How to Wade a River
by Vin T. Sparano

Trout fishermen love to wade priste time streams or rivers, casting flies to deep pools and undercut banks. As we get older, however, wading becomes more difficult.

I can recall a situation years ago that got me into a little trouble. I entered a stream at an easy access point and started to wade downstream. It was a beautiful day and I was catching trout. I guess I waded in a little deeper than I should have when I suddenly realized that I couldn't climb out of the stream. The banks were too high. I now had to wade back upstream in choppy-deep water against the current. When I was finally able to climb out of that stream, I was totally exhausted. If I'd fallen or lost my balance in the current, I could have been in real trouble.

Wading looks easy, but it can turn into a dangerous situation if you are swept off your feet in a swift current. This is especially true for us senior fisherman. Fortunately, the rules for safe wading are simple.

First, never take a step in any direction unless your rear or anchor foot is firmly planted. Next, slide your foot forward until it is secure. When your head foot is firmly planted, then slide your anchor foot ahead. Never try to wade by lifting with your ankle. If sufficiently strong (and it often is), the current will swing your leg out from under you and throw you off balance. Avoid wading big, wide streams. It is safer to walk from pool to pool, taking advantage of the slower current to rest.

 Losing your balance in a fast current can be frightening, but you can always use your fishing rod to keep from being swept away. The line or rod tip will act as a counterbalance. If you have to wade in a bay, do not cast, but keep the line out of the water. Be extremely careful not to lead the line into a rock or obstruction. You will lose your footing and be swept away. Keep your feet in a position to walk in case you trip. If you cannot stand on your feet, you can sit on your butts and wade with your feet together. Always try to stay as low as possible in the water. You have less control over where you cast.

If you should fall, don't panic. Always wear a wader belt. The belt will trap air in your waders and help keep you afloat. In fact, I would never wade in any water without a belt. A wading belt can literally be a lifesaver in any stream. This rule also applies, by the way, to wading hunters.

If you fall, always ride downstream. It is much safer to ride the current downstream. You can avoid the danger of striking your head. Make the current work for you. Use your arms and pick a course toward shore and safe ground.
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New Jersey Sportsmen’s Federation of Clubs Information Directory

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Cape May - 1st Wednesday of month, 7:30 PM except July and August

Bill Schemel 856-931-5009

Cumberland - 2nd Thursday of month, 7:30 PM except July and August

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Bill Schultz 856-235-3344

Camden - 3rd Wednesday of month, 7:30 PM except July and August

Bill Schemel 856-931-5009

Cape May - (please call for up-to-date information)

Ken McDermott III 869-412-3811

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 | 1st Thursday of month, 8:00 PM except July and August | Fairlawn Athletic Club 14 Park Avenue, Fairlawn, NJ | Frank Dara | 973-523-2640
Burlington | 2nd Thursday of month, 7:30 PM except July and August | The American Legion 39 Pemberton-Julstontown 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 | 869-412-3811
Cumberland | 2nd Thursday of month, 7:30 PM except July and August | Manetice Gun Club Union Rd., Maurice River Twp., NJ | Ken Whildin | 856-785-8062
Essex | 2nd Thursday of month, 8:15 PM except July and August | Bloomsfield Civic Center 84 Broad St., Bloomsfield, NJ | Carmine Minichini | 908-964-5713
Gloucester | 2nd Tuesday of month, 7:45 PM except July and August | George Ruch Building 14 St. and Highland Ave., Willingstown, NJ | Thomas Weeas | 865-724-7727
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 | 609-882-2920
Middlesex | 1st Wednesday of month, 7:30 PM except July and August | Polish American Citizen’s Club 65 Abridge Ave., Spotswood, NJ | John Messereill | 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 | Dover Fire Department 37 North Sussex Street, Dover, NJ | John Rogals | 973-570-2359
Ocean | 3rd Wednesday of month, 7:00 PM except July and August | Jamesburg Field and Stream 1111 Route 70, Whiting, NJ | Larry Cella | 908-839-0193
Passaic | 1st Monday of month, 7:30 PM except June and July | Wayne Civic Center Room 2, 1006 Hamburg Twp., Wayne, NJ | Richard Weber | 973-697-1814
Salem | 1st Tuesday of month, 7:00 PM except July and August | Salem County Sportsman’s Club 273 Wiley Road, Carneys Point, NJ 08069 | 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, 8:30 PM except July and August | Union County Engineering Building, 1st Floor 233 South Avenue, Scotch Plains, NJ | Ray Spazdes | 908-403-5798
Warren | 1st Wednesday of month, 7:30 PM except July and August | Pequest Trout Hatchery RT 46, Liberty Twp, NJ | Tony Wonsal | 908-879-6231
This particular column has its genesis in an email that I received at the end of March. As any “advocacy” writer or editor well knows, the mailbox – both physical and digital – is generally crammed with all manner of promotional stuff from this or that company. New product, new program, new incentive, new marketing manager. They all want some attention, and most important, they all want some free ink. I don’t blame them in the least. They’re all doing their jobs, and in fact the partnerships and relationships that we build with these folks always has been of great value on both sides.

This one in particular was a bit different. “I wanted to send you this video we just released highlighting Blaser's newest shotgun, the F16 in all its glory,” wrote the company representative. “The video is a cinematic masterpiece – nothing like this has been done before in the clays world. I thought your readers might enjoy the video and learning more about the F16.”

Uh, another promo that they want me to watch, was my initial thought. Well, I figured I’d give it a try. One never knows when one will see something truly worthwhile, and at the very least if or when I speak with this guy again I need to have some talking points on it.

Now, understand that in today’s world of the Internet, YouTube, email, and the like, all of us have so many sources of, well, stuff vying and screaming for our attention, that most of us have kind of lost patience. That’s not the case with that piece of promotional footage, YouTube video, or what have you don’t grab me within less than a minute (yes, I’m talking 60 seconds, and in truth it may really be substantially less than that), it isn’t going to be playing on my computer screen long at all.

I was well aware of this as I typed in the link that the Blaser guy provided for me, and I actually remember thinking, I hope I can get it at least a few minutes of viewing before I turn it off. Link typed, click. It began.

And started with a bang. Literally. Not too bad, I thought, I’ll give it a few more seconds to see what happens. And it continued, unfolding masterfully. Huh, missed, well I can always end it when it gets dull or trite.

I didn’t. It was compelling and beautiful. Not only did I watch it to the end (and I didn’t see it end – it isn’t all that long for that matter), it’s set up on that website so that it continues to loop, and I found myself watching it a second time as well.

Almost despite myself, I went to the information link that the guy had provided, and I looked some more into the shotgun. I didn’t spend much time reading about its specs; after all, there’s no shortage of quality and good-looking shotguns on the market these days. But I did find myself admiring the photos of the gun, and – dare I say it – also finding myself yearning for a field trial of the thing.

Any of you who may be interested, check it out at www.BlaserF16.com.

Good job, Blaser guys.

Oliver Shapiro, Editor

Middlesex County Federation Minutes

Dear Oliver,

The regular meeting of the Middlesex County Federation was called to order at 4:30 on April 6 at 7:40 pm by President Jeff Wren.

The minutes were approved as distributed.

Treasurer’s report was accepted as read.

The State Federation sent an invitation to Lieutenant Governor Kim Guadagno to attend this year’s banquet.

People have begun signing up for the Governors Surf Tournament which will be held on May 15 at Island Beach State Park. It was reported that 30% of New Jersey’s population owns firearms.

Shades show that most couples are hunting together than ever before.

The future archery park was discussed. Membership had concerns on how and with who would this park, the cost of running the park, and if this was even a fisically sound project at this time.

Trout season opens April 9.

There was discussion that improvements to the Pequest Hatchery have been currently put on hold.

The recommendations that came from UNJ, of getting rid of earn-a-buck and closing the hunting season earlier for deer because of the decline in deer numbers, was discussed.

Old Business. All Middlesex County Federation officers were reelected for another term.

New Business. Green sheets were distributed to members and members were told to fill them out and return them at the next meeting.

A bill that was introduced to ban the importation of certain species of animals’ hides, horns, and parts into NJ was discussed. Some of these animals could include certain African game, grizzly bears, and mountain lions.

There being no further business the meeting was adjourned at 8:55 pm.

Ed Karecky, Sr. Spotswood, NJ

Comments on Gun Laws

Dear Oliver,

Whensoever a politician deserves to be condemned, I get right on it. I have to be ready also to commend a politician when they do the right thing.

When I read at the pligt of Sgt. Raymond Charles Hughes on the NRA website, I couldn’t stay silent. Sergeant Hughes who works at a prison in Philadelphia, drove over the Delaware Bridge into NJ. He was involved in a serious car accident. When the police arrived on the scene, the officer saw the Pennsylvania FOP bumper stickers and other identifying insignia that he was a police officer from Pennsylvania. The officer asked him if he had his service revolver with him. Sgt. Hughes replied that he did have it. The sergeant was sent to the hospital.

While he was in there getting the medical attention he needed, he was served a citation charging him with a second degree felony, unlawful possession of a firearm.

I had to write to my senator and both assemblymen regarding how ridiculous NJ gun laws are. I told them about the plight of Sgt. Hughes, and last year’s arrest of an off duty police officer which led to him being arrested and for the possession of a 17th century pistol he’d recently bought at an auction, and last year’s arrest of Shanneen Allen, a Philadelphia mom who had an CCW permit from Pennsylvania, was arrested, and put through our criminal justice system and lost her job, her home, and who knew how much more embarrassment was in store.

I demanded our politicians sign a national firearms reciprocity act, which will make NJ recognize the firearms owner’s permits from other states, just like we recognize the driver’s licenses of other states.

The only one of my political representatives that I got a positive reply from was Assemblyman Ron Rancer. He wrote back stating three bills he is sponsoring: A3385 (provides courts with sentencing discretion for certain convictions concerning possession of a firearm), A3221 (revisions define “antique firearm” to include handguns), and A2732 (requires State to recognize permits to carry handguns issued by certain New Jersey residents by other states).

I called Assemblyman Rancer’s office and thanked him for his prompt reply, and added he was the only one of my representatives who got back to me.

Charles Breitweiser
Old Bridge, NJ

Big Trout Breaks Knee Deep Club Record

Dear Oliver,

The Knee Deep Club brown trout record was broken this month.

Alan Toomre of Mount Arlington, NJ caught a 23-inch, 12-pound, 9-ounce brown trout off the Mount Arlington pier on Monday April 11, 2016. He caught it with a 6-foot ultralight rod spooled with 6-pound-test line, using a #3 Kroccodile. Another fisherman caught a 35-pound, 49-inch muskie which was weighed at Don’s Boat Rental.

Hunting has been the best early fishing on Lake Hopatcong in years, the lake has been “alive” since we had ice out.

The Knee Deep Club stacked about 1300 trout on Sunday April 10, 2016. 70 were 2.5-3.5 pounds, 19-21 inches to celebrate the 70th year of the Knee Deep Club history.

Rich Everett
via email
Op-Ed: Report on Sandy Hook Bay Natural Marine Sanctuary
John Toth

On behalf of various outdoors organizations including the New Jersey Conservation Foundation, I attended a presentation given by Mr. Rick van Hemmen who is presently employed by the Sandy Hook Bay Natural Marine Sanctuary. It would stretch roughly from Sandy Hook to the Earle Naval Pier, and to parts of the Navesink and the Shrewsbury rivers. This presentation was given at the Red Bank Library at 7:00 pm on March 16 and was attended by approximately 200-250 angry recreational anglers, commercial fishermen, oyster harvesters, clammers, and waterfowlers. Only about 60 could fit in the library. This turnout was due to the threat that this sanctuary would have on one of our most productive fishing grounds for both recreational and commercial anglers.

Mr. Hemmen started his presentation by showing us a bunch of pictures of this area with boats and birds, but nothing concrete about why it should be a sanctuary. He did not stress any positive results we would expect to receive by having this sanctuary. He seems to love the area in question, but is oblivious to the repercussions this would result by turning it into a sanctuary.

PIcturally, Mr. Dan Ferrugia, a former and retired staff member of our NJ DEP with 30 years of experience, remarked that the sanctuaries we now have around our country (about five of them) all end up with tough restrictions on fishing that spell, and jet skis, and diminish the enjoyment people should receive by having them. Others in the audience voiced over and over again that this sanctuary status would lead to more fishing restrictions and that their lives would be reduced to a sequestered existence.

Mr. Ferrugia, later that afternoon and found the suspect, located and arrested. Mr. Hemmen responded that he is not trying to impose these regulations, but he seemed oblivious to this major concern voiced by the audience.

When one person asked why he is doing this, incredibly he responded at length that he was a Boy Scout leader and always picked up trash. Audience members volunteered to pick up trash in the rivers, and the discussion strangely turned to this issue.

One audience member said “this juice is not worth the squeeze” and walked out of the room in disgust. Obviously, Hemmen did not expect, or did not know how to respond to, this question, and simply walked up and the translations raised about his sanctuary proposal.

My take on this sanctuary issue is that Hemmen does not understand the negative implications that a sanctuary has, but is too numb to see the complaints that were mostly made by anglers in the room. If I were he, I would have been shuffling Gloucester County during the angry anglers, but it did not seem to faze him that much. The danger I see is that in spite of what was conveyed to him about restrictions, he will still go forward with this sanctuary, and, of course, life-minded organizations can make their gains to move it further.

Northern Region Highlights

Officer Paey located a bow and arrow hunter in a treestand.

On an evening in October, CO’s McMans and Rosello were conducting a spotlighting/shots fired complaint and made a motor vehicle stop on the suspected individual. They located a vehicle off the back of the truck.

The passenger, a NY state resident currently living on a farm in Springfield Twp., Burlington County, admitted under questioning that he had been holding a loaded, uncased Marlin .22 bolt action rifle, with a gun-mounted light as his friend was driving around the farm fields. The man admitted to shooting multiple times at the deer which had been in the field.

The shooter was charged with 11 summonses including untagged deer, unplugged firearm, hunting with the aid of a motor vehicle, loaded firearm in a motor vehicle, uncased firearm in a motor vehicle, taking a deer during the closed season, illegal possession of deer, taking a deer with an illegal firearm, illegal muzzle, taking a deer at time other than prescribed, and spottinglighting from a motor vehicle with weapon in possession.

Southern Region Highlights

STC Stites located a vehicle hidden just off the road in a row of trees and conducted a foot patrol. He apprehended a motorist hunting from the same family and conducted an inspection. LT. Batten responded to the area to assist.

During the field interview, the officer of the vehicle admitted to operating the vehicle off roadway and along the edge of the field to hide it in the hedgerow because he did not want anyone to know they were hunting at that location. CO Stites issued a summons for leaving the established roadway.

CO’s Kille and Trembley were called to a complaint about someone trespassing and causing damage to property while hunting. CO’s Kille and Trembley respond to the area because CO Kille has intimate knowledge of this property and CO Trembley has previous experience hunting.

CO Kille conducted a foot patrol and apprehended two hunters. He was able to corroborate that the hunters had the permission to hunt. Not to arouse suspicion, the hunters borrowed an employee of the sanctuary’s identification card and vehicle, which something was not quite right, the police response to the area was CO’s Kille and Trembley.

Geree’s建 metamorphosis into a sanctuary, and, of course, like-minded organizations may back him and this can lead to more fishing restrictions and that is our best hope to stop it. I will track through. We all need to stay on top of this important issue and all be united against it.

Conservation Officers reported a total of 6786.8 hours of duty. During that same period, 4437 field inspections of hunters, fishermen or trappers, with 339 summonses issued. Estimated penalties collected during this report period by Conservation Officers came to $18,379.00.

Central Region Highlights

On an evening in October, CO’s Ocampo issued summons for “falsifying a deer harvest report” and “failure to provide a registered deer’s head within 48 of registration upon request,” and “did provide false information to a Conservation Officer to determine apprehension.

Ultimately, the hunter stopped cooperating altogether and Officer Ocampo issued summons for “falsifying a deer transportation tag,” “falsifying a deer harvest report,” and “failure to provide a registered deer’s head within 48 of registration upon request,” and “did provide false information to a Conservation Officer to determine apprehension.

Deer harvest data indicated that the Higbee Beach WMA is being used by more fish. One person yelled out, “do you have the data to prove it?” and he said that he did not. His answer to me, like the one he made earlier about the trash problem, seems to be made up as he goes along with his presentation, since he has no real answer to any of the questions raised about his sanctuary proposal.

On behalf of various outdoors organizations including the New Jersey Conservation Foundation, I attended a presentation given by Mr. Rick van Hemmen who is presently employed by the Sandy Hook Bay Natural Marine Sanctuary. It would stretch roughly from Sandy Hook to the Earle Naval Pier, and to parts of the Navesink and the Shrewsbury rivers. This presentation was given at the Red Bank Library at 7:00 pm on March 16 and was attended by approximately 200-250 angry recreational anglers, commercial fishermen, oyster harvesters, clammers, and waterfowlers. Only about 60 could fit in the library. This turnout was due to the threat that this sanctuary would have on one of our most productive fishing grounds for both recreational and commercial anglers.

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Northern Region Highlights

Officer Paey was patrolling Bethlehem Township, Hunterdon County, for compliance with hunting regulations when, he observed a truck parked in an area where deer hunting occurs. An inspection was performed and he located a sounds system, equipment, and shortly after that Officer Paey located a bow and arrow hunter in a tree-landscape area.

The hunter did not have a valid Bow and Arrow Hunting License nor any valid Deer Hunting Permits. The hunter claimed that “money was kind of tight, so he didn’t purchase it this year.” Further questions revealed that he also had not ever completed a hunter education course for bow and arrow.

Susummonses were issued for “hunting without a license” and “hunting during a Public Archery season without a valid permit.”

Officer Ocampo was reviewing the Automated Deer Harvest Report System and noted that there had been a recent deer that caught his attention. No information was provided by the hunter for Confirmation of Ownership, Management Unit, Officer Ocampo contacted the hunter who agreed to meet with him and discuss the deer.

When the hunter met Officer Ocampo, he told the officer that he considered the deer the head of the deer as required, claimed that he had never actually recovered the property on which the incident occurred. The hunter also provided very misleading accounts of the incident which changed multiple times during the course of the conversation.
While normally there’s some winter-time fun to be enjoyed aboard Jersey coast party boats, this year’s March 20th outing may go down as one of the worst in the case for the first quarter of 2016. Indeed, there were very few boats actually venturing out at dockside because of inclement weather, in which they couldn’t sail at all, and many anglers just stayed home.

Then spring arrived on March 20 and things began to look brighter. But we soon learned many of the boats failed to get out of the harbor, and gather up their gear, and head for the shore when the fishing reports roll in and the party boats start running their regular season

Bad move. From personal observation aboard countless party boats each season, I’ve found that many anglers are just not used to that in-shore action, and it’s hard to score and the enjoyment that comes with it. I’d like to share with you some thoughts that I’ve gathered after April 1st.

While I am in no way associated with the sale of fishing tackle, it never ceases to amaze me how many anglers purchase the same vintage gear each season, which essentially brings the same type of performance and results. The heavy, stiff rods, with oversized and weighty reels loaded with 50-pound-test line instead of the 30 or 40 pound line we’ve come to expect. Yes, it’s not just more fun with an outfit such as this.

Over the years, this fishing tackle has given you a decided advantage over those using anti-tangle leader or employ too wide a squid or strip. The oversize hooks are easier to put in the water, which lets them begin, and immediately telegraphs the strike as a false signal. I’ve seen many times when the fish will bite back smartly either two or three feet off the bottom and react like a fish defending itself.

The subject of sinker weight is a matter of personal opinion. The single biggest mistake I’ve observed on party boats is that anglers use too light a sinker. The best rule of thumb is that you should always use as much sinker weight as you can without bottoming out or throwing slack in the line, which is generally a quarter ounce or more. That’s the proper weight to use.

Bait is another topic of personal opinion. The type of bait you use is dependent on what the target species are feeding on at the time. Like the proverbial “catching sight of a pot boiler,” you’ll be amazed at the number of the launch will enable you to hold bottom. I’ve seen times when you can’t catch a fish until you put your bait into the water, which is generally a 1-ounce sinker or a quarter ounce or more. That’s the proper weight to use.

Personally, to ensure I can have uninter-

While on routine patrol CO Faith James received a complaint from a bow hunter on the Cumberland County who, while hunting, heard a crossbow being fired and a deer run off. The CO located the hunter that had been charged with the crime.

A short time later CO James responded—

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Throughout our state, numerous small streams and brooks remain open to fishing throughout the year. Here in the northwest corner of New Jersey, I began casting my fly rod and trout streamer to play tag with a fly well before the hatchery trucks pull up to those better-known rivers marking the traditional opening day of trout season.

During March, I sometimes swing wet flies meant to imitate black stoneflies that may be on the water this time of year, ready to switch to a tiny Blue-Winged Olive if the fish are looking toward the surface for this diminutive early-season mayfly. Although the von Humboldt's fly imitates the nymph pattern or another, hoping to locate a trout that has awakened from its winter doldrums.

The action can be slow unless the black stoneflies are hatching on the river, which on some days can occur for an hour or so later in the afternoon. Although the fish may be slow to take interest early in the season, there is always something to catch my interest. It may be the bluebird returning to check out a nest site, or the sweet call of a white-throated sparrow. Along the bank, a ground hog may stick its head out of a hole or a chipping shrike consternates its constellation from a nearby rock wall. There is always the sense that things can be better, swinging from one naked branch to another as one advance up the stream.

By the middle of April, “the game is afoot,” with trout looking toward the surface for the fly that would either produce a tempura and the tips of pussy willows, during March the hardwater sides are shown only the slightest sign of foliage while streamside bushes and brambles remain stark bare, making it easier to see through them.

“Tis the season…to enjoy the hidden beauty of nature when the catkins appear on the skunk cabbage whorls break through the damp soil. Although catkins appear on the stone rhododendron, like flowers across stony shoals, while the flowering dogwood trees are bursting with life. It is a time when the sun is rising, the world is swaying across the current, their songs filling the thickets while newly born fawns accompany their mothers to sip from the stream’s edge and

Asst. Director Herrighty commented that deer numbers on green trout season was a success, despite varied surface conditions on many northern streams and water bodies. Although April certainly holds the promise of the new fishing season, it is no exaggeration to say that here in New Jersey our trout fishing is up from this time of sunshine and mild temperature. There might be the occasional wild trout mayfly (the fish might call a soft dry), but then there is that sustained warmth on the back of the neck marking that week when the bluequills and tanagers are bursting with life. It is a time when streams begin to sing, the birds swinging across the water, as do more delicate blue-dash. May apples, trilliums, bloodroot, and garlic lilies send up this signal. Black stoneflies are laying their eggs, their yellow dandelion-like flowers across stony shoals, while the flowering dogwood trees are bursting with life. It is a time when the sun is rising, the world is swaying across the current, their songs filling the thickets while newly born fawns accompany their mothers to sip from the stream’s edge and...
How to Wade a River

Wading looks easy enough, but it can turn into a dangerous situation if you are swept off your feet in the swift current. The river, deep enough to fall waist-deep, could drag you from your feet and down into the cold depths. Consider the following guidelines for successful wading:

Wading is never done in the cold. The temperature of the water should be at least 60 degrees Fahrenheit. If it is below that, the water will feel cold and will cause numbness, which can lead to loss of feeling in your legs and feet. If you feel numbness, stop wading and return to shore. If you are unable to feel your feet, it is best to call for help immediately.

1. Assess the situation. Before you wade into the water, make sure the current is not too strong. Look for signs of danger, such as debris or rocks in the water. If there is any doubt about the safety of the water, it is best to avoid wading.

2. Plan your route. Before you begin wading, carefully plan your route. Choose a route that is free of obstacles and that you can easily navigate. Avoid areas with strong currents or deep, swift-moving waters.

3. Use proper gear. Wear wading boots or waders that are designed for wading. Wading boots provide good traction on slippery rocks and roots, and waders keep your feet dry and protected.

4. Stay alert. Once you are wading, stay alert to your surroundings. Be aware of any changes in the current, such as a sudden increase in speed or strength. If you feel the current getting stronger, it is best to stop and find a safer place to wade.

5. Be prepared to swim. If you are caught in a strong current, you should be able to swim to safety. Swim upstream against the current as quickly as possible. If you are unable to swim, you should try to use the current to help you reach shore.

6. Use caution when fishing. If you are fishing while wading, be extra careful. The current can be strong enough to pull you away from the shore or into the water. Always use a wading staff or a plant to help you stay in control.

7. Stay with a buddy. It is always safer to wade with a partner. That way, if one of you gets into trouble, the other can help.

8. Avoid wading after dark. It is best to avoid wading after dark, as it is more difficult to see the water and to avoid obstacles.

9. Practice good judgment. Always use common sense when wading. If you are unsure about the safety of the water, it is best to avoid wading.

10. If you do fall into the water, use your arms to swim to safety. Do not try to stand up, as you will be swept away. Instead, swim upstream against the current as quickly as possible.

How to Read a River

Reading a river is an important skill for anyone who wants to fish in a stream or river. By understanding the different types of water, you can learn how to read the river and determine where the fish are likely to be.

1. Pocket flood water. This is water that is rushing over the banks of the river and over the edges of the stream. Pocket flood water is a sign that the river is flowing faster than normal and that the water is moving quickly.

2. Pool. A pool is a section of the river where the water is calm and the current is slow. Pools are often good places to find fish, as the fish will be resting in the calm waters.

3. Shoal. A shoal is a section of the river where the water is shallow and the current is strong. Shoals are often good places to find fish, as the fish will be able to weed the shoal and find food.

4. Drop. A drop is a section of the river where the water is steep and the current is strong. Drops are often good places to find fish, as the fish will be able to weed the drop and find food.

5. Hinge. A hinge is a section of the river where the water is shallow and the current is weak. Hinges are often good places to find fish, as the fish will be able to weed the hinge and find food.

6. Plateau. A plateau is a section of the river where the water is deep and the current is slow. Plateaus are often good places to find fish, as the fish will be able to weed the plateau and find food.

7. Shallow. A shallow is a section of the river where the water is deep and the current is strong. Shallows are often good places to find fish, as the fish will be able to weed the shallow and find food.

8. Deep. A deep is a section of the river where the water is shallow and the current is weak. Deeps are often good places to find fish, as the fish will be able to weed the deep and find food.

9. Riffle. A riffle is a section of the river where the water is shallow and the current is strong. Riffles are often good places to find fish, as the fish will be able to weed the riffle and find food.

10. Pool/Put. A pool/put is a section of the river where the water is shallow and the current is weak. Pools/puts are often good places to find fish, as the fish will be able to weed the pool/put and find food.

11. Drop/Sump. A drop/sump is a section of the river where the water is steep and the current is strong. Drops/sumps are often good places to find fish, as the fish will be able to weed the drop/sump and find food.

12. Plateau/Shallow. A plateau/shallow is a section of the river where the water is deep and the current is weak. Plateaus/shallows are often good places to find fish, as the fish will be able to weed the plateau/shallow and find food.

13. Shallow/Deep. A shallow/deep is a section of the river where the water is deep and the current is strong. Shallows/deeps are often good places to find fish, as the fish will be able to weed the shallow/deep and find food.

14. Riffle/Put. A riffle/put is a section of the river where the water is shallow and the current is weak. Riffles.puts are often good places to find fish, as the fish will be able to weed the riffle/put and find food.

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Try Midnight Fishing to Beat the Heat

by Lou Martinez

“I’ve Got One, I’ve Got One” hissed my buddy Dave Vollenweider, as he set the hook and reeled the fighting fish towards the port side of his Crestliner Fish Hawk.

Flipping on my brim-mounted headlight, I could see the medium-sized, black, covered net, and after the second attempt was able to sweep up the bunker walleye from Greenwood Lake’s pitch-black waters.

“Whoo, nice fish,” I whispered. “Gotta be pushing seven pounds,” was Captain Dave’s response. A few quick photos and this was on his way to the livewell, destined to be my birthday dinner.

When the dog days of summer shed their_triple_H days (hazy, hot, and humid), many astute fisherman throw in the towel and either enjoy air-conditioned endeavors, or maybe make a few trips out and come back sunburned, dehydrated, and fishless. But savvy anglers stay at home completing all of the necessary devotions prior to trekking out. Once you’re back at the house, things can get the better part of the day... pretty good, considerate... but which establish more than mere generalized fears or concerns - that a prior imposition of unauthorized requirements for permit applications, in violation of state law.

The directive, regulatory, and guidance change announced in early April includes:

**A Regulatory Change For A Handgun Carry Permit To Align And Harmonize The Definition of “Justifiable Need” With New Jersey Supreme Court Standards:**

• Published in the New Jersey Register on March 7, 2016, the regulatory amendment will provide greater objectivity, consistency, and clarity in the application of this definition.

• The regulation adds “serious threats” to the circumstances that could demonstrate a justifiable need for a permit, including evidence of serious threats that are not directed specifically at an individual, but which establish more than mere generalized fears or concerns - that a prior imposition of unauthorized requirements for permit applications, in violation of state law.

The amendment also clarifies that the issuance of a permit to carry a handgun can be based on a special danger to the applicant - that cannot be characterized by “reasonable” means, rather than by “any” means, as the regulation currently provides.

**A Guideline On The Reasonably Necessary Deviations In The Course Of Travel Exception For Transporting Firearms In New Jersey:**

• Currently, the law allows a limited degree of deviation in the course of travel when an individual is lawfully transporting a firearm. People may transport a firearm - that is unloaded and properly stored and in prescribed circumstances without a carry permit: to and from their home and business, hunting, shooting ranges and while traveling. People may transport a firearm - that is unloaded and properly stored and in prescribed circumstances without a carry permit: to and from their home and business, hunting, shooting ranges and while traveling.

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State AG Takes Action on Christie’s Directive to Address Gun Laws

Acting on Governor Chris Christie’s commitment to ensure fair and consistent enforcement of the state’s gun laws that respect individuals’ Second Amendment rights, Acting Attorney General announced a directive and guideline issued by Acting Attorney General Robert Lojey, and a regulatory change to align the regulations governing the issuance of a carry permit with New Jersey Supreme Court precedent interpreting the state’s laws, regulations and procedures pertaining to the ownership and possession of firearms and make recommendations to enhance the lawful exercise of New Jersey’s Second Amendment rights.

The Study Commission issued its report May 7, 2016, noting multiple complaints from firearm permit applicants that statutory permitting requirements were being applied unevenly across the state, specifically, that there were unnecessary delays in processing applications and the imposition of unauthorized requirements for permit applications, in violation of state law.

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Watch Your Woodsy Step this Summer

Draf, I missed it. Again. This year the annual Rattlesnake Roundup in Novax, PA held each June. I pass the sign on the route to my Susquehanna Country camp, but have never made the effort, setting for the other social highlight of the year in the boonies — the Wyomissing Country Fair at summer's end. Country music and a tractor pull, the Zenith of culture and entertainment in that neck of the woods. When I lived in New Jersey, etc.

You want Broadway? Hop on a bus to New York City, about three hours down the road.

Last year I was en route to the little lakefront camp to square the place away for my wife and sister-in-law who were coming up for the 4th of July holiday weekend.

I would rather chew the gobbets and have my teeth ground than be at the lake for the 4th. Bottle rockets set off by mindless yahoos at 9 in the morning? No, thank you. The best time at the lake is after Labor Day when the summer loonies have gone home.

Meanwhile, I'm heading up the two- lane I spot the rattle snake round signs. Forget a Trenton pork roll festival, a lane when I spot the rattlesnake roundup on the interstate highway.

Meanwhile, fried snake meat tastes like chicken, as I recall from some good page news in the local weekly, with color signs. Forget a Trenton pork roll festival, a lane when I spot the rattlesnake roundup on the interstate highway.

So can bears, but there are still lunatics out there who think they just sing and dance in the woods and are released. They, like snakes, inhabit woods and field for a living and don't much appreciate humans intruding on their turf.

Watch Your Woodsy Step this Summer

Two "On the Road" columns by Rick Methot recently earned honors at the Mason-Dixon Outdoor Writers Spring Conference in Hagerstown, MD this spring. The annual Herb Blackwell of Trenton was the outdoor writer for The Trentonian newspaper for more than 40 years.)

Red Staff and Other Follies at the Lake," which appeared in the NJ Federated Sportsmen News last September, won third place in the Pro Shop "Pass-it-On" writing contest.

Conference in Hagerstown, MD this spring. The annual Herb Blackwell of Trenton was the outdoor writer for The Trentonian newspaper for more than 40 years.)

Events for June, 2016

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Watch Your Woodsy Step this Summer

The Study Commission found a lack of clarity in the statute that creates a risk of disparate and inconsistent application by law enforcement.

The Attorney General is providing guidance through this directive to law enforcement and prosecutors to ensure the law is administered uniformly throughout the state. The directive sets forth a balanced approach for law enforcement and prosecutors to employ in determining whether a deviation in the course of direct travel between two points with a lawfully-posessed firearm is "reasonably necessary," considering the nature, purpose and extent of the deviation from the firearm owner’s direct route.

Whether not an exclusive list, some examples of stops or detours in the course of travel to or between locations that would quality as reasonably necessary include:

- The Attorney General directive requires a risk of immediate death or serious bodily injury to persons or property, and a threat to the law by processing permit applications in a timely fashion and limiting application requirements to those prescribed by statute.
- The directive also envisions a more efficient procedure of the director directing the Superintendent of State Police, within 45 days, to convene a study group and report its findings to the Attorney General within 180 days of the group's first meeting.

The best time at the lake is after Labor Day when the summer loonies have gone home. The best advice in the really remote woods is get professional help... and you have time to do so.

Firearms Purchaser Identification Cards, Practices And Procedures For Issuing To Carry Handguns:

The Study Commission found a lack of information in the course of that direct travel.

Policy on Rattlesnake Roundup Signs:

The Study Commission found a lack of information in the course of that direct travel.

Internal Medicine

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From prev. p. in the course of that direct travel.

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- The directive also envisions a more efficient procedure of the director directing the Superintendent of State Police, within 45 days, to convene a study group and report its findings to the Attorney General within 180 days of the group's first meeting.

Investigating and acting on applications for firearms purchaser identification cards, purchase permits, and handgun carry permits.

Finally, the Attorney General will consider how new technology might streamline the processing of permit applications by directing the Superintendent of State Police, within 45 days, to convene a study group and report its findings to the Attorney General within 180 days of the group's first meeting.

All classified ads are limited to 6 lines, are not guaranteed, and must fit within 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 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, 155 Rose Avenue, Caldwell, NJ 07006; questions may be directed to 973-953-1492 or emailed to olshapiomnny@gmail.com.
Colonial Williamsburg, perhaps the most well-known historical venue in the United States, opened an “educational range,” May 19, 1972. The range offers guests an opportunity to learn about and actually operate the types of firearms used by American soldiers during the Revolution, and for long afterward.

In the opening days of the Civil War, flintlocks were often issued to volunteers, and state armories were full of them. With Treton and contractors in Newport spent months converting the state's flintlocks to percussion ignition, the new line of guns might want to take a look at Urbiet's version of the famed "Yellowboy." The Uberti gun is lavishly engraved and hand chased in the original style and has the features of the early production flat-sided receiver, a transition design between the Model 1860 Henry and the 1866. The dark, case-hardened lever further enhances the overall aesthetics of the model as it contrasts with the brass receiver. The Uberti "1866 Yellowboy Flatside 150th Anniversary Model" carries a suggested retail price of $1,778, weighs 7.55 pounds, and has an overall length of 39 inches. For more information on the full line of A. Uberti's firearms, call the company website at urbieti.com.

Yet Another Caution on Powder Use
Just in case anyone has any remaining doubts as to what a charge of smokeless powder will do to a muzzle loader, I suggest they take a look at this "back to the science" video made by a couple of guys from Georgia. As they note, please do not watch the video if you have seen such experiments before, but I am still amazed at the destruction of a firearm with wrong propellant can cause. Remember, not all powder that is black in color is not smokeless. "Black powder" is black powder or a recognized substitute that is packaged in the original container when loading your muzzle loader. Look to YouTube at https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=e8384Vqurug.

Essex County Holds Fishing Derbies
The Essex County Department of Parks, Recreation and Cultural Affairs invite the public to participate in Essex County’s 2016 Fishing Derbies. The free events will be held in seven locations in the Essex County Park System.

Each derby is free and open to children ages 15 and younger. All children must be accompanied by an adult and bring their own fishing pole, bucket, and chair. Prizes in various age categories for catching the first and most fish will be awarded at the conclusion of each derby. On-site registration begins an hour before the derby begins.

The fishing derbies will be held as follows:
May 7: Grove Creek Park Pond, Brookside Avenue and Runnymede Road, Carteret, NJ. Ave at 9 am.
May 14: Irvington Park Pond, Gore Street and Lyons Avenue, Irvington at 9 am.
May 19: Verona Park Boathouse, Bloomfield Avenue and Lakeside Avenue, Verona at 6 am.
May 21: Weequahic Park Lake.
Tight Lines and Straightaway Shots®

by Robert Brunisholz

from Balsa, p. 1

You’ll get no argument from me. Should some ill-fated soul find himself in possession of a late-model sporty style in canvas jackets with wrap-around arms, caused by the storm, they would own or possess a firearm. In addition, we have another politically engineered Catch-22 because the staff member help- ing me through this mental maze said the measure was approved and moved out of the Senate Law and Public Safety Committee on March 3 but still had to have some minor revisions as well as a change in wording in the bill before it would be brought to the floor for a vote.

The wording of Madden’s measure as it reached the committee going through the entire process a second time reads: “(expungement) pending before the courts shall relieve (read means) a federal firearms prohibition based on a New Jersey mental health adjudication submitted to the National Instant Background Check System only if relief was sought in the mental health petition and was granted by the court.”

But the aforementioned wording doesn’t mention anything about forms or checking boxes. I’m told by the staff mem- ber, however, that what it really means is that the suppose the legalize is one of the methods by which pols take advantage of those who have already gone through the process, being forced into an expensive do-over?

When I called Madden’s office, a staff member who asked to remain anonymous because he wasn’t authorized to publicly address the bill, said it (S-1165) applied to all federal firearms laws, “like those that have historically been enacted involuntarily to a mental health facility. In addition, a person who has already gone through the process and received the benefit of an expungement of their mental health record need only complete the process once, “unnecessary,” he told me.

That is, if someone has completed the process and the courts have agreed to the expungement, even if they still need to do anything else, unless they had some new development.

But how does one go about making certain they were cleared through NCIS? It’s not necessary to go to the website and fill out a form. Instead, any per- son who has to check a specific box on the

More Legislative... Stuff

from Spinnerbait, p. 1

didn’t happen to be your second amendment rights. That measure had a 48-11 approval of the Senate Appropriations Committee (S-1165) which Spin says to the committee that was vetoed by Christie. Christie cited portions of the bill that were “redundant and lacked any due diligence.”

In the meantime, the nation’s top watchdog for the second amendment (expungement) pending before the courts shall relieve (read means) a federal firearms prohibition based on a New Jersey mental health adjudication submitted to the National Instant Background Check System only if relief was sought in the mental health petition and was granted by the court.”

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NEED TO SELL SOMETHING?

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If your club, organization, or county needs extra copies of the Federated News for an upcoming event or display, please contact the Editor of this publication (973-533-1260; olishapironn@gmail.com) AT LEAST SIX WEEKS IN ADVANCE of the date in question.

NJFSN—JOIN TODAY!

Fill out, clip and mail to: ANJRPC, P.O. Box 150, West Collings, NJ 07648-0150

This mail-in portion shows the dates structured in effect on January 1, 2016. You can also join or renew online at www.jrpa.org.

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