**New Jersey Federated Sportsmen News**

**Caucus on Outdoors Issue Held with NJ Legislators**

*by John Toth*

Representatives of New Jersey’s outdoors community met with legislators at the State Capitol Annex Building recently, to discuss issues of interest. Lowlova photo, courtesy wikipedia.com.

**Survival Guns**

*by Vin T. Sparano*

Most sportsmen firmly believe that carrying a firearm, or at least having one accessible in a wilderness setting, is a comforting idea... and I absolutely agree. But what is the best survival firearm country? If this is the case, your choice is limited. I would look for the lightest short-barreled 12 gauge shotgun I could find, and carry a half-dozen slugs in my pocket. Stoeger, for example, offers a 12- or 20-gauge double-barrel it calls the Coach Gun. A 20-gauge will also work if you prefer something trimmer and lighter. If you’re a licensed hunter, you probably already own these shotguns. (Keep in mind that a 20-gauge shotgun is legal for hunting black bears in New Jersey.)

But what is the best survival firearm? If you’re not a hunter, and you may be forced to live off the land? Not likely stinging black bears. But let’s look at the options. If you want to kill a rabbit or squirrel for dinner, there’s certainly no need for a magnum shotgun. A small .22 caliber shotgun would be OK for a sitting rabbit, but trying to shoot a flushed grouse for dinner with a handgun may leave you hungry. There are better choices.

Many years ago, I bought a Savage 244 Magnum or .357 Magnum handgun, where allowed by law. The 44 Magnum will give you a more comfortable edge over the .357 Magnum, but with either caliber you’d better be good a shot, especially in a stressful situation. If you don’t mind the extra weight and length of a long gun, a short barreled 12-gauge shotgun with slugs, or any centerfire caliber over .30, will give you peace of mind hunting in grizzly country. Of course, if you are intentionally hunting grizzlies, you should choose some of the bigger magnums.

But what if you live in the East, where applying for a handgun carrying permit may be difficult and you’re still concerned about walking your dog in bear country? If this is the case, your choice is转型发展.
MEMBERSHIP INFORMATION & INQUIRIES, Write To: P.O. Box 10173
Trenton, N.J. 08650-0173
908-859-2648

OLIVER SHAPIO
EDITOR & ADVERTISING MANAGER
28 Hemlock Road, Livingston, N.J. 07039
973-533-1260 olshapiroinnj@gmail.com
Typography - Vanguard Media, LLC

Allegheny County - Frank Jones, 1402 Stockport Dr., Moon, PA 15108
Allegheny County - John Proctor, 2039 Nash Road, Saxonburg, PA 16056
Allegheny County - Terry Castello, 1802 Mill Run Rd., Pittsburgh, PA 15227
Allegheny County - Don Becher, 2008 E. Braxton Road, Canonsburg, PA 15317
Allegheny County - Frank Virgilio, 495-present located...973-272-1548

Letters to the Editor

Call Wendt at 800-426-9171 x. 206 or e-mail wendtay2@actionadnc.org

County Federation of Sportsmen’s Clubs Information Directory

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<td>Rick Moore</td>
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<td>Salem County Sportsmen’s Clubs</td>
<td>Dave Cesaroni</td>
<td>856-223-0409</td>
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<tr>
<td>Somerset</td>
<td>2nd Wednesday of month, 8:00 PM except July and August</td>
<td>Somerset Fish &amp; Game Protective Assoc.</td>
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<td>2335 South Avenue, Scotch Plains, NJ</td>
<td>Ray Spadon</td>
<td>908-403-5789</td>
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<td>Warren</td>
<td>4th Wednesday of month, 7:30 PM except July and August</td>
<td>Pequest Trout Hatchery RT 46, Liberty Twp, NJ</td>
<td>Tony Wonsala</td>
<td>908-879-6321</td>
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Articles and Advertising must be submitted no later than the fourth Friday of each month for publication the second month thereafter.
I assume that most, if not all, of you have noticed the occasional “house ad” that has run in this paper. You know, the one that says “Club News Wanted!” It appears in at least six or seven issues each year, depending on available space, and we really mean it.

I know that the Federation and its members are an active bunch of people, with myriads of different events going on all the time… Dinners, shoots, fishing derbies, charitable fundraisers, tournaments, educational events, and the list goes on and on.

I also know that for any of these events to succeed, they need participants, and all good event organizers take serious steps to optimize participation. But there is one step that a great many organizers seem to neglect, and that’s telling us here at the NJ Federated Sportsmen News about it.

There are a number of ways that you can proceed with this. The simplest is to merely let us know the event’s name and date, and provide some contact information (in the form of a phone number, email address, or website address). We’ll try to get as many of these as we can into the monthly calendar appearing in each issue of the paper. Usually there’s enough room for each day for two events; if we start having to worry about three or more for a single day, that’s a problem I’d love to have.

There’s a lot more that you can do, however. To promote even more interest in the event, send in a writeup, taking either of two forms. The first form is a brief few paragraphs (although it can be more) in the form of a Letter to the Editor. If you’re unsure about whether being comfortable with this, try Googling “how to write a press release” and you’ll get plenty of hits.)

Anyone sending in either a letter or a press release need not be too concerned about his or her writing skills. I get plenty of people calling or emailing me and saying “I’m just not a good writer” or something like that. Remember that this is by no means any kind of a hurdle; it’s part of my job to take any written material that comes in and tweak or reshape it as needed so it’s ready for publishing.

The most “official” form of promoting your event is to actually take out a paid advertisement, and this can be practically any size up to a full page. (Technically we can also do a two-page spread, but no advertiser has yet asked for that… you could be the first!) Anyone interested in this option can contact me (see the opposite page for my contact information) for information and costs on this.

Another approach that you might try is to take fuller advantage of the Internet. Specifically, Facebook. Many of you are using this social medium phenomenon to good effect, by creating Events, Pages, Groups, and more. Feel free to reach out to me on Facebook and request being Friends. (There are a couple of Oliver Shapiros in the U.S. or elsewhere; look for the one with a picture of a guy playing an instrument.) That way, I am likely to get wind of your listings and such as part of my daily News Feed. If you do request Friendship, don’t be surprised if you get a message from me asking something like, “Do I know you?” If this occurs, please send a message back introducing yourself.

What if you neglected, or chose not, to promote your event through this paper? There’s still a good option open to you, and that’s to send in some form of a report on the event after the fact. This, too, can come in the form of either a press release or a letter to the editor, and should be accompanied by at least one or two photos from the event. The photos will have greater impact if you include information about each one, including the names and town(s) of residences of any individuals shown. (It would be wise to get their permission first.)

Event reports won’t, of course, improve that event’s attendance, but they nevertheless serve other functions. They can plant a seed in one or more reader’s minds such that the next time your group announces an event, those readers will have more interest. In other words, a report could improve the attendance at a future event. And who among us doesn’t enjoy reading about any of these events, happening all over the state but of which most of us are unaware?

If anyone has any questions on any of this, I urge you to contact me. In the meantime, I say to you…

Club (and county) news wanted!

Oliver Shapiro, Editor
February typically features ice-out throughout most of the state, even if ice fishermen are still catching largemouths on tip-up and towered shiners on New Jersey lakes into March. I recall one 80-degree afternoon when a friend and I enjoyed catching bass from a shad tower’s surface, and heard later about ice fishermen the same afternoon on Lake Hopatcong. I have seen many anglers attempt largemouths on the surface in February, so long as the water temperature is at least about 47 degrees F. There’s a way to do this that may be as tempting to you as it is to me.

Some plastic jerkbaits, like the Rebel Minnow, rest on a calm water surface at an angle, with the rear submerging. The head portion is the only part breaking the surface. A very slight rod twist raises the rear and quick slack allows it to fall back. That’s all the action needed. I only fish this way with 2½-inch plugs when the water is cold, sometimes waiting 15 seconds or more between retrieved stickbaits but always keeping alert about bass below. Bass like this plug. They dimple the surface by sucking the plug down at the rear, as subtle as a trout’s sip rise.

I’ve only found this method effective for fishing ponds during after a mild afternoon, when the water is calm and cold, yet having warmed perhaps six or seven degrees compared to the previous afternoon. Bass are more opportunistic in springtime cold water than during fall, because they need calories to nurture eggs and milt. When water temperatures reach the upper 40s or perhaps 50, a pond’s northeast areas first... but use another technique. Suspending jerkbaits have been efficient for bass to invade shallows: try the lakes and reservoirs once they warm sufficiently for bass to invade shallows: try the lakes and reservoirs once they warm sufficiently. Since the sun positions on shallow hotspot. Since the sun positions on

Larger 4-inch plugs may be effective, since they run a little deeper and cast better than may attract bigger bass. The trick is to impart subtle life-like action, not by not just twirling the plug but by letting it drift 10 seconds or so, or by sending a message to the necessary receptors: that this hunk of plastic (which doesn’t really look like much of a baitfish) behaves much like one. Try making a fairly slow twitch, followed by the lightest of retrieve. Such a technique you can give the plug. Break up the action irregularly with teasing intent, because this approach is short and sweet. They’re like little ribbons of life, and if you can make a plug seem nervous, you’re more likely to provoke an aggressive reaction from a bass. On the other hand, don’t be obvious; it’s difficult to work a plug with fitness, but the potential results are well worth the effort.

Shallows may yield a few large bass, but at this time of year, bass typically hugging bottom structures in deeper water, too cold to increase their tiny fish. Estuaries. They’re like little ribbons of life, and if you can make a plug seem nervous, you’re more likely to provoke an aggressive reaction from a bass. On the other hand, don’t be obvious; it’s difficult to work a plug with fitness, but the potential results are well worth the effort. You can get more information by Liking us on Facebook, going to our website at southernnewjerseyqdma.com, calling 856-691-6466. Thank you for all of your support.

Dave Bachynsky
QDMA Southern NJ Branch
Middlesex County Federation Minutes

Dear Oliver,

The January 7, 2015 meeting was called to order by President Jeff Wren at 7:30 pm. Minutes for December 2014 were approved as printed.

The following items were considered:

OLDER HUNTER PARTICIPATION.
FISH AND WILDLIFE AND TO RETAIN INCREASING THE REVENUE TO WOMEN IN NEW JERSEY, WHILE

FARM REVENUE TO AGRICULTURE. The following was unanimously approved by all clubs at the 1-7-2015 Middlesex County Federation Meeting. Consent of the Whole. Resolution Recommendation for the State Federation to form a committee of 2 members from each region, 2 Southern, and 2 northern, for a total of 6 Federation members.

The objective of the committee will be to prepare an appropriate document that must be approved by a resolution that can be submitted to the State Legislature for a Bill to be assigned in honor of a recipient. The objective is to REDUCE THE COST OF HUNTING FISHING LICENSES FOR WOMEN AND MEN IN NEW JERSEY, WHILE INCREASING THE REVENUE TO AGRICULTURE. The operations of the Division of Fish and Wildlife and to retain Older Hunter Participation.

Middlesex County recommends the following items be considered: 91. For all seniors 70 and over a JUNIOR / SENIOR FEE of $12, in the cost of all hunting permits, tags, and stamps.

I write to you, it’s you’ll be retrieving full-sized spinnerbaits at a moderate clip, and having the fish chase them.

We thank the NJ Division of Fish and Wildlife for allowing us to plant the fields, and the Southern NJ Land Managers of the Division for helping us with these projects. None of this would be possible without the support of our Annual Banquet. This year our 10th Annual Banquet will be held on Saturday, March 7 at Merighi’s Savoy Inn, in Vineland, NJ. If you like the things we are doing to help all the deer hunters in NJ, please make it a point to attend this year’s banquet and bring a friend. We know you will have a great time, for a great cause. We are always looking for more deer hunters.

My favorite method employs an old standby. Any jog and spinner arrangement will work, but I keep a dozen or more of the old Johnson Beetle spins in 1/8 ounce, and while obviously this is going light, works. Some swear by full-sized spinnerbaits, but I’ve never been able to fish a large Colorado blade slowly enough. The Beetle Spin features a removable wire arm, which is like a spinnerbait frame you can detach from the jighead. For our purposes, leave it on. The tiny 0.5-size Colorado blade doesn’t spin, not at the rate at which you retrieve the lure. I fish right on bottom, barely inching the lure forward, working it even slower than surf fishermen drag Ava jigs in the fall surf for stripers, and it has that same sort of waggles. And they say you can’t fish an Ava slowly enough.

Obviously, this bottom method won’t work in residual waters. And on the face of it, it looks like a method suitable for smallmouths, but I’ve caught more largemouths this way. The ideal situation is a sandy, graveled bottom with a substantial deposit of residual vegetation, about 10-20 feet deep. It works best in the deepest corner of ponds (so long as bottom is not silted or silted with residue that will foul the blade), and it works in lakes and reservoirs as well. I trick it “tick spinning” way back when I was a teenager, because I could hear my watch ticking at a quicker rate than about a tenth of a reel handle turn, imagining the ticking of the Colorado blade making little flickers, not pulses. Believe me, that slurring of this lure on hard bottom would not worry me about the blade not really spinning.

How about tube jigs? So much is written about them these days. The plastic tentacles are perfect for teasing cold-water bass; the appendages seem to cause much more agitation beneath their own. Bass don’t only feed on batfish this time of year. Nematode worms are an excellent example of food that resembles these plastic feelers. Nematodes some compromise. Don’t even take into account the things, emit subtle vibrations through subtle movements, captured by the amazing sensitivity of a bass’ lateral lines. Bass sense monofilament or braid lines too, which is why I regard the first three water conditions to be critical, although not so urgent as to hurry subseq- uently. A bass will likely be more interested in the alluring motions of a tube jig than he be distracted by line... a proven fact. Most bass get caught! And fishing very slowly, shaking the jig right on the bottom to make it “nervous,” doing your best to keep the jig in play while tantalizing, vibrating, works.

You’ll need quality braided line. Since braid transmits motion feel, of course, once the line is needed because it will not foul the blade as light, as small as possible, may be effective, depending on water clarity. Have them use 20-pound nylon, depth fished, and size of bass you pursue. Bass fishing is usually tough this time of year, but not as tough as open water in mid-winter. Early warm fronts can make bass vulnerable, and in any event, if you want to fish deep, have them try fishing jigs, especially shallow ponds with somewhat laced with laced with some ice, while as small as possible, may be effective, depending on water clarity. Have them use 20-pound nylon, depth fished, and size of bass you pursue.
Hair Jigs for Frigid Winter Bass

Brian Waldman photo

By Pete Robbins

Hair Jigs for Frigid Winter Bass

Just as hair styles may come and go, some lures gain popularity for periods of time while others get relegated to the back burner. The use of hair on jigs hasn’t quite lost all of its cachet, but as a strategy for northeastern winter bass it doesn’t get the credit that it should.

Southern anglers have “rediscovered” the hair jig in recent years, giving some popularity to this old-school presentation. They use the “float ‘n’ fly” technique for winter bass on bluffs, and the oversized “Preacher Jigs” for overpresured summer bass on ledges. Here in the northeast, though, when water temps dip into the 40s and below, many anglers still reflexively reach for a grub to chase lethargic fish, and a blade bait like a Silver Buddy when the bass are a bit more aggressive. Not only does a traditional hair jig work in both of those situations, depending on how you present it, but it’ll also fill the gap when neither lure can get the job done. They work on both largemouths and smallmouths, as well as a host of other non-bass species.

These jigs are available tied with a variety of furs, including bucktail (the most popular), bear, rabbit, and even polar bear. Maribou is also exceptionally popular, since it can be held in place and quivers with only the slightest bit of rod action or current. It gives the appearance of a “shivering” minnow, darting forward in short bursts but maintaining motion during the pauses. These jigs can be tied in any pattern you want, to replicate shad, crayfish, perch, or any other type of forage.

One-eighth ounce is probably the most popular size, but you can go as light as 1/64 ounce or all the way up to a half ounce, depending on current, water depth, and the desired rate of fall. When the water is just beginning to get down to winter temperatures, the fish may be willing to chase something falling relatively quickly, but once they’re in full winter mode they’re more likely to respond to a bait held in place. The good news is that as winter progresses they’re more likely to be bunched up, too, so once you find one it’s possible to sit and work the school rather than hunt and peck for more.

The rate of fall, color, action, and bulk of your jig can further be adjusted by the use of a trailer. Some anglers prefer to keep their lure compact and therefore eschew trailers, but there are times when fish seeking to get a high-calorie, high-protein meal with minimal effort want more “meat.” Various small chunk- and crank-style trailers fit the bill. If you’re around rapids or other rock, a craw might be best, and if you’re searching for bunched-up shad or perch on your depthfinder it makes sense to go with something that imitates a baitfish. If you can find them, pork rind trailers are a wintertime staple, adding not just bulk, but also scent and an undulating action, although the color choices are typically more limited than with plastic.

Because these jigs don’t move much water and typically don’t have rattles, the presentation excels in clear water. Accordingly, fluorocarbon in the 6- to 8-pound-test range is the preferred line. However, fluoro can be a bear to deal with in the cold, so many anglers prefer a main line of light braid with a 6- or 7-foot leader of fluoro, attached by a Double Uni-Knot or the “Crazy Alberto” knot. The fluoro provides not only invisibility, but also sinks better than braid and has a slight bit of stretch. You’ll want to fish it on a medium-light to medium spinning rod and a matching spinning reel with a smooth drag. Before heading out on the water on ultra-cold days, hit your line guides with a shot of silicone spray to keep them from freezing up.

When picking a jig, make sure that it has not only the right type of hair for your presentation, but also a quality hook. Fish at this time of year may be slow to move, but they’re extra heavy. With the light gear needed, you’ll need a sharp point and a bend-resistant metal to keep the fish buttoned. If you’re fishing the jigs in the right places, you’re bound to lose a few. Fortunately, they’re cheap to purchase, and if you’re the do-it-yourself type of angler, you can take those rare days that are too cold to fish and spend some building jigs to your own personal specifications. It’s not hard to do, and in addition to saving money you’ll get the added satisfaction of catching fish on your own creations while others are heading to the ski slopes or inside watching hockey on the tube.
By Milt Rosko

If you’re like me, you suspect you’re getting the itch to get out of the house and go fishing. In many past years, I’d be scheduling a party boat trip to the wrecks just shy of Hudson Canyon, where big sea bass and giant pollock can provide some of the best fishing of the year. But the regulators decided to close the season during January and February, eliminating what for many years I enjoyed. Not only the actual fishing, but the preparation, and finally the camaraderie of those on board, that came when I boarded in the darkness for the long jaunt offshore. Soon after departure I’d slip into my sleeping bag and get a good night’s sleep during the trip, awakening as the throttles were pulled back, a signal I’d arrived and it was time to get fishing.

During this past year I’ve had some really good fishing off the water both from boat and beach, although I will say that it was my least rewarding season ever. I observed that some anglers completely gave up fishing, simply frustrated by what has occurred both as a result of regulations and especially by depleted stocks. Indeed, most failed to catch a mackerel, weakfish, whiting, or pollock, all of which were standard fare. Many drew a blank on a keeper stripper as well.

But all is not lost; if you persevere, opportunities will exist whereby you can salvage what might be an otherwise uneventful trip to the seacoast. As a case in point, many have given up fishing for winter flounder, simply because it was just too much of a chore to get their boat ready, purchase chum and bait, sail to the fishing grounds, and often within minutes catch a limit of two...and call it a day and head for home.

There is an option, however, and that’s casting for winter flounder from the many docks, bulkheads, and shoreline of our rivers and bays. Just this fall, after having spent a half day or longer probing the surf for stripers that just weren’t there, I’d often stop off and fish from the docks in Toms River, the bulkhead at the mouth of the canal on the Manasquan River, the eastern shoreline of the Shrewsbury River from the many access points between Highland and Sea Bright, or the bulkhead just to the west of the party boat docks in Shark River.

I’d often use a pair of spinning rods, the same ones I use in the surf, and rig up with a partner of No. 8 or 9 Chotestneri hooks, so both rest on the bottom. A two- or three-ounce bank-style sinker completes the rig. Then I’d bait up with a three-inch long strip of muscle tissue from a clam that I’d kept in a heavy salt brine solution.

From all of the spots, it was an easy cast to the edge of the dropoff into the channels that were travertised by the flats, as they searched for a meal. I’d just bait up, cast out, and rest the outfits on the dock or bulkhead. Often it was late afternoon with a warm sun, and since I’d skipped lunch, I enjoyed a sandwich and Thermos of hot coffee.

The current often carried the rigs along the bottom, so I’d periodically reel them in and recast them into the current. On my most recent excursion, as I sat on the edge of a walkway along the bank of Shark River, my rod was almost pulled from my rest as it recasted, and I quickly responded, resulting in the largest winter flounder I’d caught in several years.

There is an option, however, and that’s casting for winter flounder from the many docks, bulkheads, and shoreline of our rivers and bays.

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NJ Black Bear Management Plan: A Resounding Success

by Lou Martinez

Waiting patiently in his elevated stand, the hunter spied a lone whitetail fawn making its way toward him. Suddenly the little guy threw up his head and made tracks in the opposite direction.

Huh? No way that deer got my wind, he thought. Patently he allowed himself to search the perimeter of his area, then he spied the four furballs, black marks on the snow-laden forest carpet.

Two appeared to be 50 pounds, and the larger two probably making their way pushing 70 pounds. The female was fol-

lowing, and he estimated her to be about 300 pounds. Ethically, he let them all pass.

On another hillside in a stand further northwest, a large bear circled the stand of a first-time bear hunter. He had been well

schooled by his mentors, seasoned bear hunters with many bears taken in Maine and Canadian Provinces. Be quiet, patient and above all you see the bear you want, he had learned.

Studying the large-bodied bear with its belly hanging near the ground, paying close attention to his quarry's head, he noticed that this bear's ears appeared small and that it had a visible crescent running along the wide area between its ears. All are indicators of a large bear, so he waited until the bear, nose to the ground, stopped at about 40 yards. Bringing up his slug-

loaded shotgun, he placed the bear's cross hairs up two-thirds of the body, right behind the forward shoulder. Taking a deep breath, he exhaled as he squeezed the trigger; he didn’t even remember the second roar of his gun as the 480-pound bear fell in 2014 involving attacks, home break-ins, and serious damage complaints have sky-

rocketed by 40%.

Male bears are traditionally forced out of their mother's breeding area at about 18 months of age, as the sow again becomes ready to breed. Many of the female young bears either set up residence adjacent to the mom's home, while young male bears must find new locales. In this period, many more bear killing sheep, pets, rab-

bits, and other livestock have also been documented. Category one incidents in 2014 involving attacks, home break-ins, and serious damage complaints have skyrocketed by 40%.

Hunting as an Essential
Bear Control Tool

The Northwest corridor of the Garden State is host to the largest bear population density anywhere in the U.S. Last year, very tragically a young promising Rutgers University student was mauled to death by a healthy 300-pound male, near West Milford, NJ. To date, 12 incidents involving bear-human attacks have been documented this year. Many more bear killing sheep, rabbits, and other livestock have also been documented. Category one incidents in 2014 involving attacks, home break-ins, and serious damage complaints have skyrocketed by 40%.

Some of those young bears get them-

selves in trouble by showing up in play-

grounds, near schools, and occasionally in highly populated areas. These are the bears that you see on the nightly news. If the bear population continues to grow and the habitat continues to shrink due to new building, then bear/human encounters will necessarily continue to escalate. Females are now birthing quadruplets, and one healthy sow has been documented to have had six cubs in one litter.

Take into account that 73 percent of all cubs born make it into their first year. Only 10 percent of this group eventually survive beyond that point (unless harvested during the hunting season). That bear will grow twice as large as these small cubs during the hunting season. A good, clean, quick kill, something for which all good bear hunters strive.

During the 2014 NJ black bear sea-

son, hunters successfully surpassed the

mushy sward, catastrophic serious injury, massive damage, and death for both bear and driver are a distinct possibility.

With the new recognition program for black bears in New Jersey, we may never find ourselves in a survival situation. Admittedly,

fisheries monitoring efforts.

The Skilled Angler Awards Program was introduced in 1983 to supplement the New Jersey State Record Fish Program. For more than three decades the Division has been recognizing anglers who catch fish of “not quite record” size, but large enough to have tested the angler’s skill and be worthy of recognition.

Over the years the program has gathered in popularity. In 1983, the program began with three categories: junior and a .410 barrel in the bottom. A longtime flashlight, this gun will work whether your game is sitting or flying. This would also be hard to beat as a survival or camp gun.

Shoot your own hunting gun, and you may find other combination guns that will do in survival situations. Admittedly, we may never find ourselves in a survival situation where we have to hunt food or protect against wildlife, but it surely is fun buying the gun that we believe will do the job and keep us safe in the woods. And if you actually find yourself in a sur-

vival situation, it’s a great thing to have both.

Long shot through the new Shooter’s Bible and you may find other combination guns that will do in survival situations. Admittedly, we may never find ourselves in a survival situation where we have to hunt food or protect against wildlife, but it surely is fun buying the gun that we believe will do the job and keep us safe in the woods. And if you actually find yourself in a sur-

vival situation, it’s a great thing to have both combinations.

Pictured above is the Savage Model 42, a single-shot break action with a 22 Long Rifle or .22 WMR in the top barrel and a 410 bore in the bottom barrel. A timeless favori-

te combination, this makes an ideal camp and survival firearm.
Early Trout Fishing in New Jersey

by Joe Bilby

The native New Jersey trout is the brook trout, and there are surprisingly still some descendents of those pre-colonial original fish extant today. The history of trout fishing in the colony and state had its ups and downs prior to the establishment of the scientific and professional management system we currently see from the New Jersey Division of Fish and Wildlife.

The earliest, if unintentional, attempt at fish management on the books in New Jersey is a 1798 General Assembly Act “suppressing immorality” which made fishing on Sunday, presumably for both fresh and saltwater fish, illegal. It took until 1870, in a more enlightened era, for the state to create a “Board of Fish Commissioners” charged with governance of the sport, and nine county Fish Wardens were appointed the following year to establish seasons, manage the freshwater fishery, and pursue “poachers.”

In addition to regulating the diminishing number of wild native fish, the Fish Commission began to acquire and stock brook trout for sport fishermen, and in 1879, the New York Times reported from Hackettstown that “this sport has begun here in good earnest, and a good day’s sport may be had anywhere in this part of the country…” the commission stocked warm water species as well, and in 1880 the Red Bank Register announced that New Jersey Fish Commissioner E. I. Anderson had arrived in Asbury Park from Hunterdon County with “250 live black bass” to stock in Sunset Lake and “the head waters of Deal Lake,” as the state continued what had become an ongoing effort to encourage and intelligently manage freshwater sport fishing.

Although the commission stocked brook trout, the future prospects for that species did not seem promising in the late nineteenth century. The massive economic growth and industrialization of northeastern America following the Civil War, which included the felling of forests and polluting of streams and rivers, dramatically reduced the cool, clear, highly oxygenated water that sensitive brookies needed to survive. Forest and Stream magazine even predicted in 1879 that the country was witnessing perhaps its “last generation of trout fishers.” In an attempt to save the species, more hardy European brown trout were imported from Germany, beginning in 1883.

Forest and Stream’s dire predictions did not come true, and New Jersey, one of the most industrialized states of the era, continued the fight to preserve its trout fishing heritage. In 1912 the new state fish hatchery at Hackettstown began to breed brook trout, adding more durable browns and western rainbows the following year. In 1915 New Jersey required its first fishing license, the proceeds of which were dedicated to funding the growing stocking program, and a survey of trout habitat to improve management was concluded in 1918.

As early as the 1880s, newspaper stories had informed the public in general and fishermen in particular that “progress was being made in getting people to understand that to have trout one must stock or preserve, eradicate poisonous drainage and sawdust and abandon fishing for scores.” The state’s hard work paid off. In 1926 United States Commerce Secretary Herbert Hoover commended the New Jersey hatchery program, stating it had “done wonders” for trout fishing and should serve as a model for other states.

In 1933 a New Jersey fishing license cost $2.00, and a sportsman who was also a hunter could get a combined license for $3.00. Women were allowed to fish for free. By the end of that decade, New Jersey had, by dint of hard work and persistence over more than half a century, saved trout fishing for future generations, and we enjoy it still today.

Photos:
Top: Trout fishing in Saddle Brook in the 1920s.
Lower left: By 1961 we had a fisherman governor, Robert Meyner (Governor of NJ from 1952 to 1962) lands a trout.
Lower right: at the South Orange Reserve in 1954. The angler on the right netting a trout has a fly rod and reel, but the two on the left appear to have traditional “poles” with line attached to the end.

All photos from the Joseph Bilby collection.

Events for February, 2015

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All classified ads are limited to 6 lines, there are approximately 42 characters per line (including spaces). No photos or graphics, please. Only items that can legally be sold are allowed. The Federation and all personnel associated with this publication assume no responsibility for ad content or condition of any goods, or quality of any services, offered for sale. Appearance of an ad in this publication does not indicate that the Federation endorses, guarantees or approves of any goods or services offered in the ad. The Federation and all personnel associated with this publication are in no way responsible for conditions of sale. All responsibilities are those of the person advertising the goods or services and/or the purchaser. The charge is $15 for a two-month insertion, payable in advance by check or money order to the NJ State Federation of Sportmen’s Clubs. Ad submissions should be forwarded to Oliver Shapiro, 28 Hemlock Road, Livingston NJ 07039; questions may be directed to 973-533-1260 or emailed to olshapiroinnj@gmail.com.
The Game Dinner Bell is Ringing

A well-worn line of mine, and no doubt one used by many a writer before me probably stole it, was “I’d swap two Febru­ars for one October.”


The 2007 ranked 2nd only because the husband of whom should have his own home of a friend of my wife’s, “The Feast of Land and Sea” at the Bucks County, PA home of a friend of my wife’s, the husband of whom should have his own TV cooking show. The dinner of items, and on some probing for tips and hints he revealed that it took him a week to prepare, two days alone for shopping. He counted 85 ingredients involved.

Thus there were Grilled Swordfish Rollups, Smoked Salmon and Caviar Pizza, Port Tenderloin with Cranberry and Apple Stuffing, and groaning tables sagging under the array of other treats. There were also, however, no Yankee, Pennsylvania, or Adirondack Venison Pot Roasts. I suggested he work on it.

Two New Record Saltwater Fish Certified

The NJ Division of Fish and Wildlife has officially certified, and is pleased to announce, the catch of two new state record saltwater fish.

William Catino of Ventnor, New Jersey, reeled in the new state record sheepshead on October 14, 2014. The fish weighed in at 19 pounds and 3 ounces, the new state record sheepshead. Photo courtesy NJ Div. Fish and Wildlife.

The 2000 menu included Pheasant Parmesan, and Adirondack Style Venison Pot roast, which is about the same thing as any other pot roast, but sounds outdoory. The dinner of 2006 featured Crab Stuffed Mushrooms… I caught or picked neither, but went mainstream for the thought of 1973 raccoon. Venison chili dip was one of the starters, with more pleasant Parm (I was getting it at) and sides of salad and homemade garlic bread.

The 2010 repast led off with Pennsylvania venison pot roast, but hey I kicked it up a notch with hot buttermilk rolls for “pushers.” I tagged a wild turkey in the Keystone State that fall and whipped up breasts in a “mélange” (wow) of among other things Mahogany, and groaning tables sagging under the array of other treats. There were also, however, no Yankee, Pennsylvania, or Adirondack Venison Pot Roasts. I suggested he work on it.

Previous record. The objective of the Record Fish Program is to increase the awareness of fishing opportunities for species that are regularly caught and routinely found in the freshwaters or off the coast of New Jersey. Separate lists are maintained for freshwater and marine species, and in 2014 a new Spearfishing category was created for saltwater species.

Presently there are 90 species (31 freshwater and 59 saltwater, including 17 in the Spearfishing category) eligible for entry in the Record Fish Program. In May, the program was revised to include Retired Categories (Saltwater) of fish not any longer accepted for entry in the program, as well as Retired Historical Records.

Events for March, 2015

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Enjoy Your Fire Safely

A recent release from the New Jersey Division of Environmental Protection emphasizes the importance of responsible wood burning, and offers the following safety and environmental tips:

- Allow wood to season before burning it. Seasoning entails allowing the wood to sit outdoors for at least six months. Seasoned wood is darker, has cracks in the end grain, and sounds hollow when snapped. Seasoning a piece of wood.

- Use a wood moisture meter to test the moisture content of wood. Wood burns most efficiently when its moisture content is below 20 percent. Check local air quality at www.nj.gov/dep/baqp/woodburning.html.

- Stack wood neatly off the ground with roofs covered to protect it against rain and snow. Stacking wood protects it from moisture, which can lead to mildew and mold growth.

- Keep fires burning hot. Regularly remove ashes to ensure proper airflow. Wood burns hotter when there is a steady supply of oxygen.

- Never burn garbage, cardboard, plastics, wrapping materials, painted materials, or other materials in your stove or fireplace. These materials can release toxic fumes and cause a fire.

- Keep anything flammable (including drapes, furniture, newspapers and books) far away from any wood-burning appliance. Keep an accessible and recent-devices, wind, rain, sleet, snow, and darkness when returning to the comforts of home.

- The out-of-doors, I have always appreciated the contrast one experiences when returning to the comforts of home.

- It blew and friz and snew again. And very shortly after then, it friz, and then it blew, and then it snowed. And then it fogged, and then it friz, and then it blew, and very shortly after then, it blew and friz and snow again.

- Fish, hunting, camping, hiking, and biking are great experiences, and so is coming in out of the cold. For me, enjoying the creature comforts of cabin or home, especially the latter, after standing up to the elements such as low temperatures, wind, rain, sleet, snow, and darkness gives your system a shock. Sometimes even the best insulated clothing and other rugged gear have trouble keeping pace with Mother Nature’s mean side. And as an unknown poet once wrote:

  First it rained, And then it blew, And then it friz, And then it snowed, And then it fogged, And then it rained, And then it snowed, And then it friz, And very shortly after then, It blew and friz and snow again.

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Robins & Lawrence, Reloading
Rationales, Cleaning Stuff, and Targets

The Association of NJ Rifle and Pistol Clubs has launched Phase 2 - the Crackdown Phase - of its Permitting StrikeForce™ program, a comprehensive statewide initiative to address firearms permitting abuses throughout the Garden State. The group is serving legal notices on nearly 1,500 municipalities, and other permitting authorities. Hanlon said, "Some gun owners participated in Phase 1, providing us with evidence of their towns' abuses.

Our attorneys conducted their own independent statewide survey, and all of the data has been crunched, organized, and analyzed. For the first time in history, there is now a full picture of where and what kind of abuses are, and it isn't pretty. From absurdly long delays, to blatantly unlawful application conditions, to outrageous privacy violations, the worst offenders have been identified."

"The StrikeForce program is the start of the crackdown phase," said ANJRPC Executive Director Scott Bach. "We are serving legal notices on nearly 150 municipalities, informing them of the law, their obligations, and their specific abuses within 30 days; some applicants wait over a year before getting a decision. Some towns also ration handgun purchase permits at the rate of one per month, under the mistaken belief that New Jersey's "one gun a month" law applies to issuance of permits themselves."

ANJRPC first began addressing permitting issues on a case-by-case basis in 2009. Recent legal developments made it viable to launch ANJRPC's Permitting StrikeForce™ last year as the first-ever comprehensive compliance sweep over the entire state. The program is synergistic and complementary with the efforts of other organizations on permitting issues.

ANJRPC's Permitting StrikeForce™ needs you. Although the group has already moved into Phase 2, they still need to know about permitting abuses you may be suffering, as well as improvements in the permitting process that result from StrikeForce efforts. Please contact the ANJRPC about unauthorized conditions, delays, permit rationing, or any other violations, or improvements, in your town. Your identity will be protected, but your input will help us get the job done. Please email strikeforce@anjrpc.org or leave a message at 973-697-9270. Please include as much detail as possible. Additional information is available on the ANJRPC website (anjrpc.org).

Black Powder Notes

By Joe Bilby

Reader, friend, fellow author, and New Jersey PBS. John Roumte suggested I visit his son in Vermont he stopped by the American Precision Museum in Stowe. The building in the museum is the original Robbins and Lawrence factory, which manufactured 15,000 Model 1841 "Mississippi" rifles. There was a US government contract between 1843 and 1853, as well as where Sharps breechloaders were made between 1851 and 1855. Robbins and Lawrence also manufactured precision machinery used by Colt and other arms makers. Robbins and Lawrence became world-famous in 1851, when the company participated in the Crystal Palace Exhibition in London and displayed six Model 1841 rifles with completely inter-changeable parts, an impressive achievement for the era, fulfilling what had been a goal in arms-making technology for some time. The company's award was among 400 for a new government armory to produce the new Model M-1841.

A subsequent large Crimean War contract for Enfield rifle muskets fell through, however, bankrupting the compa-nny. If appears that Lamson, Goodnow and Yale may have used the same building to produce carbines and musket parts during the Civil War, so the museum location has a significant place in armory history.

John advised that the American Precision Museum has a "super display of machinery relating to gun making." After seeing a Black Powder-stock making lathe, a milling machine set up to mill the entire upper part of a Model 1841 rifle lock plate (or leave a message at 973-697-9270). Please include as much detail as possible. Additional information is available on the ANJRPC website (anjrpc.org).

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Garden State Archers, Jacobstown
www.gardensatearchers.com
215-640-0655

Wa-Xo-Be Archers, So. Brunswick
www.waxobe.com
732-355-1717

E-Mail: ggrodzki@optonline.net to receive
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