Domestic Violence Bill Threatens Gunowners

The New Jersey Assembly Law & Public Safety Committee considered and passed A4218, revising the state's domestic violence laws, on Monday, June 1 at 1:30 pm, according to a release from the Association of NJ Rifle and Pistol Clubs.

"On the surface, A4218 seems well-intentioned," the release notes, "but instead of focusing on increasing the severity of punishment for those who commit actual violent acts, the legislation seems obsessed with harassing and intimidating anyone who owns firearms and is accused of domestic violence, even where no actual violence has occurred - which is often the case under existing New Jersey law.

"Among other things, A4218: (a) abolishes the forfeiture and destruction of firearms without a due process forfeiture hearing and without compensation, even where the firearms are unrelated to the act complained of, in violation of a recent U.S. Supreme Court decision; (b) Criminalizes small legal acts like failure to register a firearm even if that firearm has previously been sold or stolen; (c) Compels gun owners to waive their Fifth Amendment rights (against self-incrimination) under threat of criminal penalty, within a 48-hour time frame; (d) Mandates the surrender of firearms with (d) due process hearing and without compensation; (e) During weekends and holidays when dealers are closed and cannot accept the surrender of firearms; (f) Authorizes the NFA law enforcement officers to charge unspecified 'fees' for the storage of seized firearms, even where a person is merely creating a gun safety zone; (g) Fails to punish those who make false domestic violence allegations to gain tactical advantage in divorce cases, or out of spite, and fails to provide relief or a rights restoration process for those victimized by false allegations.

"It comes as a surprise to many that under current New Jersey law, the grounds for a 'domestic violence act' may be as minor as a verbal argument that the other party can easily cause (or create) (harassment). A verbal argument with no violent act whatsoever can and frequently does result in seizure and forfeiture of firearms, and permanent loss of gun rights. There is even one infamous case where throwing pretzels resulted in a domestic violence claim. Other similar types of non-violent acts that constitute 'domestic violence' can result in firearms forfeiture include staying in the home despite being asked to leave by a spouse who holds title to the home (criminal trespass), and scaring a spouse with a Halloween mask (putting another in fear by physical menace). There are several others, and they arise on a regular basis.

"Unfortunately, A4218, which appears to be a part of a larger national agenda, fails to recognize that New Jersey law is unique in allowing minor non-violent acts to be classified as a domestic violence act, each of which can result in the loss of firearms and the right to own firearms.

"We oppose this legislation, as we believe that New Jersey's gun laws already have the appropriate balance between protecting our citizens and ensuring a safe and secure community. We urge the Legislature to reject A4218 and work towards a solution that respects the rights of gun owners and ensures public safety."

Memorandum of Understanding (MOU)

Provides a better structure of getting artificial reefs built with the state; material providers and contractors were discussed. This MOU was three years in the making and the details of it were presented to various stakeholders at an April 15 meeting chaired by DEP. By June, the final regulations of this MOU were expected to be finalized and presented to the public.

Hudson Fowd Charity Clays Shoot

Scheduled for May 17 and members were asked to participate in it.

Bass Pro Opening Event in Atlantic City

The NJOA participated in it, by cooking food and offering refreshments to the thousands of people who showed up for it. This was a fun event and we shared our experiences with it.

Marine Funding: Senator Kean at an earlier meeting indicated that he is further into seeing how the Division of Fish and Wildlife could be relieved of paying benefits for its employees that would cost the state more money for its operating expenses. Ed Markowski reported that he talked to Senator Kean and he is still pursuing this effort.

Island Beach State Walkway issue

The NJ Beach Buggy Association's President Tim Burden reported that the NBBJA supported a $3 fee for boaters to use this walkway. He was unable to see how the Division of Fish and Wildlife could be relieved of paying benefits for its employees that would cost the state more money for its operating expenses. Ed Markowski reported that he talked to Senator Kean and he is still pursuing this effort.

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Myself, I’ll take the Arrow version of this upbeat Latin song over any of the others, anytime... and remember that I’m mostly a classical music guy at heart. But the lyrics and feeling of this recording are incredibly moved by the athleticism and dedication to each sport in which these champions competed. They truly gave their all.

Tri-State Games will again be a part of the Wheelblazers Grand Prix. Both the 5K road race and the 5000 Meter Open are registered events for this competition. For further information and Grand Prix entry, please consult the Tri-State website at www.tswa.com.

Anyone wishing to volunteer for any future events please contact Jimmy Cuervas at 551-655-4176 or jcuevas1969@comcast.net.

Return your renewal with the eDelivered box checked and by entering your email address twice in the boxes provided. Please check box to activate eDeliver!

Dear Oliver,

Smore years ago I sent to you (and you published) a letter I had written concerning how an annual physical exam for sportsmen could possibly save their lives. Other sportsman’s magazines, including Buckmasters, also published it.

It is entitled “How Dee Hunting Saved My Life,” and I believe it is time to publish it again.

I had saved just one life, it would be well worth it.

The article is attached, and I want you to thank your continuing support of all sportsmen.

Bob Hannon
Denville, NJ

(But’s letter read as follows.) During my forties, my wife started to hug me about getting an annual physical exam. Her part “are getting older; dear” was a familiar phrase she would utter to me. But being a guy, I ignored such good advice.

However, by the time I turned 50, I started to think about what she was saying. Being an avid deer hunter, I didn’t want to have a heart attack while I was walking in the woods hunting. So I started having annual physical exam. During one of these routine exams, my doctor felt a large growth on my right kidney. I never felt any pain or had any symptoms which would have alerted me to the seriousness of the situation.

After a few hospital tests, it was diagnosed as kidney cancer and it required removal of the entire kidney. After surgery, the surgeon told me that a very large tumor was attached to the kidney, and if it wasn’t discovered when it was then it probably would have killed me in the near future. Remember, I never felt any pain while this tumor was growing on my kidney.

Today, I am a cancer survivor (I can live a long life with only one kidney), and I not only can thank my doctors, but I can thank deer hunting for saving my life.

Alk’s bluefish tournament was held out of Chestnut Neck Marina in Port Republic. The event was created to provide a fishing
Mystery of Kite Fishing

by Vin T. Sparano

I'm sure that many New Jersey fishermen, at one time or another have seen a boat flying a kite. Unless you're on the boat or part of a charter, you might not know how kite fishing works. It's not that complicated and you may be surprised that kite fishing is already in use in Northeast waters for sharks, striped bass, and bluefish, as well as billfish and tuna.

No one seems to know for sure where fishing with a kite originated. But for starters I'll usually bring a skilled captain and mate to fish live baits off one or two kites. The kites are generally made of rip-stop nylon and flown on 80- or 100-pound-test line connected to a short kite rod. Kite rods are typically about three feet with one or two guides. Kites come in various models to handle winds up to 25 miles per hour, the current, and varying conditions.

Attached to the kite are one or more release clips, the same as the clips used on outriggers. Each clip is assigned to a rod and reel baited with a live bait or any other bait available. (Dead baits can be used, but live baits are preferred.) The line is passed through the release clips on the kite and fed out along the kite line and lowered until the bait is literally dancing on the surface. Sometimes the rods, rigged the same way, can be fished off one kite. Some skilled captains and mates can actually launch two kites and simultaneously run as many as six baits, three off each kite. Styrofoam markers are sometimes used above the baits to keep track of them.

In general, the kite rod and two fishing rods are placed in a three-way rod holder with the short kite rod in the middle. The mate must constantly monitor all three rods, keeping the kite flying and raising or lowering the baits to keep them active of the surface. Some mates use electric reels on the kite rod to make it easier to retrieve the kites.

Kite fishing is exciting and very productive. Under the right conditions it is not uncommon for surface feeding fish to come completely out of the water to hit a bait skipped on the surface. And many anglers would agree that it's always exciting to see a fish strike a bait on the surface.

Mate Sam Woodens monitors a kite fishing setup. The middle rod flies the kite. The rods with live baits on either side are attached to the kite line with release clips. The baits are lowered and fished on the surface. Aggressive surface feeders will often jump clear of the water to hit a bait. Vin Sparano photo.

Summertime Surf a Fun Experience

by Milt Rosko

It's doublyl there's a single spot along Jersey's 125 miles of coastline that doesn't hold a population of hungry scrappers that move into the beautiful surf as they search for a meal.

The beaches and adjoining surf is populated by bathers, swimmers, and surfers throughout most of the day, but there's usually plenty of room before they arrive and after they leave to try your luck. And luck it is, for you just never know what's going to inveigle the charming white water, be it striped bass, weakfish, bluefish, cruser, flounder, or fluke. Even tiny spot and blowfish. This is much of what makes it fun, for you just never know what you'll be catching, and it's a sure sign that the area is productive. Under the right conditions it is not uncommon for surface feeding fish to come completely out of the water to hit a bait skipped on the surface. And many anglers would agree that it's always exciting to see a fish strike a bait on the surface.

Throughout the summer months it's not unusual to have bluefish, stripers, weakfish, and even fluke wallop the teaser which is fluttering 30 inches or so ahead of the primary line. It's a good idea to always have a rig such as this rigged and ready to go as you're bottom bouncing with natural baits, for it's not unusual to have the rig erupt and this effective lure and teaser combo can be brought into play and should prove successful.

For starters I'll usually bring along a pair of outrigs, rig them up, and find a stretch of beach where there's deep water inside of sandbars paralleling the beach. Then I look for a deep cut or break between the bars. I've found a spot such as this especially effective, as the waves crash over the submerged sandbar, churning up the bottom as they head to the beach. As the waves recede, it will generally do so via a deep cut between the bars. It's in this deep cut that bottom feeders and gamefish will often congregate. For as the waves and ensuing current recedes it will often carry small baitfish, shrimp, squid, pieces of clam, and other forage through the deep cut. That's precisely where you want your baited rig to be resting on the bottom.

Once I find a spot that looks good, I'll cast out each of the bottom rigs, plac ing the outrigging up the bottom and then sit down and enjoy the sunshine. Patience is the key, for often I've sat for upwards of an hour, almost to the point of making a change of venue, when suddenly there'd be a telling run, a noisy scream, a drag. I'll go to the deep, fast, fishing for sharks, striped bass, and bluefish, as well as billfish and tuna. Despite the种种困难，我们还是决定继续这个项目。
Ladies Only - Really

The Syren XS85 is designed for women only. It is a 12-gauge semi-automatic loader weighing in at a mere 7-pounds, 6-ounces with barrel and interchangeable choke system, stainless steel gas piston and is priced at between $1,195 and $4,580, depending upon what options the purchaser may opt to include. Photo courtesy of Syren.

Women are the fastest growing segment of the sporting clays market and a growing number of manufacturers are now producing firearms and accessories specifically designed for women. Syren is a company that has been making a serious push to make guns that fit women. The current model of the Syren is the XS85 with a short 24 1/2-inch barrel with no rib.

On July 20, the New Jersey Fishing and Hunting Show will be held at the Absecon Marina, located at 34 Cape May Avenue, Atlantic City. The fishing show will begin at 10 a.m. and run until 5 p.m. The event is sponsored by the Absecon Saltwater Sportsman Club.

Some of the highlights of the fishing show will include: a fish fry, live auctions, and prizes. There will be no charge to attend the event.

In addition to sport fishing, saltwater oriented shows are in essence a combination of the commercial and sports-oriented shows. The commercial aspect usually includes all sorts of things from live bullfrogs to basketball and baseball cards. Sports-oriented shows are more traditional with a focus on the fishing, hunting, etc.

In the past, these shows have been a fun way to spend the day with the family and sometimes include a bit of fishing. However, if you're looking for a show with a purely sports-oriented focus, I'd recommend giving the fishing show a try.

- David Burke, Acting Chairman, Absecon Saltwater Sportsman’s Club

Dear Oliver,

The June meeting of Warren County Federation will be Wednesday June 3, 2015 at 7:30 p.m. at the Absecon Yacht Club. We will review the Deer Council meeting which I took notes at and are attached.

We received a list from the State Federation of potential Warren County members. Treasurer report was accepted as written.

The annual report for 2014 was submitted for approval. The report covered the following: the status of all members, including new and expired members; the budget for 2015; and the financial statement for 2014.

The annual meeting will be held on August 5, 2015 at 7:30 p.m. at the Absecon Yacht Club. The meeting will include the election of officers and the presentation of the annual report. All members are encouraged to attend.

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Fewer Tackle Options = More Bass

by Pete Robbins

Elite Series pro Chad Morgenthaler carries a truck and boat full of tackle as he travels around the country, but this past three years he’s caught approximately 90 percent of the bass he’s weighed in on three main lures: a heavy Lunker Lure flipping jig; a light Lunker Lure shaky head, and a black/white D-Bomb dropped into heavy cover.

Making the selection even easier, most of his tackle is black or blue, the shaky head sports a green pumpkin worm, and the D-Bomb is one of the others. He also turned over a game camera to attempt to catch the thieves. Officer Applegate responded to the scene and confronted with the evidence admitted to driving across the lawn to collect his deer. He called CO Mutone who immediately responded to the quail area parking lot. There she located the victim and his stepfather who was hunting with him that morning. CO Mascio related to the suspect.

The man gave the officer the spray bottle he had brought with him when he shot at the quail and that he had already confronted him about the incident. The officer agreed to return to the scene at Greenwood Forest WMA. The suspect then agreed to return to the scene at Greenwood Forest WMA. The suspect then agreed to return to the scene at Greenwood Forest WMA. The suspect then agreed to return to the scene at Greenwood Forest WMA.
My son and I have found a haven on Lake Hopatcong in July. We catch smallmouth bass of three to three-and-a-half pounds in a lake where the record hasn’t exceeded five pounds. The spots to which we motor are essential, but so is the method, and I’m certain the live-line technique for suspended bass in Hopatcong will work elsewhere in other lakes and reservoirs.

CO Harp, the commander of the Reservoir, for example, does not suffer the oxygen depletion Hopatcong and Spruce Run Reservoir do after failure. Nor does he keep his cold front up over 450 feet of water, as we did on our first trip. The instant, they’ll dive for bottom. At least some 22.

My son and I happened on the method while trying for July hybrid striped bass and walleye. Rather than fish the ring and possibly resulting in a harder fight. They usually catch the corner of the mouth, some of the time.

I recommend size 6 circle hooks and the line’s breaking strength. I recall the biggest bass I ever fought, a 40-pounder from Greenwood Lake, was caught on an 8-pound test. The little one, 10–15 feet down, and another 15 feet down 10 minutes later.

When targeting those suspended bass, you’ll want to know the half and the half. The bait has all the time you’ll give it to work things out, and you can enjoy every moment of anticipation.

We typically put two or three lines out apiece. (By New Jersey law, an angler is allowed to use as many as three rods once.) We never bother to double anchor, but if you like to exert more control, anchoring in windy conditions keeps the boat from swinging back and forth. We just use a 100-foot anchor rope, a 16-pound mushroom anchor, and let the wind do the work. If you get the line clean, you’ll catch a lipped diver deep enough, a tipless variety sinks to the needed range more easily. You have to find a point to fish, and double hitch a streamer. But what is more enticing than a live herring, swimming within the purview of a bass? On two occasions...
Big Bore Duck Gun, Wildfowler Heritage, Dixon’s Fair, and Redding Custom Dies

If you are looking for a big bore black powder gun – and I mean really big bore – you might try to find a punt gun. Once used by commercial duck shooters in tidal waters up and down the New Jersey coast, this punt gun light artillery was mounted in the prow of a small boat called a punt, which, under the control of a gunner or poacher, was paddled up close to a flock of literally sitting ducks. When fired, these long barreled single shot guns, some with bores as massive as 2 gauge, would discharge a massive load of shot into the flock. The market hunter would then harvest the kill to be packed in barrels and shipped to urban areas for sale – canva$uck ducks were a menu favorite, along with Diamondback Terrapin Stew, for late 19th-century political dinners.

Although they apparently still see limited use in Great Britain, the establishment of state and federal game laws in the early 20th century, beginning with the Lacy Act of 1900 forbidding the transport of game for commercial purposes across state lines, banned such guns for hunting purposes in the United States, and limited waterfowling guns to a maximum bore size of 10 gauge. Today, punt guns are valuable collector pieces, however, and a few brave souls actually shoot them for amusement. Surviving ones in shooting shape are rare, since they were often quite literally used hard, and once they were no longer legal, “put away wet.”

most of these massive guns were muzzleloaders, although some later ones were made as breechloaders as well. My friend Tom Donoghue, a long-time Jersey duck hunter, recently came across one of the latter, pictured along with this column. Dixon’s Gunmaker’s Fair

Speaking of duck hunting, Bass Pro Shops Founder Johnny Morris, along with assorted Tennessee dignitaries and outdoor luminaries, recently officially opened the new Bass Pro Shops Pyramid Center along the banks of the Mississippi River in Memphis. The Center features, along with retail space and other attractions, a Ducks Unlimited Waterfowl Heritage Exhibition. If you are down Memphis way, you might want to check out this major outdoor retailer. It appears to be a very impressive place.

The 33rd Annual Gunmakers’ Fair at Dixon’s Muzzleloading Shop, perhaps the premier black powder retailer in the northeast, will be held on July 24-26, 2015. Show hours will be from 9:00 am to 5:00 pm Friday and Saturday, and 9:00 am to 3:00 pm Sunday. As always, the show will feature a large number of displays by leading custom gun makers and vendors of black powder accessories, living history encampments, and seminars on 18th and 19th century crafts, including the use of the Inkle Loom, leather working, tatting, beadwork, soap making, engraving for beginners, hand forking a tomahawk, wire inlaying, gun building, stock making, powder horn crafting, and hearth cooking.

This is a do-not-miss annual event for traditional muzzle-loading shooters. Dixon’s is located at 9942 Kunkel’s Mill Road, Kempton, Pennsylvania. For more on Dixon’s shop offerings and the Gunmaker’s Fair, check out the company’s website at www.dixonmuzzleloading.com.

Redding Custom Reloading Dies

Do you have an oddball black powder cartridge gun and have a yen for a die that perfectly sizes cartridge cases for it? Well, Redding may have an answer for you. The company, in the reloading die business since 1946, has recently completed a six-year development plan that increased its manufacturing space and the number of its CNC machines, and has added staff as well. Although the service was temporarily discontinued during the expansion process, the company is now ready to again accept orders for new custom reloading die sets.

To receive a custom die price quote, the customer must send a “chamber reamer drawing, including all dimensions and the shoulder angle as well as clear instructions as to exact needs, ie: dies to form the case, full length die set, neck sizing dies only, etc.” Alternatively, and probably a lot easier for most folks, you can send three cases fired in your chamber for their staff’s examination with your needs statement. Because of the nature of work involved in making custom dies, advance payment, unsurprisingly, is required with an order. Allow a minimum of sixteen weeks for delivery.

For further information, or to order a copy of the new 2015 Redding catalog, check out the company’s website at: www.redding-reloading.com.
from Letters, p. 5

One of these days I’m going to associate our own “Top Ten” list, now that the competition from that pesky Letterman is kaput.

You can’t surf the Internet these days without running smack into the latest “Best Places to Retire, Work, Play,” etc. type compilations. Since it is fishing season I would offer none of the usual “best places” stuff, but something on the order of “World-Class Waters Where I’ve Been Skunked.” The Yellowstone River and the Beaverkill immediately qualify for inclusion.

A variation on that theme would be lists of streams, lakes, and rivers I’ve falled into, or trips that involved game wardens, small town cops, moomsoms, and bodily injury.

But the latest to cross my desk is one that coincided with the annual National Fishing & Boating Week, which curiously is held the first part of June while kids are still in school. (Methinks July would be more appropriate.) This particular column of numbers and places is determined by votes, according to the public relations outfit that sent it to me, “of fishing and boating enthusiasts across the country.”

A New Jersey trio of favored waters is included in the Recreational Boating and Fishing Foundation report, and its 2015 “Take Me Fishing” campaign’s “Top 100 Family Friendly Places to Fish and Boat.” Key words are "family friendly," that leaves out you and three other reprobates heading across the border to hole up with a case of scotch, a fresh deck of playing cards, and 2,000 earthworms at a weed-choked backwater accessible only by float tube.

The three Garden State locations breaking that top 20 are Spruce Run, Round Valley, and Bulls Island; the latter is sandwiched between a river and a canal.

Ace reporter that I was, my salad days training helped me detect a pattern here. All sites listed are national, state, or regional parks or recreation areas. That just may suggest that whatever voting means was available, it was only for these type locations. Indeed the criteria included “having a public body of water within an hour of a major city, good fishing opportunities, and family friendly amenities.”

Number One on the list is Everglades National Park in Florida. Three Pennsylvania sites make the top ten: Keystone State Park in Derry, Presque Isle State Park in Erie, and Lackawanna State Park in Abington.

The top ten states represented are California, Florida, Texas, Missouri, Pennsylvania, Illinois, North Carolina, Ohio, New Jersey, and Wisconsin. Moving right along, there is somewhere a list of 1,000 places to see before you die. Sorry Calcutta, but it’s not happening for me.

You could compose a list of favorite fishing holes in New Jersey alone, or do “a punch your ticket” table of writing a line in every one of the trout stocked waters. You should live so long.

You could compile the complete list in the NJ Freshwater Fishing Digest until your eyes glaze over, or take a more entertaining route toward checking places you’ve fished with a copy of NJ Federated Sportsmen News editor Oliver Shapiro’s Freshwater NJ. It doesn’t just give a few lines of latitude and longitude, but how and the good spots.

A lovely book is one by colleague Ken Schultz, former Fishing Editor of Field & Stream. Greatest Fishing Locales of North America lists 60 “greatest fishing places” that I’ve been to ten of. I’m such a slacker.

However, I never miss the opportunity to rib Ken in his article on Squam Lake in New Hampshire, where the movie “On Golden Pond” was shot, when he writes, “Remember, Fred, Fonda’s long sought lunker rainbow…?”

The fish was named “Walter.” Meanwhile you can set your sights on a goal of checking off outdoor accomplishments such as a double on grouse, the grand slam in the Florida Keys, or becoming a “wading fisher” hitting all the High Peaks in the Adirondacks.

Personal lists suggest a driving force for the ambitious to accomplish something important to them. I prefer to just lollygag around field and stream.

Life is enough of a challenge without a "to do" list in the great outdoors.

Lists to Ponder, Before the ‘Bucket’ Finale

2015 deer Harvest by season: Fall Bow 16,628; Youth Hunt 616; Permit Bow 9,447; 6-Day Firearm 5,714; Permit Shotgun 10,857; Winter Bow 3,653. Total was 52,704 (17,412 antlered and 33,292 antlerless.

Second topic was infection of deer herd by cat-borne disease Toxoplasma gondii. 97% of vehicles are temperature below zero for seven days. It appears that some need to license and control the cat populations, current numbers say 78% of rabid animal bites are caused by raccoons, 11% by bats, followed 6% for cats.

Dogs are way down on the list because they need by law to be immunized. Appears that some need to license and control the cat populations may stay put.

Third section of the meeting revolved around what do hunters feel is the main problem in NJ deer populations. I read a letter authored by Doug Pitchell which expressed the opinion of Warren County Federation member.

All regions had similar feelings and felt that the deer permit zones work against a satisfactory way to control deer predation of forest and crops. Safe havens for deer within a zone skew the kill to public lands, thereby not providing a harvest in the areas complaining about deer damage. Meanwhile the herds on public access properties are over-harvested to drastic levels impacting the health of the deer herds.

No representatives to the meeting wanted to curb the late-season deer hunts. It was felt that it has an adverse effect on the population. We must do something to resuscitate our public lands’ forestation. The canny of the mature forests causes deer to migrate to the suburban developments. Forest rejuvenation is the answer. Logging on public lands can be a benefit for local industry as well as the animals that live on forest edge environment.

Tony Wonsala, Warren County Federation of Sportsmen’s Clubs

Events for August, 2015

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Sunday</th>
<th>Monday</th>
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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 imply sanctions, 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 Sportsmen’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.


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Classified Ads

Fishing Foundation report, and its 2015 “Take Me Fishing” campaign’s “Top 100 Family Friendly Places to Fish and Boat.” Key words are “family friendly,” that leaves out you and three other reprobates heading across the border to hole up with a case of scotch, a fresh deck of playing cards, and 2,000 earthworms at a weed-choked backwater accessible only by float tube.

The three Garden State locations breaking that top 20 are Spruce Run, Round Valley, and Bulls Island; the latter is sandwiched between a river and a canal.

Ace reporter that I was, my salad days training helped me detect a pattern here. All sites listed are national, state, or regional parks or recreation areas. That just may suggest that whatever voting means was available, it was only for these type locations. Indeed the criteria included “having a public body of water within an hour of a major city, good fishing opportunities, and family friendly amenities.”

Number One on the list is Everglades National Park in Florida. Three Pennsylvania sites make the top ten: Keystone State Park in Derry, Presque Isle State Park in Erie, and Lackawanna State Park in Abington.

The top ten states represented are California, Florida, Texas, Missouri, Pennsylvania, Illinois, North Carolina, Ohio, New Jersey, and Wisconsin. Moving right along, there is somewhere a list of 1,000 places to see before you die. Sorry Calcutta, but it’s not happening for me.

You could compose a list of favorite fishing holes in New Jersey alone, or do “a punch your ticket” table of writing a line in every one of the trout stocked waters. You should live so long.

You could compile the complete list in the NJ Freshwater Fishing Digest until your eyes glaze over, or take a more entertaining route toward checking places you’ve fished with a copy of NJ Federated Sportsmen News editor Oliver Shapiro’s Freshwater NJ. It doesn’t just give a few lines of latitude and longitude, but how and the good spots.

A lovely book is one by colleague Ken Schultz, former Fishing Editor of Field & Stream. Greatest Fishing Locales of North America lists 60 “greatest fishing places” that I’ve been to ten of. I’m such a slacker.

However, I never miss the opportunity to rib Ken in his article on Squam Lake in New Hampshire, where the movie “On Golden Pond” was shot, when he writes, “Remember, Fred, Fonda’s long sought lunker rainbow…?”

The fish was named “Walter.” Meanwhile you can set your sights on a goal of checking off outdoor accomplishments such as a double on grous
**Furbearer Facts: Canine Distemper**

The following is excerpted from the NJ Division of Fish and Wildlife online publication New Jersey Furbearer Management Newsletter, Spring 2015 edition. It is available at [tinyurl.com/pfq9jdj](http://tinyurl.com/pfq9jdj).

Canine distemper virus (CDV) is one of the most significant diseases of domestic and wild carnivores. It is caused by a highly contagious virus that can infect a variety of species, but is not known to infect humans. CDV is transmitted between species and is highly contagious to susceptible animals. It is capable of surviving in the environment for at least 3 months, so the disease is most common in the spring and summer.

CDV infects a wide range of species, including canines, such as domestic dogs, coyotes, wolves, and foxes. The virus can also affect wild carnivores, such as bears, bobcats, and mountain lions. The disease can spread rapidly through a population.

Clinical signs of CDV may vary depending on the strain of the virus, the age of the animal, and its immune response. In general, CDV causes a fever, coughing, runny nose, and lethargy. In severe cases, CDV can cause paralysis, blindness, and death.

The disease is most common in the spring and summer. It can be spread through direct contact or by airborne particles. The virus can survive in the environment for up to 3 months, so the disease is most common in the spring and summer.

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Independence Day These Days

At the get-go it didn’t seem any different than any other July 4th day—at least, at the beginning it didn’t.

As I made my way towards the bustling Shannon Fishing Pier, where the purveyor of my morning coffee is located, there seemed to be an ominous feeling that things were, well, different.

The portentous feeling continued after returning home, where I dutifully and dashingly flailed around the house, any loose change to the proverbial “glass” milk bottle. It was then that I realized, perhaps for the first time, that the receptacle really is. One of the coins about where the purveyor of my morning coffee had been. This one was a Massachusetts quarter. As I looked at it, while still experiencing that ill-omened feeling that had enshrouded those state commemorative quarters.

There seemed to be an ominous bustling command center headquarters, where the purveyor of my morning coffee was located, there seemed to be an ominous feeling that something has changed since those earlier July 4th celebrations, and to intensify that feeling, I couldn’t help but wonder whether America will ever be the same again. To me and my friend clutching the menu leaflet on the quarter, that’s extraordnarily sad.

Undeniably, the Founders never took a cavalier attitude about the Declaration of Independence. Each knew full well what they were getting into, if and when they signed the document.

I think the word that bothered me most was “coffee.” The “American” coffee, is this the “disconnect.” Most folks, especially our youngsters, haven’t the foggist idea about why we celebrate Independence Day, and that, indeed, is troubling, but not nearly as troubling as those hard left liberal Americans who openly admit hatred of our Constitution and its associated documents like the Bill of Rights and the Constitution that were later sent to George III offered its citizens cedd-ver - here's where we've gone under any other form of government. To top things off, the government cannot revoke these rights, though the present administration seems like it is certainly that, the pols who liked this maneuver that focused on this bill, I'd say, that the signal that we must return to a legacy left by us revolutionaries, now long dead but far from forgotten. It is a legacy we must continue, not because it is merely a legacy but because it is the foundation on which the United States was built. And its basic doctrine has made this country the freest and most prosperous the world has ever known.

Happy 239th birthday, America.

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**Tight Lines and Straightaway Shots**

by Robert Brunisholz

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*NEW JERSEY FEDERATED SPORTSMEN NEWS*

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**Division Certifies Two More Saltwater Records**

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In late May, the NJ Division of Fish and Wildlife has announced that Mark Milice of Wading River, New York, has reeled in a 10-5/8 pound striped bass on 50-pound-test braided line and a Shimano Treble rod. He used squid for bait. The fish was measured 38 inches in length and weighed 12.5 pounds. The bass was representative of the state’s highly productive saltwater fishing grounds.

Jorge sanchez, fishing off the boat Last Hooray, captained by himself, on May 15. The boat was fishing in the Lindenhofd Canyon when the fish hit. He was using an Avet MXXL reel stocked with 50-pound-test braided line and a Shimano Treble rod. He used squid for bait. The 38-inch thick, measuring 35.5 inches in length and weighed 12.5 pounds. The bass was representative of the state’s highly productive saltwater fishing grounds.

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Jorge Antonio Costa of Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, has certified a new state record gray tautog (fish at right, courtesy NJ Division of Fish and Wildlife). Mark was fishing off a boat when he reeled in the 23-pound, 4-ounce fish, eclipsing the old record caught last year by 4 ounces. The fish was certified off the coast of New York. The bass was representative of the state’s highly productive saltwater fishing grounds.

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The Declaration is written with undeniably powerful words. But not powerful enough, to discourage those who claim that independence, as we older folks interpret it, is passé. In the meantime, we tire of the swinish squealing from trust-busters (remember the Occupy Wall Streeters?) and their ceaseless screaming about how successful companies and even mom-and-pop enterprises must be punished for their success and for being “greedy” and not serving society (I guess that means giving their profits to the protesters, the majority of whom don’t have jobs anyway).

So, is this the future for the United States? Is this where we finally become a nation nearly fully supported by government entitlements, from health care to food stamps, while the socialists among us demand a larger portion of profits from successful individuals and companies? There has been a definite disconnect between what the Founders had in mind when they placed their very lives in danger for signing a declaration, and the form in which the left is trying to remake our country, supposedly in the names of fairness and equality.

Independence as defined in the Declaration, as well as in the form of that magnificent preamble to our country, is the very foundation of America and must be celebrated with respect, patriotism, and admiration. It's a day to remember the heroes of the past, the successes, the failures, and the lessons learned. But it's also a day to remember the freedoms that we hold dear and to fight for those freedoms, no matter what the cost. This is what the Declaration is all about. It's a day to honor those who fought and died for our country, and to pass on that legacy to future generations.
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