is a cost to the consumer. I've used several brands of brain in the past and all perform well.

Last year I tried Tuf-Line XP. I was a bit skeptical because the price was about 3/4 of what I've paid for other brands. I spooled one of my bait casting reels with 30-pound test line and caught my fair share of stripers around rock piles and bridge pilings. I was able to feel the hard cover and detect subtle bites. All the while XP proved very abrasion resistant and did not shred or fray. Bottom line -- the product is as good as I have used for less than I have paid.

#### ELECTRONICS/NAVIGATION



The GOLOGHT Gobeeshines brightly from the bow of Tackle Box Tim's boat.

in deep waters of the bay.

Braided line plays a big factor in my striper and bass fishing. Basically anything related to jig fishing -- flipping, pitching, casting, going vertical -- dictates that I'll be using braided line. With all the technology that

I've fished five years now from my Triumph boat. Admittedly, four

See Sherman Page 7

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## Sherman . . .

Continued from Page 6

of them had me at a self-imposed disadvantage. I have a fish finder/GPS unit at the helm, but I had no such unit at the bow where I run the trolling motor. I saved up and bought a Humminbird 597ci HD DI Combo unit that has made me a much more efficient angler.

The 597ci has down imaging electronics that allow you to see exactly what is on the bottom. I haven't come across any sunken bridge trusses like in the advertisements, but I can easily discern the makeup and contours of the underwater terrain. The unit has GPS capabilities and standard graphing electronics. You can split the screen horizontally in a number of configurations to fit your needs. For me, there is no more asking a fishing partner at the stern if the helm unit is marking any fish or what the depth is. I'm able to read the structure and the fish for a more productive day of fishing.

As mentioned earlier, we had a lot of rain in 2011. The high volume of runoff flowing into the tributaries and the bay also brings with it an enormous amount of debris. For much of the year, our waters were a mind field that required us to keep our eyes peeled for objects floating or submerged just below the surface. I

do admit that I stayed off of the water for most of September. Most of my fishing trips start early in the morning and I was not willing to risk damage to a lower unit for not seeing debris.

Soon after the late summer deluges, I acquired a GOLIGHT Gobe Model 2151 search/navigation light. The light has a 12-inch stanchion that raises the spot beam and red/green navigation lights for better visibility for you and others on the water. The light comes with a wireless remote that allows you to raise and lower the beam 90 degrees vertically and rotate the beam 360 degrees horizontally.

I initially bought the light as a navigational aid. Its 1,000 lumens are quite handy for those pre-dawn runs to the fishing hole. I have also found that, by rotating the beam 180 degrees toward the stern, it can aid in launching a boat at a dimly lit boat ramp. I recommend the Gobe 2151 to anyone who has a need to be on the water during low light conditions – fishermen, watermen, and water fowlers.

Through the years I've learned that trying new products has made me a better angler. I can add products to my repertoire or discount them and move on. I know that we all must make our fishing budget to what our income will allow. Saving for big ticket items can take some time. If you are in the market for similar tackle and gear, I recommend that you try the products listed above.

## Young Guns!



Here we have Charles "Chucky" Martin with his 11 point buck bagged in Kent County, MD during early Muzzle loader season.



This 9 point whitetail was bagged in Montana on F&M ranch by Joel Haggerty with a 7mm.



The Chestertown Volunteer Fire Company is holding a

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Admission is **FREE** but donations are greatly appreciated. There will be plenty of good food and ice cold beverages available. There will be new and used fishing tackle and equipment for sale as well as crabbing supplies, nautical/wildlife art, fishing charters, marine electronics and raffles. If you want to sell some of your old gear in the garage to make room for new or you make your own tackle that you would like to sell, vendor tables are reasonably priced.

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## "HUNTING PASSION"

### Turkey Primer

By Mike Monteleone

Those who hunted the vast flocks of wild turkeys during the last half of the 19th century did not often complicate the hunt. They hunted for the pot and for the market, having a goal of killing as many turkeys as skill and opportunity allowed. They did so day after day and year after year until the bird was extirpated from much of its traditional range. Do you want examples? Roost shooting was popular. The hunter would work the woods early and late until sighting a roosted bird.

That bird was killed from long distance, most often by using a precisely sighted muzzleloader of moderate caliber. Roost-shooting was particularly effective in spring when the tom's vocal nature caused him to lure hunters to sure kill range.

Baiting was also popular. The hunter dug or scraped a shallow trench and filled it with corn. He then hid in line with the ditch, and waited until turkeys stood wing to wing at the bait. A whistle or putt would cause the birds to raise their heads. The deed was done with a big bore, maybe an 8 gauge on a stand, loaded with a lot of black powder and shot.

No ethical hunter would corn-hunt or roost-shoot today. Those techniques rank with road-hunting for a cheap challenge. Modern hunters – most of them a least – hunt spring turkeys the difficult and challenging way. They practice to obtain expertise on at least one kind of turkey call, and then go to the woods to call toms within shotgun range. Typically, that means a couple-twenty yards. That's a basically simple but sporting technique.

Having said that, it's proper to say that those of us who write about turkey hunting tend to emphasize the most sophisticated hunting techniques. The information appeals to elite turkey hunters, or to those who strive to be elite. Trouble is, the tyro hunter – even one of moderate skill who had tagged a few gobblers – does not care a cupful of fresh turkey droppings about that. These hunters usually need information for the opposite end of the turkey hunting hierarchy.

This is information that might be found in a turkey hunting how-to. Read on to learn my opinion on turkey hunting techniques that allow new hunters to tie their tags to a turkey leg.

Basic techniques can be logically divided into the following categories: Calls – Locator Calls - Guns - Decoys - Camouflage - Set up - Sounds

#### Calls

Turkey calls come in two basic types: wind and friction.

Wind-activated calls are the most difficult to master. Diaphragms are the most common of the variety and commercially available at most hunting retailers. Wingbone calls are hand made by artists and are very effective but pretty pricey. Trumpets, snuff boxes and latex covered film canisters are other hand-made types of calls that can also reproduce the sounds of a hardy hen.

The friction calls are more user-friendly. The basic box call is a good example, and it's a good call. A paddle stroked across a tuned wall produces basic yelps and clucks.

Although practice with a box call permits other kinds of turkey talk - cutts, cackles, purrs and gobbles and such - will not be addressed here. Why? Because the easily made yelp and cluck are all that is needed to call a turkey close much of the time.

The venerable slate, glass or plastic call is another friction call that provides a very realistic sound, even in the hands of a beginner.

A wood or synthetic striker is stroked across the sanded surface - somewhat like scrapping fingernails across a chalkboard - to produce fine clucks and yelps. Purrs, when appropriate, are also easily made with a slate. The surface, in all instances, must be kept free of grease, oil or dirt. Sanding the slate causes the turkey talk to stay pure.

A third friction call is the push-button box. This one-hand device can produce decent clucks or yelps, depending on how it is tuned. This call can be mounted to the forend of your shotgun and used with minimal movement as a turkey approaches or needs to be coaxed that extra step.

Which of the described friction call is best? They all are. I suggest one of each. Be sure to buy the best quality of each call that your circumstances allow.

#### The Locator Call

The locator call can be the best friend of a beginning turkey hunter. In fact, it can be any turkey hunter's best friend. Locator calls produce sounds that coax a gobbler from a springtime

tom. The best known locator call – and likely the most effective on Eastern turkeys – is the "who-cooks-for-you," laugh or giggle of the barred owl. Many talented turkey hunters use their own vocals to imitate all the barred owl's sounds exquisitely. Those new to the sport usually rely on one of the owl calls offered by various manufacturers.

The crow call is another effective locator. It is most useful when crows leave the roost at daylight cawling as they begin feeding for the day. However, it can be very effective during other times in the day.

Which locator call is best? If I had to choose one, it would be the hooter, but I carry both in my vest and you should too. Neither is expensive, and each is most effective during certain time frames.

#### Guns

The 12-gauge shotgun capable of accepting 3-inch shells is the staple gun of turkey hunters but there are more and more turkey hunters converting to lesser recoil 20-gauge shotguns. With technology advancement in the creation of precision choke tubes; both gauges have more than sufficient pellet coverage and accuracy at short and long distances that make either gauge a good choice.



I prefer a pump-action gun while others might strongly recommend an autoloader, a side-by-side or an over-and-under. The range of a tightly choked 3-inch, 12-gauge, in all configurations, is about 40 yards. With proper ammo and choke selection it is possible to achieve great pellet densities over 50 yards. Serious hunters take the gun to the range or woods to pattern its shot on paper before hunting. A turkey's head and neck region – when it gets right down to it – is a small target.

What size shot should you use? I like 6s, but that is only because that is what my guns have always shot best. Each gun is different and you owe it to yourself and the turkey to try different shot sizes to determine the best shot densities your gun can achieve.

Buy a factory camouflaged gun, have your gun camo-dipped, use a camo tape or camo paint to disguise a gun you already own. What brand? Browning, Remington and Mossberg offer great turkey guns. Personally,

I like a short-barreled gun, with maybe 22 inches of barrel. If your budget doesn't allow a new gun, consider a used gun.

#### Decoys

The turkey decoy can be a great accessory. A tom that comes to the call

See Monteleone Page 9

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# Monteleone ...

## Continued from Page 8

expects to see something. If he doesn't, even the most passionate might not hang around long. The jaded veteran surely won't. A turkey decoy provides sight stimulation, but it also acts as a sort of pacifier.

Also, a decoy that moves a bit adds realism and deception. There are many choices when selecting a decoy. I suggest using an Avian Series decoy by Zink. It is by far the most realistic synthetic decoy I have ever seen. If you have a big budget and are willing to carry an extra decoy bag in the woods you can always use a real taxidermied turkey decoy.

## Camouflage

Turkey hunting camouflage is available in mind-boggling high resolution camouflage patterns such as Mossy Oak Obsession, Break-Up Infinity and the old stand by, Bottomland. All these patterns are extremely effective in the pre-dawn and in the shade of midmorning light.

When camouflaging yourself, don't stop with pants, shirt, and jacket. Use camo gloves and a camo facemask, or face-net. Be sure to purchase camouflaged accessories and dull any reflective surfaces on your clothing and equipment. Be as still as humanly possible when the longbeard comes in close. The twitch of an eyelid – sad to say – can send your trophy trotting or flying away in a split second.

## The Setup



Choose a setup that offers as many advantages as possible. A big white oak or a wide-trunked pine tree to back up against will provide comfort and protection. A moderate downhill slant will allow you to draw up your knees to a comfy position. Look for vision lanes and shooting lanes to the front.

It is easy to say what the ideal setup is on paper but when a lustful Tom starts strutting in your direction it can be almost impossible to find that perfect setup in the few seconds that you have to make your decision. This is why you need a good camouflage pattern described earlier in this article. The thing is, do the best you can under the circumstances and when you have committed, stay put.

## The Sound

Turkey language is complex. Bi-

ologists have identified more than 30 calls that have meaning to the turkey. Few of them have meaning to turkey hunters. The plain yelp and cluck are the most deadly of the calls. Each is powerful enough to cause the turkey's testosterone to boil. Listen to audio clips to identify the sound and practice them until you're proficient.

Successfully hunting the wild turkey is not that complex. It's a series of somewhat simple challenges. Having said that, it's important to say such does not always work for me. Turkeys whip me more often than I whip them.



Ryan Knarr of Westminster, MD. with his first buck. He spotted this buck on opening day of Maryland youth season 2011 in Frederick, County, MD.



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## “ON THE SCENE”

### A Pair of Drakes

never find the perfect sounding call. Then, last summer it hit me. The fun had been replaced with work. There were always repairs needed to the boat, decoys needing paint and blinds needing fresh boards. The list went on and on, consuming my summers once filled with after-

noons fishing. I had just removed the kayak and canoe stored on top of the Jon boat so I could install another water pump on the motor. When pulling off the lower unit, I was stuck with a pain in my lower back, a message, time to return to the simple days of waterfowling.

My Jon boat soon left the driveway for last time, towed behind the purchaser's truck. I made myself a promise that afternoon. This season was going to be a simple one.

I watched the river mallards through my binoculars. I sat in my truck watching as they arrived from parts unknown, but they came. Not in large numbers, but enough to satisfy a solo hunter. Tomorrow marked the beginning of another season of duck pursuit and this re-born, simplified, duck hunter was ready.

I arrived riverside long before the sun awoke. A single rope latched the camo painted kayak in the back of my truck. Inside the yak, I had placed two old Herter's foam decoys, a hen and drake. My gunning bag held one box of shells, a change of gloves, one duck call, a face mask and a thermos of hot coffee. Holding the kayak steady with the paddle, I slipped into my self powered vehicle and floating blind.

The western part of Maryland is not known as a duck hunting hot spot, and as I paddled up river, I was alone. A duck opener and not another duck hunter could be found within my surroundings. I was not racing other hunters to the prime locations, as with the eastern shore marshes of Maryland. I took my time stoking the paddle up river. The river world remained still and quiet except for the sounds of the paddle touching the water with each stroke.

See Aughenbaugh Page 11



We as waterfowlers are stuff junkies. Our garages will never fit a car. Decoys hang from the rafters and line the walls. Those decoys currently in use lie in wait in the center of the garage floor. Staged in mesh bags, they sit ready for the next morning in the marsh. And there are the rest of necessities; waders and hip boots, gunning bags, shells, calls, motion decoys, layout blinds, portable box blinds, and the list grows each year.

My old gray haired grizzled waterfowl mentor once told me, "I can tell how long a hunter has been bit by the waterfowl bug from the amount of stuff filling his garage and spilling out into the shed and yard."

That was me, a junkie of junk. Decoy spreads were never large enough. There was never enough motion in the spread. And I could

## Pennsylvania Game Commission says record-book buck taken illegally in Dauphin County

A 14-point buck that would have been among the top 25 typical deer even taken with a firearm in Pennsylvania was poached on Thursday, Dec. 1, in Londonderry Township, Dauphin County, according to the Pennsylvania Game Commission.

The agency alleges that Scott M. Garner, 33, of Bainbridge, Lancaster County, used the same antlered deer

tag on the monster buck that he used on a five-point buck taken Oct. 31, during the archery hunting season for deer.

A tag, which each hunter is required to complete and attach to every deer he harvests, may be used on only one deer, and hunters are limited to just one antlered deer per year.

The commission filed charges of exceeding the bag limit for antlered deer against Garner Wednesday, Dec. 7, in the court of District Justice William Wenner in Harrisburg.

The charges could

bring up to 90 days in jail, an enhanced fine of \$6,500 because the size of the deer's antlers are considered trophy class under Game Commission regulations and up to three years revocation of hunting and trapping privileges in Pennsylvania.

Commission antler scorers measured the 14-point buck's antlers at 172.5 inches in the Boone & Crockett system.





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Dauphin County Wildlife Conservation Officer Mike Doherty holds the record-book antlers of an illegally taken buck from Londonderry Township, Dauphin County

## Aughenbaugh ...

Continued from Page 10

By moonlight, I found the low hanging sycamore tree I had mentally marked while scouting a few days earlier. I had found what I believed was "the X". Using my feet, I slid the two decoys within reach and tossed them out into the river. The current pulled. Decoy anchors grabbed and their heads turned facing up current.

Back paddling, I slid the kayak, now floating blind, tight under the hanging branch. Well hidden, I glanced at my watch. Fifteen minutes before legal shooting time, just enough time for a quick cup of coffee. Sipping on my coffee, I thought

of the other duck hunters across the state, who were racing each other, tossing decoys until their arms hurt, and dealing with too-short motion decoy poles. I was enjoying my solo morning on the river. As I finished my morning coffee, the eastern sky began to reveal light of the day. Placing the lid back on the thermos, I reached into my bag and removed three shells.

The sound of the shells sliding into my old worn Browning 12 gauge pump awoke the hunter in me. Marked by the whistling sound of wood ducks flying down river, shooting light arrived. They passed too quickly. Down the barrel, on a way too far behind swing, I watched as they faded in the light fog down river.

A few more minutes passed. Gray dawn filled the sky. The east no longer held the only light. A single drake mallard turned the river's bend and on his low fight make for my decoy spread of two. Without the fan fair of highballs, feed chuckles, and lonely hen sounds, he came my way.

Wings locked and feet down, he slowed his approach intent on joining my party of two. A single touch of the pump gun's trigger stopped his approach, and he lay still on the water. Digging deep in the river with my paddle, I quickly overcame him, before the river's current attempted to sweep my first drake mallard of the season away.

Back in position under the sycamore,

more, I waited for my next target. The wait was short. Another drake made the same approach. Again a single shot laid him to rest, floating down stream. Resuming my hide, I waited for the next arrival. None came and soon the Canada geese began to fly high overhead making their way to breakfast. Instead of feeling the need to remain and fill my limit, I felt content with my hunt.

With two decoys tossed at my feet, gunning bag stowed behind me, and my two opening morning mallards on the kayak floor between my legs, I slowly let the river carry me back to the truck. The simple pleasures of the hunt had returned.



Ronnie Boulden of Pocomoke Maryland with a 50 lb 49" caught at Buoy 72 aboard *Kingfish II* with Captain Harry Nield last December.



Hey Tim,

I have attached a photo of my 7 point I got on November 25th. Weighed 128 lbs and harvested him in Ashton, MD, (Montgomery County), Mathews MQ-32, 100 grain Rage, CE Piledrivers...

Many thanks to *Gun Shack* and Bob for working on my bow and getting me all set up. I brought in a Mathews MQ-32 and Bob took his time and really got it adjusted to my specs. Looking forward to seeing you guys for all of my hunting needs, great shop and great guys to work with.

Sincerely,

Jimmy Bentson

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## “FISHIN’ BACK EAST”

### SO...YOU WANT TO BE AN OUTDOOR WRITER?

Part III

By Jim Gronaw

*Note: This is the third in a series of articles focusing on anglers with outdoors/fishing related jobs and careers.*

Let’s face it...every hunter and fisherman I know has a story to tell, if not dozens, about how the big one got away, or got caught. How about that 10 point buck you worked so hard to track last winter through the deep snow? And that absolutely crazy camping trip, where just about everything went wrong. Trips, adventures and just plain great stories from those of us who love to hunt and fish.

Outdoor writers are a bit different from other writers and other people for the most part. We like to tell about our best trips, and if we are honest, about our worst trips as well. Some writers want to include good and useful info, but not too much. Others don’t mind sharing their secrets with the world. To be truthful, few outdoor writers do it on a full-time basis and tend to author a few columns or articles per year with the hopes of having the income generated help to pay for their outdoor habits. Some writers are fortunate enough to have positions with magazines and func-

tion as various editorial positions and may be regular contributors to other publications.

I must say that I have been blessed over the years to have many opportunities to write for local, regional and national publications. This still surprises me, as most of my ‘stuff’ is about simple, bluecollar fishing opts in our Mid Atlantic region. If I were to go back 35 years and do it over again, I would have made a few changes, and not tried to learn it on my own. Here are a few thoughts and suggestions for anyone interested in perusing an outdoor writing career.

**EDUCATION...** It would be wise to take as many courses in writing and still photography as you can, and learn the proper way of constructing any write-up, on any topic. I barely passed high school English, and it probably shows in some of my writings. But, I persevered, and since I chose to write only about fishing topics, it wasn’t that hard for me to express myself to the angling public.



Photo emphasizes the importance of good still photography skills....a December caught bluegill.

You don’t have to have a degree in journalism, but you do need to be able to write clearly and accurately about the passions that you have for the sport. Today’s text messaging jargon won’t work, and my fear is that we are raising a generation of people who will struggle with their communication skills. Writing and journalism classes will work. And by taking smashing photos, your work will be considered for acceptance.

#### KNOW YOUR SUBJECT...

It stands to reason that everything we read must be true...right? Well, that simply is not always the case, in many arenas and publications and on many different subjects. Clearly, if we want to inform people about our great heritage of hunting and fishing then we must have a solid knowledge of our passion.

I believe that the outdoor writer has a responsibility to either inform, teach or entertain the reading public. Some are better at it than others, and there are many great and enjoyable writers out there today, to include several in this publication.

I have read some books and articles by some of the greatest anglers on earth, but their ability to hold and ‘consume’ the reader was marginal, making at times for a tough, difficult read. Yes...great information and tactical applications, but very dry and methodical reading. Which leads to the next topic...

**WRITING STYLE...** Any writer or potential writer has a style that is all their own... to a point! I have been guilty of attempting to be humorous in some of my misadventure pieces where meadow muffins and angry dairy bulls made for a better story than the actual fishing. I like humor, but my wife often reminds me that much of what I say is not that funny. And, to sad avail, she is all too often correct. So, it pays to mix it up, and blend fact with humor or tactics and maybe some of you own personal flair for story telling. Which leads to another consideration...

**EDITORS...** Here at Fishing and Hunting Journal, the editors are very open to variety of writing subjects

and content, and much freedom is afforded to us. This freedom allows for many diverse and interesting topics in the outdoors. But some editors prefer to take a more ‘controlled’ position in content, and this is not a bad thing. You see, some editors want to publish every word it takes to tell the story, and not a single word more. Terse, tight writing style is often needed for certain publications, and other editors are looking for more adventure pieces that make for a reflective and enjoyable read. Each one is different, and they require a style that may not make you happy, but makes for a solid article on smallmouth hair jigs or deer stand safety.

Always abide by editorial guidelines, especially, word count. One pitfall to avoid is repetition. It is so easy to say the say thing, a couple different ways. Sure, hammer on a solid point on technique or product preference, but double check yourself for repetition, like I just did!

#### SEARCH FOR VENUES...

There are many publications out there that provide outdoor reading to cover fishing, hunting, nature lore, animal and plant ID, camping, boating, kayaking, preparing wild game, bird watching, hiking, trip planning and on and on.

Don’t just limit yourself to a few subjects, if you have a solid knowledge in others. Me, I have stuck mostly to freshwater fishing topics with the occasional reflective piece with family and friends. Most states have a publication that will focus on many, if not all, of the above mentioned topics. By utilizing the Internet, you can find many publications and guidelines for submitting material.

Despite the economy, I believe that the opportunities are out there to get a decent writing gig in most regions of the country. If you have passion and a talent for expressing your skills or adventures, then you may have a future in outdoor writing. Don’t expect to make a living at it and put three kids through college. But you’ll have some hunting and fishing doors open up and find it to be as enjoyable a part-time job as there is.



Recipe submitted by Sportsman’s Table, the outdoor enthusiast’s resource for preparing, cooking and serving fish and game, located in HellertownPA. For more information Visit [www.SportsMansTable.com](http://www.SportsMansTable.com) or Call 1-866-640-6802.

#### Old Fashioned Soup Stock

Ingredients: 1 whole onion with skin, 1 large unpeeled carrot, and 2 celery stalks with leaves, broken meat bones (breaking bones allows marrow to flavor your broth), and 3-4 quarts of water.

Prep Time: 15 min

Cook Time: 3 hours

Ready In: 3 hours 15 min

Yields: 6-8

Directions: In medium roasting pan roast bones with carrot, onions and celery.

Cover and simmer slowly for 45 minutes- 1 hour. Add all ingredients to large soup pot and cover with water. Bring to a boil. Simmer for 2 hours. Strain stock. Thrown away remains. Refrigerate stock overnight. Remove congealed fat from surface. Use this fat free unseasoned stock as a base for your favorite soup. Add meat, noodles or rice, vegetables, and whatever seasonings you please. Enjoy.

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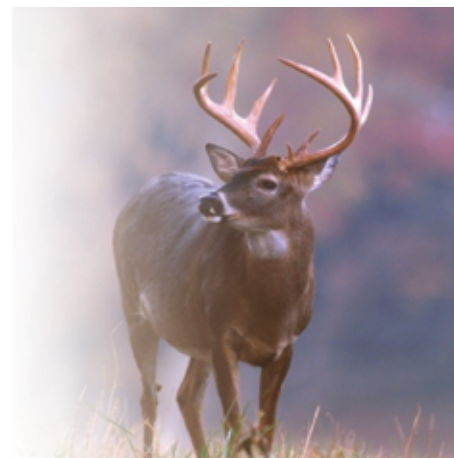
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## Women in the Outdoors!



Sofia D'Anna is all smiles after harvesting her first buck in December 2011.



Ruby Vlcej of Pasadena, MD took her first deer ever in Somerset County, PA on the opening day of firearms season. She dropped the buck in its tracks with one shot from her .50 caliber muzzle loader.”



Lindsay Thomas who was on the cover last month with her brother is trying to match him on deer bagged this season. Her second deer was shot with a muzzleloader in Baltimore county and that is her dad and her hunting mentor pictured with her.



Kristen Nickerson and her 12 point buck, harvested during shotgun season. Kristen didn't need a tracking dog to find her magnificent 12 point taking during gunning season.

# 2011 MSSA Captain of the Year Is.....

First Place Wins \$5,500 Prize

After three tournaments the MSSA is proud to announce that the 2011 MSSA Captain of the Year, sponsored by Judge Yachts, is Sam Fisher Jr. of Heathsville, Virginia. Fisher is a long-standing member of the Dorchester County Chapter of the MSSA.

Fisher and his crew, team "Righ Hook", competed in every tournament the MSSA hosted this year which helped propel him to victory with 1,393.15 points.

This year the MSSA Tournament Series consisted of two of the largest striped bass tournaments in the country, the MSSA spring tournament – Championship on the Chesapeake and the fall tournament – Chesapeake Bay Fall Classic. The third tournament was the 22nd Tuna-ment, MSSA's only offshore tournament.

Points are given to captains for participating in each tournament as well as their catch. Fisher had an impressive year averaging 30 pounds caught in the spring tournament, won the Tuna-ment with a

111.4 pound blue fin tuna and an impressive 15 pound dolphin, and a 28 pound fish in the fall to secure the Captain of the Year.

Fisher will be receiving \$1,000 in cash and free "All-In" entries in to every tournament within the 2012 MSSA Tournament Series, a value of \$4,500.

"I am happy for Sam and his crew. They are hard working anglers that enjoy competition and represent recreational anglers very well, we are happy to call them members and very excited to call him the MSSA 2011 Captain of the Year", Dave Smith Executive Director of the MSSA.

Second place went to Robert Moreland of Edgewater, Maryland. Moreland is a member of the DC Metro chapter of the MSSA and has been a tournament angler for many years now.

Moreland finished just behind Fisher with 1,341.5 points, a mere 51.65 point difference. Moreland also had an impressive run as he averaged 25 pound fish in the spring



tournament, a 49.5 pound blue fin and 13 pound dolphin in the Tuna-ment, and finished in the fall tournament averaging 27 pounds per fish.

For his efforts and commitment to the MSSA and its tournaments Moreland will receive "All-In" entries for two tournaments within the MSSA Tournament Series.

Third place goes to Tom Musser of Boyds, Maryland. Musser is a veteran member of the MSSA and represents the Frederick Chapter of the MSSA in this contest.

Musser competed in all of the tournaments as well and finished with 1,319.15 points. Musser averaged 17 pounds per fish in the spring, 46.5 pound blue fin tuna and 17 pound dolphin in the Tuna-

ment, and two 26 pound stripers in the fall tournament.

Musser will receive an "All-In" entry to one of the 2012 MSSA Tournament Series events.

"This is year was the closest I have seen this contest in while", Smith said.

MSSA will be adding a flounder tournament to the series in 2012 allowing for more participants and increasing the stakes.

The MSSA Captain of the Year contest has become as fiercely competitive as each of the individual MSSA tournaments. Captains' look forward to the year-long competition and enjoy participating in all of our tournaments for their shot at the top of our MSSA captains.

## 2012 OKUMA RAW II SALTWATER SPINNING REEL

The Okuma RAW II Dual Force Drag system incorporates both surfaces of the spool in order to maximize high end drag pressure, efficiency, and overall smoothness. Mounted in the top of the spool and protected by the Hydro Block System is the multi-disc carbon fiber drag washer and stainless steel washer system that works in conjunction with a secondary carbon fiber washer system that is mounted under the spool. Even pressure is applied to both surfaces of the spool for maximum stability.

This Okuma product is new for the 2012 fishing season. The RAW II is a smooth and powerful spinning reel that will offer you year's of superior performance.

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Okuma's patented CRC, Corrosion Resistant Coating Process

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Hydro Block water tight drag seal

Super strong and durable High Density Gearing

Carbon fiber handle system (on sizes 30, and 40)

Heavy duty aluminum handle system on sizes 55 and up.

RAW II spinning reels are backed by a 1 year warranty from Okuma



David Spartin was fishing on *Sea Dux* with Captain Brian Cuncell at the helm on the last day of the season when they hooked this impressive striper.

## “IT WILL NEVER BE THE SAME”

Lewisburg, Ky. – For decades, hunters have been attempting to outsmart the wily long-beard wild turkey by mimicking the sounds of his hen. Through slates, diaphragms and boxes, hunters across North America have mastered the imitation of the various voices of the hen with clucks, putts, purrs, yelps, cutts, cackles and kee-kees. And in doing so, countless numbers of turkeys have been harvested. However, it is the sound of the long-beard himself that has eluded realistic vocal imitation.

With the official introduction of Down-N-Dirty’s Haint gobble call, the folks at DND have achieved that which has been previously thought impossible—the Holy Grail of wild turkey calling—a hand-held call that challenges Toms. The DND Haint gobble call absolutely reproduces a loud, resounding gobble of a dominant long-beard. With very little practice, the Haint produces the identical sound, pressure, volume and force that naturally resonates from old Tom, and it’s that sound that brings him in with ferocity to defend a challenge to his territory. With the Haint in hand, that challenger for dominance is you.

Made from a one-piece walnut barrel with a hand-tuned and patented reed assembly, the Haint gobble call has changed turkey hunting, now and forever.

“As successful as hen calling has been in the past, we have to remember that each time a gobbler has been called into range using hen vocalizations, the gobbler has been going against his nature to display and attract hens,” said Mark Coin, DND president. “The Haint has proven to not only entice ‘unkillable’ over-called long beards into close range, but more importantly, the Haint has shown itself to be very forgiving and easy to learn how to use properly. With minimal practice, even a novice hunter can be using the Haint call to produce unbelievable gobbles in a very short amount of time.

“We field tested the Haint call this spring and the results were absolutely incredible,” Coin continued. “This call will make even the weariest of old gobblers give their location away.”



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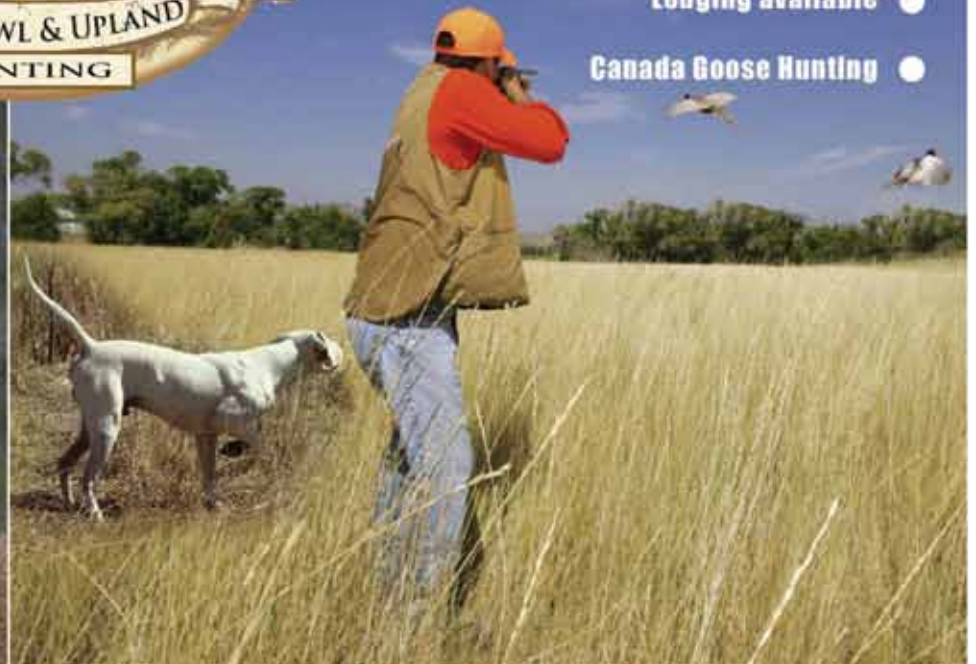
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# The Snip

## Features

Easier hook threading with the clean cut of the precision 420 stainless steel cutters even with braid

36" retriever means that it is always ready for use

Squeeze design means quick and easy snipping with wet or gloved hands - no scissor loops

One handed snip lock

LED lets you see the line in the dark

## Product Information

The Snip offers anglers an effective alternative to awkward, easily misplaced cutting tools like scissors or nail clippers. Compact, lightweight, yet extremely durable, it features precise, corrosion-resistant "Grade 420" stainless steel blades that slice through monofilament, fluorocarbon, and even braid, like butter.

This unique tool delivers more than a clean, smooth cut every time. The Snip offers a level of convenience and ease-of-use that other line-cutting tools can't match. This patent-pending, spring-loaded retractable "leash" allows The Snip to be attached anywhere on your boat—or on your person—and extend a full 36" for duty. You'll never have to search around for your cutting tool again, and since The Snip is always secured, there's no chance of losing it overboard. When you're finished cutting, just squeeze the aluminum "handles" on the side of the casing to lock the blades in "safe mode," and let go. The Snip will automatically return to its original position—ready for use whenever you need it.

We've even equipped The Snip with a built-in LED light, making it safe and easy to cut line before sunrise, at dusk, or when night fishing (a version without the LED light is also available).

The Snip is extremely rugged and dependable too. It's built to ward off rust and withstand repeated use in the toughest freshwater and saltwater environments. And while it's designed for unparalleled quality, performance and convenience, The Snip is priced to fit any angler's budget. Every unit is also backed up by a one-year manufacturer's warranty.



I took my 12 year old daughter Ashley, on her first deer hunt during this past (2011) Maryland Junior Hunt in Worcester County. Ashley had taken her hunters safety course this past August. Ashley was so excited to be hunting that Saturday morning. We were in the stand for about 45 minutes when I saw a doe crossing an opening. Ashley was preparing herself for a shot and I was watching her the whole time. As Ashley looked through the scope she whispered that there was a buck with the doe. I told her to go ahead and shoot the buck if she wanted. As I tried to watch and get a glimpse at the buck she squeezed off a round. I looked up and saw the deer run into the wood line with his head low in the grass. We stood silent for a second and heard a crash in the woods to our left. Ashley wanted to get down right away, but I told her we would have to wait because there were others still hunting. She was smiling from ear to ear as we talked about what had happened and relived the moment. After about 2 hours we got down to track the deer. We found blood on the edge of the wood line so I had Ashley Track the deer. I had no idea what we were about to walk up on. the deer had gone only about 20 yds. When I saw the deer for the first time I had to sit down. After hugging her I told her she had no idea what she had done. I quickly called my father and cousin who were working on a stand on the other side of our property and told them to get everyone over to where Ashley and I were because she had shot a huge deer and we needed help. Our taxidermist estimated its live weight around 250 lbs. It sports 9 points and has a high rack. the taxidermist told her the good news is she shot an incredible deer. The bad news was she may never see deer like this the rest of her life. Ashley's answer to that was "but then again I might see one bigger!"

Ken and Ashley Bates

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# Va angler catches 74-lb rockfish off Cape Henry

A Prince William County angler has caught a 74-pound rockfish that could break a state record.

Fishing off Cape Henry with Capt. Tim Cannon on the Bada Bing, Prince William County angler Cary Wolfe caught a 74-pounder after a fight of about 15 minutes.

The fish eclipses the current mark of 73 pounds caught almost to the day four years ago by Chesapeake's Fred Barnes. To become the state record, it first must be certified by the Virginia Saltwater Fishing Tournament.

Weighed in at Long Bay Pointe Marina, certification is almost assured.

"We knew it was a citation (40-plus pounds) winner, but we weren't sure just how big until we got it on the scales at the dock," said Wolfe, a 56-year-old X-ray technician at Prince William Hospital. "When we got it in the boat, we knew it was huge, but..."

"Then we got a hard knockdown, but it really wasn't doing much," said Richard White, Wolfe's brother-in-law and the boat's mate for the day. "It wasn't doing too much."

At first, the crew thought they might have had a small bluefin tuna.

Tuna have been making an incredible inshore run over the past month.

"It wasn't shaking its head very much and wasn't really putting up all that much of a fight," said Wolfe, who lives in Brentsville, just outside of Manassas. "We really did think it might be a small tuna until it came up about 30 feet from the boat."

"That's when we knew what we had and we knew it was a decent fish."



## MD DNR debuts New Youtube news show

YouTube, Md. — The Maryland Department of Natural Resources (DNR) has released a new YouTube show to compliment the Access DNR Twitter feed, Facebook page and email newsletter. The first video is available at <http://youtu.be/OyWOCaQaT-Y>.

"YouTube presents a great opportunity for DNR and State agencies," said Josh Davidsburg, DNR Senior Communication Manager. "We interactive with our viewers, and give them opportunities to comment, give us a "thumbs up" and make video responses."

The new YouTube show will feature the top DNR stories of the month along with links, so viewers can follow along with the headlines and take a more in-depth look at the topic. The department is encouraging any news outlets and blogs to embed, Facebook share or tweet the video to their readers and followers.



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## Maryland DNR announces angler's log Snakehead results and contest winners

Annapolis, Md. - The Maryland Department of Natural Resources (DNR) today announced that 69 anglers submitted 82 snakehead landing reports to the DNR Angler's Log. Anglers' from the log were automatically entered in a drawing, held on January 9, which featured prizes donated by Bass Pro Shops, Maryland State Parks and the Potomac River Fisheries Commission.

"We do not want snakeheads in our waters," says DNR Inland Fisheries Director Don Cosden. "This initiative is a way to remind anglers that it's important to catch and kill this invasive, non-native species of fish." The Northern Snakehead is a highly-regarded Asian species and was introduced to the Potomac River most likely by people intent on serving this exotic fish in an underground market. Snakeheads are voracious, invasive, non-native predators with the potential to greatly affect the ecosystem as they prey on other local forage and game fish.

In mid-April of last year, DNR joined the Potomac River Fisheries Commission and the U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service (USFWS) to promote catching and killing snakeheads as a way to collect data on the expanding range of these apex predators, and to enlist the help of recreational anglers in controlling the population.

"This contest was a great way for us to see how many snakeheads are being caught in the Potomac," said Josh Newhard, a snakehead biologist with USFWS. "We hope anglers continue to target and remove this species from the waters of Maryland and Virginia."

DNR registered more than 170 snakeheads ranging from 1½ - to 16-pounds. Anglers caught snakeheads from April to October, with most coming from Potomac River, between May and July. The fish were most prevalent in grasses, near cover and among lily pads.

While most anglers fished tidal water, a few found success at Bumpy Oak Pond. In his Angler's Log post, Angler Bao Huynh of Fort Meade referred to the pond as "snakehead pond."

The Angler's Log, located at [dnr.maryland.gov/fisheries/fishingreport/log.asp](http://dnr.maryland.gov/fisheries/fishingreport/log.asp), is a family-friendly, online fishing forum hosted by the DNR Fisheries Service. The log celebrates Maryland's wealth of angling opportunities and provides a platform for up-to-date fishing information from the region's most avid anglers.

The Angler's Log provides DNR and USFWS with valuable data on the spread of snakeheads while helping anglers pinpoint likely locations and techniques for the chase. Anglers who

caught USFWS-tagged fish received an embroidered "Snakehead Control" ball cap. All Angler's Log snakehead anglers were automatically entered into a drawing for a \$200 Bass Pro gift card, a 2012 Maryland State Park pass, and a Potomac River Fishing License.

The Winners:

\$200 Bass Pro Shop gift card: Rodney Hose of Lexington Park, who found his winning fish along the Occoquan River shoreline using a white chatterbait with a four-inch Zoom trailer. The fish took the bait just south of the wildlife refuge.



**Rodney Hose of Lexington Park, who found his winning fish along the Occoquan River.**

"These fish clobber any type of moving bait you throw," said Hose. "When they smash into your lure, be prepared for a fight; especially if they are around some sort of cover." 2012 Potomac River Fishing Li-

cense: Jim Burgess from Haymarket, Va. who caught his fish in Quantico Creek a tributary to the Potomac River.

Maryland State Parks Passport: James Berry of Chesapeake Beach, with the 16-pound fish he caught near Fort Washington on the Potomac River using a compound bow, a popular method for harvesting Northern Snakehead.

Dutch Baldwin of Indian Head, harvested 26 with bow-and-arrow, but cautioned that they spook easily during the day.

DNR also mounted a successful seafood marketing campaign to introduce snakeheads to top chefs and seafood lovers. Many anglers cleaned and cooked the fish with great results. Avid angler Hon Kwon recommends in his Angler's Log post to simply fillet them like a striped bass with a cut along the dorsal fin and backbone down to the tail.

DNR, PRFC, and the USFWS intend to run the promotion again in 2012. For information, visit [dnr.maryland.gov/fisheries/fishingreport/log.asp](http://dnr.maryland.gov/fisheries/fishingreport/log.asp).

Keep up with DNR fisheries information through Twitter @MDDNRFISH and on Facebook [facebook.com/MDDNRFisheriesService](http://facebook.com/MDDNRFisheriesService).



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Gerald Perdue with his Coyote he shot in Pittsville, MD. this past fall. Photo Courtesy of Winks Outdoors

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## DNR invites wildlife artists to enter the 16th Annual Maryland Black Bear Conservation and the 38th Maryland Game Bird stamp design contests

Annapolis, Md. — The Maryland Department of Natural Resources (DNR) invites artists to submit their original artwork for the 16th Annual Black Bear Conservation Stamp Design Contest. Both Maryland residents and non-residents may enter now through Friday, March 16, 2012.

“The proceeds from the sale of the Black Bear Stamp and other related products are used to compensate farmers in Maryland who experience agricultural damage caused by black bears,” said Patricia Allen, Information & Education program manager for DNR’s Wildlife & Heritage Service.

All entries must be original, previously unreleased artwork. Each contestant may submit one entry for a non-refundable \$10 entry fee. Contest entries will be judged on Sunday, March 25, 2012 at the Patuxent National Wildlife Visitors Center in Laurel, Md., in conjunction with the 23rd Annual Patuxent Wildlife Art Show.

For complete contest rules and entry forms visit [dnr.maryland.gov/wildlife/StampContests/BlackBear/ContestBrochure.pdf](http://dnr.maryland.gov/wildlife/StampContests/BlackBear/ContestBrochure.pdf), email Patricia Allen at [pallen@dnr.state.md.us](mailto:pallen@dnr.state.md.us) or call 410-260-8537.

Annapolis, Md. — The Maryland Department of Natural Resources (DNR) invites Maryland waterfowl artists to enter the 38th Annual Maryland Migratory Game Bird Stamp Design Contest.

“Proceeds from the sale of these stamps help fund waterfowl and migratory game bird projects as well as much needed research,” said Patty Allen, Information & Education program manager for DNR’s Wildlife & Heritage Service.

All entries must be the artist's original work, neither copied nor duplicated from any previously published paintings, drawings, prints, or photographs of the contestant, or any other artist. Each contestant may submit up to three entries. The entry fee, signed Agreement to Enter Form, and entries with completed Entry Identification Forms attached to the back, must be received via mail by 4 p.m. on Friday, March 16, 2012 at The Maryland Migratory Game Bird Stamp Design Contest, Friends of Patuxent, Patuxent Research Refuge/National Wildlife Visitor Center, 10901 Scarlet Tanager Loop, Laurel, MD 20708-4027.

Entries will be judged at noon on Sunday, March 25, 2012 in conjunction with the 23rd Annual Patuxent Wildlife Art Show at the National Wildlife Visitors Center in Laurel, Md. Contestants and the public are invited to attend the contest judging process. Admission is free.

For a list of species eligible for depiction and full contest rules and forms visit our website at [dnr.maryland.gov/wildlife/StampContests/DuckStamp/ContestBrochure.pdf](http://dnr.maryland.gov/wildlife/StampContests/DuckStamp/ContestBrochure.pdf) or contact Patricia Allen, Contest Coordinator, at [pallen@dnr.state.md.us](mailto:pallen@dnr.state.md.us) or 410-260-8537.



**Brian Wink with his 144 lb, whitetail buck shot during youth day with his rifle. The buck scored 118 1/8" Photo Courtesy of Winks Outdoors**



**Al Townshend, DVM, Louis Ruland, DDS, Captain Brian Cuncell and Louis Ruland III, MD were hunting on Gliding Gander Farm in December 2011. The father and son team hadn't hunted for nearly 20 years and simply had a magnificent time.**

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## Coastal Report

By Capt. Mark Sampson

From the Boardwalk I could see three boats fishing about a mile offshore. At the time the wind was blowing pretty hard out of the northwest and with an air temperature in the mid-thirties I couldn't help but think that the folks out on the boats deserved every fish they caught. A little later, while crossing the Rt.50 Bridge I noticed a couple small boats fishing inside the inlet. Even from there I could see that the anglers were dressed to the hilt and well prepared to deal with the frigid conditions that morning. Cranking up the heat in my truck I began to wonder if any of the fishermen I had just see were "really" prepared for cold weather fishing that day or if they just took care of the immediate need to stay comfortable during the few hours they planned to fish that day.

Winter fishing can sometimes be really good around here as long as you hit it at just the right time when whatever it is you're after happens to be in feeding mode on a day when the weather isn't so sever that your

fingers crack off when you're trying to bait a hook or tie a knot – I hate when that happens! Stripers, sea bass, tautog, bluefish, cod, certainly the list of available species isn't as long as what we enjoy in the summer, but it's good quality fishing that can help anglers bridge the gap between seasons.

But if anyone thinks that the only difference between preparing for a fishing trip in January or one in June is the thickness and amount of clothing they have on, they had better wise up fast or run the risk of winding up in a very bad way. Regardless of the time of the year or the nature of the trip, before leaving the dock every boater should run a "what-if" safety check through their mind to

On a nice day a winter

cruise can be a wonderful experience. But what if problems arise that keep boaters out longer than expected? A fun voyage can suddenly become a life-threatening situation because even on a particularly mild winter day, when the sun starts to fall it's probably going to become quite cold and anyone not prepared to be stuck out on the water could be in trouble. Certain hazards await boaters in the winter that they don't have to deal with in the warm weather months. Awareness and precaution of these hazards is crucial to safe

so cold out that boaters observe ice in their bilge they should check and make sure that their bilge pumps are not bound up with ice as well. Checking a pump requires listening for the sound of it running, not just looking on the dash to see if the light comes on which only means that power is going to the pump, not that it's actually working. It's also a good idea to manually lift the float-switch to make sure it will activate the pump when needed.

Slippery decks and docks – Just like cars get frost on them at night, so do docks and boats. But while cars just require a little scraping, extreme caution must be take on a frosty dock or deck because one bad step could send someone overboard and to an early death. Icy conditions are extremely hazardous around boats!

Frozen hands don't work – Boaters must remember that many of the routine tasks they do on their boats in the summer are impossible to accomplish in the winter. Wet, icy hands lose dexterity and often the ability do simple repairs that might allow a crew to return safely to port.

Safe winter boating requires that folks take extra caution to ensure that their vessels are in top running condition before they leave the dock so they won't have to attempt repair at sea.

No one else out to help you – In the summer, no matter where you go there are often a lot, if not too many, other boats in the area. While that can prove to be a hassle sometimes, it's also reassuring to know that if you have a problem, assistance might be just a shout away. But in the winter there's so few boats out on the water that if a problem arises the only assistance available might be from a cell-phone or radio call to the closest Coast Guard station.

Whether it's for hunting, fishing, or just cruising about, wintertime boating can be a great experience and is nothing to be afraid of. But stepping aboard a boat this time of the year does require a lot more preparation and caution than is typically needed for a cruise on a typical summer day. The hazards of cold water are nothing to take lightly.



boating this time of the year.

Water in fuel - Boaters must always be on guard for the possibility of having water build-up in their fuel tank, but the chance of this increases when frigid winter temperatures heightens the chance for condensation inside the tank. While water in fuel will often prevent a boater from leaving the dock in the first place, it can also bide its time and wait until someone has ventured out into open water before snaking its way into the carburetor or injectors and wreaking havoc with the engine. To minimize the risk of water in their fuel, cold weather boaters should keep their fuel tanks topped off, inspect and change filters regularly, use fuel stabilizers, and buy ethanol-free gasoline.

Bilge pumps freeze up – When its

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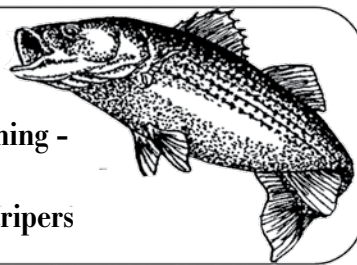
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**Mike Thomas with a wide 22", 7 point buck taken near Church Hill, MD.  
Photo Courtesy of Emory Creek Processing**



**Marley Doyle stayed in the stand 2 1/2 hours to bag this 8pt buck during the 3 day muzzle loader season. To say her father Larry is proud would be understatement.**

## *The 5th annual sporting clays tournament benefitting the Tim Kern Memorial Foundation.*

The TK Sporting Clays Tournament will be held at the Hopkins Game Farm in Kennedyville, Maryland on Saturday, March 31st. Each entry into the tournament requires a fee of \$40.00 with all proceeds benefiting the Tim Kern Memorial Foundation. Hopkins Game Farm will be hosting the tournament again this year. The facility will be open all week for you to brush up on your skills in preparation for the 12:00 p.m. "shotgun" start. Registration will begin at 10:00 a.m. If you have any further questions, please contact the Hopkins Game Farm at (410) 348-5287.

Following the tournament, everyone is welcome to participate in the post-event party to be held at Sunset Bar and Grill in Betterton, Maryland. Beer and wings will be provided free of charge to all tournament participants. A \$10 donation is required at the door for individuals that do not participate in the shoot. Sponsorship opportunities are still available. For more information, please contact the Tim Kern Memorial Foundation at (410) 778-4060 or by e-mail at [chestertown3@gmail.com](mailto:chestertown3@gmail.com).

As in previous years, all proceeds garnered from the event will go to support the Tim Kern Memorial Foundation. The mission of the Foundation is simple: to raise community funds by hosting events in the spirit of "Tim". Tim Kern attended Chestertown Middle School and graduated from Kent County High School in 2002. A tragic accident took his life in 2006. The Tim Kern Memorial Foundation was established by friends and family who shared a bond with Timothy Kern. Donations will be made to charities that embody the love for sports, passion, dedication, as well as the fun and laughter that was "Tim".

Please help make this year's tournament a success by showing your support in sponsoring a shooting station and participating in the event. Thank you for your participation and we look forward to seeing everyone March 31st.



**Fang Campbell tricked this nice 11 point sporting 12" brow tines near Church Hill, MD. Photo Courtesy of Shore Country Outdoors.**

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## Mid-Bay Report

By Chuck Prah

a hardy few.

The economy has killed the Timonium Fishing Expo, and severely tests other shows on the shore, and their

Here we are in the heart of winter. Hunting is over, fishing will be restricted to fresh water and upper reaches of our tidal rivers, and then only for

ability to attract vendors.

Flea Markets, however, are going full blast. Pasadena Sport Fishing will hold their famous Flea Market on February 18th and 19th.

In Cambridge, the Dorchester County MSSA will hold their Fishing, Hunting, and Marine Market on February 25th. Doors will open at 8 a.m. at the American Legion at the foot of the Route #50 Bridge. Billed as the biggest, one-day show on the shore, this is a great show to pick up bucktails, parachutes, umbrellas, etc., with lots of small makers competing at low prices.

Last month, I took my own advice and journeyed to Florida to extend my fishing season another week or so. I have a standing invitation from my lifetime fishing and hunting buddy, Phil

Moranto, to fish with him in the Sunshine State.

Phil chartered a Guide, Randy Yeager, that he had fished with before and promised me that he was as good as they come. We met Randy at the Marina in the town of Kissimmee on the shores of Lake Toho. That's short for a name I can't pronounce.

Randy insisted that we fish shiners in this lake. I was hoping to fish artificials, but Randy considered this body of water a poor lake for anything but live bait.

After purchasing 3 dozen wild shiners, we set off in Randy's 20-ft. bass boat. I have not traveled that fast, even on land. I couldn't even blink until we slowed down near our destination.

Lake Toho is a big lake. We could

the stern deck. To show us where to fish our baits, Randy heaved them with a looping swing to the edge of the grass. The shiners immediately headed for the safety of the grass.

I think Phil had the first bite. A fish had driven the shiner to the surface, and after some thrashing about, they disappeared and the bobber streaked out of sight. "Wait a few seconds and reel in the slack, then when you feel the weight, set the hook", Randy implored. This was going to be exciting.

Phil connected first. He knew the drill after fishing with Randy previously. I was never good at the circle hook scenario. I was always pulling the trigger too soon, and too fast. It's similar to live lining with spot.

By my standards, the fish were



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Randy Yeager on his Nitro 911CDC with Mercury 225 Optimax

have been on the Chesapeake. It's that big. We anchored in mid-lake on the edge of a massive bed of hydrilla in about 9 feet of water.

Randy rigged us with bobbers and circle hooks tied about 2 1/2 ft. below the bobber, no weight. He hooked the shiners through the nose. Some of them were 12 inches long.

Phil sat on a swivel seat mounted on the bow deck while I was seated on

huge. Florida-strain bass are big and beautiful. And here, on Toho, they were plentiful. Once I got the knack of setting the hook, it was a blast, probably the best bass fishing of my life.

We kept Randy busy netting fish and baiting up with fresh shiners. I

See Prah Page 25

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# Prahl ...

Continued from Page 24

caught my biggest bass ever, landing a six pounder.

Phil set the hook on a good fish about mid-morning. I was not prepared for what followed. With his rod bent in a sharp bow, I watched the largest bass I'd



**Phil Moranto holding his 9 lb.+ Lake Toho Bass**

ever seen clear the water in a classic tail wagging jump that bass are famous for. After some heart-stopping rushes near the motor, Phil finally pumped him up to the net.

Checking him out on two scales, this was a nine-pound plus bass. She measured 26 inches long and 18 inches in girth. Randy was adamant that this fish should go back into the lake. We agreed. It would have been shameful to kill a fish of this magnitude simply for bragging rights. We took pictures and dimensions if a replica was needed. There is no longer need to keep fish for

mounting. The fish can be duplicated perfectly using molds and man-made materials.

This was a day to remember. We caught about 30 fish, 20 of which were over three pounds. I would guess 10 were over four pounds.

The Kissimmee chain of lakes are located in Central Florida, not far from Orlando. Good guides are needed to get you to the right lake at the right time. Not only do they provide the needed skills, but they provide a boat and motor and fuel, plus tackle at a very nominal cost. A half-day for two people goes for \$200. Bait is extra.

Randy Yeager can be contacted at 407-744-1350. He is familiar with all the great lakes in Central Florida. He can put you on one this winter for possibly the trip of the year, and might even connect you with the fish of a lifetime.

My next fishing will probably target spring-run white perch in the Marshy Hope. This creek has produced perch for me in March for many years. I try to hit it on or about March 10th somewhere near the Harrison's Ferry Bridge near Hurlock.

Grass shrimp, bloodworms, small minnows, and night crawlers all catch fish here on the Marshy Hope. Live grass shrimp might be hard to find, but easily out-fish any other offering.

I have a few places where I find shrimp in early March if tide and weather cooperate. Pick a warm, bright day, and a low tide, at a well-protected marina and scrape the surrounding wooden bulkheads with a fine mesh net. Even if you come up with less shrimp than you need, take what you have and back them up with bloodworms. The scent of the shrimp will attract the perch and once you have them close by, the bloodworms will work fine.

If you feel like trying the perch in February, it might pay off to journey to the Little Blackwater near the Refuge on Key Wallace Pond. It is one of the early spots to catch perch.

## Deer hunters see increased firearm season harvest

Annapolis, Md. — Maryland deer hunters experienced a range of weather for the two-week firearm season and harvested an estimated 41,421 deer — a 2 percent increase from last year's harvest of 40,694 deer for the same period. This year's total included 14,302 antlered deer and 27,119 antlerless deer. Sika deer totals were 455 antlered and 549 antlerless.

"Nearly half of the annual deer harvest occurs during this two-week period and a large portion of the harvest consists of female deer," said Brian Eyler, the Department of Natural Resources (DNR) deer project leader. "Harvesting a sufficient number of female deer is a critical part of our deer management plan."

Region A deer hunters (Garrett, Allegany, and western Washington counties) reported 4,960 deer for the two-week season, up 12 percent from last year's harvest of 4,422 deer. The antlered harvest increased 12 percent from 2,528 deer last year to 2,830 deer this year, while the antlerless harvest increased 13 percent from 1,894 deer to 2,130 deer.

The Region B deer harvest of 36,461 deer was similar to last year's harvest of 36,272 deer. The antlered harvest increased 4 percent — from 11,077 deer last year to 11,472 deer this year. The antlerless total decreased about 1 percent — from 25,195 deer last year to 24,989 deer this year.

Deer hunters harvested 3,952 deer (1,467 antlered, 2,485 antlerless) on Sundays during the two-week season. Deer hunting is currently permitted on the first Sunday of the

two-week firearm season in all counties, except Baltimore, Howard, and Prince George's. Sunday deer hunting is also permitted on the second Sunday of the two-week season in Calvert, Charles, and St. Mary's counties. Carroll County deer hunters took advantage of new legislation that permitted Sunday hunting for the first time this year and harvested 298 deer for the day.

Junior deer hunters enjoyed a weekend-long firearm season in most counties and harvested an estimated 3,014 deer. The official Junior Firearm Deer Hunt traditionally had been a Saturday event, but legislation passed last year expanded the hunt to Saturday and Sunday in 20 of the 23 Maryland counties. The extra day of hunting resulted in a record harvest, which was up approximately 47 percent from last year's 2,053 deer. Included in the total were 1,754 antlered deer and 1,260 antlerless deer.

"Junior hunters are the future of deer hunting and effective deer management in Maryland," said Eyler. "Without deer hunters, conflicts between deer and humans would continue to grow. Special seasons such as the junior firearm weekend are invaluable in recruiting and keeping the interest of younger hunters."

Junior hunters are reminded they may obtain an official DNR Junior Hunter certificate for the deer they harvest this year.

The certificates are available from participating retail agents. Junior hunters can also have their picture posted on the DNR website at [dnr.maryland.gov/huntersguide/yh\\_certificate.asp](http://dnr.maryland.gov/huntersguide/yh_certificate.asp).



**Larry Geib and his crew from Lancaster, PA. were aboard Fish Fear Us Charters with a limit of stripers last April. Photo Courtesy Of Captain Bob Ritchie.**



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This happy young lady was fishing during the fall Rockfish season when she caught this nice striper trolling outside of Thomas Point on the Western Shore.



Mike Irons has the hot tree stand this year on Kent Island. The 14 point with long brow tines was shot during the early muzzleloader season. The large 9 point was shot during the last day of the shotgun season. Both were shot from the same stand.

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## Ole' Iron Sides...



## Book of the Month

### I've Never Met an Idiot on the River: Reflections on Family, Fishing, and Photography by Henry Winkler

#### Review

PRAISE FOR I've Never Met an Idiot on the River

"The most entertaining and introspective fly-fishing memoir I have ever read."

- David Ondaatje, filmmaker and owner, R.L. Winston Rod Company

"Henry Winkler has become a true fly-fisherman and anyone who reads his eloquent words will gain an appreciation of why this sport is so pure and perfect. His stories and thoughts remind me why I love fly-fishing so much."

- John Barrett, host, Fly Fishing the World

"Henry Winkler and I share a love of the outdoors and fishing. This is a great book that captures the impact the sport can have on our lives. All outdoorsmen should read it and experience Winkler's passion for the fishing experience."

- T. Boone Pickens, legendary energy executive

"Winkler's message is positive and upbeat, making the book as much a motivational title as a fishing memoir. The important lesson he learned from his achievements is that with patience, persistence, and practice you can accomplish anything. Well done, Henry. This breezy, charming volume is for fans of celebrity memoirs and self-help."

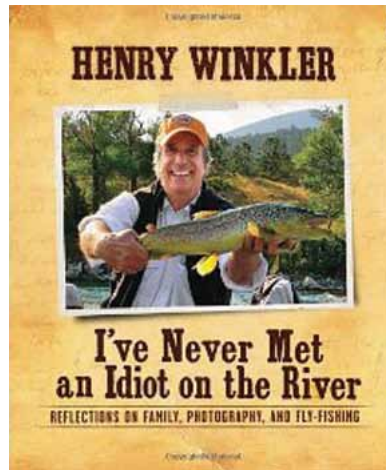
—Mike Rogers, Library Journal

"Winkler's warmhearted spirit anchors the simple collection of Montana and Idaho river photos, reminiscences, and asides, resulting in a fantastic Father's Day gift for any patriarch who owns a pair of knee-high rubber boots."

—Richard Horgan, MediaBistro

"There is something for everybody in this book . . . The book is a touching story about overcoming personal problems to reach one's goals."

—Kevin Brown, The San Francisco Book Review



Bobby Muse 45 inch rockfish was caught aboard Recoil Charters with Captain Jerry Haggerty at the helm this past December.

## Maryland to assess public opinion on potential reintroduction of Elk in Western Maryland

Annapolis, Md.

— The Maryland Legislative Sportsmen's Foundation (MLSF), the Maryland Department of Natural Resources (DNR) and the Rocky Mountain Elk Foundation (RMEF) today announced plans to conduct an extensive



public opinion survey to determine the viability of elk reintroduction to Western Maryland. Elk once roamed Maryland, but have been absent since the 1700s.

Social, cultural and economic questions will dominate the survey, which is scheduled to begin in February and conclude with a final report and analysis in April. The survey will reach a sample of residents across Maryland with a focus on residents of Western Maryland. Consensus from DNR's experts and impacted stakeholders will be necessary for the final decision.

"We are pleased to announce this important step toward evaluating elk reintroduction in Western Maryland," said MLSF Chairman David Sutherland.

The MLSF signed a contract with Responsive Management, a professional survey firm that specializes in public opinion and attitude surveys on wildlife management issues. The RMEF will underwrite the survey through a MLSF grant. DNR will assist with the technical review of the survey instrument and the final report.

"We recognize the need to ensure a scientific review of public opinion on this extraordinary and important question," said David Allen, President and CEO of the RMEF. "Restoring elk requires a supportive community. We are pleased to be a key partner to that end."

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## Elk Neck State Forest shooting range to open earlier on Mondays

North East, Md. — Starting back on January 9, 2012, the Elk Neck State Forest shooting ranges opened from 1 p.m. to sunset, making them more accessible to users during the winter months.

“Many customers stated that Monday’s 4 p.m. opening time, paired with the early sunsets, significantly restricted their shooting hours,” said Forest Ranger Shawn Day. “They spoke and we listened, I think this is great news!”

The ranges are also open from 9 a.m. to sunset, Tuesday through Sunday. They open later on Mondays to allow for preventive maintenance and grounds care work. Ranges are open on all holidays – including Mondays – from 9 a.m. to sunset. Sunset times are posted on all information boards at the range complex.

The complex is made up of four separate ranges; a 100-yard rifle range, 50 yard pistol range, shotgun/skeet range, and 14-target archery range.

Ranges are open to the public and require either a daily or annual permit, available at the forest office. Yearly permits may also be purchased online at <https://www1.md.wildlifelicense.com/> or at any Sport License Sales Agent within Maryland.

For more information on Elk Neck State Forest or the shooting ranges visit [dnr.maryland.gov/publiclands/central/elkneckforest.asp](http://dnr.maryland.gov/publiclands/central/elkneckforest.asp) or call 410-287-5675.

## CLYDE’S SPORT SHOP

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James Conway poses with his 23 1/2” long catfish this past fall



Steve Bussy with a two catfish day. One weighed 11 lbs 7 oz.



Kyle Worrell with a 20 lb flathead catfish from Conowingo Dam.



Another one of Clyde’s customers with an impressive brute.

All Photo’s Courtesy Of Clyde’s Sport Shop



Wade Murphy and Loren Cohee took advantage of the great winter striper season on the Eastern Shore of Virginia with these two keepers.



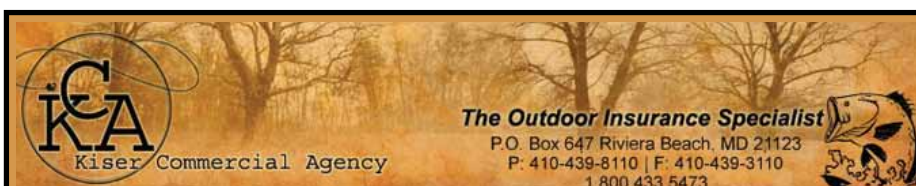
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Lee Buckel, Mitch Quillen, Brian Council, Fang Campbell, Eric Hignutt and Jimmy Ervin made their annual trip to Saskatchewan, Canada to get onto some excellent duck and goose hunting this past fall.



Haley Criddle shot her first deer on youth day 2011. She used the same 243 her Dad, Brandon killed his first deer with. Photo is courtesy of Strut and Rut Archery in Chesapeake City MD.



Casey Schneck with his first goose ever!

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# Estimating monofilament backing when using braided Spectra

How much monofilament backing will i need beneath my braided line top-shot?

This is a nifty mathematics calculation on how to estimate how much monofilament backing you will need to use with braided line top-shots.

In this situation we are using a Shimano Sustain 5000 spool which holds 200 yards of 12 lb monofilament. and we want to use a 150 yard top-shot of 20 lb braided line.

How much monofilament backing do you need to fill the spool space?

What we know

spool holds 200 yards/ 12 lb monofilament

12 lb monofilament diameter = 0.014"

20 lb braid diameter = 0.009"

We have 150 yards of the braid



Now that you know how many yards of monofilament you need, how do you measure the 100 yards of monofilament?

Use a mechanical line-counter like the one in the photo to the right.



## STEP 1:

Spool Capacity = Value

Spool Capacity (yards)



200 yards

Monofilament Diameter



12 lb Ande = .014"

(SCV) Spool Capacity Value

= 2.8

## STEP 2:

Braid Capacity = Value

Spool of Braid (yards)



150 yards

Braid Diameter (inches)



20 lb PowerPro = .009"

(BCV) Braid Capacity Value

= 1.35

## STEP 3:

Subtract the two values

(SCV) (BCV) Yards of Monofilament Needed  
 $2.8 - 1.35 = 1.45 / .014 = 103.6$

## STEP 4: Divide by mono diameter value

## Raymarine Launches e7 Multifunction Displays

New e7 MFDs provide expanded networking, wireless connectivity, and all new user interface

MERRIMACK, N.H., – Raymarine announced the launch of its e7 line of affordable, easy-to-use multifunction displays that are packed with powerful, cutting-edge features.

The new e7 is the first 7" MFD to provide networking with up to six displays, as well as remote system control and music over Bluetooth. The e7's Wi-Fi connectivity allows boaters to stream live video from the e7 to their iPad, iPhone, or iPod Touch. This allows anyone on board to see whatever is on the e7's display – thermal video, navigation charts, radar, sonar, anything that the e7 can display – on their mobile iOS device anywhere on board.

Its Bluetooth connectivity lets you control and reconfigure the e7 with the optional RCU-3 wheel-mounted or handheld remote control unit. You can also use the RCU-3 remote to control the audio playback from your iPad, iPhone, or iPod remotely so that your device is stowed safely out of the elements.

The e7 is remarkably easy to use, with Raymarine's HybridTouch™ technology allowing boaters to choose touchscreen or keypad control, and the new LightHouse user interface, which makes customizing your MFD layout and display as easy as dragging and dropping on-screen elements where you want them.

But the first thing boaters will notice about the e7 is its all new sleek, low-profile design. Other MFDs can look like boxy appliances that are shoved clumsily into the console, but the e7's sleek design makes it look like it was made for your vessel. With a low-profile bezel and bright LED backlit display, the e7 gives you excellent visibility from every angle. The e7 display is also enhanced with a unique Sport Optic friendly coating that enables continuous visibility from virtually every angle while wearing polarized sunglasses.

Boaters can choose the standard e7 or fisherman can choose e7D with built-in HD Digital sonar. A 48 channel, high sensitivity internal GPS is also standard on both the e7 and e7D. e7 and e7D models are also available with Navionics ready-to-navigate coastal or inland charts supplied on a microSD cards.



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## Military women enjoy NWTF's event with USO

EDGEFIELD, S.C. — At a first-of-a-kind event put on by the NWTF and the USO, women with close military ties - wounded warriors, those on active duty and military spouses - were treated to a fun-filled day outdoors Nov. 6 in Broad Run, Va.

Given the enthusiastic response to the pilot event, representatives of the NWTF and the USO said they expect to work together on more such events.

"It was a huge success. Everybody had a smile on their face," said Michael Hartzell, a hospital services specialist with the USO. "If they were disappointed it was because they wished they had more time. "We're really looking forward to doing it again."

The group of 25 women, most from Virginia and Maryland, enjoyed several classes including archery, skeet shooting and fly fishing. NWTF member Jack Hazel donated use of the site, a 5,000-acre farm about an hour's drive from Washington, D.C.

Volunteers and staff with the NWTF's Women in the Outdoors program taught and supervised the courses, which stretched over six hours.

"It was an honor and a privilege to be a part of this," said Teresa Carroll, coordinator of the NWTF's Women in the Outdoors program. "Introducing women to outdoor activities is always exciting, but doing something for women and families who have given so much to our country is extra special."

One of the event's goals was to provide an opportunity for the women to understand and enjoy many of the same activities their family members participate in. Hartzell said skeet shooting and archery were particular favorites. Some women brought their children.

"Sometimes, these women might feel like they are pushed aside," Hartzell said. "We exposed them to a few new things they could take back home and use to connect as a family."



Women practice archery, one of several activities offered at the first Women in the Outdoors joint outing with the USO.

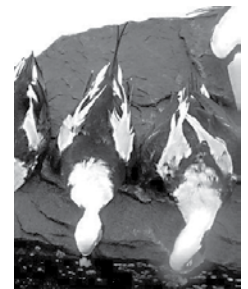
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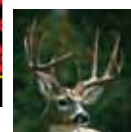
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## River Herring harvest moratorium in effect in Maryland

Annapolis, Md. —The Maryland Department of Natural Resources (DNR) confirms that there is now a statewide moratorium on the harvest of river herring — including blueback and alewife herring.

“This fishery closure was implemented on December 26, 2011, in response to a coast-wide concern regarding the depressed stock levels of blueback and alewife herring,” said DNR Fisheries Service Director Tom O’Connell. “This is evident by a 93 percent drop in commercial river herring landings along the Atlantic Coast since 1985.”

The Maryland commercial harvest of river herring has been falling since the early 1970s when the yearly average was about 700,000 pounds. Between 1990 and 1999 the yearly average was roughly 164,000 pounds. From 2005 to 2010 the average was just 35,200 pounds.

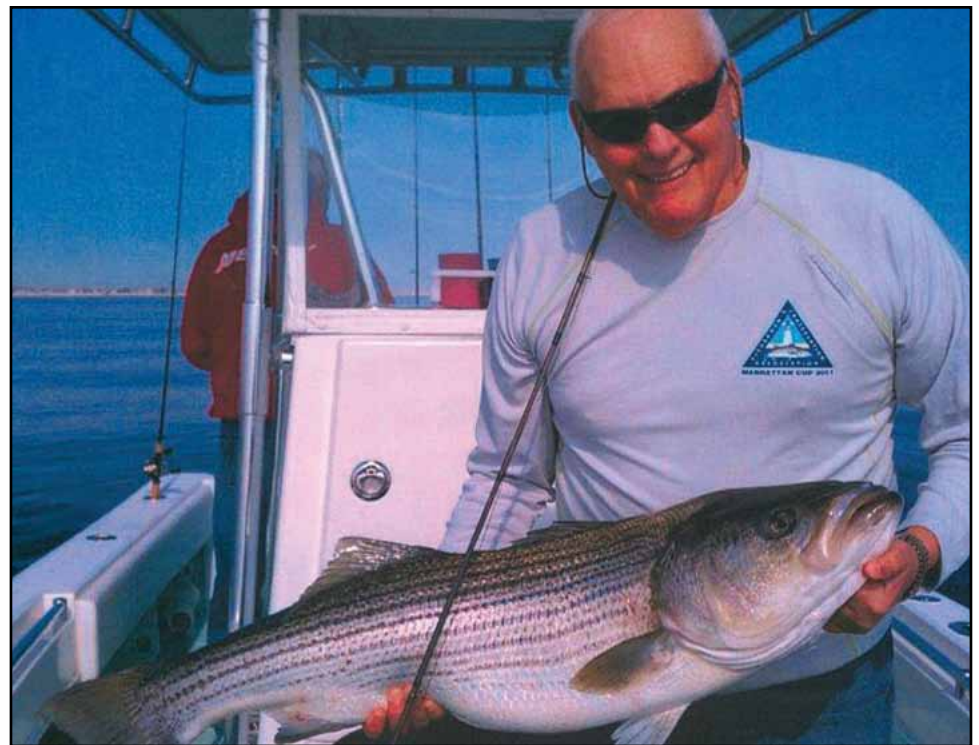
River herring contribute greatly to the dynamics of food chains in freshwater, estuarine and marine habitats, and at one time supported fisheries of significant socio-economic value. Maryland is not alone in taking action to restore river herring.

River herring and other fish species that travel between Atlantic Coast states from Maine to Florida are managed cooperatively by the Atlantic States Marine Fisheries Commission (ASMFC). Every state from Maine to Florida was required to implement a harvest moratorium by January 1, 2012, unless sustainability of their fishery was demonstrated through State-specific management plans.

“With few exceptions, it is now illegal to possess river herring in Maryland,” said Mike Luisi, DNR Fisheries Service Assistant Director for Estuarine and Marine Fisheries.

Bait shops with leftover river herring in storage that were harvested prior to December 26, 2011 may possess the fish until June 30, 2012 by notifying DNR and having their inventory approved by February 6. Dealers wishing to declare their river herring inventory should contact DNR river herring coordinator Harry Rickabaugh at 410-643-6801 ext. 2109 or Karen Capossela at 410-643-6801 ext. 2116.

Anyone in possession of river herring as bait will need to have a receipt indicating where the herring was purchased. This will allow bait shops to sell, and fishermen to possess, river herring for bait that was harvested from a State whose fishery remains open, as an ASMFC approved sustainable fishery. States with open river herring fisheries include New York, Maine, New Hampshire, South Carolina and North Carolina.



In the northeastern USA, early fall means one thing: stripers. Angler Ron Mazzarella of Livingston, New Jersey, USA took advantage of the fall striped bass run – landing a potential record fish on October 18, 2011, while fishing Ortle Beach, New Jersey, USA. Weighing in at (24 lb 5 oz), Mazzarella’s fish qualifies him for the potential new men’s (4 lb) tippet class record. Ron’s potential record fish took him 11 minutes to land after the fish fell for his well-presented deceiver fly. The current IGFA record is (23 lb). If approved, Mazzarella’s striper will be the fifth record for the species set this year.

## Maryland names Gunpowder Falls Trail in honor of Lefty Kreh

### *Kreh is a world renowned fly-fishing icon*

Annapolis, Md. — The Maryland Department of Natural Resources (DNR) and the Maryland Board of Public Works (BPW) today officially renamed the Gunpowder South Trail the Lefty Kreh Fishing Trail in honor of native Marylander Bernard Victor “Lefty” Kreh. Kreh is a world renowned fly-fisherman who has forever influenced the sport through his works and contributions.

“Lefty Kreh is a Maryland icon who has for decades inspired anglers across the State and around the world,” said Governor Martin O’Malley. “We are honored to bestow this recognition as a reflection of his dedication to, and impact on, fishing and conservation.”

The Lefty Kreh Fishing Trail runs along Gunpowder Falls in an area that stretches from Prettyboy Reservoir to Big Falls Road in the Hereford Area of Gunpowder Falls State Park. DNR manages this nationally recognized blue-ribbon trout stream as a catch and release fishing area.

Kreh was born in Frederick in 1925. Over his remarkable 75-year career, he has shared his enthusiasm and skill for fishing through his columns, books and presentations. He is known for his commitment to Maryland’s natural resources, using every available means to promote conservation and clean water, and giving back to the outdoors.

“You really didn’t need to do this but I want to commend the administration and DNR for all you have done for conservation,” said Kreh.

Kreh’s works spearheaded the expansion of saltwater fly fishing across the country and then the world. In 1974, he completed the seminal book on the sport—Fly Fishing in Saltwaters, which is still in print, now in its third edition. He is known for the Lefty’s Deceiver; a uniquely practical fly pattern he designed to fool striped bass—Maryland’s State fish—into biting an angler’s line. The bucktail fly pattern is the most widely used and imitated saltwater fly in the world.

After serving as the Baltimore Sun’s outdoor editor for 17 years, Kreh retired in 1990. However, he continues to teach fans, friends and protégés how to fish. In 2009, prominent broadcaster and author, Tom Brokaw called Kreh, “The embodiment of our Greatest Generation.”

DNR honored Kreh this past September at the 2011 Maryland Fishing Challenge. Participating in the event for the first time ever, Kreh presented the Challenge winners with cash and prizes alongside DNR Secretary John Griffin.

Kreh who now lives in Cockeysville, has written more than 30 books and has produced numerous instructional videos on fishing and outdoor photography. He continues to write and has a new book underway.



Dan Leonard with his 5 lb. 11 ounce caught in in a Carroll County farm pound. The bass was 21 3/4 inches. Photo Courtesy of Clyde’s Sport Shop



Jason McNatt of Delaware with his 20 1/2 lb. turkey with 1” spurs and and a 10” beard is quite impressive. Photo Courtesy of Shore Country Outdoors





By Steve Huettner

## “THE LAST WORD”

### Duck Hunter vs. Deer Hunter

After a long day afield sitting around the lodge with an adult beverage, one of the endless conversations that sportsmen have broke out, which group is the tougher hunter? Our group was comprised of dedicated water fowlers, dedicated deer hunters, and myself (I have a foot in both camps). Both sides were equally passionate about why their camp is hard core hunting, while the other group was comprised of fair weather hunters. As someone who pursues both fowl and deer with equal zeal, I figured I would be a fair and impartial judge.

Waterfowl hunters would be broken into 3 different groups: goose hunting, puddle duck hunting, and diver/sea duck hunting.

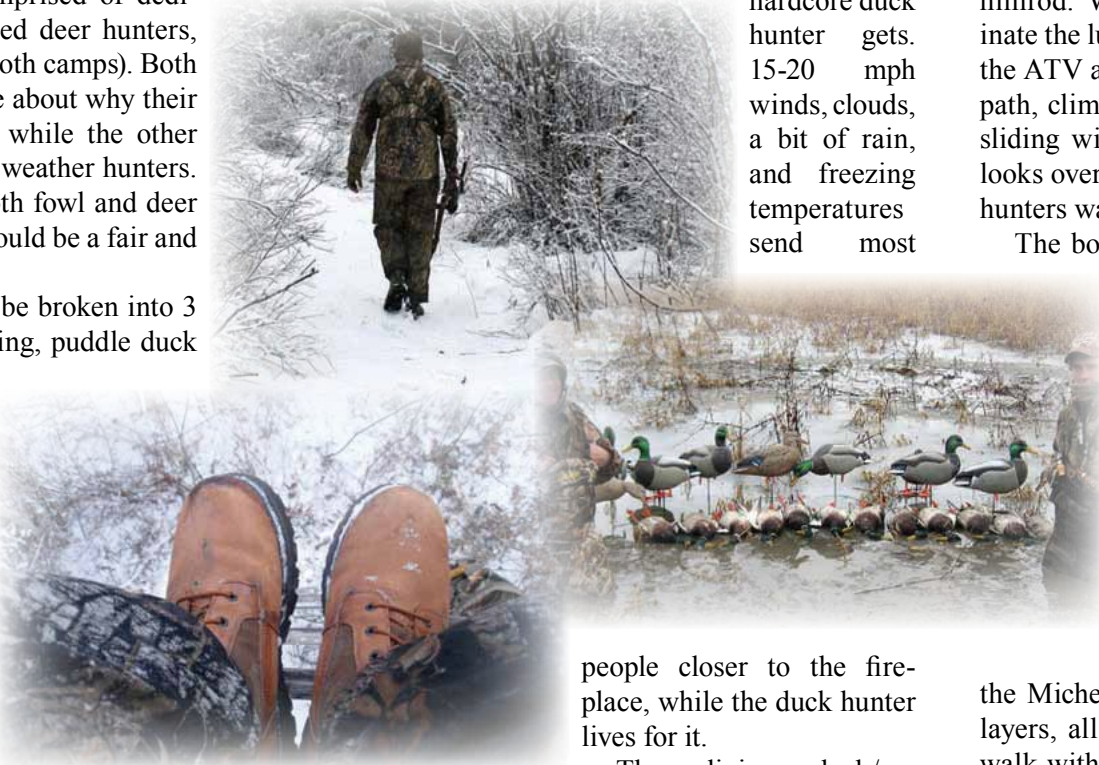
A majority of goose hunting is done in fields which allow you to drive some type of vehicle to the blind and set up the decoys. The deer hunting group brought up that most hunting is done out of a blind, pit, or layout blind. These usually protect you from the elements in some manner, allow you to set up a heater or even a stove if need be. Let's also not forget that geese usually fly a bit later in the morning (they like to sleep in).

The puddle duck group made a stronger argument. While some duck hunting takes place in spacious blinds over impoundments, a majority takes place in areas only insane people would step foot. A successful hunt usually means the more re-

mote the area, the better the hunting. This involves some manner of watercraft: jon boat, kayak, canoe, or beer kegs lashed together to reach your spot. It involves bat-

tling mud, grass, downed logs, and the tide; using jet drives, go devils, push poles, oars and an 870 shotgun (if you left your oar at the ramp).

You have to leave 2 hours before shooting time just to reach the spot and set up, and let's remember they call it water FOWL for a reason. When the weather looks miserable, the more excited the hardcore duck hunter gets. 15-20 mph winds, clouds, a bit of rain, and freezing temperatures send most



people closer to the fireplace, while the duck hunter lives for it.

The diving duck/sea duck hunter is a breed all unto himself. Take all the attributes of the duck and goose hunter and add using large boats, decoy spreads with long lines and heavy weight, rough open water, shooting out of a pitching boat, and waves splashing into an offshore blind and you have a hardy hunter. There are even small unique breed that push the envelope further by hunting out

of sneak boats which are a mere few inches from the waterline. When the only other people out on the water w are commercial waterman and the coast guard, you are certifiable.

I can say the coldest I have even been was on a diving duck hunt. Sitting in an aluminum boat with the temperature in the single digits for a 10-15 minute boat ride across open water to perch on top of some pilings as the wind and water freeze the action of your gun is definition of extreme.

Wanting to state their case, the deer hunting crowd began arguing for why they are the tougher nimrod. We all agreed that we would have to eliminate the luxury deer hunter. The hunter that drives the ATV across the field, walks down a manicured path, climbs up into an enclosed tower blind with sliding windows, heat, and a captain's chair, and looks over a pile of bait is not the example the deer hunters wanted to present as evidence.

The bow hunter who hunts out of a climber is a tough guy. Carrying in everything on your back, setting up a stand in the dark, and climbing 25 feet up tree like a BGE lineman takes certain bravado. Many hardcore bow hunters I know can spend an entire day perched on a small steel platform, with everything they need to spend the entire day hanging from a hook as the wind blows them around like a yo-yo. Late season bow hunting where everything you touch is ice cold, you're dressed like the Michelin man as the wind cuts through your layers, all in the hope of getting a single deer to walk with 30 yards of your stand is the definition of insanity.

As our groups argued their points for the better part of an hour, they asked me to render a verdict. After careful deliberations

I came to the conclusion that both groups were equally nuts (you pay money and take time off work to freeze) and they needed to get the next round from the fridge. If you have an opinion on whose tougher email me at [huttymddu@gmail.com](mailto:huttymddu@gmail.com).

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