

JUNE 2023

UPPER BAY *Boating* MAGAZINE

Conowingo Eagles

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Matt Mendelsohn

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Upper Bay Boating Magazine

2206 Turkey Point Road, Essex, Maryland 21221 | 410-404-3013 | www.upperbayboating.com

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Feeling WELCOME at the Chesapeake Inn in Chesapeake City!

So... Corned Fish And Cabbage... The Explanation Part 2!

They are now selling Plant-Based Meat? "Hey, check out the plant meat... It doesn't even taste like plant!" This plant tastes like real meat! It takes a whole lot of unhealthy stuff to make this perfectly good plant taste like some perfectly delicious meat! I was pondering these things over dinner the other night with some friends as we enjoyed a few New York Strips and a great Garden Salad. Why would anybody want to make meat out of plants? Do you think vegetarians wake up in the morning craving a burger and say to themselves "I think I will drive Burger King today and buy me one of those BS Burgers?" A few years ago, for a special occasion I made Meat based plant! Now that was wonderful! I

took a few different delicious kinds of meat and made them look like plants! And I can tell you... My meat-based plants did not even taste like plants.

So, if it doesn't taste like fish what does it taste like? Does snakehead fish taste like snake head? Does catfish taste like cat? Meow... Watch your teeth, it might not taste like much but don't eat rock fish! Can you imagine the hairdo on a Mullet? How holy is a Monkfish? How much fun could you have with a Red Snapper? Hmmm... A sturgeon or a Swordfish? Now... here is another "IT DOESN'T TASTE LIKE"

Now we are talking! Ummm, next up Nut Milk!!! Part three!

Captain Tony had just retired from a great life of seaman shipping and storytelling. He had one taxi ride to the airport and a long plane ride from Italy home for it to be complete. He hailed a Taxi and one stopped for him. A few minutes into the ride Captain Tony tapped the driver on the shoulder

to ask him a question.

The driver screamed, lost control of the car, nearly hit a bus, went up on the footpath, and stopped inches from a shop window.

For a second, everything was quiet in the cab. Then the driver said, "Look, Captain, don't ever do that again. You scared the living

daylights out of me!"

Captain Tony apologized and said, "I didn't realize that a little tap would scare you so much."

The driver replied, "Sorry, it's not really your fault. Today is my first day as a taxi driver — I've been driving a funeral van for the last 25 years!!!

MARINATING IN JUNE!

And here we go folks!!! It's here and let's make it count! The kids have soccer, we have church, Tammy has a recital, there is a family reunion in Pennsylvania, somebody planned a wedding in New Somewhere... It happens this time of the year, every year. The Non-Boating Humans want to take as much of our "we should be out boating" weekends up. They sit all winter conniving and contemplating ways to get us out into the countryside and away from our favorite dock bars. Fourth of July Weekend, the biggest weekend of the whole boating year and your niece has planned a destination wedding at a dude ranch in New Mexico! We are just gonna have to pull a Nancy Reagan and JUST SAY NO!

The Non-Boating Humans hate to see happy people out on their boats. NBH's (a family member you wanted to spend time with) will show up on your boat, not bring anything at all, not help with the fuel bill, drink your best scotch and when you sit down at one of the great waterfront restaurants not buy the first round! Not only that, when you get the guest check they will grab the check, get out their calculator total everyone's bill up, tell you or me, we owe seventy-five dollars, grab every bodies cash



then pay with a credit card. When you get back to the docks and not even help you with your lines. (Well actually that's the nicest thing they did all day. Think twice about the NBH's!

NBH's and Bananas! Some of us in the boating community think it a bad idea to take bananas on a boat. Yes, it is probably superstition, but I still don't do it. So, the Non-boating human you brought onto your boat today brought in their bag a half dozen bananas. What could possibly go wrong?

Talking about Fishin? Some people love to talk about fishin'. They will talk about fishin all Winter, All Spring, All summer and All Fall. The one thing they never seem to get to is FISHING!!!





Boating and Buying

By Wendy Gilbert / Contributing Editor

And we're off!

Enough planning already, let's go!

Many of us lay claim to favorites. Favorite types of boating, favorite times of year, favorite beers ... you get the picture. And these are wonderful judgments to make and times and conditions to hope for, but let's face it. This is it!

For most of us, June is the first full month of full-on boating season. No more Mr. Wannabe, no more Mrs. Almost There and certainly no more Miss Maybe.

The spring commissioning is complete, the shakedown cruise was weeks ago and all stickers, tags and licenses have been obtained.

The kids will be out of school soon and outfitted with new swimsuits, water shoes, caps and PFDs. They do grow up fast, don't they? As usual, I spent the previous weeks doing the same for myself. Not that I grew, but the internet "buy this!" shopping 'bots were busy this spring. It was worse than Christmas! However, packages are always

welcome and who am I to argue with a good sale on something I actually want and need? Wants vs Needs

Ah the age-old dilemma. We aren't as good as we think we are about determining which is which. So, Wendy did what Wendy does. No, she didn't fly out the window

with some dude named Peter Pan. She followed Alice's rabbit down an information-laced hole.

News to me -- there are an astounding number of worksheets, games and what some call "tools" to assist us in determining which is which. I had some fun, folks. A couple of hours later I discovered that those darling



turquoise and tan deck shoes are a want as are the burgundy Yeti wine tumblers.

In fact, according to one worksheet, none of the things I plan to purchase this week are actually needs. None of them.

Will that affect my decision to purchase these things? Probably not.

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These Eagles Do More Than Just Fly

PHOTO BY
Matt Mendelsohn

By Wendy Gilbert

Some of the best photographs of eagles taken in the world have been captured at the Conowingo Dam. During migration periods, photographers from around the globe pour into Fisherman's Park to capture the nation's favorite raptor at home and at work.

Photos of eagles flying, fishing and fighting over the mighty Susquehanna River are treasured.

The birding crowds may have diminished slightly now (perhaps they've headed up to Alaska?), but your opportunities for great eagle photos have not. Plenty of resident eagles provide opportunities from dawn to dusk.

During a recent visit, I felt a little silly aiming my cell phone skyward while the sounds of 50 sports cameras with lenses longer than my very long arms clicked away. In the end, no one cared. Not the professionals, not me and certainly not the birds. My photos didn't look like the magazine cover, but hey, it was a spontaneous visit.

In addition to the stars of the show, there are many other species to see. According to the Maryland Ornithological Society:

The primary birding attractions at the dam are Bald Eagles, herons, gulls and waterfowl. Large numbers of Bald Eagles gather there starting in October through

mid-March, to take advantage of the food availability. In the past, many thousands of gulls also gathered in winter at Conowingo, providing an opportunity to search for rarities. However, the numbers of gulls have declined in recent years for unknown reasons.

The forested area that fills the triangle between Shuresville Road, Shures Landing Road, and the river is busy with songbirds almost year-round. The edges of this area can be birded from the parking lot at Fisherman's Park and by walking (very cautiously!) along Shure's Landing and Shuresville Roads. A section of the 193-mile long Mason-Dixon Trail traverses this area. The northbound section of the Mason Dixon Trail can be accessed from near the Conowingo Dam Visitor Center, located on the north side of US Route 1 just west of the dam (Visitor Center address is 4948 Conowingo Rd, Conowingo, MD 21918). Ask at the Visitor Center for directions to the trailhead. The Mason-Dixon Trail is marked by blue blazes and identified by small circular metal discs with the trail logo. The trail passes through beautiful forest with many wildflowers among the understory and ground cover, and can be quite birdy in spring. The areas around Glen Cove Marina and Broad

Creek Marinas are particularly productive and offer viewpoints of "Conowingo Lake", the water reservoir above the dam.

Fisherman's Park is the northern terminus of a foot trail, part of the Lower Susquehanna Heritage Greenway or The Wildflower Trail, which runs south along the west bank of the river for about 3 miles, ending at the Deer Creek Picnic Area in Susquehanna State Park. The trail goes through river bottom forest and wetland areas, with intermittent views of the river. There are several Bald Eagle nests visible from the trail. Prothonotary Warblers also nest here. The trail is famous for the wildflowers that blanket the rocky cliffs on the west side of the trail in early spring: Virginia Bluebells, Dutchman's Breeches, Drooping Trillium, Wild Ginger, and other species.

Although Conowingo is best known for gulls and eagles, it hosts a wide diversity of birds, with over 220 species reported on eBird. The county line between Harford and Cecil County is about halfway across the river, running parallel to the shores and skirting the northeast edge of Rowland Island, the long, narrow island just south of the dam, with a couple of power-line towers on it. A lot of the birds may be on the Cecil

County side, particularly waterfowl swimming through channels in the extensive rocky area on the Cecil shore; gulls and eagles roosting on the rocks; herons, egrets, Ospreys and eagles in the trees; and eagles, Ospreys, and other raptors on the power-line towers. There is no public access to the dam from the Cecil County side, but a view of the river below the dam can be obtained from the Octoraro River Trail at Conowingo Park in Cecil County.

Bald Eagles are the big story at Conowingo Dam and attract many visitors. A portion of the eagles seen here are nesting individuals; there are nests up and down the river, including some in trees on islands in the river. Some eagles are present year-round but begin arriving in greater numbers in mid-October and remain through mid-March. High counts for a single winter day may exceed 250 individuals. Look everywhere for eagles: flying overhead, perched in trees on the opposite shore, in trees at Fisherman's Park, on the power towers on the island and across the river, on rocks below the dam, and all along the length of the river. Very rarely, a Golden Eagle may drop in but they usually do not linger.

Eagles Continued on pg. 26

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Whatever Floats Your Boat

By L. Alan Keene

I have a confession to make. I pretend to know a lot more about the world we live in than I really do. As a reasonably intelligent adult who's lived on this earth for nearly three-quarters of a century, I've found that it's important to give the impression of a person who understands the physical laws of our planet. People expect it. But if the truth be known, I blindly accept a lot of things that I really don't understand.

Ironically, one of those less-than-fully-understood laws is "The Law Of Buoyancy"..... the physical law that explains why some things float and others don't. As a boating writer for the past 20 years, I've felt compelled to act like I understood this one completely. I mean, come on ... if a boating writer doesn't understand why things float and sink, then who does?

For Archimedes, a mathematician from ancient Greece who is credited with discovering the "principle" over 2,000 years ago, it was as plain as the nose on your face. So obvious, in fact, that he stated it in just 26 words:

"Any object, wholly or partially immersed in a fluid, is buoyed up by a force equal to the weight of the fluid displaced by the object."

Say what?

When I was a kid, it was simple. Light things floated and heavy things sank. And when it came to boats, they floated because they were made of wood, just like that 18-foot ChrisCraft that we use to water ski behind on the Bohemia River back in the 50s.

Over the decades since



taking high school physics, though, I've tried to convince myself, and anybody willing to listen, that I understood the science and could apply it if needed. A summer trip through Nova Scotia a few years back made me realize that, in reality, I haven't progressed much beyond that "boats float because they're wooden" mentality.

While traveling through Nova Scotia's Cape Breton Island, we decided to go for an advertised sail one afternoon on gorgeous Bras d'Or Lake. The boat was a beautiful 67-foot wishbone schooner named "Amoeba" and her capable captain's name was John.

As Captain John motored out of the harbor that afternoon, with the sun glistening off the wave tops and the eagles diving for an early fish dinner, we knew that a special day lay ahead. As the sails quickly filled, Captain John told us a little about his beloved family-owned schoo-

ner, Amoeba. She was a labor of love, he told us, built by his father over a 10-year period in a pole shed behind their family home. Her weight was 36 ton, with 12 ton of ballast and her hull was made of ferrocement.

"Ferrocement.....did he say the hull is made of CEMENT? I wonder how deep it is here." My thoughts were not those of a mature boating writer who understood the law of buoyancy, but rather those of a naive child who knew that a cement boat should sink like a rock.

After quelling my initial anxiety, I was surprised and a little embarrassed by my reaction, albeit internal. It wasn't as if I wasn't aware of ferrocement hull construction. I knew it had been a successful method of boat building for decades. But I had never sailed on one before that day and, down deep (no pun intended), I still didn't quite understand how a 72,000-pound concrete sailboat

could float.....and so beautifully, at that.

Now that I've gotten that off my chest, let's take a close look at Archimedes principle and see if we can make some sense out of those 26 words.

"Any object, wholly or partially immersed in a fluid" - seems straight forward enough -

"is buoyed up by a force equal to the weight of the fluid displaced by the object" - here's the hard part.

Using our beautiful ferrocement schooner as the immersed object, the force that "buoyed up" Amoeba and kept her afloat had to be more than her weight of 72,000 pounds. If not, she'd sink.

That force, according to Archimedes, was provided by the weight of the water that was displaced by her hull as it protruded down into the water. Since a cubic foot of water weighs about 63 lbs., we need to figure out how many cubic feet of water would need to be displaced to equal 72,000 lbs. of force. Using simple division: 72,000 divided by 63 = 1,142.85 cubic feet of water

There you have it. If Amoeba's hull displaces over 1,143 cubic feet of water, she floats. If she displaces 1,142 cubic feet of water or less, she sinks. Pretty simple, huh? Not really, because we haven't allowed for the weight of the cargo and passengers.

I don't know about you, but my brain's getting tired. I think I'll go out and buy a wooden boat and forget about it. Everybody knows wood floats, ya know!



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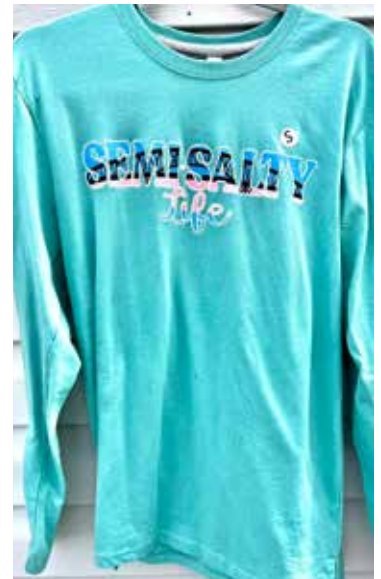


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Women on the Water

Spotlight on Jennifer Rehak

By Kimberly Merriken



We are pleased to present the first installment of our Women on the Water series. For our inaugural article, we are spotlighting Jennifer Rehak.

Jennifer is a mom, a wife, a daughter, a sister, and a pretty impressive woman on the water. Jennifer is an avid fisherwoman and was featured on the cover of DNRs' magazine, Maryland Guide to Fishing and Crabbing 2023, for her Spanish Mackerel citation catch in Solomons.

Her love of the water was practically born in her. Her family has owned and operated Anchor Bay East Marina since Jennifer was 3 months old, and in 2007 the family opened the Hard Yacht Café on the property. In fact, the Hard Yacht Café is where Jennifer met her husband. She says they fell in love over a Bloody Mary.

The marina is a full-service, one-stop shop for boaters in the area. They offer 24-hour emergency service, the Hard Yacht Café and tiki bar, all-season bathrooms, private showers and laundry, WiFi, marine sanitation pump-outs, and packaged goods inside their marina store. They have transient slips and there is no charge for overnight docking when visiting the restaurant.

They have 2 travel lifts and a fuel dock.

This impressive woman on the water has done it all: cooking, bartending, running the yard, running the office, and anything else the two ventures have needed. Jennifer grew up at the marina and has always loved the water and the marina atmosphere. She was driving the travel lifts at 8 years old and moved into office duties at 15 years old. She states that she had never had another plan for her life besides running the marina. But she also had a passion for creating shirts and apparel and wanted something just hers.

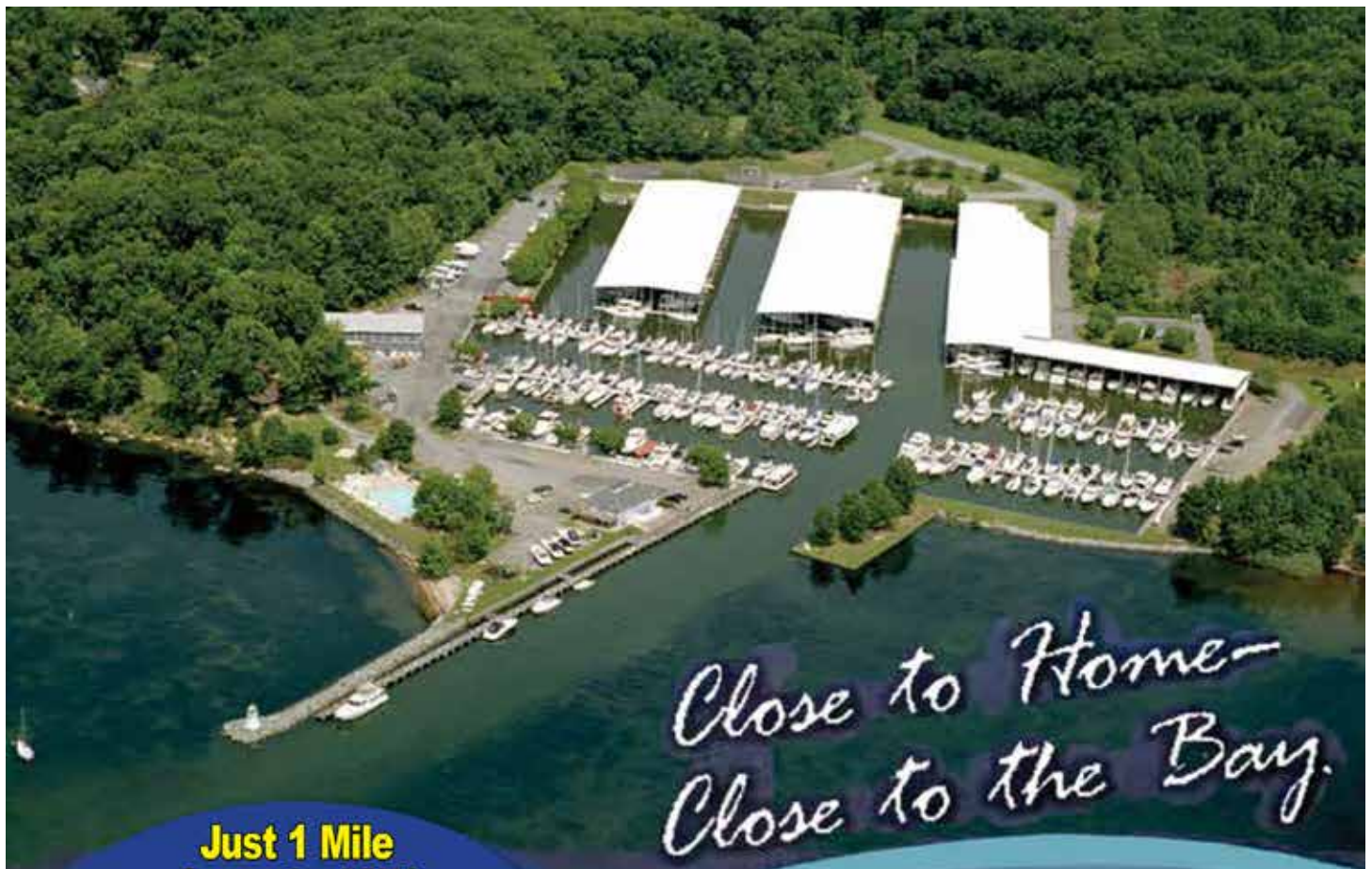
Her family supported her small business and pushed her to follow that passion, too. For years Jennifer had used "the brackish life" as her logo but then someone trademarked it and Jennifer had to come up with a new name for her brand. So, Jennifer's dad helped her come up with the Semi Salty Life logo; a small play on words, brackish water is semi-salty, after all, and she had used this logo for about 10 years before receiving the trademark for it.

Semi Salty Life is Jennifer's own line of apparel, though she does create gear for fishing charters, a welding company, and, of course, the

marina and restaurant. She has an artist on staff and works with several area print shops including Diamond Sportswear, who also assisted in getting Jennifer's business up and running.

To get her products to the public Jennifer has items in the marina store, on the fuel dock, at the restaurant, and on her website (semisaltylife.com). She is sharing both of her passions with her kids, as well. The kids model her youth line and of course are exposed to the marina life. Recently she started attending boat shows and set up a booth at the Bay Bridge Boat Show to showcase her apparel line and marina.

While speaking with Jennifer I was realizing that women on the water do not yet garner the same respect as men on the water. The women have to work harder and be more knowledgeable just to be taken seriously. She witnessed it growing up with her mom and has dealt with it herself. Look at any marine magazine and you will see very few articles that are spotlighting women. Jennifer hopes that the new series in Upper Bay Boating Magazine will spotlight local women on the water, as there are many doing great things locally, and perhaps inspire young girls to go for their passion.



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What's Hiding Under That Rock?

By Anne Sandbek

It's dark and cool, the water is moving swiftly over the rock you're hiding under. You catch sight of a large crayfish headed your way. Wait for it.... bam! That's lunch.

Can you guess the creature that lives this way in the clear cool tributaries of the Susquehanna and Youghiogheny Rivers? If you guessed the Hellbender I'd be impressed. The Eastern Hellbender is nocturnal and lives nearly its whole life under rocks in clear streams. With spotted gray to brown skin the Hellbender blends in perfectly with the stream bed, making ambushing prey a breeze. They prefer crawfish and small fish but will eat shrimp and

earthworms in captivity. In the wild, they can live to be 25 years old.

Pollution and excess sediment create unsuitable habitat for the largest salamander in North America and are partly the reason it has been listed as endangered in Maryland.

While a sighting of this 1-2-foot-long amphibian is unlikely, you might catch a glimpse on cloudy days or during the breeding season in September and October. Females lay 200-400 eggs in a softball-sized mass that gets fertilized externally by the male. Males dig nesting sites under rocks and guard the site for two and a half months until they hatch. As larvae they are most

vulnerable, leaving the nest as soon as possible to avoid being eaten by the father.

If you have the rare chance of finding a Hellbender, they aren't so easy to hold onto. But not to worry their mucus is just slippery - not toxic! Their mucus-covered bodies may protect them from parasites and make them distasteful to potential predators. As young larvae almost anything will eat them, but as adults, they have few predators, mainly raccoons, minks, and river otters.

Remember this elusive guy on your next trip down Deer Creek, those rocks might not be rocks!

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Avoid Trailer Troubles



by TowBoatU.S. Captain Dale Plummer

Earlier this week dispatch received a call for a sinking 20' power boat. After the crew launched the boat, they realized that they had forgotten to put the plug back in but not quickly enough to keep the engine from getting wet and shutting down. Our dispatch talked them through the emergency, the tow boat arrived in record time, and we towed them safely back to the ramp. That's when it hit me that a "Trailer Refresh" might be helpful.

Before trailering your boat inspect the hitch, chains, and electrical connections. Do the "walk-around" and make sure the brake and signal lights are operating. Check to make sure your tires, and your spare, are properly inflated and still in good condition. Check that the boat is properly supported, and all bow/stern tie downs are in place. Your engine should be trimmed up for travel. And, before you hit the road, make sure the plug is back in and seated properly.

Once at the ramp parking lot and before you back down the ramp, remove the straps, disconnect the electrical, and double check the plug. While still in the parking lot, load your gear and decide whether

you want a crew member on board. This is the time to raise the antenna and bimini top, find your keys and kill switch lanyard, turn on your batteries, and get out fenders and dock lines if you need them. Don't be that person who blocks others at the ramp because you are not prepared.

Once all the above has been taken care of, you are ready to back down the ramp. When the boat is halfway in the water, pause to remove the hitch safety chain and the winch strap, and then back down until the boat transom floats. The crew member on board can lower the engine and manage the dock lines with the rest of your crew while you park the truck and trailer.

Most of you know about our on the water towing membership but did you know that BoatUS offers a Trailer Assist membership that helps you out when you are on the road? It's just an extra \$15 a year and provides up to 100 miles of towing for both vehicle and boat trailer along with other roadside assistance benefits. If you are headed out on your boat be prepared with BoatU.S. Trailer Assist for on the road and TowBoatU.S. for on the water. As always, happy to help.

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This magical place I at 942 Glebe Road in Earlville, situated very close to the Bohemia River, while not accessible by boat is definitely worth the drive. The company motto, "Take a break; Start a Conversation" is evident from the second you pull up.

The venue boasts a tasting room (Sipping Stables), Big Barn (The Hub), a People Paddock, an area with farm animals (Speak-easy), and gorgeous grounds to walk around. There are areas for the little ones and furry friends are allowed to come too but please keep a proper eye on them and the kids because some animals at the vineyard like to free roam.

Broken Spoke offers tastings and flights of their wines. Both are offered in the Sipping Stables. Tastings are a face-to-face sam-

pling that allows you to ask questions about the wines and is very interactive (this is a standing event). Only offered with table service are flights (no TSA search required). A flight consists of 4 wines you select, all of which will be served at once. No reservations are needed for table service but it is recommended that you get there early to grab a seat. The Sipping Stables are open Thursday through Sunday from 12-6 p.m.

If you are looking for a place to sit and listen to music, eat some yummy food truck food, and still taste some great wines, The Hub is the place for you. The Hub is open on Saturdays and Sundays from May to September. The hours are 1-4 p.m. but do change seasonally. The Hub is a very large open barn area with walk-

up bars, an area for bands, and an area just outside for the food trucks. You can find the food truck schedule and the current season's hours of operation on their website at brokenspokewinery.com. Now let's talk about the wine. The Broken Spoke does grow some of its own grapes but also sources from other local Maryland vineyards and then turns that into delicious wines served on premises and available at local retailers. If you are into reds then you might want to try Revel Red (Barbera), Banter Red (merlot), Babble Barbera (Oaked Barbera), and Rumors (cab sauvignon & Merlot). These were beyond delicious with a lot of cherries, plums, and vanilla.

But as the weather warms, I am more of a white wine girl. Grunting Gruner was a hit. The deliciously

mixed tastes of white flowers, lime, green apple, and tropical citrus were just what I was looking for. And I think I may have seen Gruner running around the property. LOL.

My tasting partner prefers more dry wines and was able to find some new favorites in Hey Hay, Tattletale, and Blah Blah Blanc.

While we don't agree on our wines, we definitely agreed this visit to Broke Spoke Vineyard and Winery was just what we needed. A great relaxing afternoon enjoying the sunshine, the atmosphere, and most importantly some great wines. And don't forget to inquire about becoming a member of the Pour Souls club for exclusive member events. Hope to see you there soon and tell them your friends at Upper Bay Boating Magazine sent you.

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HOURS OF OPERATION Monday thru Friday 8:30am - 4:30pm

Saturday 9:00am - 4:30pm Sunday 12:00 - 4:30pm

Canoe Trips

Homeschool Marsh

Tues., June 6, 9:30am – 12pm

The freshwater marsh of Otter Point Creek is teeming with life! Learn the basics of canoeing before setting off to explore this fascinating ecosystem. Registration is required by 6/5.

Sailing into Summer

Tues., June 20, 9:30am-12pm

Soak up the sun and celebrate the start of summer while paddling around the channels of Otter Point Creek. Registration required by 6/19.

Marsh Meander

Sun., June 25, 11am-1:30pm

Explore the channels and lagoons of Otter Point Creek as we seek out signs of wildlife. Registration is required.

Cruising on the Creek

Fri., July 7, 9:30am-12pm

Spend time appreciating the beauty of a unique freshwater marsh while exploring the channels of Otter Point Creek with an adult-only group. Registration is required by 7/6.

Summertime on the Creek

Sun., July 9, 11am-1:30pm

Hop in a canoe to enjoy a sunny morning paddle among the lush marsh grasses and wetland plants while looking out for the wildlife that calls Otter Point Creek home. Registration is required.

July Jewels Wildflower

Sat., July 15, 9am-11:30am

To every flower, there is a season, and some of the most stunning flowers of summer bloom in mid-July. Search the creekbanks and marsh for blossoms of unimaginable shapes and all colors of the rainbow! Registration is required.

Wildflower Wonders

Sun., August 6, 12pm-2:30pm

Glide through the marsh at high tide to appreciate the beauty and wonder of the wildflowers in the afternoon sun. Registration is required.

Food Web Float Canoe

Sun., Aug. 13, 8am-10:30am

From bottom dwellers to highfliers, discover who eats whom (or what), in and above the estuary, and some of the unique adaptations that keep the energy flowing efficiently. Registration is required.

Butterflies of the Marsh

Sun., Aug 20, 10am-12:30pm

Join us for a morning paddle with the butterflies searching for nectar from Otter Point Creek's marsh wildflower blooms. Registration is required.

Kayak Trips

Homeschool Marsh Kayak

Thurs., June 8, 9:30am – 12pm

The freshwater marsh of Otter Point Creek is teeming with life! Learn the basics of kayaking before setting off to explore this fascinating ecosystem. Registration is required by 6/7.

Morning Bird Kayak

Thurs., June 15, 9am – 11:30am

Paddle the water trails of Otter Point Creek in search of our feathered friends. Take note of who is passing through and who calls this freshwater wetland home. Registration required by 6/14.

Kayak Cruising on the Creek

Fri., June 16 or 23, 9:30am-12pm

Nudge around the endless nooks and crannies of Otter Point Creek and the upper Bush River with an adult only group. Registration is required by the day before.

Grown-Up and Me Kayak

Sat., June 17, 9am-11:30 am,

Spend quality time with an important grown-up while paddling through the marsh of Otter Point Creek. Registration is required by 6/16.

Kids-n-Kayaks

Sat., June 24, 2pm-4pm

Bring your wee little water lovers out for their first-time paddle. Paddling safety and basic stroke instruction is covered before venturing

out further to explore the watery world of Otter Point Creek. Registration is required by 6/23.

Freedom Paddle Kayak

Sat., July 1, 9am-11:30am

Celebrate liberty by freeing yourself from the tyranny of the mundane! Witness the beauty of nature while looking for the symbolic bald eagle soaring over the creek. Registration is required by 6/30.

Marsh Critter Kayak

Sat., July 8, 1:30-4:00pm

Many types of animals call Otter Point Creek home. Search high and low while paddling around the marsh to see how many you can find! Registration is required by 7/7.

Dragonfly Days Kayak

Sat., July 22, 10am-12:30pm

Tour the marsh by kayak to discover the magic of our native dragonflies and dragonfly nymphs. Binoculars, dip nets, and identification keys provided. Registration is required by 7/21

Bosely Beaver Kayak

Sat., August 12, 8:30-11:00am

Explore the waters of Bosely Conservancy in search of this industrious keystone species. Discover signs of their handiwork and learn why they are so important! Registration is required by 8/11.

Wetland Wanderers Kayak

Sat., August 19, 9:30am-12pm

Settle into a kayak to wander the water trails of Otter Point Creek. Enjoy the warmth of the summer morning while taking in the sights and sounds of the marsh. Registration is required by 8/18.

Blue Supermoon Kayak

Wed., August 30, 6:30am-9:00pm

Experience the spectacle of the largest full moon of the year shining over the marsh. Set off by boat to catch the moon rising and watch for fascinating things revealed by moonlight. Registration is required by 8/29.

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Bald Eagles Are The Big Story

By Wendy Gilbert

Eagles Continued from pg. 8

Ospreys also nest here, in abundance, and are present from March through September. There are usually large numbers of Black and Turkey Vultures festooning the metal superstructure above the dam and perhaps congregating on the ground in the parking lot; the proportions vary but as of December 2019, the Black Vultures far outnumber the Turkey Vultures. A nesting pair of Peregrine Falcons also hangs out in the metal superstructure above the dam and can be seen chasing Rock Pigeons.

Gulls may be present from December through February. The gulls, like the eagles, can be everywhere – in the air, on the rocks, and swimming in the water. A favorite perch for gulls is the wing-wall that projects outward from the dam; any gulls lined up there are easy to scope and check for rarities. The usual suspects are Ring-billed Gulls, Herring, and Great Black-backed; Lesser Black-backed are also expected here. Laughing Gulls are present in the warmer

months. Bonaparte's Gulls are typical in winter, but numbers vary; look for them flying downriver in early morning and upriver in late afternoon. There have been occasional sightings of rare gulls such as Iceland, Sabine's, and Black-legged Kittiwake, among others.

A Great Blue Heron rookery can be seen on the Cecil side of the Susquehanna, directly opposite Fisherman's Park. The rookery is active in the warm months. In winter, large numbers of Great Blue Herons and a few Black-crowned Night-Herons can be found roosting on the large island just south of the dam (Rowland Island) – look carefully on the rocky sides of the island and on the level ground at the top of the island, and in the trees. Herons will also be dispersed among the large rocks just below the dam, year-round.

Bird along the edge of the woods adjacent to Fisherman's Park and scan the sycamore trees along the riverbank, watching for orioles, vireos,

warblers, and flycatchers in spring and summer. In winter look for woodpeckers, kinglets, Brown Creepers, and Winter Wrens. These birds can also be found along the Lower Susquehanna Heritage Greenway Trail/Wildflower Trail south of Fisherman's Park. The trail is also great for breeding flycatchers, vireos, warblers, and orioles in late spring and summer.

Final Notes:

The Wildflower trailhead is closed at this time. A lot of vulture carcasses have been found and the cause of their death is under investigation.

Pay attention to all warning signs and prevent the spread of any diseases including avian flu. And laugh if you must, but if you are going to be there for a long time worry about your windshield wipers. I've never seen it happen, but apparently, the birds have a taste for vulcanized rubber. Who knew?

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Tips For Springtime Paddle Power

By Montana Grant

Spring waters are going to be fun for canoeing and kayaking. As the weather warms, the call of the rivers, lakes, and bays will only get louder. Smaller boats can be placed into the water easily. Bigger boats and power boats need a boat ramp or some ingenuity. A gradual, sloped beach can be a perfect access ramp. Small watercraft can be hoisted onto your shoulder or carried with a friend.

Safe Paddling is important when on the wild and open waters of Maryland. Plan for emergencies. If you think for one moment "That will never happen to me", it will. Here are some tips to help you safely enjoy paddling, rowing, or motoring.

WEAR A PFD

Personal Floating Devices are essential. You may be a great swimmer until you bang your head. Keep the PFD buckled and fit correctly. There is no excuse not to wear one. Inflatable versions are more compact and will automatically inflate when needed.

HAVE A PLAN

Know where you are going before you launch. Let others know your plans. Leave a note on the windshield about what, when wear, etc. your cruise will take you. Weather can quickly change your trip and emergencies happen. You may not be able to get a cell phone signal. Keep your phone or satellite locator in a waterproof sack on your person. Solo boating is dangerous.

DRESS FOR SAFETY

Wear proper gear that includes a brimmed hat/ helmet, polaroid sunglasses, PFD, Sunscreen, helmets, proper shoes for traction and support, and layered clothes that are not water absorbent. Gloves and knee pads are a good idea. Bring plenty of fluids and energy snacks. A simple First Aid kit is important. Simple abrasions and cuts can get infected quickly in moist environments.

KNOW the DANGERS

If you are planning to navigate a river, learn where the rapids are. Scout the route ahead of time. Flood waters may be more challenging and riskier.

PAY ATTENTION

Stay alert when boating. Always avoid dangerous areas and obstructions. Logs, sweepers, rocks, and debris can flip your boat in a hurry. Watch for wakes and waves. Wind can be a problem. Carry a whistle, airhorn, and flashlight to signal for help.

BE CONSIDERATE OF OTHERS

You will not be the only boater on the water. Keep a safe distance from others and give them the right of way. Keep the areas cleaner than you found them.

NEVER BOAT AND DRINK

Alcohol slows down your reflexes, impacts reasoning, lowers the body temperature, and is responsible for many boat accidents. Drink after the boating is done.

PLAN TO GET WET


Expect the unexpected. Take some time to train your family, friends, and crew. Purposefully flip the boat and make reasonable rescues. Do this in slower, shallower water that is not as dangerous. Learn how to flip the boats and de-water them. Pull one swamped canoe across the mid-section of another. Hop back into a boat, kayak, or canoe while in deep water. Know what a 3-point stance is and practice this. Make your clothes into a buoyant float. Practice CPR. Practice throwing a rescue throw bag. All these skills can be found on YouTube and in Scouting handbooks.


COLD WATER CAN KILL YOU

Most hypothermia deaths happen in warmer temperatures over 70 degrees. Practice fire building while you are wet and cold. Learn how to get warm after being in freezing waters. Have a dry bag ready with dry clothes and a towel. Hats are important since most heat is lost from the head. Know the H.E.L.P. posture. Heat Escape Lessening Posture. This means huddle and get into a fetal position to conserve heat.

Safe boating is your responsibility. Know the regulations that apply to your watercraft. If you have never been trained in safe boating skills, hire a Guide, or find a Mentor to teach you how to safely enjoy our wild waters! Find a local boating club to learn more about safe and fun ways to enjoy the Bay watershed safely. Prepare to Paddle safely!



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#youaintnocrabber - but your kids could be

By Kimberly Merriken



If you have been following our young waterman, Luke McFadden, on his social media: fvsouthern girl on TikTok, @luke_mcfad on Instagram, and Bodkin Point Seafood on Facebook, you will understand the title of this month's article. If not let me catch you up.

When I last spoke to Luke he was gaining popularity on TikTok for his humorous yet educational videos on being a waterman and crabber. It was his lifelong passion to be a crabber and he remembers claiming his future career in writing in his 5th-grade yearbook.

Fast forward to 2023 and you will find him partnering with TJ Sanders of Cruise the Chesapeake and Anne Arundel County Public Schools to bring his love of crabbing and our local waterways to young children.

The group wants to bring no-cost field trips to elementary school-aged kids in Anne Arundel County that will teach them about the bay, the ecology, and where their food comes from. To do this they had to create a curriculum pertaining to the trip. This was done by a local teacher who created a fourth-grade curriculum. But there is still a big challenge for this program. The cost. Field trips can stretch the already limited budget of the schools and can be a strain on a family's budget. Luke's dream is to raise enough funds to keep these trips free to all students.

In order to do this the group has started a GoFundMe to raise the needed funds to provide these experiences at no cost to the students. The link to donate is: <https://gofund.me/9c190c45>

Luke is very proud of the fact that they are not affiliated with any state programs and those involved are donating their time and energy to make this program happen. All funds raised from the GoFundMe campaign go directly to the costs associated with getting the kids to the water.

The kids get to come out and see Luke and the crew in action. The goal is to have learning come alive and give the kids a very hands-on experience handling and tagging crabs; along with learning about their local water resources and the importance of watermen on the local economy; which has always been Luke's goal. He wants these trips to be everything he wished he had had at their age. Remember he does not come from a long line of watermen but instead was exposed to crabbing at age 11 by a family friend. He states, in his video promoting these trips, "I had someone light the spark for me and so I have come up with something pretty crazy...I can maybe, light that same spark for another kid." He is passionate about inspiring the next generation of watermen.

Even in these early stages, the program has been a success with the 4th graders at Bodkin Elementary. The first groups went out on the Magothy River at the beginning of May and the experience will be one they talk about forever. On one trip the schedules didn't line up to watch Luke crab so he just hopped on the 46-foot Samantha Belle with the group; bringing his crab pot and some crabs with him. The kids were super excited to have him onboard.

So don't forget to follow Luke and his adventures

on all of his social media: fvsouthern girl on TikTok, @luke_mcfad on Instagram, and Bodkin Point Seafood on Facebook and if you want to help support this great program make a donation, no matter how big or small, to the GoFundMe: <https://gofund.me/9c190c45> and let them know your friends at Upper Bay Boating sent you.

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15-year old Desiree and 9-year old Eddie,
enjoying a nice Sunday afternoon just
drifting along on the Elk near Turkey Point.
I stayed awake the whole time.



Herbie,
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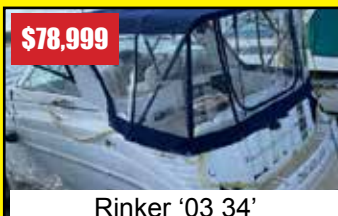
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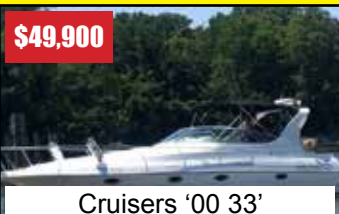
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