News For The Garden State
Outdoors Enthusiast

Organized May 24, 1935. Serving All the Sportsmen & Women of NJ

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FEDERATED
SPORTSMEN NEWS

Assoc. of Field Trial Clubs of NJ • NJ Bass Federation • Jersey Coast Anglers Assoc. • NJ Deutsch Buggy Assoc. • NJ Chap. of Nat. Wild Turkey Fed. • NJ Duck Unlimited • NJ State Council Trout Unlimited • NJ Trapshooters Assoc. • NJ Waterfowlers Assoc. • United Deer Hunters of NJ

Try Some Ling and Winter Flounder This Month

by Mitl Rosko

As the season winds down for summer species, there are two bottom feeders that are waiting to fill the void by party boaters intent on enjoying a pleasant full day on the water. Red flake (locally called ling), which most often range from a pound to three pounds, prefer bottom adjacent to wrecks and rocks, usually just plain mud, where they scour the bottom searching for a meal. Winter flounder, for many years just targeted in bays and rivers, also take up residence on the same grounds as the ling, and remarkably most of them are the heaviest weights of the clan, often in the three- to four-pound range. The beauty of targeting both species is that there is an open season for all twelve months of the year, with no bag limit on ling and a two fish limit on winter flounder measuring 12-inches or more.

I favor a method action rod rated for 20- or 30-pound line, measuring five-and-a-half to six feet in length. On it I mount a lightweight reel that holds far more line than is necessary, spooling it with 300 yards of 30- or 40-pound test braided line, as the heavier test is less apt to tangle. I’ve come to favor the braided line, as its fine diameter permits me to use lighter sinker weights, which is a plus when fishing in depths that range from 90 to 150 feet or more. This is especially the case when there may be a swift current or moon tide, where even with the braud you may need eight ounces to hold bottom. It also enables me to always keep my line perpendicular to the bottom, and able to feel the slightest strike and respond accordingly.

You’ll find that an ordinary high-low rig will work just fine for these bottom feeders. However, over the last several years I’ve noted many anglers tying customized rigs, as do I, which place a pair of baited hooks, or even three hooks, directly on the bottom. This is accomplished by beginning with a three-foot-long piece of 30-pound-test monofilament leader material. Snell a 2/0 Beach, Claw or similar halibot style hook to the end of the leader. Tie an additional line loop to the leader a foot from the hook, followed by a second dropper loop a foot from the first, which leaves a foot of leader remaining, which in turn is tied to a small three-way swivel.

Next slip a pair of 2/0 hooks snelled to six to eight-inches of mono onto each of the dropper loops. Complete the leader portion of the rig by placing a half- or one-ounce rubber cored sinker on the leader between the first hook you snelled to the leader and the first dropper loop. The rubber cored sinker holds the leader tight to the leader a foot from the hook, following by a second dropper loop a foot from the first, which leaves a foot of leader remaining, which in turn is tied to a small three-way swivel.

In heavily hunted areas, stay in your stand through noon, when many hunters will be walking back to their cars or camps for lunch. This activity and noise may well push a buck past your stand. When you are alone and tracking a buck, which is usually better than silent drives. The drivers should purposely make noise to alert and possibly tangle the buck. The noise will alert and likely never alarm deer on the ground.

In thick woods, if your drives don’t work, try a noisy drive, or a drive that will easily show which way the wind is blowing.

If you are alone and tracking a buck, which is usually better than silent drives. The drivers should purposely make noise to alert and possibly tangle the buck. The noise will alert and likely never alarm deer on the ground.
### County Federation of Sportsmen’s Clubs Information Directory

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>County</th>
<th>Meeting Date &amp; Time</th>
<th>Location</th>
<th>Contact</th>
<th>Phone Number</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Atlantic</td>
<td>2nd Thursday of month, 7:30 PM</td>
<td>Germania Gun Club&lt;br&gt;Moss Mill Rd., Egg Harbor, NJ</td>
<td>Eric Gaupp</td>
<td>609-513-8542</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Bergen</td>
<td>3rd Thursday of month, 7:30 PM</td>
<td>Ramsey Outdoor, 240 Rt. 17 North, Paramus, NJ</td>
<td>Frank Dara</td>
<td>973-523-2640</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Burlington</td>
<td>2nd Thursday of month, 7:30 PM</td>
<td>The American Legion&lt;br&gt;39 Pember-Julistown Rd., Pemberton, NJ</td>
<td>Bill Schultz</td>
<td>856-235-3344</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Camden</td>
<td>3rd Wednesday of month, 7:30 PM</td>
<td>Square Circle Sportsmen Club&lt;br&gt;97 Clementon Rd., Gibbstown, NJ</td>
<td>Bill Schemel</td>
<td>856-931-5009</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cape May</td>
<td>1st Tuesday of month, 7:00 PM (Please call for up-to-date information)</td>
<td>(Please call for up-to-date information)</td>
<td>Ken McDermott III</td>
<td>609-412-3811</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cumberland</td>
<td>2nd Thursday of month, 7:30 PM</td>
<td>Menantic Gun Club&lt;br&gt;Union Rd., Riverside, NJ</td>
<td>Bob Russell</td>
<td>856-327-2197</td>
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<tr>
<td>Essex</td>
<td>2nd Thursday of month, 7:30 PM</td>
<td>Bloomsfield Civic Center&lt;br&gt;40 Broad St., Bloomsfield, NJ</td>
<td>Carmine Minichini</td>
<td>908-964-5713</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Gloucester</td>
<td>2nd Tuesday of month, 7:45 PM</td>
<td>George Ruch Building&lt;br&gt;14 St. and Highland Ave., Williamstown, NJ</td>
<td>Thomas Weeza</td>
<td>856-629-9465</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Hunterdon</td>
<td>2nd Thursday of month, 8:00 PM</td>
<td>Northern Region Office of Fish &amp; Wildlife&lt;br&gt;US Highway 130 N., Bordentown, NJ</td>
<td>Loren Robinson</td>
<td>908-872-1076</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mercer</td>
<td>3rd Monday of month, 7:00 PM</td>
<td>Sportsmen’s Center&lt;br&gt;US Highway 130 N., Bordentown, NJ</td>
<td>Rick Moore</td>
<td>856-882-2202</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Middlesex</td>
<td>1st Wednesday of month, 7:30 PM</td>
<td>Polish American Citizen’s Club&lt;br&gt;Adirondack Ave., Spotswood, NJ</td>
<td>John Messereill</td>
<td>732-828-8543</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Monmouth</td>
<td>4th Wednesday of month, 7:30 PM</td>
<td>4 F’s Gun Club&lt;br&gt;Burke Rd., Freehold, NJ</td>
<td>Ken Ganson</td>
<td>732-566-0841</td>
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<tr>
<td>Morris</td>
<td>1st Tuesday of month, 8:00 PM</td>
<td>Mine Hill American Legion Post 39&lt;br&gt;1 Legion Place, Mine Hill, NJ</td>
<td>John Rogalski</td>
<td>973-691-9355</td>
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<tr>
<td>Ocean</td>
<td>1st Tuesday of the month, 7:00 PM</td>
<td>VFV Post 4703&lt;br&gt;54 Magnolia Drive, Jackson, NJ</td>
<td>Larry Cella</td>
<td>908-839-0193</td>
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<tr>
<td>Passaic</td>
<td>3rd Monday of month, 7:00 PM</td>
<td>Lan Monday of July, 7:00 PM&lt;br&gt;The Wayne Civic Center, Room 1&lt;br&gt;1006 Hamburg Tpk., Wayne, NJ</td>
<td>Richard Weber</td>
<td>973-697-1814</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Salem</td>
<td>2nd Thursday of month, 7:30 PM</td>
<td>Salem County Sportsmen Clubs&lt;br&gt;RT 40, Carneys Pt., NJ</td>
<td>Dave Cesaroni</td>
<td>856-223-0409</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Somerset</td>
<td>2nd Wednesday of month, 7:00 PM</td>
<td>Somerset Fish &amp; Game Protective Assoc.&lt;br&gt;445 Milltown Rd., Bridgewater, NJ</td>
<td>Joe Griglak</td>
<td>908-526-9026</td>
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<tr>
<td>Sussex</td>
<td>1st Wednesday of month, 8:00 PM</td>
<td>Spaarta Ambulance Building&lt;br&gt;14 Sparta Ave., Sparta, NJ</td>
<td>Dick Strobel</td>
<td>973-697-3989</td>
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<tr>
<td>Union</td>
<td>1st Wednesday of month, 7:00 PM</td>
<td>Union County Engineering Building, 1St Floor&lt;br&gt;2335 South Avenue, Scotch Plains, NJ</td>
<td>Ray Szpond</td>
<td>908-403-5788</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Warren</td>
<td>4th Wednesday of month, 7:30 PM</td>
<td>Pequos Trout Hatchery&lt;br&gt;RT 46, Liberty Twp., NJ</td>
<td>Eric Spinks</td>
<td>908-268-2599</td>
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**LETTERS TO THE EDITOR**

may be sent by U.S. Mail (to 28 Hemlock Road, Livingston, NJ 07039), or email (olshapiroinnj@gmail.com). Please include your town of residence, or club or organization affiliation (if any).
Connecticut, military-style rifles have been banned, but our business is actually better now than before.”

Lawrence Keene, SVP, Assistant Secretary and General Counsel at the National Shooting Sports Foundation, recently told CNNMoney: “So we have come down from the peak but the valley floor is higher than before November, 2012. The consumer base has grown. This is because for the past few years, retailers tell us that about 25% of customers at the checkout counter are first-time buyers, including huge increases in the number of women buyers.

“In March of 2014, firearms sales were down 18.4% over the previous year,” Bill Brassard, the NSSF’s Senior Communications Director, has stated. “But they haven’t gone back to where they were historically – there’s a new and higher floor. There’s no question that the surge we saw could not be sustained.”

What kind of a future might we expect in gun sales over the next year or more? Perhaps the most important consideration is the ever-changing political environment, but most sources agree that in the absence of any game-changing or cataclysmic events, the firearm business looks like it will continue to be on a strong pace,” added Brassard, “both in firearms and accessory sales. Every measure shows that there is more interest in the shooting sports, in hunting, in self-protection – all of it, really. We won’t see any major slowdowns.”

Don’t know about you, but it leaves me with a good feeling.

*I hope all of you enjoyed the article “The Lure(s) of Squirrel Tails” in last month’s issue. That was another opus from the metaphorical pen of Bob Brunholz, whose byline was inadvertently omitted from the final draft of the issue, due to editorial oversight. My apologies to Bob, as well as to anyone else who may have been wondering who contributed the story.

Oliver Shapiro, Editor

Jersey Division of Fish and Wildlife’s Hunter Education Unit (see photo below). Keith is an official scorer for NJ’s Outstanding Deer Program, and expertly demonstrates the techniques and materials necessary to score antlers for both Poje & Young and Boone & Crockett record book entries. The demo was very informative and provided a “hands-on” experience that will make scoring antlers much simpler for all in attendance.

Tabulating the scores on the fair right is SCFGPA President, Paul Mondok. To his right is Keith taking some measurements. Looking on are SCFGPA members Ken Cokk and Walt Sarre.

On August 14, 2014, the Somerset County Fish & Game Protective Association, a sportsman’s club located in Bridgewater, New Jersey, played host to an antler scoring demonstration given by Keith Griglak, lead biologist for New Jersey Division of Fish and Wildlife’s Hunter Education Unit (see photo below).

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You would have to go all the way back to 1978 to find any references to one of the most beautiful, aggressive, cantankerous, yet easier-to-catch-than-its-fish-munching-cousin (the mighty muskellunge)... yes, I’m referring to the tiger muskie.

The tiger is a cross between a northern pike and pike-perch muskellunge. Back in the 1970s the NJ Division of Fish, Game, and Wildlife decided to experiment introducing new esocids into Garden State waterways (the chain pickerel had already been a Garden State staple for centuries). Fisheries managers selected the tiger muskie to kick off the program because they are extremely fast growing, easily reared in hatcheries, functionally non-reproductive (as a genetic hybrid), tolerate higher water temperatures than pure-strain muskies, and most importantly because they can control overabundant forage species and panfish populations. In short, their hybrid vigor makes the tiger muskie the ultimate gamefish.

In order to develop hatchery rearing techniques for esocids, the Hackettstown Hatchery obtained 7,225 small tiger muskie fingerlings from the Pennsylvania Fish and Boat Commission in 1979. The early success of these ferocious slashers? In north Jersey, you can try Greenwood Lake, Lake Hopatcong, Furnace Lake, Little Swarmwood Lake, or the Delaware River, around Manville, Carnegie Lake, DOD Lake, Manasquan Reservoir, or Cooper River Park in Camden.

Hybrids will be active all summer through early fall. As temperatures fall in later months you can switch back to fishing for their larger brethren.

Search for them alongside deep vegetation, where they lie in wait to ambush their larger brethren.

Many people are already planning to participate at county meetings. Related to membership in the Federation. Related to that is my desire increasing attendance and participation at county meetings. There are many other projects on deck, and there are threats to our privileges that we are facing, but I think that even these are interconnected. Good things start participating at the sportsman (and sports-woman) and club level at county meetings, then officers start to work in a vacuum, or worse yet, operate with limited or skewed information. Active committees such as the Deer, Upland Bird (Quail), Firearms and Range need information from members throughout the state. Communication is an important two-way street that needs your input. My first message to you is a reminder – a reminder that as a Federation member, you are important. Your opinions are vital, and your participation is critical to the success of the organization. I would encour-...
Thoughts on Long Shots

By Bob Brunisholz

Talk to a number of avid New Jersey- based hunters and you'll find that at least half of them, perhaps even more than half, hunt with centerfire rifles in states other than New Jersey. Pennsylvania is probably the most popular, if for no other reason than its relatively close proximity, and don't rule out New York, Maine… The list goes on and on, and the roughly 150,000 new tons of money in travel, lodging, and license and guide fees to hunt where Homeland Security and the DEP once suggest ed. (At least Greely had some excellent reasons for his suggestion, among which was the sagely adviced: if you'd head west to get away from cities and the “sicklers and idlers” who reside therin, I don’t know about you, but I’m having a difficult time finding fault with that conclusion.)

The genesis for all of this began some Sundays ago, at a picnic table at my home trap grounds in Kinnelon, NJ. Many conversations were about the coming deer season. That’s when ol’ ‘Paar photos to Top This’? contests began. It seemed every second or third trapshooter was also a deer hunter who either made a spectacularly long shot, or knew someone who had.

“Why ol’ Dave there brought down a Bighorn sheep last May at 350 miles.” Miles? “Oh, excuse me, I meant yards.” As the stories progressed I looked around a bit to see if the strangers were telling the truth. Regardless of how many shovels since it was getting kind of deep, in the middle of the shooting range. And then there was this other one, from the Middlesex County Federation of Trap Shooters. It was with long-range technique that I was intimately familiar. I was the owner of the gun club, and one with whom I could either partially stand or even have a drag lurking off the range. It was at the opinion, B&C also refers to a factor I mentioned about the sniper-movie motivation of some long-distance shooters.

“Long-range shooting is a hot topic in hunting,” Demmer stated in the release. “Improved and specialized guns, gear, bullet and sniper skills are growing in popularity, stretching the lethal range of hunters further than ever before. But many hunters wonder how it all fits with traditional, ethical standards. How far is too far to be considered fair chase?”

It’s a fair question, and one that should be asked by anyone even considering cracking off a shot at a distance. 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Passing Down the Passion
My First Deer Hunt

by Steven J. Sparano

Only a hunter can understand the adrenaline rush that goes through your body as you raise that scope to your eyes and see for the first time, and see that buck not even 50 yards away.

The excitement and passion that accompanied this adrenaline rush was only the beginning. I come from a family of hunters, and credit almost all of my passion to the sport of hunting and fishing to my grandfather Vin T. Sparano, retired Editor-in-Chief of Outdoor Life magazine. My grandfather has spent the last 18 years teaching me a great deal of what I need to know to pass on this passion of hunting to my own children, teaching me a great deal of what I need to know to pass this passion on to my children.

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I picked up my slug, with a slug and buckshot load in the magazine and another slug in the chamber. I climbed the hill and over a pine tree, not paying attention to what was in front of the tree, and quickly found myself within five feet of a black bear. I positioned my three cubs. Fear shot through my body as I realized how close we both were. The cubs were a sizeable bear, and she was standing right back. I found myself frozen in place as the sow began to walk toward me. I slowly released a shot-gun, as I started to quickly be set my options in case I might have needed to take action. As silently as possible, I watched the mother off. At this point, the sow was within three feet. Just when she was ready to take another step, one of the cubs ran down the hill. She stared at me for a few seconds, and then kept to follow her cub down the hill. I felt myself start to breathe again and my heart returning to its normal pace.

I knew I had escaped an escaped fate that could well have ended poorly for me. I quickly grabbed my pack and headed toward my father to tell him all about the encounter.

My father laughed and said “You’re not too far away from exhausting yourself lucky.” I did for the rest of the hunt.

After our breakfast break, we decided to head toward a clearing that we knew from last Ditch, p. 1

shy away from saying, that, but that’s how I feel. But there are always times when you’re not on the equality or quantity of fish to win. There comes a time in every angler’s career, particularly when you’re trying to get just some points for the season, when you’re merely trying to reduce the potential heating you receive from those guys who have a good milk run. In those situations you aren’t worried about what you’ll catch on the third day of competition. You just want to milk what you have enough to get within check range.” Wallo has a special box for go for such situations. It doesn’t get the call often, but when he needs to eke out one more keeper, or if nothing else goes right scratch out a limit of legal-sized muddies, it might well have to do that reads: “In case of emergency, break glass.”

He’s never afraid to do so. In fact, noise, although it is subtle, the cry of a young can be kept nice and cool until day’s end. On the ride back to port have the mate fill- let your catch, place the fillets in plastic bags, and bury them in the ice to ensure your catch, place the fillets in plastic bags, and bury them in the ice to ensure

And, of course, have block or crate, which simulates the cry of a young can be kept nice and cool until day’s end. On the ride back to port have the mate fill- let your catch, place the fillets in plastic bags, and bury them in the ice to ensure your catch, place the fillets in plastic bags, and bury them in the ice to ensure

Sh Beste, I’d gotten my first buck. My father
Putting a Bang in Dog Training

KAPOW! That’s the sound Maggie, my hunting retriever-Lab loves to hear. As was the case with all her other hunting tests she’s ever owned, Maggie believes that the sound of a gun-shot means the opportunity for a retrieve is at hand. As a bird-beater in the concept that retrieving is a necessary game-conserving skill, my hounds that had proven proficient, I taught my birds and retrievers to retrieve as pups from the get-go, and the grocery cart is where we started.

They all became very enthusiastic and accomplished retrievers regardless of breed. Like her predecessors, Maggie retrieves with reckless abandon… dead birds, cripples, and non-flyers alike, she gets them all and does not discriminate; one might describe her as an equal opportunity retriever. And that’s the way it should be.

While it may be intriguing to entertain the thought that Maggie’s enthusiasm for hunting and the related necessary skills, such as bird finding and retrieving, are embedded in its genetic makeup, most of the hounds I own have at least to be introduced to the skill sets that are needed in the real world. What has worked for me is to begin introducing these skills from the get-go. Often, the dog’s lack of hunting ability and enthusiasm is often rooted in the fact that the owner simply didn’t spend enough time and effort training the dog.

All too often the chief complaint is that the dog is “gun-shy.” Gun-shyness is an old term that refers to a behavior pattern whereby a dog appears to be frightened by the sound of a gun-shot. Typically, the sound of a shot, a gun-shy dog will try to get as far away as possible from the gun, the shooter, and the immediate area where the report originated. Stories about dogs running and hiding under the car or jumping back, and even jumping over a fence when a shot is fired are not uncommon. Unusual scenarios involve dogs that are terrorized by the sound of gunfire that they run away and are difficult or impossible to find.

In my experience, gun shyness is much easier to prevent than to treat, and this can be done through training. Dogs and other animals can be conditioned to like and be enthusiastic about participating in certain activities if they are gradually introduced to said activities. In Maggie’s case, the most effective way we have found to acclimate a dog to the sound of a gun is to use a special .22 caliber blank cartridge, the chamber and around the cylinder. The implements pictured above simulate the sound of gunfire and are useful in conditioning a dog to the sound of shooting and, we hope, prevent gun shyness. From left: Metal pot and spoon, 22-caliber retrieving dummy launcher, blank firing, 22-caliber starter pistol with crimped loads, and 12-gauge blank popper loads. Marty Boa photo.

The most common type of starter pistol utilizes a revoler configuration with a solid barrel and fires .22 calibre blank cartridges. As the British say, it’s “nothing out the snout,” with the report being dissipated through the chamber and around the cylinder.

For training purposes, shotgun shells can be used, down to a shot or two and prow- der with the primers left in place, and fired from a shotgun. The slight ping-like bang provides a good noise intro for pups.

The classic Retrieve-R-Trainer dummy launcher is a useful training tool that uses a special .22 caliber blank cartridge (to be used in launcher only) to launch a practice retrieving dummy down range at various distances, depending on the power level of the cartridge used. The hand-held launcher projects the dummy up and away with a loud report, thereby giving the dog a dose of gunfire sound, the sight of a simulated falling bird, and the opportunity to complete a retrieving exercise.

The launching blanks come color-coded, indicating various degrees of power (and loudness) in order to provide varied training distances for longer or shorter fetches.

Blank shotgun shells, often referred to as popper loads, are an advanced noise-making device often used in gun dog tests and the training of accomplished hunting dogs. Most commonly available in 12 gauge and fired from a regular shotgun, these loads produce a super loud report that will knock your socks off. Definitely not recommended for pups.

As stressed in this column, we are emphasizing the gradual introduction of gun-related sound in connection to pleasurable experiences in pups and young dogs, as a way to prevent gun shyness. Obviously, exposing an inexperienced dog to a fusillade of gunfire the first time out is not the way to go.

Good hunting.

Note: It is important to check on federal, state, county and local laws and regulations regarding the use of noise-making training devices before going afield with the intent of using such equipment.

Dog training and exercising is allowed on state Wildlife Management Areas subject to specific sections, calendar dates and other particulars outlined in the current issue of the New Jersey Hunting & Trapping Digest. For more information call 609-984-0547.
Odds and Ends

Connecticut State Treasurer Peter Colt came to Paterson, New Jersey, in 1793 to manage the town established by the “Society for Useful Manufactures” on the Passaic River. Colt was chosen to replace French-born civil engineer and architect Pierre L’Enfant, who had gained fame as a volunteer officer in the American Revolution and designer of the new national capital in Washington, D.C.

Unfortunately, L’Enfant’s grandiose plans for the city on the Passaic rapidly ran into investors’ money and proved impractical. Peter Colt was more practical and his plan succeeded. The Colt family would have a long and enduring relationship with Paterson and its factories, running mills and developing new products, but the most remembered member of the family would, ironically, be the one whose business failed there: Samuel Colt.

In 1836 Sam Colt patented his revolving cylinder repeating firearm, and the city was awash in and lazy legislators to put forth as their own ideas. As in past years, most of it will address the federal situation. The company has also donated "feel good" legislation that such "feel good" legislation will probably end up causing problems for American citizens, they will gain the politicians’ support in certain venues.

Fortunately, some legislators have discerned that such legislation can actually be harmful, and have introduced laws designed to prevent the U.S. from losing its silliness advantage. Those interested in learning more about the Colt SAA and other black and smokeless powder classic firearms might want to look at Dillon Precision of Dillon, Wyoming (www.DillonPrecision.com). The book is a high-quality, full-color 1.5 x 9 inch hardcover with 224 pages packed full of insights and history on some of the world’s most important firearms.

Last month I noted legislation pending in New Jersey which would affect antique arms collectors, and this month I will address the federal situation.

Politicians always like to pretend that they are doing things, even when they are not. This attitude is the source of much of the absurd anti-firearms owner legislation we see proposed every year, most of it actually written by lobbyists for compliant and lazy legislators to put forth as their own ideas. Antler Point Restriction Hunter Satisfaction Survey

The NJFSN received the following notes from the NJ Division of Fish and Wildlife in late August.

Black Powder Notes

by Joe Bilby

During the 2014 fall trout stocking season the Division of Fish and Wildlife will stock more than 25,000 trout in the state’s major trout waters. The fish will be stocked from October 7-15.

As a result of a disease issue at the hatcheries last past spring, yeasty and rainbow trout approximately 7-9 inches in length will be stocked this fall as the hatcheries worked to rebuild fish stocks lost to the disease. (A return to the stocking of larger fish is planned for next fall, 2015, as well as a return to a fall trout stocking schedule in spring, 2015.)

Trout stocking will be scheduled to occur in 17 streams, and 14 ponds over the two-week period. As in past years, streams are stocked the first week of October, and ponds and lakes are stocked during the second week.

In addition to the yearling trout, up to 500 broodstock rainbow trout will also be stocked. These broodstock, averaging 18 to 24 inches, will be stocked in lakes and ponds during the second week of stocking with each lake receiving more than 30 of these trophy-sized trout.

As the majority of streams stocked in the fall support holdover trout, the fall support holdover trout are expected to be stocked in 2014.
There’s more than one way to crack a crab. Those would be the right way and wrong way.

The first experience with steaming, red hot and savory blue claw crabs was at the Mark’s Marina Surf & Sport in Annapolis, Maryland many years ago at the annual Rotary Club crab feast, usually held in August.

I was the guest of the local tourism rep, an attractive local girl who instructed me on how to dissect a steamed crab to get the best and most of the meat. I ignored all that and with my wooden mallet simply applied a strong “whack” and split the shell and sent particles of same flying in all directions. Seafood shrapnel

My hostess rolled her eyes, shook her head, and said simply, “Men.” She probably wanted to add, “hopeless tourist,” but restrained herself, given the public relations part of her job.

Thus it’s well known you can properly pick apart a blue crab without ever resorting to a mallet or using it to tap on a sharp knife to get at leg meat.

For those who target the blue crab, a hugely popular and family-friendly endeavor in New Jersey, it has been a good fair-to-middlin’ season so far, and crabs can be caught well into this month and should be bigger than the pickings of early summer.

I must admit it’s been since the kids were young, that I last went out on one of those canopied rental boats with a string and supply of chicken necks to catch a bunch of the delicious hard shells for later steaming.

I still have photos in an album (how quaint) of the kids netting the colorfull (from prev. page) trout, these waters provide anglers opportunities for larger trout to be caught.

The stocking boundaries for streams are the same as the spring (see the current Freshwater Digest for information). There are no closed dates during the fall stocking period.

Monday, October 6 - No stocking

Tuesday, October 7

Mommouth and Ocean Counties

Manasquan River - 580
Metedecconk River, North Branch - 190
Metedecconk River, South Branch - 300
Tom’s River (including TCA) - 440
Somerset County

Raritan River, North Branch - 1,140
Suces and Warren Counties

Paulsblack River - 1,230

Wednesday, October 8

Hunterdon, Morris, and Warren Counties

Musconetcong River (including Point Mt. TCA, Hunterdon County) - 3,580
Suces and Warren Counties

Pequest River (including TCA, Pequest WMA) - 1,890

Thursday, October 9

Suces County

Big Flat Brook - 1,980
Wallkill River - 540
MORRIS COUNTY

Black River - 400
Rockaway River - 1,520
WARREN COUNTY

Pohatcong Creek - 1,220

Friday, October 10

Berger and Pascauccia Counties

Vin Sperano’s Spicy Garlic Crab Sauce

This basic recipe for my blue claw crab sauce really comes from my mother, Agnes. As a small boy, I would watch her make the sauce from crabs my father and uncles would bring back from trips to Newark Bay in New Jersey. That was back in the mid-1940s, when I suspect no one bothered to check the edibility of those crabs in the ship channels. But we all survived. In fact, my father and mother lived to their early 90’s. I can’t prove it, but maybe the crab sauce had something to do with their longevity.

Today, I run a few crab pots in Barnegat Bay and I enjoy making a batch of crab sauce for the family. I make a mess in the kitchen, but the end product is well worth it. My crab sauce is admitted ally too spicy for most people. It made it spicy enough for me. I fixed the problem by introducing massive doses of garlic and Old Bay seasoning into the recipe. Now it’s just right.

My ingredients are on the heavy side. My wife, Betty and I have four children and eight grandchildren. If you cook for smaller groups, cut ingredients proportionately. My recipe will feed 10 to 12 people.

1 lb. salt
1 lb. black pepper
½ cup virgin olive oil

In a large pot, fry the garlic, onion, celery, olive oil, black pepper, and garlic. When the garlic is browned, add tomato paste and blend with a wood spoon. You will have more crab than sauce. Add fresh-caught large-shelled hard shells from sticking to the bottom of the pot. Add crushed tomatoes and whole tomato. It may be messy, but the best way to add the whole tomatoes is to hold them over the pot and crush them with your hand. Stir until all ingredients are thoroughly mixed and sauce is on the brink of simmering.

When this past pleasant summer was over, I was the guest of the local tourism office. (See, men can ask for directions if conditions are deemed worthy.)

And it was worth the circuitous route. Cantler’s (www.cantlers.com) is the quintessential crab shack with outdoor deck, packed that night, communal seating and brown paper tablecloths for delightful, and messy, dining.

Regal dining comes at a princely sum. The blackboard said a dozen steamed medium crabs cost $55, $75 for large, and $95 for “super” large. I had the silly notion of taking some crabs home until a manager said the current price was about $220 a bushel.

Instead I tucked into the dozen plowed in front of us, happily twisting and picking the legs and shell, and washed it all down with a couple of Yuenglings.

My summer was complete.

Next up in the coming months? I already can taste the pleasant nearness. You have to be a man for all seasons in the kitchen.

Contact Rick at rikwrite@aol.com.
Until Monday, August 25, the focus of this month’s column was to take to task the news media and electronic media for their collective attempts at reporting, or misreporting, on firearms and the impact that inaccurate information can have. The approach, at least other- wise — has on the non-shooting public. What most reporters know and understand about firearms and, for that matter, firearms laws, could be put in a thimble, and a thimble would sound like a Bib in a box car.

On that Monday, however, reports began to appear in the New Jersey’s summer- ly vacationing in Arizona where they allowed their nine-year-old daughter to have fun at a range and seasoned established rifle range. Calling the end result of their range visit a disaster would be the understatement of the year.

And, apparently, as reported in this instance, the news media online magazine, the youngest was attended by an instructor as well as her parents. After cranking off a single shot from the instructor’s .22 prying the tx in a cell phone video. He then said words to the effect, “OK, now full automatic.” That’s when things turned tragic.

Again, apparently, the girl lost control of the Uzi when it began firing multiple shots, and in doing so, one of the errant rounds struck a man who was walking past as the one attending the girl at the time, but as these words are printed, even that is in dis- pute. The man died.

Though it is far from my intent to pile on, may I respectfully inquire as to what on earth was the girl doing with a fully automatic Uzi? Apparently, not the one attending the girl at the time, but as these words are printed, even that is in dis- pute. The man died.

At this juncture, I have seen no reports, but I operated a fully automatic Uzi sans prying the tx in a cell phone video. He then said words to the effect, “OK, now full automatic.” That’s when things turned tragic.

And, apparently, the girl lost control of the Uzi when it began firing multiple shots, and in doing so, one of the errant rounds struck a man who was walking past as the one attending the girl at the time, but as these words are printed, even that is in dis- pute. The man died.

The terminology factor is minor.

The so-called fully automatic, or machine guns, is based on a fallacy. In 1934 when law enforcement agencies tired of cleaning up after the infamous Al Capone and his cohorts, a so-called “machine gun” was defined. This occurred in a federal law. There are, of course, exceptions. Everyone knows who a “fully automatic” firearm could obtain a permit to purchase a so- called machine gun, but those exceptions are so complex that few of the average shooter, the exceptions really do not exist. These so-called exceptions are for valid and licensed collectors, museums, movie-making, and the like, and even then, in most (but not all) instances the fully automatic weapon must be made in a manufac- turer that is unable to make or sell, or even possess for use in competitions.

All this is to say, we have no reports on whether the range in Arizona had the proper permission or licensing to possess and operate that gun. It was a gun.

Still, the question stands: A nine-year-old firing an Uzi on full auto?

For those who want to know the way we broke into the shooting sports. My own efforts began at what some would call a rather tender age, at Schiff Boy Scout Reservation range with a well-worn Sterling single-shot caliber .22. After that I graduated to small-bore shotguns and slightly larger caliber rifles, but only when the direct tutelage of my father and/or Bill Cullen, my firearms mentor and guidance counselor in Ground Control to Fred.

While certainly not wishing to sound callous or cavalier, it will be interesting to watch how the media and television media make this story. It will be a test of how much the media, and the public, will be interested in hearing about how the media handled the firearm involved. (How’s that for a sneaky transition back to the original intention of this column?)

It has been said in journalism classes nationwide, that if one is a good reporter, they should rely on the topic du jour, and report on what they have heard, seen, learned, or experienced.

Unfortunately, today most reporters are vested in some aspect of the societal issues on which they are reporting. Thus, what is written and printed is not necessarily neutral. And, if either or both are not quite accurate, well, what’s the harm? If it produces a callous or cavalier, it will be interesting to watch how the media and television media make this story. It will be a test of how much the media, and the public, will be interested in hearing about how the media handled the firearm involved. (How’s that for a sneaky transition back to the original intention of this column?)

It has also been said that the most insidious form of censorship is self-cen- sorship with inaccuracy, all for the express purpose of “not offending any- one.”

According to the August 18 issue of The Five Lancer-Stars, based in Fredericksburg, Virginia, reporter Lindley Estes stated that the “University of Mary Washington [sic] police department’s student magazine,” a release from the school said (from which Estes quoted).

According to “Estes,” the editorial board felt the paper’s name, which alludes to ammunition for an artillery weapon, propagated violence and did not honor the school’s mission in a sensitive manner, a release from the school (from which Estes quoted).

This is an example of self-censorship ship mixed with inaccuracy, all for the express purpose of “not offending any- one.”

That’s not exactly the way we broke into the shooting sports. My own efforts began at what some would call a rather tender age, at Schiff Boy Scout Reservation range with a well-worn Sterling single-shot caliber .22. After that I graduated to small-bore shotguns and slightly larger caliber rifles, but only when the direct tutelage of my father and/or Bill Cullen, my firearms mentor and guidance counselor in Ground Control to Fred.

Well, maybe not. My suggestion: anyone who cherishes the Second Amendment should realize that they are not immune to phony misreporting, including politicians and especially the mainstream media. Write to the editor, or email those online outlets, or drop one of those so-called tweets, and if worse comes to worse, call them. At least they’ll know you out there in reader or viewer land isn’t stup- id, and can be led around by a ring through their conservative noses. Your let- ter may not be published, but they’ll get the word nonetheless.
IGFA Kids Fishing Clinic Held

On Saturday, August 2, 2014 the International Game Fish Association (IGFA) conducted the first “New Jersey Kids Fishing Clinic.” Dave Arbeiteman, owner of the Reel Seat in Brielle, donated the conference room where the classroom portion of the clinic was held.

The event was attended by boys and girls, ages 8-12, the majority of the group coming from Big Brothers, Big Sisters of Ocean County. The classroom portion of the program consisted of the following areas: Fish Identification, Reels, Line & Knots, and Fish Bones (presented by the IGFA staff). Tag and Release Fishing was presented by Jeff Dement of the American Littoral Society, Keeping the Ocean Clean was presented by Catie Tobin of Clean Ocean Action, and Surf Fishing was presented by Tim Burden of the NJ Beach Buggy Association.

On Wednesday, August 6, the second part of the clinic was held; a fishing trip aboard Capt. Jeff Gutman’s party boat Voyager out of Point Pleasant, New Jersey. It was a picture perfect day for the 20 kids on board who kept the mates busy while catching summer flounder, skates, and dogfish. There was enough action to keep the kids at the rail for the whole trip. Jeff Dement from the American Littoral Society helped the youths tag and release 19 summer flounder.

For many of these young anglers, not only was it their first time catching a fish, it was first fishing trip. There’s nothing like the look on a kid’s face when he or she catches a fish.

We hope this event will get more kids involved in our sport. Without them, the future of fishing is in doubt. With a little education in both conservation and practice, the future will be guaranteed.

The IGFA will be looking to conduct future Kids Clinics. If you have a group, or know of a group that would be interested for 2015, please contact Capt. Gene Nigro at 908-208-4523.

Events for November, 2014

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