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Upper Bay Boating

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Welcome to the New Norm

Well, it has been a while since you were able to read a new issue of Upper Bay Boating. So then right after we published the April issue and during the deliveries, everything shut down. As most of you know, this publication is advertiser supported, so as the marinas and boat dealers were forced to close because of the pandemic, so did this magazine. We were forced to skip the May and June issues. I didn't think anyone expected when we changed the clocks earlier this spring, we would go from Standard Time all the way to the Twilight Zone.

I have been involved in marine advertising and publishing for almost 25 years. I've never seen anything as crazy as we witnessed this spring. Imagine owning the ultimate platform to social distance and get away from everything, then being told you can't. I am so happy that my readers and the supporting businesses can now return to some form of normal, or the "NEW NORM". So, now that things are opening up and you are out enjoying your favorite pastime, what can you expect from Upper Bay Boating?

We will publish a special 4th of July publication, and then a Labor Day edition. That's right, we'll end up with only 4 issues in 2020 rather than our normal 8. Will return to the normal schedule in 2021,

but for now I am so pleased the advertisers stepped up to support me so I can keep this magazine out in front of all of you. I really appreciate their loyalty to me in these trying times, and hope my readers will show your appreciation and support them.

The most important thing during these challenging times is your health and well-being. I know it is very frustrating to see a third of 2020's boating season cancelled. Do you remember a few years ago? We lost the entire first half of the season to rainy weekends. We dealt with it then,

and that's all we can do now. Let's all pray that all of our friends and families stay well and are with us next year when hopefully we have a full boating season ahead of us with clear skies, warm breezes, and great optimism for another wonderful year out on the waters of the Upper Bay.

Have a Happy and Safe 2020 Boating Season,

Dave

**dave@
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That was a close one.

By Wendy Gilbert – Features Editor

I'm not sure who coined the term Covid-19 Season, and I haven't heard it often, but it certainly is just that. Before Covid-19 and heart-breaking civil unrest, all I was worried about was not using plastic straws to save marine life. Well, that's not entirely true, I'm always concerned about something, someone or some cause.

Nonetheless, my prior concerns seem trivial today. After staying at home for a month, I was also worried about my plants at the office. Was someone in the essential skeleton crew watering them? Probably not.

After two months, I became concerned about staggering economic losses, myriad restrictions and the subsequent politization of those things. If I was ever certain that you can find "evidence" to back up what you want to believe, I am doubly certain now. Even friends that seem to be fairly intelligent and open minded have devolved based on sketchy sources. I was thrilled to see on the morning news today that the CDC finds that asymptomatic transmission of the virus is unlikely. Is that true? Or is that just what I want to hear?

Another facet during the stay-at-home orders was the human desire to stock up supplies just in case ... Just in case more food processing plants close. Just in case this comes back in the fall. Just in case there's room in the pantry.

Shortages of toilet paper, meat and elastic to make masks, which may or may not be helpful, were earmarks of our May. But at least Governor Hogan saw fit to lift recreational boating restrictions. Not all of our brothers in recreation were so fortunate.

And let us not forget those with kids. I can't imagine having

to homeschool for that long! Lord, have mercy. My own scholastic endeavors (a year-long weekly class) was successfully conducted via Zoom. I didn't miss having to drive to town for class, didn't miss the extra calories at snack time, but I did miss actually seeing my classmates, I can only imagine how the high school seniors are feeling.

When I really sat back and thought about it – I realized that boating is an almost ideal recreational activity right now. I know. Some of us having been saying this all along. From all accounts, boat sales are soaring.

Note to self and others: can we use recreational boating to diffuse some racial tension?

Is this a hobby reserved for rich white folks?

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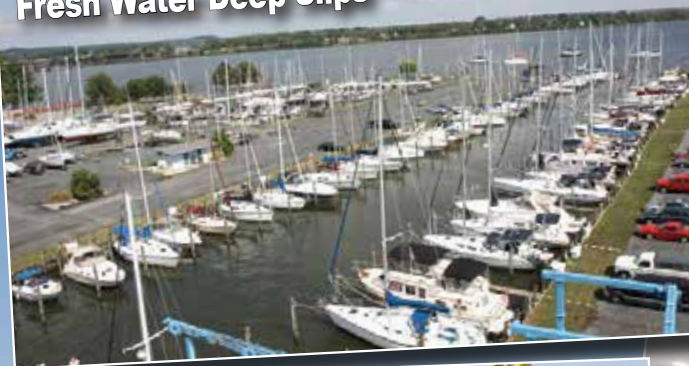
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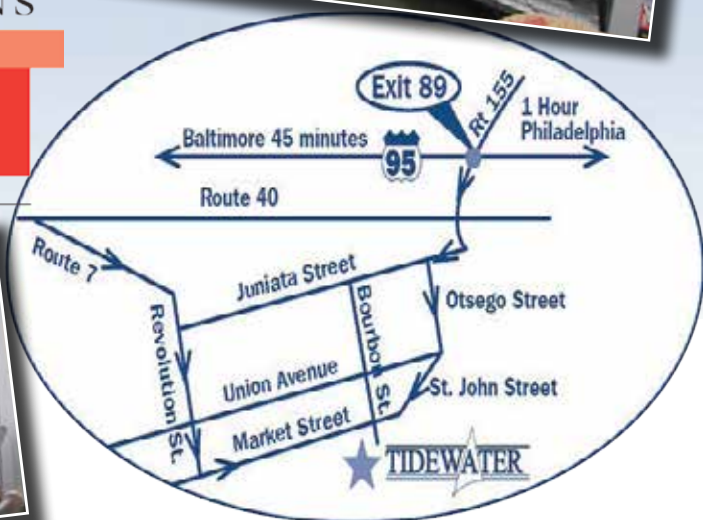
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Humble Pie

by L Alan Keene

I wish I knew what caused it. I wish I could blame somebody or something other than me. Maybe, I've thought since, it was that attractive young woman lifting her glass in a mock toast as I rounded her trawler on the way in. Attractive young women have been known to distract me from time to time.

Or maybe it was that empty slip.... the one where that Catalina has floated, untouched, for the past two seasons. Could the owner, I wondered as we passed, have FINALLY decided to take her out for a sail after all this time? That momentous event may have drawn my attention away from the job at hand.

Or how about the elements. Could a sudden puff have blown me off my usual path and into that heavily creosoted piling? Or maybe it was the wake from a passing boat.... could that have done it? In a NO WAKE zone? I don't think so. And, since Peg and I have a firm policy of saving our libations until the sails have dropped for the day, I couldn't blame the debacle on alcohol either.

No, the sad, cold reality was that I blew it and I knew it. Distracted or not, rather than backing TACKFUL gracefully into her slip for the night, as I've done hundreds of times over the years, I maneuvered her like I had never had a tiller in my hand. One poor decision led to another. It wasn't pretty. In fact, it was damned ugly. Humiliatingly so.

In an effort to protect my still-festering ego, I won't rehash the painful details, other than to mention that the rub rail that I've taken great pride in keeping creosote free for a number of years now, has the greasy look of a garage floor after a sloppy oil change. While it seemed like hours, the whole embarrassing event took only a minute or two, Peg assured me, but in that minute or two I aged decades.

My first act after getting into the slip was to sheepishly look around for witnesses. Who saw me? How much will I have to pay for their silence? Amazingly, I didn't see a soul.

A gorgeous Sunday and not a soul around? I'm either incredibly lucky, I thought, or there are three or four guys down below right now laughing their proverbial butts off.

After an hour or so of therapy with my pair of analysts, Dr. Peg and Dr. Jim (Beam), I felt a lot better. Peg convinced me that even the best has an "off day" now and

then, and Jim made that "best" comment seem almost believable.

"And besides", Peg consoled me, "after a 'perfect docking' tomorrow, it'll all be just a bad memory." With that, it was clear that my hour on the couch was up. I can always tell when Dr. Peg is ready for dinner.

"Tomorrow's" sailing was some of the best I can remember. The steady 10 to 12 knot southerly winds and cloudless blue skies made me forget all about the previous day's fiasco. It wasn't until I dropped the main that I remembered.

As we motored into the marina late that afternoon, past the spot where the young woman had offered her toast, I began to feel a little anxious. Performance anxiety, I guess. That unpleasant feeling of not being in control of my boat was still with me. I certainly didn't want to experience that helpless feeling again.

Concentrating harder on the maneuver than I had in years, TACKFUL's stern glided smoothly through that 12-foot opening between pilings, followed by her 9-foot beam, and then by an applauding Dr. Peg up on the bow. I was back in good form again, thank heavens! My confidence had been restored.

On the ride home to Newark that night, I started thinking about how we boaters tend to relish in each other's misfortunes. Oh, we'd never admit to it, of course. None of us want to admit to such an unattractive quality, but when we watch a fellow boater struggle out

on the water, or around the docks, or on the boat ramp on a Saturday morning, it makes us feel superior. And we like the feeling.

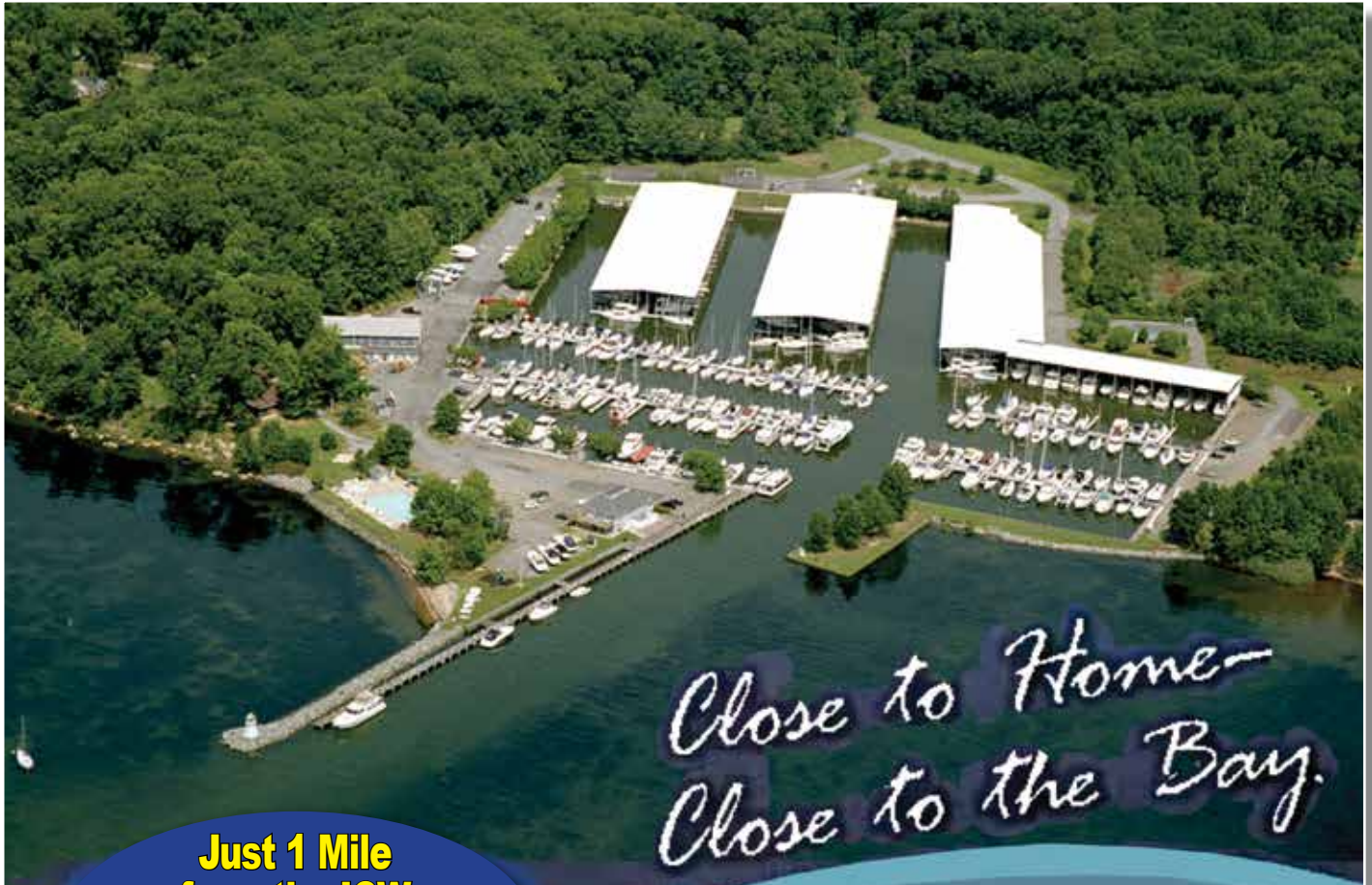
"I", we tell ourselves, "could never be that bad.... could never be that inept!"

Well, guess what. Every once in a while, when we're not paying attention, even the most experienced boater can look pretty foolish. And maybe it's not such a bad thing, at that.

When we lose touch with the frustration and helplessness that an inexperienced boater can feel, then we've become a little too cocky for our own good. A good slice of humble pie every now and then does a boater good.

"Peg, where did I put that can of acetone?", I blurted out as we made the last turn toward home. "I've gotta get back down to the boat sometime this week and get that creosote off the rub rail. Don't want anybody thinking that I can't handle my boat!"





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Lessons Learned - FOG

My first real job on the water was digging hard clams in Barnegat Bay. I was probably 12 or 13 at the time. Though I had raked and treaded for the tasty bivalves before with my father and brother I soon learned there was money to be made and wanted to do it for myself. When I asked for permission one evening to use the boat by myself I was perplexed by my father's answer. First he informed me I can never go alone. And second, if I wanted to be in charge of his prized 12 foot Sears Gamefisher I had to take a safe boating class with the local Power Squadron. I still remember the class 50 years later. "Make Sure Make Shore".

Well, I took the class and started rounding up a crew. It was hard finding friends that would give up a day surfing or lounging on the beach to walk through miles of muck fending off greenhead flies to dig up a 500 count bag of Cherrystones worth about fifteen bucks at the local distributor, Blackies. One evening I convinced the girl next door and her younger brother to give it a go the next morning. Renee was to be my copilot and her younger brother Mikee was going to be our lookout. Mikee was about 10 and already had eyeglasses as thick as a water glass. Early the next morning I loaded up my clam rake, Bushel basket and innertube and we rode our bikes down to the bathing beach where my Father kept his boat. It already had lifejackets and cushions tucked under the seats. It took all three of us to push the boat into the water. Renee held the bow steady while I jumped in and fired up the old Johnson 9.9. It started on the second pull. Great! Were in business.

The water was dead calm as we headed across the Bay to my favorite flat a couple miles away. The Greenhead flies were already starting to follow us like buzzards after road kill. I couldn't wait to get in the water so the flies would have less of a target. The tide was still going out when we arrived on station. No one else was within a mile of us and the water was cool and clean. Perfect. I jumped out of the boat into about three feet of water and tied the anchor line around my waist. Mikee and Renee decided there were too many crabs and other creatures scurrying through the eel grass to warrant getting out of the boat so I started walking to the "muds" while they swatted flies. My thought was I would just toss them the clams and they could drop them into the basket. We'd make a killing. Five bucks for the boat and gas. Ten bucks split three ways. Wow! After about ten minutes my crew was ready to mutiny. The heat and the flies were taking their toll but I pressed on. Clamming was good and the basket was filling up. We might even clear four bucks apiece if it kept going at this rate. Though I knew we would blow it in one trip to the local Ice Cream Parlor. By about lunch time everyone was getting hot and tired. And then it happened.

I was so busy clamming I didn't realize the fog had rolled in. Mikee was our lookout but without his glasses he was always in a fog.



By Captain Mark Galasso

I looked around and couldn't see anything. No shore lines, no houses, no other boats nothing! But I didn't panic. I was standing in water up to my waist. We had a bunch of clams. The Greenheads disappeared and Renee and Mikee were asleep in the boat. I kind of knew where we were. I decided to just keep clamming until the fog lifted. It didn't lift. In fact it started getting dark and it was still foggy. My crew was getting hungry and restless and I was starting to wonder how I was going to explain all this to my parents and our neighbors. But I still didn't panic. I knew the bathing beach was only a couple miles away so I waited it out. Around 9pm I started to see lights. There was one tall one I knew was close to the bathing beach so I hopped in the boat, fired her up and headed toward the light.

It didn't take but a few minutes but our parents were waiting. Their expressions were all over the place. Mothers relieved, Fathers rather pissed off. But no lectures. We did everything right and no one got hurt. In fact we killed it and made enough to pay for fuel and a couple trips to the Ice Cream Parlor though Mikee and Renee were never allowed to go clamming with me again.

I later learned that my parents called the Coast Guard Station. One of our other neighbors, Paul Rosengarth was the Commander. Though I told my parents where we were going and they told the Coast Guard where we were the fog was too thick and the water too shallow for them to dispatch any help until the fog lifted. Commander Rosengarth told me we did the right thing by not panicking and try and motor our way back in the fog. We could have just as likely gone out into the Inlet as found the bathing beach and that could have been a disaster. Also by staying in the shallows we weren't likely to get run

over by another boat running through the many channels that crisscross Barnegat Bay. Perhaps some of the lessons I learned during my Power Squadron Safety class reassured me to do the right thing. But most importantly whether you get caught in fog, foul weather or some other issue. Don't panic and think things through. Take your time and don't rush into bad decisions. Be safe out there.

Safe Boating- Capt' Mark



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Every year, Mike Weatherstein fields a flurry of questions as boaters prepare to launch their 4th of July adventures.

Do you know a good waterfront restaurant? Where is the next fuel dock? Where to get a good drink? What's the best route from Point A to Point B? Is there a cool island beach nearby? What's the closest hotel to the water?

Weatherstein has plenty of suggestions, but helping new boaters navigate the Chesapeake Bay was always a struggle. Until now. This year, Weatherstein is armed with a new tool that boaters can download to a cell phone called Argo, a free navigation and social app that connects the boating community by helping to plan trips, plot routes, find hot spots and scenic byways, and then share information with friends.

"I get asked all the time about where to go and how to get there," said Weatherstein, a marine master technician at All Star Marine in Essex, Md. "I tell them to follow such-and-such a creek and they say, woah, we're new to boating. We don't know where that creek is. How cool is it for them to punch it into an app and it takes them there?"

Think of it as having a first mate in your pocket.

Argo helps boaters discover new dock bars, restaurants, anchorages, fishing holes and historic bay side towns with descriptions and photos. Use the search feature to explore various places, read descriptions, view photos and

with the Argo App



check out reviews left by fellow boaters. Or use the social feed to check out your friend's favorite spots. Argo's social feed and messaging functions allow friends to share experiences or plan their next raft-up. You can even see if your friends are out on the water - they'll show up on the map if they have the app open.

Not sure how to get there? Argo will autoroute you to your chosen destination based on the draft of your boat. Argo also makes sure you're getting the most updated hazard and map information with help from your fellow boaters. While on your trip, Argo will also track your speed, show water depth and give you an estimated time of arrival. You can even save and share your favorite voyages by logging the route, reports, photos and comments then posting them to your social feed.

Over 5,000 boaters have downloaded the app since Argo launched in September. As users multiply, Argo's information will grow more robust.

"Punching coordinates into a chart plotter might take you on a straight path right across land," Weatherstein said. "Argo will give you an actual route and keep you away from hazardous water. This really caught our attention when we came across it at the Baltimore Boat Show. Everybody has a cell phone in their hand. We're hoping it takes off."

To join the Argo community, go to www.argonav.io.

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Tidal Smallmouth Bass

By Tim Sherman

I have fished for smallmouth bass in many areas of the state. I've caught them while wading in small suburban and rural rivers such as the Monocacy, Patapsco, and Gunpowder. I've done numerous float trips on the Potomac River, and have caught smallies on Conowingo Reservoir. These are freshwater destinations well worth the trip. Yet, there are few locations in the state where you can catch them in tidal waters. Yes, smallmouth bass can live in tidal waters; and fortunately, we have the Susquehanna River to prove it. The river has tidal influence all the way to Deer Creek. It's an untapped fishery that few take advantage of.

A few years back, my frequent fishing partner Randy Yarnall and I discovered smallies at the lower end of the river. We wanted to look for largemouth bass in other places than the flats and its feeder systems. We headed to the Garrett Island area of the Susquehanna. Instead of finding largemouth bass, we started catching smallmouth bass. It did not come as a surprise. While largemouth bass are known to be in the area, the makeup of the area is very similar to where you find smallies in freshwater rivers.

Smallmouth bass like rocky cover and structure, and moving water. Rocky shorelines and hard bottom ridges and troughs make the area a perfect habitat. Bridge pilings and their support platforms are an added bonus. The island splits the river, which increases tidal flow. You may find smallies in the tidal current or staging near it, much like you would in a flowing river environment.

We pattern them in the same fashion we would in a freshwater river. To start, we need to find how they are staging. This is true for a flooding or ebbing tide. Good fish finding electronics are key. The first couple of bites also serve as puzzle pieces. Are they in the tidal current or are they behind the current break? Are they out away from the bank or along shoreline cover? If the smallies are in the current, they are in a feeding mood. Here, a rattle trap, jerkbait, or spinnerbait is a good choice.

If the bronze backs are tucked out of the flow, it will



take longer to find the pattern. Randy has mapped the ridges and troughs away from the bank. We work these areas with soft plastic baits. Smallies LOVE crawfish so the prime selection is a crawfish imitator. Randy rigs his on a swinging hook football head for two purposes: the wide head helps prevent snags, and the swinging hook allow for more action from the soft lure.

Should no bites be found on the soft craws, we'll slow down even further by using a dropshot rig. This is very similar to a single hook bottom rig. The differences are that the hook is tied directly into your line, and you dangle a small plastic worm or minnow instead of natural bait. This is typically a deep-water tactic but we've caught smallies in depths from 6 to 12 feet.

We also work shoreline cover. You have to find the pattern here as well. Are the fish active neutral, or somewhere in between? We start by casting hard baits for active fish to the rocky banks. Rattle traps and spinnerbaits are risk/reward

options. They catch plenty of fish, but you risk spooking the bass if you have to go in to retrieve the snagged bait. Crankbaits also work well as they deflect off of the rock cover. We give them a momentary pause as they bump the cover. It's important to work the lure all the way back to the boat. Smallies are notorious follows and will often take the lure at the last second.

If the aggressive bite doesn't materialize, it's back to soft plastics. Randy's crawfish rig works well. So, too, does a soft craw on a shaky head. I am a target-oriented angler and shoreline cover is my calling. I'll cast a Senko stick worm and let it shimmy down into the shoreline cover. Randy is a master with the Senko and I've learned a lot from him. I use the sink-and-lift retrieve to start. Sometimes you will get a strike as you are winding it back in for another cast. This is a clue to work the lure a little faster. If smallies are short-striking the Senko, try it wacky style. The change in hook position can make the difference.

Randy and I have had some great days with tidal smallmouth bass. Our combined experience with fishing for flowing, freshwater smallies has helped us diagnose the fishery along Garrett Island. I look forward to developing more patterns and catching more smallmouth bass there.



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Spring Launch 2020:

A whole different set of rules By Doug Dawson

Boaters start preparing for spring launch early in the year, as boat shows trigger their desire to get back out on the water. The start of fishing season excites fishermen, and the warmth and wind invites sailors to be ready for launch. At least, that's how it's been in the past.

This year, boating will be different. With all the "lockdown" and "stay home" requirements, we weren't sure when we would be allowed to get into our marina to see our boat, let alone start preparing for spring launch. There are about 200 boats in our location. There were even discussions that maybe we wouldn't be able to go boating this summer if the virus spreads out of control.

But, in the middle of May, our Premier announced that marinas were added to the places that could start opening safely on Saturday, May 16. This was great news! Then, we got the notice from our Yacht Club that the crane was coming on May 23rd and we would have to be ready for launch—just 6 days to prepare. The crane would only be there for one day. All the members rushed to their boats during the week to take off the tarps

or shrink wrap, summarize their engines, have all the lines in place for the crane, and also fender and dock lines ready. Surveyors were scrambling to get surveys done before launch for insurance policies. Marinas across Ontario were buzzing with activity that week.

Spring launch 2020 came with a whole set of new rules that are different depending on where your marina/yacht club is located. Local, provincial and state requirements for social distancing and masking dictate how facilities could launch boats while protecting staff, trades and boaters from COVID-19.

For us, as complicated as it sounded at first, the COVID-19 rules were incorporated into the launch plan for our Yacht Club and communicated in detail to all the boaters. Only one person was allowed per boat to attend Launch Day. We were each given an arrival time and location to wait, until the crane was ready for us.

I arrived at my designated time wearing my mandatory mask and was ushered in by another masked boater when it was my turn.

The crane lifted and launched our boat Windy that a helper and I temporarily tied to the dock. In the picture, behind Windy, you can see the crane launching more boats on the other side of the harbor.

I started the motors and after letting them warm up, I drove off to my slip and tied there.

With all of us following the plan, we all launched, without incident and finished an hour early. Well done to all who participated.

The minor differences were obviously the masks and social distancing and the "one-at-a-time" approach, but other than that, the procedure was like other years and went like clockwork.

The major difference, was the "only one person on the boat" rule which meant that once you were launched, you were on your own to dock in your own slip. We were given another option and that was to have a volunteer from the club come

aboard to help with docking.

In either case, different docking skills would be required. If you weren't used to single handed docking, it could be tricky. If you had a "stranger" as a helper rather than your usual First Mate, you have only a few minutes to train them on your procedures.

Brushing up on docking skills before launch would be a good idea for boaters, who haven't launched yet, so that you aren't caught off guard.

For boaters already in the water and getting ready for a summer of fun on the water, brushing up on docking skills is also

a great idea, to take the stress out of docking, when you come back to your slip.

Don't let a bad docking dampen your fun. Go to PowerBoatDocking.com or SailboatDocking.com and get started.

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Take a Kid Fishing

By Tim Campbell

The COVID-19 pandemic caused the cancelation of a lot of functions including some fun fishing events especially designed for kids. That's why it's more important than ever to take a kid fishing this summer.

It's easy to get set up for a day of fishing with a youngster whether it is from the shore or on a boat. All that is needed is a basic rod and reel, some small hooks, plastic bobbers, a few sinkers and some bait such as worms or minnows. Most of those children's cartoon rod and reel packages are not much more than toys. However, if your child is three to six years old and really likes the Barbie or Spiderman combo, then fine. It's all about them. Those combos have a push-button spin cast style reel which takes a little coordination and timing to cast. Sometimes, if the little tots can't get the hang of it, they get frustrated and quit. Some basic kits come with yellow practice casting plugs. Practicing casting before the trip is a good idea. Be patient and help them as needed. Praise them when they make a good cast.

For older kids I recommend a five to six-foot, two-piece spinning rod paired with a size 1000 to 2500 spinning reel. That way the young person can grow into it and get many years of use. The reel should be spooled with good quality 8 or 10 lb. monofilament line. Stay away from braided line with young anglers. Braided line can easily cut into soft skin and there is no advantage to it for beginners. I also recommend mashing the barbs down on the hooks using needle-nose pliers because if a kid gets a hook stuck in them past the barb, it likely means a trip to the hospital to cut it out. If the barb is mashed down the hook can be removed much easier. Normally, in that case all that is required is a band-aid and a kiss.

Younger children may only need an hour or two to fish, especially if it is their first time. Older kids may



want to spend more time fishing. I know some ten-year-olds who love to fish and could stay out all day. Let the kids play with the bait if they want. When a fish is caught, show it to them. Identify the fish if you know the species. Point out the colors. Put it in a bucket of water so the child can watch it swim around. Some kids will want to release the fish and watch it swim away. I encourage that.

There are many places around Baltimore to fish from the shore. In the city there is a bulkhead on Boston Street across from the Du Burns Arena which is a popular fishing area. There is a boat ramp nearby with ample parking next to a small park. The Coastal Conservation Association Baltimore Chapter has held a Kid's Fishing Day there for the past few years on the first Saturday in August. White perch, spot, eels, and other small fish can be caught there, but I wouldn't recommend eating anything out of that water. Tochterman's Tackle at 1925 Eastern Avenue has everything you'd need. Call them at 410-327-6942.

The Essex/Middle River Fishing Club has sponsored a Kid's Fishing Day in early August for many years. Their function has been held at Wilson Point Park in Baltimore County. There is a long wooden walkway along the water where

people can fish. At one end is a free, public boat ramp and there is plenty of parking. The fishing is usually good there and a person could eat what they catch there if so desired. Bowley's Bait & Tackle at 2917 Eastern Blvd has live bait and tackle. Call them at 410-687-2107.

If you're looking to hire a guide, I recommend Captain Tom Hughes. He has a nice, roomy boat with high gunnels and many years of experience fishing the Upper Bay area. One of his specialties is family trips. To visit his website go to www.capttomhughes.com or call him at 410-747-9431. Tell him I sent you.



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When everything shut down in March and cars were left undriven, pollution and greenhouse gases began to drop. The skies appeared clearer and the air cleaner, then the trash began to build on our roadways and eventually making its way to our waterways.

While Maryland Waterways has not been able to have a group cleanup since March, we have been actively working. We are serious about our mission, "Cleaning up the Chesapeake Bay through Education, Collaboration and Hands-on Efforts to protect the future of our Children". We have been cleaning up and encouraging others to take a bag and pick up trash while on a walk or visiting a park. Unfortunately, face masks and gloves have been littering our streets and parking lots and dumping has been rampant.

While restaurants may not be generating as much trash as normal, there has been an increase in polystyrene

containers and plastic bags which is harmful to our environment. Since the inception of MWF in September 2019, our volunteers have been busy cleaning up our waterways and surrounding areas, with accumulated trash scale receipts at just under 80 tons.

MWF has been collaborating with community groups, food banks and other environmental organizations during this

time to educate about ways we can all work to improve our environment. We partnered in a "Let's Adapt" campaign with Baltimore County Green Alliance, Neighbor Space, and other organizations to address food insecurity in Baltimore County.

We have also been working with Edgemere Church of God, Student Support Network, and others to transport food to reach as many people in need and cut down on food waste. The need for food is great but much is also being hoarded and wasted. Food waste is filling our landfills and in turn, releasing methane, a greenhouse gas 25x more harmful than carbon dioxide and contributing to climate change issues. We will continue to work and educate people about food waste and ways to cut down on waste.

Our interns will be cleaning up our waterways, planting trees, marking storm drains and more this summer and

we hope to schedule some group cleanups very soon. If you know of an area in need or would like us to help you organize a cleanup, we have no boundaries and are eager to help. Fundraisers have been put on hold, so any donations are greatly appreciated. For more information, please contact MWF at 443.983.2945 or marylandwaterwaysfoundation.org




MWF is recruiting Environmental College students for our summer internship programs. If you are interested in cleaning up our waterways, learning to run a boat and explore your possibilities in the field of Environmental Services, please respond to mdwaterways@gmail.com.

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Finding a bit of Solace

By James Bedell

With everything going on today it would be easy to wallow in despair. For a time, it looked like we wouldn't get a boating season at all this year. But now, as beaches and marinas open there is some light ahead. We may be in the middle of a global pandemic but at least if we have to social distance we can now do so in the luxury of our boats. So, get out of the house, grab the kids, and get out there! The tragedy of this year so far can't be downplayed, but we can look for the silver lining. At this point in the year we're all ready to be boating. And now, with most other activities cancelled, we have more than enough time to check everything off the boating-to-do list. From projects to trying new things, we should all be taking the opportunity to explore our worlds a little more. I for one intend to make the most of this season. When you're out bobbing around the bay, it's easy to not mind keeping your distance from others and just enjoy a day out. If you're feeling the quarantine blues and don't quite know how to fill your time, take a look at a few ideas I have below and get ready to relax on the upper Chesapeake.

Now that you've got all of this extra time- you're not going out to dinner, to a concert, sending the kids to camp, or browsing boat and car shows this season- why not try something new? Sometimes the same old boat routine can get a bit stale, especially when you have so much more time to do it. This season try some new activities. Plenty of local vendors in most bayside towns will rent you kayaks and paddleboards. Or go a little more extreme and find yourself a jet-ski rental. You never know, you may just find your next favorite water sport! I plan to do a bit more overnighting on the boat this year. With my wife working fewer days due to the pandemic, we'll now have the time to spend more nights out enjoying the sunsets and cool night breezes that have eluded us in other, busier, years. Especially if you have children, this could be a great season to shake things up; try a new towable or float, experiment with kayaks and paddleboards. Or if your kids are getting to that age, maybe now's a good time to get them their own rowboat or dinghy and teach them the basics.

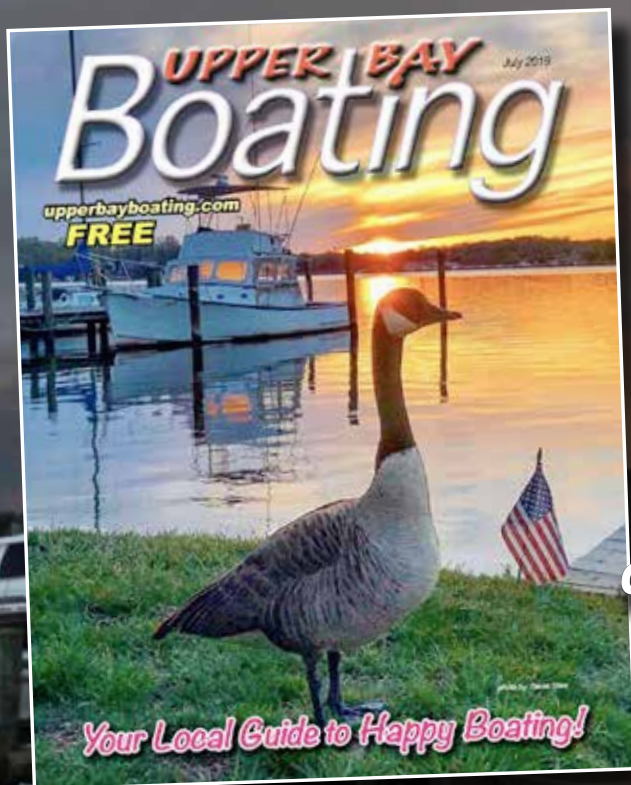
With everything going on in the world it's a great time to be looking for deals. Many people are not launching boats or are getting out of the hobby due to the associated costs. This is a pretty usual response to uncertain times, so for those of you looking for a new toy or a weekend project, now is the time to be scouring craigslist, eBay, and local papers for some great deals. From kayaks and boards, to outboards and skiffs, many smaller boating commodities should be hitting the used market. Just be sure to know what you are looking for and what quality an item is. If you find several great deals it can be easy to feel like you need to jump on them and end up with something you never intended to buy. For those of you looking to downsize or even



get out of the hobby, I would urge you to think about how far you really need to divest. Maybe the boat has to go, but could be replaced with a small rowboat or dinghy. Even a pair of used kayaks will keep you out on the water. In 2008 we saw a mass exodus from boating and it had a huge impact on the economy, nearly destroying the boating industry. Let's try to keep the same from happening now by keeping the hobby alive in any way we can. The more we all boat (and spend money on boat stuff) the stronger the industry is, which provides more opportunities, better products, and more support for all boaters.

Keep in mind as this season progresses that local stores, having been shut down for weeks, are still struggling and need our help. Do your part to help your local marine store by buying locally whenever possible. Price check with your local marina store, if they can match a price and make the sale, many will. Plus, with global supply shortages, shipping delays, and warehouse closures, online retailers may not be as cheap and quick to ship as you normally expect. If you want local stores to be around next year, we need to be patronizing them this year. It may not be as easy as finding what you need on your phone during your coffee break, but you've got some extra time now, go out and shop your local stores, it'll be worth it.

Hopefully some of you can use some of these helpful hints to go out and make the most of your summer. There are a lot of things going on in the world but getting out on the water gives us the chance to put it all away for a while and just enjoy the beauty around us. When you look back on 2020, make sure what you remember most are the great memories you made out on the Chesapeake with family and friends. We all owe to ourselves and each other to take a break and find a bit of solace.



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Best Bay Crab Soup

By Montana Grant

Every Chesapeake Bay dweller brag about their Best Crab Soup recipe. Their idea of best varies with the ingredients that they put into their special soup. We all have our own idea of what makes our crab soup the best.

Some chefs add cabbage, others prefer no potatoes. The amount or type of crab meat varies. Some folks add flaked fish to their soup. Others prefer a creamed soup rather than a broth. Whatever your preference is, I think that you will enjoy this true Chesapeake blend.

Years ago, I went to an Essex VFW crab feast and enjoyed my favorite, traditional, classic crab soup. This special recipe was a huge secret. Apparently, the author spent years perfecting this wonderful and more traditional soup. There were never any leftovers.

Making a small batch of Crab Soup is one thing but making a barrel of soup is another. My friend Scott Ketchem, also known as "The Yellow Hat", managed to get me this special recipe. I still have his original copy. "Some recipes are just too good to keep under your hat", he said.

Most crab soupers make a 3-4-gallon batch of soup. For big Bay events, 20 gallons is more the style. Here is the recipe in 2 columns to meet either need.

3-4 GALLON BATCH

1 pound of crabmeat
1 ½ lb. cubed beef
1/3 lb. bacon
1/3 bunch of celery, sliced
1 lb. diced onion (rough cut, chunky)
2 lbs. cubed potatoes (spoon sized cubes)
1 medium cabbage cut into strips
3 lbs. mixed veggies (corn, green beans, carrots, limas, etc.)
¼ lb. barley (adds thickness, heartiness)
1 qt. Tomato puree. (more tomatoes are fine)
Salt and pepper and OLD BAY to taste.



20 GALLON BATCH

6 lbs. crabmeat
8lbs. cubed meat
2 lbs. bacon
2 bunches of Celery
5 lbs. Onions (Vidalia are nice)
10 lbs. potatoes
2 large heads cabbage
18 lbs. mixed vegetables
1 box of Barley
1 gallon of Tomato puree (some fresh cubed tomatoes won't hurt)

You can certainly kick this recipe up a notch. Adding fresh Maryland tomatoes is always good. Putting in the claws or even half body of steamed crabs can't hurt. I also add the shell corner fat to my soup. More corn or even small sections of corn on the cob can add a different look and flavor. Don't be afraid to experiment and make this soup your own.

Don't over cook or boil the soup. You want the meat to be easy to chew and the veggies to be identifiable. Seeing the ingredients is fine. The key is to heat and simmer the soup. Crab meat is already cooked so do not cook it, so it disappears. Slow and low! Take your time when making this wonderful treat.

Add the crab meat toward the end of the cooking. If you have wild game like deer meat, add it to the pot. Make your cubes an inch or so thick so that they fit on the spoon. Simmering the soup adds richness and flavor. Some folks prefer more spicy food laden with Worcestershire sauce or Siracha. Crab meat is a sweet and wonderful flavor on its own. Do not overpower the Bay Fresh Crab with too much spice.

Eating crab soup is another matter. Crab feasts are often the time to serve up some soup. I prefer to keep a



bowl along side my picking tray. While I pick my crabs, some of the crab gets added to the soup. Once the bowl is chock full of crab, it is time to enjoy. Adding crackers is an option but adding crab meat is simply great! Some chef's ad a few tablespoons of crabmeat atop every served bowl just because.

Serving some fresh French Bread with butter also adds another course to the meal. Use the bread to soak up some broth or just compliment the soup.



Bread bowls also make a fun way to serve the soup. A few cobs of fresh corn and maybe some grilled tomatoes will fill out the menu. You can make a great meal out of the soup.

For dessert consider an ice cream sundae, brownies and ice cream, or some ice cream on a Bay Favorite Berger Cookie. Pineapple upside down cake is also a great choice.

No matter what your choice is, try this recipe and make it your own. We all share the Bay and its Bounty together. Montana Grant

For more Montana Grant, find him slurping crab soup at www.montanagrantsfishing.com.

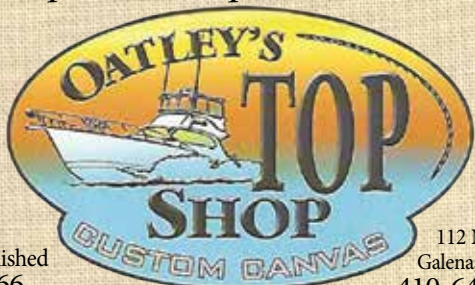
Montana Grant

Montana Grant

As a retired Educator, Consultant, Naturalist, Guide, and Freelance Writer, Montana Grant spends much of his life sharing secrets, tips, and stories about the great outdoors. His roots are from Western Maryland's Appalachian Mountains but reach to Montana's Great Rockies. Montana Grant is an award-winning educator in public schools and universities. As an outdoor writer, Scoutmaster, hunting and fishing guide, or just a friend that shares his love of the outdoors, Montana Grant is dedicated to teaching others how to appreciate, respect, and enjoy nature. His blog can be followed at www.montanagrantsfishing.com.



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Tom Scilipoti's 90th Birthday

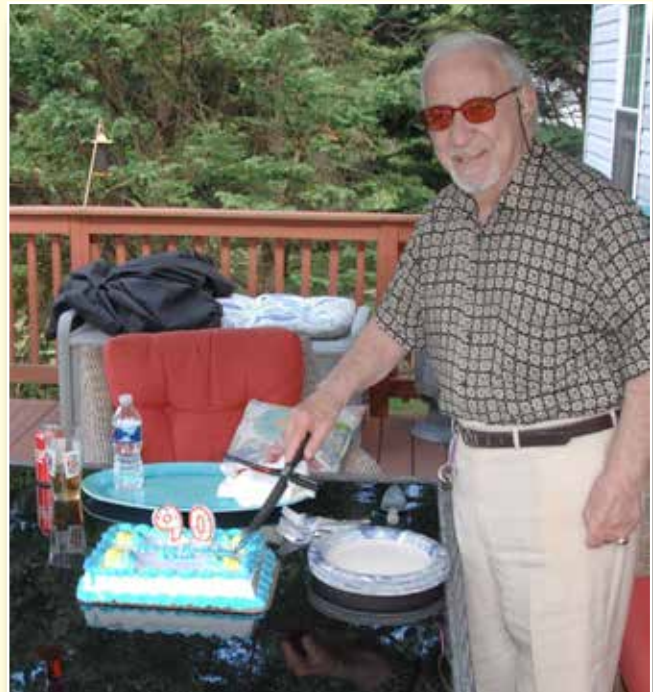
Upper Bay Boating's Senior Photographer **Thomas Scilipoti** recently celebrated his 90th birthday.

Tom was born and raised in Little Italy and now lives in Upper Fells Point. He first started taking pictures at the age of 17 after his parents bought him his first camera. Since then he has been carrying a camera everywhere patiently waiting for that perfect shot.

Baltimore has experienced much change and growth, and through Tom's photos you too can experience those changes.



For a limited time he will be selling them through the website <http://baltimorepictureperfect.com/photos.html>. Not all of Thomas' work will appear online at one time. Prints can also be ordered by calling (410) 206-2050.

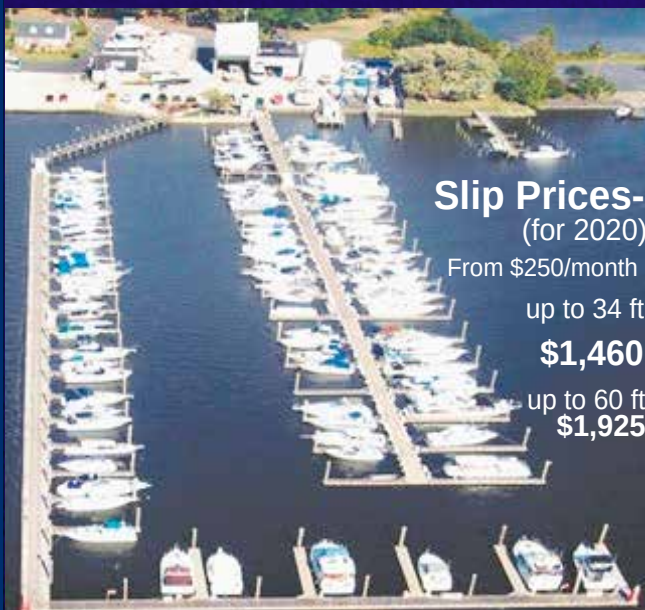


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Sailing the Farm

(With Apologies to Kenneth W. Neumeyer)



I mention his name because in 1981 or so, Neumeyer published a book of that name, "Sailing the Farm" on how to raise sustainable foodstuffs on a small sailboat. Neumeyer had sailed the world, and the book, by turns pragmatic, apocalyptic, and hippy-tastic, served as a great guide for those who wanted to be on the water but not be separated from fresh foodstuffs. The book is long out of print, and extant copies cost a mint, but it is available as an online PDF file at <https://avoid.rocks/blog/sailing-farm/> if you're interested.

Fresh food, let's face it, be you aboard a watercraft, in an isolated cabin in winter, or headed to Mars, is an issue. It's not just the scruffy-avoidance and other health issues. If you cook and appreciate good meals, a little fresh green can make a huge difference in the results of your galley. Plus, a little green is just nice to have about.

So we thought we'd let you in on a few of the things we've done of varying success to bring a little fresh greenery (no, not that kind) into our lives, going from the ultra simple to the easy and plentiful. Ready?

You want to talk easy? You want to talk "takes up no space"? Try this. The next time you get a stalk of celery (carrots and onions work too, as will most brassicas like bok choy) chop off and reserve the bottom two inches or so and place it in a shallow dish of water (if carrots or onions, save the tops where the leaves come out instead). That's it. In a few days, you'll be greeted with a surprising little fountain of green leaves suitable for garnishing your salads and soups as well as lending some welcome living stuff to your galley. Really, it's quite pretty.

This pretty little guy will give you a month of tasty garnishes.

When it gets a bit too rangy looking (but has developed a bit of root), just stick it in a pot and it will continue to grow. We've had a dockside pot of herbs, mainly rosemary, for six years now, providing no end of sauces and marinades (it's also been the nesting site for 35 ducklings over the years, but I digress.)



Wonderful, edible thyme flowers in a dockside pot.

Now, let's grow some crops, shall we? The best, simplest option we've found is the growing of what are typically called microgreens. Okay "microgreens" is kind of a trendoid sales job. All these things are normal crops, picked very young. You can get some wonderful "microgreen mixes" on the web, a blend of seeds of things like arugula, mustard, basil, dandelion, cilantro, kale, lettuce, chard. . . some of the mixes may have upwards of thirty different plants, running heavily to the earlier mentioned brassicas. They require only a shallow



pan of soil, and that you give them water and a periodic haircut of the bigger leaves to keep things from getting too mature or crowded. A teaspoon of the seeds can get you literally weeks of fresh greens.

DeadKitty loves his microgreen garden.

Make the clipped greens into a wonderfully rich salad, or as a bed for other dishes. They can be added to stir fries and soups, egg dishes, pastas, and all manner of things. I know of no gonzo food raising you can do that creates so much wonderful food so easily.



So a bed of fresh, slightly bitter greens goes down to make a home. . .

. . . for a wonderful dish of sauteed seafood and fresh veggies.

Last, but not least, let's talk sprouts. Sprouting stuff is really easy. First of all, make sure you get a mix made FOR sprouting (garden seeds may have fertilizers and fungicides on them that you don't want to ingest). Dump them in a jar, put a cloth over the top, and give them a rinse and a drain every day. In a couple of days you'll be greeted with a wonderful wad of sprouts suitable for salads, stir fries, and omelettes, all of them bursting with vitamin C and a host of other nutrients. Mung beans are the classic for sprouting, but fenugreek, radish seeds, and garbanzo beans work beautifully.



Asparagus and green pea soup with fresh thyme flowers and fenugreek sprouts. It doesn't get any fresher than this. Yeah, we made the bowl too.

Neumeyer died in 2013, at shore at last, surrounded by family. He inspired generations of farmers, cooks, and iconoclasts. The book is a monument to him. Give it, and the veggies a try.

Summer is on us now with a vengeance, and we've been doing a bit of cruising, checking out systems for a longer trip this fall. Life on the water is just splendid. Get out there and enjoy it.



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Night Boating Safety from TowBoatUS

by Capt. Dale Plummer, TowBoatUS

Even though we had a slow, restricted beginning to this year's boating season, the fun is now in full swing! As the local TowBoatUS, we are on the water at all hours of the day and night helping others get home safely. There are a couple of potentially dangerous mistakes I see time and time again while out on the water after dark. Take the time to remind yourself of the do's and don'ts of night boating.



First and foremost, slow down. Unless you have Spiderman's early warning "spider-sense," debris, crab pots, markers and other boats are obscured in the dark. Slower speeds give you time to process and react to potential hazards. Enlist the help of a second person to stand watch to double your chance of boating safe while out at night.

Learn the most common light patterns, so you know what you are seeing in the near or far distance. On-shore lights can be confused with anchor lights, moving power boats can be mistaken for the red or green flashing of a marker. Knowing the difference between an anchored sailboat or a distant range light and what to do when you see both red and green coming straight for you is just as important as knowing the rules of the road when driving your car.

I am sure you have seen and envied the cool dashboard accent lights that many have installed aboard their vessels. It may look cool but when underway, those lights severely affect your night vision. Use them while you

are at anchor or dock only. Eliminate ambient lighting on your boat. While underway dim your gauges, cabin lights, chart plotter and resist the urge to check your cell phone. All these light sources will impair your night vision. However, NEVER cover important screens, like your radar, to block the light. And be a good boating neighbor. Do not flash your spotlight at an oncoming boat. Although it may seem like a great way to let others know where you are, your spotlight will temporarily blind the oncoming boater.

There are many more great pointers for safe after hours boating online at boatus.com. Take a moment to further your boating education so that you and your family can enjoy more of the summer boating season. Independence Day fireworks are excellent by boat but only if you make it home safely. As always, we are here 24/7/365 and are happy to help.



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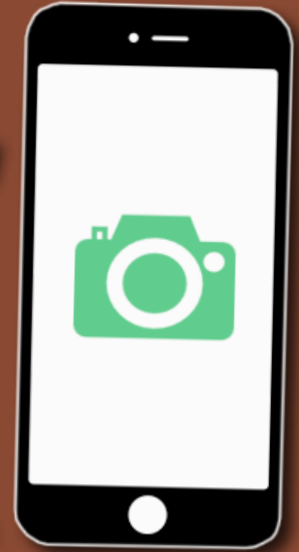
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*This is Sadie hanging out on the boat
last year on the Bohemia during
one of our many raft ups
- Everett Carpenter*

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Our Chesapeake Bay was named and enjoyed by the Algonquin Indians, long before we Marylanders came ashore. They named the Bay "Chesepiooc", which meant "at a big river". Since the birth of the Chesapeake Bay, many tides have come and gone. Here are some interesting facts and thoughts about the Great Bay we all enjoy and love.

The Chesapeake Bay is the largest estuary, or mixing bowl, in the water. Fresh and saltwater

mix together creating a wonderful nursery for all life. At over 200 miles long, the Bay was formed 18,000 years ago. The Bay is filled with over 51 billion gallons of water.

Only half of the Bay's water comes from the salty ocean. The rest of the fresh water flows into the Bay from a huge watershed that extends as far as Cooperstown, New York, to Norfolk Virginia. Waters from western Maryland are also a part of this huge 64,000 square mile watershed.

Changing tides create currents that mix and blend the water together. The deepest part of the Bay is called "the Hole", at 170 feet deep. The width varies from as narrow as 4 miles to as wide as 30 miles. Ironically, a 6-foot-tall Marylander could wade over 700,000 acres of the bay without getting completely wet.

Some of the problems with our Bay come from uncontrolled and unwanted runoff from sewers, farm fields, and street runoff. It is said that if we created a 100-foot forested buffer around the entire Bay's watershed, the Bay's health would improve toward perfection. Sadly, many landowners mow to the waters edge, create bulkheads, and farm up to the shoreline. The result is erosion, pollution, and loss of habitat.

When the Bay is healthy it becomes the home for an amazing population of critters, fish, and plants. 70-90% of all the east coast's rockfish, or Striped Bass, are born in the nursery waters of our Bay. 300 migratory birds travel here annually. 3600 species of plants and animals cover the Bay. 348 species of fin fish swim in the Bay. 16 varieties of underwater grasses provide cover, and oxygen to the Bay's waters.

173 species of shellfish filter the Bays waters. Oysters are the most famous. At one time, millions of this filter feeder covered the Bays floor. There were so many oysters that all of the Bays waters would be cleaned and filtered by oysters every few days.



Each oyster filters 60 gallons of water per day. Currently, less than a few percent of the oyster population survive. It takes a year for them to filter the Bays waters at best. Oysters mature at 5 years. They begin life as a male but end life as a female. Nature knows best!

Over 500 million pounds of seafood is harvested from the Bay's bountiful waters. Rockfish, Blue Crabs, oysters are the most popular. Fresh seafood is a wonderful and healthy choice of diet. Steamed crabs are a Maryland favorite.

New species of

fish have entered the Bay. The Blue catfish were introduced into the Virginia waters and now can be found throughout the Bay. Some can grow over 50 pounds. Snakeheads also find the Brackish waters of our Bay a home. These predatory Asian fish were illegally introduced into the Bay and have expanded their habitat. They can survive in fresh and salt water. Front pectoral fins allow them to walk from one watershed to another. Some folks transport these harmful fish across the state. Many of the Snakeheads genetics show that they are from Delaware and east of Maryland.

The first Europeans stepped into the Bay in 1524. Captain Giovanni da Verrazano sailed into the Bay. Later, Captain John Smith, in 1608, made several cruises throughout the Bay. His accurate and wonderful maps are still enjoyed today. One story describes fish so thick that he harvested dinner with his sword.

35 Million years ago, a crater was made in the Bay area. An asteroid or meteor impacted the Bay area and formed a crater. This initial 53-mile-wide crater ultimately led to the Bay's formation. There is also a history of Tsunamis and strong hurricanes that continue to impact and change the Bay.

The Chesapeake Bay is an amazing and special place. We all need to protect and conserve the Bay's quality and resources. Education is the first step. Every person that enjoys the Bay must also be the Bay's Stewards. If we all do our part, the bay will be a healthy part of lives for generations to come.

Keep our Bay the Best!

by Montana Grant

For more Montana Grant, find him helping our Bay at www.monatangrantfishing.com.



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