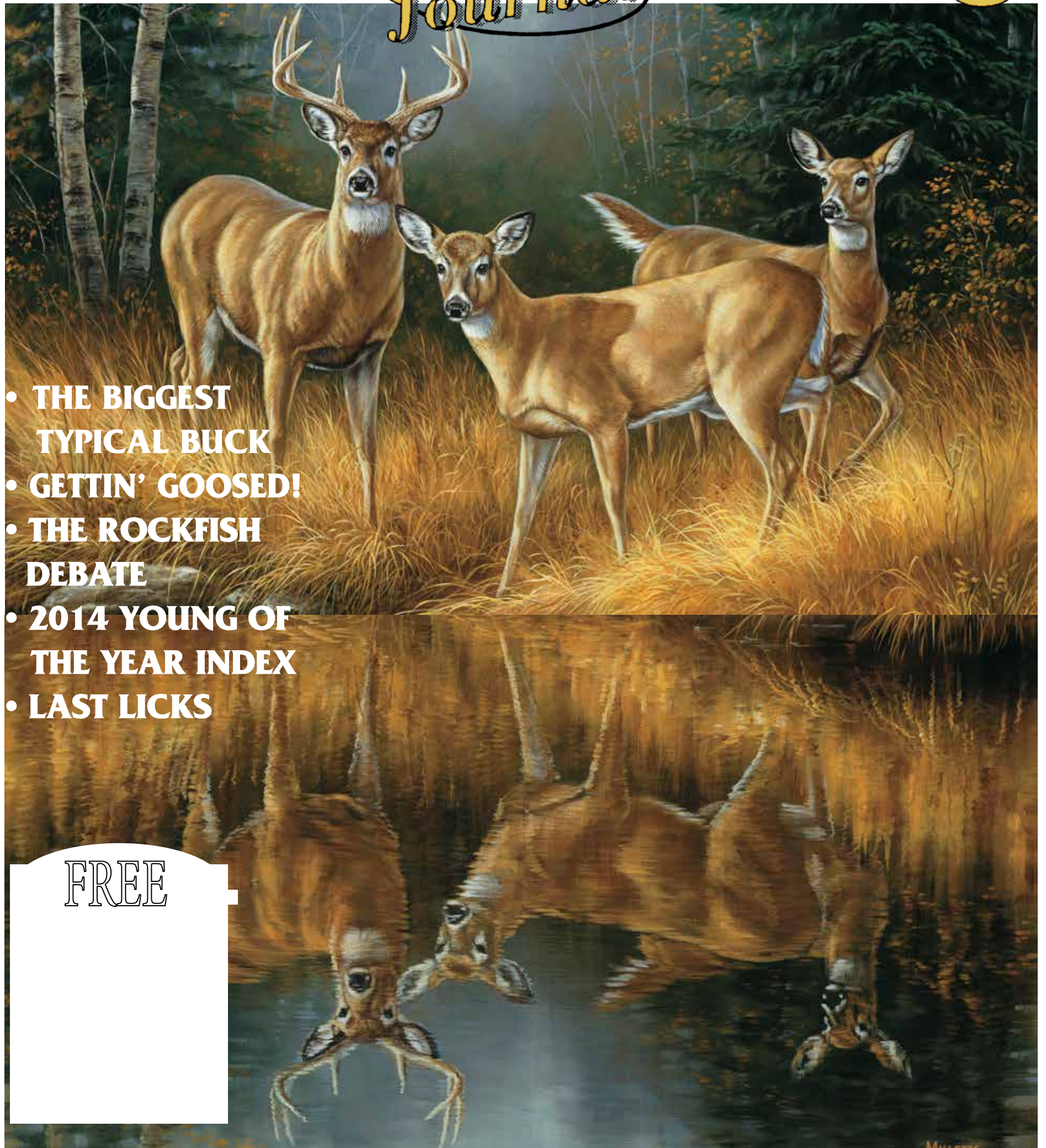


Fishing & Hunting Journal

- THE BIGGEST TYPICAL BUCK
- GETTIN' GOOSED!
- THE ROCKFISH DEBATE
- 2014 YOUNG OF THE YEAR INDEX
- LAST LICKS

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MILLETTE

Pennsylvania Man Sets Delaware Fishing Record

LEWES, Del. - A Pennsylvania man has set a new state record in the Delaware Sport Fishing Tournament with a 17.1-pound fish, DNREC officials confirmed today.

David Walker, of Boothwyn, Pa., says he caught the sheepshead on September 29 in the lower Delaware Bay over a rock pile on a green crab. It measured in at 28 inches long and 24 inches around, he said.

The catch is recognized as a Delaware record since the fish was caught from a boat that left from and returned to a Delaware port.

The previous record holder was Christopher Wentz, who caught a 15.11-pound sheepshead in 2012.



Striped Bass Survey Reveals Healthy 2014 Reproduction in Md.

The Maryland Department of Natural Resources today announced that the 2014 juvenile index — a measure of striped bass spawning success in Chesapeake Bay — is 11.0, nearly equal to the 61-year

average of 11.7. The results indicate a healthy level of reproduction for Maryland's state fish.

"These findings reinforce that, although the coastal striped bass population has recently decreased from historically high levels, the spawning stock in the Chesapeake Bay is capable of producing healthy year-classes as defined in the Atlantic States Marine Fisheries Commission (ASMFC) Striped Bass Management Plan," said DNR Fisheries Service Director Tom O'Connell. "We will continue to work with our partners along the Atlantic Coast to conservatively manage the striped bass population."

Striped bass, also called rockfish in Maryland, spawn in Chesapeake Bay and its tributaries each spring when individual females produce millions of eggs. The ASMFC's management framework includes measures to conserve spawning-

aged female striped bass to ensure adequate reproduction over time. Because the survival of striped bass eggs and larvae is largely influenced by environmental

factors such as water temperature, salinity and flow rates, the annual juvenile index naturally varies with occasional strong year classes, as observed in 2011, intermixed with average and below average indices.

Crews visit each survey site collecting fish samples with a 100-foot beach seine

DNR biologists survey 22 sites in the four major spawning systems — the Choptank, Nanticoke, and Potomac rivers, and the Upper Bay. This year, they counted more than 60,000 fish of 56 different species, including 1,454 striped bass. The crews visit each survey site three times during the summer, collecting fish samples with two sweeps of a 100-foot beach seine. To calculate the indices, biologists count and then average the juvenile fish caught in the samples.

State fisheries biologists have conducted Maryland's Juvenile Striped Bass Survey every year since 1954 to track the highly-variable reproductive success of these and other species including American shad and white perch, which also had successful spawning seasons.

The Virginia Institute of Marine Science's Juvenile Striped Bass Survey returned similar results to Maryland this year.

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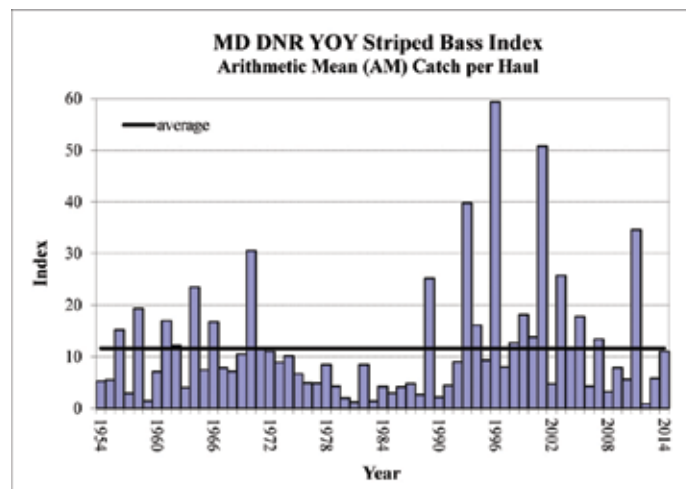
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By Lenny Rudow

The end is getting near, folks!! Very soon the stripers are going to be done for the year, with the possible exception of fishing warm-water discharges to satisfy your fishing jones while it's snowing. Are you ready to get in some last licks?

This is the time of year that stripers in the 18" to 28" range often feed heavily in the mouths of rivers like the Severn, South, and West. On the other side of the Chesapeake, Eastern Bay, the Chester, and parts of the Choptank will be on fire. Traditionally, many anglers who are willing to brave the cold have had success trolling the channel edges of these tributaries with light tackle and lures like Rat-L-Traps, bucktails, and plastic shad. Others with shallow draft boats like to toss similar lures to rip-rap and jetties. Yes, these tactics work. And as usual, they work best at sunrise and sunset. But there's another method of taking stripers in these rivers, one which is incredibly productive during all hours of the day at this time of year. Want to catch more skinny water stripers? It's time for some late season live-lining.

There are two tools you'll need to enjoy this method of fishing: a cast net, and a livewell or aerated bucket. We're not talking about those wimpy little 6' cast nets, either. The peanut bunker you need for bait moved out of the shallows in October, and to catch them at this time of the year you need a 10' cast net that will sink fast and catch baits in 10' to 20' of water.

Finding the bunker is a lot tougher than it was just a month or two ago, because they don't always flip around on the surface and give away their position. Start by finding a point or

"Hooked on Fishing"

Last Licks

shelf near the mouth of one of these rivers, where the bottom drops off from 10' to 20. Prowl up and down the drop while eyeballing your fishfinder, looking for clouds of bait. When you find them throw the net, and allow it to sink all the way to the bottom before pulling it up.

Bad news: even with a fast-sinking, large-mesh net, most of the bunker will swim out from underneath of it. You can't expect a good throw to bring in a net brimming with dozens of fish, as it did a few months ago. Instead, one or two fish is the norm and a three fish cast is a great one. As you drop them into the well, remember that you should keep no more than 12 peanut bunker per every five gallons of water



Travis Quick shows off a late season striper, taken in the mouth of the West River.

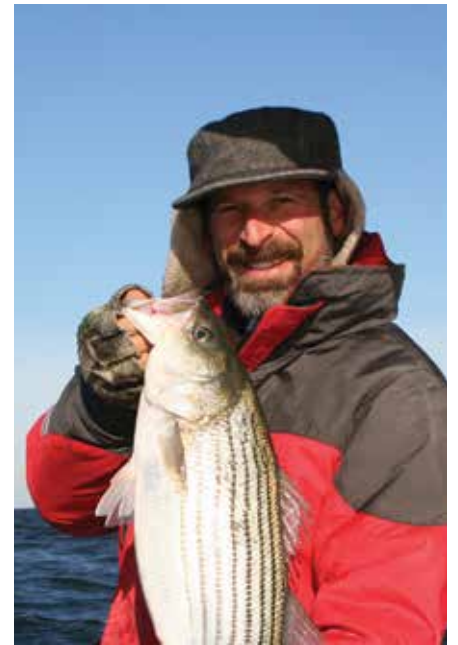
in your livewell or bucket, or they'll start dying off.

Now make up live bait rigs with a swivel at one end, four to five feet of 20-lb. fluorocarbon leader, and a thin 1/0 or 2/0 short shank hook. Stay away from thick live bait style hooks, because the peanut bunker will live longer and swim better on the thinner hooks. Put a 1/2-oz. egg sinker above the swivel, and use light or ultra light tackle so the small weight has an easy time keeping the bait down near the bottom. When you bait up, run the hook through the fish's upper jaw from side to side (they live longer this way than if you go in through the lower jaw and out through the upper jaw). You'll be drifting, so back-hooking the baits won't work well.

When you're ready to go get the stripers, go to one of the spots described below or a similar underwater feature (bends in the channel edges are another good bet), and run your boat up-wind of the target zone. Then send the bunker over the side, and drift over the structure with your baits near the bottom.

Keep an eye out for birds, as you fish. You're a lot more likely to encounter pods of rockfish, as opposed to large schools, so you can't usually expect a swarm of dozens of birds to gather up. But often relatively small groups of birds will expose where relatively small groups of stripers are, even though those birds aren't really "working". You won't necessarily want to chase these birds, so much as prowl the general areas they seem to be sticking to while watching your meter for one of those 10' to 20' drop-offs, points, or bends in the channel edge.

Always remember that in all of these areas, you'll do best if you start shallower when the first rays of sunshine break the horizon, and move deeper as the day progresses. Right at sunrise, it's not uncommon for surprisingly shallow 5' to 7' drop-offs to be holding the fish. Heavy cloud cover will extend the shallow water's productive time span, and bright sun will reduce it. Let plenty of line out when you're fishing in 10' or less so your bait is



Bundle up - there are still some fish to be caught!

not directly below the boat. And when using peanut bunker for bait, give it a three-count before slamming the hook home so the striper has time to eat that fish. Use these tricks and try these types of tributary hotspots, and for a few more weeks you can be firing up the grill instead of winterizing the boat.



Early and late in the day, expect shallow water spots to provide the best action.

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

FAITH OF OUR FATHERS

There are many wonderful promises in the Bible. They are unchangeable, immutable laws that cannot fail. They can be applied to every area of life.

One such set of laws is that of the Laws of the Harvest found in Mark chapter four. Our God is a God of order. He runs his universe very systematically. There are no laws of nature, just the laws of God.

The first of the Laws of the Harvest is the law of implantation. Simply put, if there is going to be reaping there must be sowing. Today in America we are reaping the harvest that our forefathers planted many years ago. Think of the seeds the pilgrims, our founding fathers, and the centuries of soldiers who defended our freedom planted so that today we could enjoy this abundant harvest.

Our freedom has not been free, and we must never forget that. This is the holiday season where we spend much time remembering. Let us remember those who gave us freedom, and let us not forget the next generation. Today we must be busy planting a harvest for them. The kind of America we plant will be the kind of nation our children's children will reap. Galatians 6:7 reads, "Be not deceived; God is not mocked: for whatsoever a man soweth, that shall he also reap."

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

— MEL BRINDLEY
Pastor
Chestertown, Md., Baptist Church

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REMEMBERING THE JORDAN BUCK

MISSOULA, Mont.- Ninety-nine deer seasons have passed since James Jordan pulled the trigger on a gargantuan whitetail that would become one of the best-known trophies of all time - and still stands as the biggest typical buck ever taken in the U.S. With the 100th Anniversary coming up in November, the Boone and Crockett Club is pausing to remember a tale that remains the stuff of legends.

"You know a deer hunt has reached legendary status when the local community plans a centennial celebration," said Keith Balfour, marketing director for the Club.

Burnett County, Wis., is hosting the Jordan Buck Centennial Extravaganza. Festivities include a walking tour of the hunt area, art project and raffles for a Jordan Buck replica mount and a .25-20 lever-action rifle like the one carried on the historic hunt.

Balfour said, "The popularity of hunting in North America, and the institutions of sustainable use conservation that hunting supports, rest on the shoulders of the whitetail deer. The Boone and Crockett Club is proud to help celebrate the history, legacy and significance of this deer as well as the man who brought it to the attention of hunters and conservationists around the world."

The Jordan Buck tale at a glance:

1914 - Nov. 20, Jordan, 22, hunts with a friend along the Yellow River near Danbury, Wis. Jordan kills a doe. His friend agrees to drag the doe home while Jordan continues the hunt. Jordan tracks a deer into a patch of high grass near a railroad. An approaching train flushes a big buck. Jordan fires, follows the wounded animal and finally drops it as it crosses to the opposite side of the river. Amazed locals estimate the buck's weight at

close to 400 pounds. A local taxidermist offers to mount the head for \$5. Jordan agrees. Later he discovers the taxidermist has moved away leaving no trace of his trophy.

1964 - In a strange twist a half-century later, a distant relative of Jordan's buys a massive but crude deer mount at a rummage sale in Sandstone, Minn., for \$3. Jordan is certain it's his long-lost buck. The new owner requests an official scoring by Boone and Crockett. The Club scores the antlers at 206-5/8 and confirms it as the new World's Record typical whitetail but, unable to verify Jordan's story, lists the hunter as unknown and the hunt area as Sandstone, Minn.

1968 - The rack is sold to an antler collector in New Hampshire for \$1,500. The trophy is remounted with a new cape.

1977 - Following outdoor writer Ron Schara's story about the buck in the Minneapolis Star Tribune, the Boone and Crockett Club re-opens investigation into Jordan's claim.

1978 - Boone and Crockett officials confirm the story and officially recognize Jordan as the hunter and Burnett County, Wis., as the location taken. Sadly, Jordan had passed away two months earlier.

1993 - After 29 years at the top of Boone and Crockett records, the Jordan Buck is overtaken by Milo Hanson's 213-5/8 buck from western Saskatchewan, Canada.

2001 - Bass Pro Shops

acquires the Jordan Buck mount for an undisclosed sum. The buck is now part of a touring collection of trophies and seen annually by thousands of sportsmen.

2013 - Through the 99 deer seasons from 1914 through 2013, Wisconsin produced 1,057 typical whitetails in Boone and Crockett records - 324 more than second-place Illinois.

2014 - 100th Anniversary of Jordan's landmark buck.

"When we deer hunters dream whitetail, we dream big, typical five-by-fives. That's the most common and sought after antler configuration for the species. The Jordan Buck certainly



exceeds that which dreams are made of," Balfour concluded.

Jordan Buck Key Measurements:
 53-7/8 inches of mass/circumference
 30-inch mainbeams on both sides
 G1-G4 measurements: 7, 13, 10 and 7 inches
 Only 3-2/8 inches in symmetry deductions



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“Tackle Box Tim”

Soft Sticks for Largemouth Bass

One of the most simplistic soft lures on the market is the stick worm. Senkos, Dingers, Bust’ems – whatever brand you choose – their function is the same. They shimmy down to the bottom enticingly. It’s taken me a while to get the knack and feel for fishing the soft plastics. I have increasingly become so confident in it that there is a rod with the lure tied on when I am bass fishing.

Being an outdoors journalist has allowed me to work with some amazing fisherman. When it comes to fishing stick worms, few are better than semi-retired bass pro Randy Yarnall, and BFL angler Rick Haber. Having learned from them how the lure performs and how bass respond to it has guided me along the way.

Stick worms were designed to be fished Texas rigged and weightless. Most manufacturers load the plastic with salt; which allows the bait to sink more quickly than lures without. Stick worms shimmy down through the water column on a horizontal plain. Few other baits have this presentation. The stereotypical technique is to cast it to a target, let it sink, lift and let sink again.

Randy is adamant that the most important aspect of the Texas-rigged stick worm is that it must be rigged absolutely straight to achieve its best performance. The point of the hook should come up through the center line -- imaginary or into the hook slot -- of the lure. There should be no bend in the worm when rigging is complete. A short pitch and re-

trieve will tell you how you did. If the bait wavers at all, something is out of line. If it tracks straight, you’ve got it right.

In tidal waters, many anglers toss stick worms to wood cover. The worm is a subtle alternative to flipping and pitching jigs and crawfish imitators to deadfalls along the bank. They are easily skipped under overhanging shoreline trees that bass use for shade. Even the average angler should be able to skip a stick worm with spinning gear.

In spring and fall Randy casts stick worms to sparse clumps of grass and deadsticks it, often times for as long as 30 seconds. His favorite outfit is a 6 1/2-foot medium/heavy power casting rod with a reel spooled with 15-pound-test monofilament for both wood and grass. For his techniques, he feels that the worm sinks too quickly with fluorocarbon line of the same weight. He’s also found that the stiffness of braided line moves the bait too far and with too much ease for his liking.

In summer Yarnall pitches the worms into holes and pockets within weed beds. I’ve seen him use it to draw strikes from bass by sliding it across a matted milfoil bed. It’s a great alternative to casting floating frogs, and the hook up ratio is much better.

He uses a beefy heavy power casting rod and loads his reel with 65-pound test braided line to horse bass out of matted grass. Randy prefers a worm hook with a spike style keeper over the standard wide gap hook when working heavy grass.

The keeper allows for easy alignment and prevents the worm

from wadding up on the hook if it gets snagged in the grass as with fishing the standard worm hook.

Somewhere along the line, someone decided to fish a stick worm wacky style. The wacky rig is where you pin the hook through the middle of the worm and let it hang balanced off of each side. Sometimes “balanced” means that one side is slightly shorter than the other depending on which worm you use. Rick Haber has mastered dock fishing wacky stick. The technique played a huge part in his winning the 2012 BFL Shenandoah Division Angler of the Year title.

confidence.

Over the past year I’ve heard that the bass fishery in Middle River has been on the comeback. I thought I’d find out first hand. Middle River is chock full of docks, with eel grass and milfoil in some areas. After having observed Rick work the dock pattern to perfection on the Elk River some years ago, I thought it would be the right course to take to find bass in Middle River.

My set up differs from Rick’s. It helps me feel what is going on with them lure. I use a 6 1/2-foot medium power spinning outfit spooled with 20-pound-test braided line. I



Tackle Box Tim shows a 6-pound bass that ate a wacky rigged stick worm under a Middle River pier.

The wacky stick worm falls through the water with an arc. When you lift it, the arc is reversed and the lure quakes feverishly. You can actually feel the vibration when fishing with a sensitive rod and braided line. What a phenomenal way to fish the lure. With an exposed hook, or hook with a light snag guard, it is best fished around sparse cover.

Haber’s dock fishing technique is all about skipping the wacky rigged stick worm. On sunny days boat docks provide shade for bass. The only way to get far back under a dock is to skip the worm. A fast action rod works best for skipping. It allows for more accuracy than does a rod with a moderate action.

He uses a stiff 7-foot medium/heavy spinning outfit. He prefers 10-pound-test fluorocarbon line and a small octopus hook. Fluorocarbon provides him with the sink rate in which he has the most

use a 3-foot length of 15-pound-test fluorocarbon line for a leader and tie on a 1/16-ounce weighted wacky worm hook with a light wire snag guard.

It took me a couple of trips to find bass in Middle River, but they responded well to the wacky stick worm. Main river docks were where the better fish came from. On two trips I landed a 5-pound bass and a 6-pound bass merely a few docks apart. Docks in feeder creeks held bass from runts to 3-pounders. The wacky stick worm helped me determine that bass in Middle River are, indeed, on the rebound.

My confidence and proficiency with stick worms, thanks to Randy and Rick, has growth with every pitch, cast, and skip of the bait.

In the last two years I have used their techniques to catch some of my most memorable largemouth bass.



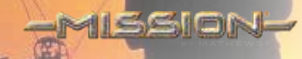
Top to Bottom: wacky rig, standard wide gap hook, spike keeper worm hook.

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MD. DNR Announces Two Youth Waterfowl Hunting Days

Young hunters can hone their skills with the help of an experienced adult November 1, 2014 and February 7, 2015. During these two Youth Waterfowl Hunting Days, hunters ages 15 and younger may hunt ducks, geese, mergansers and coots on public and private lands when aided by a qualifying adult.

To participate, youth must be accompanied by an adult at least 21 years old. All junior hunters and their adult mentors must possess a Maryland hunting license, or be exempt from the license requirement. Youth waterfowl hunters must also have a receipt showing their purchase of a Maryland Migratory Game Bird Stamp, but, if under 16, do not need to purchase a federal duck stamp.

Adults may take more than one youngster and assist in the hunt, but cannot possess a hunting weapon. The adult may help youth by calling waterfowl, placing decoys and retrieving downed birds, but may not possess a firearm or other legal hunting device.

The bag limits for the Youth Waterfowl Hunting Days are the same as the regular seasons except:

One black duck may be taken. Two Canada geese may be taken when hunting

within the AP Canada goose hunting zone

Five Canada geese may be taken when hunting within the Resident (AFRP) goose hunting zone

Hunters with questions may contact the Wildlife and Heritage Service at 410-260-8540.

Licenses, stamps, and permits may be purchased online via COMPASS, by phone at 1-855-855-3906, at a DNR Service Center or at any one of the more than 250 Sport License Agents statewide. For more information, visit dnr.maryland.gov/service.

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Fast Fact - Shellfish - Eastern Oyster

Crassostrea virginica

(A.K.A. American oyster)

The range of the American or eastern oyster extends well beyond the Chesapeake Bay, encompassing the east coast of North America from the Gulf of St. Lawrence in Canada to Key Biscayne, Florida, and continuing south through the Caribbean to the Yucatan Peninsula of Mexico and to Venezuela. Adults can grow to about 8", but 3" to 5" is more typical in the Chesapeake Bay.



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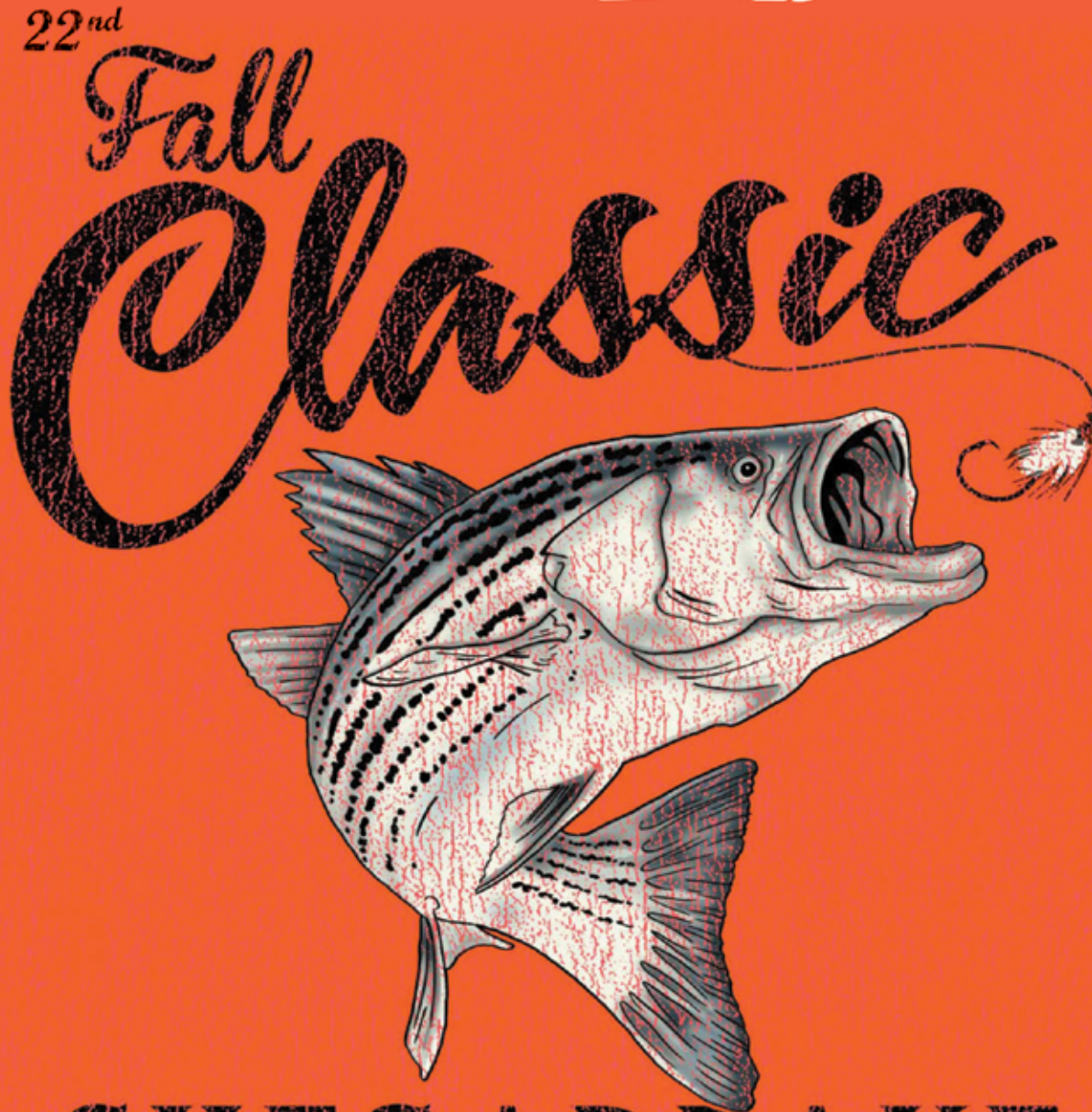
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Sixty Nine Black Bears harvested in Maryland

The 11th annual Maryland black bear hunt concluded last month with a total of 69 bears harvested.

For the first time, the hunt was carried out as a four-day season instead of being guided by a predetermined quota.

Harry Spiker, DNR's lead bear bi-

ologist, said he was pleased with the results despite the final total, which was below last year's record of 94. The hunt was complicated by cold, wet and windy conditions coupled with a generally poor acorn crop—a primary bear food source—this fall.

"Despite those factors we were well within our 10-year harvest average for this hunt," said Spiker, the Game Mammal Section Leader. "We will review the results from this season and incorporate the data into decisions that might further improve the success of this effort in coming seasons."

Paul Peditto, director of DNR's

Wildlife and Heritage Service said he was pleased with the outcome under the new format.

"More than 1,000 hunters enjoyed the opportunity to pursue this great game animal in the wilds of western Maryland this week. A few took home a bear and some excellent game for the table. All of them carried home the memories of time afield with friends and family. By any measure, that makes this hunt a success," Peditto said.

Bonnie Kelley, 71, of Accident checked in the first bear of the season.

Kelley shot the male bear, 219 pounds field dressed, on private land

off Rock Lodge Road in Garrett County, at about 8:30 a.m.

The bear was tagged as a cub by biologists two years ago in Savage River State Forest, about six miles from where Kelley killed it. Biologists estimated the live weight at 259 pounds.

After years of research, population study and public outreach, Maryland officials revived the bear hunt in 2004 after a 51-year moratorium.

Kelley, a long-time hunter who served on both the Maryland Wildlife Advisory Commission and the state's first black bear task force, was overjoyed to take part in a season she

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Bonnie Kelley, 71, of Accident checked in the first bear of the season.



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58 +/- Acre Property: Located in Crapo, Md consists of woodland and marsh, one flooded impoundment for ducks, and one per **SOLD** woods. 5 acre open space allows for another pond. Perfect habitat for waterfowl, whitetail, sika, and turkeys. A real sportsman's paradise. Asking \$249,000.

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

390 Acres Timber: Dorchester County. The tract of timber consists of .3 acres of ponds, 1.5 acres of food plots for Deer and Turkeys. Perfect investment for timber harvesting or deer and turkey hunting. Asking \$995,000.

135 Acre Talbot County Farm with roughly 70+/- tillable acres with the remainder in woods. Great location for goose, duck, deer, and turkeys. Asking \$938,250.

Green Marsh Point: 33.15 Acres with huge westerly views across the Bay to Poplar Island. Large mature trees, sandy beach, marsh and 4+/- mlw complete this listing. Asking \$625,000.

Very Private 21.5 Acre Point of Land located 2 miles from downtown St. Michaels on San Domingo Creek. This offering includes 950 ft of shoreline, southeast exposure, 4.5+/- mlw, and the ag transfer tax has been paid. Permits for rip-rap, living shoreline, dock, and driveway completed and will be transferred to the new owner. Asking \$1,795,000.

Private 16 Acre Waterfront Lot located on Solitude Creek within 5 minutes of downtown St. Michaels. This property is perk approved with mature trees, and offers 3 feet mlw. Asking \$599,000.

61 Acre Island located on the Honga River in Dorchester County. This parcel is improved with a 1 bedroom, 1 bath hunting cab **SOLD** outstanding waterfowl hunting. Asking \$380,000.

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helped foster.

"I'm thrilled to pieces," Kelley said. "The bear population is healthy and growing. It is good to see the state's biologists doing such a wonderful job managing the species."

The 2014 Maryland Black Bear hunt by the numbers:

- A total of 3,631 hunters applied for a permit and 450 permits were issued, representing 1,061 hunters.

- The heaviest bear checked in weighed 418 pounds, and was taken by Garrett Hoffman of Swanton. The average weight was 143 pounds.

- A total of 52 percent of the bears were taken on private land; 45 percent of the successful hunters were from Garrett and Allegany counties

- Hunters checked in 57 bears from Garrett County and 12 from Allegany County.

Peditto said the 2014 black bear hunt "remains a highlight of the great work carried out by our bear team, our land managers in the state parks, state forests and wildlife management areas, and the men and women of Natural Resources Police. The hunt is a flawless model for safe, sustainable scientific wildlife management and has met every goal we set more than a decade ago."

NRP said there were no hunting-related injuries reported. Officers cited six people on the first day of the season for illegal bear hunting.

David Matthew Bishop, 43, of Hagerstown, and Mitchell Gaynes Bishop, 18, of Mount Airy, were charged with hunting bear with the aid of bait. David Bishop also was charged with bear hunting with improper ammunition. Mitchell Bishop also was charged with bear hunting with a handgun producing less than 700 pounds of muzzle energy. Each charge carries a maximum penalty of \$1,000.

Arthur Tracey Jerin Jr., 61, of Falling Waters, West Va., was cited for hunting bear with the aid of bait.

Wessley Darrell Ringgold, 59, of Lusby, was charged with hunting bear with the aid of bait.

Adam Grant Rounds, 25, of Grantsville, was charged with hunting bear with the aid of bait.

All violators are scheduled to appear in Garrett District Court on Dec. 11.

In Allegany County, Jesse Bates Walls Jr., 66, Chestertown, was charged with hunting bear with the aid of bait. He is scheduled to appear in Allegany District Court on Dec. 11.



Pictured with Jamie Latham is his son Ryan who bagged his first sika stag last month and to top it off it was his first ever deer. Then Ryan shot another sika deer to make it a double header.

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By Jim Gronaw

“Fishin’ Back East”

TEN TIPS FOR MORE WINTER CRAPPIE

WORK THE WOOD...

No surprise here, crappies like all sorts of wood cover and structure and can be found on submerged brush, fallen logs or any area that piles up brush or washed in debris that can create structure. Of particular interest should be that of isolated large logs or treelimb that lodge in various turns or cuts in the tidal water scene. It doesn't have to be a huge brushpile to draw some quality slabs, but it should be enough of a piece to deflect current or create a calm pocket in moving water scenarios.

Some of the best winter crappie hotspots I have ever fished have been relatively small brush piles that were less than 10 feet in diameter. And it seems that some of the bigger fish in the winter tend to hang around those isolated logs or branches. Always investigate wood of any kind when pursuing cold-weather crappies.

FISH SLOW...

Many anglers who do well on springtime crappie often struggle with the cold bite. Simply, they all too often retrieve a lure of bait too fast during the winter to entice the fish.

Think about it... the fish you are after are often hunkered down in a bunch of wood or a deep hole and are not likely to chase after any thing moving fast. If the water is 40 degrees you need to slow your presentation literally down to a crawl. Yes, that warm spell we talked about will cause them to scurry and feed more actively. But the day in, day out approach calls for a snail's pace, and better yet if you can put your bait right in front of the fish.

Retrieves should be punctuated with small twitches or hops, especially in the case of tiny jigs suspended below bobbers. Sometimes, the best winter approach is to just let the wind push suspended bait slowly in and around the structure.

FISH THE DEEP HOLES...

Many of the millponds and tidal creeks and rivers of the Delmarva Peninsula are pocked with deeper hole or pockets that tend to hold the fish. Deep is a relative term, as 7 feet might be the deepest spot on one pond while 15 feet could be the bottom of another.

Look for deeper water near the earthen dam faces of ponds or spillway holes that do not exhibit a lot of turbulence. Winter crappies are not going to fight strong currents to get a meal, but they may very likely take a lively minnow or enticing hairjig if it is placed right in their living room on a cold winter day. At times, you may encounter crappies staked-up in deeper pockets of ponds or tidal creeks. Please use some common sense if you hit the motherload, as it can be easy to overfish small

concentrations of fish. We all want some tasty fillets, but we want some for tomorrow, too.

TIME THE TIDES...

Clearly, tidal crappies are a different critter than their lake or reservoir counterparts. Every six hours, they have to move, and they're not going to move any further than they have to in order to get in position for some feeding opportunities.

On major blowdowns or fallen logs, fish will often simply reverse the side at which they are sheltered and out of the current. With deeper pockets or holes, crappies will often stay put, but show increased feeding activity levels as the tides show increased movement. Generally, but not always, the last couple hours of an incoming and first few hours of an outgoing tide will activate fish. Other factors, such as water temperature, barometric pressure, oncoming cold or warm fronts and angling pressure may well throw a kink in this activity pattern. In general, however, it pays to keep an eye on the tides and know when they are moving.

TIP YOUR JIGS...

Sometimes the fish just will not touch a jig if it is not tipped with



This trophy white crappie was the best of several on a chilly December day.

some kind of bait. This could be a minnow, waxworm, mealworm or a maggot. In recent seasons, we have had good success with Berkley Gulp! waxworms and maggots when local bait shops didn't have the real McCoy.

Although small minnows are often thought of as the ultimate winter crappie bait, there are some drawbacks with their usage. For one, baiting and rebaiting often means cold, wet hands and that can lead to some dif-



Crappie fillets in the hot oil bath...a winter treat!

ficult hooksets on some light striking fish. Also, toothy chain pickerel are often in the winter mix of Delmarva waters and bite-offs are sometimes a hindrance to some serious slabbing. Lastly, many baitshops don't carry minnows throughout the winter. But despite the potential drawbacks, minnows can save the day on a tough bite.

GO GAWDY...

In the past few winters, we have caught more crappie on bright, gawdy-colored jigs than those of the plain variety. Chartreuse is always in the box, but we have done very well on hot-pink, bright red and lime green as well as a bunch of other oddball combos that do not resemble any minnow alive, yet they work! Don't ask me why, but winter slabs just seem to like the glitz.

TRY SLIP BOBBERS...

If you have never used slip-bobbers then you are missing out on the best of controlled-depth fishing. True, many Delmarva crappies are caught in 3 to 6 feet of water during winter. But at Pennsylvania and Maryland lakes, most of the fish are much deeper, and a slip bobber allows you to get to them. The line runs through the bobber and has a rubber or yarn 'stop' that is set at a certain depth where the fish have been located. The weight of the lure pulls the line through the center of the bobber and stops at that depth predetermined depth. This is clearly the topic of an entire article itself, but a Godsend for those wishing to fish deep during any season.

HIT THE HOT BITE...

No matter how prepared you are for winter crappie fishing, you won't have success if you don't fish where they are. Info from local tackle shops and area anglers who are willing to share go a long way with the slabbing success story.

Traditional hotspots in this readership area include the tidal Potomac and many of its tributaries, Eastern Shore and Delaware millponds and spillways, the Pocomoke River and Blackwater River on Maryland's lower Eastern Shore and both Loch Raven and Liberty Reservoirs can produce well on mild, ice-free winters.

Get slabbin'!

Every winter more and more fishermen are finding out that crappie are the panfish for all seasons. Whether it is over hard ice or in open water environs, winter crappie are available to most of us and with a bit of effort fillets and good times can be had. Not only that, but the chance of bonafide slabs and trophy possibilities go hand in hand with winter fishing.

Over the past several seasons, the largest majority of the crappies I have taken that exceeded 12 inches were cold weather catches. Mild winters can keep the serious slabber in fish all winter long if a few basic and important guidelines are followed. Here is a list of ten tips on catching more, and bigger, crappie this winter.

TIMING THE WARM SPELLS...

Like all fish during the cold months, crappies tend to exhibit increased feeding activity when a period of above average air or water temperature comes into play. Unseasonably mild periods that last 3 to 5 days can trigger a hot bit on most crappie waters. Warm rains that increase in water temperatures by just a few degrees can also spur some activity. One of your best weapons in the winter is to keep a sharp eye out for above average temperatures and warm spells. Stay alert to those three to ten day forecast on the net and try to time a trip during such time frames.

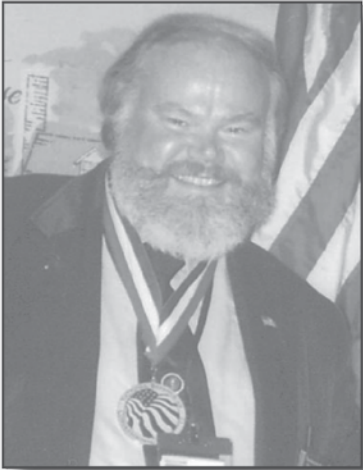
Even if you are ice fishing, keep in mind that winter fishing is always easier on the body when the sun is out and weather is mild.

FISH THE SUNNY SIDE...

Going hand and hand with warmer days would be the benefit of using the sunlight to your favor. In the Mid-Atlantic region, the northwest and northeast coves and areas of most bodies of water receive the maximum amount of sunlight per day through out January, February and March. Colder sides of lakes and ponds will simply not draw the fish like areas bathed in sunlight.

Famed Potomac River guide and Fisherman contributor Ken Penrod has been stressing the importance of letting the sun be your friend' whenever fishing in the winter, for any species. His advice should be well taken. Man-made structures such as bulk heads, bridges, trussels and concrete can absorb and hold heat, thus drawing minnows and crappies along with other species as well.

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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?



The 2014 Tournament and Shore Party will be held on November 8th, 2014. The tournament will begin at sunrise and end with a weigh-in at Pussers Caribbean Grille downtown Annapolis at 5:00pm. Following the weigh-in, the Shore Party will be held at the Marriott Annapolis Waterfront at 6:00pm. Both Pussers and the Marriott Annapolis Waterfront are located at 80 Compromise Street, Annapolis, Maryland.
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Washington Quarterback Colt McCoy Hijacks Training Field for Archery Practice / A lot of privileges come with being a quarterback, and for Colt McCoy of the Washington Redskins, that means a little bit of leeway when it comes to what he can bring to the field. What is McCoy's secret to training? Why, shooting a few arrows into a deer target, of course. The fact that he appropriates part of the team's training complex makes it all the better.



Justin B Firth helped Coby R. Wilson with his first and his second bow kills this year.

Fall Turkey Season to Open in Western Maryland

Maryland's fall turkey season will open November 1 and continue through November 8, 2014. Fall turkey hunting is only permitted in Garrett, Allegany, and Washington counties with a bag limit of one turkey of either sex per hunter.

The Maryland Department of Natural Resources' annual turkey survey shows reproduction in 2014



was below the long-term average in western Maryland, which may translate to smaller flocks this fall. Surveys also show that mast, mostly acorns, is abundant in some locations but nearly absent in others.

Hunters should remember that these natural food sources can greatly affect turkey behavior and movement, and should scout and hunt accordingly.

Complete turkey hunting regulations, check-in procedures and information on public land hunting opportunities can be found in the 2014-2015

Maryland Guide to Hunting & Trapping issued with each hunting license, or dnr.maryland.gov/huntersguide.

Cast and Blast out of Tilghman Island Md. with 'Jim Dandy Charters' 410-708-9851



Hunter Kinnamon bagged this impressive buck, however it took a few days to find the brute due to the fact it was liver shot. Photo courtesy of Maryland Hunters.

D. Top to Top Score		10/8	E. Overall Score	20
F. Length of Main Beam				
G. Length of First Point				
H. Length of Second Point				
I. Length of Third Point				
J. Length of Fourth Point, if Present				
K. Length of Fifth Point, if Present				
L. Length of Sixth Point, if Present				
M. Length of Seventh Point, if Present				
N.1. Circumference at Smallest Place Between Butt and First Point				
N.2. Circumference at Smallest Place Between First and Second Points				
N.3. Circumference at Smallest Place Between Second and Third Points				
N.4. Circumference at Smallest Place Between Third and Fourth Points				
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Column 2	974%	Date Killed		
Column 3	863%	Owner		
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Subtotal		Remarks (Remember Any Abnormalities or Unusual Features)		
ADD Line 8 Total				
FINAL SCORE				

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Addressing the Myth Concerning Deer and Ticks

I often hear from the public that ticks are present because of deer. That would suggest that high deer numbers would lead to high tick numbers and high levels of tick related diseases (<http://www.skinnymoose.com/professorsblog/2013/08/21/comments-and-responses-regarding-ticks-being-proactive-for-your-own-health/>) in humans.

So, if deer numbers are reduced the number of ticks will also be reduced. However, the initial statement and subsequent logic is incorrect. Let me start by explaining the life cycle of the blacklegged tick (*Ixodes scapularis*). The black-legged tick undergoes two metamorphic stages (larvae and nymph). At each stage a blood meal is required. Also, as an adult the tick needs blood for reproduction. However, over 100 vertebrates in North America can serve as hosts for the black-legged tick.

Let us start as an adult. An adult tick spends the winter in a dormant phase with a full belly of blood. In the spring, she lays her eggs which hatch into larvae by mid-summer. Larvae ticks patiently wait (called questing) for a vertebrate host to pass by and then attach and consume the first blood meal. Because of their small size larvae ticks have been shown to primarily

quest near the ground. Hence, in the summer, the larvae attach primarily to shrews and mice. The life cycle from egg to adult takes two years to complete. The following fall, adult ticks will attach to larger vertebrates including deer for another blood meal and to mate.

Once the adult tick consumes blood from the deer and mates, they drop off. Over a 4 week period, one deer can supply blood for over 2 million fertilized tick eggs. Researches have concluded that all you need is a few deer to support high tick numbers. More important to the presence of an abundant tick population is an abundant small mammal (shrews and mice) population which provides the initial blood meal for the larvae. Also, mice, shrews, and chipmunks are inefficient groomers which allows many larvae ticks to survive. Researchers have demonstrated that over 90% of nymphal ticks get their initial blood meal from mice, shrews, and chipmunks.

However, the situation is more complex. The infective agent of Lyme Disease, *Borrelia burgdorferi*, does not pass vertically (from mother to young) between blacklegged ticks. Of the 2 million baby ticks that will hatch, none will be infected – they will be ‘clean’. The larval ticks must pick up the *B. burgdorferi* spirochete from – you guessed it, a shrew, mouse, or chipmunk. So, mammals actually make ticks sick which then make mammals (us) sick. This phenomenon is called ‘reciprocal infectivity’ and is the reason that *B. burgdorferi* prevalence

is high in tick and host populations.

Although deer are involved in the tick life cycle and transmission of some tick borne illnesses, they play a very small role. In fact, researchers believe that deer and humans are dead end hosts – once infected the infection goes nowhere. The infection does not go back into ticks. Infected ticks bite mice, shrews, and chipmunks, which make the ticks carriers, the ticks then bite us and make us sick, and we don’t make anyone sick.

So, don’t blame the deer, blame the small mammals.

Further support can be found at <http://www.thewildlifeneews.com/2014/05/11/lyme-disease-rages-in-northeast/> where the authors discuss promoting meso-carnivores that prey on rodents and suggest that removal of white-tailed deer is an ineffective way to reduce tick numbers.

Read more: <http://www.skinnymoose.com/professorsblog/2014/10/17/addressing-the-myth-concerning-deer-and-ticks/#ixzz3HSZ2S3sx>

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By Grant Soukup

Goose decoys have a way of getting trashed after seasons of use and abuse. Scratches, punctures, chips, mud, and crud tend to make our once proud hunting tools into a less realistic version of what they were meant to be. Geese and all waterfowl are reliant on their excellent vision. Each critter has two critical peepers that become magnified when they are in a flock. It is important that our decoys look natural.

Decoy Cleaning



An annual bath and decoy inspection is a tradition that will improve your hunting experience. NEVER use soap to wash your decoys. Most soap contains ultraviolet brighteners that will cause your decoy to appear unnatural. The same is true when washing your hunting clothes. Use warm water and a brush to scrub the crud and debris from your decoys. Rubber or hollow decoys may have filled with water or dirt as a result of errant BB's or cracks. The ballast chambers may have also become clogged and clumped with dirt. Use a drill to set the liquid free and then reseal all of the holes and cracks. I have found a clear silicone product called Lexel is perfect for the task. This is also a good time to check anchor cords, stake attachments and support accessories. Better to discover problems now than a 4 o'clock in the morning when you are in a hurry to catch the first flight.

Painting and Touchups

Decoys today come in a variety of ultra-realistic finishes. Many have an almost 3-D look and may require a special product or procedure to restore their appearance. In the old days, we inverted cut car tire sections and added a wooden jig sawed head to give the appearance of a goose. The only painting was the head and maybe a little dab or two on the tire. These decoys were durable and functioned well.

"Montana Grant"

Gettin' Goosed!



Stuffers were also a great way to create a natural flock of decoys. These fragile, expensive, and high maintenance decoys look great and work well. A smaller flock of natural and realistic decoys can be more effective than a large flock of clunkers.

Most decoys are paintable and I have found spray paint works best and is the quickest way to do the job. You can purchase decoy spray paint in several colors at most hunting shops. Use stencils to allow for accurate painting. Apply newspaper to protect any overspray and set up your decoys in an assembly line fashion. Paint one feature at a time over several decoys. Then come back with the next layer. I have found that flat finishes work best. If you want to add shine to a decoys head or bill, try using a car product such as Armor All.

Allow time for the paint to dry out of the direct sun. Remember that the sun's rays damage most plastics and paints. It is best to not leave your decoys out for days, weeks, or seasons if you want maintain quality decoys and consistent hunting.

Transport and Storage

Now that you have created a realistic flock of decoys, handle them carefully! Plan and organize how you are going to transport them to the hunting site. Allow yourself the time to handle the flock without damaging them. Rookie hunters or friends that do not appreciate the decoy investment will tend to throw, kick, and abuse your investment. A little Decoy Training 101 is a good idea.

Decoy bags are commonly used but tend to get thrown and abused. If you have a boat, wheeler, or truck access to your blind site, come up with a creative way to transport and protect your decoys.

Wrapping each decoy in a cloth bag and stacking them onto a box will take more time but will keep your decoy's looking great. This extra work will pay off with quality and faster shooting. This means faster and fuller limits.

Decoy Presentation

Placing decoys into a realistic and inviting pattern is essential. Remember that the geese will be

approaching your decoy spread from altitude and rely upon the wind to pick their landing zone. Geese on the ground tend to feed and move in a manner related to the wind. The flocks are often led by mature females that are often seen as sentinels on the perimeters and edges.

Try setting your spread in a "V" alignment. Place the bottom of the "V" at the blind sight with the wind to your back. I also extend the "V" slightly over and behind the blind site to help camo my blind. Leave a hole or landing zone for the geese to feel secure. This area needs to be in gun range. Walkers and feeders can become the sides of the "V".

These birds will have their heads down. Sentinels will be heads up and alert and can be found at the "V's" tips. These birds are keeping a lookout for any danger. My "V" decoy spread changes with the season. I may shorten one side of the "V" or bunch more decoys at the base. If the wind changes, you need to adjust the flock accordingly.

Geese will often land out of range and walk into the decoy flock. Mutual respect and territorial behavior cause this to occur. Expand the safe landing zone to make them feel more comfortable.

Take Them!

When to shoot is so important. Not only is this exciting moment about safety, it is also about opportunity. Allow one experienced hunter to make the call. Usually, I place them on the end of the blind. Monitor the safety of all hunters. No gun safeties are switched onto fire until the gun is shouldered, controlled, and out of the blind. Muzzle control is critical. There can be no excuses or apologies for a shooting mistake.

Assign zones of fire for each hunter. Discuss and prepare for the event before the happen. Flagging, pulling strings on mechani-

cal decoys, and calling, are also tasks to involve everyone in the hunt.

Calling must be loud to be effective. The blind tends to muffle the sound. Try having everyone in the blind call while you stand 50 yards away. You will see what I mean. Direct the calls up and out of the blind. Have a lead caller that the others mimic.

Take the first, best, safe shot that presents itself. You will seldom get huge flocks to land as one. If you wait for the perfect shot, it may not come. Geese and experts at seeing something wrong just before the make their final choice. Shoot to kill by selecting one bird in the flock. This is tough for excited rookie hunters.

Shooting skills take time to develop. Try setting up preseason shooting scenarios at the blind site before the season. These practice sessions will make shooters more confident and accurate. Full limits and fewer cripples will also be the result.

Aim at the head of the goose and keep your gun moving. If you can see the bird's eye, they are in gun range. Remember, the purpose of decoys is to bring the birds into effective shooting range. Have the patience and confidence to wait for the best moment to shoot. It is unsportsmanlike to shoot a bird on the ground unless it is a cripple. "Ground swatting" will damage decoys and create safety issues for dogs and hunters.

New hunters are a dying breed. It is up to the veteran hunters to show the next generation how to hunt. Take a kid or rookie under your wing so that you can share the waterfowling tradition. The newer "ADD" generation has something in great abundance, ENERGY! Put them to work!

Shoot safe and have fun!

Montana Grant

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Coastal Report

By Capt. Mark Sampson

A bunch of years ago a friend of mine hooked an estimated 350-pound mako on 16-pound test line. At the time the world record for a mako shark on that class tackle was somewhere in the 200-and-something-pound-range and the three of us aboard the boat that day knew that if the angler could hold up long enough to actually go the distance with the shark that there would surly be a lot more than just a story of a big fish to talk about at the end of the day.

So the fight went on, for hour, after hour, after hour, and in process it seemed as though we chased the shark with the boat from one end of the ocean to the other, and when it was finally over, the by-then exhausted, angler had fought the fish standing-up and without assistance for a total of 11-hours, and yea he glad it was over!

The outcome of the fight? Let's not get ahead of ourselves. Before I get into "the rest of the story" let me say that the whole episode began the same way I've seen so many other long-term battles get started - with an angler who was just cocky enough to claim that he was willing, even eager, to go one-on-one with a fish for many hours if that's what it's

going to take to land it.

I remember as a kid being just brash enough to make the same kind of statement about wanting to fight a fish for a long time. I thought it would be "fun" and I was just "bad enough" to do it. That was until the day I did five and a half hours on an 80-pound class rod one afternoon, only to lose the fish at the boat. Not exactly the fastest learner in the class, a year later I did a rematch with a similar fish, only this time it was six-hours and I actually won the match. The fish wasn't so happy about the ordeal, but I managed to return home with a state record catch and the newfound knowledge that no matter what the outcome it's sometimes better to watch someone else catch a fish than being the one doing the pulling and cranking.

Now that I'm in the charter business I don't have to worry about being the guy on the boat tasked with the job of sweating over a fishing rod for multiple hours, that's my clientele's job. Mine is to drive the boat and let them strain their arms and break their backs on fish that they are probably going to release anyway. Amazingly enough, I actually have lot of repeat clients who keep coming back year after year for more of the same type of punishment. They get off the boat all tired, beat up, arms hanging limp at their sides, squawking about chiropractors, and wondering if they'll be any good at work the next day. Then, of all things, they pay me for the providing them the experience and often put down a deposit for next year!

None of this "pay for pain" makes any more sense now than it did 28-years ago when I got into this business, but as long as people keep

asking to go fishing I guess I'll keep taking their money and doing my best to provide off-shore experiences that include sore muscles and blistered hands. I'm even thinking that some day I'll offer a special half-price deal where instead of going out on the water we just line everyone up on the dock under a hot mid-day sun and I spend an hour or two whacking

their arms and backs with a baseball bat. The end results for them should be much the same but they won't have to pack a lunch for the day and I'll save a lot of fuel. Seems like a win-win for both of us!

Which all brings me back to that marathon battle with the potential world record mako. After 11-hours it was finished, and my buddy pried his left hand from the fore-grip of the rod, slumped down into a boat seat and with a great sigh of relief blurted out, "I'm just glad that it's over!" And it was, because after all that time the line finally parted and the shark was gone! Too tired and too sore to worry about a fish he didn't catch or a record he didn't set, my friend spent the next couple days recovering from his day of "fishing." Three days later I get a call from him, "Hey Mark when can we go fishing again? I want a rematch with that fish." And I thought I was a slow learner!



Cameron Jackson with a buck he harvested with his bow last month. Photo courtesy of Maryland Hunters.

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SPANNING THE GLOBE....

A 12-year-old girl hauled in a 616-pound blue-fin tuna

Jenna Gavin is a 12-year-old girl who set a world record when she hauled in a 616-pound bluefin tuna off the coast of Nova Scotia.

It took her two hours to haul in the massive fish, and her parents had to leave her alone for the record to stand.

"Jenna would agree that it was a difficult fish to catch, the last part of the fight was very hard, her legs were starting to shake and she was getting



a bit teary," said her mother in an interview. "I encouraged her through the whole fight, I promised her an iPad mini if she didn't give up and I told her to get mad and drag him up

and she did."

The old iPad mini promise. Such a strong move.

My colleagues saw this video and immediately called shenanigans, saying there's no way a girl that small hauled in a fish that big, but I actually think this is legit. My dad was a professional giant tuna fisherman (seriously) and he hauled in bluefins nearly twice that size, and he's not a big guy. It's not like the 12-year-old Gavin would be yanking on the fish the entire time — she'd let it run, reel in, let it run, reel in, just like any other fisherman. If you have the patience, and an iPad mini on the way, you too could catch a fish that big.

Which isn't to diminish what Gavin did, of course. That's an incredible fish for a person so small.

Texas TV host lands world-record Mako shark by shooting it with a bow



TV host Jeff Thomason, of Weatherford, Texas, landed a world bowfishing record for Mako shark August 12 off the coast of Huntington Beach, California. The shark, which weighed 809.5 pounds and stretched 11 feet, beat the previous world bowfishing record for Mako by about 300 pounds, according to the Bowfishing Association of America. The largest Mako shark ever caught weighed 1,221 pounds and was reeled in off the coast of Massachusetts in 2001 with a rod and reel, according to the International Game and Fish Association. Thomason and his crew donated 400 pounds of shark meat to a Los Angeles homeless shelter, according to Lone Star Outdoor News.

One in 100,000: Young Michigan Hunter Harvests Rare Albino Buck

An 11-year-old hunter from Oceola Township, Michigan took the deer of a lifetime when he shot a 12-point albino buck with a crossbow on Monday. The animal was well-known to local hunters, but Gavin Dingman ended up being the one to harvest it.

"My dad was just like, 'Take a deep breath. Are you sure you can take the shot? If you're not 100 percent, we don't want to injure it,'" Gavin told the Daily Press & Argus.

The sixth-grader was hunting with his dad, Mick Dingman, at the time. Although this albino buck was not Gavin's first deer nor likely his last, it will be one that he will remember for a long, long time. Albino deer are incredibly rare, and mature bucks rarer still. Even sightings of these snow-colored deer are notable occasions, and only a handful of hunters have had the chance to harvest an albino buck. Wildlife biologists estimate that perhaps only one in a 100,000 deer are born albino.

True albino deer are markedly different from white deer, which carry recessive genes for all-white coats. One visual difference between the two is that all albino deer have pink facial features, notably the ears and nose. Albino deer are also sometimes born with health issues and even if they survive into adulthood, their strange coloration means that they make a big target for predators.

Some wildlife experts advocate targeting deer with albinism, since the trait is seen as undesirable among wild populations. However, some people see albino and white deer as animals that shouldn't be hunted. Whatever the opinion, most sportsmen agree that the choice to either take or pass on a deer is entirely up to the hunter.

Yet not everyone thinks that way. A call to Mick Dingman revealed that what had once been a celebration over his son's unique deer has quickly turned into something else.

"We've had death threats and everything else that you can imagine," he told OutdoorHub.

The Dingmans did not expect a backlash on social media and in real life over the albino deer. Much of the criticism came from anti-hunting advocates and family members described the threats as graphic and disturbing. In addition to specific death threats, critics used to opportunity to bash hunting in general. Commenters on WZZM's Facebook, which reported the story, called for a ban on hunting or even an "open season" on sportsmen. However, there were those who supported the Dingman family.

"Great trophy! Be proud young man!" wrote one commenter.

"While I personally am not a deer hunter, I think this young hunter is being taught very well. That [deer] will make for many meals for his family and a nice memory of time spent with his father," stated another.

Most agreed that no matter your stance on hunting, sending personal death threats is not the correct way to go about debating the issue. Hopefully not too long from now, Gavin and his family can look back on this hunt with only pride and good memories.

Image courtesy Mick Dingman



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YIELD: 50 Servings PREP: 35 mins

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Ingredients

- 1 1 lb. venison roast
- 4 large wheat flour tortillas
- 1 8 oz. block cream cheese
- 1/4 cup sour cream
- 2 tsp. Awesome Antler Rub Sportsman's Table Item MG104
- 1 T. Venison Roast and Seasoning Rub Sportsman's Table Item CY3627
- 2 T. olive oil

Mix Venison Roast and Seasoning Rub with olive oil. Baste mixture on the venison roast. Place in plastic bag or covered plastic tupperware for 8-24 hours to marinate. Preheat oven to 350 degrees. Place venison roast in roasting pan and cover. Roast for 15 min.

Remove from oven and let sit in covered pan for 5 min. Remove lid and allow to cool for 5 min. Slice very thin with a sharp knife or slicer. Mix softened cream cheese with sour cream and Awesome Antler Rub. Spread this mixture on room temperature flour tortillas. (If the tortillas are cold they might rip when you try to roll them).

Place venison slices on the flour tortillas. Roll the tortillas. Cut the tortillas in long 2 inch strips. Turn the strips and cut them into about 1 inch wide pinwheels. <http://recipes.sportsmanstable.com/general/roasted-venison-pinwheels/>



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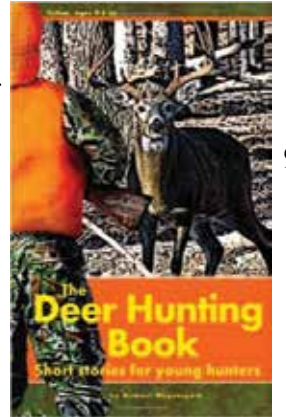


Mitch Quillen, Chris Price, Glen Klabe and Jimmy Hurlock with a mixed bag from Saskatchewan this fall.

Book of the Month

THE DEER HUNTING BOOK: SHORT STORIES FOR YOUNG HUNTERS

by Michael Waguespack - The Deer Hunting Book is a wonderful collection of deer hunting short stories for boys and girls interested in the outdoors. The book captures the excitement of hunting whitetails through a variety of adventurous and humorous stories about young hunters. Ages & up.



Reviews.....

My son wanted Santa to bring some books about deer for Christmas. This is a nice book for elementary aged boys who are interested in deer hunting. Nice short stories. The book is especially nice because it is often hard to get boys to read. Having a subject they are interested in helps. Would recommend to parents and teachers.

Cool stories for a youngster, and adults!

I bought this book for my son, who is 8, for Christmas. He just started hunting deer this year, so I thought it would be a cool gift. It is full of exciting short stories about the thrill of hunting. I read a few and enjoyed it. I also thought it was neat that there are hunting rules printed inside the front cover. Nice touch, since that is the most important thing for kids to know about hunting!

My non-book loving boys are reading this book and liking it. This teacher is happy.

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Danny Calloway started the bow season off with a bang with this impressive opening day Buck. Photo courtesy of Wink's Sporting Goods.

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Place	Name	Points
1	Darin Zagalsky	1,150
2	Noah Tomasik	990
3	Brian Zagalsky	910
4	Jacob Ehm	530
5	Sean Zlotorzynski	280
6	Rachel Ehm	250
7	Logan Beebe	220
8	Anna Estremsky	150
9	Will Muscatello	110
10	Grahma Akehurst	80



Anna caught and released this 26 and 1/4" speckled trout on 9/28/14 near Hoopers Island. This is her 10th documented citation, including 5 unique species - white perch, striped bass, red drum, speckled trout and spanish mackerel.

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Caught on October 18, 2014 aboard the 'KAREN RAY II' with Capt. Curtis P. Johns from Crisfield. Angler is Lita Denny who brought it in with no assistance! Fish is a black drum 46" long and scale bottomed out at 60lbs



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By Steve Huettner

“The last word”

The Rockfish Debate

At the time this story was submitted, the Atlantic Striped Bass Management Board (comprised of ME, NH, MA, RI, CT, NY, NJ, PA, DE, MD, VA and NC) which is part of the Atlantic States Marine Fisheries Commission (ASMFC) will have met at their annual meeting in Connecticut and decided the rules and regulations for 2015 fishing season for striped bass (aka rockfish). Depending on whom you talk with the striped bass fishery is either on the brink of collapse or things are pretty good.

Who is ASMFC? ASMFC is the group that regulates the management of all fish that migrate between states. Since fish don't stop at state lines, each species is assigned with a board, technical committee, and advisory panel. States then appoint representatives to represent them based on the species. Striped bass love to travel and thus are represented by twelve different states. Part of their management of striped bass is to conserve spawning-aged female striped bass to ensure adequate reproduction over time, or in simple terms make sure there are enough mom bass around to produce baby bass.

What's the problem? Every year Maryland performs a fish census called the Young of the Year (YOY) index. Since 1954 Maryland DNR biologists survey 22 sites located within the four major spawning systems for striped bass (Upper Bay, Choptank, Nanticoke and Potomac rivers). The Chesapeake Bay is responsible for producing about 70% of the striped bass for the fishery (Albermarle Sound and Roanoke River are the other nursery). Think of the bay has one giant nursery growing lots of fish that leave when they get older to travel the east coast and then come back home to breed.

Crews visit each survey 3 times and collect fish with 100 foot beach seine nets. All the juvenile

striped bass that are caught are added up and used to calculate the young of the year index. The average over the last 61 years has been 11.7. For about 18

years (1993-2005) the YOY remained above the 11.7 average with a few years showing numbers of 40, 50, and 60. During 6 of the last 8 years the YOY has been below the average with only one excellent year (2011 with an average of 35). The YOY for 2014 came in at 11, which is the long term average which according to most biologists indicates a good rate of production.

Can we help bass make more bass? Getting more mom bass to produce more baby bass is not that simple. The survival of striped bass eggs and larvae is largely influenced by a lot of factor that man cannot control like water temperature, salinity and flow rates. What we can do (depending on who you believe) is limit the amount of fish that are caught both recreationally and commercially.

Recreational fisherman vs. Commercial fisherman. Many recreational fishing groups feel that striped bass are in a lot of trouble and want to see drastic cuts in the harvest starting at 25% with some saying even that is too low. Commercial interests say that the 2011 class of fish will soon hit legal size and that Mother Nature has up and down cycles, and while we need to pay attention they sky is not falling. Part of the impetus is that recreational catches over the last few years have gone down while the commercial catch (which is based on quota) has remained the same.

What are the options on the table? There are a myriad of options available to those meeting at AFSMC but they all involve some type of decrease. The question is how much and over how much time. For recreational fisherman many options are in play. A one year 25% reduction starting in 2015, a 2 year plan with a 20% reduction, or 3 years with a 17% reduction. Trophy season proposals include delaying the start date of the season and increasing the minimum size and reducing the summer/fall fishery to 1 fish or increasing the size limit. Spring trophy season could see the size limit increase from 28' to 33' and increasing an inch per year for the next two seasons. The summer/fall season would see

staggered opening and closing on the seasons over 3 years with a 2 fish per day limit, 1 over 28". For the commercial quota allocated, cuts range from 25% starting in 2015 to a 7% reduction over 3 years.

There are many passionate, intelligent people that are involved in striped bass management who dedicate countless hours to striped bass. Trying to manage a species that has is a prized fish for recreational fisherman, is an important part of the commercial fishery, and resides within 12 states makes the job difficult to say the least. In the end people will work together to ensure that the remarkable comeback of the striped bass will continue, as failure is not an option.



12 Year old Gabe Merson was hunting in Somerset County this past Spring when he bagged this 19.2 lb. Gobbler sporting a 9 1/2" beard and 5/8" spurs. Photo courtesy of Winks Sporting Goods.

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Grayson Land with his 11 inch bearded turkey. Photo courtesy of Winks Sporting Goods.



Bryann Benton of Comus, Md. shows off her 10 point Whitetail taken near her home. Photo courtesy of Ron's Bay Pro Shop

Gun control will hurt your sex life Top 10 reasons a gun is favored over a woman....

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