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AUGUST 2024



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Marinating with Jim High



So, I was at my family's fourth of July Party with Tim and Brenda. I saw one of our little ones on a kayak with his dad. I suddenly remembered the first time I operated a boat alone and steered the wheel and all. I remembered where I was and thought I was probably 4 years old at the time. Then I looked around and realized that almost everybody at the party also remembered their first boat ride that they were by themselves and got to steer the wheel. The strange thing is we were all in the exact same place, about the same age and pretty much on the same exact boats!

FOR THE ANSWER TURN TO PAGE 37

THE DOG DAYS OF SUMMER

Well, we have officially made it to the Dog Days of Summer. Over the years we have featured many dogs in Upper Bay Boating Magazine. I figured the Dog Days of Summer must be about all the happy dogs going out boating, but somehow, I doubted it. So, I delved into what the Dog Days of Summer really are. And I was astounded to learn how the term goes back to SiriusXM, as-

tronomy, ancient Greece, the Greek Gods, and Al Pacino! No, really, Al Pacino in a 1970s movie.

"Historically, they were the period following the heliacal rising of the star system Sirius (known colloquially as the "Dog Star"), which Hellenistic astrology connected with heat, drought, sudden thunderstorms, lethargy, fever, mad dogs, and bad luck. They are

now taken to be the hottest, most uncomfortable part of summer in the Northern Hemisphere." Excerpt from Wikipedia. To learn more about The Dog Days of Summer and the star Sirius go to Wikipedia.

I'm glad we have the Dog Days of Summer. In the winter I head south for the Cat Nights of Winter... somewhere in the Florida Keys, like I am fur sure!



Pirates, Wenches, Hand hooks, Peg Legs, Eye Patches and Madam Machete!

Just a reminder that the Pirates and Wenches Weekend is coming up in Rock Hall from August 9 through August 11h. I hope everybody has plans to come down to this Chit Show!

I have always wondered what it was about Hollywood Disney Movie pirates that caused them to lose at least one leg like Peg Pete. Or lose a hand like Captain Hook? Or... an Eye Patch? Historically the eye patch had one of three purposes. One. Because

the pirate actually lost an eye. Two. The pirate was drunk and seeing double. Three. It was so hot it was used as a banana hammock - maybe.

Perhaps the best use of an eye patch was for going from one bright deck to a lower dark deck and switching eyes so the pupil was already dilated! Ummm, probably not, ha,ha!

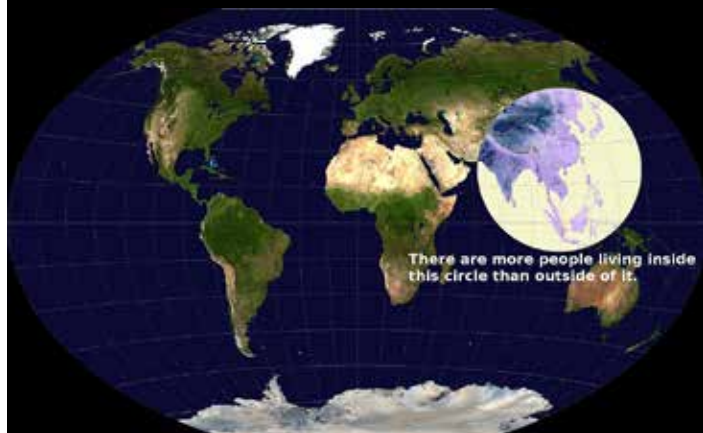
Finally, to Madam Machete! Hope you and Richie have a great SummARRRR!!!

Speaking of Heading South... How the NBH's Feel

I was at a party the other day when my buddy Mickey A. said this winter he was heading south! He was packing up, loading his "new to him" sailboat, and was going to cross the Equator. Another friend of mine, a Non-Boating Human or NBH, explained that that sounded very dangerous to her. Mickey, much to my surprise answered the NBH.... "You're right I could be swept off the deck

and drowned, but in the meantime, I'm going to be enjoying nature, fishing, people, towns, snorkeling, scuba, the ocean, and things I've never seen. While you are going to be driving down I-95 to the city to your office where you may experience shootings, muggings, traffic, pollution and possibly having an 18-wheeled truck run you over. I think I will take my chances!"

This is the Valerierpieri's Circle. More people live inside this circle than outside of it. In 2013 a Texas ESL teacher named Ken Myers took a trip to bustling Manila. As this trip continued, he noticed the density of the Asian population was very different and a lot denser. When the trip was over, he decided to do a study of how small the circle would be if he put more population into the smallest circle than the rest of the planet. After a lot of tweaking and changing this is what he came up with. The smallest circle with the most people. Think about this! I think it's incredible to think about. India, China, Japan, the Koreas, Micronesia, Viet Nam, Philippines, Laos, Thailand, Tiawan Mongolia, and Singapore! (Plus a few others)





By Wendy Gilbert
Contributing Editor

10 Ways TO BEAT THE HEAT ON YOUR BOAT



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HYDRATE

I know, we've heard this one before, but it bears repeating. Drink your darned water! Any kind of water – fizzy, still, fitness, protein, vitamin – you name it, you drink it!

KEEP IT COOL

Bring a cooler (or two) as there is no substitute for ice on a screaming hot summer day.

EAT LIGHTLY

Or at least break your meals up. Too much heavy food on a hot day has a way of curdling most uncomfortably.

MIST

Install a misting station or stations. Something in between those hand-held contraptions and an industrial misting fan will do the trick.

SPLASH

Get some water up on the deck and cool the surface.

DRESS FOR THE OCCASION

Exactly. Hats, sunglasses, and your best sun-blocking performance clothing.

COOLING TOWELS

I'll admit I was skeptical at first, but these things are wonderful. A little moisture, a quick smack and boom! Instant comfort.

WIND FUNNEL

Keeping the boat cabin cool can be challenging on sunny summer days. With all the humidity and heat, the compartments down below can become muggy and miserable. To keep your boat cabin cool, use a wind funnel to help increase airflow below deck. A wind funnel, also called a windsock or wind director, can be attached to your boat's hatch to direct the cool breeze down the open hatch. Wind funnels work especially well while anchored and are perfect for cooling down the cabin while you sleep.

BIMINI

If your boat can be outfitted with one, get one! Parasols will not cut it.

ALCOHOL

Keep it light as well. Those light brews can go down very easily on a hot mid-summer day, but like so many good things, these too must be consumed with caution.

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How Smart Are Your SMART Goals?

By Wendy Gilbert



I have a terrible habit of kickstarting big projects and starting good habits only to falter shortly after an energized start.

To improve in this area, I've gone overboard to learn all about SMART goals, goal stacking, micro habits, and the like. And believe me, there is "the like" in this subject area!

It's all rather fascinating.

My first and perhaps most memorable attempt at something like this was a good 12 or so years ago when Couch to 5K first hit the scene.

Never much for running (these long legs prefer walking) I thought I'd give it a try. As I've said many times before, "they don't call me Trendy Wendy for nothing".

If folks are going from the sofa to running 5Ks with little effort over 6 weeks, surely, I can join

them?

The first few days were as advertised, reasonably easy and achievable. Somewhere around the beginning of week 3, I'd had enough. The weather turned hot, my interest flagged and my shins said, "For Pete's sake Wendy, give it a rest!"

Sometime after that, I discovered Bullet Journaling. Surely, this was right down my alley. And indeed, it was. I loved all this tracking and list-making. Then it was Art Journaling, Smash Journaling – pretty much anything but Journal Journaling. I suppose that's old-fashioned?

Then came Covid and my schedule was suddenly this side of empty. I didn't have much to keep track of. There were very few excursions to document and with a bubble of two people,

not much to fill in all that lovely activities space.

During the off-season, I like to play around with both arts and crafts. Making quilts is one of my favorite wintertime endeavors. Trust me, there are lots of BOMs and similar challenges online. BOM is short for "block of the month" but as I have never finished one in 10 years, I tend to refer to them as bombs.

After a block or two I'm just done. They are too difficult, too boring or I have simply fallen behind and in my journal that equals a failure.

There is some hope for me yet as the Olympics start soon. Those athletes are so tenacious, that I usually find their stories and discipline inspiring. Is one of them inspiring enough to help me focus? We'll see and undoubtedly I will document the effort.



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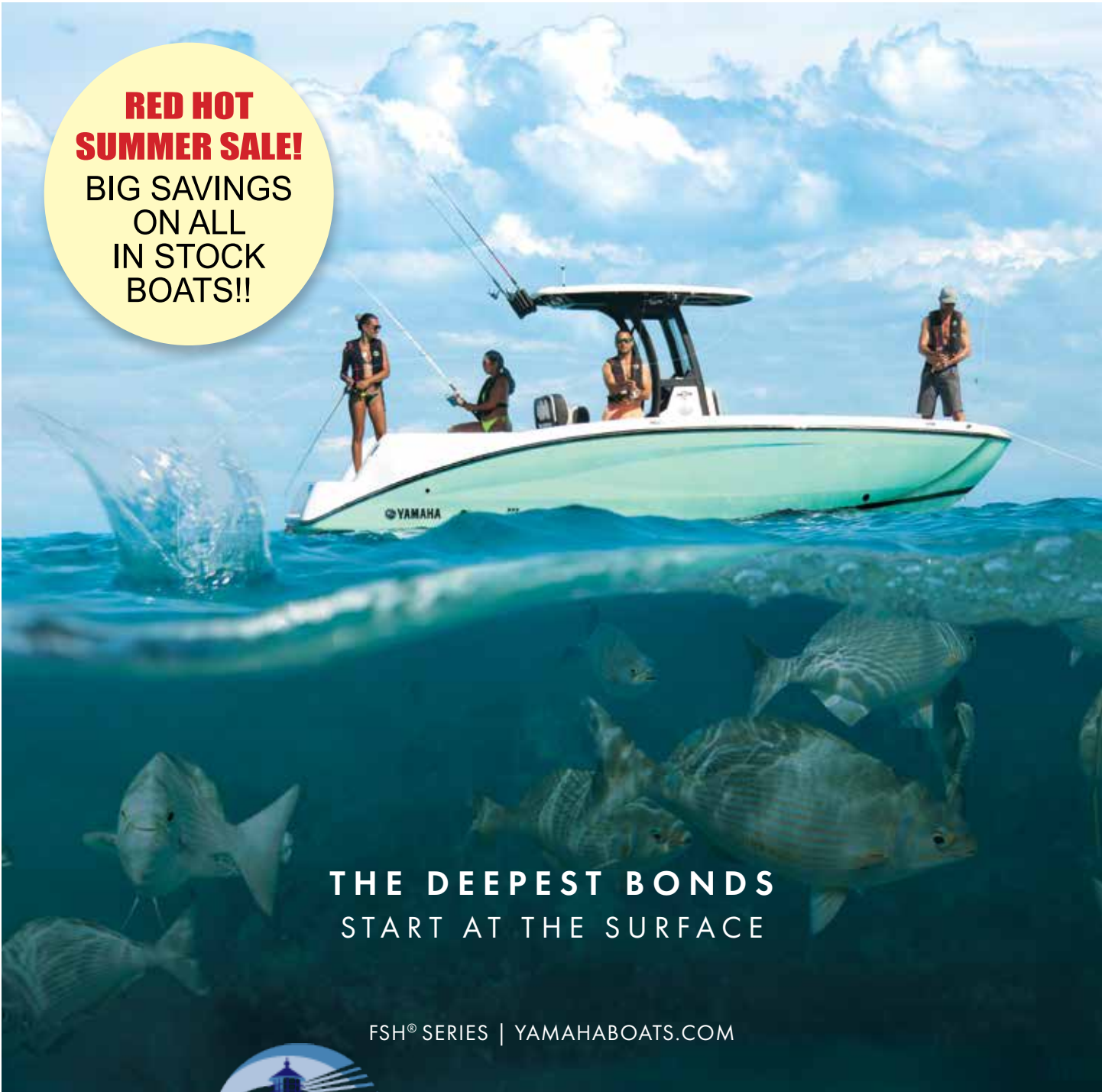
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Rodanthe Adventure

By Captain Mark Galasso

I was doodling on my computer in my home office when the phone rang. The caller ID identified the caller as my neighbor across the street. He was probably doing the same thing in his home office and got bored. We talked about recent hunting and fishing trips we had done and decided it was time for another adventure. He had learned of a recent event that would give birth to our next wild adventure. A good friend of ours had recently gotten engaged and a bachelor party needed to be seriously considered.

I don't know what he was working on in his office, but the project in my office came to an unfinished end. We hatched out a week-long bachelor's party/fishing party down to the Outer Banks of North Carolina. The tunas were biting and we hoped that besides having a great time we might bring back enough meat to feed the neighborhood. So, we started a guest list.

First, the sucker/groom to be. As an aside he just happened to own a boat we could tow down and fish offshore with. We also had to invite his partner in the boat. That gentleman also had the added benefit of working for one of the largest liquor distributors in the state. That made four people with two boats. My neighbor also had a trailerable boat we could take offshore if the weather permitted. Well, now we had room for four more and could really make it a party. The other names came pretty easily, and when the guest list was complete, we had four captains and two mates as well as six boat owners. A pretty seaworthy group if you ask me.

Once the group was assembled, we came up with a date and the logistics. A quick phone call and we acquired a house for a week in Rodanthe. Our liquor guy would supply the liquor and I would supply the beer since my company at the time had a liquor license. The other six people would pick up the cost of the house. Everything else would be split 8 ways. We would all meet at my neighbors in ten days. And so, it went.

As an aside to the story, I asked my neighbor how much beer I should get. He did some quick mental math and told me 23 cases. Man, I thought I was getting off cheap. After much consideration I decided to get a second opinion. I contacted another neighbor who fishes with us but wasn't part of this particular adventure. He did the math out loud for my benefit.

Eight guys for seven days at so many beers per day. Twenty-three cases. Ok then.

The caravan heading to the Rodanthe was easy to spot. Four trucks, one with a 23 Sea Ox in tow and another with a 23 Shamrock in tow. One filled with beer and liquor and the rest with coolers and clothing and fishing gear. Kind of "The Clampetts go Offshore".

When we arrived in Rodanthe we realized we got there at the same time as a major nor'easter. Once we settled into the house and the first round of beers came out someone found a VHF and we listened to the marine forecast. Northeast winds 25 to 30, gusts to 40. Nice. I guess Oregon Inlet is out but we still might be able to get out of Hatteras Inlet. Not sure how far out that might be but we found out the next morning. And it wasn't far. We basically went as far as the point and put out a couple of lines. We trolled for 30 minutes and then ran for cover.

By the time we got back to the house everyone was wet and exhausted. My neighbor who was trying not to get our boat capsized all morning passed out as soon as he was near a bed. Someone went to Family Dollar and got him some fishy shower curtains to hang from the rocket launchers in case we tried again tomorrow. When he woke up, he wasn't amused and over the next few days we drank, ate and watched the wind shred every flag on the Outer Banks to pieces.

We finally decided to pool our resources. Find the biggest boat we could and try and coerce the captain into taking all of us out. This was while having dinner at Odens Dock. And we found him. On old salt half-drunk slumped over a table in the back of the bar. He reminded me of the helicopter pilot in the movie *Clear and Present Danger*. We handed him 500 dollars cash and he pointed out back and told us to be at the boat at 4:30 a.m.

We regrouped back at the house and tried to get some sleep. Funny how those ocean front houses on the Outer Banks sway in the breeze. It's usually pretty relaxing unless you're going offshore the next morning. No one slept. I know that because we all snore and no one was snoring that night. But at 4:30 a.m. the next morning we were all at the boat. Eight exhausted fisherman, one mate and one hungover captain, and Miss Windy screaming at us from out of the

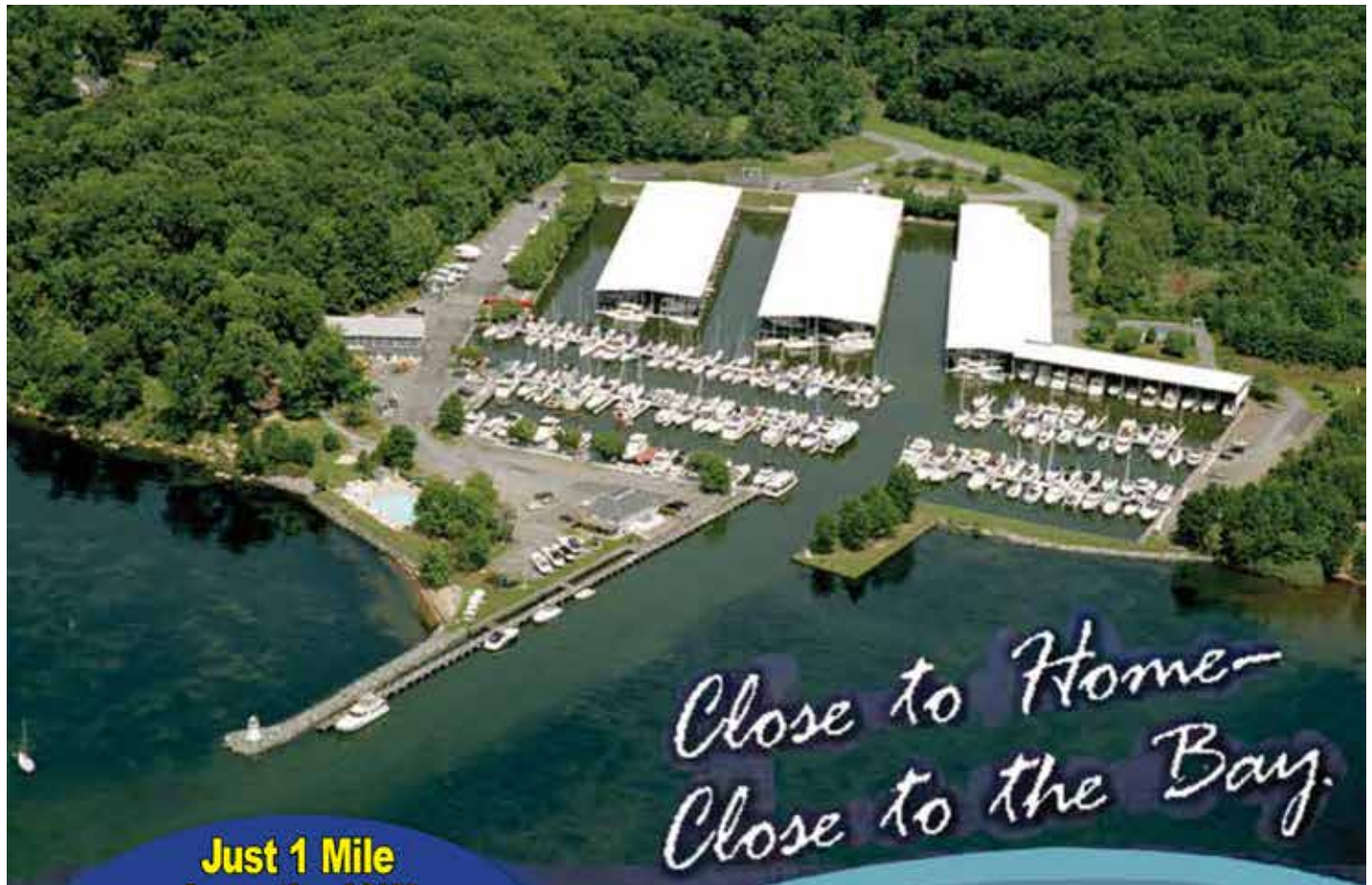
Northeast.

We loaded up and headed out. Hatteras Inlet isn't too bad on a northeast wind. Oregon Inlet is almost impossible. So, we plodded forward. Into the dark. All the while it's getting rougher and rougher. It was still dark as we got out of the inlet. Our Captain obviously knew his way around. We all sat huddled in the cabin talking. No one was drinking. This was serious \$%#T, and we knew it. We could feel the 62-footer launch off a wave and crash into the next one. If you ever wonder why Carolina boats are built with the steep entry and flare this is why. A New England boat would have been wrecked to pieces before we were a few miles off the beach. But on we went.

At one point the salon door opened and the mate stepped in. He was wet and in full rain gear. He asked us if we were ok and everyone said sure. He stepped back out into the tempest and shut the door. By now we were slamming into waves so hard you could feel the props cavitating. The mate returned a few minutes later. "Captain says there is a good Spanish bite along the beach." What do you think?" To a man we responded we could do that at home. Not interested. He shrugged and went back into the storm. A few minutes later he returned. He was in full raingear. He even had the Gloucester Fisherman's hat on. He was drenched. He was also fumbling for something in his pocket. He found it. Before we could say a word, he threw 500 dollars at us and relayed a message from the captain. "You can all go @#%k yourself. We're going home."

So that was our trip. We didn't feed a village. We didn't have any adventures about the big one that got away. We spent seven days in the beautiful Outer Banks and didn't spend an hour on the beach. Nothing was flying off Kill Devil Hills except for clouds of sand. Nobody was working on the water so we couldn't even buy any seafood. Our boats were covered with salt but everyone was too tired to do anything about it. The only thing that we did accomplish was we did drink twenty-two and a half cases of beer. I guess the moral to this story is never underestimate Mother Nature. I guess she wasn't into our Bachelor Party.

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Photo by Paige Finley, submitted to the Maryland DNR Photo Contest.

Summer Waterway Users Should Be Alert for Marine Wildlife

Public asked to report stranded marine mammals and sea turtles

Summer is here and the Maryland Department of Natural Resources would like to remind people that marine wildlife — dolphins, manatees, sea turtles, whales, and others — are making their seasonal return to the Chesapeake Bay and its tidal tributaries, as well as the Atlantic Ocean and coastal bays.

Anyone who sees a marine mammal or sea turtle in Maryland waters is urged to report it to the state [Marine Mammal and Sea Turtle Stranding Response Program](#) at 800-628-9944. Anglers, boaters, and beachgoers should especially be on the lookout for stranded, dead, sick, injured, or entangled animals.

In addition to calling the program hotline, anyone who encounters a stranded marine mammal, alive or dead, should follow these steps if possible:

- Do not touch the animal.
- Record the location using latitude and longitude, street address, and/or description with landmarks.
- Estimate and record the length, size, color, noticeable body parts, and movements (if alive).
- Take photos of the animal.
- If possible, remain by the animal at a safe distance until stranding staff reach you.



While Maryland's most common visitors are bottlenose dolphins and loggerhead sea turtles, more than 25 other marine mammal species, and four species of sea turtles have been recorded in state waters.

The department's Marine Mammal and Sea Turtle Stranding Response program works cooperatively with the National Aquarium in responding to reports of marine animals throughout Maryland's waters and coastlines.

Marine mammals are specifically protected by federal law, the Marine Mammal Protection Act. In addition, sea turtles and whales are both protected under the 1973 Endangered Species Act. It is illegal to harass, touch, feed, capture, or collect these marine species, alive or dead, including any animal parts or skeletal remains or specimens.



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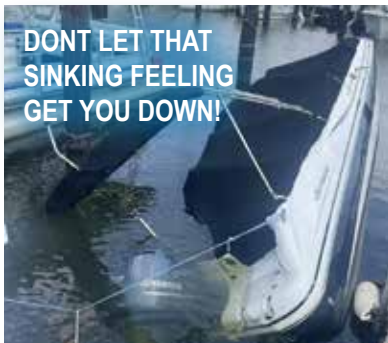
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Eastern Shore Brewing Company

Kimberly Ann

During a long weekend over on the Eastern Shore, my friends and I stopped off at Eastern Shore Brewing Company, located at 605 South Talbot Street in Saint Michaels. Eastern Shore Brewing was established on Aug. 28, 2008 (just so happens to be the writer's birthday) and is the longest continually operating brewery in the area. The brewery is currently owned and operated by Adrian Mortiz and his wife Lori. After visiting the area many times to visit Adrian's parents, the couple moved their young family to St. Michaels, purchased the brewery and the rest is history. There are many beers available on tap year-round in addition to seasonal and rotating brews.

The vibe was great from the moment we stepped near the door. There was a good-sized crowd inside, with folks

hanging out at and around the bar and most of the tables were full. We quickly selected our first tastes. I opted for a Summer Crush Orange. My beer guy started with a Situation Critical IPA, which had lots of notes of pine and citrus. We wandered through the inside area and then made our way outside.

Inside was quite eclectic. There were deer heads on the wall, Maryland flags, a chalkboard beer menu, a nice-sized bar area, and table seating. There was an area for live music, which happens every Saturday from 3-6 p.m. There was even a merchandise area, games you could take to your table to play, and a foosball table. There was a good mix of locals and tourists, and everyone was enjoying their beverages and mingling.

Once outside there was cornhole and a very laid-back atmosphere. The area

was large with more tables and there were even some very well-behaved dogs enjoying the beautiful day. Some of the furry kids were better behaved than their two-legged counterparts but all are welcome at the brewery.

For the second round, I stuck with the Summer Crush Orange while my beer guy opted for a St. Michaels Amber Ale. He found it easy to drink and overall, a great beer. He purchased a growler of Situation Critical to take home.

I highly recommend Eastern Shore Brewing Company to any of our beer-loving readers who are looking for a relaxed atmosphere and some great beers to melt the workweek stress away. And, as always, when you head over to Eastern Shore Brewing Company be sure to tell them your friends at Upper Bay Boating Magazine sent you.



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#8 Crabs are just an appetizer. Three hours of snacks before you fire up the grill. Have some corn, shrimp, tomatoes, and Utz chips and dip in the meantime.

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S'more than you need to know about S'mores

By Montana Grant



WHO DOESN'T LOVE S'MORES? The only thing that is better is having some S'mores when on your boat. This toasty and tasty snack is the perfect campfire or floating treat. They can be made just about anywhere and don't require too much work. They also contain all the important food groups. You have your marshmallows, chocolate, graham crackers, and... Oh, did I mention chocolate?

When Montana Grant has a S'more party, I make a S'more Buffet Bar. Place an assortment of crackers, cookies, jellies, candy, fruit, and goodies onto the table. These can be stored in Tupperware until needed. Let the crew design and launch their creations.

For my crew, the best chocolate is a Hershey Bar. The jumbo-sized Jet-Puffed marshmallows are great. Burnt and flaming mallows lack the mallow flavor but the carbon char does reduce campfire flatulence.

Making S'mores on a boat requires a grill. You can get small fold-up grills and propane campfires for this purpose. They sell clamp-on grills that attach to the gunwales and rails. A small Weber-style charcoal grill will do the trick. One of my favorites is a campfire, with fake logs, that runs off a small propane container. Please place it in a safe area and get to roasting your marshmallows.

The earliest known S'more recipe was printed in a Girl Scout camping guide in 1927. The article was called "Some More". The recipe served 8 Scouts and called for 8 sticks, 16 marshmallows, and 8 chocolate bars. "Though it tastes like some more, one is really enough."

Modern Marshmallows can be found in a variety of colors, flavors, and sizes. The coconut-covered ones make a great S'more. Cinnamon Graham's are also fun, but there is no

law that says we can only use a graham cracker. Cookies, tortillas, and other platforms will serve nicely. Some marshmallows are chubby and round while others are flat. They now make marshmallows called "PUFFS" that come pre-loaded with chocolate!

Marshmallows are actually a Marsh Flower that is common in most eastern shore wetlands. Their white and pink flowers have fed native peoples and pioneers for centuries. The picked flowers, roots, and sap were heated and smashed into a sweet paste that was eaten using their fingers or spread onto biscuits. This special recipe was used medicinally and at special events.

Modern Mallows are not Vegan. They contain gelatin which comes from mammal hooves and connective tissues. Corn Syrup, sugar, and gelatin are whipped to trap air and make a fluffy product. Coating them with cornstarch or powdered sugar will keep the mallows from sticking together. Food coloring and flavorings can make different presentations. Chemical stabilizers will help preserve marshmallows. The hot sun, however, will melt all mallows.

To make a S'more, toast a marshmallow over the fire until golden brown or the doneness/burntness you prefer. The stick can be made from a nontoxic/ poisonous branch. Avoid sumac, etc. A long fork or a fork wired onto a stick will hold the soft mallow in place better than a pointed stick. Once the mallow is toasted, place it onto a graham cracker that has a section of chocolate bar on it. Use another graham cracker to smush and pull the melted mallow off the fork. This can be a 2-camper job.

Homemade marshmallows are fun to make. Most homemade recipes contain egg whites.

HERE IS A SIMPLE RECIPE.

Equal parts: sugar, water, and corn syrup

Vanilla

Gelatin powder

Egg Whites

Cook the sugar/corn syrup and water until the mixture reaches 250 -265 degrees. Dissolve the gelatin powder into the mixture using a whisk. (Flavored gelatin will give different tastes.) In another bowl, whip the egg whites into soft peaks. Continue to beat while pouring in the warm syrup mixture. Pour slowly and whip until the egg whites are very stiff. Now stir in some vanilla. Spread the stiff mixture into a prepared pan to a thickness of an inch or... Let the marshmallows rest overnight before cutting.

You can use other flavorings, chocolate pieces, Graham cracker crumbs, cookie crumbs, shredded toasted coconut or to invent your own special flavors and textures. You can cut the mallows into traditional cubes or use a cookie cutter to make seasonal shapes. I have a fish-shaped cookie cutter that makes fun fish mallows.

Store the mallows for up to 3-4 weeks at room temperature, in a sealable bag or container. Commercial marshmallows are labeled with an expiration date, but all mallows can be frozen for 3 or more months. The fresher the fluffier!

You can also use the homemade marshmallow fluff on cereals, ice cream, icings, and snowballs. Just make it into the consistency that you desire.

S'more please!



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Living On The Edges

By Anne Sandbek

It's early morning, just before dawn. Fog is rolling over the river like steam off a fresh pot of coffee. As you sip your favorite gas station blend you pull into the dock – ready to place your crab pots before the heat of the day sets in. What's there? A marsh? The ramp? Rocks?

Marshes, beaches, cliff sides, and riprap; what do they have in common? Edges. Edges are everywhere and are full of life -- taking advantage of the change in scenery. Think about pattering along the edge of a marsh and all the things you can see. Arrow Arum, beaver trails, redwing blackbirds, and more. As it switches to a forested beach, you'll see a heron fishing or turtles basking on a protruding log. Plants and animals leverage this transition area for food, sunlight, and protection.

Humans like us love edges, sandy ones in particular! Any little patch of shoreline that promises sun and sand is full up this time of year. Plus, our crowded docks and secret slips

are here. Right on the edge of opportunity. Opportunity for fun, business, or just because we can.

What is it about edges that make them so appealing? For wildlife, it's likely the diversity found near them. Change from one area to another allows for unique shelter and meal opportunities. For humans, it's likely the joy of land and water coming together. We have reduced anxiety just being near water, no wonder boaters are such a chill crowd!

The activities are a great draw too -- like sunbathing or searching for driftwood on a beach. The tide interacting with the bay and the beach leads to all kinds of flotsam washing ashore. Which aids another beloved edge activity - the scavenger hunt for the best piece of perfectly rounded sea glass.

Take some time as summer comes to a close to enjoy the edges a little more. They are where boating becomes possible after all!



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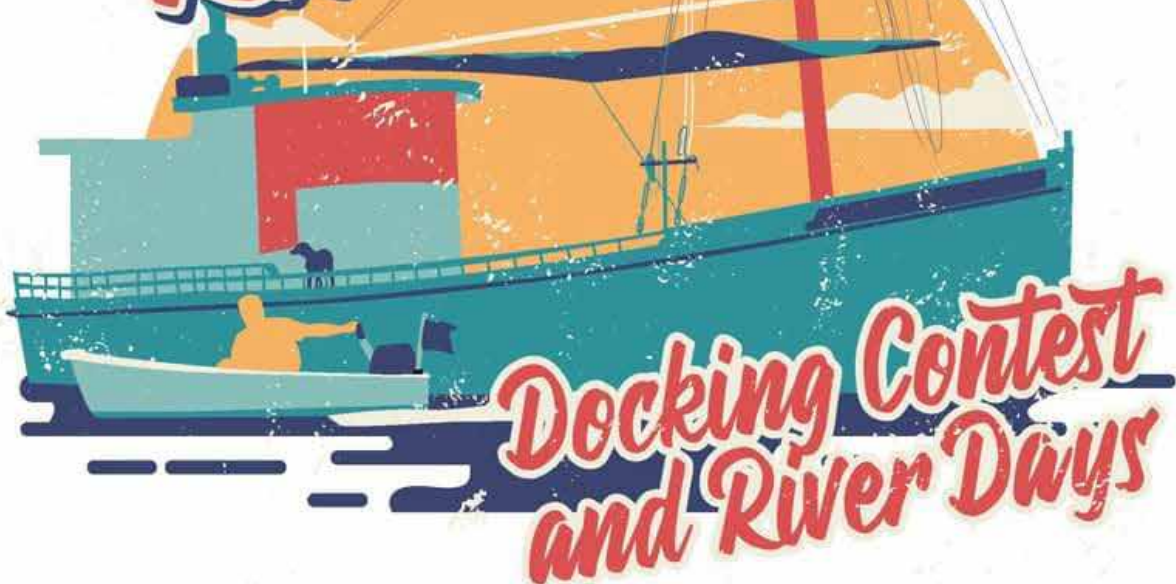
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This is Salty loving a kayak ride on the Sassafras River



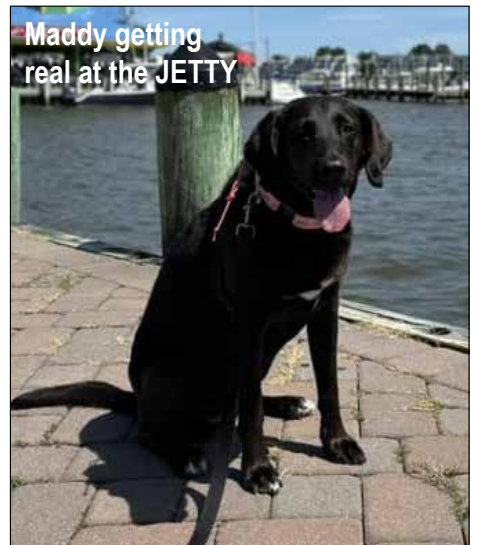
Maverick at Safe Harbor Carroll Island. He really doesn't like to be dry.



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Dog Day Bass Fishing

By Tim Sherman

Okay, so we are midway through summer. And, yes, many days so far have been uncomfortably hot. Well, that's what summer is supposed to be. Nevertheless, fishermen are going to fish through the heat of the day. Serious bass fishermen have learned to deal with the heat with the clothing they wear, sunscreen application, and by keeping a good hydration regiment. They know that, in the dog days of summer, it takes determination to catch bass that can be less willing to participate.

Here, on the upper bay, we are blessed to have a fantastic largemouth bass fishery. While most of the fishing takes place on the North East River, and Susquehanna Flats and River, our southern end of the upper bay also has great bass habitat. The Gunpowder River, Saltpeter, Dundee and Seneca Creeks, as well as Middle River are up to the northern bay's standard. Well equipped, modern-day bass boats have the speed and range to fish this southern end fishery in the same day.

We'll start with the Gunpowder River. I would be remiss if I didn't mention the risks that can be found on crossing the flats on the upper end of the river when trying to access the quarry, and Day's Cove Pond. While some of the better fish can be found in these areas, if you don't know how to run the area, leave it to the anglers who do.

Downriver from the Amtrak railroad bridge

you will find all the traditional forms of bass cover. Submerged vegetation is the main focus, yet you will find shorelines with fallen wood, boat docks, and sunken rock piles. The same can be said for Dundee, Seneca, and Saltpeter Creeks, although Saltpeter and Dundee have far fewer docks and very little rock cover.

Middle River is well set up for anglers who love working the docks. You don't have to look hard for grass beds, and there are a few wooded and rocky shorelines. Nothing gets me more excited when fishing the river than finding grassy areas adjacent to boat docks.

We have to take clues from the bass themselves on how to catch them. I will start out by provoking the aggressors with surface lures. For matted vegetation at low tide stages, I'll work a floating frog. For rocks, docks, and wood, I'll cast poppers and surface walking baits. Sunken wood and docks will also get a well-deserved dose of buzzbait churning. These three lures can be presented to submerged grass beds, as long as there is enough water above them as not to foul the hooks. It doesn't take long to figure out if bass are in the mood to bust topwater baits. I give it about 10 minutes on a particular spot.

At this point, it may take a rotation of baits to find what the bass want. Low tide is the best tide to hit docks and piers. Low water gives you ample space between the waterline and the dock to cast your lure. I start with lures

that provoke a reaction strike: swim jigs, chatter baits, shallow running crankbaits, and spinnerbaits are on this list. For these rivers and creeks, I choose white perch and sunfish color patterns for these lures. If the bite is slow, I will turn to stick worms, power worms, and crawfish baits. I like pearl/silver flake for the stick worm, and green pumpkin and June bug for the power worm and craws.

This same progression of lures is what I will cast on banks with fallen wood. Low tide concentrates bass on the deep end of the wood. High tides allow bass to spread out through all of the sunken limbs. I will work the wood from the outside to the shoreline. No sense in alerting the ones on the deep end when fighting a bass caught near the bank.

Working grass on low tide takes some fortitude. You can work the deeper edge of the vegetation with your moving baits, yet some of the better bass are caught when pitching worms and crawfish lures into the open areas within the grass bed. High tide allows you to cover water more quickly. You can work the swim jigs, chatters, and shallow crankbaits over the bed, for the reaction bite, before switching to more targeted presentations.

Although it is hot outside, good bass fishing can be found during summer's dog days. Stay hydrated, use sunscreen liberally, and keep swinging those lunker largemouth bass in the boat.

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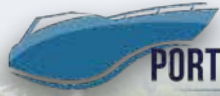
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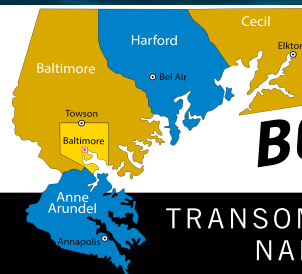
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Submerged Aquatic Vegetation (SAV) on the Upper Bay: Common Misbeliefs About Our Most Important Habitat

By James Duffy

As the dog days of summer take hold, local boaters spend every moment on land anticipating the next time we can change that and get on the water. Following the lead of the blue crab, rockfish, and terns, we naturally flock to the Upper Bay's tidal tributaries during late summer. And who can blame us? Our tidal regions peak in beauty and biomass during this time.

Talk to anyone who has had the privilege of enjoying a day on the water between July and September, and I guarantee they will have a story to tell you about one of the most important yet misunderstood habitats of the Upper Bay: beds of submerged aquatic vegetation, or "SAV." Recreational boaters will tell you all about the "eelgrass" around their dock that encumbers their departure, tangling their props. Kids will tell you how much they detest the "seaweed" that touches their legs when they swim at Upper Bay beaches. Lifelong residents may even lament the presence of "nuisance" and "invasive" aquatic plant species in their local creeks.

Unfortunately, these most common remarks about SAV mischaracterize the habitats it forms, leading even the most experienced watermen astray. The more time I spend learning about these habitats, the more misconceptions I recognize in conversations with neighbors and friends. Given the importance of these habitats, this article seeks to debunk common misconceptions about Upper Bay "seaweed" and illuminate just how much we as boaters, fishers, and residents depend upon the presence of these grasses.

Misconceptions

The most common misconception about SAV comes in the form of a nickname: "seaweed." The nearly-twenty species of SAV found through the Chesapeake differ from true "seaweeds" in that they evolved from vascular plants that grow on land. In essence, this means our submerged grasses are more closely related to the trees and flowers in our backyard than the true seaweeds on our sushi rolls or salads. In fact, SAV species possess true roots, flowers, and produce fruits. These plants, in turn, provide important sources of food for the Bay's migratory waterfowl as well as turtles and fish.

Another misconception about the grasses found in the Upper Bay relates to their quantity. I have heard more than my fair share of coastal residents bemoan the sheer abundance of grasses present throughout the end of the summer, especially in more isolated creeks. While this may impair recreational navigation into these creeks

(with motorized vessels, especially), more SAV in a creek indicates high water quality and a flourishing tidal ecosystem. More grass, less problems.

Finally, "nuisance" or "invasive" grass species in the Bay remain a source of confusion for many residents, including myself. While certain species found in our creeks did not originate in our tidal waters – hydrilla (*Hydrilla verticillata*), for example, originates from Sri Lanka – they may not necessarily be "invasive" in the Bay in the same way they might be in impoundments or lakes. The tidal, interconnected nature of the Bay and its creeks mean that aquatic species ebb and flow each year; due to this, little to nothing is done to "manage" or "remove" nonnative species of grasses – it would be futile. Further, such efforts amount to costly, labor-intensive endeavors.

Moreover, generally any grass is good grass in an estuary like the Bay. This stems from the fact that even nonnative grasses like hydrilla provide habitat, improve water clarity, and even sequester, or draw out, pollutants like heavy metals in the muddy and sandy creekbeds in which they grow. An example of a nonnative now ubiquitous across the Upper Bay is Eurasian watermilfoil (*Myriophyllum spicatum*, or simply "milfoil"). Introduced in the 1950s, this species is here to stay, and it now provides important canopies to underwater habitats used by some of our favorite fish in their spawning seasons, as well as sequestering heavy metals in substrates.

Our Most Important Habitat

In the Upper Bay, more than twelve different species of SAV will grow each year, giving our region (north of the Bay Bridge to the Susquehanna Flats) the highest diversity of submerged grasses in the entire Bay, and some of the highest in the world! Because our waters can host many different species, the beds of these grasses that form in our region maintain a high resilience to fluctuations such as droughts, storms, or nutrient overloads. This means that the species you see overtaking your creek each year may differ, which can be a good thing!

Have you ever tried to identify the species you see in your waterways? You can identify milfoil by their whorls of feather-like leaves, which give these canopies the appearance of an underwater pine-forest. Wild celery (*Vallisneria spiralis*, or "tapegrass") stands out in low tides in late July and August, its long, flat leaves covering the surface of entire creek beds with emerald-green,

looking like true cartoon-seaweed. In fact, many mistake wild celery for the southern Bay's famous eelgrass (*Zostera marina*), but you will not find that species anywhere north of the Bay Bridge due to its salinity and temperature preferences. Two additional, increasingly common species in the Upper Bay that look quite similar are sago pondweed (*Stuckenia pectinata*) and, the Bay's most common species, widgeon grass (*Ruppia maritima*). Both have thread-like, branching leaves and produce odd little fruits that will appear this month and next. Sago pondweed gets much bushier than widgeon grass, which tends to be longer and sparser in leaves.

Given the impressive diversity of our SAV beds, as well as the plethora of services and benefits we receive from them, I believe that SAV beds are the Upper Bay's most important habitat. For one, scientists have found that vegetated tributaries can host thirty times more blue crabs than those without vegetation. The beds act like dense cages for young blue crabs in the Upper Bay, keeping out larger predators. This could not be more important today, given the rise in the problematic blue catfish population.

And did you know that SAV beds not only provide habitat, but also necessary oxygen to the water column? The grasses improve water quality, too – clarity increases as the grasses lock sediment in place, and chemicals maintain better balance as the grasses absorb excess nutrients and carbon dioxide.

With a better understanding of the SAV that you will encounter this season on the water, you can work to preserve and appreciate these habitats for all they are worth. By allowing the grasses around your pier to reach their full potential in the coming months (don't mow them or tear them up, please!), avoiding motorized vessel use during low tides in creeks with SAV beds, and sharing your newfound appreciation for these grasses with fellow boaters, you are engaging in SAV-smart boating practices that crabs, rockfish, and future generations will thank you for.

Check out the Maryland Department of Natural Resources' "Eyes on the Bay" reports and field guides to learn more about the SAV in your water. <https://eyesonthebay.dnr.maryland.gov/sav/aboutSAV.cfm>.

James Duffy is a lifelong resident of the Essex-Middle River watershed and an avid recreational boater. He welcomes inquiries, comments, and ideas for further environmental coverage to jduffy1026@gmail.com.

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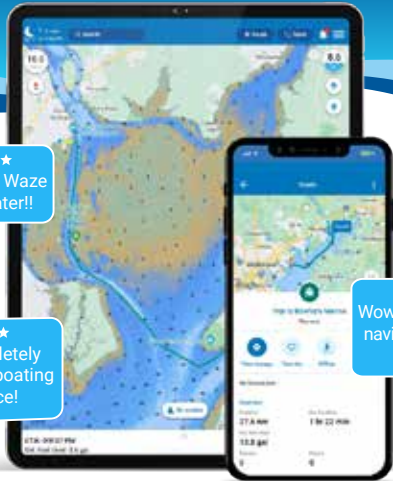
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BABES ON THE UPPER BAY

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Captain Jack's first solo boat ride!



Hands in the Air for Summertime... or is this a hold up?



The Cuz Crew out on Finnaholic

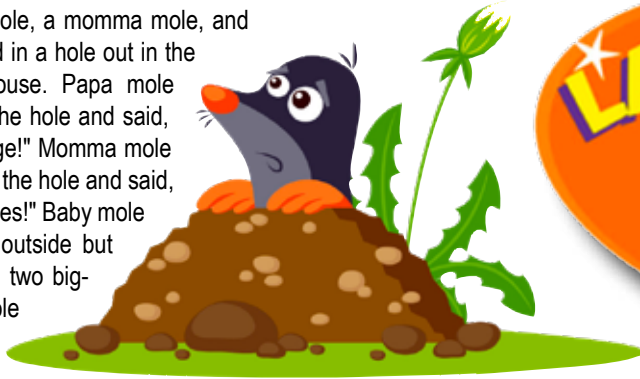


Imogen raising the sails



Kammy, Alivia, Hailey and Naiyana enjoying summer on Hopkins Creek

There was a papa mole, a momma mole, and a baby mole. They lived in a hole out in the country near a farmhouse. Papa mole poked his head out of the hole and said, "Mmmm, I smell sausage!" Momma mole poked her head outside the hole and said, "Mmmm, I smell pancakes!" Baby mole tried to stick his head outside but couldn't because of the two bigger moles. Baby mole said, "The only thing I smell is molasses."

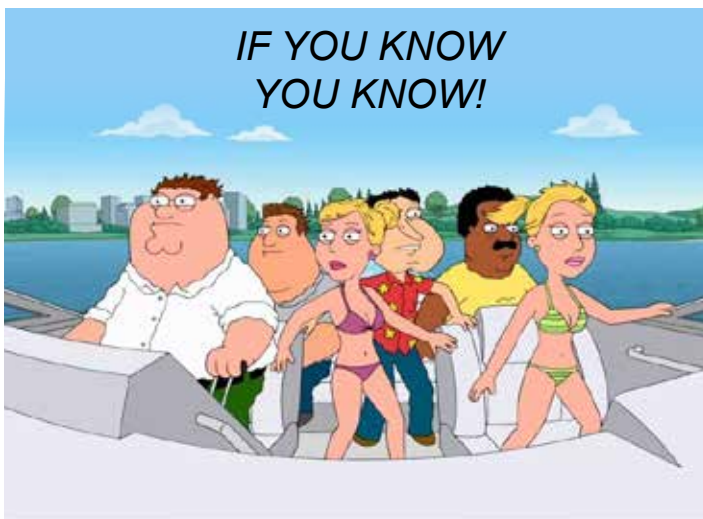


You are on a horse, galloping up and down. On your right side is a sharp ledge. On your left side is an elephant traveling at the same speed as you. Directly in front of you is another galloping horse but your horse is unable to overtake it. Behind you is a lion running at the same speed as you and the horse in front of you. What must you do to safely get out of this highly dangerous situation? Don't worry... Get your drunk ass off the Merri- GO-Round!

Reaching the end of a job interview, the Human Resources Officer asks a young marine biologist fresh out of the University of Miami, "And what starting salary are you looking for?" The marine biologist replies, "In the Chesapeake Region at least \$250,000 a year, depending on the benefits package." The interviewer inquires, "Well, what would you say to a package of five weeks vacation, 14 paid holidays, full medical and dental, company matching retirement fund to 50% of salary, plus yacht club membership, a fully paid for lift slip and a brand new 40 Donzi triple engine powerboat full of gasoline for a signing bonus?" The marine biologist sits up straight and says, "Wow! Are you kidding?" The interviewer replies, "Of course I am, but you started it."



Q. Can a Porpoise jump out of the water higher than the Chesapeake Bay Bridge?
A. Of course, the Chesapeake Bay Bridge can't jump!!!



Read more on page: <https://jokesoftheday.net/jokes-archive/2024/03/21/>

ANSWER FROM PAGE 5
THIS SHOULD BRING BACK SOME HAPPY MEMORIES!
Ocean City Maryland at Trimper's on the Boardwalk!



Libbey's Coastal Kitchen & Cocktails

By Kimberly Ann

How many times have you crossed the Bay Bridge in your lifetime? How many times have you boated in that area? Have you ever stopped in at Libbey's? Well, it is high time you do because whether by boat or by car you are in for a treat.

Libbey's was named by Walt Petrie by combining the names of his wife and daughters, Lisa, Lindsay, and Abbey. While the building itself has been around for over 50 years Walt and the Petrie family have recently assumed ownership. Petrie and his team have worked hard to improve the dining experience and not only renovate the interior but also the menu while still paying tribute to the longstanding establishment.

So, let's start with the food. Libbey's uses fresh locally sourced ingredients. Menu items are sub-

ject to change because of this, but you will not be disappointed with any of their dishes. Believe me! For shared plates, they have favorites such as Chesapeake Crab Dip and Old Bay Seafood Nachos. However, one that was new to me was Snakehead Bites. These were lightly breaded and fried with some Old Bay and served with Thai Chili dipping sauce. Magnificent! There is a wide variety of surf and turf entrees to choose from for lunch and dinner. And if you prefer a nice brunch on the water you can hop on in for staples like crab benedict and omelets.

As the name suggests they also have some super yummy cocktails. Brunch favorites are Libbey's Bloody Mary and, of course, the Crush Mimosa. Upstairs you can partake in cocktails such as Libbey's Texas Rach Water, Twisted

Sour, and a Drunken Mermaid. My margarita lover was very pleased with her selection of the Cucumber Jalapeno Spiced Margarita. No thanks for me but keep those Crush Mimosas coming, please. The second floor and the deck are open for lunch and dinner every day. Weekend brunch begins at 10 a.m.

Want something more relaxed? Head to Below Deck. This area is open on Thursdays starting at 3 p.m. and Friday, Saturday and Sunday starting at 11 a.m. The menu offerings are slightly different down here, and I recommend the Seafood Ceviche to start. Then you can choose from pizza and burgers or go more adventurous, like my crew, and try the Rockfish Rachel or the Blue Channel Cat or Snakehead Po Boy. There are also larger portion main plates Below Deck.

When you arrive by boat enjoy



Libbey's Dock & Dine. Just pull up to one of the complimentary slips at the Bay Bridge Marina and you can tie up for up to 2 hours while you enjoy your food and cocktails. Be sure to contact the fuel dock attendants at VHF radio 68 for instructions on your way. You can also reserve a slip for the day at www.dockwa.com if you need more than 2 hours, which you might.

So, whether you drive over to 357 Pier One Road, Stevensville, or pull up to the Bay Bridge Marina on your pontoon, when you get there let them know their friends at Upper Bay Boating Magazine sent you.



Dog Days of Summer



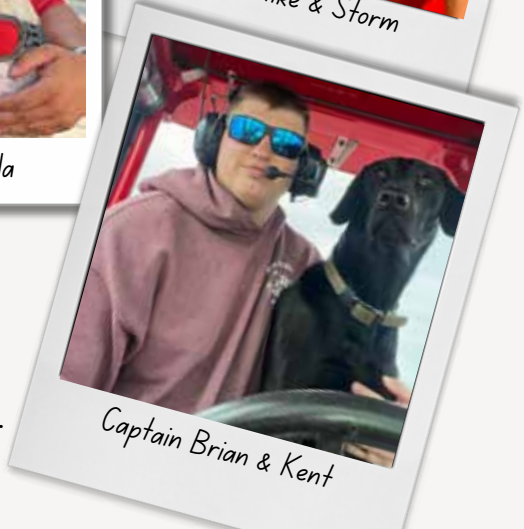
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Boats are showing up all over the place, in our waterways, driven up into the woods and left, stranded on the side of our roads. Abandoned boats are a growing problem and what to do with them is an even bigger problem!

The average cost to destroy a boat is \$300 /ft - that's \$7,200 for a 24 ft. boat. You may think that price is outrageous

but the boat must be stripped of all metal, the fuel and oil tanks removed, with the fluids drained and disposed of through a recycling process and



so much more. Most people cannot afford this and are finding alternate, illegal ways to unload



their dilapidated, eyesores. Problem is, who is responsible for retrieving the boats and where do the funds come from? While DNR is the primary agency for Abandoned vessels, funds are very limited and only covers the removal of vessels where there is a hazard to navigation. It's not a simple process to remove and destroy an abandoned vessel and very often the boat is still registered to the owner of record from 10 years ago after the boat has changed hands multiple times. If the original owner did not report the sale to DNR, they are ultimately responsible for the cost of removing and destroying the abandoned vessel.



Maryland Waterways Foundation has been working with DNR, the Baltimore County Executive office, the Chief of Baltimore County Police and the marine



unit to work on a solution to the problem plus retrieve, prosecute and properly destroy these vessels before fluids leach into our waterways and flow into the Chesapeake Bay.

It is only because of volunteers, donations and support from businesses like *McNeal Towing*, *Weavers Marine*, *Benjer Construction*, *Grace Construction*, and *Riverside Services* that we are able to aide with this growing problem. Updates to come on future solutions.



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Upper Bay

Fly Fishing

By Tim Sherman

Two of my favorite species to fish for on the upper Chesapeake are the striped bass and white perch. I take a light tackle approach for both species but realize there are plenty of ways to catch them. For stripers you can troll, jig, cast, chum, and live line. For white perch, it's jigging and bottom fishing. But wait! We've left something out ... fly fishing. Yes, there are many anglers out there that fish for stripers with a fly rod. Yet, because I am a white perch fanatic, I am intrigued to hear that someone is casting flies for them.

Enter Ethan Dill. He's a 22-year-old Pasadena resident who is on a mission to popularize fly fishing for bay species. By day, he works in the entertainment staging industry. In his free time, he is tying flies and plodding the upper bay in search of stripers and perch.

Though only in his early 20s, Ethan has fond memories of the bay. As a 6-year-old he was crabbing with his grandfather on the Bush River. He uses that same boat to run the northern Anne Arundel part of the upper bay. He remembers, as a middle schooler, throwing a cast net off of his pier to catch peanut bunker for live lining.

While he still enjoys live lining and casting conventional tackle, fly fishing is now his passion.

Ethan was introduced to fly fishing by his late friend Kyle Watson. Kyle taught Ethan the art of fly casting in an area pond. Ethan enjoyed manipulating the line through the guides of the rod for the perfect cast. He has taken that newfound passion to renowned trout streams in western states. While we have blue ribbon trout fisheries in Maryland, Ethan wants to honor Kyle's memory by introducing others to fly fishing on his home waters on the bay.

There is a difference in the way you cast to freshwater trout than to upper bay stripers and perch. In a freshwater environment, many times it's a short flick cast. For bay species, Ethan uses a long, double haul cast. He says the key to the long cast is feeling for the load of the rod in the forward and back cast motions.

In fly fishing as in light tackle fishing, the right rod makes all the difference. For stripers, he uses a 7 or 8-weight rod. While Ethan thinks that heavier class rods can be overkill, he does use an 11-weight rod for casting surface

flies. He feels that the stouter rod gives him more control when casting the bulkier fly, and provides more backbone for fighting larger fish that strike on the surface.

Contrasting light tackle lure fishing to fly fishing, the weight of the lure propels that line and dictates how fast the lure sinks. In fly fishing, the weight of the line propels the fly and dictates fly's descent. Ethan loves the surface bite, but fishes throughout the water column. He uses a line that sinks 8 inches per second when targeting deep fish. At shallow and mid-depths, he uses an intermediate sinking line, controlling the depth with the way he strips the line back to the boat. Obviously, he uses a floating line to present his surface flies.

Anyone vaguely familiar with fly fishing has heard the term, "match the hatch." It refers to casting a fly the same size as the baitfish your target species is feeding on. Ethan feels that this translated over to bay fishing as well. He ties his own flies, most in the form of a Clouser Minnow. He ties them on hooks as small as a #12 and as large as a 1/0. The bodies will be 3 to 5 inches in length, which

closely matches the size of baitfish that stripers feed on. He ties bodies smaller for the perch. Ethan likes to tinker when tying. He'll add some UV resin to give his flies a bit more flash. He'll also add the resin farther down the fly to help it sink slightly faster. He has a fascination with finding out which flies work better than others given the conditions he faces trip after trip.

It's great to find another angler who shares the same enthusiasm for catching white perch. Ethan targets them with a 7-weight rod. He says it's a bit heavy for a small species like perch, but lighter rods don't quite offer the control in the cast he needs. His smaller minnow imitations draw the strikes from the feisty perch.

While there are plenty of fly fishermen on the bay, there isn't much attention brought to them and their techniques in the mainstream. Ethan Dill is determined to change that. His pursuit of stripers and white perch on the fly is remarkable at his early age; and his mission to put fly fishing on the upper bay in the limelight has only just begun.



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