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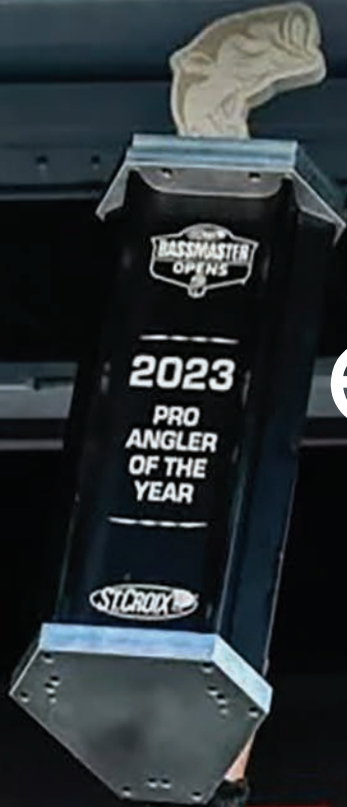
MAGAZINE
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Volume XIII Issue IX

Holiday Issue 2023

Thompkins Earns His Place Among The Elite



Read Our Holiday Issue

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From The Publisher: Speakin' Englis TIME MANAGEMENT

"We can learn so much from tournament fishing"



Here I sit in a deer stand, thinking about fishing. Once again I am also two days before my deadline to write this months Speakin' Englis. This is a common occurrence as I battle with time management and the many hats I wear with Trilogy Outdoors Media.

Our fishing team has almost completed our most successful year of tournament fishing. The SKA Nationals are just a few weeks away in Morehead City. We also have two of our favorite inshore tourneys over the next month. Our success has been based on fine management and making great decisions based on facts and historical notes.

I am blessed to have Mrs Cindy to keep me on schedule with editorials and ads with Trilogy Outdoors Magazine. But, I continue to find myself completely up against a hard deadline and having to once again, finish my editorial within hours of going to press. This is self induced and I am gonna blame it on my ADHD and poor time management.

But, if you put me in a boat on tournament day, my day has been planned out and scheduled days and sometimes weeks in advance. The key factors in my scheduling of a day in tournament fishing are simple, lines in time, tides, major/minor feeding times, and historical notes of when our target species may have fed best over years past. I know we have discussed keeping a log book in the past, and it's my number one advice for anyone looking to improve their performance on the water. With the habits of fish always changing due to so many factors. They can actually be dumbed down, by keeping a journal of very detailed info pertaining to your past experiences. We like to put so much into location of where fish are and we over look so many factors as to why they are there and why did they feed the last time we caught them. My fishing partner, Lucas Williams keeps the most detailed journal and his performances over the last few years show exactly how much it can help. His book contains many factors including tides, feeding times, baits, water temp, low/high pressures, moon phase, and much more. These are priceless when it comes time to plan out your next trip targeting the same species and even can be used with other similar species. In my opinion, the most asked question I get is: "Where are you catching them?" After fishing with Lucas and Team Trilogy Outdoors over the last 3 years I think that this is equally important as the other factors that are kept in his journal.

Just like my fishing, with my editorial I want to make sure to entertain and get interest in my article.(Success)I have to look back at past articles that I got responses from and I try to find a common denominator to focus on. I like to share my experiences and my education, good and bad! We all should learn from both and in keeping record of these we should be able to eliminate the bad and maximize the good. Or in fishing, we can maximize the opportunities at success which may not always happen. I talk to so many that want instant gratification on the water. I think sometimes we don't realize the years of failures that some of us have gone through to get those few opportunities at success. I know in the past that we have discussed the luck factor in fishing. Yes, a lot of our success is based on luck(opportunity and preparation crossing paths). Start your journal today!

In the magazine this month I encourage you to go read about young JT Thompkins and his success in bass fishing in his short time in the professional ranks. This young man has done all his homework and he makes the most of every opportunity he gets on the water. He thrives on tough bodies of water and it is because he is gonna work as hard as anyone else on the water to figure out patterns for fish and maximizing the chances he gets. I have enjoyed getting to know him and I hope our readers will follow him next year as he sets out against the top 80 bass fishermen in the world on the Bassmasters Elite Series. We are wishing each and everyone of you a very Happy Holidays and we hope you will choose to shop this year with our great clients that offer everything for the outdoorsmen and women in your life. Send us your pictures for the brag board to trilogyoutdoorsmedia@gmail.com. Thanks and Tight Lines!!!



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We all wait until the last minute to get out and start shopping for our loved ones. Or maybe we are all waiting on those Black Friday Sales to get out the house and work off

those Thanksgiving calories while running around the malls and stores. We have put a list of suggestions together of some great gift ideas for the outdoorsmen/women

in your life. Thanks to all our wonderful partners that can fill your needs this holiday season.

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- New Electronics: With the increased talk about Garmin's new Livescope or their InReach System, everyone is adding these to their Christmas Wish List. You can visit our friends at Marshalls Marine in Georgetown or Coastal Marine on 544 and get a quote on mounting Livescope to your vessel. You can also visit LiveWire Electronics on 707 as well. If its a trolling motor upgrade or shallow water anchor system you are looking for? These great businesses can also get that taken care of. These upgrades will keep them on the fish with less work and allow for more time fishing effectively.



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• Books for the Outdoorsmen:
 We are blessed to have some incredible writers on staff here at Trilogy Outdoors. From Chef Richard to Capt. Bouncer Smith, our writers have entertaining stories to tell and we are happy to suggest some of the following books for great gifts this holiday season.

The Bouncer Smith Chronicles, Guidebook To Saltwater Gamefish, I'm Not Done Yet: available on Amazon Prime
The Private Chef: Author, Chef Richard Florczack

Contact: www.theprivatecheftothestars.com
Lost In The Stream(The miraculous story of two fishermen lost at sea) Author: Capt. Johnny Savage. Available on Amazon Prime

• Deer or Duck Mount: Our friends at Black Mingo Venison and Taxidermy are not only incredibly qualified to process your game, they are also experts at preserving them for years to come. This makes a great gift for outdoorsmen and women and will preserve the story of your harvest for everyone to see. You can contact Kevin at BM Venison and Taxidermy to get a gift certificate at (843)241-5703

• Havoc Aluminum Boat: Our partners at Southside Outdoors in Turbeville are the leaders in Havoc Boat sales in the Southeast and they can get you or your loved one set up with the perfect boat for the river, inlet, or lakes. You can contact them for more info at (843)659-2628

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Trilogy Outdoors Exclusive With 2024 Bassmasters Elite Member JT Thompkins

By Gregg Holshouser



The accomplishments just keep piling up for Myrtle Beach's JT Thompkins, clearly a rising star in the

world of professional bass fishing. A 2020 graduate of Calvary Christian School, Thompkins has

events on the series and accumulated six top 25 finishes including four top 10s.

Thompkins started a hot streak in late July in the Opens event at St. Lawrence River in Waddington, N.Y., with a 7th place finish. He followed that up in the next two events, in back-to-back weeks in late September, by finishing 2nd at Watts Bar Reservoir in Kingston, Tenn., and 7th at Lake of the Ozarks in Osage Beach, Mo., for a run of three-straight Top 10 finishes.

When the dust settled in the series' finale at Harris Chain of Lakes in Leesburg, Fla., Thompkins had another couple accomplishments in his hip pocket and a few more trophies for his trophy case.

Thompkins had earned enough points to claim Angler of the Year honors for the series and a spot in the prestigious Bassmaster Elite Series.

"It's a lifelong dream to make the Elite Series," said Thompkins. "I didn't think I'd make it there until my mid-20s, and to do it at 21 is just huge."

Despite earning Angler of the Year honors on the Opens series, Thompkins did not qualify for the 2024 Bassmaster Classic, as he didn't win a tournament in the Opens series this year.

"Definitely was a big deal (winning Angler of the Year), including four top 10s - I was pretty happy with those," said Thompkins. "But winning a tournament is such a rare thing to do - that's just how it goes. Winning a tournament is something some people only do once in their lives, it's hard to do that every year."

With all the various Bassmaster tournament series over for 2023, Thompkins is already preparing for the nine tournaments in the 2024 Elite Series, beginning with the event at Toledo Bend Reservoir in Many, La., in February.

The other eight events include Lake Fork, Yantis, Tex., in March; Harris Chain of Lakes, Leesburg, Fla., in April; St. Johns River, Palatka, Fla., in April; Lake Murray, Columbia, in May; Wheeler Lake, Decatur, Ala., in June; Lewis Smith Lake, Cullman Ala., in June; Lake Champlain, Plattsburgh, N.Y., in August and St. Lawrence River, Waddington, N.Y., in August.

Thompkins has adjusted his goals moving forward into the 2024 season.

wasted no time in establishing himself as a force to be reckoned with in the early stages of his bass fishing career.

A year ago, Thompkins won the St. Croix Bassmaster Northern Open at Upper Chesapeake Bay in the Bassmaster Elite Qualifier Opens series to qualify for the ultimate event in bass fishing, the 2023 version of the Bassmaster Classic.

In March, at the age of 21, Thompkins competed in the Bassmaster Classic in Knoxville, Tenn., making the Day Three cut and finishing 24th out of 60 anglers.

"It was the most incredible experience in my life by far," said Thompkins. "It's the pinnacle of bass fishing by far, and to go there and to be able to compete very well is a blessing for sure."

Thompkins said returning to the Bassmaster Classic "100 percent" is a short term goal.

With that significant experience under his belt and eight months left in 2023 calendar year, Thompkins headed straight back into the Bassmaster Elite Qualifier Opens series with his eye on qualifying for the 2024 Bassmaster Elite Series, the equivalent of the major leagues in professional bass fishing.

Thompkins fished in all nine



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"My goal is now to try to win Rookie of the Year, win an Elite Series event and scouting the lakes for the Elite Series events, Thompkins. "And win angler of the year as well. Those are my future goals."

Despite all his accomplishments, Thompkins continues to learn the intricacies of bass fishing in general and fishing the lakes the tournaments are held on.

"It's never ending," he said.

Between tournament competition, pre-fishing and scouting the lakes for the Elite Series events, Thompkins is rarely home in Myrtle Beach.

"I'll probably fish all nine (in the 2024 Elite Series), and that's it, I'll focus all my time on that," said Thompkins. "I spend about 310-320 days on the water a year.

"All in or you're going to waste your time. Only one way to be among the best, is to sacrifice everything. It's a lot of sacrifice, it's my dream. I'm home about a month a year."

His mother, Angela Thompkins, perhaps is not crazy about all the time her son spends on the road and the water, but, JT said, "She's pretty

used to it."

As a four-year-old, he fished with his dad, Timmy Thompkins, in a bass tournament out of Bucksport and quickly fell in love with all the aspects of bass fishing. Thompkins has fished in various bass tournaments and trails ever since, including on the state high school level.

Thompkins is thankful to his dad instilling in him his interest in the sport, and what he has meant in his young career.

"He's meant everything, he taught me everything I know," said JT Thompkins. "He was the one who carried me fishing the first time. Basically everything I've learned was from my dad."

Timmy Thompkins has also fished the Opens Series alongside his son.

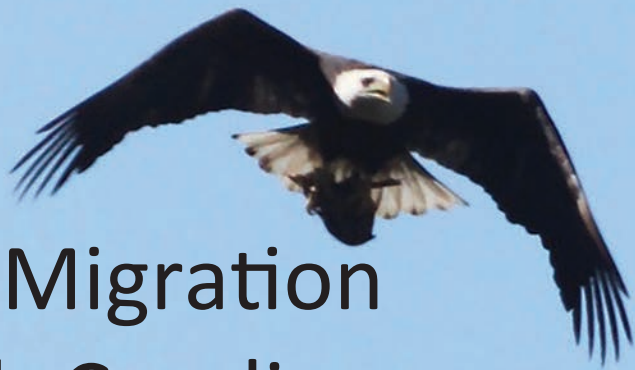
"We fish in the same tournaments a lot," said JT Thompkins.

Fishing in the same event doesn't mean the Thompkins are competitors, however.

"The funny thing is we work together in everything, we work together to both finish good," said JT Thompkins.

Raptor Migration in South Carolina is Underway

By Jeff Dennis



Mature Bald eagle with carrion, being chased by Crows
Photo By Jeff Dennis

Bald eagles are no longer listed as an Endangered Species, as their recovery continues to soar. The S.C. bald eagle nest survey in 2009 recorded 253 eagle nests, and their population growth was estimated at 10% per year. Bald eagles eat roadside carrion, can catch fish with ease, and they feast on waterfowl that overwinter on coastal areas. An interesting fact is that Bald eagles do not have all-white heads and tailfeathers until they reach maturity at five years old. The immature eagles appear all brown, but at years three and four they can have a mottled appearance as white feathers begin to appear, giving advanced birders unique traits to look for.

As a volunteer for the Hawk Migration Association of North America (HMANA) I attended a training class ahead of the 2023 Fall



Mature Bald eagle in flight
Photo By Jeff Dennis

Typically the months of September, October and November are associated with songbirds moving from North to South ahead of Winter. The same for-

mula is at work for raptors and vultures too, and South Carolina has two stations along the coast to monitor them. The Center for Birds of Prey in

Awendaw and the Botany Bay WMA on Edisto utilize volunteers to sit, observe and count these birds as they pass by during these three months. Bald eagles are frequently seen during these counts, with many of these being mated pairs returning to South Carolina to use previously established nesting sites.

In fact, the number of Bald eagles nesting in S.C. is at unprecedented levels as conservation efforts the past two decades have helped preserve prime coastal habitat. Bald eagles are the earliest birds to nest each year, getting a jump start on all others, with some bald eagles laying eggs in December and January. So if you observe bald eagles on a nest in November, they likely are shoring up its structure with fresh sticks or moss, and this behavior also serves as a prelude to mating. Bald eagle clutch sizes range from one to three eggs, with incubation taking five weeks, and young ones can remain in the nest for twelve weeks after hatching. Great-horned owls are also early nesters, usually laying eggs in February.

migration. One thing I learned during training was that Turkey Vultures are migratory, and then during my days in the field I learned that they migrate A LOT! As of press time for The November issue of Trilogy Outdoors, the Edisto site has recorded 18,146 Turkey Vultures that flew right overhead, going down the coast. Other notable migration totals from Edisto are Osprey at 329, Bald Eagle at 241, Northern Harrier at 177, Sharp-shinned hawk at 128, Cooper's Hawk at 155, Red-tailed Hawk at 82 and American kestrel at 358. To view data from any counting site in the HMANA database visit www.HawkCount.org on the Internet.



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Brandade (fish dip)

Chef Richard Florczak

From The Private Chef to the Stars
My travels studying in Hong Kong



Brandade is a classic French dip, or spread, that is traditionally made with salted cod and served on toasted French bread. Being a chef for forty years and a fishing enthusiast for even longer, I've been able to create a hybrid of this recipe that works extremely well with the catch of the day. So much so that I've served it to many of my movie star clients during the holiday season. AND IT'S EASY!

- 1 cup heavy cream
- 1 cup milk
- 4 whole peeled garlic cloves
- 4 sprigs of fresh thyme
- 2 anchovy fillets
- salt and pepper
- 1 pound of any fresh local salt water fish fillets (trout, sea bass, flounder) cut into 2-inch pieces
- 1 pound russett potatoes peeled and diced
- 2 tbsp fresh chopped parsley
- 1 loaf French bread sliced into 1/2 inch slices

In a large saucepan, stir together cream, milk, garlic, thyme, 1 tsp salt, and anchovies

Add the fish and bring mixture to a simmer for approximately 3 minutes or until fish begins to flake. Remove fish with a slotted spoon and transfer to a bowl

Add potatoes to the cream mixture and simmer, covered, stirring often until potatoes are tender, about 10 minutes

Remove pot from the heat and discard the thyme sprigs. Mash the potato mixture using a potato masher until smooth

Fold in the fish, 1/2 of the parsley and try to keep some of the fish pieces intact. Season with salt and pepper to taste and top with remaining parsley

Place bread slices on a sheet pan and toast under a broiler turning slices over as they brown and serve with Brandade

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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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Fishing with Buddies

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



The next time you're on the water, look around at the other boats out there and see how many only have one person on board. Not too many right? That's because fishing is more fun when you have a buddy along. Having a buddy fishing with you makes the entire experience more fun, and it helps pass the time in between fish. Many days, my fishing buddy is Buck, The Wonder Dog. And while he has a little difficulty tying knots (due to no opposing thumb), his companionship and excitement when a drag starts screaming earn him a spot on the Wide Open II every time.

There are a multitude of good reasons to bring a buddy along. Some things are simply easier when you have two people. For instance, launching/loading your boat, hitching the trailer, landing a fish, carrying the cooler full of fish to the cleaning table, and washing the boat down at the end of the day.

However, the top reason on my list would be safety. When things go wrong on the water, they are typically exponentially worse than if the same thing had happened on dry land. If your truck breaks down, you can wait on the side of the road for AAA to show up. But when you're dealing with boating issues in a choppy ocean, having another set of hands, eyes, or some extra brain power can help resolve an issue before it becomes a major problem. Sometimes it's simply impossible, or dangerous, to initiate a repair on your own; like tracing down a wire or removing fishing line from your propeller shaft. But it's something that has to be done to get you up and running again. And in virtually every instance having a buddy on board provided the vital assistance that allowed us to get back to the docks...safely.

Having a buddy along brings some obvious benefits as well. If you're fishing in unfamiliar waters, or the bite is a little 'off', you can both fish different kinds of bait until you discover what works and then switch to the same bait. You can also cover more water with two people fishing. If you're planning to do some trolling, one person can man the helm while the other sets the trolling spread. The same thing applies when you have a big fish on the line. One angler fights the fish and the other clears the lines or handles the boat.

From an economic perspective, fishing has become a lot more expensive these days. The cost of fuel for both the boat, and the tow vehicle, is a big factor. Sometimes you have to make long runs to get where the fish are. Burning ten to fifteen gallons of gas per hour adds up when you have to travel 20 miles from the boat ramp to the

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fishing grounds. There's a buddy benefit here too. Fishing pals who don't own a boat, are always happy to pitch in for fuel, ice, bait, lunch, etc. So now the total expenses for a day's fishing are spread out over several people, versus you footing the entire bill. And if you're targeting species with a reduced creel limit, then having another fishing license or two on board can come in pretty handy. With several folks on board, you now have the ability to put a few more fish in the cooler.

And there are some socially redeeming benefits with a buddy on board. As I mentioned, Buck, The Wonder Dog is a great companion... but he's heard all my jokes...and I've heard all of his too. As much as I love Buck, I really enjoy the opportunity to fish with people too. If you have kids, spending a day fishing is an excellent way to get in some quality bonding

time, and teach them things they cannot get from playing video games or walking the corridors of the shopping mall. My kids have been fishing since they could walk, and I firmly believe their lives have been enriched through our on-the-water experiences together. I know mine has.

I'd like to conclude with this thought. My grandfather was one of my best buddies growing up. He's the one who really got me hooked on fishing. Those days with him are still some

of my most favorite memories. It's a shame in today's high-tech, fast-paced world, we have become too busy to enjoy the simple things in life that make us happy, and bring us closer together. But I've got a very simple remedy... gather the family or call a buddy...and just go fishing.

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- 3rd Finn Clark of Georgetown with Big Fish at 2.03 pounds

Middle

- 1st Bryce Reeves of Riverside Middle with 2 fish at 4.55 pounds plus Big Fish at 2.58
- 2nd Bryant Poston of Georgetown with 2 fish at 3.51 pounds
- 3rd Connor and Davis Hardee of Georgetown with 2 fish at 3.44 pounds

High

- 1st Aden Day of Conway with 2 fish at 7.87 pounds
- 2nd Chappell Miller of Georgetown and Thomas Bodiford of Berkeley with 2 fish at 6.46 Plus Big Fish at 4.42 pounds
- 3rd Cubby Weaver of Georgetown with 2 fish at 6.17 pounds

BASS

Elementary

- 1st Rivers Robinson of Andrews Big Fish at 2.05 pounds

Middle

- 1st Garrett Anderson and Jackson Smalls of Conway with 5 fish at 10.01 pounds Plus Big Fish at 3.86 pounds
- 2nd Benton White and Robert Mills of Conway with 5 fish at 7.75 pounds
- 3rd Bryceen Wheeler and Brody McConnell of Williamsburg Academy with 4 fish at 5.30

High

- 1st Brunson and Tucker Howell of Conway with 5 fish at 12.18 pounds plus Big Fish at 3.43
- 2nd Bryson Gerald and Corbin Todd of Conway with 5 fish at 10.09 pounds
- 3rd Maddox Hughes and Logan Martin of Conway with 5 fish at 9.22 pounds

The next tournament is February 24th with weigh ins at Carroll A Campbell in Georgetown providing over \$5,000 in gift cards and a free raffle. It is never to late to join and you do not have to have a team or club at your school to fish. For more information : www.saltfishing.com



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*From All the Staff
of
Trilogy Outdoors
Magazine,
We Wish You a
Wonderful
Thanksgiving Season!*

“Circumstance of Nature”

By Aubrey D. Hinson III

How many times have you seen them – the crazy bent trees in the woods – and wonder what circumstances caused them to grow that way? Was it storm damage or human interference? In this case, a random, rotten tree had fallen on a smaller living one.

As I walked up on this small Sweet Gum that was bent over with its top pinned to the ground, I knelt down to have a chat. I said, “If you survive this – and I am sure that you will – you will definitely be among the unique in this patch of woods. Eventually the rotten pine that has you pinned will finish decaying and you will be free once again. Although nothing may care, maybe years down the road a bobcat will sleep during the day on your sloping crook and you will be its favorite tree.”

While paddling the river about a month ago, I came across a big, rotten stump with a Trumpet Creeper growing all around it with its flowers sticking out everywhere. As I sat there on the bow of the boat with my legs crossed and paddle in hand, I heard the low-pitch buzz of a hummingbird. As I eased my head to the left, there was a Ruby Throated Rooster almost in my face with its head buried in a Creeper Flower. I’m usually pretty lucky on catching such things on video, but it was so close that I knew I would scare the hummingbird if I so much as flinched. When it was over and I eased off the bank, I thanked the old stump for the beautiful moment.

So many times in nature the death of things are the foundations for new life. During such times, we can’t help but think of all the circumstances in our lives that shape and mold who we are.

This past May, I was coming up the Suwannee River and noticed an old stump on the side of the river with some foliage growing out of the top. As I eased toward it, I saw that it was a Cypress stump. It had a tiny, twisted, gnarled-up Cedar tree with a little Swamp Palm growing beside it. When I saw it, these words almost instantly came to my mind:

A Forgotten Cypress Forever Gone
And Doing Their Best to Carry On
There Lived a Cedar and a Palm
How Many Tides Have Passed Them By
On What Remained for Which They Did Rely
And So I Stopped Along My Way
To Share with Them a Moment of Another Day
(Above Written by Aubrey David Hinson III, May 24, 2023)

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OCTOBER WINNERS

Saltwater: Flounder, **CALEB HARTLEY 7.1**
Sheepshead, **JAYLEN TINSLEY 4.72**
Bluefish, **DAN CONNOLLY 3.64**
Spanish Mackerel, **RUSS GLOVER 1.86**
King Mack, **McCLURE HOPKINS 39.8**
Pinfish, **JARRIN JOSUE .78**
Black Drum, **JAYLEN TINSLEY 6.0**

Freshwater: Mudfish, **DON NESMITH 8.74**
Catfish, **JOEL BARFIELD 21.36**
Crappie, **TONY CARTER 2.18**
Brean, **DON NESMITH .53**



1st Annual Grand Strand Fishing Rodeo

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January 20th at Sara J's Seafood Restaurant

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4pm to 8pm

Schedule of Events

- 4pm to 6pm Cocktails and Expo (Cash Bar)
(Visit with fishing industry leaders and get introduced to some of the best products in the industry)
- 6pm to 8pm Dinner and Awards
- Opening Remarks: Senator Stephen Goldfinch



• Special Guest Speaker: David Fladd,
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- Special Recognition of Sponsors and Winners
- Grand Prize Drawing

Limited number of tickets will be available after January 2nd at \$30 per person. A portion of proceeds will go to CCA's Artificial Reef Program and to area kids fishing events.



Bet You Didn't Know That...

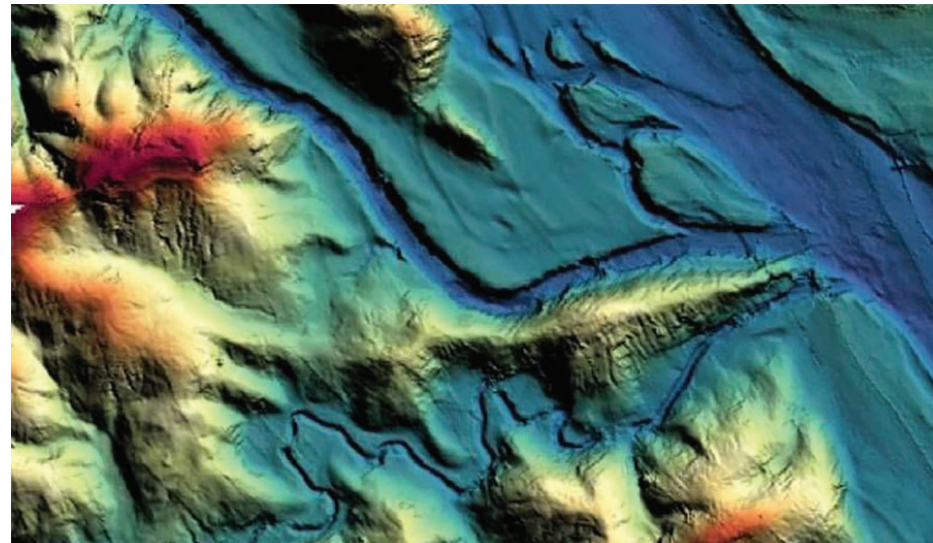
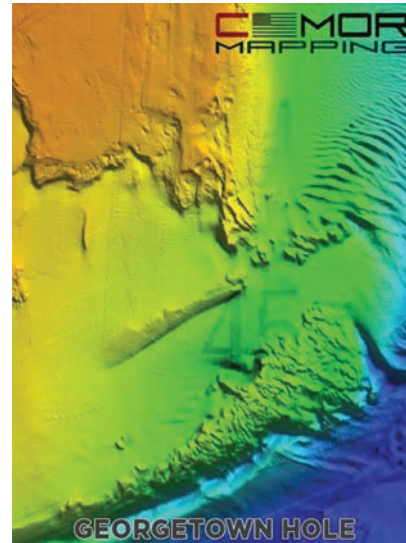
By Paul Godbout



Every few years, something pops up in the Fishing community that is a game changer. A few years ago a friend of mine from Murrells Inlet tried to convince me that the new mapping software available from most electronics manufacturers was as good or better than having great bottom numbers. I laughed it off because after years of running commercial snapper boats I had quite the book of numbers and can consistently catch grouper, pretty much anytime I want.

It took me a few years before I fished with one of my local charter captains in Charleston. (Will Adams) and he had simrad electronics on the boat and was going to show me how good CMOR Mapping was. I was skeptical, because 99% of fishing tackle is made to catch fisherman and I figured this was one of those gimmicks.

We chose not to input any of my numbers as we ran to Southwest banks and lo and behold a whole New World opened up to me. We found a rock that was about a quarter mile from a good line of numbers that I have along the 30-fathom ledge. This was a small area may be



about 100 feet across and I didn't have any numbers close to it.

First drop down with live baits produced two scamp groupers, the second drop produced a Kittie Mitchell and a red snapper. We also called a very nice gag off of the spot. My son was busy catching 4 and 5 pound b-liners as fast as he could get a rig down. Needless to say I became a believer that day and I have been forever talking about enhanced mapping software for your electronics.

The Cmor chip works on Simrad, Lowrance and Ray Marine. Garmin has their own version called high resolution, shading, and it's almost as good as CMOR Mapping. If you are serious about your bottom fishing, it is absolutely worth it for you to purchase one of these mapping systems for your electronics package. Pair this with a trolling motor that has spot lock and you should be able to maximize your catch on every bottom trip.

Explore small areas that are off the beaten path, away from the ledge, and you will be rewarded with large grouper and plenty of other specimens that are fine on the table. Tight lines and catch them up.



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FISH PHOTO OF THE MONTH

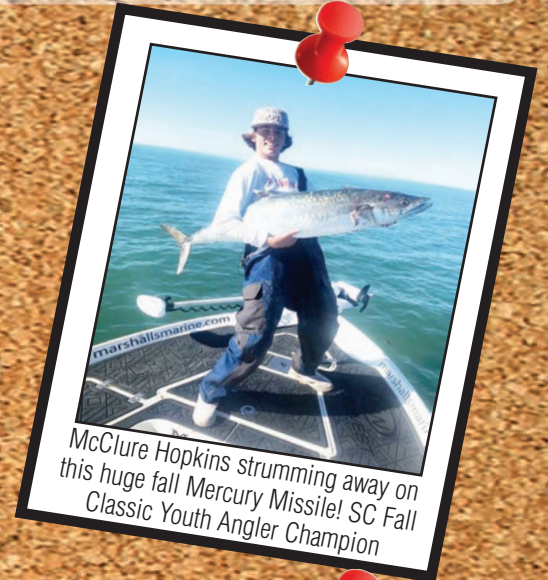
“Mich Ultra is proud sponsor of the photo of the month page. Let your day on the water end with great pictures and stories shared while enjoying the Superior In Light Beers. Southern Crown Partners and Mich Ultra want you to have a safe day on the water and we ask that you designate a sober skipper on each trip so that everyone returns from a wonderful day on the water.”



Capt Sarah Bryson did battle with this monster in October



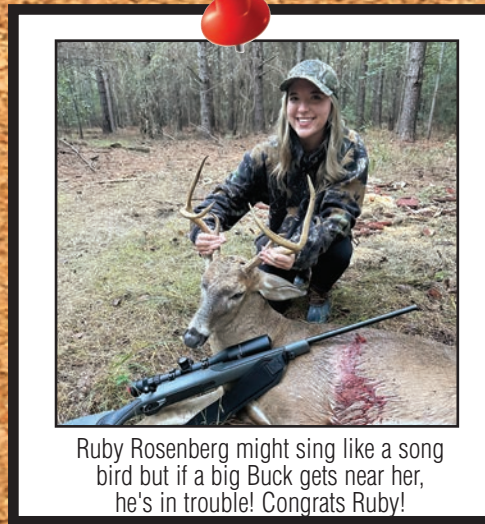
Jaylen Tinsley with a beast of a convict!!
Rodeo monthly winner Sheepshead



McClure Hopkins strutting away on this huge fall Mercury Missile! SC Fall Classic Youth Angler Champion



Paul Jones took advantage of a beautiful fall day to catch some big bull reds in the surf!



Ruby Rosenberg might sing like a song bird but if a big Buck gets near her, he's in trouble! Congrats Ruby!



Tony Carter with a monster Waccamaw Crappie



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Getting Primitive

By Dr Bradley Flowers



Muzzleloader buck harvested by T.C. Lloyd

A couple weeks ago a friend of mine informed me he was going on a special week-long primitive weapon hunt on the Carolina Sandhills National Wildlife Refuge. During this week a hunter can use either archery equipment or muzzleloader. He was having trouble getting his muzzleloader shooting accurately. So I offered him mine to use for the week if he wanted. I used to hunt with mine regularly over 10 years ago when they were made popular by many hunting shows. We recently discussed how there are many opportunities in South Carolina for not only archery but also muzzleloader season prior to firearm season. These seasons are designated as "primitive weapon-only" seasons. So this sparked the question, "what is primitive?"

As defined in the South Carolina Department of Natural Resources Rules and Regulations, "primitive weapons include bow and arrow, crossbows and muzzle loading shotguns of twenty gauge or larger, and rifles of .36 caliber or larger with open or peep sights or scopes, which use black powder or a black powder substitute that does not contain nitrocellulose or nitro-glycerin components as the propellant charge. There are no restrictions on ignition systems including flintstone, percussion cap, shotgun primer, disk, or electronic. During primitive weapons season, no revolving rifles are permitted." In a nutshell, you are allowed to use bows, crossbows or muzzleloaders.

As I began to think about this in more depth, I began to ponder just how "primitive" these weapons are. For example, most compound bows

that are available now shoot 300-340 feet per second. Arrows are machine-made precisely from carbon or aluminum and fly extremely straight when shot. Broadheads are razor sharp whether you use fixed or mechanical heads. Crossbows shoot even faster at or above 400 feet per second. Muzzleloaders have rifled barrels and use pre-measured powder pellets with aerodynamic bullets and contain a special breech plug to hold the primer. These modern "primitive" weapons are much different than the weapons our ancestors used. We've come a long way since the bows made out of wood and animal gut and the old flintlock ball muzzleloaders.

Hunting with archery equipment or muzzleloaders is more challenging than modern firearm use due to how much closer you must get to the game animal you are pursuing. Many people claim you have to be a better hunter to hunt with archery equipment especially. The jeering at each other is common among hunters about bow versus rifle hunters. Even so, how much better were our ancestors at their hunting skills provided the weapons they had at their disposal? They didn't have corn piles or lush food plots or game cameras. They had to scout and track their game.



Archery buck harvested by the author

Knowing this, we have to respect our ancestors as hunters. Although many primitive hunting tactics are still being used, today's hunters rely on modern technology more than the skills of the old-timers.

On private lands in Game Zones 1 and 2, primitive weapons are allowed from October 1-10 before the regular firearms season starts on October 11. Game Zone 4 allows Archery Only starting August 15-31 before firearms season opens September 1. Game Zone 3 throws out all the rules as regular firearm season opens August 15. Other special primitive weapon hunts are available on some WMAs and NWRs and information is available on the Department of Natural Resources website.

My buddy was fortunate enough to fill his primitive weapon tag on the refuge with my muzzleloader. He shot a very nice buck and was thrilled to harvest it with the "smoke pole." I've been fortunate enough to harvest a deer over the last few years with my bow. My boys have killed some deer with their rifle. No matter how you prefer to hunt, it's always exhilarating to bag one of God's creatures He provides for us. In honor of our ancestors and their hunting heritage, I challenge you to "get primitive."

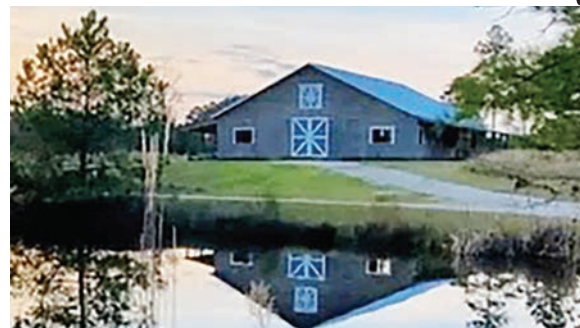


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Murrells Inlet, Oaks Creedk, SC 2023

November 2023 Murrells Inlet Tides

Day	High	Low	High	Low	High	Phase	Sunrise	Sunset	Moonrise	Moonset
Wed 01		5:43 AM EDT 0.13 ft	11:33 AM EDT 5.16 ft	6:38 PM EDT 0.49 ft			7:34 AM EDT	6:24 PM EDT	9:18 PM EDT	11:41 AM EDT
Thu 02	12:05 AM EDT 4.08 ft	6:29 AM EDT 0.37 ft	12:26 PM EDT 4.82 ft	7:27 PM EDT 0.72 ft			7:35 AM EDT	6:23 PM EDT	10:14 PM EDT	12:37 PM EDT
Fri 03	1:03 AM EDT 3.84 ft	7:17 AM EDT 0.59 ft	1:22 PM EDT 4.54 ft	8:19 PM EDT 0.90 ft			7:36 AM EDT	6:22 PM EDT	11:14 PM EDT	1:25 PM EDT
Sat 04	2:02 AM EDT 3.70 ft	8:09 AM EDT 0.79 ft	2:18 PM EDT 4.34 ft	9:17 PM EDT 1.01 ft			7:37 AM EDT	6:21 PM EDT		2:06 PM EDT
Sun 05	1:59 AM EST 3.66 ft	8:07 AM EST 0.91 ft	2:11 PM EST 4.23 ft	9:19 PM EST 1.02 ft		Last Quarter	6:38 AM EST	5:20 PM EST	12:13 AM EST	1:39 PM EST
Mon 06	2:52 AM EST 3.71 ft	9:10 AM EST 0.95 ft	3:01 PM EST 4.19 ft	10:14 PM EST 0.94 ft			6:39 AM EST	5:19 PM EST	12:12 AM EST	2:09 PM EST
Tue 07	3:42 AM EST 3.83 ft	10:12 AM EST 0.90 ft	3:49 PM EST 4.19 ft	10:59 PM EST 0.81 ft			6:40 AM EST	5:18 PM EST	1:09 AM EST	2:35 PM EST
Wed 08	4:30 AM EST 4.02 ft	11:07 AM EST 0.78 ft	4:35 PM EST 4.21 ft	11:38 PM EST 0.66 ft			6:41 AM EST	5:18 PM EST	2:05 AM EST	2:59 PM EST
Thu 09	5:15 AM EST 4.26 ft	11:55 AM EST 0.64 ft	5:19 PM EST 4.24 ft				6:41 AM EST	5:17 PM EST	3:01 AM EST	3:23 PM EST
Fri 10		12:15 AM EST 0.50 ft	5:57 AM EST 4.53 ft	12:40 PM EST 0.50 ft	6:01 PM EST 4.29 ft		6:42 AM EST	5:16 PM EST	3:58 AM EST	3:48 PM EST
Sat 11		12:52 AM EST 0.36 ft	6:36 AM EST 4.79 ft	1:23 PM EST 0.37 ft	6:42 PM EST 4.32 ft		6:43 AM EST	5:16 PM EST	4:56 AM EST	4:14 PM EST
Sun 12		1:28 AM EST 0.24 ft	7:15 AM EST 5.02 ft	2:06 PM EST 0.28 ft	7:21 PM EST 4.33 ft		6:44 AM EST	5:15 PM EST	5:57 AM EST	4:44 PM EST
Mon 13		2:06 AM EST 0.16 ft	7:52 AM EST 5.17 ft	2:48 PM EST 0.23 ft	7:59 PM EST 4.31 ft	New Moon	6:45 AM EST	5:14 PM EST	7:01 AM EST	5:20 PM EST
Tue 14		2:45 AM EST 0.12 ft	8:31 AM EST 5.24 ft	3:31 PM EST 0.22 ft	8:39 PM EST 4.24 ft		6:46 AM EST	5:14 PM EST	8:08 AM EST	6:02 PM EST
Wed 15		3:27 AM EST 0.12 ft	9:13 AM EST 5.23 ft	4:16 PM EST 0.25 ft	9:23 PM EST 4.13 ft		6:47 AM EST	5:13 PM EST	9:14 AM EST	6:53 PM EST
Thu 16		4:11 AM EST 0.16 ft	10:00 AM EST 5.15 ft	5:03 PM EST 0.31 ft	10:12 PM EST 4.00 ft		6:48 AM EST	5:12 PM EST	10:18 AM EST	7:53 PM EST
Fri 17		5:00 AM EST 0.22 ft	10:54 AM EST 5.03 ft	5:53 PM EST 0.37 ft	11:10 PM EST 3.89 ft		6:49 AM EST	5:12 PM EST	11:15 AM EST	9:00 PM EST
Sat 18		5:52 AM EST 0.31 ft	11:55 AM EST 4.92 ft	6:48 PM EST 0.41 ft			6:50 AM EST	5:11 PM EST	12:04 PM EST	10:11 PM EST
Sun 19	12:16 AM EST 3.86 ft	6:52 AM EST 0.40 ft	12:58 PM EST 4.84 ft	7:48 PM EST 0.41 ft			6:51 AM EST	5:11 PM EST	12:46 PM EST	11:22 PM EST
Mon 20	1:24 AM EST 3.97 ft	8:01 AM EST 0.47 ft	2:00 PM EST 4.80 ft	8:52 PM EST 0.34 ft		First Quarter	6:52 AM EST	5:10 PM EST	1:21 PM EST	
Tue 21	2:29 AM EST 4.18 ft	9:16 AM EST 0.45 ft	3:00 PM EST 4.76 ft	9:54 PM EST 0.20 ft			6:52 AM EST	5:10 PM EST	1:53 PM EST	12:31 AM EST
Wed 22	3:30 AM EST 4.47 ft	10:29 AM EST 0.34 ft	3:58 PM EST 4.72 ft	10:51 PM EST 0.03 ft			6:53 AM EST	5:10 PM EST	2:22 PM EST	1:39 AM EST
Thu 23	4:29 AM EST 4.79 ft	11:34 AM EST 0.18 ft	4:55 PM EST 4.67 ft	11:43 PM EST -0.13 ft			6:54 AM EST	5:09 PM EST	2:51 PM EST	2:46 AM EST
Fri 24	5:26 AM EST 5.10 ft	12:31 PM EST 0.03 ft	5:50 PM EST 4.63 ft				6:55 AM EST	5:09 PM EST	3:21 PM EST	3:53 AM EST
Sat 25		12:31 AM EST -0.25 ft	6:18 AM EST 5.35 ft	1:24 PM EST -0.06 ft	6:42 PM EST 4.58 ft		6:56 AM EST	5:09 PM EST	3:54 PM EST	5:01 AM EST
Sun 26		1:18 AM EST -0.31 ft	7:07 AM EST 5.49 ft	2:13 PM EST -0.09 ft	7:31 PM EST 4.51 ft		6:57 AM EST	5:08 PM EST	4:31 PM EST	6:09 AM EST
Mon 27		2:04 AM EST -0.31 ft	7:53 AM EST 5.49 ft	3:00 PM EST -0.05 ft	8:17 PM EST 4.39 ft	Full Moon	6:58 AM EST	5:08 PM EST	5:15 PM EST	7:18 AM EST
Tue 28		2:49 AM EST -0.24 ft	8:37 AM EST 5.36 ft	3:46 PM EST 0.06 ft	9:02 PM EST 4.22 ft		6:59 AM EST	5:08 PM EST	6:05 PM EST	8:24 AM EST
Wed 29		3:34 AM EST -0.12 ft	9:21 AM EST 5.13 ft	4:29 PM EST 0.20 ft	9:48 PM EST 4.01 ft		7:00 AM EST	5:08 PM EST	7:00 PM EST	9:24 AM EST
Thu 30		4:17 AM EST 0.05 ft	10:05 AM EST 4.85 ft	5:12 PM EST 0.36 ft	10:36 PM EST 3.79 ft		7:01 AM EST	5:08 PM EST	8:00 PM EST	10:16 AM EST



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