The United States Fish and Wildlife Service (FWS) recently published a “final rule” that has major implications for U.S. hunters. The rule affirms revisions to existing FWS regulations that control international trade in wildlife and plants protected by the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species (CITES). One of many revisions includes a new definition of the term “hunting trophy,” which characterizes what is and what is not considered a hunting trophy by the United States.

The old definition of hunting trophy limited what a hunter could import and sell. Only one hunting trophy per hunt in each country, attempting to abide by U.S. rules. This also means fewer seizures at U.S. borders and less complication for exporters trying to meet the new requirements.

The new definition is very close to what CITES adopted for 2015, which reflects the definition collectively drafted by Safari Club International Foundation and other associations for Hunting and Conservation (FACE). The definition is less restrictive than the old definition, allowing for certain manufactured items. Additional language added by the FWS ensures that all parts of a hunting trophy sold in the United States, in the same shipment, all items are properly identified on permits, and the number of parts is no more than can be sold from a single animal. Many of the affected are children.

A hunting trophy is an ailment that exhibits many different faces, and many Lyme’s symptoms are symptoms that appear after the disease is long gone. Some may be confused by the new definition given freedom to U.S. hunters, allowing them to import whatever he or she considers the memento of their hunt.

The Final Rule and language of the new definition of “hunting trophy” can be found at https://www.fws.gov/lawenforcement/laws/proposed-rules-and-notices.html. This rule was effective June 26, 2014.

Some may be confused by the necessity for FWS to make this change in definition. As a Party to CITES, the United States is obligated to change national regulations to more effectively implement the CITES convention. The CITES Parties modify their regulations every two or three years, as necessary. Therefore, to keep pace with these changes, it is important to ensure that U.S. businesses and individuals understand the requirements for lawful international trade in CITES specimens, the FWS periodically updates their CITES-implementing regulations.

So what does this change in definition mean in real life? First of all, the United States will have a definition that makes international trade more clear. This means less regulatory confusion for importing countries trying to abide by U.S. rules. This also means fewer seizures at the U.S. border that result from confusion on permits.

The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service has made available a preview of a new study regarding traditional ammunition and mortality of bald eagles in the upper Midwest that lead to news stories misleading the public into thinking the use of traditional ammunition is an irreplaceable source of wildlife conservation funding. For more than 80 years, an 11 percent excise tax that manufacturers collect and pay on ammunition sales has supported conservation and habitat-preservation efforts, providing more than $207 million for conservation in 2012 alone. These funds greatly benefit the health and populations of bald eagles.

NSSF Questions USFWS Report

Why is the Final Rule and language of the new definition of “hunting trophy” important to outdoor enthusiasts?

NSSF, hunters and target shooters do have serious concerns about this USFWS study and other misleading reports about traditional ammunition because they can lead to unwarranted calls to ban the use of traditional ammunition, which we vehemently oppose. Advocates of banning traditional ammunition also attempt to cite human health risks, but studies have shown that those who consume game taken with traditional ammunition do not have higher blood lead levels than the national average.

NSSF considers this USFWS study flawed for inferring a connection between bald eagle lead levels and one potential source of lead in the environment (i.e., fragments of lead in field-dressed game entrails) that is not supported by the data.
### County Federation of Sportsmen's Clubs Information Directory

#### County | Meeting Date & Time | Location | Contact | Phone Number |
--- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
Atlantic | 2nd Thursday of month, 7:00 PM except July and August | Germania Gun Club | Eric Gaupp | 609-513-8542 |
Bergen | 3rd Thursday of month, 7:30 PM except July and August | Ramsey Outdoor, 240 Rt. 17 North, Paramus, NJ | Frank Dara | 973-252-2640 |
Burlington | 2nd Thursday of month, 7:30 PM except July and August | The American Legion 39 Pember-Julistown Rd., Pemberton, NJ | Bill Schultz | 856-235-3344 |
Camden | 3rd Wednesday of month, 7:30 PM except July and August | Square Circle Sportsmen Club 97 Clementon Rd., Gibbstown, NJ | Bill Schemel | 856-931-5009 |
Cape May | (Please call for up-to-date information) | | Ken McDermott III | 609-412-3811 |
Cumberland | 2nd Thursday of month, 7:30 PM except July and August | Manatee Gun Club 28 Hemlock Road, Livingston, NJ | Bob Russell | 856-327-2197 |
Essex | 2nd Thursday of month, 8:15 PM except July and August | Bloomfield Civic Center 84 Broad St., Bloomfield, NJ | Carmine Minichini | 908-864-5713 |
Gloucester | 2nd Tuesday of month, 7:45 PM except July and August | George Ruch Building 14 St. and Highland Ave., Williamstown, NJ | Thomas Weeza | 856-629-9465 |
Hunterdon | 2nd Thursday of month, 8:00 PM | Northern Region Office of Fish & Wildlife, 1st Floor, 330 Long Hill Rd., Pequest, NJ | Loren Robinson | 908-872-1076 |
Mercer | 3rd Monday of month, 7:00 PM | Sportsmen’s Center US Highway 130 N., Bordentown, NJ | Rick Moore | 609-882-2202 |
Middlesex | 1st Wednesday of month, 7:30 PM except July and August | Polish American Citizen’s Club 66 Adirondack Ave., Plumsted, NJ | John Messereill | 732-828-8543 |
Monmouth | 4th Wednesday of month, 7:30 PM except July and August | 4 F's Gun Club 973 Clementon Rd., Gibbstown, NJ | Ken Ganson | 732-566-0841 |
Morris | 1st Tuesday of month, 8:00 PM | Mine Mill Town, 1st Floor, 330 Long Hill Rd., Pequest, NJ | John Rogalo | 973-691-9355 |
Ocean | 1st Tuesday of month, 7:00 PM except July and August | VFW Post 4703 54 Magnolia Drive, Jackson, NJ 08527 | Larry Cella | 908-839-0193 |
Passaic | 1st Monday of month, 7:30 PM except July and August | The Wayne Civic Center Room 1006 Hamburg Tp., Wayne, NJ | Richard Weber | 973-697-1814 |
Salem | Tuesday after 3rd Friday of month, 7:30 PM except July and August | Salem County Sportsmen Clubs RT 40, Carneys Pt., NJ | Dave Cesaroni | 856-223-0409 |
Somerset | 2nd Monday of month, 7:00 PM except July and August | Somerset Fish & Game Protective Assoc. First Floor, 445 Milltown Rd., Bridgewater, NJ 08807 | Joe Griglak | 908-526-9026 |
Sussex | 2nd Wednesday of month, 8:00 PM | Sparta Ambulance Building 14 Sparta Ave., Sparta, NJ | Dick Strobel | 973-697-3989 |
Union | 1st Monday of month, 7:30 PM except July and August | Union County Engineering Building, 1st Floor, 2335 South Avenue, Scotch Plains, NJ | Ray Spindel | 908-403-5789 |
Warren | 4th Wednesday of month, 7:30 PM except July and August | Pequest Trout Hatchery RT 46, Liberty Twp., NJ | Eric Spindel | 908-268-2599 |
At the outset: Got enough tackle?

A quick internet search has pretty much confirmed what I (and undoubtedly the vast majority of you) have already known: Fishing is very popular. It consistently shows up in the top 10 or top 5 (often the top one or two) of “most popular hobbies” lists.

If that is so, and nobody doubts it, it is a mystery to me why the tackle manufacturing industry hasn’t taken over the world by now.

Take me, for instance. A casual glance into my garage will reveal a fair array of fishing gear: one cane rod (which I actually obtained as a young man, intending to make it available for my growing sons, but they bypassed it and went directly to spincasting and spinning tackle), another 12-in. medium-action spinning rod and reel, and another five fly-fishing combos with weights varying from 4 to 9 (all intended again for freshwater fishing).

It might sound like I’m exclusively a sweetwater addict, but then that wouldn’t explain the three additional sized outfits of meater heft intended for those party/charter boat and surf fishing expeditions which I sometimes engage.

That same garage, with no room left for anything in the way of an automotive vehicle, also has a reasonable assortment of tackle boxes (three for freshwater fishing, one for saltwater), attire (vests, hip-waders, three industrial-sized shelf units for the necessary assortment of terminal tackle, line, stringers, sonar units, spare reels, plenty of lures (tough to estimate, but I wouldn’t be surprised if it exceeded $1000), grubs, nits, etc.; in a fair assortment of colors), fly accessories (line, leaders, tippet material, floats, flies, boxes of varying designations), and plenty of other stuff that goes under the general rubric of “stuff that defies pigeonholing: sand spikes, critters, grubs, etc. in a fair assortment of interesting in the little area displaying fishing gear. (Let’s be honest; all of it looks interesting...”...as read.)

We know that a portion of these sales go to tax-mediated programs which come back to fund conservation costs, and the resultant funds have made a huge impact on the quality of these programs and our natural resources throughout the United States. The total amount of money that these funds represent is indeed of great magnitude. But it’s also important to keep in mind that the bulk of all those individual purchase prices isn’t worn out eventually. So, in order to keep fishing, some new purchases are invariably mandated each season.

Another fact? Any activity in which someone is passioanately engaged spills over into all areas of that person’s life. This is why a husband accompanying his wife to a department store will spend at least a few minutes in the sporting goods section to see if there is anything that looks interesting in the little area displaying fishing gear. (Let’s be honest; all of it looks interesting...”...as read."

I think you get the idea.

This says nothing of the various gizmos I have in the hunting arena, but that’s another discussion.

Yes, it’s true that this collection is the result of years of accumulation, but let’s face facts. First, much of the equipment (“stuff” is undoubtedly a better term) disappears or is consumed during the course of our chosen pastime and even that which isn’t will wear out eventually. So, in order to keep fishing, some new purchases are invariably mandated each season.

Middlesex County Federation Minutes

Dear Oliver,

The regular meeting of the Middlesex County Federation was held to order May 7 at 7:40 pm by President Jeff Wren. The minutes of the previous meeting were accepted as typed.

The Treasurer’s report was accepted as read.

CO Report: none. State Meeting report: The Federation newspaper delivery has been very erratic with numerous complaints. After being contacted, the issues are on the post office side.

The convention overnight bookings are very slow which are attributed to be due to the high cost of the hotel.

Central Region Report: Unidentified hunters of NJ annual dinner was a huge success.

The green sheets need to be turned in to the Federation. T-Shirts have been ordered.

There is a sporting clay shoot at Red Wing on June 1 at 9 am; the cost is $20.00 a shooter.

Sportsmen’s Clubs

Fishing Derby a Success

Dear Oliver,

The Sussex County Federation of Sportmen’s Clubs held its annual Children’s Fishing Derby breakfast/lunch on Saturday, May 17, 2014 from 9:00 am until noon.

The Derby was held at the pond within the State Fair Grounds. Sixty-four children 15 years of age or younger and their parents attended. Everyone had a great time.

Prizes, donated by local sporting goods businesses, the Sussex County Federation of Sportmen’s Club, and the Sussex County Conservation Foundation, were given out to all participants. The Boy Scout Troop 180 of Branchville did an excellent job preparing and selling food during the Derby. Again this year, participants brought cans of food for the NOR-WESCAP food program.

The Sussex Federation would like to thank the following businesses for their donations: Andover Hunt & Fish, Dew’s Boat Rental, Garden State Bow & Reel, Mountain Mike’s Sport Shop, Simon Peters Sky Sports, Skylays Forest Sports Shop, Wal-Mart (Franklin, NJ), Manahawkin Armo, and Ken’s Custom Tile (Wayne, NJ).

The Sussex Federation would also like to thank those members and friends who volunteered their time to work the fishing derby.

Dick Strobel
Sussex County Federation of Sportmen’s Clubs
With both stripers and bluefish providing some exciting action along the surf, the past couple of months, I am reminded of a technique I’ve often employed to target these fine gamefish. I use a pair of surf spattering stripers and bluefish. For an hour or two, they will take baited rigs from the surf. Days like these are pleasant, and I often find myself lured into the surf to try my luck at catching these two species. But I did have plenty of tasty sea sprites, as there isn’t too much meat on a blowfish. Often I’ll eat three or four of them for dinner. As there isn’t too much meat on a blowfish. That’s all there is to it, just bait up and let the rig rest on the bottom, and as soon as you feel the tug, tap, tap, I mentioned earlier, just lift buct. Set the hook, and you’ll be in business. On landing the blowfish you’ll see that it appears like many other fish, but quite soon you realize it’s in trouble, it sends a distress signal to its system, and suddenly you’ve got a balloon-shaped fish in your hand, with an extremely rough skin. Where you catch one you’re apt to catch many more, and towards this end don’t be embarrassed to catch quite a few, as you can always treat the meat to a delicious dinner. I had cleaned It was blood red and it felt worse than a piece of rough grade sandpaper.

Blowfish is the common name for the puffer fish, scientifically known as Sphoeroides maculatus. It is a small, usually solitary fish with a round body and large, flat head. The body is covered with small, dark spots and has a smooth skin. The blowfish has a long, thin tail and its fins are rounded. Its coloration can vary from light yellow to dark brown, depending on its habitat. The puffer fish is a carnivorous creature, feeding on other small fish such as rock fish, northern porgies, and winter flounder. Its diet also includes smaller crustaceans and other invertebrates. They are found in the coastal waters of the northern Pacific Ocean, from British Columbia to Japan. The puffer fish is a popular target for recreational anglers, who find them a fun and challenging catch.

Blowfish are a species to which the scientific community doesn’t pay much attention, and they are often overlooked. But the blowfish is a unique creature, with a fascinating life cycle. They are born with a full complement of fins, but as they grow, some of their fins disappear and new ones appear. The blowfish has a unique ability to inflate its body, which is a way of protection from predators. This inflation can be triggered by the presence of other fish or by the movement of the environment. The blowfish can inflate to a diameter of about 10 inches, and this can make it difficult to catch. However, the blowfish is still a popular fish for anglers, and there are many techniques that can be used to catch them. One way to catch blowfish is to use a small hook and a small piece of bait, such as a shad or a minnow. The hook should be tied to the bait with a strong line, and the line should be weighted with a small sinker. The sinker should be tied to the line with a small swivel to allow for some movement. The hook should be cast into the water, and the angler should then wait for a strike. When a blowfish takes the bait, the angler should set the hook and begin reeling in the fish. The blowfish will fight hard, so the angler should be prepared for a long fight. The blowfish will try to escape, but the angler should keep the fish on the line and wait for the right moment to cut the line. The blowfish will then be easy to net or cut the line and release the fish.

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The word sling can be a verb, to: stretch, pull or draw something tight and hard to keep it out of the way, or to stretch out or put in another position. In short, it is the verb “sling.”

Based on one of the most unreliable and unscientific polls ever taken, I’d hazard a guess, supported only by the folks with whom I rub elbows, that many, or perhaps even most who carry longarms afar and to the range don’t even use a sling, and who those do, so merely as a matter of convenience. That is, as a device with which to carry the firearm. Expenditure aside, a sling is also effective in improving your shooting, especially during those times when offhand shooting is necessary and needs to be quick as well as accurate.

There are on the market, however, as many slings and variations of same, including military surplus, that those new to the game of using a sling for something other than a carrying device can easily be confused.

Consequently, we’re going to devote this gem of firearms literature to only two slings. Why only two?

Because the plethora of slings out there in the market are an equal number of ways to use them. Thus the proverbial waters can become somewhat muddied. Besides, the two featured slings, while not new, are characteristic of more modern slings that feature both ease of use as well as high-quality materials and manufacturing procedures.

In addition, I’m taking the liberty of eliminating those slings of yesteryear because they are primarily comprised of older designs using pressure buckles or those cumbersome clasp-type adjustment hardware that feature two (usually brass) clays that match dial holes pre-punched in the leather of the sling. That, in turn, means fumbling and fooling around with adjustments. That’s not exactly conducive to a “quick” adjustment when a difficult shot at a whitetail or bruin is required.

The first is a sling produced by Andy Langlois from New Hampshire who specializes in one thing and one thing only: leather. And he uses what he calls “the finest bridle leather,” from which he produces his Rhodesian gun sling.

While I love what I saw on Langlois’s website, and unlike the sling we will later address, I’ve never so much as put my hot little hands on his Rhodesian sling. But based on the evaluation of outdoor writer/photographer Ed Head of Shooting Gallery and Down Range TV, the workmanship, materials, and design that go into Langlois’ Rhodesian sling makes it the greatest (shooting) innovation that form that we’re interested, as in rifle slings, but especially the Quick-Set, “sling.”

Langlois calls his product, the Rhodesian rifle sling, but that is either a misnomer or Langlois is talking himself out of a lot of business since New Jersey hunters are prohibited from using rifles, at least in the true term of “rifle” as in a centerfire 30-06.

Though it’s true that Garden State gunners are allowed to use slugs, and many actually use shotguns with slug barrels which kind of negates the possibility of securing a sling swivel to the forearm of the firearm. Ergo, these unfortunate few cannot use a sling, right?

Wrong, and the same thing applies to pump rifles. Though attaching a sling swivel to a wood forearm puts a bit of a damper on attaching a swivel to the forearm, Brownells, the Iowa-based gunsmithing supplier as well as Sinclair and a host of others, offer sling swivels that attach to the barrels of scatterguns with a clamp-type fastener as well as swivels that can be attached to the magazine cap. So, yes you can use a sling with one cavaet. The slide-action owner will have to suffice with using the sling as a shooting aid but in some instances may have to disengage the extended arm from the sling to work the action. Sounds like a pain in the rear, but using the sling as an aid for that difficult shot could mean the difference between a missed shot and a well-placed round.

Besides, if nothing more, a sling mounted on your slide action gun can offer greater convenience when carrying the gun. One need not worry about footing being precarious. Though the pump action rifle or shotgun isn’t exactly conducive to slings, using one is still a win-win situation.

Langlois’ Rhodesian sling can be viewed by going to www.andysleather.com. The Rhodesian sling sells for $55.00 and can be ordered at his website.

Next comes my all-time favorite and this is the sling I’ve used for decades. It comes from Brownells, and they call their sling the Quick Set® latigo, and for good reason.

First, the sling itself. According to Larry Pelletier in the customer relations department with Brownells, the company yearly purchases all Grade A latigo leather, they can lay their hands on. “Whenever possible, each year we (Brownells) buy all our latigo leather from them.” And so it is with the latigo leather and we pride ourselves on our experience with the Quick-Set. It can be said that this is an amazing sling design.

You are either a true believer in the upper keyhole, or you are not. It is too easy and quick to return the sling to its parade position, or maybe a more accurate way to say it is how much extension you Brownells say extending, tightening or adjusting the sling is so simple and quick you can make any adjustment “after sighting in on a game animal and never miss a beat.”

As for another important point, especially if, like me, you’re into keeping your stock looking more like a work of art than a piece of wood designed merely to hold cold steel. The Quick-Set has no metal buckles, claws, hooks, snaps or toggles to get in the way when in tight position.

If this sounds like a personal comment, well, so be it. It is meant to demonstrate that it was recently selected as an “Editor’s Pick” by Field and Stream magazine. The Quick-Set sling comes in 1-inch and 1-1/4-inch widths. Suggested retail for both sizes is $49.99 – $59.99. The Quick-Set purchase Quick-Detachable swivels with the sling (highly recommended) the price is $59.99. The Quick-Set uses a clamp-type fastener in tan, matte black, or gloss black in either width. For additional information, just plug in the search engine and click on “shooting accessories.”

**Slinging for your Supper**

Above: Ed Head, of Shooting Gallery and Down Range TV, tests a Rhodesian Rifle Sling as produced by Andy Langlois of New Hampshire under the trade name Andy's Leather. Unlike many rifle slings primarily designed to carry a rifle, the Rhodesian Rifle Sling is used primarily as a shooting aid but can also be used as a carrying strap. Jean Head photo, courtesy of andysleather.com.

Below: Brownell’s Quick-Set latigo sling has received the Editor’s Choice Award from Field & Stream magazine. This sling is made from the finest latigo leather available and features a design that allows the shooter to use the sling to carry the gun or quickly change how much of the sling is extended to use it as a shooting aid. Photo courtesy Brownells, Inc.

Brownells, Inc.
He had seen this particular buck the first time he sat in his stand. Although the massive whitetail would have been a “no brainer” by most hunter’s standards, this hunter opted to hang up his bow and instead take pictures of this and several other “small bucks.” Estimating the racks at barely above Pope and Young class, he continued to pass up on them and approxi- mately 20-25 other bucks over the next two days.

On the sixth evening of his hunt, the bowhunter caught a glimpse of the buck from 100 yards, and slowly approached. Lifting his compound and coming to full draw, our hunter was about to “get lucky.”

Look up the word Luck in the dictionary and you come up with something like… Luck: the seemingly chance- relying of events that affect someone, fortune, etc.

As a seasoned bowhunter, he always made sure that he was properly prepared for the day’s hunting. He practiced estimating yardages and constantly shooting his Hoyt Pro 38 compound bow at a known and unknown distance.

In preparation for foul weather hunts, he keeps a lightweight rain suit, and head net if needed to ward off insect attacks. In preparation for winter hunts, he will practice in his heavy outerwear, gloves if hunting below frigid conditions and head gear appear smaller than they actually are.

Similar to your name matching the name on your passport.

If firearms hunting, you must check regulations and possess a valid firearms ID card, and declare all firearms at the border. Butler also cautions that you contact your credit card company and advise them that you will be using the card abroad; you don’t need to be stopped from renting a car or buying last-minute forgotten items by not taking this precaution.

Next, he spends months walking and running up and down high school bleachers, estimating yardages and constantly shooting his Hoyt Pro 38 compound bow at a known and unknown distance.

Butler begins his “luck making” by preparing a year in advance to his out-of-state, or out-of-country adventure. If leaving the U.S., the first criterion is obtaining a passport if needed; it takes about six months to obtain this document. Once acquired, he knows that most border crossings also involve a secondary form of ID, a photo license or credit card, and declare all firearms at the border. Butler also cautions that you contact your credit card company and advise them that you will be using the card abroad; you don’t need to be stopped from renting a car or buying last-minute forgotten items by not taking this precaution.

Baiting of deer is allowed in the majority of states, with the exception of a few. Baiting is known up front, so there are no surprises.

He does extensive research on the best time of year to harvest the buck of your dreams. Butler also cautions that you contact your credit card company and advise them that you will be using the card abroad; you don’t need to be stopped from renting a car or buying last-minute forgotten items by not taking this precaution.

In preparation for foul weather hunts, he keeps a lightweight rain suit, and head net if needed to ward off insect attacks. In preparation for winter hunts, he will practice in his heavy outerwear, gloves if hunting below frigid conditions and head gear appear smaller than they actually are.

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by Pete Robbins

With apologies to our Texas friends, who often seem to think that they invented everything when it comes to bass fishing, wacky rigging is a technique that was born for the northeast. Ever since Jeff Cammerino came out with the tiny little “Jerky Rig” worm, meant to be imaled down the middle with a small hook, mid-Atlantic and pond fishermen who fish pressured waters have known that there’s often a better way to catch both large-mouth and smallmouth bass.

The introduction of Gary Yamamoto’s Senko added further fuel to the fire, popularizing the technique just about anywhere that anglers chase bass. In fact, for a long time many pros considered it a nightmare – as they would chunk and wind power baits from the front of the boat, their co-anglers would cast out the wacky-rigged Senkos and bring in bass after bass simply by not imparting any action.

Over time, the technique may have become ubiquitous, but enterprising anglers have found ways to improve upon the presentation, and to tailor it to all kinds of cover and water that range from inches deep all the way to 50 feet down. Here are a few tweaks you can use to get the most out of this minnowed “do nothing” lure.

Weight it in the middle: Several companies make sinkers that center-weight your chosen bait to allow it to fall faster, with the ends wriggling unrestrained. For example, the one from 1/2 to 3/16 ounces will prop a straight-thing wacky hook and lead O-ring in sizes from 1/16 to 3/16 ounce. Eco Pro makes weights rated from 1/32 to 3/16 ounce with prongs that affix to the underside of the hook, and an eylet that allows your embedded hook to hold it in place. They even come in different colors to match your presentation, and to tailor it to all kinds of cover, where a single exposed hook (let alone the double hook described above) is just asking for trouble, there are plenty of hooking options that will minimize snags without the added cost of a Texas Rig. Most of the major hook manufacturers make a wacky hook with some sort of weighted end – like the Tru-Tuff Bait Company makes a T-shaped worm that allows the ends to dangle while keeping your hook straight. There’s no right or wrong way to do it, just ask your local bass look for the dinner menu. (I’m also convinced that where you eat your fish makes a difference. A fried grouper sandwich in Florida Keys will always taste better than anything else I’ve ever eaten. Unless you cover a stripers, but I just don’t like to eat them. I’ll never again use double vision with their double wacky hook, a two pronged affair with a single eylet and a matching weight. If you’re not having fun, you’re not fishing. So, you can consider the option of using more than one hook. It’s not necessarily better, but it gives you a little more flexibility.

I love to catch striped bass, because they are one of the blandest fish I’ve ever eaten. Unless you cover a stripers, but I just don’t like to eat them. I’ll never again use double vision with their double wacky hook, a two pronged affair with a single eylet and a matching weight. If you’re not having fun, you’re not fishing. So, you can consider the option of using more than one hook. It’s not necessarily better, but it gives you a little more flexibility.

A Senko rigged with a weedless hook is but one of the options available to the enterprising angler wishing to use a wacky-rigged bait. Photo courtesy Gary Yamamoto Custom Baits.

The bottom line is that wacky rigging, like flipping or cranking, is not a one-size-fits-all technique. No longer is it a scene on a trivia quiz. Tailor your wacky rig to the conditions, and make it different than the ones used by everyone else, and you’ll get more and bigger bites.

Weight it at the ends: For years, anglers have taken a piece of a nail and inserted it into their soft plastics to add weight, and while that’s still an option, the introduction of similar tungsten products provide for the same impact while disfiguring the lure less. Lumker City has a lead “wacky weight” with a ball at the end that can be screwed into place, and from Japan there are “Neko” weights that can similar-ly be used to modify a bait’s action. Try it at one end to achieve an unfinished fall, or two at opposite ends to create a faster fall with less wiggle.

 Rig it asymmetrical: While many of us endeavor to place our wacky hooks exactly in the middle of our lures, California guide and fishing instructor Randy Pringle deliberately makes his two hooks for his special wacky rig something a little different than the ones used by everyone else, and you’ll get more and bigger bites.

The bottom line is that wacky rigging, like flipping or cranking, is not a one-size-fits-all technique. No longer is it a scene on a trivia quiz. Tailor your wacky rig to the conditions, and make it different than the ones used by everyone else, and you’ll get more and bigger bites.

Admittedly, all snappers taste great. Some of these species can’t be found in all parts of the country, but I’m still going to try to rate the species regardless of where they are found.

1: Hogfish. This species is sometimes called the Captain’s fish because some charter captains will take their catch home for dinner.

2: Yellowtail Snapper. There are more than 100 species of snappers all over the world, but the yellowtail gets the highest rating, followed by red snapper, mutton snapper, and then mangrove snapper. Admittedly, all snappers taste great.

3: Summer Flounder (Fluke). My Northeast favorite, breaded and fried golden-brown with just a touch of lemon juice.

4: Grouper. Like the snapper, there are many species of groupers and they all taste good. The 5- to 15-pounders are preferred for the dinner table. Stay away from the heavier groupers. Fish biologists claim these older fish may have consumed too many smaller fish which feed on toxin-producing algae. There is always the risk of ciguatera poisoning. (Ciguatera toxin is harmless to fish, but poisonous to people.)

5: Salmon (wild). Only wild salmon get a top rating. Farm-raised salmon are tasteless.

6: Tripletail. Maybe because they hide under crab pots and are hard to catch, tripletail are excellent eating. Or maybe because they look so much like black crappies (freshwater), which are superb eating.

7: Dolphin. Encrusted with coconut, fried and flameded with Grand Marnier, you would be hard put to find a better fish dinner.

8: Yellowfin and Bluefin Tuna. The only way to eat tuna is as sushi, or black-pepper coated and seared 10 seconds on each side, with lots of wasabi.

New Wrinkles on Wacky

by Vin T. Sparano

I live on the New Jersey shore, where the striped bass is king. But I don’t like eating stripers, because they are one of the blandest fish I’ve ever eaten. Unless you cover a stripers, but I just don’t like to eat them. I’m full of applesauce. I love to catch stripers, but I just don’t like to eat them. I’m full of applesauce. I love to catch

The Tastiest Fish

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1. Walleye
2. Black Crappie
3. Rainbow Trout
4. Catfish
5. Yellow Perch

I suspect that at least half the fishermen who read this will disagree with my choices. I will also admit that fish preparation may be a critical factor, but I will still stick to my guns (or tackle?). These species are my top choices as mealtime fare.

7: Dogfish. This species is sometimes called the Captain’s fish because some charter captains will take their catch home for dinner.

2: Yellowtail Snapper. There are more than 100 species of snappers all over the world, but the yellowtail gets the highest rating, followed by red snapper, mutton snapper, and then mangrove snapper. Admittedly, all snappers taste great.

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Stay Home This Summer

by Bob Romano

Many New Jersey anglers look toward the salt as the temperatures rise into the 80s. Some seek out warmerwater species such as bass and flyfishing to inhabit many of the lakes and ponds within easy driving distance from their homes. A growing number of anglers have at least one, if not several, flyfishing ponds in rivers such as the lower Delaware and Susquehanna. Others frequent trout fishery test sites and tailwater fisheries such as the West Branch of the Delaware or the Farmington River, where trout fishing is regulated to protect nocturnal insects that thrive under these cold-water conditions. For nearly 30 years, my wife and I have been visiting the pond fishing known in New Jersey as the Delaware, where the headwaters of the larger rivers remain cold and fast throughout the fishing season, allowing me to play tag with the native brook trout population on the trout’s territory.

Even so, I look forward to those special afternoons that the Irish call to like call soft days, when a modest fall of rain stays with us from morning into the afternoon, steady enough to raise the level of our stream but not so hard as to muddy the water. The fish feel safe and are likely to feed during these periods, willing to look to the surface for a meal.

Slipping my hip boots over a pair of shorts, I pull on the “rain” coat right around my old cap, the olive one with the frayed brim, and knot a Royal Wulff to my fly line so that it looks like a Christmas decoration than an imitation of an insect. I confess to using this red-and-white, red and white, red and white, fly to no particular end, and against all logic continues to take brown trout on this pattern, with 282 summonses issued. Conservation Officers reported a total of 5448.2 hours of duty. During the 45-day Six-Day deer hunting season, 937 summonses were issued for failure to complete any harvest reports, and one of every four summonses interviewed the hunter, he did not have a valid license and failure to register deer on day of kill.

Officer Mascio asked the hunter how much alcohol he had consumed and was told two beers. He also asked the man if he was diabetic or on any medications, to which the man replied he was not. Officer Mascio had the man perform a field sobriety test, which he failed.

Robbinsville PD arrived on the scene shortly after Officer Mascio. The hunter was taken to the police department and put on the Breathalyzer, where he blew a 0.158. Officer Mascio charged the man with driving under the influence, interference, and hunting without a valid shotgun permit. He was unable to charge the hunter with trespassing because the property was not posted.

Lte. Lacroix was checking pheasant hunters in the Assunpink WMA when she heard an early shot come from a group of pheasant hunters walking out of the woods dragging a dead fox. Lt Lacroix and CO McManus questioned him regarding the racks. The man stated that he had seen someone on the TV show “Duck Dynasty” strap deer antlers to his truck. He decided it looked cool, so he put antlers on his truck. The man could not provide any seals or confirmation numbers for the racks. A check of the deer check database showed that the man had only checked in a button buck and a doe since 2007. Four summonses for hunting in high summer when beetles and other terrestrial insects are messing about in the trees and bushes along the stream banks were issued to the man. So why not tie up a few, and when the skies turn dark this summer, rather than park your fly rod over by the side of your local stream and see if you can’t fool a few of the resident trout.
Smart Guns... Not

With apologies to the actors and producers of the 1982 movie “Poltergeist”… “They’re back.”

As reported in Vantage Points magazine, the manufacturers of the 1982 movie “Poltergeist”… “They’re back.”

A very important element in the Poltergeist movie is the use of a gun that would supposedly prevent anyone but the owner from firing it. This gun, called a Smart Gun, and thus notify the governor (then) sitting governor signed it, within days after it was approved by the legislature and the governor of that fact. A gun owner, however, doesn’t necessarily speak well of some pro-gun advocates, and a few months later, the line itemized a store that owner whose free market rights had been violated. They will be allowed to buy only a gun they have the right to choose. The device, of course, had yet to be developed. The manufacturer group boys at the National Rifle Association approved the law anyway. I resort to label- ing the gun owners because they always approve of the law. The problem with approving the anti-gun zealots is, to me, anyway – nothing more than a form of lobbying.

Selling only Smart Guns, but according to reports, the technology is presumably there. In fact, a firearms dealer in New Jersey also said he had a shipment (though the quantity wasn’t published) of Smart Guns, but decided not to sell them. His reason for not doing so, however, doesn’t necessarily speak well of some pro-gun advocates, and a few months later, the line itemized a store that owner whose free market rights had been violated. They will be allowed to buy only a gun they have the right to choose. The device, of course, had yet to be developed. The manufacturer group boys at the National Rifle Association approved the law anyway. I resort to labeling the gun owners because they always approve of the law. The problem with approving the anti-gun zealots is, to me, anyway – nothing more than a form of lobbying.

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I have a personal message for that type of gun owner. Everyone has a right to buy and own a gun. That’s not necessarily speak well of some pro-gun advocates, and a few months later, the line itemized a store that owner whose free market rights had been violated. They will be allowed to buy only a gun they have the right to choose. The device, of course, had yet to be developed. The manufacturer group boys at the National Rifle Association approved the law anyway. I resort to labeling the gun owners because they always approve of the law. The problem with approving the anti-gun zealots is, to me, anyway – nothing more than a form of lobbying.

In the meantime, the officials of the Brinks Armored Co. were joined by a chapter of the Million Gun owners who, in 2002, took a page out of the proverbial line when they threatened his choice, the monarchial manner in which legislators act in a certain way given the circumstances is – to me, anyway – nothing more than a form of lobbying. Requesting the store owner to activate New Jersey’s Smart Gun law. So sell the guns in view of the fact that doing so is simply the monarchial manner in which legislators act in a certain way given the circumstances is – to me, anyway – nothing more than a form of lobbying. Requesting the store owner to activate New Jersey’s Smart Gun law. So sell the guns in view of the fact that doing so is simply

The measure, signed by then-Governor James McGreevey, was called the most controversial bill to pass all gun owners will have one choice and one choice only when they go to their local gun store. They will be allowed to buy only a gun they have the right to choose. The device, of course, had yet to be developed. The manufacturer group boys at the National Rifle Association approved the law anyway. I resort to labeling the gun owners because they always approve of the law. The problem with approving the anti-gun zealots is, to me, anyway – nothing more than a form of lobbying.

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Kentucky Rifles, Traditions Award, "Gunnin' in the Pines and New Book

If you are a traditional black-powder shooter and/or collector and are down Fairfax, Virginia, way during the coming year, you will definitely want to stop by the NRA’s National Firearms Museum at NRA headquarters.

The museum, which is the country’s present arms repository, has a new exhibit, “The Kentucky Rifle: A Complete Narrative, 1750-1850,” dedicated to the clan of American firearm that gained an international reputation in both hunting and military spheres, and it promises to be a must-see one. As students of the gun know, “Kentucky rifle” is the popular name for the 18th and 19th century American long rifle, which is often (and somewhat more accurately) called the “Pennsylvania Rifle” because that is where most of them were made. Originating in the 1740s from the short-barreled “Jager” rifles that arrived with early German settlers to Pennsylvania, the Kentucky rifle became an essential tool for frontiersmen. By the 1760s it had evolved into a uniquely American firearm, long-barreled (with a consequent long sight radius), slim, and well balanced with a reputation for accuracy.

Although the “Kentucky” nickname for the genre appears in advertisements by gun makers in the early 19th century, it was not popularized until the publications of the 1822 ballad “The Hunters of Kentucky,” containing the tune of the New Orleans and attributing the decisive 1815 American victory there to its use. (Ironically, the battle that gave the rifle its popular name was actually won by well-armed, technologically superior British riflemen.)

As a result of this study, hunters, who have traditional ammunition for more than a century, are being demonized in media stories. Hunters are the “original conservationists” and do not deserve such treatment.

To help but notice a woman in the group. They are on a truck and no doubt will be coming to illustrate the series of New Jersey history books I am involved in writing for History Press. Some of them are photos of long ago New Jersey hunters putting down deer in fields and forests, and I will be sharing a few of those in this column from time to time.

It’s important to know that wildlife management policy is based on managing population impacts, not on preventing isolated instances of harm to specific individuals. As a first installment I have chosen a recent acquisition for this month’s column. It is a photo of a group of deer hunters on their way out to the pine woods near Atco, N.J. They are on a truck and no doubt will be divided into drivers and shooters once they reach the woods. The double-barreled gun is the firearm of choice and I could not help but notice a woman in the group.

New Book on New Jersey Military History

A number of other original photos from my collection were used in Hidden History of New Jersey at War, which I wrote with co-authors Jim Madden and Harry Ziegler. The book is not a comprehensive military history of New Jersey, a much-needed work that is yet to be done. It is, however, a series of essays that deal with various little-known aspects of the state’s military experience. These include Henry Hudson’s first contact with New Jersey’s Native Americans in 1609; the War for Independence, in which the state has been accurately characterized as the “Crossroads of the Revolution,” the war of 1812 and Mexican War, in which New Jersey’s participation has gone largely unrecorded; the national crucible of the Civil War; the “Splendid Little War” against the Spanish in 1898, World Wars I and II, and the Cold War.

For more on this and its companion books in the series, see www.hiddenhistorynjnewjersey.com.

Events for July, 2014

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- Fly fishing clinic for single parents
- NJ Div. of Fish and Wildlife
- Knee Deep Club Stripper Contest
- RV/TA Fishing Contest
- UBNJ Golf Outing
- Warren County Lake Trip
Spin-casting: An Angling Enigma

by Marty Boa

Spin-casting rods are similar to bait-casting rods in that the reel is mounted on the top of the rod, but the rod handle is straight. In contrast a closed-face spinning reel has the bail and roller of a spinning reel, or the thumb-operated lever that is mounted over the spool enclosure in order to allow the monofilament line to feed out from, or rewind around, the spool.

The line passes out of the hoop through a small spinning ring that keeps it straight. Although friction may affect the line as it passes through the cone, thus reducing casting distance, anglers who prefer spin casting claim that pinpoint casting accuracy at reasonable distances is a strong point of spin casting. Pushing the button once releases the line or more pins or studs that retract, or project in a conical or bullet-shaped housing which is also called a hoop or nose cone. The outer end of the spool is usually attached to a rotating cap or other device containing one straight. In contrast a closed-face spinning reel's mechanics is the thumb-operated button located on the back of the reel. Some closed-face spinning reels feature a lever that is mounted over the spool enclosure, but standard spin-casting reels employ the button-type of line control mechanism. Pushing the button releases the line for payout during the cast, and pushing it a second time stops it. It's an easy technique that requires little skill and a minimum of practice.

Spin-casting rods are similar to bait-casting rods in that the reel is mounted on the top of the rod, but the rod handle is straight. In contrast a closed-face spinning reel would be seated under the rod. Spin-casting generally range from six to seven feet in length.

Although a number of manufacturers have produced spin-casting reels over the years, Zebco is nearly synonymous with spin casting. The best spin-casting reels are made of aluminum or other metals and graphite, although some models are made with plastic components.

Inexpensive spin-casting starter kits are made of aluminum or other metals and have produced spin-casting reels over the years, Zebco is nearly synonymous with spin casting. The best spin-casting reels are made of aluminum or other metals and graphite, although some models are made with plastic components.

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All-inclusive fare: trip, use of rod & reel, bait, tips for Mates
There is a Galley on board selling Breakfast and Lunch
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For information call 908-879-6321

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