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A Trip Through the Pinopolis

Taking the Wife? "People Along The Way" Rumble in the Jungle King Mackerel Tournament

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Read Our October Issue



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#### From The Publisher: Speakin' Englis

### A Trip Through the Pinopolis Lock



I am embarrassed to say that as an avid boater and fishermen, I had never had the opportunity to travel through the lock system at Pinopolis dam in Moncks Corner. I had heard from so many that the trip was a must do and that the kids would love it. With stories such as, friends leaving the Grand Strand and traveling all the way down to The Holy City and up the Cooper River to the dam, to those that chose to stay at the lakes and travel down the river for a weekend stay in Charleston. The stories were numerous and frequent from so many of my friends. After a visit to Hill's Landing and RV Park last week with some outdoor writers for an annual media camp with Catch The Fever and Father and Sons Outdoors TV. I decided to take advantage the kids having a fall break and booked a trailer at Hill's

Landing for a few days to get some freshwater therapy and to take our inaugural trip down the lock.

I must say that it is a little overwhelming when you start thinking about the 75 foot drop on water and relying on a structure that was built in the 1940's. I spent a good bit of time on YouTube and looking through articles about the trip and realized that it was such a simple process and one that I still can't believe took me this long to go enjoy. Along with my wonderful family, I had invited my parents to come along with us. We left Hill's around 10am and had decided to stop and fish for some crappie and stripers along the way. We had very little luck and everyone was so amped up to do the trip that we were entering the lock around 12:15 and it was as simple as we had been told. The Santee Cooper employee that was tasked with running the lock during this day was a complete pleasure to speak with. He enlightened us on some info on the lock and even sent us to a great video on YouTube that would tell us more about the dam and the lock.(Pushing Back The Darkness, The Santee Cooper Story) We were joined by a local that was also using the lock to head down and escort some jet ski guests up the lock. It's required that jet ski riders must be in a boat to make the trip through the lock. The dock inside the lock was in great shape and would have been a fun ride standing on it for the trip even. We were able to watch the depth machine on my boat as we started to descend the depth was 87ft and we were all amazed at how fast they are able to transfer the water out of the lock and send us on our 75ft descent to the Cooper River(Tailrace Canal). After watching the process in amazement for 15 minutes we were greeted at the bottom as the gates began to open and we were met by a group of jet skiers making their way back up to the lake from a morning trip up the Cooper River. From 78 yrs old to 6 yrs old passengers on my boat, we were all just amazed at the ease of the trip and the comfort that we felt during the process.

We made our way out into the Tailrace Canal and down the Cooper River to the Strawberry Train Trestle that is situated in the historic rice fields along the Cooper. That area is full of wildlife and many historic plantations as well and could have easily spent an entire day just taking in all the sites down there before returning or heading down to Charleston. We did decide to head back up to Gilligan's Restaurant on the Tailrace for lunch and some time with the family. The food was incredible and definitely worth the trip. I strongly urge you to time the trip to enjoy their outdoor deck and tasty menu. We returned to the lock around 3:30 and with a quick phone call(843-899-LOCK) the gates were opened within minutes and we began the 15 minute trip up 75 ft to a very calm Lake Moultrie. My suggestions to anyone trying to schedule this would be to call this number and be sure of operational hours and plan around that. Also, watch for the forecast on Lake Moultrie as the lock will not operate in dangerous wind conditions from the lake. I give this a 10 out of 10 stars as a must do for boaters in South Carolina and be sure to bring the kids along for the ride. Thank you to Hill's Landing for the great accommodations and if you want more info on Hill's visit www.HillsLanding.com. Now, it is time to go enjoy all the fins, fur, and feathers that South Carolina offers in the fall and send us your pics. Have a great October!!!!!!! Trilogyoutdoorsmedia@gmail.com





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October 2023

## **Cool Weather, Hot Wahoo Bite**

By Paul Godbolt

3:30 in the morning... The air has a little hint of a fall chill. Captain Caleb Williams (the Full Monty charter out of Tolers Cove), myself, and a couple of others are going to be making a run out to the 30 Fathom ledge to see if we can find a few "zebras".

The fall and winter months have become synonymous with highspeed trolling for wahoo along the Carolina coast. Target rich areas like the Georgetown Hole, Southwest Banks, Edisto banks and down south to the deli, produce many large fish with a few even in the triple digits. If you ask five different anglers their set ups, you will get five different styles. I am going to tell you what has worked for us and still continues to work.

We like to run a fiverod spread, consisting



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of two bent butt 80's and three straight butt 50's or 70's. The two bent but rods will carry the largest weights, with the largest Black Bart or Palmetto lures. In the early morning with low light, I like to fish, dark colors (purple, black, red.). I personally think it is easier for The Fish to silhouette them against the sky under low light conditions. About midday, we will switch to bright colors, including blue and white, Mexican flag, and even mylar.

So the two 80's are set up short with 60 or 72 ounce trolling lead, 25' of a 300 pound test, shock leader and double offset hooks on cable. We fish both in-line and offset.

The second pair of lures are fished on staight butt rods and double the distance that the first two are set out. I also stagger the weights 48 ounce and 32

ounces. This is where I'd like to put a Yozuri Bonito, or any other hard plastic. Another favorite in this position would be wahoo, candy, in silver and black or Hawaiian Proteus lures in blackfin, tuna, or blue and white.

The last position that we fish is the way back and we normally run a 16 or 24 ounces trolling weight with either a cedar plug or some type of hard plastic that can handle the speed and still stay in the water. This shotgun position is fantastic for blackfin tuna, and we do catch a fair amount of small Wahoo on the way back as well.

Speed is another common question. I like to fish between 12 and 16 mph and have run as fast as 18 kn. Have caught fish at all speeds. Most of my biggest fish come between 12 and 14 kn. We like to zigzag the ledge crossing over well-known bottom fishing spots that are marking Consistently with bait. The old verbiage of find the bait find the fish works with Wahoo. If you see Bonita's or blackfin, there will be some big Wahoo hanging around.

So you got the spread out, you're starting to zigzag the ledge, and all of a sudden all hell breaks loose as a very large fish is dumping all the line off of the 80... What do you do? First you should always know who is going to be on the rod, who is going to wire and who is going to gaff. Driving the boat is super important and I can't tell you how many times I've seen fish lost because of poor boat handling. Whoever's driving. The boat should keep going straight and pay attention to whoever is running the back deck. We will normally slow down to about six or 7 mile an hour while a fight is on and normally only clear one side of the boat and try to keep everything on that side. With the bent butt rods, we do not remove them from the rod holders and basically fight the fish from the gunnell. When we get to the trolling weight, the angler moves forward, backs the drag off and points the rod at the Fish. If the man on the wire has to turn loose, then it will go back to the angler again. Once your team gets into a pattern, it becomes much easier. we always try to gaff in the head and in one motion right up and into the boat. Don't be surprised if the fish is docile when it hits the deck... Be very careful that mouth is full of razor blades and I have seen the damage it can cause. I always tell people to stay away from the pointy end. Try to get the fish into a kill box and let it expire, there will be plenty of time for pictures later. An accidental bite to the bone will make for a very short day.

I can't stress how important it is to have plenty of ice as wahoo meat will spoil quickly if it gets too hot. If you have any questions, feel free to contact me I'm always available to help good luck and happy hunting!

Paul Godbolt is a freelance writer and a retired marine living in the Lowcountry of South Carolina. Along with offering his services as an "on board" teacher for new fishermen and those looking to improve their performance on the water. Paul and his crew can also supply you with an incredible catered oyster roast or just the bushels you need for your event. Give him a call with any questions and we are excited to have him on our team of writers.

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By Capt. Cefus McRae, Nuts & Bolts of Fishing Series

Besides all your tackle, electronics, bait, safety gear, ice, and snacks, one of the most useful items you can have on your boat is a five gallon bucket. It's something you can use at the start of your fishing day...during your fishing day...and at the end of your fishing day...and at the end of your fishing day. You might say the lowly five gallon bucket is one item you should never leave the dock without.

At the beginning of your trip, this bucket becomes a handy way to carry gear, ice, towels and any number of loose items down to the boat. I keep mine in the back of the truck with a couple of downrigger weights in it. This keeps it from blowing out of the bed, and I never forget my downrigger weights anymore. Depending on where I'm at and what I'm fishing for, the bucket will get loaded with everything from a box of frozen squid to chipped ice to go in the fish box. Once I've got all the gear on board the boat, the bucket magically reconfigures itself for duty on the deck.

Now it becomes a catch-all for the day. Trash, used fishing line, soda cans, and rigs that need re-rigging all go in the bucket. In reality, I usually have two buckets...one stacked inside the other, and here's why. When it's time to move from point A to point B, I generally remove diving plugs and big trolling gear from my rods. And I always remove weights from the line. I don't want hooks flying around to catch someone's hat or ear, and lead weights bouncing against my rod blanks are a big nono. So, I'll make the unused bucket



a lure catch-all. I add a piece of pool noodle that has been sliced down the middle, so it fits snugly over the lip of the bucket. Big trolling plugs like Stretch 30's and jig hooks get pushed into the foam and won't bounce out. Weights go in the bottom. Nothing gets tangled, and it's easy to re-rig when we arrive at the new fishing spot. These buckets are great for sharing baits too. If one of us is fishing the bow and one at the stern, the guy up front has to constantly walk back and forth to get a new live bait. Put a little water in the bottom and add a dozen shrimp, herring or even fiddler crabs to the bucket and pass it to your pal up front. If we are pitching baits to cruising fish, adding a few to the bucket makes it easier to grab one, rather than reaching in the live well. If you've ever had a live well full of mullet, you can relate. As soon as you open the lid to get one bait...four others will jump out, and land in the transom splash well.

Of course, the five gallon bucket comes in very handy for another obvious reason too. When nature calls, the bucket gets called into action. Enough said.

At the end of the day, the cherished bucket serves to haul the trash off the boat, and returns to help with the cleaning chores. Whether you use bleach or boat soap, the bucket is the best thing to mix the solution. I'll usually drop my Croc's in the bucket too, and by the time I've finished cleaning the boat, my Croc's are squeaky clean.

It's amazing how something so simple and so inexpensive can be so versatile. But then again, fishing is supposed to be easy, right? So get yourself a five gallon bucket and take one for a spin. You may find it becomes one of the best fishing accessories you've ever had. Tight Lines and Calm Seas,



Our recent trip back to Suwannee, Florida, was a good one. We caught some beautiful redfish on plugs and plastics and, on a whim, parted out early one morning and headed over to Apalachicola, which was close to a 3-hour drive. We connected with some triple tails and searched out some new areas for future trips. Unfortunately, about a week and a half later, Hurricane Idalia made landfall in the Keaton Beach area. As you know, the effects of Idalia were felt in a significant portion of the Big Bend area and well past Cedar Key. Because of this, I felt guilty about writing, but these towns and communities will recover. Maybe a little article about our experiences and some of the great people we met is a good thing.

As we were leaving the Salt Creek restaurant in Suwanee, our waitress came running out as we got in the truck. We had left one of our phones on the table — such a nice lady. We stopped at Deal's Oyster House in Perry on the way back from Apalachicola. It was late, and we were tired and nasty. We only had bottled water and a few packs of peanuts that day. They were extremely busy, so my wife Anita went in and ordered two takeout shrimp dinners. They were quick, and we were taken care of. It was so good. I remember eating the shrimp tails and mashing every leftover crumb with my finger until nothing remained.

There was the flea market we visited in Chiefland. There, we saw some people having a small church service near the entrance, and then we browsed around for a while. This is Old Florida; in some small ways, it's like stepping back in time. Empty highways are still found, and many beautiful areas are still wild.

We visited the Cedar Key Museum State Park and shared a funny conversation about a box turtle with another couple. Just minutes before, both lanes of traffic were stopped so the turtle could cross, which it did with much confidence and speed. The couple was in one of the stopped vehicles, waiting and laughing with the rest of us.

## "People Along The Way"

By Aubrey D. Hinson III



There was the gopher tortoise going in circles on the road in the

middle of the day. The asphalt must have been so hot that the tor-

toise was confused. I stopped to jump out and grab it while oncoming traffic also stopped to accommodate me. I placed the tortoise a good ways off the highway in the woods and went on our way. Many other good moments happened on and off the water. These may seem like mundane things, but they are what makes life a life.

We have traveled back and forth fishing in Florida for many years and have met some wonderful souls along the way. The road to recovery is always painful, but the people of these communities will return to normal in the best way they can. I wish them well and look forward to getting back soon.

It is October now, and Good Lord willing, we'll be back in the Everglades this month. Locally, the fall fishing will be heating up. It was a fantastic summer, catching flounder on plastics – I am optimistic that this fall will be really good. Life is short, so get out and take a trip and let the sun shine on your face. Thank you, and I wish the very best for all of you

(John 3:16).



# Taking the Wife?

By Stephen Goldfinch

In recent years, there has been a dramatic increase in the number of women participating in outdoor sports like hunting and fishing. I applaud this movement and hope the trend continues. Frankly, we need the numbers. If you haven't noticed, there are daily assaults on our hunting and fishing rights by people who "know better." Their holier-than-thou mentality is a symptom of big-city values having a much farther reach in the day of the internet. In days past, outdoor enthusiasts were sheltered, even isolated from these constant attacks. They had no bearing on our lives and never threatened our existence or our beliefs. But today, we're inundated with virtue-signaling from people whose grand total of outdoor experiences can be summed up with filling their backyard birdfeeder. Despite living our lives of outdoor enthusiasm surrounded by the women we love; those same women are the ones most susceptible to these attacks.

The empathy that makes them such great nurturers and caregivers is the same empathy so easily exploited by anti-hunting and fishing forces. Today, there's a group of women that recognize those attacks for what they are and are embracing the wild side of life. That seed of a movement deserves our respect and our nurturing so it can grow and blossom. Your wife, girlfriend, or daughter may not turn out to be the next Eva Shockey or Melissa Bachman, but they can learn to appreciate the lessons of the natural world, rather than the lessons of social media. They can learn to appreciate the joys of living off the land, even for a day or two. They can learn the satisfaction of a field to table experience.

This year, I decided to take my own advice and take my wife Renee with me to Colorado for my annual elk pilgrimage. Rick decided to do the same and take his wife Heidi. We leave soon for a week-long backpacking elk hunt in the back-



country. For weeks, I've contemplated the best way to make this trip successful. As you can imagine, a backcountry backpacking elk hunt isn't the most glamorous or even comfortable of trips. It can be cold, wet, steep, and downright hard at times. Renee knows these things from listening to me talk about past

hunts, so she's a little nervous. But I told her we'd splurge and get her some top-quality gear and supplies. We got on the internet and got her the best gear we could find to make this hunt as comfortable as possible for her. The old saying, "it's difficult to see the forest for the trees," is most apparent when one is cold and wet. You may be surrounded by the most beautiful scenery with bulls bugling everywhere, but it's difficult to enjoy if you're wet and shivering. We opted for a very nice tent, the ability to make coffee and I upgraded her binoculars. I can't control if anyone kills an elk, or even that we will see one; but I'm going to control every aspect of her comfort that I can control. A quality experience for her may not be participating in a kill, but it will be participating in one of the world's greatest pursuits, and I'm looking forward to being a witness to that pursuit.

Stephen Goldfinch is a State Senator representing coastal South Carolina.

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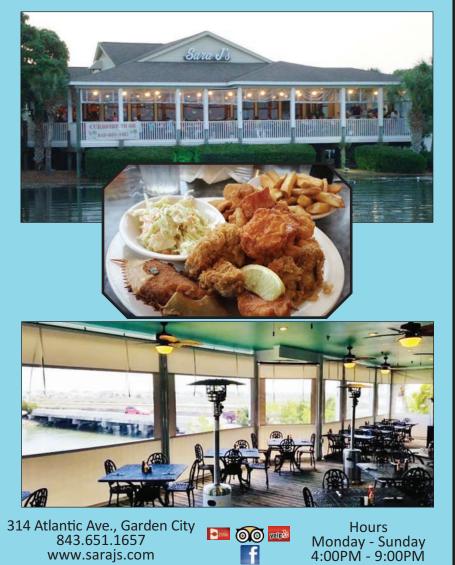




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#### **Grilled Venison Sausage Bolognese**

Although this is more of a meat sauce than a Bolognese...who cares? It sounds good and tastes great! By grilling the sausage first, it really adds a nice extra layer of flavor to the sauce.

1lb venison sausage grilled, cooled, and ground in a food processor

- 3 tbsp olive oil
- 1 small onion, diced
- 2 tbsp minced garlic
- 1 tsp dried basil
- 1 tsp. dried oregano
- 2-28oz cans of crushed tomatoes
- 1 lb pasta

Saute onions and garlic with olive oil in a sauce pan, large enough to accommodate the ground tomatoes, until translucent

Add remaining ingredients including the sausage, stir, bring to a slow simmer and cover for 20 minutes, stirring occaisionally.

Salt to taste and serve over your favorite pasta

For an extra kick, add a 1/2 tsp crushed red pepper to the sauce while simmering

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With deer season upon us, I want to wish everyone the best of luck for the upcoming season!



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## 2023 Crappie Camp in Santee Cooper Country

By Jeff Dennis



Nick Dowda on Lake Moultrie with a nice crappie Oct. 2 Photo By Jeff Dennis

After a successful summit of crappie fishing enthusiasts in 2022, the sponsors decided to hold another gathering on the Santee Cooper Lakes in October. The S.C. tourism bureau partners with Catch The Fever fishing rods and Father and Sons Outdoors TV show to bring in tournament caliber anglers, and the media that covers the sport. Hills Landing and

RV Park was the setting for three days of crappie fishing and live scoping, with the only breaks coming to eat or sleep. Whitey Outlaw of St. Matthews is the mentor of this group, and even after decades of experience fishing the crappie tournament trail, he still aspires to improve.

Outlaw helps to design the Precision Crappie Rods by Catch The Fever, and everyone at crappie camp spent time on the water casting these rods. A special stretch version of Slime Line is another product that Outlaw designed, and this line helps anglers play the fish better. Outlaw is one -half of the duo that is Father and Sons Outdoors TV show, along with Capt. Joe Dennis. Outlaw reps for EZ Drift Trolling Systems, Bonehead Tackle and more. And when a youth angler was fishing off the dock at Hill's Landing by himself, Outlaw approached him and gave him a free hat and shirt in order to promote the sport of fishing.

Fishing with Captain Nick Dowda on two consecutive days, I can share that he prefers Slab Slayer Jigs, and uses Beat Down Outdoors mounts for his electronics. When it comes to catching crappie, Dowda doesn't disappoint. "I've got some spots marked already, and then we'll approach some SCDNR fish location markers too, and I'll use the Live Scope to look for crappie," said Dowda. "I can tell crappie by their size, and so I can leave the smaller brim and larger bass alone. We want to be as stealthy as possible, and if the wind is up I am wary of waves slapping the hull, a sound that can make the crappie finicky. The live scope also helps me navigate my jig around brush piles, because the fish hold tight to the structure."

New to crappie camp this year was Newell Montgomery, who heads up the Yadkin Ridge Crappie Trail in North Carolina. Newell gave an interview on the Trilogy Outdoors podcast that underscores the quality of people coming to this invitational crappie camp. Montgomery was influenced by Whitey Outlaw, Ronnie Capps and other veteran crappie anglers and that challenged him to promote crappie fishing and to try to give back to others. "You've got to remember where you come from, and you've got to remember the people that helped you," said Montgomery. "This sport can humble you, and I been there, but I will always strive to help the next man up."

Look for the sport of crappie fishing to continue to grow, just as Catch The Fever rods are growing to include striper rods and catfish rods. Coowner Tony Cayton was in crappie camp and shared that all their rods are produced in North Carolina. Wholesale Rep Shane Walser says by the time we meet again in a year, Catch The Fever will set the bar even higher regarding customer satisfaction. Can't Wait Until Next Year!!

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## Kiawah Bird Banding Enters 15th Year

By Jeff Dennis



A bird in the hand! Aaron Given holds a Common Yellowthroat. Photo by Jeff Dennis

The crew of science-driven bird banders at Kiawah Island are very committed to establishing patterns regarding migratory warblers and other songbirds. Every morning from August 15 to November 30 they set up nets to capture birds during migration, and then they handle them in order to record size data and to add a leg band with an ID Number. The Kiawah effort bands almost 8,000-birds each Fall with up to 1500 of those being recaptures from a past year. All banding data collected is submitted to the Bird Banding Laboratory administered by the United State Geological Survey.

Aaron Given is a wildlife biologist with the Town of Kiawah Island, and is the Master Bander in charge of the Kiawah Island Banding Station. The Town and the Kiawah Conservancy both sponsor the banding efforts that began in 2009. Each year Given hires a team of six technicians to help with the physical labor of setting up nets, catching birds and recording data. Many of these assisting banders are graduate students that want experience in the field, that can go towards getting a career job. They are two sites on either end of Kiawah Island, one with 32-nets on 8-acres, and one with 25-nets on 5-acres. Both sites are scrub shrub habitat, favored by migrants, located behind beach dunes.

"Our most frequent warbler capture is the Common Yellowthroat," said Given. "We tag roughly 1200 of these birds here each Fall. Gray cat-

bird is our second most frequent capture, followed by yellow-rump warblers. One neat factoid is that we have recaptured the same yellow-rump for nine straight years, which tells me that this bird is getting old, and it speaks to the fact that birds have site fidelity and follow the same path each year during migration. The Eastern **Bird Banding** Association has a banding station network from Canada to Florida, and this is their South Carolina-based study area." "Besides placing a numbered leg band, we record wing length and try to age the birds

with a molt limit

observation," said

Given. "Birds put

on weight in order to withstand the rigors of migration, so we also record Fat Level observations, with a 1 being not much fat and a 5 being fat bulging across the bird's breast. These birds can become eating machines before they migrate and can put on weight very quickly. Bird banding is a good tool to assess bird health, demographics and survivorship besides tracking movements."

The bird species encountered on September 26 included Common Yellowthroat, Painted bunting, Overnbrid, White-eyed Vireo, Prairie warbler, Veery, Red-eyed Vireo, Northern waterthrush, Yellow Warbler, Mockingbird and Swainson's Thrush. Some of the smallest birds they handle are the Blue-gray gnatcatcher and Rubycrowned Kinglet. Givens is the ironman of the Kiawah Banding Site, having headed it up from the beginning. When not in warbler season, Given does a saltmarsh survey regrading three sparrow species that call Kiawah home.



Aaron Given removes a bird from the net at Kiawah Island Photo by Jeff Dennis

### "STAY AFTER EM" The Fishing Report By John W Hurst



Hello Everyone, Another month has gone by. I sit here writing this morning dreaming of cooler temperatures to come. I reported that there was an incredible billfish bite off our coast in the last magazine issue. It still remains to be good. The bite has moved more north

to North Carolina. Blue Marlin, White Marlin, and Sailfish continue to bite. The Sailfish bite is getting better off South Carolina as I write this article. There is another group to notice in the Billfishing world. Bad Company Fishing Adventures World Tour and Owner Anthony Hsieh have been catching and releasing monster marlin. The footage that the Bad Company group has shared has been incredible. It is very well worth watching. Another person to watch in the billfishing world is Capt. Bryan BT Toney of Hawaii. His underwater filming of his trolling for marlin is second to none. The fact that we can observe all this action via social media is incredible. Stay tune for more action in all areas as fall approaches.

The big Redfish come into the estuaries to spawn as Fall approaches. This fishing is especially good around the October moon rise. These bigger fish are in the surf and can be caught there. It is a great fishery! Don't miss out! There are lots of great guides to take you in the event you are not equipped.

I would like to share a tournament with you in which I participated. I was fortunate to have fished this years White Marlin Open on the Baracoa owned by Matt Floyd. This year the prize money was over 10 million dollars. The tournament came down to the last day without a qualifying White Marlin. This meant that a blue marlin could take all the money if a qualifying white one was not boated. It is a great feeling to leave the dock in a tournament with a 1 in 400 chance at winning a large piece of 10 million dollars. We fished hard and did jump a blue marlin off our left shortrigger. This prize would not be ours. My thoughts are if we don't win, I hope one of my buddies win. And that's what indeed happened. My buddy Big Wave Dave Warren and crew aboard the Floor Reel caught the winning marlin. This fish was worth over 6.2 million dollars. I think this number was an all time winning amount. Congratulations Dave and Family. This amount of money is a life changer

to most. The fact that I can participate in competitive professional events of this magnitude is very self-satisfying to me. It is one of God's many blessings to myself. This event will definitely be one to remember.

I would also like to recognize our team on the F/V Big Kahuna. This team for the most part has been together for 30 years. Our friendships predate that number. The entire time we have docked at Georgetown Landing Marina. This marina has always been 2nd to none. I am proud to have

always called Georgetown as my home port. The Big Kahuna has experienced some great times over the years. Our owner Rhett Spencer has had a great program for the entire time. Our Captain Ted Porter has always brought us to the fishing grounds in which we could compete. In the last years we added Captain Tommy Lewis to our Crew. We are definitely the unofficial "Ole Bunch". I feel so blessed to have us all together. I hope we have many more seasons to fish together.

I am completely switching directions on you now. As I write this article, I am partially packed for our annual waterfowl trip to Canada. There is lots to do and checklists to go over. I really don't know if I am excited more about hunting or cooler temperatures. It will be both in the end, I am sure.

The time has slipped up on me this morning. It is time to close this article out until next month. God Bless Everyone! Tight Lines and Shoot Straight! John W Hurst



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Saltwater: Flounder, N/A, Sheepshead, JUSTIN WITTEN 6.14, Bluefish, CALEB HARTLEY 3.9, Spanish Mackerel. TONY CARTER 5.80, King Mack, LUCAS WILLIAMS 25.35, Pinfish, JUSTIN WITTEN .8,

Freshwater: Mudfish, DON NESMITH 7.88, Catfish, MIKE THRASH 26.62, Crappie, DON NESMITH .85. Brean, TONY CARTER .33





## **The Grand Strand Fishing Rodeo**

The rebirth of the longest running fishing tourney on the Grand Strand PRESENTED BY: Visit Myrtle Beach, Trilogy Outdoors, CCA of South Carolina, and Shi-awela Safaris



One of the longest running tournaments in the southeast is back. The Grand Strand Fishing Rodeo is going to be an annual event that culminates with a celebration of all of our monthly winners at a banquet and awards ceremony at a location along the Grand Strand in November 2023. This years tournament will begin November 1st and continue monthly through October 31st, 2023. Our annual banquet, celebrating fishing along the Grand Strand will follow completion where our overall winners will be decided and celebrated. Our presenting sponsors will be on hand to spotlight their services and products as well. Someone is going to Costa Rica or going on an African Safari from one of our many sponsors. Visit www.trilogyoutdoorsmedia.com to see each months results and to find out more on how you can weigh your catch and become the years rodeo champion. We are including all of our incredible freshwater fishing in this event as well and want everyone to have a fair chance at the grand prizes. Get signed up now and find your nearest weigh in location. The rules are available at www.trilogyoutdoorsmedia.com and you will also find the list of our current weigh/registration stations. You are going fishing! Why not try to become the 2023 Grand Strand Rodeo Champion and win some incredible prizes? Scan the code and enter today!!

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# **Hunting Food Plots For Whitetails**

#### By Daryl Hodge of The Wreckin Crew

They say...you reap what you sow. Well that was the goal for this year! I picked out a strategic pinch point food plot location between a swampy bedding area and a three-year-old cutover with a narrow draw of hardwoods. This allowed me a good stand location for a North and Northeast wind.

My dad and I planted some SWEET GREENS, from Backwoods Attraction, back in late August. After two good rains, they were starting to jump. The deer were loving it. The SWEET GREENS give the deer something really tender to graze on along with their natural vegetation, plus its packed with protein.

Almost daily, there were several deer feeding in my mini food plot, which is only ¼ acre narrow strip. The location was key to hold my number one hit list buck. I have a four-year relationship with him and have passed him up several times in the previous years. Numerous encounters while in the stand but this was the year.





There were typically good feeding activity in the mornings but the evening feed was better. I chose not to hunt the mornings to keep from bumping my target buck and other deer in the plot while accessing the stand.

On the afternoon of September 19th, I had the right wind. I knew it was go time. I shot a few practice arrows with my Xpedition 7HD to make sure it was dialed then headed to the woods.

An early arrival allowed plenty of time walking in to be as quiet as possible. Even picked up some ragweed to help cover my scent while in the stand. The sun, high in the sky, temperatures still in the mid-80's. Baking in the tree stand but knowing the sun started to drop, so would the temperatures.

As the sun fell behind the trees and the summer bugs kicked into high gear... I was overwhelmed with anticipation of my target buck coming in. With the clock ticking, something just didn't seem right. Usually by this time I would've seen the "running buddies" come into the plot to feed.

I continued to watch the two normal travel paths and suddenly, I spotted a deer coming in with his ears pinned back, stiff legged, and all bristled up. I first thought it was my target buck but as he got closer, I realized I had never seen this buck before. The plan was to only shoot my target buck...

Once he broke the 40 yard mark and passed by some tall dog fennels, I started reaching for my bow and to get into position for a shot. He looked and acted like a dominant buck in November. Claiming this plot as if it was his. Even though he wasn't my target buck, it was to good to be true, standing 32 yards away broadside, in my mini food plot. A true surprise buck.

Anchored in at full draw and the world stopped... I let the arrow go. With the lumenock glowing, the arrow was in slow motion as it hit right behind his left shoulder. PER-FECT SHOT. The buck tore out but expired before he even made it out of the food plot. I couldn't believe what just happened!! To seal the deal with a deer I had never seen and to have it all unfold the way it did...truly a blessing.

The plan was to "reap what you sow." Well, I'm still after Mr. Target Buck but I'm missing a tag! Happy Hunting! -Blake

## FISH PHOTO OF THE MONTH

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## **Rumble in the Jungle King Mackerel Tournament**

By Gregg Holshouser



Capt. Will Bridges shows off the winning king in the Rumble in the Jungle King Mackerel Tournament on Sept. 29.

Capt. Will Bridges of Jamaican Me Crazy has been on fire finding smoker kings off the Carolina coast in the last three years.

Add the 2023 Rumble in the Jungle King Mackerel Tournament to Bridges' conquests of late.

Bridges and fishing partner Lopaka Bounds weighed in a 36.86-pound king mackerel to win the Rumble in the Jungle out of Captain Archie's in Little River over a field of 202 boats.

Fishing in a 25-foot White Water, Bridges streak of success started with

back-to-back victories in the Jolly Mon King Classic out of Ocean Isle Fishing Center in 2021 and 2022, and then he won the Small Boat Division of the Rumble in the Jungle also in 2022.

In February, Bridges switched to a 27-foot Open Contender, but the new-to-him boat didn't change his winning ways in 2023.

In July, his team won Leg 3 of the Cape Lookout Shootout's South Division out of Southport before he and Bounds won the Rumble in the Jungle on Sept. 30. Jamaican Me Crazy also sits atop the power rankings of the Kingfish Cup for the three-year stretch 2020 through 2022.

It's been quite a run against high-quality fishermen in the world of competitive king mackerel fishing. And the competition is as intense as it gets in the southeast North Carolina and northeast South Carolina area.

Exactly how has Bridges, who operates Topsail Island Fish and Dive Adventures, pulled it off?

"Just being prepared," said Bridges. "(I'm a) big believer that when preparation and opportunity meet, success happens."

The latest round of earnings tallied \$53,200 for the Jamaican Me Crazy crew, \$46,800 for winning the tournament and another \$6,400 for winning a Kingfish Cup event.

Boats competing in the Rumble in the Jungle were able to fish two days (September 29-30) and weigh in two kings each day, with the largest king winning the tournament.

The margin of victory was slim as Jamaican Me Crazy's king barely topped the second-place fish weighed in by Sea P.A., a 36.46-pounder. Reelaholics finished third with a 34.41 pounder followed by Orange Crush (33.56) and Shotgun (33.07) to round out the top five.

Rawhide, a 26-foot Angler, won the Small Boat Division with a 33.23-

pound king.

Bridges and Bounds base for the tournament was Holden Beach, and on the first day of fishing, they used menhaden (pogys) they had penned up for bait.

They started fishing a few spots a few miles out of Lockwood Folly Inlet, slow-trolling the menhaden.

"We had no luck, caught a few sharks," said Bridges.

Next, they caught fresh bait and at 1 p.m. had a king in the 25-pound range sky on a prop wash bait, but didn't hook up.

The duo moved to yet another spot and finally got the bite they were looking for.

"At 3:30, the long line went off," recalled Bridges. "It was more like a shark bite. I kinda tightened the drag and it fought like a shark. Then it started to make some different runs and I thought was a big cobia.

"It wasn't fighting like a king. It never ran like a king. It was five-foot water clarity, we couldn't see anything. I didn't know it was a king until the last few minutes when it did the typical head shakes like they do."

The fight was over within 10 minutes.

"I saw the knot on the flouro leader, then saw a big silver glow," said Bridges. "I told Lopaka 'This is him.' It happened quick, bam, it was over. Lopaka stuck him behind the dorsal and swung him in the boat. We started whooping and hollering, hugging and said 'Let's take a ride to Little River.' "

At the weigh-in, Jamaican Me Crazy took over the lead with the 36.86pounder and held on through the second day of fishing to claim the win.

Next up for Jamaican Me Crazy is the U.S. Open King Mackerel Tournament out of Southport, October 7-8.



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D	ate	High Tide			Low Tide			Sun					
	are	АМ	ft	РМ	ft	АМ	ft	РМ	ft	Rise	Set		
1	Sun	10:03	5.8	10:29	5.1	4:16	-0.4	4:58	-0.1	7:09	7:02		
2	Mon	10:53	5.6	11:21	4.7	5:01	-0.2	5:49	0.3	7:09	7:01		
З	Tue	11:46	5.3			5:47	0.1	6:40	0.6	7:10	6:59		
4	Wed	12:16	4.3	12:42	5.0	6:34	0.4	7:34	1.0	7:11	6:58		
5	Thu	1:15	4.1	1:41	4.7	7:25	0.8	8:34	1.3	7:12	6:57		
6	Fri	2:14	3.9	2:39	4.5	8:21	1.1	9:41	1.5	7:12	6:55		
7	Sat	3:12	3.8	3:34	4.4	9:24	1.3	10:47	1.5	7:13	6:54		
8	Sun	4:08	3.8	4:27	4.4	10:29	1.3	11:41	1.4	7:14	6:53		
9	Mon	5:01	3.9	5:16	4.4	11:27	1.2			7:15	6:51		
10	Tue	5:50	4.1	6:02	4.5	12:24	1.2	12:17	1.0	7:15	6:50		
11	Wed	6:35	4.3	6:44	4.6	1:01	1.0	1:02	0.9	7:16	6:49		
12	Thu	7:16	4.5	7:23	4.7	1:36	0.8	1:45	0.7	7:17	6:48		
13	Fri	7:53	4.7	7:59	4.7	2:09	0.7	2:26	0.6	7:18	6:46		
14	Sat	8:29	4.9	8:34	4.6	2:43	0.5	3:07	0.5	7:18	6:45		
15	Sun	9:03	5.0	9:08	4.5	3:17	0.5	3:47	0.5	7:19	6:44		
16	Mon	9:38	5.1	9:44	4.4	3:51	0.5	4:28	0.6	7:20	6:43		
17	Tue	10:16	5.1	10:23		4:27	0.5	5:09	0.7	7:21	6:41		
18	Wed	11:00	5.0	11:08	4.1	5:06	0.6	5:53	0.8	7:21	6:40		
19	Thu	11:51	4.9			5:49	0.7	6:42	1.0	7:22	6:39		
20	Fri	12:03	3.9	12:51	4.9	6:38	0.8	7:36	1.1	7:23	6:38		
21	Sat	1:06	3.9	1:55	4.9	7:35	0.9	8:39	1.1	7:24	6:37		
22	Sun	2:14	3.9	2:58	4.9	8:43	0.9	9:48	1.0	7:25	6:36		
23	Mon	3:21	4.1	4:00	5.0	10:00	0.8	10:54	0.7	7:26	6:34		
24	Tue	4:25	4.4	4:59	5.1	11:14	0.6	11:51	0.3	7:26	6:33		
25	Wed	5:26	4.8	5:57	5.2			12:18	0.3	7:27	6:32		
26	Thu	6:24	5.2	6:51	5.3	12:43	0.0	1:16	0.0	7:28	6:31		
27	Fri	7:17	5.5	7:43	5.3	1:31	-0.3	2:10	-0.1	7:29	6:30		
28	Sat	8:07	5.8	8:31	5.1	2:17	-0.4	3:01	-0.2	7:30	6:29		
29	Sun	8:54	5.8	9:18	4.9	3:03	-0.4	3:51	-0.1	7:31	6:28		
30	Mon	9:40	5.7	10:05	4.7	3:48	-0.3	4:39	0.1	7:31	6:27		
31	Tue	10:26	5.5	10:54	4.4	4:33	-0.1	5:26	0.4	7:32	6:26		



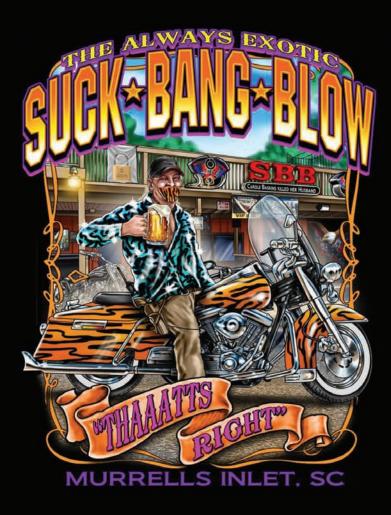
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