Paddleboards for Fishing

by Vin T. Sparano

Fishermen who are interested in kayaks and canoes are also likely to be interested in paddleboarding, and this is especially true for shallow water anglers. Paddleboarding is a water sport dating back to 1926, when some boards were made of redwood. The big boom back of paddleboarding started around 1996, and this water sport is still growing. Paddleboards can be ridden down or kneel on a paddleboard, but standing has become the new norm. Most manufactures recommend paddle boards 10 to 12 feet long, with a fixed rudder and a weight capacity of about 250 pounds.

The boards, which look like surfboards, are usually constructed of a polyethylene water shell over a watertight polyurethane inner core. Paddles should be eight to 10 inches taller than the paddleboard for ease in transport. This gives you the option of using the board as a stand-up paddleboard and the option of using it as a sit-down wooden board to improve efficiency.

Most paddleboards are designed for use in calm or light surf conditions. As a beginner, you should start out by kneeling on paddleboards first. When you feel comfortable with the balance and stability, place your feet in the slots of the paddleboard and try to stand up, placing your feet where your knees were and noticing the difference in the learning process. If you do fall, aim for the water on either side of the paddleboard and fall into the water. Never fall on the board, which could cause injury.

The boards are available in variety of sizes, especially shallow-water, to recognize the potential of paddleboards. Why should we have to drive miles to reach waters that even kayaks and canoes would have trouble navigating or maybe it’s the simplicity of fishing from a paddleboard that attracts anglers.

The US Olympic Archery team has manufactured paddleboards that recognize the potential of a fishing paddleboard. The US Olympic Archery team has manufactured paddleboards that recognize the potential of a fishing paddleboard. The paddleboards are 14 feet long, with a fixed rudder and a weight capacity of about 500 pounds. This fishing paddleboard has a large flat deck and is fitted with a handle, cooler and two through holes for stoke-out push poles.

The designers of the Ahab have obviously been studying shallow waters on either side of the ocean, particularly anglers who fish the backcountry flats for bonefish, permit, brown trout, and similar species that inhabit the shallow waters of our southern states. Sportsmen in our northern states, fishermen may find paddleboarding an exciting way to fish back-bay waters and tidal flats for striped bass, flounder, weakfish, bluefish, and other species. For freshwater anglers, a light and easily transported paddleboard would allow easy access to small ponds and lakes, cranberry bogs, and other small water bodies. This may prove to be a new way to travel with an easily transportable craft and reach those remote waters.

As has often been the case throughout history, what’s old can become new again. Even though the paddleboard’s history is creeping up on a century, the current and upcoming crops of anglers may be discovering them for the first time.

Field Archery

New Jersey’s Best Kept Secret

by Gene Grodzki

Close your eyes, and picture a person holding a bow and arrow.

A lot of very different images might come to mind. Robin Hood is an obvious choice, but how about a Native American or Pygmy? Perhaps you see a caveman or an African tribalman? And who can forget the archers in movies like The Hunger Games, Brave Heart, the Avengers, Rambo, Avatar, Lord of the Rings, or even the cute Disney movie Brave?

Imagine medieval archers firing arrows from high on top of an English castle at an attacking army. Why do you think knights wore suits of armor and carried great shields? Battalions were fought while the sky rained arrows. History books are full of images of men and women with bows and arrows, from Egyptian kings to Japanese Samurai. Until the recent development of modern firearms, the bow and arrow was the weapon of choice for some 50,000 years, in almost every corner of the world. The development of the bow is, in fact, ranked by many historians at the same level of achievement as that of use of fire and development of speech.

Some of us might have pictured a modern-day bowhunter, dressed in camouflage, patiently waiting in a tree stand for a big buck to wander within range. A few might see our US Olympic Archery team holding their gold medals. To the uninformed, archery might seem to be a firm foothold in the history books but no place in a modern digital world. Others, including thousands of New Jersey archers, there is an unexplained fascination with shooting an arrow cleanly and silently at its mark. Perhaps this fascination comes from the undeniable fact that our ancestors shot bows and arrows to hunt for food, defend their homes, and fight in some of history’s bloodiest battles.

What could possibly be appealing about shooting a bow and arrow? Let me briefly compare archery to golf. What attracts a golfer to something as seemingly trivial as hitting a little ball with a club? Simple: There is a truth in a perfect golf shot. Golfers are looking to repeat the elusive, electric feeling they get when the rare, perfectly executed swing connects with the ball, sending it rocketing toward the green. They know instantly when it is a perfect swing and a great shot. This sensation is difficult to explain but if you have felt it, you know exactly what I am talking about.

An archer gets the same electric feeling in the split second a perfect arrow shot leaves his bow. A perfect feeling shot can be rare for a novice. When it happens, for a magical moment the mind, body, and equipment are all in harmony and the result is the perfect shot. The arrow slams into the bull’s-eye. This was not a lucky shot. For a moment everyjones makes sense, and the memory of all the terrible shots is gone.

Here in New Jersey, one of the best ways to learn about archery is to try out a fun game called Field Archery. Field Archery is in every way as addictive as golf or fishing. If you don’t believe me ask my wife.

The layout of a Field Archery range is, in many ways, similar to a golf course. Targets are set up at known distances along the course. Usually each archer will shoot four arrows at each of 14 shot ranges. Usually each archer will shoot four arrows at each of 14 target distances. The distances can range from as close as 20 feet to as far away as 80 yards. If you are shooting a very short distance, the target distances might be, for example, 60-, 70-, or 80-yard distances, are quite large. Very short distances who shoot the long shots. Choice of equipment could also put you into a separate style of shooting. For example, you will see some folks shooting hi-tech, super-fast compound bow with intricate sighting systems and mechanical releases, while others shoot medieval-looking, traditional bow and arrows from high on top of an English castle.

As with golf, groups of shoot-tech, super-fast compound bow with bow and arrow follow the trail markers from target to target, shooting and keeping score. Beginners and newcomers will shoot from closer stakes and competitive shooting will be limited to small ponds and lakes for bass, trout, crappies, and other species. For freshwater anglers, a light and easily transported paddleboard and try to stand up, placing your feet where your knees were and noticing the difference in the learning process. If you do fall, aim for the water on either side of the paddleboard and fall into the water. Never fall on the board, which could cause injury.

The boards, which look like surfboards, are usually constructed of a polyethylene water shell over a watertight polyurethane inner core. Paddles should weigh 45 pounds, it has a maximum weight capacity of about 250 pounds. This fishing paddleboard has a large flat deck and is fitted with a handle, cooler and two through holes for stoke-out push poles.

The designers of the Ahab have obviously been studying shallow waters on either side of the ocean, particularly anglers who fish the backcountry flats for bonefish, permit, brown trout, and similar species that inhabit the shallow waters of our southern states. Sportsmen in our northern states, fishermen may find paddleboarding an exciting way to fish back-bay waters and tidal flats for striped bass, flounder, weakfish, bluefish, and other species. For freshwater anglers, a light and easily transported paddleboard would allow easy access to small ponds and lakes, cranberry bogs, and other small water bodies. This may prove to be a new way to travel with an easily transportable craft and reach those remote waters.

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Effective June 1, 2015: All Federation membership dues will increase by $5.00, EXCEPT for Sportsman Household Member (stays at $5.00 yearly).

The Federation offices will CLOG the weeks of May 16-17 and May 23-25 (Memorial Day).

Please inform the membership office (see page 2) of any change of address.

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County Federation of Sportsmen’s Clubs Information Directory

County Meeting Date & Time Location Contact Phone Number
Atlantic 2nd Thursday of month, 8:00 PM except July and August Germania Gun Club Moss Mill Rd., Egg Harbor, NJ 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 973-523-2640
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 2nd Thursday of month, 7:30 PM except July and August (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 Menanicho Gun Club Union Rd., Maurice River Twp., 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 908-964-5713
Gloucester 2nd Tuesday of month, 7:45 PM except July and August George Roth Building 14 St. and Highland Ave., Williamstown, NJ Thomas Weeza 609-313-7727
Hunterdon 2nd Thursday of month, 8:00 PM Northern Region Office of Fish & Wildlife, Clinton WMA, 26 RT 173 W, Hampton, NJ Loren Robinson 908-782-1076
Mercer 3rd Monday of month, 7:00 PM except July and August 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., Spotswood, NJ John Messerrell 732-828-8543
Monmouth 4th Wednesday of month, 7:30 PM except July and August 4 F’s Gun Club Burke Rd., Freehold, NJ Ken Ganson 732-566-0841
Morris 1st Tuesday of month, 8:00 PM except July and August Dover Fire Department 37 North Sussex Street, Dover, NJ John Rogals 973-570-2559
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 June and July The Wayne Civic Center, Room 1006 Hamburg Tpk., Wayne, NJ Richard Weber 973-697-1814
Salem 2nd Tuesday of month, 7:30 PM except July, Aug., and Dec. Salem County Sportsmen Clubs RT 40, Carneys Pt., NJ Dave Cesarano 856-223-0409
Somerset 2nd Wednesday of month, 8:00 PM except July and August Somerset Fish & Game Protective Assoc. 445 Milltown Rd., Bridgewater, NJ 08807 Dave MacCready 732-221-9611
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, 8:00 PM except July and August Union County Engineering Building, 1st Floor 2335 South Avenue, Scotch Plains, NJ Ray Szpond 908-403-5789
Warren 1st Wednesday of month, 7:30 PM except July and August Pequest Trout Hatchery RT 46, Liberty Twp, NJ Tony Wonsala 908-879-6321
AT THE OUTSET:

It’s All in the… Worms?

A couple of years ago, a friend and neighbor suffered a terrible tragedy. Their grown son, married with children, was found dead in his backyard swimming pool. The mystery of how this happened (he was a strong swimmer) still lingers, as does the suffering by all who knew the young man, especially of course his family and closest friends.

A couple of months after this happened, my father took upon himself to make sure that his now-fatherless grandson would still have somebody to take him fishing, and he approached me for help. My friend is actually an avid angler in his own right. He does it all in saltwater, and was unfamiliar with the ins and outs of the local freshwater fishing possibilities.

In fact his initial question to me was, “Is there a nearby place where I can buy your own worms.”

My response: “Buy them! Why don’t you and he go digging for them?” That age that will be at least as much fun as the fishing will be.

He immediately agreed, and when he and I spoke a couple of weeks later he gave me a report on the outing. The fishing itself was kind of on the lackluster side, but they’d had a great time gathering the day’s supply of earthworms from my friend’s yard.

Flash forward to a few weeks ago (this is a paragraph written a few days after the trout season opener). My father reported to me that the senior who he’d been to Verona Park and saw a guy fishing. Knowing that the season hadn’t yet opened, my father asked the man what he was doing, and the man said he was practicing. He had recently bought a brand new to the sport, and showed my father the terminal tackle which consisted only of a small weight and a cheap rod. The fellow was in fact merely practicing his casting technique, using relatively simple equipment.

These episodes put me in mind of something that I often think about. Those of us who have been fishing for some years are often seduced by the latest and greatest equipment, devices, gizmos, and accessories with which we can upgrade our stuff, enhance our immersion in the past-time, and in general feel more and more connected to and invested in the past-time. Yet now and again I find myself thinking wistfully of the days in my life when fishing really was a pickup affair, unencumbered by the myriad decisions involving where to go and which equipment to use.

The elemental joy in this venerable outdoors sport is still there. The attitude is summed up well by the title of one of classic angling author Ray Bergman’s books: Just Fishing.

Next time you have a morning, day, or evening time that you can dedicate to fishing, consider those simple joys that I suspect you once felt on those excursions of years past. It’s always good to try and recapture that mindset; I’ve always found it to be highly rewarding.

You might even consider digging for your own worms.

Olive Shapiro, Editor

More on Brunisholz Column

Dear Oliver,

I read Bob Brunisholz’s “Thin Lines and Straightaway Shouts” column in the April issue. He is correct in that the Associated Press report on this bill and got side-tracked on an issue that did not exist in this bill.

Having said that, here’s the true reason for the bill. For years deer farmers have wanted to expand their operations and import deer from other states to build up their breeding stock and the genetics of their herds. The Division has restricted this because ALL of the states that have experienced outbreaks of Chronic Wasting Disease (CWD) have found the disease originated from captive deer farms. The Division is looking at the possible damage that deer farming could do to the wild deer herd from the introduction of diseases that currently are not found in New Jersey.

Whenever they have regulations they are only as good as their enforcement. The Department of Agriculture is not enforcing regulations within their current organization to enforce regulations, and based on their current project, no plan to add an enforcement element. The Division of Fish and Wildlife currently has the Bureau of Law Enforcement and Fish and Wildlife Conservation Officers, who can and do enforce all laws and regulations.

So the current licensed deer farmers would love to see the regulation of this industry turned over to an agency with no actual enforcement capabilities, and are structured more to commercial interests and bottom-line profits rather than good science and protecting a wild resource… a resource, I might add, that they find to be a pain because of deer crop damage.

It comes down to rapid expansion with no real regulation from the Dept. of Agriculture, or limited expansion and enforcement of all laws and regulations by the Division of Fish and Wildlife. If you were a deer farmer, which one would you want?

Ed Markowski

South Jersey Youth Outdoor Day

Dear Oliver,

I am a Lieutenant with the New Jersey Division of Fish and Wildlife’s Bureau of Law Enforcement (southern region), division rep for the Salem County Federation of Sportsmen, and I am the chairman of the South Jersey Youth Outdoor Day.

That event was held on the last one that I am writing about that last one that I am writing about that last event for the 114 years at the Salem County Sportsmen club.

The event is free to any child between the ages of 7-14, and lunch is included. It is held on the third Saturday of August. We encourage the wise and closest friends.

The regular meeting on April 1, 2015 of the first Fisheries was called to order at 7:35 pm by President Jeff Wren.

The regular meeting on April 1, 2015, of the Middlesex County Federation was in North Jersey.

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Middlesex County Federation Minutes

Dear Oliver,

The regular meeting on April 1, 2015 of the Middlesex County Federation was called to order at 7:35 pm by President Jeff Wren.

Minutes approved as amended. Treasurer report accepted as read.

Central Region Report. Central Region approved a donation to be sent to two youths who will be competing in the Bass Tournament.

There was a motion made to purchase two sets of measuring equipment for the upcoming year.

Central Region sent two people to the United Bow Hunters of NJ dinner.

The Middlesex County Federation’s recommendations for the Senior License Fees were read at the Central Region meeting.

A motion was made to buy awards for the upcoming Sporting Clay Shoot fundraiser.

April 4th is opening day of Trout Season.

Middlesex County Federation Minutes

Dear Oliver,

You published the picture of the striped bass, Jeffrey Crawford (12 years old), caught in 2014, he proved to be lucky.

My son caught a hybrid striped bass in 2014 (4 lbs., 8 oz. 24 in.) qualifying for the New Jersey Skillful Angler program.

At the end of the year he was notified that he had the largest hybrid striped submitted for the Junior category for 2014, and was invited to fish Hatchery for opening day trout season (April 4, 2015).

While fishing at the Pequest pond on opening day, he landed a 24-inch, 7-pound rainbow trout (see photo below).

At the end of fishing, he and a few others were given awards and each a new fishing pole. The awards were given by representatives of the NJ Division of Fish and Wildlife and Lt. Governor Kim Guadagno, for recognition in the Skillful Angler Program.

Jeff Crawford

Middlesex County Federation Minutes

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Dear Oliver,
Archery. Life-like, full-sized, animal targets resemble deer, elk, bear, raccoon, and so forth, are placed at unknown distances throughout the woods. The animal targets have concentric scoring circles that are not visible at a distance. The archer must judge the distance and shoot without knowing where they are. The archer must remember that, unlike other shooting sports, you are shooting for harvest not just for practice for harvesting game in the fall.

New Jersey is the home of about six Field Archery clubs, some of which are affiliated with the National and the New Jersey State Field Archery Association (www.sfaa-nj.com). Many of the clubs boast beautifully maintained and extremely safe outdoor ranges and hold weekly sanctioned tournaments. There are annual Indoor, Outdoor, and 3-D State Championships with awards for all classes and styles. Some clubs have great indoor ranges where they practice year-round. Membership is generally inexpensive and visitors are welcome to stop in and ask questions. Membership in the New Jersey State Field Archery Association is only $10 per year; membership in the NFAA is $45 and includes NJ-SFAA membership. If you stick with the sport, you will likely eventually start building your own arrows and working on your own equipment. Having shot for most of my life, I have never gotten tired of tinkering in hopes of finding that perfect setup. Like a fly fisherman who ties his own flies, an archer can get great satisfaction from building his own arrows and working on his own bow.

Field archery is a great way to enjoy a bloodless game, and for hunters it can be serious practice for harvesting game in the fall. For sportsmen who prefer not to hunt, this is a rewarding as it is steeped in history, come on out and see what the fun is all about.

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Fluke Season Opening Soon

This happy angler used a bucktail jig to score with the hefty keeper fluke aboard Capt. Ron Kish’s party boat Capt. Cal II. Jigs are especially effective when there’s a slow drift, as you can use an underhand cast to cast the jig away from the boat and then bounce it along the bottom during retrieve. Milts Rosko photo.

If You Like to Catch Fluke...

The Pt. Pleasant Fishing Club membership is now open!

The Club owns a 44-foot Head Boat type boat

Check us out on Facebook, or call 732-503-1317

If you or someone you know is interested in joining this fishing club, please contact them to learn more about the benefits and membership details. The club offers opportunities for angling enthusiasts to participate in fishing activities and events throughout the year. For more information, visit their Facebook page or call the provided phone number.
Springtime crowds of trout fishing. Small rivers, including 5- or 6-weight floating line can be devastating on smallmouth bass during the warmer months, which typically feed mostly early and late in the day in lakes and reservoirs, stream smallmouths strike at any time during the entire summer, although the big ones are better approached around dawn and sunset. Big bass haven't been measured with the same depth, but I'd take big bass at times, but cast a half-ounce Hula Popper at noon and you're less likely to get any takers. At dusk, the odds increase significantly. If you just want to catch bass, the five-inch Senko-type worms are probably suitable. The four-inch Senkos are in the same family of presenta. I always rig Wacky with hook attached to the worm's middle by a plastic O-Wacky. I prefer my own O-Wacky Tool. Place the worm inside the hollow, and pull the O-ring onto the mid-dle. Rigging Wacky better ensures a hook-set, and in some situations the flutter tube, letting current do the work on ten- tacles. If at that time, those deep holes are the end of the story.

Amendments to Game Code Proposed

A public hearing concerning these proposed changes will be held on Tuesday, March 31, 2015 in Trenton. Interested citizens may submit comments by April 30, 2015 at the Department of Environmental Protection, 3 P.O. Box 420, Trenton, New Jersey 08625-0420. This rule proposal may be viewed or downloaded from the Department of Environmental Protection’s website at www.state.nj.us/dep. Exceptions from the proposal are reproduced here.
by Pete Robbins

Keith Combs has rightfully earned a reputation as one of the best offshore structure fishermen in professional angling, with no less than three Bassmaster Elite Series and Professional Anglers Association tournament, along with three Toyota Texas Bass Classic championships, on his lengthy list of credits. A large percentage of his winnings has come with a deep-diving crankbait, but in the springtime, there’s nothing he loves more than to pull a pair of polarized sunglasses and look for bedding fish.

“I love the hunt,” he explained. Finding a killfish or any bass fishing, keeping to commit to striking is one of the most satisfying techniques he knows, and one of the most maddening when it does not. Countless tournament anglers have seen an hour or more on a single fish, only to have it leave uncaught and head back to weight-in disappointed. Others will see it up or get covered with pollen, preventing them from seeing the fish.

Combs offered up five strategies that will markedly enhance your sight fishing success:

1. **Soak ‘Em** - If you’ve gotten a good set of polarized sunglasses, figured out where the fish bed on your lake, and have water clear enough to see them, you’re in business. Nevertheless, the spawn often coincides with the worst pollen of the springtime. Beds that were visible one day may be obscured by green surface film on the water.

2. **Combs carries a toy “super soaker”** - in his cooler. It’s enough water for a year. It’s filled with a mixture of water and a biodegradable dish soap. When he gets in amongst the fish, he sprays tiny drops of the mixture on top and immediately finds the fish by sight, usually a good few dozen.

3. **Skip the Rollers** - Of course, most bass anglers want to focus on the biggest bedding bass they can find, and will work a socky ones for an extended period of time, but Combs is quick to analyze which fish are catchable and which ones are not. A fish that shows no interest in eyeing your bait, he considers that one catchable. A fish that shows no interest whatsoever or leaves for long periods of time may not be. One group that he typically ignores is pairs that are rolling on one another. “You might be able to catch one,” he said. “I never have. Or if I have, it was the (smaller) male.”

4. **Make the First Pitch Count** - When many anglers try to make multiple pitches into the bed to repeatedly anger the fish, Combs said that your first cast is the best shot in a catch.

5. **This might not be a sight one encounters regularly when bass angling, but using this Super Soaker can make the difference between guessing where the fish are, and knowing where the fish are. Pete Robbins photo.**

Another poll, another list; you gotta love ‘em. The Best sports movie of all time? I’ll bet you didn’t think of “Gone with the Wind” as a ski classic. I didn’t. And now, finally, the happiest states may be somewhere south of the Mason-Dixon line to trout fish. I said, ‘“Better hurry up, time is not on your side for stretch- ing even weird rock crystals from you.”

**Happy Days May Depend on Where You Live**

Another poll, another list; you gotta love ‘em. The Best sports movie of all time? I’ll take “Hoosiers.” Best places to raise illa-

mas, grow happy weed, attend clambakes? I have no idea. Best states for sportmen? Depends on your druthers: hunting, fishing, or a combo.

My wife and I were having lunch in Island Lake, Montana, adjacent to a lake-right named Wulff. We were meeting up with Jean Wulff, a world traveler of course, I neglected to ask what she thought she was There were a few, both 71, who are putting their New Jersey homes on the market, and are headed south of the Mason-Dixon line to trout fish. I said, “They better hurry up, time is not on their side for stretching even weird rock crystals from you.”

Now, the latest list garnered from a Gallup poll. It’s a list of the “happiest” states. Of course, tagging along is the accompanying rundown of the “most miserable” states. I can see state tourism minions chumming out a blizzard of self-congratulatory press releases for mak-

_**On The Road**_

Iowa is number 9 in the perky rat-

ings. Iowa is a fly-over state. “Nuff said.” And rounding out the top ten is Massachusetts. I like Boston and the Cape, Irish legacy and clam chowder. But another ten is a in the Psychiatric State List for the worst state to be on.

The town of Dandridge is the birthplace of the American saltwater fly rod. bulbous head is very similar to a fly, and was designed to catch saltwater fish. There are many who believe that Dandridge is a town that fosters a spirit of innovation and creativity. It is home to the American Saltwater Fly Fishing Association, which promotes the tradition of fly fishing in saltwater environments.

In addition, Dandridge is also known for its beaches and scenic beauty, making it an ideal destination for outdoor enthusiasts. The town is situated on a peninsula, which provides stunning views of the ocean and surrounding islands. It also serves as a gateway to many popular fishing and boating spots in the area.

The town of Dandridge is often described as a quiet, laid-back community with a strong sense of community spirit. It is a place where residents take pride in their local traditions and history, and where visitors are welcomed with open arms.

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by Rick Methot

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by Pete Robbins

Keith Combs has rightfully earned a reputation as one of the best offshore structure fishermen in professional angling, with no less than three Bassmaster Elite Series and Professional Anglers Association tournament, along with three Toyota Texas Bass Classic championships, on his lengthy list of credits. A large percentage of his winnings has come with a deep-diving crankbait, but in the springtime, there’s nothing he loves more than to pull a pair of polarized sunglasses and look for bedding fish.

“I love the hunt,” he explained. Finding a killfish or any bass fishing, keeping to commit to striking is one of the most satisfying techniques he knows, and one of the most maddening when it does not. Countless tournament anglers have seen an hour or more on a single fish, only to have it leave uncaught and head back to weight-in disappointed. Others will see it up or get covered with pollen, preventing them from seeing the fish.

Combs offered up five strategies that will markedly enhance your sight fishing success:

1. **Soak ‘Em** - If you’ve gotten a good set of polarized sunglasses, figured out where the fish bed on your lake, and have water clear enough to see them, you’re in business. Nevertheless, the spawn often coincides with the worst pollen of the springtime. Beds that were visible one day may be obscured by green surface film on the water.

2. **Combs carries a toy “super soaker”** - in his cooler. It’s enough water for a year. It’s filled with a mixture of water and a biodegradable dish soap. When he gets in amongst the fish, he sprays tiny drops of the mixture on top and immediately finds the fish by sight, usually a good few dozen.

3. **Skip the Rollers** - Of course, most bass anglers want to focus on the biggest bedding bass they can find, and will work a socky ones for an extended period of time, but Combs is quick to analyze which fish are catchable and which ones are not. A fish that shows no interest in eyeing your bait, he considers that one catchable. A fish that shows no interest whatsoever or leaves for long periods of time may not be. One group that he typically ignores is pairs that are rolling on one another. “You might be able to catch one,” he said. “I never have. Or if I have, it was the (smaller) male.”

4. **Make the First Pitch Count** - When many anglers try to make multiple pitches into the bed to repeatedly anger the fish, Combs said that your first cast is the best shot in a catch.

5. **This might not be a sight one encounters regularly when bass angling, but using this Super Soaker can make the difference between guessing where the fish are, and knowing where the fish are. Pete Robbins photo.**

Another poll, another list; you gotta love ‘em. The Best sports movie of all time? I’ll bet you didn’t think of “Gone with the Wind” as a ski classic. I didn’t. And now, finally, the happiest states may be somewhere south of the Mason-Dixon line to trout fish. I said, ‘“Better hurry up, time is not on your side for stretch- ing even weird rock crystals from you.”

Now, the latest list garnered from a Gallup poll. It’s a list of the “happiest” states. Of course, tagging along is the accompanying rundown of the “most miserable” states. I can see state tourism minions chumming out a blizzard of self-congratulatory press releases for mak-

_**On The Road**_

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ings. Iowa is a fly-over state. “Nuff said.” And rounding out the top ten is Massachusetts. I like Boston and the Cape, Irish legacy and clam chowder. But another ten is a in the Psychiatric State List for the worst state to be on.

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Calling the Monarch Gobbler
30 Years Ago

by Lou Martinez

Keyouc, keyouc, keyouc... keyouc,
keyouc, keyouc, keyouc...

Having just gotten beat at my leg to simulate the fly-down cackle sequence of a big tom turkey. Repeating the calling again, my companion and I were rewarded by the voluminous response of a big tom turkey: Gobble gobble gobble, he thundered, he had flown down and landed perhaps 100 yards from us.

Looking back at my buddy Don Ecker, then-outdoors-columnist for The Record of Bergen County, he gave him a slight thumbs up, the signal to get ready. Just as quickly, however, the tables were reversed.

A live hen had gotten in-between us and our quarry, and she started to let out her seductive little call and convinced the tom that he should go her way. Looking back at Don, I let him know that we were in for a little wait, and we would just have to wait. After glancing at the gloomy morning unfoldeds, the woods came alive, squirrels began to scurry, birds began to sing, and every once in a while a crow would harass the love birds, and Tom would let out a mournful gobble Gobble Gobble.

Seated at the crest of a steep hill, I could look down and see several deer working their way up to the bubbling stream that ran down the mountain. I kept a watchful eye for the big boy whose tracks I had spotted earlier in the week while scouting for this morning’s outing; luckily he was not to be seen.

As we sat there waiting, my mind wandered off to how it came to be that he was not to be seen.

I couldn’t help but smile and revel in what we had just experienced, and thanked Don and “the Monarch” for the fond memories.

A year later I related this tale to Ben Lee at a sportsman’s show. He said, “Lou, you just bit the apple that the gobbler came in put you in the outside pattern of my gun, I didn’t want to take a chance of hitting you. That was one beautiful bird, WOW!”

Ben wisely said, “Learn how to cackle and you’ll kill more turkeys.”

from Game Code, p. 6

exception of muskrat. Previous Game Code rules have authorized properly licensed trappers, raccoon and opossum hunters, and woodchuck hunters to possess and use. 22 caliber rifles for the dispatch of trapped animals, and provisions allowing the use of .22 caliber rifles for the dispatch of muskrat. Previous Game Code, from Game Code, p. 6.

from Letters, p. 3

Old Business. Striped Bass regulations have been set with a two-fish limit, one 28-43 inches and the second fish must be over 43 inches. The bonus fish has not been decided yet and will be discussed on April 9th.

Elections for Middlesex County Federation will take place in May; the nominating committee has nominated the current slate to continue in office for another year and also encourages anyone who is interested to hold office to contact someone on the nominating committee or by attending May meeting.

The Governor’s Surf Tournament will be held on May 17, 2015 at Island Beach State Park.

New Business. The State Federation is looking for volunteers to fill the position of Treasurer and Membership Manager.

Members are asked to support legislation which would make legal the use of certified leashed tracking dogs in the recovery of whitetail deer. NJ Members are asked to reach out to Assemblyman Prieto and Senator Sweeney and ask them to pass this legislation.

Central Region is going to have a whitetail deer committee meeting on April 15th at 8 pm at Turkey Swamp Rod and Gun Club at 340 Stone Hill Rd. All are invited to share input and ideas.

Good of the Federation. Charlie Breslau is currently recovering from surgery in a rehab center in Neptune; he is expected to be released in late May.

There being no further business the meeting was adjourned at 8:30.

Ed Karecki, Sr.
Spotswood, NJ

Events for May, 2015

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One might be able to file this story under either of two categories: tears and antlers shed, or “I didn’t know that.”

In the first group, her registered name was (sic) Loch Raven’s Brodie Blue. We just called her Brodie. She looked too early; 28 months ago, leaving a hole in my heart and soul, and an emptiness to drive the entire team of Budweiser Clydesdales through without ever scraping their decorative harnesses from either side.

At my age it’s doubtful I’ll ever eye-baller another bird dog pup. I no longer have the time (for training), ambition, or inclination to do so. Besides, one needn’t be a wise guy to determine that at this point a pup would more than likely outlive me.

Still, when Brodie left, she also left me with nearly a decade of memories of winters and falls; of pheasants she’d point but refuse to retrieve (I guess because she was a Gordon setter set in the last related to any of the retriever breeds), and of thins-sliced ears coupled with burr tangles that would try the patience of Job.

I don’t know if walking around the woods looking straight down is exactly how I want to spend a day afield, but there are some saving graces to all of this. For openers, turkey hunters will tell anyone willing to stand still long enough to hear it repeated again and again: early spring scouting is a key to consistent success. But what if you’re out there, why not check out the areas for a dropped antler?

Besides, you might just bump the antler you could have bagged on or shot at because it never gave you a good, clear ethical shot. Oh yeah, you’re probably running a risk.

Finding (excuse me, I mean “bumping”) a dropped deer antler is the reason to head into your favorite neck of the woods, even if you’re just going there because you want to be there, to check that they have or hanging around your house, when you return home after a hunt, and of course, to determine its legality as untagged deer will be deemed illegally possessed thereby triggering an investigation by the conservation officer. They must then track or wait for the deer car and driving her home. That’s no fun.

Dropping a deer antler while you’re out there, why not check out this new-found (at least to me), just type “deer antler sheds” into your search engine and then stand back. Numerous sites containing shed info will flood your computer screen. I found it fascinating. Give it a try.

To locate those cast-off antlers, one can’t rely on happenstance. By following the guidelines provided by the author, you’ll increase your odds of finding these otherwise-random treasures to be found in the whitetail woods. Photo: shadow-wolf23.wordpress.com.

Oregon, and they have their own events and contests and they even maintain their own “scores,” if you will, just like Boone & Crockett or Pope & Young?

I opted for the shed antler title under Outdoor Life, put my cursor on it, and clicked.

Here’s what I found. For one thing, finding a “set” or pair of shed antlers does happen on occasion. But when you read the details, those occasions happen with about the same frequency as those annoying, albeit sporadic, ice ages. Typically, deer shed their antlers one at a time.

Aside from the usual knowledge of hunters concerning when, or during what period of time, deer shed their antlers, how does one know the best time to go searching for them? Well, according to the information I found, some of the members of NASHC go so far as to mount trail cameras. These folks aren’t so naïve as to think they’re going to catch the shed on film. Instead, they use the trail cameras to tell those engaged in “firearm hunting for deer.” By proposing to delete the term “fire deer” from this phrase, the required use of hunter orange would apply to those hunting in grandeur through the firearm deer seasons.

To find an antler has taken on its own parlance. I don’t know if walking around the forest looking straight down is exactly how I want to spend a day afield, but there are some saving graces to all of this. For openers, turkey hunters will tell anyone willing to stand still long enough to hear it repeated again and again: early spring scouting is a key to consistent success. But what if you’re out there, why not check out the areas for a dropped antler?

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(From prev. page) Bullet grain weights were specified for hunting coyote in the 2013-2014 Game Code but differ somewhat from grain weights permitted for hunting woodland.

The Council is proposing to add bear harvesting to the regulation requiring the use of a good, clear ethical shot. Oh yeah, you’ll find it fascinating. Give it a try.

Events for June, 2015

To see Game Code, p. 11
As mentioned in a previous edition of this column, a popular quiz type TV program taught my attention when I was a youngster growing up in the 1950s. The show was called What in the World? and first aired in 1951. It ran for 14 years into the 1960s.

This popular weekly show was the University of Pennsylvania’s Penn Museum program that was filmed and produced in Philadelphia by Charles Vanda Productions and WCAG-TV Philadelphia. It first aired on the CBS and eventually picked up by educational (public) television. (The program is not to be confused with another program of the same name that aired on WTCV-TV out of Hartford Connecticut in the 1960’s.)

Each week the show featured an unusual, mysterious object, usually something ancient or historical or substance and not readily identifiable. The program featured a panel of on-stage scientific experts, and some are still trying to come to a consensus as to what the artifact was by the end of the half-hour segment.

According to the web site “bp – broadside” (broadside.umn.edu), What in the World occupied the 6:30 pm time slot on Saturday; however I also seem to remember that the show aired on Sunday.

What in the World was hosted by moderator Dr. Froehlich Rainey, a museum archeologist, anthropologist, and director of the University of Pennsylvania Museum. Regular panelists included Dr. Carlston Coo; an award-winning anthropologist, physical anthropologist, expert, and expert on the Far East; and Dr. Schuyler Cammann, an author and expert on the Far East. Dr. Matthew Matthew, an anthropologist, and expert on the Middle East; and Dr. Froehlich Rainey, a museum archeologist, anthropologist, and director of the University of Pennsylvania Museum.

The entire production was cleverly guided and unfortunately long tale of disaster. The cast and crew lasted until the motor tilts, steers and attaches to boat transom or display stand just like the real thing.

This model motor was made between 1956 and 1962. In an article published in the Lake George Mirror (August 30, 2013), writer and authoritative toy mark expert Mark Shear in penciled notes in the margin that K&O produced miniature outboard motors from 1952-1962 before going out of production. As reported by Lamb and sources at V-Z Marine (Coldspings, Texas), K&O was granted a trademark for the nameboat in 1951 to receive permission to manufacture exact replicas of the actual motors of the day and use the nameboat.

Research indicates that the same paint used on the real motors was often used in toys.

The model replicas were sold in toys stores, hobby shops, sporting goods stores, and marine supply outlets, with Johnson, Evinrude, and Mercury dealers reportedly selling them to real boating customers for their children to play with. Expensive toys were built from the kit, with many dealers pricing those purchased using a New Jersey Firearms ID Card, New Jersey Handgun Permit in possession in a home. One astute commentator on this law characterized it, quite accurately, as “an incredible piece of legislation that legally and visibly furnishes firearms in a vehicle. Potential ridicule to companies when they are developed and retailers pay a lot of attention to surveys used in the field, providing data essential to companies when they are developing and retailers pay a lot of attention to surveys used in the field, providing data essential to understanding hunting and shooting equipment trends. Other Outdoor Sports factories, as Southwick’s, provide the information that Sportsmen spent $207 million on trail cameras in 2014 and that the average modern sporting rifle sold for $1,260 in 2014.

The Latest from Southwick

On a more pleasant topic, polling company Southwick Associates is out with the results of their annual Outdoor Participation survey. Major sporting goods manufacturers and retailers pay a lot of attention to the findings used in the field, providing data essential to companies when they are developing, manufacturing and retailers pay a lot of attention to surveys used in the field, providing data essential to understanding hunting and shooting equipment trends. Other Outdoor Sports factories, as Southwick’s, provide the information that Sportsmen spent $207 million on trail cameras in 2014 and that the average modern sporting rifle sold for $1,260 in 2014.

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Sportsmen Step Up and Defeat Attempted Ban

Try as I will, it is sometimes difficult to overlook a federal anti-gun outcry-out that was agendas issue. That’s the reason I succumbed to highlighting the recent attempt to ban the weapon I inherited from my grandfather: the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives (ATF) is taking some commonsense steps to the benefit of the doubt. The president is a on March 9. After all, know how extremely important their par- is to let those same sportsmen and women how far federal gun-grabbers will go, and in, the issue has been resolved by the feds, the rifle and pistol rounds are one and the grooves that apparently he didn’t immedi- "bullet proof vests" worn by almost all police officers. and the administration of President Barak Explosives (hereafter referred to as ATF) prevalent. It is so dense enough to conceal a hunter even if the result was. ATF heads as well as a siz- ing what he thought were armor-piercing bullets and apparently he didn’t let his rather substantial lack of firearms and ammo knowledge get in his way. That, however, isn’t good enough for the police. It seems that in “a September 2014 update to a com- pilation of federal firearms laws and regu- lations ATF had last published in 2005, the agency had already deleted all references to ammunition, including the M855, which had been granted ‘sporting purposes’ exemptions under the law.”

APPARENTLY, neither Earnest nor any- one at the Federal Trade Commission was aware of this (ammo ban) process is valuable to ammunition, including the M855, which are considered “armor-piercing pistol” rounds.

Daniel Deese, a Georgia-based engineering/manufacturing/ engineering firm, produces their rendi- tion of a .223 caliber handgun known as the M (model)-18. Other firms make similar handguns for the M855 round, including Heckler & Koch, Walther, Colt and Remington as well as a host of foreign firms. The website for Daniel Deese elaborates on ATF approval for this model as a handgun, not a short-barreled rifle, and the model 18 requires a government stamp indicating that this firearm has, in fact, been granted hand- gun status. Photo courtesy manufacturer.

Actually, the president’s administration was so confident they could sneak this one past the sporting arms industry as well as their civilian con- stituents that they took the unparalleled step of, well, I guess one could say, cook- ing the books a bit ahead of time. But it took an editor by the name of Katie Pavlich to call them out.

On March 9, writing in the conserva- tive website TownHall.com, Pavlich “dis- missed the administration’s claim.” It seems that “in a September 2014 update to a com- pilation of federal firearms laws and regu- lations ATF had last published in 2005, the agency had already deleted all references to ammunition, including the M855, which had been granted ‘sporting purposes’ exemptions under the law.”

Contrary to popular belief, especially among mainstream reporters, AR does NOT mean Assault Rifle, nor does it mean Automatic Rifle. AR simply designates the original owner, Springfield’s, “an AR-15 handgun would, come to understand, was police officers. Small guns do not fire the M855 cartridge,” Ball said.

Secondly, try to let sportsmen know how far federal gun-grabbers will go, and how Draconian and overbearing these obligations are to the gun owners, the current administration, and the second to is known and well. We all know how extremely important their par- is to let those same sportsmen and women how far federal gun-grabbers will go, and in, the issue has been resolved by the feds, the rifle and pistol rounds are one and the same, it is so dense enough to conceal a hunter even if the result was. ATF heads as well as a siz- ing what he thought were armor-piercing bullets and apparently he didn’t let his rather substantial lack of firearms and ammo knowledge get in his way. That, however, isn’t good enough for the police. It seems that in “a September 2014 update to a com- pilation of federal firearms laws and regu- lations ATF had last published in 2005, the agency had already deleted all references to ammunition, including the M855, which had been granted ‘sporting purposes’ exemptions under the law.”

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Archer's Newsletter
Spring 2015

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<th>2-year Membership Life</th>
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