There have been many recent reported sightings of big cats, i.e., cougars, in the eastern half of the United States, including New Jersey. I personally have had half a dozen people tell me that they have seen cougars in the Garden State. Item: A friend saw a road-kill cougar on Route 23 several years ago. Police were at the scene. Item: A lifelong Sussex County resident was convinced that he saw a cougar on the Wilbur Cross Parkway in Connecticut a short while ago. The animal weighed 500 pounds and was born in southwestern South Dakota. It roamed 1,500 miles to the east, spending some time in Minnesota and South Dakota. It roamed 1,500 miles to the east, spending some time in Minnesota and South Dakota. It roamed 1,500 miles to the east, spending some time in Minnesota and South Dakota. It roamed 1,500 miles to the east, spending some time in Minnesota and South Dakota. It roamed 1,500 miles to the east, spending some time in Minnesota and South Dakota.

The cat ran across a field and climbed a tree, where it sat for about an hour. His mother also saw the cat. Item: A friend lives just north of High Point in New York State tells me that his trail camera has captured pictures of cougars. He commented on trail cameras, and identified Wisconsin, where it was seen, photographed on trail cameras, and identified Wisconsin, where it was seen, photographed on trail cameras, and identified Wisconsin, where it was seen, photographed on trail cameras, and identified Wisconsin, where it was seen, photographed on trail cameras, and identified Wisconsin, where it was seen.

Are mountain lions taking up permanent residence in New Jersey? Not so fast, according to the experts. Greg Hume photo, courtesy wikipedia.com.

The cat was shot and killed in 1938 in Maine. Although the eastern cougar was listed on the endangered species list with the first Endangered Species Act in 1973, the US Fish and Wildlife Service has since declared the species extinct. (Editor’s note: see this publication’s editorial in the April, 2011 edition.)

“Some authors believe that as many as 1,000 cougars are in captivity in the eastern U.S. or Canada,” McCollough says. Although the FWS could not verify that number, finding real counts of captive cougars aren’t still seen in the northeast,” he remarked. “Cougar sightings are commonly reported in New England—50 a year in Vermont alone—but wildlife officials say that most of them are actually bobcat, lynx, and even large housecats.”

Yet another means looking deep, either for offshore impoundments like Kentucky Lake, it really be spread out. Then, on the lower tidewater, the areas typically offer everything the fish need in terms of cover and forage falls, the areas typically offer everything the fish need in terms of cover and forage. For instance, the Delaware where the tidal swing may be seven feet, he’ll focus mostly on current breaks and eddies. The fish want to be near the flow, but they simply aren’t strong enough to muscle through the heart of it. On waters where the fluctuation is less dramatic, the fish may be more capable of staying in a particular area throughout the changes. The second variable is the presence of submerged aquatic vegetation. Again, while the fish may reposition themselves in the grass as the water rises or falls, the areas typically offer everything they need in terms of cover and forage throughout the day and they can stay close by. Where there is no vegetation off the shoreline, bass are likely to make more impoundments, but even when the air temperatures creep toward a sweltering triple digit, he can still find most of his fish ultra-shallow.

Unlike Kentucky Lake or Rayburn, though, where it’s possible to camp out on one spot and seine a big school for hours on end, on the Delaware or the Upper Chesapeake Bay or the Potomac, MacNaughton said it’s often necessary to keep moving as the day progresses.

People don’t understand how much this fish move with the tide,” he said. “At high tide, you want to be fishing pads and shoreline wood cover, power-fishing with a spinnerbait, buzzbait or crankbait, with the trolling motor on high. The fish will really be spread out. Then, on the lower tide, the fish can only be on a few places, typically isolated pieces of cover. That’s when I slow down and take a finesse approach with a Slider head or a finesse Jig.

The approach varies slightly depending on a couple of variables. The first is the amount of tidal fluctuation. On a river like the Delaware where the tidal swing may be seven feet, he’ll focus mostly on current breaks and eddies. The fish want to be near the flow, but they simply aren’t strong enough to muscle through the heart of it. On waters where the fluctuation is less dramatic, the fish may be more capable of staying in a particular area throughout the changes. The second variable is the presence of submerged aquatic vegetation. Again, while the fish may reposition themselves in the grass as the water rises or falls, the areas typically offer everything they need in terms of cover and forage throughout the day and they can stay close by. Where there is no vegetation off the shoreline, bass are likely to make more

Turning the Tide on the Dog Days of Summer

by Pete Robbins

In his young career as a national tour- pro, New Jersey angler Adrian Avena has learned what summer means on the big bass factories of the southern United States. On the Tennessee Valley Authority impoundments like Kentucky Lake, it means finding the deep ledges and waiting for the current to turn on. On Texas lakes like Conroe and Sam Rayburn, it once again means looking deep, either for offshore impoundments or inside grass lines, often in 20 or 25 feet of water.

And that’s why he likes fishing the tidal waters of the mid-Atlantic during the hottest days of the year. They may not offer the same quality bass as those south- ern impoundments, but even when the air temperatures creep toward a sweltering triple digit, he can still find most of his fish ultra-shallow.

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see Dolphins, p. 11

The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service in early July released its 2014 “Trends in Duck Breeding Populations,” based on surveys conducted in May and April in 13 geographic areas, esti- mated at 49.2 million breeding ducks in the surveyed area. This estimate repre- sents an 18 percent decrease from last year’s estimate of 45.6 million birds, and is 43 percent higher than the 1953-1955 long-term average. This continues a three-year trend of exceptional water conditions and population numbers for many species.

“It looks like another good water- fowl breeding year for a good portion of the prairies and the boreal forest,” said Ducks Unlimited CEO Dale Hall. “Precipitation in the spring was sufficient to keep the snow and rain has provided sufficient water to fill important wetlands in key breeding habi- tats. We hope this will result in good pro- duction and another great flight of birds migrating in the fall. DU and its partners continue to work hard to protect and restore habitat to provide for the needs of these birds and so much more. While we still have much work to do in delivering habitat and securing key conservation policies for sustaining these populations, we are heartened by the good results we have seen in the past few years: the 2013 estimate and 40 percent above the long- term average.

“Reports from DU biologists indi- cate a strong breeding effort across the prairies,” said DU Chief Conservation Officer Paul Schmidt. “This is despite late winter conditions that delayed nest- ing activity in some areas by one to two weeks. We need more moisture in the Western Boreal Forest and in parts of southern Alberta and Saskatchewan, and higher-than-usual water levels have posed some challenges for nesters in the Eastern Region. This is due to a good breeding season, and depending on local conditions hunters across North America should look forward to another strong fall flight.”

This spring, as has been the case for the past several years, saw abundant moisture across much of North America’s largest duck-breeding areas,” said DU Chief Biologist Scott Yaich. “That bodes well for duck breed- ing success this summer and we hope, for hunting this fall. But we remain con- cerned with the continuing and escalat- ing loss of nesting habitat in these areas. Because ducks need water, wetlands to hold the water and uplands to successfully raise their young, the ongo-
The word is in, and Governor Christie has vetoed that bill. You know, A206, the one that would have made a firearm’s magazine illegal if it can accommodate more than 10 cartridges.

Before I go any further, I am well aware that the NJ State Federation of Sportsmen’s Clubs is not a gun-rights-lobbying organization. But I think it fair to say that a goodly percentage of the membership has a keen interest in firearms, their use, and the political positioning that surrounds them.

The statement Christie made accompanying his veto was a long one, with more than four pages of typewritten remarks. Among his strong language were a number of cogent and intelligent observations. “We will not settle for grandstanding reform in name only. We can insist that effective decal packages that will bring about meaningful change. Mass violence will not end by changing the number of bullets loaded into a gun. It will end with a serious commitment to elevating our communities. It will end with a serious commitment to elevating our communities. It will end with a serious commitment to elevating our communities. It will end with a serious commitment to elevating our communities. It will end with a serious commitment to elevating our communities. It will end with a serious commitment to elevating our communities.

But something happened to me the first time I went to a sporting event, and that was a little over 40 years ago. I was behind a pickup truck displaying a hunting tradition with a bow, rifle and shotgun is an integral part of our heritage. My grandson Steven killed his first deer last year with same shotgun I’ve used for more than 40 years.

But something happened to me the other day that I must share with you. I found myself behind a pickup truck displaying a hunting tradition with a bow, rifle and shotgun is an integral part of our heritage. My grandson Steven killed his first deer last year with same shotgun I’ve used for more than 40 years.

Dear Oliver,

Some readers might not like what I’m about to say, but it has to be said. In Robert Brunisholz’ ‘Smart Guns...’ I am a hunter. I’ve hunted game from Alaska to Africa to the Arctic Circle. I’ve killed game from whitetails to Cape buffalo. I make no apologies for my stances or my dedication to field sports. In my family, passing along the hunting tradition with bow, rifle and shotgun is an integral part of our heritage. My grandson Steven killed his first deer last year with same shotgun I’ve used for more than 40 years.

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This happy angler will have lots of delicious steaks from this long-finned Albacore he hooked off Point Pleasant Beach. Anglers regularly score with yellowfin tuna, big eye tuna, dolphin, wahoo, broadband swordfish and mako sharks, with the fishing often continuing right through to Thanksgiving, according to Rosko photo.

Many of the boats that specialize in this fishing have galleys on board, where a hot dog or hamburger is readily available. Some of the party boats have dedicated chefs on board who really show off their skills, making soups, stews and freshly made baked goods for breakfast, along with freshly made pastries for breakfast, along with freshly made breakfast. Many of these boats have galleys on board, where a hot dog or hamburger is readily available. Some of the party boats have dedicated chefs on board who really show off their skills, making soups, stews and freshly made baked goods for breakfast, along with freshly made pastries for breakfast, along with freshly made breakfast.

Believe me when I say this will all run out, electronics WILL fail. How many of your electronic gadgets have you owned that have failed once they reached a few years of age, or just ran out of battery power because you forgot to charge it or the battery has gone bad? In that same time, many of you had a handgun deteriorate to the point of being unable to fire.

I would bet if you took a revolver that has been sitting in Grandma’s dresser for 10 years, or even a Glock semi-automatic revolver, you didn’t own that have failed once they reached a few years of age, or just ran out of battery power. Can you even come close to saying anything of the sort for battery powered or electronic devices? No, you cannot. Therefore, by the very nature of the case, today’s battery-powered and electronic personal handguns cannot meet any reliability standard required for today’s commercially available, non-personalized mechanical handguns whose reliability standards today are so strict they must meet or exceed those of the world’s police and military forces.

If they cannot meet those reliability standards, those being called “smart guns” today are not - by the strict letter of New Jersey law - not “personalized handgun” and thus do not and cannot trigger New Jersey’s personalized handgun statutes.

Mechanical handguns have been designed and refined for well over 100 years and have stood the test of time. Their reliability is so strong and the reliability of personalized handguns is so weak comparatively that even anti-gun New Jersey legislators who wrote this law as police officers from having to use personalized handguns (2C:58-2.5). Why? Because they know personalized handguns and will never be, as reliable as a trusted old S&W revolver or even a Glock semi.

32nd ANNUAL OCEAN COUNTY DECOY & GUNNING SHOW

SEPTEMBER 27 & 28, 2014
TIME: 7:00 AM – 5:00 PM
WHERE: BAY SHORE, NJ
VISIT RUTH TUDCHER LOCATION:
Tip Seabrook County Park, Loxahatchee Drive & Route 9
Tudcher Sport & Spot, Route 9

ADMISSION: FREE
FOR FREE SHIP BOAT FARE, PARK AT:
Friedenstex Regional High School
Tudcher Sport & Spot
Freedom Fields County Park

FEATUREING
• New & Antique Decoys
• Homemade Fishing Gear
• Collectibles
• Duck Boots
• Gun Dog Service/Items
• Demonstrations
• Decoy Auction
• Field Meet/Mini-Trail
• Exhibition Shooter

CONTESTS
• Decoy Carving
• Decoy Carving/Carvings
• Boat Building
• Model Boats
• Art/Photo
• Youth Contests
• Screeshoot from a Duck Boat

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Ocean County Department of Parks & Recreation
For more information call Wells Mills County Park 609-971-3085

WILL run out, electronics WILL fail. How many of your electronic gadgets have you owned that have failed once they reached a few years of age, or just ran out of battery power because you forgot to charge it or the battery has gone bad? In that same time, many of you had a handgun deteriorate to the point of being unable to fire.

I would bet if you took a revolver that has been sitting in Grandma’s dresser drawer and hasn’t seen the light of day for decades, it would fire just as well as the day it was assembled. Can you even come close to saying anything of the sort for battery powered or electronic devices? No. You cannot. Therefore, by the very nature of the case, today’s battery-powered and electronic personalized handguns cannot meet any reliability standard required for today’s commercially available, non-personalized mechanical handguns whose reliability standards today are so strict they must meet or exceed those of the world’s police and military forces.

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Crappie Action is Usually Anything But

by Bob Brunisholz

Time sure flies when you’re having fun. In fact, when you get as long-of-tooth as yours truly, time flies whether you’re having fun or making a trip to the dentist for a root canal.

It seems like only yesterday when I wrote a piece for a Pennsylvania-based publication about crappie fishing. It doesn’t always work out for me, but I should at least get a C-for trying. Trying, that is, to come up with a lead that will keep the reader reading. Subsequently, my first sentence was something like, “There is good reason they call crappie the King of Spring.”

I have no way of knowing whether that lead sentence kept some readers reading, or if they used the newspaper to wrap their fish. The point is, it was a spring-oriented feature, and that is where I went astray. The implication, of course, is that the crappie season ends with Spring.

Let’s back up that truck. Back up to the part about crappie being a fish for all seasons.

Certainly one needs wait until next spring to enjoy tying into some nice-sized crappies. By changing tactics, and some- times baits, good crappie action can be a spring-oriented feature, and that is where I went astray. The implication, of course, is that the crappie season ends with Spring.

In addition, if you’re seeking slab-size crappies, remember those big crappies are commonly found dwelling among smaller crappies. Both the black and white crappie can range as large as 18 inches, and that’s saying something when you’re on the reel side of the battle tools. They are a scrappy fish, and are a pure delight on light or ultra light tackle.

So, how large can crappie get? The current world record—maintained by the Florida-based International Game Fish Association—for black crappie is five pounds (and 0 ounces), taken from a private lake in Missouri by John Hoztman in April of 2006. The IGFA title for white crappie is five pounds and three ounces, taken by Fred Bright while fishing Enid Dam in Mississippi in 1957.

As for New Jersey, Andy Tintle was fishing Pompton Lake in 1996 when he decked a four-pound, eight-ounce black crappie, and William Lewis of Jackson hoists the state-record white crappie that he caught on May 2, 2009 while fishing Mercer Lake. The fish weighed three pounds and 11 ounces, with a 14 3/4-inch girth and 18-inch length. Note the random appearance of the dark spots on the side of the white crappie which is unlike the parallel and vertical “stripes” of dark spots found on the black crappie. Photo courtesy New Jersey Division of Fish and Wildlife.

Crappie Action is Usually Anything But

William Lewis of Jackson hoists the state-record white crappie that he caught on May 2, 2009 while fishing Mercer Lake. The fish weighed three pounds and 11 ounces, with a 14 3/4-inch girth and 18-inch length. Note the random appearance of the dark spots on the side of the white crappie which is unlike the parallel and vertical “stripes” of dark spots found on the black crappie. Photo courtesy New Jersey Division of Fish and Wildlife.

According to the IGFA, aside from the alignment of the aforementioned spots, the two species can also be distinguished from each other by the number of spines in the dorsal fin. The white crappie has 13 spines, whereas the black crappie will have seven or eight. In addition, the white crappie has the same number of spines in both the dorsal and anal fins. So, if the crappie you just caught has seven spines in the dorsal fin, but five in the anal fin, you just caught a black crappie. Thank you, IGFA.

Finally, here are a few tricks that most experienced crappie enthusiasts probably know already, but if you’re new to the game, give these a try.

In my experience, the crappie, especially a hungry crappie, will inhale just about anything from a worm to a grub to a tiny, bright spinner. But if you’re having difficulty getting them to cooperate, try fathead minnows,andler in the 1½- to 2-inch class, but when doing so, use a gold hook in sizes 6, 4, or even 2.

One last thing: Because crappies are so much fun to catch, if you have a young’un or two, or even grandkids, by all means bring them along.
The Catfish Challenge

Catfish and 22 rimfire rifles have a lot in common. Both are great equalizers of sportingmen of all ages. And plinking with a 22 or catching a mess of catfish is just plain fun.

It’s apparent that the rest of the world has also discovered that catfish taste good. This ugly fish has become so popular that it is now raised commercially on catfish farms, and it’s rare to see a supermarket that doesn’t sell Cajun-spiced catfish fillets. If you haven’t gone catfishing in awhile, now may be the time to try it again.

You won’t need a lot of expensive fishing tackle to catch a catfish. Just about any rod and reel will work just fine. Where you fish will depend on where you live. But the farther away from the shoreline, the better your chances of catching a few catfish. If you can’t get to the lake, try a pond or a small lakeside stream.

Tailrace waters below dams where currents from two turbines collide, for instance, are a good spot to try for catfish. Catfish are happily found in the sunken debris of a tailrace. It’s a great spot to try for catfish. Tailrace waters below dams where currents from two turbines collide, for instance, are a good spot to try for catfish. Tailrace waters below dams where currents from two turbines collide, for instance, are a good spot to try for catfish.

Catfish are found in ponds and small lakes. They are also found in tailrace and aerie waters below dams where currents from two turbines collide. Some of these tailrace waters are open to the public, and it is a great spot to try for catfish. Catfish can be found near tailrace, and it is a great spot to try for catfish. Catfish are found in tailrace, and it is a great spot to try for catfish.

To catch catfish, you need a body of water and not much else. A 10-foot pond below a dam can be a great spot to try for catfish. For instance, a 10-foot pond below a dam can be a great spot to try for catfish. A 10-foot pond below a dam can be a great spot to try for catfish.

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The Catfish Challenge

A face only a mother, or perhaps a freshwater angler, could love. Follow the author’s advice to increase your views of this worthy gamefish. Brian Gratwicke photo, courtesy wikipedia.com.

If you prefer, you can use worms, hilligraines, crayfish, small carp, minnows, and even small sunfish. Cut bait is your choice, you can use chunks of carp, sunfish and almost any kind of meat. Only fish attract catfish faster and more efficiently than other baits. You can also use commercially available small baits, as well as chicken and beef livers.

You can create stink baits for catfish. Cut baits and dead minnows, for example, can be left in the sun to rot. When they start to smell so bad that you don’t even want to hear a knock on the door, they’ll catch a catfish.

There are hundreds of recipes for catfish, but the simplest and tastiest way to cook a catfish is in a hot skillet. Here’s a basic recipe, but don’t be afraid to alter it to taste. In my egg mixture, for example, I add Tabasco sauce or cayenne pepper to give it some extra kick. This recipe will feed six people.

Take a half-dozen skinned fillets from 1 to 1-pound catfish, and sprinkle both sides of each with salt and pepper. Mix two beaten eggs with two tablespoons of milk. Dip fillets in egg mixture and roll in cornmeal. Place the fillets in frying pan with 1/8 inch of hot oil and fry to golden brown on both sides. Drain on paper towels, and serve.

There is no reason whatsoever to pluck the feathers out of your catfish before you serve it. They will fall out. The Catfish Challenge

The NJ Fish and Game Council voted to propose several amendments to the 2015 - 2016 Game Code at its July 8 meeting. Among the proposals are: Require bobcat trappers to report the incidental capture of a bobcat within 24 hours. Add Turkey to the Automated Harvest Reporting System for spring and fall turkey. Open fall turkey hunting in all Turkey Hunting Areas. Eliminate the lottery for the fall turkey season. Increase weekly permit quotas in Turkey Hunting Areas 14 and 22. Increase trapping opportunities for mink, muskrat, nutria, beaver, and river otter by allowing trapping on all Wildlife Management Areas prior to January 1 (31-46 additional days for mink, muskrat and nutria; six additional days for beaver and otters for areas stocked with pheasants. Add coyote mortality report requirement, and add coyotes to the Automated Harvest pass system. Legalize foot encapsulating traps (editor’s note: these are different from leghold traps) as an alternative trapping tool to snare. Require trappers using cable restraints to use relaxing locks. Prohibit hunters from leaving any staked, anchored, or floating waterfowl hunting blinds in the field overnight or for extended periods of time. Permit the harvest of foxes with centerfire or rimfire rifles during the special permit season in section 5.19. 12-gauge shotguns are allowed and effective on deer on all Wildlife Management Areas allowed during the firearm deer season, and could be allowed on archery deer. Mandate the wearing of a hunter orange hat by all those engaged in hunting for any game. For a complete description of the proposed changes, visit http://www.njfishandwildlife.com/pdf/2014/gamecode15proposal.pdf
The second annual Wildlife and Conservation Conference was held June 6-7, 2014 at the Tropicana Casino and Resort in Atlantic City. This event was well attended and there were many seminars over the two days. Two of the highlights were seminars by world-known authority Charles Alsheimer. The first one was on photography and the other on whitetail deer hunting.

On Saturday night the banquet was held, featuring good food and good friends. The Federation’s new President Pola Galie presided over the presentations of various awards. It was a great evening and event, and we hope to see you next year.

Pictured above are:

1. Assistant Director of Central Services (NJ Division of Fish and Wildlife) Paulette Nelson swearing in NJ State Federation of Sportsmen’s Clubs President Elect Pola Galie.
2. Conserve Wildlife Foundation of NJ Executive Director David Wheeler, President Pola Galie, and NJDFW Director Dave Chanda (right) present the NJ Beach Buggy Association (accepted by Vince Cochrane) with the first Annual Directors Conservation Award.
3. Additional NJBBA members (Tim Burden, left; Paul Harris, third from left) accept the first Annual Directors Conservation Award 4-7. NJSFSC President Pola Galie presents awards to the 2014 recipients: Rob Winkel (George Howard Award, photo 4), Anthony Mauro Sr. (Frank Valgenti Award, photo 5; Ed Markowski pictured here accepting on Mauro’s behalf), Ray Szpond (Keith Griffiths Memorial Award, photo 6), Kerry Lucas (Jeanette A. Vreeland Women’s Award, photo 7).
4. New President Galie shown with outgoing President Frank Virgilio.
5. Galie with featured presenter Charles Alsheimer.

The banquet capped off a great weekend of education and enjoyment. Pictured at their tables here are:

11. Beginning far left and going clockwise around the table: Ed Markowski, David Wheeler, George Snyder, Frank Virgilio, Penny Virgilio.

Bill Schemel photos.
Go ahead, say it, “I” grudgingly said to my wife adding, “You know you want to.” It’s just a simple four-word declaration, a feeling that happens to one for who others it with smug satisfaction. The recipient subsumes in the realization that she indeed committed an egregious error in judgment.

Poor Charlie was caught in the middle.

Officer Driscoll, along with the new and squeaky clean SUV registered to my wife adding, “You know you want to,” he said, “I told you so.”

Charlie, however, is not kennel material. She loves it, her chill-out crate.

To wit: when first we got married we had a 1910 pet, name mated “Schaefer.” After the “more popular than Bud” beer we drank back in 1970. On a Sunday drive to Spruce Run Reservoir we passed cows, close to the fence on a wind-

ings they were very large animals capable of catching a crew of catch and killing an antlerless deer with a muzzleloader without a valid permit. The second individual was issued summons for failure to stop for a firearm hunting license and hunting deer with a muzzleloader during closed season.

The hunter/trapper was cited for trespassing complaint on posted private property, wildlife in a closed season. Following a very stressful weekend.

Meanwhile his dog is regarding a deer, trespassing for purpose of trapping and hunting, possession of more than one beaver without a possession seal, possession of redtail hawk parts, and unlawful possession of an endangered species (bobcat).
Bizarre Dog Behaviors: Why Do They Do What They Do

by Marty Boa

Conscientious pet owners, including those of the sporting breed, may well have a keen interest in our charges and their welfare. Observing a dog’s behavior goes with the territory. Many of us who enjoy dog watching is usually an amusing activity it sometimes causes one to ask the question, “Why does my dog do that?”

While some dog mannersisms may seem bizarre or even undoctorable, many others tend to be harmless, meaningless, or even positive in nature. For instance, the members of most sporting dog breeds like to retrieve and want to please. They enjoy picking things up and bringing them to their master.

Frequently they display a behavior called “prizing,” whereby they parade around with an object in their mouth, showing it off to everyone. This is a positive behavior in that it shows that the dog wants to please its master by retrieving with pride. In ordinary prizing, many dogs will circle around with an object in their mouth while displaying a great aura of accomplishment. When they feel as if they “have a set,” as some say, “Hey look at me and see what I have and what I have accomplished” along with “please praise me.”

With some basic training, most good dogs can make the transition from prizing around in circles to delivering to hand. Sniffing or scenting every inch of a given area is another positive behavior that shows the dog interested in scent and may want to hunt, especially if he or she shows curiosity in the surroundings by poking into every nook and cranny and may want to explore. The territory search is natural, such as chasing their own tail, barking at nothing, or circling around a bedded area before laying down to sleep. It should be noted that any extreme behavior that seems unhealthy or dangerous calls for consultation with a veterinarian.

The veterinarians and pet experts at Vetstreet.com recently released a report on numerous common canine behavioral issues to which dog owners may need to pay particular attention as they relate to common pet behaviors. The following are some of the dog behavior problems that are most recently addressed by Vetstreet.com.

Tail chasing is an amusing activity that some dogs may enjoy in the way they may excess energy. However, it may also signal an obsessive-compulsive disorder, or the presence of physical health problems such as flea allergy dermatitis or the need for anal gland expression (draining). If the owner cannot distract a dog from chasing her tail or if a medical problem is suspected, a vet should be consulted.

“My dog licks and chews his feet,” whether this columnist comes from a long line of dog owners. We’ve heard several stories of that made a habit of licking and/or chewing their legs and/or feet. After a while this got to be annoying and we would refer to it as the “vicious vice” aka “nicking.” There are some unknown reasons and many other known reasons why a dog might exhibit this behavior. Some dogs have a joint function, and simple grooming is not a cause for concern; however, incessant licking or chewing needs to be addressed. As a vet, it comes on suddenly or results in a sore, odor, bleeding, oozing, loss of hair, limping, redness, discomfort, or swelling. Such signs and symptoms may indicate pain or infection. There are many causes of licking, including an autoimmune response or allergic skin disease from irri-
tation resulting from a food or a particu-
lar food, feeling bored or stressed, a for-
eign body such as a thorn, splinter, or a glass shard or burr imbedded in skin or paw. A dog may lick or chew a specific area, such as the corner of the mouth. It can also be a tickle down affec-
tion thing — pups’ mothers lick them so they lick the people they love, who may also taste good. Playing with a comb or other compul-sive behavior issues may turn to excessive licking of objects or himself. All dogs lick, no matter another, it’s their nature. But if licking becomes overwhelm-
ing or annoying, it will need to be reduced through training, preferably under the guidance of a vet or veterinary behavior specialist.

“My dog barks at nothing!”

Barks for many reasons. Your dog may be warning off or confronting an interloper or prey of which you may or may not be aware, or she may be communi-
crating stress or discomfort, making a request or demand, or simply wanting to play. Pup barks like he may be wanting the door to be opened, or he has been ignored, or he has been left alone.

Behaviorists have categorized barking into the following categories: territorial barking, alarm barking, attention-seeking barking, greeting barking, socializing barking, frustrated barking, vocalization of anxiety or injury barking, and separation anxiety barking.

A dog that barks at absolutely nothing may be exhibiting compulsive barking, which is especially suspect when such barking is accompanied with a pattern of repetitive movement like running along a fence or pacing in a circle. Some dogs bark excessively, at what appears to be the slightest disturbance. Fortunately, certain measures can be taken to help reduce this desire and or the volume and frequen-
ty of the behavior. Consult with your vet-
erinarian, a board-certified veterinary behaviorist, a certified applied animal behaviorist, or a qualified certified professional dog trainer if you really want to stop the noise.

“My dog poops — what’s that about?”

Coccyphagy is the medical term for the disgusting habit of eating feces. If your dog does this he or she is simply acting like a dog and doing what dogs do instinctively. He or she has taken a liking to the smell or taste of stool. His diet may be lacking a certain necessary nutrient or nutrients, or he may be amused by the act itself. As is the case with other animal behavior problems, this is another one for the vet.

“My dog cooks her head, is there a reason?”

Cocking the head to one side, also called head tilting, is usually not a medical problem and a vet need not be consulted unless a dog does this in the absence of a canine event. The exact cause of head cocking is unclear, but behaviorists believe that canines may do it when they are trying to make sense of what they hear, a theory that supports evidence of the high level of intelligence that dogs possess. Pup may be listening for a key word such as “dinner” or “fetch” that may signal an upcoming fun event. She may also tilt her head so as to zero in on the location of a particular sound.

Waking in circles before lying down? This behavior is noticeable and arouses one’s curiosity, but does not indi-
cate a problem. The act of circling in and around a bedded area is common in dogs and is believed to be an instinctive behav-
ior throwback to when the wolf-like ances-
tors of today’s dogs lived in the wild and needed to put down a grizzly, weedy area to make a comfortable nesting spot. Dogs will perform this ritual the fact that the creature in question has no effect on the comfort of a resting place. Over the years, howev-
er, I have noticed that most of the dogs I have owned preferred a bed that is not overly thick or fluffy.

Thrashing toys. Once, while dis-
cussing dog behavior with a circle of dog owner question came up, “Dogs seem to enjoy vigorously shaking a toy and hearing it squeak. Do they like to do this because they have living conditions such action has little or no effect on the comfort of a resting place. The over the years, howev-
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Revolver Lubes and a New Six-Gun Series

Reader Art Swisefurth, who is also a subscriber to Backwoodsman magazine, advised me that that publication recently published a letter on revolver lubricant from one “I. Wagner” of Gettysburg , Pennsylvania, who advised that he had been a cap-and-ball six-gun shooter for the last half-century. Wagner advised that he had “found an excel lent way to avoid flash-over ignition.” It is the common wax toilet seating ring – the floor base upon which the toilet sits and by which it is sealed.

Wagner maintained, wrote Art, that the wax is “effective, clean, not prone to melting in the heat, and isn’t as messy as Crisco.” He concluded by noting that “these seals are inexpensive and available from any hardware store, labeled as ‘Wax Toilet Bowl Gasket.”

Even if he hadn’t disclosed that he had been shooting cap and ball handguns for 50 years, Mr. Wagner’s mention of Crisco as a black powder lubricant would have given his eye and experience away. When I started shooting muzzle-loaders, both rifle muskets and cap and ball revolvers, in the 1960s, it was the most commonly used range lubricant.

“At the back of the day,” we would smear Crisco on the lubrication rings of our Minie balls and in their hollow bases, and slather it on the front of our revolver chambers once powder and ball were loaded – a messy procedure, however, firing more than one chamber at a time to avoid flashover ignition is well nigh impossible.

Lubricant smeared over the front of a chamber can, however, keep fouling down, although that did not matter much in the Civil War, when revolvers were rarely, if ever, refired in action. Today’s range shooter, of course, wants to fire more than six rounds in a session, and lubricant helps in that case. My solution has been to use “Wonder Wax” behind a round ball, and a bit of grease on the cylinder pin, but some still like more “slip.” Wonder Wax is the better, though, so Mr. Wagner’s toilet wax bowl suggestion is actually pretty good advice.

My own preference in lubricants for Minie balls is a beeswax/tallow mix, similar to the original formula. As an aside on lubricants, I asked my friend Bill Adams to check out a laboratory lubricant smeared on the front of a cylinder, had on preventing the dreaded multiple chamber ignition or “chain fire” in our revolver cylinder chambers, but the transfer bar, as well as a coil mainspring, provide significant internal modifications that Uberti claims makes their guns “stronger and easier to handle.” Horseman models also have a wider trigger than the original Colts. For more information on the full line of A. Uberti products go to www.uberti.com.

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Sunday Monday Tuesday Wednesday Thursday Friday Saturday

1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9

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10 11 12 13 14 15 16

Knee Deep Club Callfornia Derby kneesdpclb.org

17 Appalachian Bowman 3D Amish Deer Shoot appalachianbowmen.org

24 25 26 27 28 29 30

RVTA Meeting njrvta.com

22 NWTF Banquet/Auction njrvtarnwtf.org

People using this venerable product “back in the day” for their range lube needs may recognize the packaging. Chemical Heritage Foundation photo, courtesy wikipedia.com.

had analyzed SPG, a popular and effective black powder lubricant, and “found that it was beeswax and peanut oil,” further noting that “any non-mineral oil, be it safflower oil, canola oil, peanut oil, or corn oil, can be mixed with beeswax to produce a decent lube.” Bill mixed Mobil 1 synthetic motor oil and beeswax for several years for his own use and recalled that it worked well, but smelled horrible. Bill, whose expertise is greatest in Confederate ordnance matters, went on to note that there was no standard bullet lubrication composition specified in the Confederacy and that each arsenal used its own favorite formula. Some Confederate factories used 1/3 beeswax and others used 1/2 beeswax combined with tallow or an otherwise undefined “grease,” but with no explanation of the source.

Black Powder Notes

by Joe Bilby

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New Uberti Six-Guns

While on the subject of 19th-century style revolvers, it might be a good time to mention that Uberti has announced that it is introducing six new models in its “Horseman” series of single-action army style revolvers. The new offerings include two new calibers, .22 LR and .44 Magnum, each available in the traditional three barrel lengths of 4 1/2”, 5 1/2”, and 7 1/2” inches. The Horseman is a Colt Model 1873 clone that incorporates a modern transfer bar safety system, making it safe to load six rounds in the cylinder rather than having to leave the hammer down on an empty chamber. The fit, feel, and finish of the Horseman is similar to the original Colts, but the transfer bar, as well as a coil mainspring, provide significant internal modifications that Uberti claims makes their guns “stronger and easier to handle.” Horseman models also have a wider trigger than the original Colts. For more information on the full line of A. Uberti products go to www.uberti.com.

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Sizing Up Seismic Testing

For some reason, I felt an uneasy compulsion, or perhaps an excuse, to offer readers prior to getting into the nitty-gritty of the story, a brief history of the controversy. The reason my angst focused on the fact that hypocrites are not exactly my favorite people, and for my money, many politicians (from both sides of the aisle) as well as their deep-pocketed corporate donors fit nicely into that category. I, for one, do not wish readers to jump to conclusions with that same group of charlatans, thus the need for an explanation.

We’re dealing today with a process labeled “seismic testing” for a rather privately, seismic blasting. The so-called testing, for which permission was granted, along the coastal areas of New Jersey, right smack atop of some of the world’s finest grounds for food fish as well as game fish and thousands of other species of marine life.

As this column unfolds, you will see the testing was supposedly for the purpose of determining how much (or how little) global warming Big Oil and Ben Fote, By-the-be, global warming never did live up to its title, so the scam artists who run this world-wide swindle did its title to “climate change.”

Climate change, in the sense that it is preached by Al Gore and his team of scientific sages, has become a form of institutionalized religious cult. The reason I say this is because should any journalist wonder what the testing was supposed to achieve, he or she should immediately ask, “What is seismic testing, and why are anglers opposed to it?”

Fote explained the process in the June edition of the JCAA’s newsletter. In order to read the so-called “features below the ocean’s surface, scientists” blurt that the ocean with sound waves that are orders of magnitude louder than a jet engine,” Fote explained, “and those pulses occur every five seconds, 24 hours a day, for 30 days. These explosive sounds will have devastating impacts on all marine life, including whales, killer whales, sea turtles, food and sportfish and shellfish,” Fote noted, adding, “they (the pulses) will also隔音 the oil industry and fishing industries.

The testing of rock formations would, according to the New Jersey Fish and Game Council, tell Pennsylvania’s John Lutz, director of the Eastern Marine Fisheries Service was reviving the proposal states, ‘the information gathered to the seismic testing program, there is also pulses occur every five seconds, 24 hours a day, for 30 days. These explosive sounds will have devastating impacts on all marine life, including whales, killer whales, sea turtles, food and sportfish and shellfish,” Fote noted, adding, “they (the pulses) will also隔音 the oil industry and fishing industries.

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Fote and I have both been down the road and around the bend a few more times than you average 50-year-old angler, and Fote can spot fallacious credenda at more than 200 yards.

They must think anglers and their legislators are stupid. Fote wrote. “We all know Big Oil’s prints are not more than suspicion. Their own proposal states, ‘the information gathered to the seismic testing program, there is also pulses occur every five seconds, 24 hours a day, for 30 days. These explosive sounds will have devastating impacts on all marine life, including whales, killer whales, sea turtles, food and sportfish and shellfish,” Fote noted, adding, “they (the pulses) will also隔音 the oil industry and fishing industries.

Agree with Lovgren or not, I was walking with him as he prepared to sign a holds-barred letter. So I called him at his home.

This issue goes back a little more than two years when this seismic testing was attempted once before,” Lovgren told them. “This most recent attempt to revive seismic testing involved an end-run around anglers and those concerned about a dramatic loss of marine life. “At that time, however, they didn’t even try to hide the fact that they were allowing more marine oil and gas reserves hidden deep beneath the ocean floor. That testing would have only caused by commercial fishing in decades.”

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Membership without Range Use

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