

WACCAMIAW OUTDOORS

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FREE

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Plastic Worm Fishing for Beginners

By Pete M. Anderson
BassResources.com



This is Marc Townsend with a fish on an old Westy worm — a super floater rigged on a small jig head, with second hook tied on near the tail.

When I first began bass fishing, the thing I found hardest was fishing plastic worms. When you Texas rig a worm, it can be difficult to detect bites when you are just starting out — when a worm bumps into a branch or a rock, it can feel like a bite. Then again, an actual bite sometimes doesn't feel like anything — your line may just move off sideways. If you are fishing in weeds, then the Texas rig is definitely the way to go, but if you are fishing pilings, rip-rap, rock piles, bluffs, or even mud, there's an easier way.

OPEN HOOKS

An open hook has the advantage of being practically self-setting, if you use the right hook. A straight, light wire hook works well. The reason I like a light wire hook is that it can often be straightened out with constant pressure, meaning that you can get it off most snags. This takes a lot more pressure than a swimming fish puts on it, unless that fish is absolutely enormous. The easi-

est way to fish with an open hook is to use a small jig head. Jig heads are available in an almost endless variety of colors, weights, and shapes. You can also paint them yourself. One California angler I know starts with plain lead pea heads, flattens them with a hammer, the paints them himself. Sometimes he glues eyes on them, and you can also get eye stickers made for lures.

Dart heads are great for swimming a worm — they give it more action and they fall differently than a round pea head jig.

GEAR



You don't have to dress a pea head up to catch fish on it.

A good dart head or pea head worm rod is a six and half or seven foot spinning rod with a little "give" to it. A rod that is too stiff will tend to make you lose more fish, either by tearing the hook free or straightening it out. Light line is best, and most anglers use 8- to 10-pound-test line no matter how shallow or deep they are fishing. Use a limp line to make casting easy. Some guys use braid, but I've always stuck to mono because it has a bit of stretch to it. Berkeley makes a mono that changes color so it's invisible in the water. continued on page4

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water but easy to see above water. Being able to see what your line is doing helps quite a bit.

FISHING DART HEADS

The biggest mistake you can make with a dart head is to start fishing too soon. When you cast it out, let it fall with the bail open until you see the line go slack – this means it has hit bottom. While the jig is falling, watch your line. If it jumps or bows or moves sideways, a fish has probably sucked it in. Usually they are heading away from you, but once in a while you'll get one that heads right for the boat. In any case, you should be able to see from the line movement that it isn't falling naturally. Just reel. I find it helpful to keep a couple fingers on the line ahead of the reel to keep some tension on the line. This goes a LONG way toward preventing those awful loops you sometimes get on a spinning reel.

Once you've caught up with the fish, he'll actually set the hook on himself. Steady pressure makes those small thin hooks just slide right in. A fairly big spool on your reel will help you take up line quickly and catch up with the fish. Just keep pressure on him once he's hooked, and try not to switch the rod back and forth – that just gives him an opportunity to come off. A net is a dart head fisherman's best friend – don't try slinging him in over the side or 10 to 1 he'll come off. Either lip him or net him.

If you're fishing vertical structure, cast the lure close to the piling or whatever it is, and let it fall. If the water by the piling is really deep, odds are he's going to take it on the way down. If there is current, toss to the upstream side and let the current take it around on slack line. We once caught twenty eight smallmouth off a single ledge at Lake Powell over eighty feet of water. The fish were only 25 feet deep, and they inhaled the dart heads every time. They were just annihilating Yamamoto grubs.

HOPPING

Years ago I was fishing a tournament with a Tucson pro and he taught me a fantastic method for fishing those "nothing" banks that most fishermen pass by. This was at Roosevelt Lake and he pulled up to a stretch a bank that just had nothing on it. It was about a 45-degree slope, and had the occasional rock but nothing spectacular. He handed me a Press-Ur-Bite worm. These worms are no longer made, but they were very much like Westy Worms – two hooks on a worm, the first one a light jig head with a gold, bendable wire. He just tossed it to the bank just barely in the water, and let the line go slack. Then he'd reel just enough to pick the lure up, stop, and let it fall. I don't even remember how many fish we caught off that bank, but it was a lot. I never felt a thing – just when I'd go to reel up to move it, a fish would be on it. Just pressure. Hence the name Press-Ur-Bite.

We often start catching fish immediately when throwing small baits on an open hook.

You can also hop a little jig head on the bottom like this – just reel, let it sink, and reel again. The bite can be simply pressure like it was for us that day, or they may just slam it and take off. The key is to use the reel to move the bait – that keeps it subtle, and it keeps you in position to reel and set. A lot of times you will discover what the fish want by accident. For instance, you may get snagged on a small rock, and when you pull the lure free a fish grabs it. Or you may get a loop in your line and while you are sitting there playing with your reel a fish may take your worm. Sometimes the bass want the lure



worked fast and you may not realize it until a fish grabs it as you reel in quickly to throw to another spot. It is important to pay attention to where and how the lure was taken. If you can repeat the process you can probably catch more fish.

LURES

The original Westy Worms were made with super floater worms and those are excellent because they float up off the bottom. Colors were limited back then, but we still caught tons of fish on them. When you're using a little jig head, you can choose any lure you want. Keep it small. For swimming or fishing vertical stuff, grubs are a good choice. Yamamoto grubs are my favorite because the thin tail has tons of swimming action, and they are so salty the fish hang on tight.

For hopping on the bottom or down banks, a 4-inch worm is ideal. Bigger worms can overpower the small jigs. With the old double-hooked worms, we'd often cut the back hook off, slit the worm down the middle about halfway up, then use a Wormizer to weld a piece of the tail in the slit to keep it open. Seriously though, you could just use a small craw and that would work great. There are lots of incredible floating baits out there – and floating means that the claws or the tail will stay up off the bottom, making the lure more visible.

FINAL TIPS

I have known guys catch fish on dart heads and pea heads with almost any retrieve you can imagine. At a tournament weigh-in years ago, John Murray once told me he caught all his fish on a Westy, ripping it like a jerk-bait under the tires in the marina. You just never know. Once you have one on, though, don't give him any slack, don't change directions, and try not to let him jump. Danny Westfall (inventor of the Westy) just kept his drag set light and used his hand on the spool to reel-set. Once the hook was in, he'd let go and allow the light drag to get the fish ready to boat.

If you're having trouble catching fish on a traditional Texas rig, don't feel like the Lone Ranger – a lot of us had the same problem starting out. Just get a handful of small jigs and some light baits and you'll be catching fish on plastics in no time.



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Lures to Help Smash Prespawn Bass

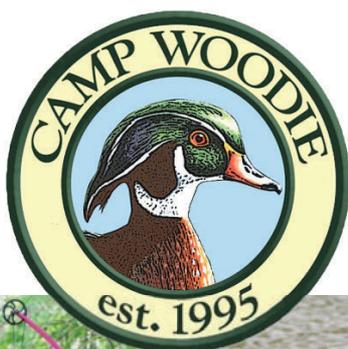
By Chris Little



I love this time of the year. You can see the end of winter and you start to get nice warm

days in February and March. Spring fever has already set in and my mind starts to drift hooking that big prespawn bass.

What is "prespawn" as it pertains to bass? This is the time before bass move to their beds to lay eggs. They journey from their winter deep spots and move shallow. This normally occurs in late



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winter and early spring. If you follow water temp, the rule of thumb is prespawn can start when water temps reach 50 degrees. Spawning usually starts at 60 to 70 degrees.

Keep in mind they are *moving* to the shallow areas. They are not quite in the backs of creek but they are moving and feeding. It takes a lot of energy (food) for a female

bass to lay 2,000 up to 50,000 eggs. So, as the water is warming bait fish, such as, shad start moving and crawfish start to climb out of their muddy winter homes. This is when you need to know your fishery and match the hatch.

I'm a power fisherman. I love crank baits (square bill, lipless and deep diving). Prespawn is the best



19.5" on a Wacky Rig

hang and form an upside down "U". The way I fish it, I cast it out and let it fall to the bottom. When it hits the bottom, I Pop,pop,pop it up with the tip of my rod. This creates the action of the worm pulsating and then I let it sink back to the bottom. It's a deadly technique. I love the Wacky Rig. It saved my KBF February Challenge Tournament. It was the only bait the fish wanted. If you want to see more on this technique go to my YouTube Channel (Dead Calm Outdoors) and please support my channel by subscribing, liking and leave a comment.

I could write for pages on this topic but I'll curtail here. There are so many other baits and rigs that work for prespawn: Chatterbaits, Jigs, spinner baits just to name a few. They all work great. Find the pattern of what fish want, and just keep throwing until it changes. Spring is here get out and soak up that warm sunshine. Remember Go Big or Go home.

time for red colored crank baits. Bold red and orange works great. These cranks imitate a crawfish that just climbed out of the muddy clay bottom and will be a red color. At this time of the year, crawfish are the main food source for bass. Use a crank bait that will tick the bottom and have that hunting action. For example, use a 3-5 ft diving crank for a depth of 4 ft.

This next rig is my go to when it tough fishing and I can't get a bait. I don't know what the fish think this is but a Worn rigged Wacky style is awesome for this time of the year. I use a 4, 5 or 6 inch worm rigged on a 3/16 oz VMC Wacky Jig. I use a few colors, anything in Green pumpkin, June bug and pumpkin works well for me. Rigging is simple. Take the worm and hook it in the middle. If you rig it correctly the worm should

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Inspiring Visitors

By Maggie Boineau



“May you soar on eagle wings, high above the madness of the world.”

—Jonathan Lockwood Huie

Living in Murrells Inlet comes with many blessings, and one of the most special is the abundant birdlife. The rising and falling tides beckon wading birds, shorebirds, birds of prey, ducks and loons, and countless others, making it a birder’s paradise!

Our home is designed as a “raised beach” style house, and has a large expanse of windows exactly at flight level. The surrounding inlet and marshland is the perfect setting to observe nature, and certainly makes birding even more exciting. Over the years, we have realized that many birds have distinctive flight patterns, and quite often, birds fly past our windows so close that it takes our breath away.

But on a recent dreary winter afternoon, we had a pair of extraordinary visitors: not one, but two bald eagles! My husband and I simultaneously spotted the first eagle as it landed on our dock, with a large fish carcass clutched in its massive talons. Luckily, I had my camera handy, and I moved very carefully so as not to alarm the eagle as I got myself in position to take a photo. I planned to take a couple of shots through the window. But when the second eagle



landed on the dock, I immediately knew that this was an opportunity I might never have again, and I needed to get out on the deck to capture a photo.

I crept low, using my best stalking skills, and then belly-crawled to the sliding glass door that opens onto the deck. As I slowly and carefully cracked open the sliding door, the door chime sounded, and the birds nervously looked my way. I kept still for what seemed an eternity and then eased my way out onto the deck, hiding for a moment

behind a large planter. I knew that those eagle eyes were fixed on me as I held motionless as long as I could. Being a turkey hunter, I knew not to blink. A blast of cold air reminded me that I had forgotten to put on a coat, but it didn’t matter—I was on a mission.

The eagles were fixated on their fish carcass, and I knew I had to start shooting. I gently positioned my camera lens between the deck rails and began snapping photos. The eagles went on the alert again, and I thought to myself that they

must have eagle eyes *and* eagle ears to hear those shutter clicks.

Soon I felt confident that the eagles were not worried about me—they seemed more intent on which of them was going to end up with that fish carcass. Slowly I stood up and focused on taking photos. I felt exhilarated to have such an opportunity! Since I was behind the camera, I could not recall the sequence of the exchange between these imposing birds, but I know that the first eagle dropped the prized fish carcass, and the sec-



eagles at such close range is rare, even though bald eagles are no longer endangered.

Could it be that the mere sight of these incredible bald eagles was just what we needed? Reading the fantastic comments on social media, there was no doubt in my mind that our national bird still inspires us as Americans. After an exhausting election, the pandemic worries, and the seemingly never-ending winter weather, on that very day, we as Americans felt uplifted by

the fierce beauty of our cherished American bald eagle. This extraordinary bird aptly symbolizes what we Americans hold dear: our precious freedom and independence! We will soar high above the madness of the world and preserve and protect the America we love and treasure.

Maggie is a Realtor, a hunting and fishing blogger, and Prois Hunt Staffer. You can follow her at www.camo365.com.

ond eagle helped itself to it. I lost track of which eagle was the first and which was the second. After a great photo shoot opportunity, one eagle flew off with the carcass. Soon after, the second exited as well.

I quickly skimmed through about 25 photos, and I am quite sure that the first eagle was the female, since the second bird was larger. After doing a little research, I am confident that this was a pair. Eagles mate for life, and they were rather patient with each other and never fought over the fish carcass. I also figured that there were no eaglets to feed, since the hatching timeline would generally be around March.

But this story is not just about bald eagles. What amazed me the most was the reaction I had when I posted my photos on social media. I could not keep up with the number of likes and loves, and comments and shares! The excitement was remarkable to behold. I am not a professional photographer by any means, so I know it was not my photography skills that caused such overwhelming enthusiasm. Seeing a pair of

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\$5 Million In Grants Awarded To SCDNR, Conservation Bank To Protect Coastal Wetlands

The S.C. Department of Natural Resources (SCDNR) and the S.C. Conservation Bank were recently awarded five grants totaling \$5 million to protect coastal wetlands in Williamsburg, Jasper, Charleston, Georgetown and Horry counties.

“Coastal wetland habitat conservation is critical to ensure that important habitat, wildlife and coastal communities continue to thrive for



More coastal wetland habitats like these will be protected in South Carolina thanks to recent federal grants. [SCDNR photo]

future generations,” said South Carolina Gov. Henry McMaster.

The National Coastal Wetlands Conservation Grants, awarded by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, provide funding of up to \$1 million to coastal states to protect, restore and enhance coastal wetland ecosystems and associated wetlands. The maximum of \$1 million was given to each of South Carolina’s five projects.

“These grants will have wide-reaching benefits for local South Carolina economies, people and wildlife,” said J. Raleigh West III, executive director of the S.C. Conservation Bank. “They will strengthen partnerships with numerous public, non-profit and private stakeholders while directly conserving and restoring vital coastal habitat and inland wetlands.”

The wetlands conservation grants in South Carolina will help to protect the following properties:

- 841 acres of diverse coastal habitats along the Black River in Williamsburg County that will be acquired by Open Space Institute with help from the Conservation Bank. This tract harbors species like the state-endangered swallow-tailed kite and federally threatened wood stork.
- 974 acres in the Lower Savannah River watershed of Jasper County, which SCDNR is planning to acquire with support from conservation partners Lowcountry Land Trust and the Savannah River Clean Water Fund. This forested tract protects 3.5 miles of river frontage, its extensive floodplain forests provide critical habitat and flood control, and it supports clean drinking water supplies for citizens in the region.

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- 194 acres on the Ashley Scenic River in Charleston County, which will be acquired by the Open Space Institute and transferred to the Drayton Hall Preservation Trust. The property has nearly a mile of Ashley River frontage on the Ashley River Road National Scenic Byway.

- 1,964 acres along the Santee River in Georgetown County, which SCDNR is planning to acquire with support from The Conservation Fund and the Conservation Bank. The forested wetlands are used by no less than 117 priority species, 12 of which are federally listed.

- 980 acres in the Waccamaw River Basin of Horry County, which SCDNR is planning to acquire with support from Ducks Unlimited and the Conservation Bank. This tract includes more than 3 miles of frontage along the Waccamaw River and features significant natural, cultural and archaeological resources. It will also establish new public access points and increase permanently protected riverfront on the Waccamaw River Blue Trail.

Robert H. Boyles Jr., SCDNR director, said: "These grants are a great example of how much we can get done by working together with our conservation partners, such as the Conservation Bank, Open Space Institute, Lowcountry Land Trust, Savannah River Clean Water Fund, The Conservation Fund and Ducks Unlimited. With assistance from these partners, it will help us to recover coastal-dependent species, enhance flood protection and water quality, provide economic benefit to coastal communities, and increase outdoor recreational opportunities."

The coastal wetlands grants are funded by a "user-pay" system of collections from the sale of recreational fishing equipment, boats, electric motors, and motorboat and small engine fuels under the authority of the Dingell-Johnson Sport Fish Restoration Act of 1950.

Boyles said that while SCDNR knows the public is ready to explore these great new conservation properties, he asked the public to keep in mind that the natural resources agency must work through the processes of the S.C. Department of Administration to acquire properties, which will soon be underway. The public should stay tuned for future announcements when the property acquisitions are complete and ready for public enjoyment, Boyles said.

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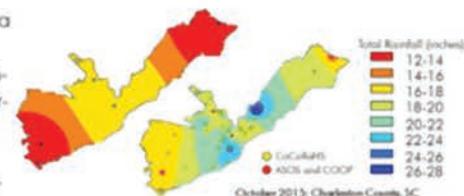


The CoCoRaHS Network needs your help tracking precipitation patterns and trends across South Carolina!

What Is CoCoRaHS?

The Community Collaborative Rain, Hail and Snow Network (CoCoRaHS) is a grass-roots volunteer network of backyard weather observers of all ages and backgrounds working together to measure and map precipitation in their local communities.

CoCoRaHS Data is used by the National Weather Service, Emergency Managers, the State Climatology Office, and more!



CoCoRaHS observers in South Carolina helped capture the magnitude of the Floods of October 2015, Hurricane Matthew, Tropical Storm Florence, Hurricane Dorian, the 2019 Fall Flash Drought, and flooding in the winter and spring of 2020.



Help bring the CoCoRaHS Cup back to South Carolina!

South Carolina won the competition in 2018 and 2019, and we want to bring the cup back to the Palmetto State in 2021. If you enjoy watching the weather, consider becoming an observer!

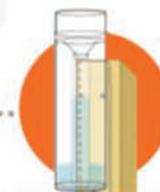
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Are you fascinated with weather and looking for a new hobby to do at home? Sign up today to be a CoCoRaHS Observer!

This month, SCDNR hopes to recruit more South Carolinians to CoCoRaHS as part of an annual, nationwide contest. These observers are vital in tracking precipitation (rain, hail, and snow) across the country, including right here at home. By providing your daily observation, you help to fill in a piece of the weather puzzle that affects many across your area in one way or another.

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Falk Family
CHIROPRACTIC & WELLNESS

Heavy Backpacks May Harm Kids, Doctors Warn

with Dr Daniel A Falk

Take a look: Are your kids staggering? Now that they're back in school, it's likely the books, lunches, calculators, water bottles, notebooks and gym clothes stuffed into their backpacks are weighing them down and putting stress on backs and shoulders. New research reveals an alarming danger associated with childhood backpack use.

This research stems from the increasing number of reports of childhood back pain in recent decades. By the end of their teen years, more than 50% of youths experience at least one low-back pain episode (Spine 1998; 23:228-34). And new research indicates that this increase may be due, at least in part, to the improper use of backpacks. But you don't need to be a scientist to understand the effect of backpacks on young spines; watch children in any schoolyard struggle to walk while bent sideways under the weight of an overloaded backpack on one shoulder - you'll quickly realize the potential danger of this commonplace item.



Backpacks Attack on Backs

How exactly does carrying a backpack affect the spine? "Common sense tells us that a heavy load, distributed improperly or unevenly, day after day, is indeed going to cause stress to a growing spinal column," explains Dr. Marvin T. Arnsdorff, chiropractor and co-founder of the Backpack Safety America school education program. "The old adage 'as the twig is bent, so grows the tree' comes to mind. We are seeing a growing concern about the improper use of backpacks and the relatively scarce amount of instructional and preventive information available to young people."

The Consumer Product Safety Commission estimates that 4,928 emergency room visits each year result from injuries related to book bags and back carriers. And schlepping around a backpack can cause not only acute injury, but also long-term damage.

Five Steps to Preventing Backpack-Related Injuries

With regular chiropractic checkups and a few simple preventive measures, you can keep your child injury free:

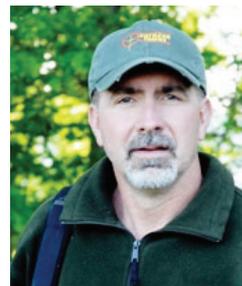
- 1) Ensure that your child's backpack is sturdy and appropriately sized. Some manufacturers offer special child-sized versions for children ages five to ten. These packs weigh less than a pound and have shorter back lengths and widths to prevent slippage. To help distribute the load, look for packs with padded shoulder straps and waist straps.
- 2) Ensure that the weight of your child's pack does not exceed 15% of his or her body weight.
- 3) Avoid overloading by prioritizing the items your child carries and eliminating unnecessary contents.
- 4) Teach your youngster to pack his or her backpack by evenly distributing the contents throughout the pack.
- 5) Insist that your child never carry a backpack on one shoulder. Both shoulder straps - as well as the waist strap - should be used at all times.

As April is National Backpack Safety Month, now is the time to take heed to the present and future problems that backpacks may be harnessing on your child's spine. If you suspect your child is having problems from carrying a heavy backpack or is complaining of neck or back pain, or recurrent headaches, have him or her checked by a qualified doctor of chiropractic.

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OUTDOOR TRUTHS

By Gary Miller



One thing about turkey season is the season starts before the season starts. What I mean is, sometimes weeks before hunters are allowed to hunt, the gobblers are already mating the hens. The action is fast before hunters have any opportunity to tag a bird. All we can do is watch. But the watching is good. Right now is a great time to peruse your hunting area to look for that familiar strut and gobble that fires us up. There's nothing like watching this song and dance. And it's even more electrifying when it's happening just in front of our gun barrel. But again, I'll have to wait another couple of weeks in my area. It will be excruciating but will serve to make opening day even more exciting. Until then, I'll have to remain on the sidelines, getting ready for my opportunity.

Sidelines are the real headlines in my life. I spend most of my time each week just getting ready for a brief moment of headlines. Writing this article is just one example. I spend a lot more time in a small office, behind a desk, in front of a computer, on the sidelines, just getting ready for a short moment of headlines each week in your inbox or publication. When I speak, I spend a lot more time on the sidelines, wrestling with a subject, than I do with my 30-minute presentation. But you do the same thing. Whether you are a stay-at-home mother or some other professional, most of what you do or are involved with, involves getting things ready for some kind of finished product. It's the sidelines that give you a moment of headlines. But those who are the best at the headlines are those who make sure they are prepared when they are on the sidelines. In sports terms, the backup quarterback needs to expect his number to be called on any given play. One never knows when it's his day to make the headlines. In spiritual terms, God never creates an individual just for the sidelines. He always plans moments where he calls each of us to quit watching because the season - our season - has started. Let's be ready. How you ask? By simply being aware of what's going on around us and realizing as God's child, we are equipped for the position.

Gary Miller

gary@outdoortruths.org



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Castingawayblog is a site dedicated to fly fishing and in particular, fly fishing travel. We plan to share experiences and techniques, as well as, to provide a portal to destinations across the globe for the travelling fly fisherman.

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castingawayblog.wordpress.com

Are You Hearing the Sounds of Spring?

By Jennifer Reed & Kayla Bracey

Spring is the perfect time of year to start fresh! Did you know that your hearing health contributes to your overall well-being and quality of life? It's time to live better and to be healthy and happy, better hearing health and wellness are possible!!

Here's a few statistics that may surprise you:

- **1 in 3** people **over the age of 60** have hearing loss
- **1 in 6** **baby boomers** (ages 49-66) have hearing loss
- **1 in 14** **generation xers** (ages 37-48) already have hearing loss
- **1 in 5** **teenagers** have some type of hearing loss

People of all ages can have and do have hearing loss. There are many contributing factors to why this is happening.

• **SMOKING:** Current smokers are **1.69 times more likely**, or have a **70% higher risk** to have hearing loss than nonsmokers.

• **DIABETES:** Hearing loss is about **twice as common** in people with diabetes compared to those without the disease. In adults with pre-diabetes, whose blood glucose is higher than normal but not high enough for a diabetes diagnosis, have a 30% higher



rate of hearing loss compared to those with normal blood sugar.

• **HEART HEALTH:** The inner ear is extremely sensitive to blood flow. Studies have shown that a healthy cardiovas-

cular system-a person's heart, arteries and veins-has a positive effect on hearing. Conversely, inadequate blood flow and trauma to the blood vessels of the inner ear can contribute to hearing loss.

• **HYPERTENSION:** There is a significant association between high blood pressure and hearing loss. Hypertension is an accelerating factor of degeneration of the hearing apparatus due to aging.

• **OSTEOPOROSIS:** Did you know there is a link between osteoporosis and hearing loss? The demineralization of the three middle ear bones may contribute to or cause a conductive hearing impairment.

It's so important to take an empowered, proactive approach to all aspects of your health during every stage of your life – let it begin with your hearing health! Welcome all the sounds of Spring and call us today for a **FREE Hearing Evaluation 843-272-1486**. e look forward to seeing you soon!



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Kayla Bracey Jennifer Reed
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McClellanville-Area Reef Expansion To Provide Marine Habitat



Concrete culvert pipes (left) and retired tugboat (right) preparing to join the McClellanville Reef roughly 10 miles offshore. (Photo: Kaitlyn Hackathorn/SCDNR)

Anglers and fish alike can enjoy an expanded CCA-McClellanville Reef (PA-34) as of this week.

On Tuesday, March 9, South Carolina Department of Natural Resources (SCDNR) and Coastal Conservation Association South Carolina (CCA SC) staff

took advantage of calm seas and beautiful weather to add a retired tugboat and 24 four-foot diameter concrete culvert pipes to the existing artificial reef in 50 feet of water. The tugboat and culverts joined numerous other structures that form the reef, including remnants of the former Cooper River Bridge, concrete structures and a 105' tugboat. The new reef additions were funded in part by CCA SC and in part by funds provided through the purchase of saltwater fishing licenses.

"The Coastal Conservation Association has been a tremendous help to us in getting high-quality material distributed along our coast," said SCDNR artificial reef coordinator Bob Martore. "Vessels like this provide an excellent foundation for a reef community because their complexity attracts a wide variety of species."

Artificial reefs play a similar role as coral reefs, which cannot grow in the temperate waters off the coast of South Carolina. These human-built structures are typically placed on areas of seafloor with little natural relief, improving habitat and spawning grounds for a diverse array of fish and marine life – and in turn attracting recreational divers and anglers.

"Today's deployment marks another fantastic collaborative effort between the conservation community, private industry, and state government that benefits both fish and fishermen" said Scott Whitaker, CCA SC executive director.

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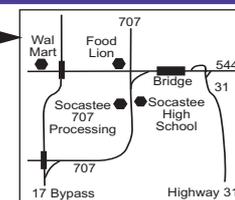
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The retired tugboat begins sinking to join the CCA-McClellanville Reef on the seafloor. (Photo: Kaitlyn Hackathorn/SCDNR)

"Enhancing habitat and expanding access for recreational anglers are two of the cornerstones in CCA SC's coastal initiative plan and we are excited about the additional projects planned for 2021 and beyond."

SCDNR has been constructing artificial reefs to improve offshore fish populations and recreational opportunities for over forty years, sinking everything from bridge spans to military vehicles to subway cars. The environmental benefits of artificial reefs are twofold, as they recycle materials that would otherwise be destined for landfills in addition to expanding critical habitat for offshore fish. Structures intended for artificial reefs undergo a long and rigorous cleaning process to ensure they're safe to sink.

South Carolina is home to dozens of artificial reef sites, the location data for which are free to download to your marine GPS device.



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SCDNR Asks South Carolinians To Remove Bird Feeders Until Early Spring

The South Carolina Department of Natural Resources (SCDNR) is asking for South Carolina residents to take down their bird feeders until early spring after an increase in mortality reports for Pine Siskins, and other species.

While Pine Siskins are more susceptible than other species to getting sick from dirty bird feeders, there has been an increase in the number of reports SCDNR has received from across the state in the last several weeks.

Those who have bird feeders should take them down until early April, when Pine Siskins have begun to migrate north. Temporarily removing bird feeders from your yard will not prevent wild birds from returning after the feeder is put back up.

While many South Carolinians enjoy feeding wild birds, those who have bird feeders must ensure their bird feeders stay clean. Without adequate care, bird feeders can harm, rather than benefit, the local bird population. Dirty feeders can harbor spoiled feed, seed hulls, and waste which can become a source of bacteria, mold, and transmissible diseases between birds.



Photo: ©Lucas Bobay (Cornell Lab)



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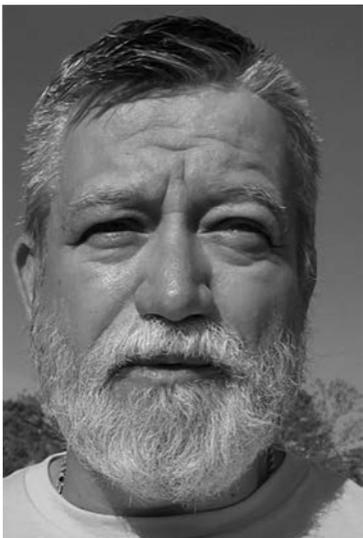


2430 Wise Rd. Conway, SC 29626

ANCHOR POINT ...

By Jerry W. Teaford, Jr.

Darkness was just beginning to give way to the first hint of daylight. I've been hunting this farm now for so many years, I don't need a flashlight. Regardless what I'm hunting, I like getting the early start and enjoying the unfolding of a new day. I took off my hat, bowed my head and said my prayers. After saying "AMEN", I whispered; let's do this :0)



to a different spot, my Dad's words came back to me. He once told me: "If a Gobbler responds to your call, he knows where you are. Be patient and he may come looking for you if you can wait him out." With that, I decided to stay put.

At about 10 a.m. I made some excited

yelps on the box call. From very far away, I heard the distinct but faint sound of a gobble. I waited a minute and I stroked the box call again. To my surprise, the response gobble that came was very clear. My heart began to beat faster with the thought that this bird was on his way looking for the "hen" that was yelping to him.

In just a minute, I stroked the box call again. Somehow, somehow that Gobbler had closed the distance and was just around the curve in the dirt road away from me. Within a second or two, I caught a glimpse of him just behind a patch of brush as he was stretching out his neck and gobbling like thunder.

Very slowly, I reached up and turned on my "GoPro" video camera mounted on my hat. I was sitting flat on my bottom and pulled my knees up so I could stabilize my shoutgun. As he rounded the bend in the road, he was in full strut [feathers all fluffed up, tail-fan up and spread and, oh my goodness, what a beard!!!] With every few steps, he would gobble. I had quit making calls and was watching the action. He was searching

for the "Hen" he knew was close by ... and he was going to find her. On and on he came straight down the dirt road towards me,

Fifty yards, forty yards, thirty yards and still coming. He was so close I could hear every noise he made [spitting and drumming]. I was so caught up in the show, I almost forgot to slide the safety off on my shotgun. I slid the safety off, put the bead on him and boom!!!

As I kneeled over him admiring him, I removed my hat and thanked God for the harvest He blessed me with this morning. My Dad was right ... again. Had I moved, this moment may not have happened. Patience [Turkey Time] wins again.

Speaking of patience, You may have been praying about concerning events or circumstances. You've prayed and prayed and nothing seems to be happening or changing. Let me assure you, God knows exactly where you are. He's heard your every "call". Remain Patient. He's going to show up ...

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15 Camping Tips and Tricks

Make Your Adventure Easier!

By Jane Ochsenbein
Gator Bait Adventure Tours

Spring camping season is just around the corner, are you ready? After every camping trip, take the time to set up camp in your backyard, clean your gear and restock the basics you used on your trip. That way you're ready for your next adventure! Experienced campers have a lot of great tips to make your trip run smoothly. Planning means more fun when you get there. Here's some of my favorite tips and tricks to create space, condense down and still have what you need.

1. Line your pack with a heavy-duty large garbage bag. It keeps everything in your pack dry, can be used for everything from a makeshift tent to a rain poncho, to storage for wet items or trash.

2. Space bags compression bags save a ton of space. Just pack clothes, towels and bulky items in the bag, roll it to push all the air out and zip closed. Gives room for a few extra pieces of clothing. They're waterproof too, so keeps everything in them dry!

3. Pack trick birthday candles for matches and fire starters. You cannot blow them out and neither can the wind! They relight, giving extra time to get that fire burning.

4. Put a battery-powered votive candle into an empty plastic jar with a screw on lid to make portable lanterns. The jar makes the light spread



farther and it's waterproof!

5. Create a non-waterproof light with a headlamp and a clear water bottle. Lights up a picnic table or tent.

6. Foam floor tiles, usually used for kids play area, make even the hardest ground softer for sleeping. I put them directly on the ground, then set up the tent on top. It creates a barrier from cold and helps protect the floor of your tent from getting a hole. Found at most club stores in a big pack.



7. Roll duct tape around a flashlight or water bottle to always have some nearby for emergency repairs. Can even be used for emergency first aid to create a splint or sling.

8. Pack a first aid & emergency kit

into a water bottle. Include basics like gauze, an elastic bandage, band aids, sunscreen, antibacterial wipes. A knife or scissors, some paracord, a lighter or matches, tweezers, an extra battery for headlamp. I wrap duct tape around this bottle.

9. Put silverware and cooking utensils in a water bottle, it keeps them clean and easy to find. Extra water storage if needed too!

10. Store spices in a weekly pill organizer so you can have a variety while camping. Use a sharpie to label them.

11. Freeze gallon jugs of water to keep your cooler cold and have extra drinking water when it thaws. Keeps ice from melting, leaving a puddle





It's Turkey Season, Again!

Bacon Wrapped Turkey Breast Stuffed with Spinach and Feta

1 large turkey breast
 1/2 teaspoon dried oregano
 1/2 teaspoon ground cumin
 salt and ground black pepper to taste
 1 cup fresh spinach, or to taste
 1/4 cup crumbled feta cheese
 12 slices reduced-sodium bacon
 Preheat oven to 350 degrees F.



Slice turkey breast down the middle and lay it flat. Sprinkle oregano, cumin, salt, and pepper on the inside of turkey. Arrange spinach leaves in 1 layer on 1 of the pieces of turkey and top with a layer of feta cheese. Repeat layering with spinach and feta cheese. Fold the other turkey breast half over the feta layer so the filling is sealed. Wrap the entire turkey breast with bacon. Place wrapped turkey in a baking dish and season with salt and pepper.

Cook turkey breast until no longer pink in the center and the juices run clear, about 30 minutes. An instant-read thermometer inserted into the center should read at least 165 degrees F.

Turn on oven's broiler and broil wrapped turkey until bacon is crisp on each side, about 2 minutes per side. Let turkey rest for 10 minutes before slicing.

Wild Turkey with Broccoli and Tortellini in White Cheese Sauce

1 side of a wild turkey breast around 2 pounds cut into bite sized bits
 2 cups zesty Italian dressing for marinade
 2 cloves garlic minced
 2 19-ounce bags of cheese filled tortellini boiled according to package directions

1 16-ounce bag of frozen broccoli
 Sauce
 3 tablespoons butter
 3 tablespoons all-purpose flour
 2 cups whole milk
 2 cups heavy cream
 8-ounce block cream cheese
 1 cup parmesan cheese. Grated
 1 cup shredded Italian blend cheese
 1 tablespoon Italian blend dried herbs



Cooking Instructions
 Sautée the marinated turkey in two tablespoons olive oil for 10 minutes. Add the garlic and broccoli, then sauté for five more minutes or until the turkey is just cooked through.

While the turkey cooks, start the sauce by melting the butter over medium-high heat, add the flour and stir until the flour begins to turn a light tan in color, about 5 minutes. Add the milk and cream, reduce heat to medium, and stir until the sauce bubbles and begins to thicken. Add the softened cream cheese and stir till melted. Add parmesan and shredded Italian blend cheeses, along with the Italian herbs, and stir till the cheese is melted and the sauce smooth.

Drain the cooked pasta, toss the turkey and broccoli into the pasta, then pour over the sauce and stir well to coat everything evenly.

Turkey Tetrazzini

half (16 ounce) box Spaghetti noodles
 3 Tb butter, divided
 2 C cooked turkey, chopped
 1 C mushrooms, sliced
 1 onion, chopped
 salt and pepper
 1 (10 ounce) can cream of mushroom soup
 1 C milk (I used 1 %)
 1/2 tsp poultry seasoning
 1/8 tsp dry mustard
 1 C sharp cheddar cheese, shredded
 1 C mozzarella cheese, shredded
 1 Tb Parmesan cheese, shredded
 1/2 tsp dried parsley
 Preheat your oven to 350 degrees.



Boil some water in a medium-sized pan. Salt the water generously, then cook half a box of spaghetti noodles. Drain the noodles and place them in a 3 quart casserole, or 7x11 pan that has been coated with cooking spray.

Add 1 tablespoon of butter to the noodles and toss them around a bit so the butter has a chance to melt. This gives them a nice rich flavor, while keeping the noodles from sticking together.

While your noodles are cooking, slice 1 cup mushrooms and chop 1 onion.

Into a hot skillet place 2 tablespoons of butter. Once it has melted add the mushrooms and onion. Hit it with just a bit of salt and pepper. Sauté the yummy veggies over medium high heat until the onions are translucent.

Add 1 can cream of mushroom soup and 1 cup milk. Whisk it in to combine.

Add 1/2 teaspoon poultry seasoning and 1/8 teaspoon dry mustard. Stir to combine.

Add 1 cup sharp cheddar cheese and stir it in. Once the cheese has melted remove the pan from the heat.

Chop 2 cups of cooked turkey and sprinkle it over the top of the noodles. Pour the sauce over the noodles (no need to stir it in, just layer it). Sprinkle 1 cup mozzarella cheese and 1 tablespoon of Parmesan cheese over the top of the sauce.

Sprinkle 1/2 teaspoon dried parsley over the cheese.

Pop it into the oven (uncovered) and bake for 30 minutes, or until the cheese is melted and the sides are bubbly.

CROSSWORD

1	2	3	4	5		6	7	8		9	10	11	12	
13						14				15				
16						17				18				
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64						65	66			67				68
69						70				71				
72						73				74				

STATEPOINT CROSSWORD

THEME: BASEBALL

ACROSS

- Turkey trot, e.g.
- Dadaist Jean
- * ____ crew, Milwaukee Brewers fan base
- Poppy seed derivative
- Afghan monetary unit
- Hotel room option
- Category of artistic composition
- Between northeast and east
- Relating to pond scum
- *Babe Ruth's first major league team
- * ____ -and- ____ sport
- Dog command
- Bald eagle's home
- Witchy woman
- Back wound?
- Siskel or Ebert
- Smoothing appliance
- Distinctive flair
- Stomata, sing.
- Burlap fiber
- Archeologist's find
- Estimated arrivals
- Discompose
- Cobbler's concern
- Merlin or Gandalf
- *B in RBI
- Close by
- Spade for stony ground
- Karl of politics
- Between ready and go
- *Left, center or right one
- *Yankees' only #4
- Blast from the past
- Crew tool
- Helped
- ____ one's time, past tense
- Schiller's poem
- Express contempt
- What Simon does
- Cut grass
- Intoxicating

DOWN

- *Eat a hot one at the game
- Copycat
- *Number of standard baseball positions
- Miss Muffet's meal
- Vomiting
- Highest point
- *Scoring unit
- Annapolis frosh
- Tulip's early stage
- Capital of Latvia
- Et alibi (2 words)
- Water source
- Bacchus' attendants
- Weasel's aquatic cousin
- *Baseball trajectory
- Diver's edible reward
- Muslim woman's headscarf
- Caribbean island destination
- Gained access to (2 words)
- Hoppy beers
- Individual unit
- Bottom line
- Idealized image
- *Katie ____ or " ____ at the Bat"
- Empty when kids leave
- World's longest river
- Cut it out
- Moved a flock of sheep
- Certain John's or Jane's last name
- Re-use old ideas
- Car sound, to a toddler
- Trinity
- Small door-opening devices
- One of the hipbones, pl.
- Whirlpool
- "Big Little ____"
- What Jack's beanstalk did
- It comes to mind
- Turned to the right, like a horse
- Commotion or fuss
- Wine quality

Solution on page 22

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2021 Waccamaw Conference Blue Trail Connection

Waccamaw Riverkeeper, Winyah Rivers Alliance

The Waccamaw RIVERKEEPER® Program of Winyah Rivers Alliance and its partners, North Inlet - Winyah Bay National Estuarine Research Reserve, American Rivers, and the Coastal Waccamaw Stormwater Education Consortium, are pleased to announce the 2021 Waccamaw Conference! This FREE community conference is open to all and we hope you will join us for this incredible journey along the Blue Trail.

Join us for a month of activities during the 2021 Waccamaw Conference from World Water Day (March 22) to Earth Day (April 22). Our theme this year is "Confluence: The Blue Trail Connection." What is your passion? History? Culture?

Recreation? Thriving businesses? The Waccamaw River Blue Trail has it all and so much more.

Take a journey along the Waccamaw River Blue Trail from Lake Waccamaw to Winyah Bay during our series of events including webinars, virtual events, outdoor activities, and interactive competitions. Each week we will visit a different section of the watershed and you are invited to come along on our trip! You can choose to take the virtual tour with us, attend our outdoor events, or explore on your own. Our 2021 Waccamaw Conference is designed to help you discover the Waccamaw River Blue Trail at your own pace and comfort level.

Visit www.winyahrivers.org to view a full calendar of events,

learn more about our diverse conference programs, and find out how you can get involved! Connect with us and to your Waccamaw River this spring during the 2021 Waccamaw Conference.

Winyah Rivers Alliance (Winyah Rivers Foundation) is a nonprofit 501c3 organization that guards the health and natural beauty of the Winyah Bay Watershed. We partner with concerned citizens to monitor, protect, restore and preserve the watersheds covering five rivers eastern South Carolina and southern North Carolina. Our goal is to provide clean water to our communities for consumption, recreation, nature preservation and agricultural use.

Our full-time Riverkeepers® monitor and protect the Waccamaw

and Lumber Rivers, serving as scientific experts and educational resources to the community, schools, citizens and legislature in the watershed.





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WACCAMAW OUTDOORS TIDE CHART

South Carolina, Charleston, Bucksport
N 33° 38.6' / W 79° 05.7' April 2021

Tide chart table for Charleston, Bucksport with columns for Date, Day, High Tide, Low Tide, Sunrise, Sunset, Moonrise, Moonset, and Phase. Includes 30 rows of data.

South Carolina, Myrtle Beach, Garden City Pier (ocean)
N 33° 34.5' / W 78° 59.8' April 2021

Tide chart table for Myrtle Beach, Garden City Pier with columns for Date, Day, High Tide, Low Tide, Sunrise, Sunset, Moonrise, Moonset, and Phase. Includes 30 rows of data.

South Carolina, Charleston, Conway, RR. bridge
N 33° 50.1' / W 79° 02.5' April 2021

Tide chart table for Conway, RR. bridge with columns for Date, Day, High Tide, Low Tide, Sunrise, Sunset, Moonrise, Moonset, and Phase. Includes 30 rows of data.

South Carolina, Charleston, Winyah Bay Entrance (South Jetty)
N 33° 11' / W 79° 09' April 2021

Tide chart table for Winyah Bay Entrance with columns for Date, Day, High Tide, Low Tide, Sunrise, Sunset, Moonrise, Moonset, and Phase. Includes 30 rows of data.

South Carolina, Myrtle Beach, Dunn Sound, Little River Inlet
N 33° 51.5' / W 79° 34.2' April 2021

Tide chart table for Myrtle Beach, Dunn Sound with columns for Date, Day, High Tide, Low Tide, Sunrise, Sunset, Moonrise, Moonset, and Phase. Includes 30 rows of data.

South Carolina, Charleston, Yauhannah Bridge
N 33° 39.6' / W 79° 09.3' April 2021

Tide chart table for Yauhannah Bridge with columns for Date, Day, High Tide, Low Tide, Sunrise, Sunset, Moonrise, Moonset, and Phase. Includes 30 rows of data.



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