Stripers Forever 2011 Annual Fishing Survey Results

Stripers Forever recently announced receiving 1042 responses to their annual survey in 2011. Of those, 717 respondents have fished for stripers for more than 10 years, so a great many of these people fished through both the last striped bass collapse and the recovery of the late 1980s and 1990s.

“We believe that this year’s survey has again produced a good representative sampling of sentiments fromfishers all along the striper’s migratory range,” the SF report indicated, “and that the results, taken with those of the previous eight survey years paint an accurate picture of the direction striped bass fishing is heading, which, with the hopeful exception of a good year, we do not expect to be good. We hope that (sportsmen) will use this information personally to help us advocate for the goal of coast-wide, coast-wide striped bass game fish. Please share the results with your local fishing club, home-town newspaper, and elected officials that you may know.”

Highlights of the survey include the following:

About 56% of respondents fish predominantly from a boat and about 44% mostly from shore.

A record 74% of the anglers in 2011 indicated that the quality of fishing for stripers has improved over the last four years. “This has been up every year from the 33% received in 2003. Only 14% felt this has been up every year from the late 1980s and 1990s. Almost half (49%) reported the average number of stripers they have been in the water smaller, compared to 30% seeing an increase.

In 2011, the percentage of anglers reporting catching fewer, or many fewer, fish per hour was as the same in 2010, a record 76% up from only 37% in 2003. Only 7% of anglers reported they caught more fish. Many comments were received about how few fish were being caught.

Members who said they were equally or more inclined to take guided trips dropped to 44%. (This agrees with guide comments found later in the responses.)

Sixty-four percent of respondents agreed that a small fish should be allowed for food. Of those, 74% felt that it should be offered instead of a larger fish. “These responses are more conservative in recent years, doubtless because of the striped bass population is heading,” according to the SF report.

Of the respondents who want a high minimum size for striped bass, 52% prefer 28 inches.

For a slot limit stayed at 76-77.5%, 74% said yes. “We think that a slot is smaller fish would be even more popular. Being the fact that many anglers now believe that no slotted fish should be killed at all given the declining condition of the fishery.”

ASMFC Summer Flounder, Scup and Black Sea Bass Board Approves Draft Addendum XXII for Public Comment

The following notice was released by the NJ Department of Environmental Protection in early January.

The Atlantic States Marine Fisheries Commission’s Summer Flounder, Scup, and Black Sea Bass Joint Management Board (Board) has approved Draft Addendum XXII for public comment. The Draft Addendum proposes a program wherein the Board divides the recreational black sea bass harvest allocations into state-by-state management for 2012 only.

The management plan for black sea bass does not provide an opportunity to craft recreational measures by regions or states. New York only allows for a coastwide measure. Due to the wide geographic range of this species, the application of coastwide minimum size, possession limit, and season restrictions may not affect every area involved in the fishery in the same way.

The Board divides the recreational black sea bass harvest allocations into state-by-state management for 2012 only.

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The day before Headley brought his bear to the Franklin checking station off Route 23, driving past anti-hunting demonstrators who shouted and made gestures at successful hunters, John Noon of Sussex had brought in a 776-pound bear he shot in Stokes State Forest. Noon’s was a state record, until Headley’s bear was weighed.

Hunters killed 469 bears in this year’s hunt that coincided with the six-day December firearms deer hunt, less than the
We live today in what many people refer to as the “Age of Information.” Rapid communication systems and the Internet make it possible for virtually anything to be known worldwide within a matter of hours or even minutes. Yet in some niche areas such rapid dissemination of information actually seems less efficient (or perhaps simply less readily accessible) than in days past.

The document that brings this to mind is the New Jersey Furbearer Management Newsletter, in particular the Winter 2012 issue, which was released pretty much as I started to consider what to discuss in this column. In case you haven’t had a chance to look at it (www.state.nj.us/dep/fgw/pdf/2012/furbearernews-winter12.pdf), I urge you to do so. It’s a neat little publication that focuses on one family of New Jersey-based furbearers in each issue. The new one looks at the wild canines that currently call the Garden State home (red fox, grey fox, coyote); the previous issue contained excellent material on the weasel family members (and was excerpted in the October, 2011 issue of this publication).

I have always had a fondness for these publications printed and distributed through government agencies. It started back in the 1960s, when I as a youngster had a severe hankering for outdoors pursuits. On the one hand I was unfortunate that my parents had zero interest in these things, but on the other hand I was fortunate in that they were not unsupportive of these interests. My father contacted the US Fish and Wildlife Service, and a couple of weeks later I received a very thick packet with booklets, pamphlets, brochures (to me, in those days, they seemed like advanced-level textbooks), and the like on hunting, fishing, trapping (very neat!), and camping. Not quite the same as going and doing, but great for an information-starved youngster such as I was.

Flash forward a few decades, and I found myself needing more information on fishing and other outdoors activities here in New Jersey, and the printed literature available from our own Division of Fish, Game and Wildlife (this was, of course, before they dropped the “Game,” and that’s an entirely separate discussion) was impressive indeed. At the very top of the list was a booklet that I actually still wish the Division would keep updated, and that was the Guide to New Jersey’s Wildlife Management Areas. Hundreds of pages gave detailed maps, access points, locations, and outdoors opportunities at each of the WMAs throughout the state. It was fantastic.

I also see that within my archives I still have what was apparently a discontinued project begun by that same Division, called Inventory of NJ Lakes and Ponds. The one slim volume I have (labeled, appropriately, as Vol. 1 No. 1) is, I believe, the entire extent of that series which – if memory serves – was intended to have new volumes released every quarter year or so. That volume contains detailed information on a dozen public freshwater fishing spots scattered throughout the state, and I looked forward eagerly to the subsequent issues. I cannot recall exactly how old that Inventory is (I could find no publication date within), but two telling clues are: (1) the agency was still called the Division of Fish, Game and Wildlife, and (2) when, well over 10 years ago, I asked a Division official about that publication series, he had no idea what I was talking about.

Remember New Jersey Outdoors? Under the excellent editorial guidance of people like Steve Perrone and Beth Kuhles, it was a genuinely useful, informative, and enjoyable source of outdoors information. Gone but not forgotten.

And there were many others as well. To be sure, the Division still offers some informational publications, and their web

see FYI, p. 11
What do we? The October snowstorm knocked out our electricity, forcing our family to head for Edison and spend the week with our son Bob and his wife Kelly. We brought the contents of our freezer, including those nicely packaged fluke, striped, and sea bass fillets that were to last us into the winter. Instead, these were served as delicious entrees from Kelly’s kitchen as the ten of us enjoyed their hospital ity. So as to not be offended or otherwise disregarded, and waited for goods to arrive. It’s now February, and the regulators have effectively put us out of business to target the sea bass. For our part, we were fun to catch – and eat – which we’d nor mally be targeting this time of the year on 50- to 80-mile offshore wrecks. There is a solution, however, and it centers on a species that has sustained reasonably good population levels while living in the depths of the Mud Hole located east of the jersey coast. The species is the red hake, but you seldom heard it called by that name, instead referenced to as just plain ling. Perhaps the best overall descrip tion of this bottom feeder is provided by Vic Dunaway in his fine book Sport Fish of the Atlantic. Its game qualities are described as “Fun to catch but no challenge.” As to its food value, “Excellent if fresh or properly iced and cared for,” which isn’t difficult to accomplish at this time of the year when temperatures are regularly hovering around the freezing mark. Stay forewarned, however, that the “no challenge” reference is right on the mark, as even a porcupy or sea bass will give you a hard time on a tungsten head.

But getting back to my opening ques tion of “What to do?” to solve the dilemma of an empty freezer. Simply put, just step aboard a party boat and head east to the Mud Hole, that deep, underwater exten sion of the Hudson River, which was formed eons ago and meanders offshore as it heads for canyon country.

The Mud Hole has depths that range from 200 to 300 feet for the most part. Its bottom is littered with a variety of wrecks, some of unknown origin, while others by ships that sank as a result of collisions or coastal storms, and even German submarines that were sunk as they cruised off the Jersey coast during World War II. The marine growth that covers these wrecks and bottom debris attracts a variety of forage species, and the ling have found those spots to be a perfect place to set up residence, as there’s most always a meal readily available.

Fortunately, there are a handful of party boats that target the ling during the current cold weather, among them the Angler, Paramount, Jamaica, Jamaica II, Gambler, Dauntless, and Golden Eagle. Most sail at 7:30 or 8:00 am, although a few have extended day trips and sail as early as 6:00, so it’s best to check their websites.

The same outfit you’ve been using all summer and fall for stripers, blues, fluke, and porpiges works fine in the Mud Hole, but lean towards a heavier rod than the 12-foot variety to which you’re so accustomed to your line perpendicular and able to hold bottom, which will ensure strikes from the tasty bottom feeding ling. Milt Rosko photo.

Use a small piece of clam bait, which the party boats cut into a sizeable chunk to make certain to use sufficient sinker weight to keep your line perpendicular and able to hold bottom, which will ensure strikes from the tasty bottom feeding ling. Milt Rosko photo.

Letters to the Editor

the Federation to be involved in. I hope you will continue to keep us updated of your efforts, and thank you for writing in! - OS

HOFNOD in Schools

Dear Oliver,

Hanked On Fishing Not On Drugs (HOFNOD) is a school course developed by the Future Fisherman Foundation, a national non-profit corporation. HOFNOD is now in 16 states and I am bringing it to New Jersey schools.

You may have heard of Hanked On Fishing Not On Drugs put on by local fishing organizations, as youth fishing derbies. The HOFNOD course is much more comprehensive than that. It is a school curriculum consisting of 20-1 hour lessons to be taught by teachers in the school district, so you can see how large our mission is. We will be needing the help of fishermen and -women to assist in teaching HOFNOD to teachers in the local schools, and taking the students out on weekend fishing trips.

HOFNODNJ is a non-profit charitable organization, so if you can’t help physically, any financial contributions would be greatly appreciated and are tax deductible. Any contributions can be sent to Hanked On Fishing Not On Drugs New Jersey, 6E Brynwood Gardens Suite 29, Old Bridge, NJ 08857. Anyone who can get a local bank or savings account in this area, please send an email to me at hofnond@gmail.com.

Thanks to everyone for their help.

Charles Breitweiser
Old Bridge, NJ

February 2012

New Jersey Federated Sportsmen News

Ling and the Mud Hole: A Perfect Combo

By Milt Rosko

Dear Oliver,

I was hunting Clinton (WMA) last year. It was great until I was told that there would be no more birds for December. Are we going to get credit for the time we missed? Credit should be offered against our license this year 2012.

I hope you can take care of this. My next stop is Mr. Christie.

John Hickling
Jersey City NJ
Member, Kingwood Hunting Club

Mr. Hickling: as we discussed on the tele phone of someone who was present at those decisions that are under the purview of the 50 District of Fish and Wildlife. I do encourage you to contact personnel at the Division directly to voice your concerns, and I’ll do my best to assist you. The Federation or personnel in the State Federation if this is something you’d like

Credit for those Lost Pheasants?

Dear Oliver,

I am writing this letter to you in regards to the loss of pheasants that were killed during hunting season this year. While the ling will be your targeted species, often you’ll be rewarded with a white hake, which is a close relative. It’s also by no means unusual to get wallowed by a pollack that’s a stealer adversary compared to a ling, or a codfish, which in the past several years have made their presence known. Yes, now’s the time you can bring along a large cooler, as it’s by no means unusual to get entangled with neighboring anglers.

Henry Corforte
Lake Wallanita

On a Roll

Dear Oliver,

Yes, we’re on a roll. On opening day of shogun season on a drive for fellow hunting bottoms and try you’ve apt to get to immediately lock your reel into gear and retrieve it for ease when retrieving from the depths. I must also admit that I also regularly use a Daiwa Seaborg 300 or 300 Megawatt power-assist reel that’s powered by a rechargeable battery that screws into the bottom of the reel. Thus equipped, I’m able to retrieve 300 feet of line by simply pushing a button, which eliminates wrist and arm fatigue, especially when the ling are biting.

Terminal rigging is simplicity exemplified. A rig favored by almost all of the captains aboard whose boats I’ve fished is accomplished by taking a pair of hooks, size 2/0 or 3/0 Mustad or Eagle Claw bead or claw-style hooks, snelled to 12 to 18 inches of leader material, and by tying a dropper loop into the middle of one leader, and slipping the second hook’s leader onto the dropper loop. This gives you a pair of hooks which will rest directly on the bot tom. Just tie an improved end loop to the top shot about 18 inches above the bottom hook, which will enable a ling to inhale it with ease.

Always be alert as you permit your rig to the bottom, and be prepared to use a pair of hooks to target the sea bass. For our part, we were fun to catch – and eat – which we’d normally be targeting this time of the year.

Today (January 10, 2012) HOFNOD is Hooked On Fishing Not On Drugs put on by local fishing organizations, as youth fishing derbies. The HOFNOD course is much more comprehensive than that. It is a school curriculum consisting of 20-1 hour lessons to be taught by teachers in the school district, so you can see how large our mission is. We will be needing the help of fishermen and -women to assist in teaching HOFNOD to teachers in the local schools, and taking the students out on weekend fishing trips.

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Thanks to everyone for their help.

Charles Breitweiser
Old Bridge, NJ

February 2012
The outdoors is a great place, but bugs can make a day in the great outdoors quite unpleasant. The good news is that you can fight back.

Five of the bug species that can give you trouble are mosquitoes, black flies, no-see-ums, deerflies, and ticks. Mosquitoes are the worst of the bunch, and they are most active at dusk and dawn. Mosquitoes are attracted to dark colors, so wear light-colored clothing where feasible. Mosquitoes also love it in warm, carbon dioxide, and the odor of human skin.

Your best weapon is a repellent on your skin that will set up a barrier to confuse the mosquito’s senses. There are dozens of bug repellents available, and all of them work to varying degrees. With the threat of West Nile Virus from infected mosquitoes, it is especially important to protect yourself with a good repellent, preferably one that contains DEET (N,N-diethyl-meta-toluamide).

Black flies are fierce and draw blood. Male black flies use blood for food, and prefer it to the sweet fluids of vertebrates. Black flies can turn a pleasant day into a nightmarish experience, and will attack the face, legs, arms, and ankles, and wear long sleeves. If you get pants in to your socks, tape cuffs around your ankles. Wear light-colored clothing for the insects, paying particular attention to hairy areas. Wear light-colored clothing,uck pants into socks, avoid wooded areas and high grass, and use a repellent that contains DEET. You can also use Permethrin, an effective repellent produced for use only on clothing, boots, bed nets, and camping gear. Do not use it on your skin. Permethrin will kill ticks, but not other arthropods. (Permethrin is effective as an insecticide as well as a repellent.)

Black flies and mosquitoes can turn a pleasant day into a nightmare experience, and will attack the face, legs, arms, and ankles, and wear long sleeves. If you get pants in to your socks, tape cuffs around your ankles. Walk slowly and avoid wooded areas and high grass, and use a repellent that contains DEET. You can also use Permethrin, an effective repellent produced for use only on clothing, boots, bed nets, and camping gear. Do not use it on your skin. Permethrin will kill ticks, but not other arthropods. (Permethrin is effective as an insecticide as well as a repellent.)

Northen Region Highlights

CO Ziegler was contacted by NJ State Police Sussex regarding three individuals shooting deer at night with a rifle in Sussex County. The officer observed two individuals firing at a doe with a .22 rifle and taken it back to one of their homes to process it. The arrow head was found on the floor of the home. One of the individuals’ father) saw people with flashlights in the yard and proceeded to shoot at them out of his window with a revolver.

Northern Woods, and both sexes can inflict Lyme disease, is our most dangerous pest. Ticks, because of the threat of Lyme disease, is our most dangerous pest. They are half the size of the common tick, and usually orange-brown with a black spot near the head. Symptoms of Lyme disease include a red ring-shaped rash, fever, chills, headaches, and fatigue. Learn to identify ticks and remove them from your body with tweezers, but don’t pull hard on the tick itself. If you cannot pull it off gently, cover the tick with oil, which causes it to drop off when you wipe it off with a cloth or bandage.

If you have in a tick area, it’s critical that you wash, shower, and for the insects, paying particular attention to hairy areas. Wear light-colored clothing, tick pants into socks, avoid wooded areas and high grass, and use a repellent that contains DEET. You can also use Permethrin, an effective repellent produced for use only on clothing, boots, bed nets, and camping gear. Do not use it on your skin. Permethrin will kill ticks, but not other arthropods. (Permethrin is effective as an insecticide as well as a repellent.)

n the head or mouth parts to break off and remain in the flesh. Don’t hurt, twist, or crush a tick on your body. If it can’t be pulled off gently, cover the tick with oil, which causes it to drop off when you wipe it off with a cloth or bandage.

Lyme disease, is our most dangerous pest. They are half the size of the common tick, and usually orange-brown with a black spot near the head. Symptoms of Lyme disease include a red ring-shaped rash, fever, chills, headaches, and fatigue. Learn to identify ticks and remove them from your body with tweezers, but don’t pull hard on the tick itself. If you cannot pull it off gently, cover the tick with oil, which causes it to drop off when you wipe it off with a cloth or bandage.

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Conservation Officer Stites received a call from a landowner who was concerned about a bear in their yard. The bear was reported to be around the property and then moved to the adjoining private property. The Conservation Officer, upon inspection of the property, determined that the bear was treed in the tree and that there was no danger of the bear because he did not possess the required extended archery permit. The appropriate summonses were issued.

Conservation Officer Stites received a phone call from an off-duty police officer who was waterfowl hunting in Lower Alloways Creek Township, Salem County. The hunters were hunting in the Migratory Bird Hunting and Conservation Officer Stites received a complaint of illegal raccoon hunting in Waterman Woods, Kensington Woods, and Rockport Game Farm. Conservation Officer Stites was called to investigate and then moved to the adjoining private property. The Conservation Officer, upon inspection of the property, determined that the bears were treed in the tree and that there was no danger of the bear because he did not possess the required extended archery permit. The appropriate summonses were issued.

Conservation Officer Officer Vazquez and L. Ely set up on a series of camera traps in Lake Macdonald, Salem County, to wait for illegal spot lighters. At 10:30 pm, a pickup truck came past the camp the officers were watching. The truck was used to check the fields with a spotlight. After conducting a search of the area, a pickup truck with lights, windows, and bow and arrows were found in the back seat. The driver was the person who was named in the report. The question for several days. The check station notified CO Stites when the hunter failed to register another buck. The appropriate summonses were issued.

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Why We Attend Shows

During the colder months, Above is a scene from the World Fishing & Outdoor Exposition at Suffern, NY in 2011. Photo courtesy ASA/Eastern Fishing & Outdoor Exposition, LLC.

Though the fare is palatable, it isn’t exactly five-star-restaurant dining. Hot dogs and hamburgers are the usual fare, and in some instances show attendees drive home hum-ming “plop, plop, fizz, fizz, oh what a relief it is…”

No, it’s not necessarily discounts or fine table fare that has these outdoor-oriented folks driving sometimes hundreds of miles to attend shows. Instead, it is more likely they go because they are hunters, fishermen, trappers, campers, boaters, and hikers.

Though outdoor shows certainly offer product availability, it is the camaraderie; the knowledge that outdoor-oriented folks are almost literally rubbing elbows with others who share the same values and who do not consider killing a deer, rabbit, or fish a sin so grievous that it’s a one-way ticket to hell. Instead, they are safe in the knowledge that what they participate in is, in fact, the unaltered, natural outdoors; an environment that has nipped many initiates in the butt when they made the mistake of taking nature nonchalantly.

To illustrate why outdoor folks attend such shows, there was a cartoon published in a newspaper last fall that depicted two guys standing on a wood deck, complete with propane-fired barbecue, and a portable TV with a football game on. Both had drinks in hand and in the background were two potted plants. One guy was saying to the other, “It’s nice to get back to nature like this every once in while.”

A revealing social commentary if ever there was one. It clearly defined the ever-widening gap between real, honest-to-goodness outdoor enthusiasts and the increasing numbers of people who are so far removed from an agrarian culture that they think a mall with sky lights and plastic palm trees is equal to a high-country elk encampment.

Undeniably, society has changed over the last four or five decades, and its perception of hunting, fishing, trapping, or merely accepting the challenge of the real outdoors has also changed… and changed dramatically. Hunters, anglers, and trap-pers understand that killing for the sake of killing is not good under any circumstances, but killing fish or wildlife to be eaten and otherwise properly used is a basic human instinct. Unlike their super-civilized counterparts, these instincts in outdoorsmen and women have not changed.

It is at outdoor sportsmen’s shows that we can find others who share these values and views. And, in all probability, that’s what draws many, or at least a good percentage of us, to the season-between-seasons.

STATE CONSERVATION POLICE ISSUE

WANTED

STATE CONSERVATION POLICE ISSUE

COMPOSITE IMAGE OF SUSPECTED SHOOTER IN COLLIERS MILLS HUNTING INCIDENT

State authorities recently released a composite drawing (seen at left) of a man believed to be responsible for shooting a father and son, and then leaving the scene, in a hunting incident on December 17 (2011) in the Colliers Mill Wildlife Management Area in Jackson Township.

The alleged shooter is described as a white male in his mid-30s, with a medium build, about six feet tall, 180 to 200 pounds, with dark brown hair and light blue or green eyes, according to Mark Chickatano, Acting Chief of the Division of Fish and Wildlife’s Bureau of Law Enforcement.

The incident occurred at 7:25 am on December 17 during pheasant hunting in neck-to-shoulder-high grass at Colliers Mill. The shooter took aim at a pheasant in the field, and the alleged shooter, is asked to call 877-927-6337.

The father, age 60, from Manchester, was struck four times in the face, and two in the hand. All of the pellets penetrated the skin.

The two victims were treated for their wounds at the scene by emergency medical personnel and received subsequent care at the Community Medical Hospital in Toms River. Anyone with information on this incident, or with knowledge of the alleged shooter, is asked to call 877-927-6337.

NEW JERSEY FEDERATED SPORTSMEN NEWS

February 2012

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

may be sent by U.S. Mail (to 28 Hemlock Road, Livingston, NJ 07039), or email (olshapiro@yahoo.com). Please include your town of residence, and club or organization affiliation (if any).

Need Extra Papers?

If your club, organization, or county needs extra copies of the Federated News for an upcoming event or display, please contact the Editor of this publication (973-533-1260; olshapiro@yahoo.com) AT LEAST SIX WEEKS IN ADVANCE of the date in question.
Catch a bunch of small catfish on the bottom feeder. He said that anyone can too many fish snobs consider to be a lowly advanced route to catching a quarry that all ing a rigorous and technologically is nearly two hours closer by car.

Hunting Big Cats

By Pete Robbins

If you want to catch a big fish in or near New Jersey, there are lots of salty options to pursue big stripers in the surf, tuna offshore, even monster sharks. But the freshwater guys shouldn’t feel left out.

Within just a few hours of New Jersey’s southern border lies a virtually untapped trophy fishery that’ll give even the most jaded big-fish fighter a chance to test his fighting skills. The quarry? Blue catfish. Big blue catfish.

In recent years the tidal rivers of Virginia have established themselves as a hotbed for big blue catfish. They’re not native to the region, but after being stocked in the James and Rappahannock Rivers in the 1970s, they took off. The James now has more than two dozen cat- fish guides, and in 2009 a local angler cor- ralled a big blue that weighed over 102 pounds.

Captain Josh Fitchett is one of the group of guides who leads anglers to big James River catfish on a regular basis. He’s on the water seven days a week and is a proven winner in the burgeoning catfish tournament circuit. While the James con- tinues to push out big cats, Fitchett feels that the Potomac is rapidly becoming a better overall fishery. That’s good news for Jersey-based anglers who want to dip a toe (figuratively, not literally… especially in certain times of year or under certain con- ditions. Except for a period roughly between Mother’s Day and Father’s Day, when the big cats are otherwise occupied by spawning, he’s out there all the time. In the hottest months, he tends to fish at night, but the bite is every bit as good.

It’s the closest thing to a guaranteed trophy fish in freshwater, and for Garden State-based anglers it’s a trip you can make for the sake of brute strength.

He pours his own sinkers, shaped like hockey pucks and weighing 16 ounces apiece. Most anglers use sinkers of eight or 10 ounces, he said, but in the 30- to 60-foot depths that he favors, the strong river channel currents will often move that smaller amount of lead. Finally, he affixes his bait to an 8/0 Gamakatsu circle hook, which ensures quality hookups without damaging the fish, all of which he releases. He said he’d use a 10/0 if he could find one — better to hold the trophies that he encounters every day.

Capt. Josh is so confident in his skills, and in the Potomac’s bounty, that he guarantees a citation blue cat (30 pounds or better) on every trip. That’s not just at certain times of year or under certain con- ditions.

Within a surprisingly short drive south of our state border are some great opportunities for trophy freshwater fish. Seen here is James River guide Josh Fitchett with a big blue catfish. Pete Robbins photo.

With every big turn, every high ledge, every sharp turn where the current hits the water, there’s a place for the big ones to frequent. In partic- ular, he’s looking for structural elements that are prime time feeding areas too.

“I want to find deep turns and drop- offs with water flow hitting them and then turning,” he said. “I especially like real sharp turns where the current hits the bank.”

He’ll generally move the boat up on top of the ledge if the tide is coming in, or off of it if the flow is headed out, and pres- ent his baits with a ten-rod spread. The

Within a surprisingly short drive south of our state border are some great opportunities for trophy freshwater fish. Seen here is James River guide Josh Fitchett with a big blue catfish. Pete Robbins photo.

A strong current makes the rivers run cold and they’re not warm until April or May. At that time, the fish move in to feed. “As long as there is a current, they can eat,” he said. “I especially like the big ones to frequent. In partic- ular, he’s looking for structural elements that are prime time feeding areas too.”

“Taj” Memorial Fishing Tournament

This Memorial Day Weekend the New Jersey State Bowhunter and Archery Club will host its third annual Taj Memorial Fishing Tournament, which is open to all bowhunter and archers age 12 and older. The tournament will include both archery and bait fish categories.

Entries are due by May 27 and the tournament will take place on June 2, 2012. The first place winner will receive a fishing trip to Costa Rica valued at $8,000. Additional prizes will be made available. For more information, please visit www.njsfsc.org.

Anglers and Hunters Association Annual Venison Dinner

Saturday, March 10, 2012
Cocktail Hour 5:00 pm, Dinner 6:00 pm
Location: Russian Hall, 4 Woodhull Avenue, Little Falls, NJ
Price: $40; limited tickets available
Club Membership Opportunities are Available as Well
Beer and Soda included with dinner; cash bar for other liquor
For information, please contact: AHAOFNJ@gmail.com
The Beagle Chronicles: The Con Game

by Cathy Blumig

Beagle

Some degree of trust is needed between the owner and the hunting dog in order to be productive in the field, even if the dog is a beagle. Trusting a beagle can be a challenge because of their legendary independent streak. I was reminded of this during a recent rabbit hunt the day after Christmas on the Musconetcong Wildlife Management Area (WMA) with our three hounds, April, Penny, and Ginger.

Because these hounds have a history of running by themselves, after a show of authority, they didn’t want to go with the pack. But if we wanted to be productive in the field, even if the dog is a beagle, we had to have some degree of trust between the owner and the hunting dog in order to be productive in the field, even if the dog is a beagle. Trusting a beagle can be a challenge because of their legendary independent streak.

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Nantucket Blues

In this instance the title “Nantucket Blues” does not refer to a musical genre, but to a fishing charter out of Nantucket Island, located off the coast of Massachusetts. Here it refers to a highly successful fishing outing that I embarked upon last February.

In September we took a family vacation to Nantucket. While there, we fished with Captain Karsten Reinemo, renting a friend’s house on the island, and a van for the drive up of which included taking the slower, vehicle-carrying ferry from Hyannis to Nantucket.

There were six of us in the van, including my grandson Shane who was less than one year old at the time. Shane required that a bit of extra travel equ impediment be packed into the van and we were traveling light. So with limited room we decided to forego packing our own fishing tackle and waders, and instead opted for a fishing charter out of Nantucket.

Research indicated that the best deal was to charter fishing from out of Straight Wharf, slip #10 at the foot ofOld Nantucket Harbor, Captain Karsten Reinemo in charge (508-228-7724, topspin@nantucket.net).

Reinemo, along with his sons (Captains Matt and Tim Reinemo), operates Topspin, running charters for striped bass, bluefish, tuna, shark, bonito and Spanish mackerel. The striker fishing had been slow and our time was limited, so upon Captain Karsten Reinemo’s recommendation we signed up for a 2½-hour trip for bluefish, which should be extended to three hours if needed.

On the first day our excursion was postponed due to the threat of thunderstorms that could be extended to three hours upon Captain Karsten’s recommendation. We would prefer Topspin, running charters for striped bass, bluefish, tuna, shark, bonito and Spanish mackerel. Thestriker fishing had been slow and our time was limited, so upon Captain Karsten Reinemo’s recommendation we signed up for a 2½-hour trip for bluefish, which should be extended to three hours if needed.

Nantucket–based whaling ships used when order to preserve their food value.

As “Battlin’ Blues” because of their ability to put up an arm-aching tussle in every instance; however, their food value is underestimated by many. Blues are best eaten when fresh, and as with all fish, game, proper after-catch care is essential to good table fare.

Anglers sometimes refer to bluefish as “Bat’tlin’ Blues” because of their ability to put up an arm-aching tussle in every instance; however, their food value is underestimated by many. Blues are best eaten when fresh, and as with all fish, game, proper after-catch care is essential to good table fare.

As we headed back to port, Captain Matt informed us that we were running the same route that the once-numerous Nantucket-based whaling ships used when returning to the harbor, and the words and melody of an old, short-haul sea shanty passed through my mind.

Naw whot Oh was a little man an’ me mother told me, ‘Way haul away, we’ll haul away Joe! That if Oi didn’t kiss the gals me lips would all grow moulid. ‘Way haul away, we’ll haul away Joe!

When we arrived at the dock and tied up, we attended a sizeable group of onlookers who were interested to see us weigh in our catch with Captain Matt skillfully filleting the fish. Later that evening we feasted on Spanish mackerel and bluefish fillets cooked on the grill in aluminum packets filled with slices of onion, red and green peppers, and tomatoes.

As they说的是, “Battlin’ Blues” if all gone mouldy, ‘Way haul away, we’ll haul away Joe! That if Oi didn’t kiss the gals me lips would all grow moulid. ‘Way haul away, we’ll haul away Joe!

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Due to fishing in and around the harbor entrance, Nantucket declined as a major whaling center during the 1850’s and the bulk of the whaling operations moved to New Bedford. Nantucket is now a thriving tourist destination especially for those who love the sea and ships. It is also a great place for marine anglers to go for a fine fishing experience with a connection to nautical heritage.

We’ll had a way, Joe!...we’ll had a way, Joe!
I don’t buy many guns these days, since I have ‘most all of what I need, but once in a while I will have to conduct my experiments with a modern version of the Pritchett with lubrication grooves. More to come on this...

Pedersoli 1886/71 Lever Action

Pedersoli is offering yet another version of the Model 1886 Winchester. If you’re hunting out of state, where you can use a .50-110 barrel. The 1886 was a favorite of the Wild West, true to the late 19th and early 20th century style of firearms. It might want to take a look at Pedersoli’s new version of the famed Model 71 Winchester. The .308 should have been made. Winchester was in the throes of changing the model numbers of guns that had 19th century You can find the 71 model 1886, with pistol grip stock and in a new caliber, .348 Winchester. At the time the Model 71 was introduced, Winchester was in the throes of changing the model numbers of guns that had 19th century that are seen. Models are almost new, and some are in excellent condition. If you’re interested in this style of firearm, you can find the best prices on these at gun shows or online.

Fishermen and other interested groups are encouraged to participate in the Draft Addendum, either by attending public hearings or providing written comments. The Draft Addendum can be obtained at http://www.asmfc.org/species/Documents/ScupDraftAddendum.pdf. Public comment will be accepted until 5:00 PM (EST) on February 5, 2012 and should be forwarded to Toni Kerns at 703.842.0740 or Toni.Kerns@asmfc.org. For additional information call 973-663-5309, email Scott@ParadiseFishingClub.com or visit www.ParadiseFishingClub.com.

Paradise Fishing Club sponsored by the Boat House Restaurant permitting) from 6:30 am to 4:00 pm, this month: February 5, 12, 19 and 26 (ice fishing). The contest entry fee is $10.00 per person. The top 10% of participants will receive prizes. For more information visit www.ParadiseFishingClub.com.

**NEW JERSEY FEDERATED SPORTSMEN NEWS**

2012 Edition of the Eastern Sports & Outdoors Show

The 2012 edition of the Eastern Sports & Outdoors Show is scheduled to take place from Friday, February 17 to Sunday, February 19 at the Pennsylvania Farm Show Complex in Harrisburg, Pennsylvania.

**Bits and Odds...**

**Invasive Species Warning.** The NJ Division of Fish and Wildlife reminds anglers and boaters to practice safe harvesting of aquatic invasive species. Fishermen are encouraged to use their own nets and avoid using increased recreational bag limits. This is the same as in 2010.

**Harrisburg Show This Month.** The 2012 Eastern Sports & Outdoors Show returns to the Pennsylvania Farm Show Complex in Pennsylvania, on February 4-12.

For more information on the show, list of exhibitors, or a complete schedule of seminars, contests and family entertainment offered at the 2012 Eastern Sports & Outdoor Show, visit www.easternportshow.org. Online ticket sales for the show are open and discount tickets can be purchased at their website.

**Bergen Venison Dinner.** Tickets for the 40th Bergen County Federation of Sportsman Venison Dinner are now available. The dinner is being held at the same location as last year: Pompton Lakes Elks Club, 1 Perrin Ave., Pompton Lakes, NJ 07442.

It is scheduled for Saturday, February 18, 2012 at 7:00 pm sharp. Tickets are $40.00 per person, and under 12, $30.00. Prize opportunities include a very large bucket raffle, as well as many fine door prizes.

For tickets please send a check made out to the Bergen County Federation, and mail to: Frank Dara, 65 Tristan Road, Clifton, NJ 07013. The tickets will be mailed back to you by return mail.

As in past dinners, first checks received will get the tickets first (come first served). The event is limited to 330 seats, so please do not wait to mail the checks for the tickets.

Any questions may be directed to Frank Dara at 973-523-7709 after 4 pm, or by email at fdara@aol.com.

**Ice Derbies Scheduled.** February is usually prime time for some quality ice fishing, and the aficionado can avail him- or herself of some events planned.

Paradise Fishing Club of Big Swartwood Lake is holding its ice Fishing in February Tournament on Big Swartwood Lake.

The contest span the time period from 1755 to 1951. There is one Civil War saga, an account of the First New Jersey Brigade’s first big fight at Gaines’ Mill, and a number of other military stories including tales of the French and Indian War “Jesse James,” Revolutionary War General “Scotch Willie” Maxwell, the patriotic African Americans of the New Jersey National Guard’s segregated First Separate Battalion in the 1930s, and the National Guard 102nd Cavalry’s race to be the first American unit into Paris in 1944, as well as accounts of Newark News Will correspondant Warren Kennett and Newark baseball star and sly Moe Berg.

Civilian stories include P. T. Barnum’s Helicon buffalo hunt, the Jersey City church hunting of 1865, the infantry that engulfed Ashbury Park in 1917, the benevolent side of political boss Frank Hague, the equestrienne who plunged forty feet into a pool of water on horseback in Atlantic City, the great Woodbridge train wreck of 1951, and more. To rediscover those fascinating events, even from New Jersey’s hidden history check out our book at: www.hiddenhistoryofnewjersey.com.

Black Powder Notes

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The author’s new P53 Enfield. Joe Bilby photo.

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Black Powder Notes by Joe Bilby
Hey, Get a Whiff of This

A couple of crews were doing their create-the-doo-dle-look thing and covering the tablespoon by the evening meal at the Blacktop Diner.

They hunted for vittles by sight, and along with the turkeys vetted keep the highways and byways clear of road kill for the heart. Dead or otherwise in the correct spot, the Blue Plate Special, and we won’t get into where their anatomy is attacked first and by whom.

That day there was a dead skunk in the middle of the road. Route 267 in Susquehanna County, Pennsylvania it was.

It was brought to mind after reading the stuff on the skunks in the woods in North Carolina in November 1998, had been fattened up by eating discards near a pig farm. It weighed 250 pounds. New York’s record weight for a wild black bear, shot in Franklin County in the Adirondacks in 1975, weighed 750 pounds.

The U.S. record weight for a wild black bear, shot in North Carolina in 1998, had fattened up by eating discards near a pig farm. It weighed 880 pounds. New York’s record weight for a wild black bear, shot in Franklin County in the Adirondacks in 1975, weighed 750 pounds.

平均400 ponds and are called bears; females, called sows, average 165 pounds. Bears march into more areas of New Jersey. New Jersey bears being loggers that don’t result in huge detrimental effects.

The smell of bacon sizzling in the frying pan is perhaps the most recognizable house smell, but what do you think about the stock market, the price of gas, the price of a stock? How about the smell of bacon? The smell of bacon is part of the American tradition.

And the smell of bacon is not just a smell. It is a symbol of the American way of life. It is a symbol of the American spirit. It is a symbol of the American dream.

Our olfactory glands work, stuff that is in the air, is not just a smell. It is a symbol of the American way of life. It is a symbol of the American spirit. It is a symbol of the American dream.

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