

# JCAA NEWSPAPER NOVEMBER 2012

Official Newspaper of the *JERSEY COAST ANGLERS ASSOCIATION*  
(Published on October 22nd, 2012)

**Monthly Meeting Room Brick Plaza at 270 Chambers Bridge Rd**  
**"WORKING FOR MARINE RECREATIONAL ANGLERS"**

## JCAA REGULAR MEETING:

**Tuesday, October 30th, 2012**

**Starting at 7:30 PM**

**At Brick Plaza at 270 Chambers Bridge Rd**

## NEXT JCAA BOARD MEETING

**Thursday, November 8th, 2012**

**Starting at 7:30 PM at JCAA Office**

## **OFFICIAL NEWSPAPER OF THE JERSEY COAST ANGLERS ASSOC.**

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**JCAA Newspaper Publisher Tom Fote**

**JCAA Newspaper Editor Paul Turi**

This publication is printed and mailed one week prior to each regular monthly meeting of the Jersey Coast Anglers Association. One of the prime goals of JCAA is to get accurate information into public hands as soon as possible.

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JCAA General Membership Meetings are for club representatives and invited guests only. These meetings are not open to the general public. If you would like to attend as a guest, call the President at 908-913-0551 or Tom Fote at (732) 270-9102 before the meeting date to ask permission.

## 2012 OFFICERS

|                            |                |              |
|----------------------------|----------------|--------------|
| <b>President</b>           | Joe Puntasecca | 908-913-0551 |
| <b>1<sup>st</sup> V.P.</b> | Mark Taylor    | 732-245-9445 |
| <b>2<sup>nd</sup> V.P.</b> | Paul Haertel   | 908-913-0551 |
| <b>Treasurer</b>           | Doug Tegeder   | 732-341-5674 |
| <b>Rec. Sec.</b>           | Tom Siciliano  | 609-296-3774 |
| <b>Cors. Sec.</b>          | Paul Turi      | 609-660-2126 |
| <b>Mem. Sec.</b>           | John Toth      | 732-656-0139 |
| <b>Tournament Dir.</b>     | Paul Turi      | 609-660-2126 |

**Committee & Chairpersons listed on last page**

## **IMPORTANT DATES**

### **2012 Dates**

**October 30<sup>th</sup>** JCAA General Meeting

**November 8<sup>th</sup>** JCAA Board Meeting

**November 11<sup>th</sup>** JCAA Dinner

**December 18<sup>th</sup>** JCAA General Meeting at our office

### **2013 Dates**

**January 5<sup>th</sup>** Salt Water Sportsman National Seminar Series at Golden Nugget, Atlantic City

**January 10<sup>th</sup>-13<sup>th</sup>** Garden State Sportsmen Show

**February 6<sup>th</sup>-10<sup>th</sup>** Atlantic City International Power Boat Show

**March 15<sup>th</sup>-17<sup>th</sup>** Saltwater Expo

**August 24<sup>th</sup>** JCAA 19<sup>TH</sup> Annual JCAA Fluke Tournament

**September 6<sup>th</sup>** JCAA Fluke Tournament Awards Ceremony at Golden Nugget, Atlantic City

## **Sportsperson-of-the-Year Award Dinner**

*By Paul Turi, Co-chairman*

On Sunday, November 11<sup>th</sup>, Jersey Coast will be holding its annual sportsperson-of-the-year award dinner at the Crystal Pt. Yacht Club in Pt. Pleasant. At that time we will be honoring JCAA's sportsperson of the year. To date, I have received two nominations for this prestigious award and we will be accepting nominations up to October 30<sup>th</sup>, the night of the JCAA General Membership meeting at which time member clubs will vote on and elect this year's sportsperson-of-the-year. If your club would like to nominate someone, please provide a bio of at least 150 words as to why your nominee should receive this prestigious award.

Many clubs have already reserved their tables for the dinner. If you need to reserve a table, please contact Dan Miller at (609) 641-7821 or by email at [blueangray@comcast.net](mailto:blueangray@comcast.net). Dan will be happy to reserve a table for you or your club

I am in need of door prizes, Chinese Auction and Silent Auction prizes. If you or your club can donate a prize, please contact me at (609) 660-2126 or by email at [pturi6@comcast.net](mailto:pturi6@comcast.net). No donation is too small. I can always combine two or three prizes together to make a nice gift package.

I would also suggest that club members contact their local bait and tackle shops that they buy their supplies from year after year and ask for a donation. This is an important fundraiser for Jersey Coast and any monies realized from the event go towards the operation of Jersey Coast and allows us to continue the work that we do for the recreational angler year after year.

As of this writing we still have not confirmed our keynote speaker, but rest assured, we will have one.

## President's Report

*By Joseph Puntasecca*

We are coming into the colder months but that does not mean things don't get hot. There are certain species that become more abundant at these times but issues that try to take away our resource are hot all the time no matter the time of the year. It's time for everyone to get more involved with the issues that face us. I am asking for more people to step up and be even more active in this organization. We are looking for volunteers to help out with printing our newspaper, at the upcoming shows and we also have our election coming up in December and in need of officers to serve on the Board. If you are interested, please contact Mark Taylor at (732) 245-9445 or [mtsport64@aol.com](mailto:mtsport64@aol.com). There are many different ways that you can get more active in JCAA, as an individual or a club. Please attend the next meeting for more details.

### Governor's Surf Fishing Tournament

The Governor's Surf Fishing Tournament was held on Sunday, October 7 at Island Beach State Park. The weather was windy and for the most part the rain held off until the awards ceremony. There were 550 participants that caught over 130 fish in the

bluefish, kingfish and blackfish categories. We had the Lt. Governor Kim Guadagno and her son participate in this year's event. The Lt. Governor and representatives from the sponsors handed out the prizes and this year's Governor's Cup Winner was Bill Sheppard of Seaside Park, NJ. He caught a 20 3/8" bluefish. Mr. Sheppard received two rod-and-reel combinations, a \$100 gift card to Orvis (courtesy of World Fishing Network), a plaque, and will have his name engraved on the Governor's Cup, which is permanently on display at Island Beach State Park. I would like to congratulate all the people that participated in this year's event and all those that donated their time and prizes. This tournament is sponsored by the New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection's Division of Fish and Wildlife and Division of Parks and Forestry, the New Jersey Federation of Sportsmen's Clubs, Jersey Coast Anglers Association, and the New Jersey Beach Buggy Association.

Our next fundraising event will be our Sportsperson of the Year Dinner which will be held on November 11th at Crystal Pt. Yacht Club in Pt. Pleasant.

### Menhaden

The JCAA will be discussing these proposals and taking a position on this matter at our general membership meeting on October 30th. Club representatives and concerned individuals are urged to review Draft Amendment 2 to the Interstate Fishery Management Plan for Atlantic Menhaden for Public Comment by visiting [www.asmfc.org](http://www.asmfc.org) and then clicking on 'Breaking News.'

A public hearing will be held at 7 PM on November 1, 2012 at the Atlantic County Library located at 306 Jimmie Leeds Rd., Galloway, NJ. Comments may also be submitted to Mike Waine, ASMFC, 1050 N. Highland St., Suite 200-A-N, Arlington, Va. 22201 via mail or via email to [mwaine@asmfc.org](mailto:mwaine@asmfc.org).

For more information see the article titled *ASMFC Seeks Public Input on Menhaden* by Paul Haertel in this edition of the JCAA Newspaper.

### Sportsperson-of-the-Year

We have received two nominations at the time of this newsletter so those bios are published at the end of my report. We are still accepting Member Club nominations for this important honor. Please send a short bio of 150 words explaining the accomplishments of the nominee to the JCAA

Office. Nominations mailed in that will not make this edition of the JCAA Newspaper can still be mailed to the JCAA office but must be there by October 26 or hand carried to the October 30th meeting when the nominations are read and a vote taken on who will receive the award.

It is not too early for your club to start talking about getting a table for this great event. Let all of us together make this event a great success. Look for more information in future articles from our Dinner Committee in the newspaper.

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### REMINDER

The December General Meeting will be on December 18th and in the JCAA office at 1201 Route 37 East Suite 9 in Toms River.

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### **The Manasquan Fishing Club nominates Capt. Paul Eidman for the JCAA's prestigious Sportsman-of-the-Year Award.**

Capt. Paul Eidman, through the Menhaden Defenders Organization, has spent many hours and energy educating the angling public about the dangers of over fishing of this important species through articles, emails and attending meetings of many fishing clubs to alert anglers of the continuing depletion of this most important fish stock. Without menhaden we will not have striped bass or bluefish. More importantly, menhaden are critical to our ocean's entire ecosystem and they must be protected from the commercial pressures placed on them from companies like Omega Proteins and other such companies, and Capt. Paul Eidman works tirelessly to accomplish that goal. Capt. Eidman has worked alongside Bruce Franklin, author of the book "Menhaden, the Most Important Fish in the Sea." Like Mr. Franklin, Captain Eidman has stressed the importance of menhaden in our ocean's food chain and the decline of this stock will have a very negative impact on the viability of our oceans.

In addition to working to improve the stocks of menhaden, Captain Eidman also alerts recreational anglers to other important fishing issues that affect them, like removing traps on New Jersey's reefs so that the public can use them as they were originally intended. Captain Eidman uses the Facebook of his Anglers Conservation Network to reach out to anglers to let them know about upcoming important issues so that they can call or write their legislators on legislation that affect them,

be aware of dates of important fishery management meetings so that they can attend them, and providing background information on fishing management topics so that anglers have information to understand the issues facing the recreational angling community.

Accordingly, the Manasquan Fishing Club nominates and believes that Capt. Paul Eidman should be the JCAA 2012 sportsman-of-the-Year.

### **The New Jersey Beach Buggy Association nominates Tim Burden for the JCAA Sportsman-of-the-Year Award.**

Tim has been a long-standing member of the Hudson River Fishermen's Association, serving on their board of trustees, assisting with their tournaments and access issues. He has served as chairperson for the JCAA fluke tournament, is a member of NJOA, JCAA, NJBBA and HRFA. Tim currently sits as the first vice-president of the NJBBA as well as serving as chairman of our youth fishing program. He is the NJBBA representative to the Governors Surf Fishing Tournament Committee and organizes the judges for that event. He is currently on the NJBBA committee to help correct the State Parks and Forestry's attempt to change the state park mobile sport fishing vehicles access regulations. Tim attends DEP meetings on tidal water access to help ensure continued access for everyone. His continual support of events such as our annual veteran's outings, National Hunting and Fishing Day, the State of New Jersey's surf fishing clinics at Island Beach State Park and his continual efforts to help his fellow fisherman make Tim a worthy candidate for the JCAA 2012 Sportsman-of-the-Year Award.

## **Fisheries Management & Legislative Report**

*By Thomas Fote*

### **A Rabid Environmentalist**

It is amazing how an intended insult can just make your day. Recently someone thought they could insult JCAA and me by labeling me a "rabid environmentalist." Little did they know how thrilled we all were that someone would recognize all the hard work we have done to protect the environment. When I first got involved in JCAA, I was proud of the work that had already been done to protect the

## August 24<sup>th</sup> JCAA 19<sup>TH</sup> Annual JCAA Fluke Tournament

### Testimony to Increase Funding for Bureau of Marine Fisheries

*By John Toth*

environment with an emphasis on clean water. JCAA had already taken on the battle against the Port Authority of New York and New Jersey, New York City, the Army Corp of Engineers, the Longshoremen's Union and the Steamship Operators Union. JCAA's battle was "Cease Ocean Dumping." This included sewer sludge, pilings from New York Harbor, toxic waste from Dupont into the offshore dumping sites and Agent Orange contaminated dredge materials from Newark Bay. At the time, there were many JCAA members who were Vietnam veterans who had a special interest in the Agent Orange issue. We knew veterans with cancer and whose children had birth defects. The evidence was pointing to Agent Orange as a serious problem both in the Vietnamese population and the Vietnam veterans. It made these battles personal. Because of coalitions formed with groups like Clean Ocean Action and American Littoral Society, none of those materials are legally dumped in the ocean today. We were tackling the giants and we won.

Today, JCAA is working getting endocrine disruptors out of our sewage discharge that has a negative impact on the reproduction of fish. We are working to decrease the mercury contamination in our rivers, lakes and streams. We are also working with our legislators to fight back the attempts to have oil drilling off the Jersey coast.

A long time ago JCAA and its members recognized that a clean and plentiful water supply was essential both for us and for the fish stocks. We made a commitment to the ongoing fight to keep contaminants from our lakes, streams, estuaries and the ocean. We are also working to make sure we are not exhausting our water supplies.

We realized that we could not accomplish protecting the environment by ourselves so we have reached out to numerous environmental groups with whom we share a common interest in protecting the environment. There are issues about which we do not agree but we are all willing to see the bigger picture and fight for the bigger cause. Without a clean environment and clean water, we won't have fish to fight over or fish that are safe to eat. It is inconceivable that any recreational angler or group would not understand that the environmental battles are the most important. The future generation depends on us.

If that makes JCAA and me "rabid environmentalists" it is a badge we will wear with honor.

On September 27, 2012, I attended a meeting of the Assembly Agriculture and Natural Resources Committee in the State House Annex in Trenton chaired by Assemblyman Nelson Albano who wanted to receive input from New Jersey's commercial and recreational anglers to identify regulatory changes beneficial to New Jersey's fishing industry.

There are a number of issues that could have been raised before this committee to improve our state's fisheries, but you cannot stand in front of this committee and talk for hours about the many problems we have with our state's fisheries. I decided to focus on only one issue that is critical to both the recreational and commercial fishing industry and that is the **lack of funding for the Bureau of Marine Fisheries.**

I provided testimony for the JCAA, but also present at this meeting was Scott Mackey from the Garden State Seafood Association and Adam Nowalsky from the Recreational Fishing Alliance. With all the issues that could have been raised before this committee, all three of us surprisingly raised the same issue of the lack of funding for the Bureau of Marine Fisheries! We all said it in different ways, but it became very clear to this Committee that the lack of funding to the Bureau is a very serious problem. Let me give you some of the highlights of my testimony so that you can better understand the seriousness of this issue. These are the "Talking Points" I used to present my testimony:

- When I started fishing in the early 1970's, there were no regulations that I could think of and it cost about \$10 - \$15 to go on a party boat all day
- In the 1980's, we started to see some regulations with striped bass and summer flounder and the budget of the Bureau was **\$3.1 million.**

- With the reauthorization of the Magnuson-Stevens Act in 1996, the Bureau has to develop management plans for just about every species both recreational and commercial that requires extensive research involving considerable staff time and resources to respond to Federal and Atlantic States Marine Fisheries requirements.
- You would expect that the Bureau's budget would be increased **to account for inflation**, I now pay \$60-\$70 for a party boat trip – but the Bureau's budget is **less than \$1 million, even \$600,000!** If inflation has gone up that much for my party boat fee, why is the budget for the Bureau so low!
- How can you expect the personnel from the Bureau who are very professional and dedicated to do a very lot more with a very lot less! Positions are not being filled and when people retire, they are not being replaced. If this professionalism leaves the Bureau, you cannot replace it overnight!
- The Bureau needs a **Reliable and Consistent** source of funding in the Legislature's budget for it to do its job and we should start with at least \$3 million, like we did in the 1980's and even more! Every state spends more than New Jersey on its Bureau of Marine Fisheries and we are **LAST** in spending!
- We are **NOT** asking for **CHARITY!** Anglers both recreational and commercial generate billions for our state in tax revenues, not counting the anglers coming to NJ from out-of-state, mostly Pennsylvania who stay in our motels, buy gas and eat in our restaurants.
- Fishing is a **Business** and it should not be treated as such, not like a **Stepchild!**
- If our Bureau cannot do the necessary research to determine the sustainability of various fisheries, they can be closed down like river herring or have shorter seasons like blackfish. Atlantic Sturgeon has been designated as an Endangered Species, and if not enough research is done by the Bureau on this fishery, we may have problems in being allowed to catch fish both recreational and commercial because of the endangered classification of sturgeon. The Bureau may not be able to respond to the many challenges it faces and our fishery will suffer as a result!

- Other states would love to take some of the fishing quotas from us and if we cannot do the necessary research to defend the stocks we have, we may **LOSE** some of our quotas to other states!
- New Jersey has some great fishing and we do not want to see it deteriorated! I recommend that the Committee members talk to the Bureau members to get a firsthand feel for the problems they face. I also recommend that the Committee form a Sub-Committee to investigate the seriousness of this problem. There are many reports that the Bureau has to bolster their case for more funding.

I thanked the Committee for the opportunity to present my testimony to it. This funding issue needs to be raised to our legislators because of the serious problems it poses to us anglers in the very near future.

## **ASMFC Seeks Public Input on Menhaden**

*By Paul Haertel*

The Atlantic States Marine Fisheries Council is seeking input from the public on an amendment they are developing pertaining to menhaden. The goal is to manage menhaden in a manner that is biologically, economically, socially and ecologically sound while protecting the resource and those who benefit from it.

In 2010 a Peer Review Panel noted in their stock assessment that the menhaden population abundance had declined steadily and has been low since the last peak in the early 1980's. Therefore, the panel recommended action that would provide greater protection for the spawning stock biomass. The ASMFC took some action to correct this problem and a new stock assessment update was completed this past July. The update showed that overfishing is occurring and, therefore, the ASMFC is considering various options to correct the problem. Some of the most important options being considered pertain to a reduction of the total allowable catch, a new target percentage for the maximum spawning potential, and reporting methods and allocation between the industrial fishery and the smaller bait fish operations. The

JCAA will be discussing these proposals in depth and taking a position on this matter at our general membership meeting on 10/30/12. Club representatives are urged to review Draft Amendment 2 to the Interstate Fishery Management Plan for Atlantic Menhaden for Public Comment by visiting [www.asmfc.org](http://www.asmfc.org) and then clicking on "Breaking News." The JCAA favors a 50% reduction in landings, consistent reporting by commercial fishermen, and an allocation that supports the small bait harvesters. We also would like these changes to take place by 2013. Omega Protein, the very influential industrial giant will be lobbying for status quo.

To counteract this, the JCAA encourages all those interested in increasing the forage base needed to sustain predatory fishes, such as bluefish, fluke, striped bass and weakfish in our bays and ocean to urge the ASMFC to maximize the numbers of menhaden in all of our waters by reducing the harvest level.

A public hearing will be held at 7 PM on 11/1/12 at the Atlantic County Library located at 306 Jimmie Leeds Rd., Galloway, N.J.. Comments may also be submitted to Mike Waine, ASMFC, 1050 N. Highland St., Suite 200-A-N, Arlington, Va. 22201 via mail or email at [mwaine@asmfc.org](mailto:mwaine@asmfc.org).

Additionally, more information about the importance of menhaden can be found at <http://www.menhadendefenders.org/>. On this site there is a pre-printed letter that concurs with the JCAA position. All you have to do is fill in your name and click to have it emailed to the ASMFC.

## Membership Report

*By John Toth*

Many clubs have paid their 2012 JCAA membership dues. We have recently received club dues payment from both the Fortesque Anglers Association and the Greater Point Pleasant Charter Boat Association. Thank You!

However, I have not yet received club dues from some clubs. The year is rapidly coming to a close. If you have misplaced club membership information and need it, please do not hesitate to contact me. Also, if you think your club has not paid its dues, please check with your club's treasurer to see if the check for the dues has been sent out.

If there are problems with the JCAA sending newsletters to the wrong addresses or to the wrong club members, please let me know so that corrections can be made. I can be reached at (732) 656-0139 or at [tothjohn@verizon.net](mailto:tothjohn@verizon.net)

As always, **Thank You** for your continued support!

## Office Manager/Fluke Tournament Director

*By Paul Turi*

In September, I was appointed by the JCAA Board of Directors to replace Phil Celmer as the Office Manager for the JCAA office. Phil has decided to step down as our Office Manager. Phil will still be active with Jersey Coast Anglers Association but in a different capacity. I have agreed to also take on the position of Fluke Tournament Director for 2013 and Phil has agreed to take on the position of Fluke Tournament Chairman. In that capacity Phil will oversee my work as the Fluke Tournament Director.

**PLEASE NOTE:** Next year the tournament will be held on **August 24th, 2013**, with a hurricane rain date of **August 31<sup>st</sup>, 2013**. The Awards Presentations will take place at the Golden Nugget Hotel & Casino in Atlantic City on **September 6<sup>th</sup>, 2013**.

If you need to talk to me for any reason, I can be reached at the JCAA office by calling (732) 506-6565 or by email at [jcaa@jcaa.org](mailto:jcaa@jcaa.org).

## Show Time

*By Mark Taylor*

With another good year coming to an end, fishermen are getting their last shot at some last minute fishing before winterizing their boat. Then a cool winter season starts and we all start to winterize our tackle and start thinking of what we need to get for the start of the new fishing season. A few great places to get those supplies are the local tackle stores and the upcoming shows. JCAA will have a booth at a few of the shows before the fishing season starts.

So stop by and talk to the volunteers that are manning the booth and get the latest JCAA Newsletter and take a chance on the High Roller Raffle and help support JCAA. By attending the shows and visiting all the booths, talking with tackle manufactures and vendors is a great way to help support all those people that make up the sport you love. Without all those people working together we will not be able to enjoy this sport in the future. Hope to see you all at the shows. JCAA is looking for volunteers to work the booths. So if you are interested please contact Mark Taylor at [mtsport64@aol.com](mailto:mtsport64@aol.com). JCAA is committed to the following ones so far:

- **Garden State Sportsmen Show** on January 12<sup>th</sup>-15<sup>th</sup>
- **Atlantic City Boat Show** on February 1<sup>st</sup>-5<sup>th</sup>
- **NJ's Salt Water Sportsman** on February 11<sup>th</sup>

*If you have already volunteered please send me an email so I don't miss anyone.*

## **Salt Water Sportsman National Seminar Series Returns to Atlantic City!**

For Immediate Release  
Contact 800-448-7360

The Salt Water Sportsman National Seminar Series will kick off its 2013 Tour in Atlantic City on Saturday, January 5. The Golden Nugget Hotel & Casino will host the 9:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. presentation inside their Grand Ballroom. **George Poveromo** – Host of George Poveromo's World of Saltwater Fishing on the NBC Sports Network, and Editor-At-Large for Salt Water Sportsman, will headline the program, along with **Gary Caputi** – Field Editor for Salt Water Sportsman. The Tour is being presented by Sperry Top-Sider.

Joining **Poveromo** and **Caputi** in Atlantic City will be: **Captain Adam Crouthamel** – Distinguished Cape May-area authority on catching trophy fluke and striped bass, along with blackfish, sea bass and cod with *Adam Bomb Sport Fishing*; **Captain Tom Daffin** – Premier tuna and canyon pro who also excels at catching deep water fluke and trophy striped bass, with *Fishin' Fever Sportfishing*; **Nick Honachefsky** – Normandy Beach-based authority on catching trophy fluke and blackfish, and fishing the back-bays; **Crazy Alberto Knie** - Legendary trophy striped bass authority, and also a noted specialist at catching trophy class fluke and

blackfish; **Captain John Sowerby** – Cape May-based authority on catching tuna, swordfish and Makos, inshore sharks, black drum and stripers aboard his charter boat - *Hooked Up II*; **Captain Dan Schafer** – Stone Harbor-based light-tackle striped bass and back bay pro with *Insomniac Charters*; **Captain Dave DeGennaro** – A 35-year veteran at catching striped bass and fishing the back-bays and offshore waters from Barnegat Bay, aboard the *Hi Flier*; and **Captain Sam Rescigno** – Distinguished bottom- and wreck-fishing veteran and specialist at catching trophy class blackfish aboard his *Mary M III*;

Courses for the January 5 presentation will focus on: Trophy stripers on ultra-light tackle; Live-lining for trophy stripers; Top trolling tactics for stripers; Chunking for bluefish; Bluefish on surface lures; Inshore wire-line techniques; Jetty tactics; How to catch more and bigger fluke; Targeting trophy fluke; Top southern tactics for jumbo fluke; Secrets of fishing the Cape May Rips; Trophy drum in Delaware Bay; Secrets of fishing Delaware Bay; Top tactics for big blackfish; Catching blackfish by the score; Jigging for blackfish; No-nonsense weakfish tactics; How and where to locate weakfish; Variety fishing in and around inlets; How to locate and fish productive bottom (blackfish, sea bass, spot and fluke); Back-bay stripers; Can't-miss tuna-trolling patterns; Chunking for tunas; Live-baiting for tunas; Advanced methods for bluefin and yellowfin tuna; Cutting edge lure-trolling tactics; Subsurface offshore trolling; Cutting edge spreader bar and dredge tactics; Secrets for catching more inshore tuna; Reading water temperature charts; Targeting trophy Makos; Basic and advanced sharking techniques; Offshore kite fishing for sharks and tuna; Specialized tactics that take more big-eye tuna; How to troll up more wahoo and white marlin!

New this year will be a special Kid's Seminar from 12:00 to 1:00 p.m., presented by Sperry Top-Sider. In addition to their seminar, the kids will participate in a meet-and-greet with George Poveromo, have chances to win special door prizes, enjoy a free lunch courtesy of Sperry Top-Sider, and have their names entered into a Grand Prize drawing to win a Florida fishing trip with George Poveromo. **Note: One child, 15 years and younger, per paying adult, will be admitted for the full day at no charge!**

The Seminar Series kicks off at 9:00 a.m. and will conclude by 4:00 p.m. There is a one-hour break at

noon for the adults, and the conducting of the Kids seminar during this hour. Long considered the best bargain in sportfishing, a Seminar Series ticket is only \$ 55.00.

The ticket price covers six hours of instruction from the best pros in the business, a course textbook, a one-year subscription or extension to Salt Water Sportsman, one Roffer's Ocean Fishing Forecast Analysis, 16-ounce bottle of OrPine Wash & Wax, one spool of Sufix fishing line, one bottle of Star tron fuel treatment, a \$ 20.00 discount card off any purchase of \$ 150.00 or more from Capt. Harry's Fishing Supply, and chances to win thousands of dollars worth of door prizes! The Grand Prize at the conclusion of the Jersey seminar is a Bahamas fishing trip for two to the prestigious Bimini Sands Resort & Marina. The Super Grand Prize, to be awarded two weeks after the conclusion of the 2013 series, is a new Mako Pro Skiff 17 cc!

**HOW TO REGISTER** - Get your tickets now, as the Atlantic City seminar is always a popular venue. To pay with Visa, MasterCard and American Express, call **(800) 448-7360**, or register on-line, visit: **www.nationalseminarseries.com**.

## Farewell John Geiser 1932-2012

*By John Oswald*  
*Asbury Park Press, October 18, 2012*

Words, which John Geiser used so well for decades, cannot do justice to all he's done for New Jersey's fishing community. John died peacefully on Oct. 5 at the age of 80.

As the longtime outdoor editor, columnist and writer for the Asbury Park Press, John's immeasurable impact on the state's fishing industry, both recreational and commercial, will be felt for decades. His passion for all things in nature made his voice a singular and persistent call for the protection, preservation and enjoyment of New Jersey's rich natural resources.

Fisherman, philosopher, farmer and advocate, John spent his long career making sure the state's outdoor treasures were going to be around for generations to come. On top of that, he was one of the nicest guys you'd ever want to meet.

"I don't ever remember not reading John Geiser," said Mel Martens, Neptune, a member of the Asbury Park Fishing Club. The club was holding its annual cookout near the Eighth Avenue jetty in Asbury Park just a few days after John's passing became public. Everyone there had a story to tell about John and how his writings influenced their lives and their love of fishing.

Club member Ray Menell, Ocean Township, remembered being 9 or 10 years old and anxiously looking forward to John's column. "Every week he would profile a fish, whether it was striper or kingfish or whatever, and he would tell you how it lived and what it ate and how to catch them. It was fascinating," he said.

Joe Pallotto, president of the Asbury Fishing Club, remembered how they met. "I used to catch striped bass and bring them over to my grandmother's house on Summerfield Avenue in Asbury. The Press office was right across the street and the bass would be lying in the parking lot and John would come over and asked what I used to catch them. I didn't know who he was at the time," Pallotto said.

Over the years, the two became fast friends and John would always call Pallotto for weekly fishing reports, or just to talk about life in general. "He was a philosopher," Pallotto said. He was also a fighter. "He wasn't afraid of controversy and he was always after the truth," Pallotto said. The two worked closely together on the battle to get the striped bass limit to two fish at 28 inches and the restoration of the Eighth Avenue jetty in Asbury Park.

Beach restoration had clogged the flume to Deal Lake, making it impossible for herring to enter for spawning. "Every herring was getting plucked by a seagull," Pallotto said. The club worked with Clean Ocean Action, the Littoral Society and others to get the jetty rebuilt and the flume restored. "If it wasn't for John backing that, it never would have gotten done because he wrote about it almost every other week," said Pallotto.

Rep. Frank Pallone Jr., D-N.J., who was involved in the Eighth Avenue jetty project, said, "John Geiser was a real friend of fishermen. He put all of his energy into reporting on fisheries management and the protection of the marine environment. I really miss his lively analysis of issues that impact the Jersey Shore."

Bob Matthews of the Fisherman's Den in Belmar got to know John back in the 1960s at George Guy's Tackle Shop in Belmar when he did a lot of reporting there. They got to know each other better when John helped Matthews launch the Spring Lake Liveliners Fishing Club. "He helped us a lot getting the word out," said Matthews. "He had a knack for those articles," Matthews said, "He got in a bit of trouble, he could be controversial, but he never backed off of any fight, which I don't think the Press liked too much. But everyone really appreciated what he did."

"He always talked to me about the power of the pen," said Greg Hueth, a board member of the Save the Summer Flounder Fishery Fund and a longtime friend. Hueth said John was generous with his wisdom about how to work with the system, how to deal with the various personalities and how to navigate the deep and shallow waters of the process while watching out for the rocks. "There wasn't a better man alive. Just a gentle man, a genuine human being," said Hueth.

"He did more for the fishing industry in New Jersey than you can imagine and people never gave him credit for it," said Capt. Chris Hueth of the Big Mohawk in Belmar and Greg's brother. "He was one of few guys who stood up to the fishery managers. He was never worried about himself, it was always about the fishermen for him." Hueth, who used to hunt on John's property in Wall as a youngster, got to know him well over the years. "He was a very interesting man and extremely dedicated to the fishermen," Hueth said. John told Hueth once that he wished he could fish more, but there was the farm and it was like owning a boat.

### **On the farm**

Geiser's Farm on New Bedford Road in Wall was another of John's great passions. John's daughter, Joyce Geiser Schwaller grew up on the farm, with her older sister, Diane, and younger brother, George.

"He was a tremendous story teller," said Joyce, "sitting around the dinner table or at holiday gatherings, he always had a great story. No one could outdo him on that."

She said her father took great pleasure in taking the kids out fishing and he always went when the fish were running so they would catch something. "We would get double headers of striped bass," she said. But John never fished when the

children did, happy to bait the hooks and deal with the fish they caught.

Joyce remembered one trip where her father woke everyone in the middle of the night in the dead of winter to catch whiting on the beach in Manasquan. "We were all bundled up and catching them like crazy," she said. "I don't think that happens anymore."

She also recalled a night trip aboard a party boat when she was sure she had hooked a sea monster until her father told her it was a monkfish. Joyce was her dad's fishing buddy until younger brother George came along.

Most of her parents' dates, she said, were fishing trips. John would take her mother, Nancy, out of the Manasquan Inlet on his skiff, which Joyce referred to as his "little putt-putt." John and Nancy were married for over 50 years and were deeply devoted to each other until her passing in March of 2011.

Joyce described her dad as a very quiet man, except when it came to fishing. "He didn't like to get into the middle of confrontational stuff too much, but he did it on behalf of the fishermen," she said.

"I think it was a huge sacrifice for my dad to go to some of those meetings. He wasn't naturally inclined to get into that but he felt strongly that sportfishermen shouldn't be licensed and he wanted the next generation to have the same things he had, which was to be able to go fishing and crabbing."

She said he was always talking on the phone about fishing, but he loved farming as well. "He loved to grow stuff," she said. I learned that John was born not too far from his own farm in a small farmhouse on Bennett's Orchard.

His mother, Ruth Vail, was a well-known local artist whose specialty was seascaapes and it was she who recognized his talents as a storyteller. She encouraged him to pursue a career as a writer and suggested he apply to the Press. "It was a good fit," said Joyce.

After getting undergraduate and graduate degrees in political science and journalism and serving in the Army in between, John joined the Asbury Park Press in 1956.

### **Didn't miss too much**

Fred Kerr, Stafford, a former managing editor at the Press, joined the paper nine years later and became a close friend and colleague.

“He had a great body of know-ledge and he cared very deeply about fishing and fisheries and all the related issues and management debates that arose,” said Kerr. “He really covered the issues over the course of time pretty exhaustively and if you read him over 35 or 40 years, you didn’t miss too much.”

Kerr remembered him as studious and serious and an extremely hard worker. “He was never off the phone. I talked to him with some regularity and I had to wait my turn, which was fine,” said Kerr.

Kerr said, “Everybody loved him because he was such a humble guy who never tooted his own horn.” Collectively, Kerr said, his columns had real impact. “When it came to the summer flounder issue, John was on it every day. He had a big impact.” According to Kerr, John, at the very least, kept the debate in view, which is one of the main things journalists do.

He also recalled John’s work in the 1960s writing about striped bass tagging studies taking place at Sandy Hook and in Maryland. That work, over the years, gave shape to what was going on in with the species. “He painted a picture of the fishery,” Kerr said. John, he added, was also a very good writer.

He not only wrote about fishing for the paper, but worked in sports covering football and basketball games, which he attended with Nancy. He also wrote Rural Delivery, a column about life on the farm which Kerr called “wry and humorous, and at times, laugh out loud funny. He had a wide range in virtually every respect.”

Elliot Denman, who worked with John for many years at the Press, said he was incredibly dedicated to his craft, the whole field of fishing and the outdoors and he never left a stone unturned.

Dave May, a photographer who worked with John on Hook, Line & Sinkers said he was “just a helluva guy.” He was very honest, May said, and if you ever crossed him, by providing a less than accurate report, you’d never hear from him again.

Karen Wall, another colleague who worked with John on Hook, Line & Sinkers, said that in an industry loaded with opinions, the only side that John took was on the side of the truth. “He was a wonderful friend and mentor and the model of how to conduct yourself as a journalist,” she said. May said that if something fresh happened on the water that was more timely than what they had planned for that week’s section, “he’d make calls, I’d take the pictures and one, two, three, it’s done. He could fill

up that section like you couldn’t believe. It was such a pleasure to work with him,” he said.

### **Broad reach**

John knew everyone and everyone knew him and his impact was felt well beyond the Jersey Shore.

“He went beyond New Jersey,” said Ray Bogan, a local attorney heavily involved in fishery issues. “The folks at the National Marine Fisheries Service and the Division of Fish and Wildlife would pull out Geiser’s articles and quote him,” said Bogan. “John, who saw himself as a country boy who loved saltwater fishing, would get such a charge out of it.” Bogan said John never felt bad that they were stung by his criticism. Bogan described John as the complete package — a farmer, fisherman, hunter outdoorsman — and he was a man with a firm conviction about protecting the freedoms that made those pursuits possible.

“He always made an argument for open access and the continued ability of people to do that which is part of our heritage, and he was as strong as any writer around trying to protect that heritage. He did a great, great job on that,” Bogan said. John was a person, he said, who “brought everything up many, many steps.” “Things were considered on a higher level when John was involved. He was really an impressive guy and he was most comfortable riding on the back of his tractor,” Bogan said.

Bill Figley, a 30-year veteran of the N.J. Division of Fish and Wildlife called John a “good friend to me and a good friend to the division and marine fisheries.” “John really helped bring all the different facets of the artificial reef program to the public’s attention. That’s really what made the program work,” said Figley.

Figley said the reef program ran on exposure and he would bring all the information to John and he would write about it. The more people learned about it and how it worked, the more they would donate materials like rock and concrete and old vessels to the program. “He was instrumental in bringing the program to the public’s attention,” Figley said. “If we had to run the program in secrecy it would be a small fragment of what it turned out to be.”

And John did much more than report on the fishing industry, he was active in helping scientists learn more about it.

## Youth Education Report

*By Greg Kucharewski*

### JCAA YOUTH EDUCATION AWARD

HI-MAR Striper Club nominated Jeff Johnson for the JCAA Youth Education Award and supports many of the fishing and boating programs that are organized by the Father Time Association.

Jeff Johnson is an educator at Bolger Middle School, Keansburg and a driving force behind the Father Time Association. Jeff Johnson will receive the 2012 JCAA Youth Education Award at the JCAA Annual Sportsperson of the Year Dinner. Jeff Johnson is the Director of Father Time he has promoted HOFNOD and worked for many years to develop school age children's interest in outdoor activities such as fishing, boating, environmental awareness, and wholesome outdoor experiences with students and their families. Father Time fosters activities that grow into a pastime hobby where time is put to good use in the outdoors, instead of the alternative. Every January Father Time hosts an Environmental and Outdoor Expo at Bolger Middle School where organizations and fishing clubs can teach children about sport-fishing and aquatic conservation. Throughout the year Father Time runs fishing derbies and environmental outings.

The JCAA Youth Education Committee is proud to recognize Jeff for all his work and accomplishments.

### GOVERNOR CHRISTIE SIGNS HOFNOD BILL

We are very excited that \$200,000.00 will be appropriated from the Drug Enforcement and Demand Reduction Fund now that Governor Christie signed bill A638 on September 27, 2012. The NJ Division of Fish and Wildlife is in the planning stages of reintegrating HOFNOD in schools and adding new options to expand training in New Jersey. Many supporters of bill A638 deserve recognition for their persistence to make HOFNOD a reality in New Jersey. Legislators, Recreational Fishing Enthusiasts/Environmentalists, Educators, and Individual Citizens of New Jersey helped support bill A638 to successfully pass the bill.

The JCAA Youth Education Committee has promoted the Future Fishermen's Foundation (F 3) HOFNOD program since 1991 and the Jersey Coast

In the late 1960s, scientists at Sandy Hook were taking a much closer look at all of the species caught in the area. "Everyone was catching bluefish, but no one really knew where they came from," said Bruce Freeman who was a federal government biologist at the Sandy Hook Lab. "John called often looking for information on various species, especially bluefish, which was very important to the party and charter boat businesses and recreational fishermen." Freeman said. "We would talk about a number of species, about when they arrived, what they ate and where they went," Freeman said. "Most of our contact was John asking me lots of questions." Party and charter boat captains would ask John what he knew about certain fish and he in turn would pose the questions to the Sandy Hook Lab, and as it turned out, they didn't have all the answers, either.

He put the scientists in contact with the fishermen and the fishermen in contact with the scientists. "John was very good at not just saying 'hey, we don't know the answer to that question but let's see if we can find out.'" Freeman said that once they started working, John would report on the results and if the lab needed more information from fishermen, John would mention that in his column as well. "John was instrumental in doing much more than just reporting," Freeman said.

Jim Donofrio, executive director of the Recreational Fishing Alliance called John the best writer the industry ever had. "He was a friend to all fishermen, the surf fisherman, offshore, inshore — he didn't choose sides, Donofrio said. "There was no better spokesperson on the political side than John Geiser. I know for a fact that the people at NOAA and members of Congress read his column."

Tom Fote of the Jersey Coast Anglers Association said he used to spend hours each week on the phone with John. "If things were important, you sat down with John," he said. "He was the message board, the blog for us. There was no Internet, there was John Geiser," Fote said. He did his homework, Fote added, and made complex issues understandable. He also told both sides of the story.

In talking to all those who knew John, I asked Bob Matthews who else I should speak with about John and his legacy and he said, "There are thousands."

Fishermen everywhere have lost a great friend.

Anglers Association (JCAA) member clubs have utilized HOFNOD since its inception in 1986. The program is designed to help students deal with peer pressure issues, low self-esteem, and conditions that affect their ability to make the right choices when approached about drugs, alcohol, gangs, violence, bullying, and other behavior that is not acceptable.

A young child's vision sparks an idea. Recognition for HOFNOD goes to a 14 year-old youngster named Matthew Deakins. In 1986, Matthew wrote a letter to F 3 stating it was because he used fishing and spending time outdoors as a healthy outdoor activity to avoid using drugs. Matthew's thought lead to the development of a national HOFNOD program to help children develop skills for life. The program helped young fishers to be patient, set goals, solve problems, make decisions and improve self-esteem. HOFNOD also connects children with strong role model.

Today, HOFNOD is operating for 26 years in 38 states including New Jersey. F 3 provides HOFNOD support material for school superintendents, teachers, parents, students, volunteer instructors, recreational fishing, and civic/environmental organizations. They have a wide range of products for the classroom and fishing clinics. My favorite is the Teacher's Guide and Videos. You can view their product list at <http://www.futurefisherman.org/resources>. Their goal is simple: To promote the participation and education in fishing as well as the enhancement and protection of the aquatic resources.

Over the years, JCAA has conducted and assisted with HOFNOD programs for thousands of children and their families. Our youth education committee also assisted with the promotion of HOFNOD in other states such as New York, Pennsylvania, and Ohio. During 2002, we assisted with the development of "Passport To Fishing and Boating" that the Recreational Boating and Fishing Foundation launched. "Passport to Fishing and Boating" is a station based learning process to teach the basics of fishing and boating and complements the HOFNOD program. There are many aquatic education and fishing programs that can be utilized with HOFNOD. It's easy to incorporate lessons from other programs and a great opportunity to create interesting activities for students to work in a group/team venue.

On September 15, 1993, we were invited to speak at the first NJ Division of Fish and Wildlife

Certified HOFNOD Instructor Training located at Pequest Trout Hatchery. The JCAA Youth Education Committee shared our HOFNOD successes and how we promoted HOFNOD in schools, local community organizations, and facilities that provide special needs for children. Since 1996, the JCAA Youth Education Committee has held a number of HOFNOD awareness training sessions for educators and volunteer instructors and JCAA has recognized the following fishing clubs/organizations and individuals for their promotion of HOFNOD in New Jersey: 1996 - Newark Bait & Flycasting Club, 1997 - Dr. Eleanor Bochenek, Marine/Environmental Educator, 1998 - Manasquan Fishing Club, 1999 - New Jersey Beach Buggy Association, 2000 - Tom Fote, JCAA Youth Education, 2001 - Friends of Island Beach State Park, 2002 - Shore Surf Club, 2003 - Rosemary Beales, Marine/Environmental Educator, 2004 - Shark River Surf Anglers, 2005 - Absecon Saltwater Sportsmen, 2006 - Hudson River Fishermen's Assn., 2007 - Hi-Mar Striper Club, 2008 - Paul Harris, NJBB Association, 2009 - Berkley Striper Club, 2010 - Al Lorenzo, Saltwater Anglers of Bergen County, and 2011 - New Jersey Chapter Trout Unlimited. It takes the support of many recreational fishing volunteers to bring success to the fishing community. Our recreational fishing and environmental volunteers go above and beyond to ensure our youngsters choose healthy lifestyles.

We look forward to assisting the NJ Division of Fish and Wildlife to expand HOFNOD in schools, after school programs, and county community based organizations. Children in NJ will definitely benefit from HOFNOD and learn to appreciate all the outdoor resources NJ has to offer.

### **SEND US YOUR EVENT INFORMATION**

The Jersey Coast Anglers Association's Youth Education Committee is asking JCAA member clubs/organizations for a listing of scheduled youth and family events that are going to be held by your club or organization during 2013. The purpose of this request is to alert other fishing clubs and organizations that would like to participate in your youth and family event. The JCAA Newspaper is a way to get the word out about what's happening in your club. Use this opportunity to inform others about events your fishing club/organization is doing to promote fishing. The Jersey Coast Anglers Association's Youth Education

Committee will support your event with “Hook On Fishing Not On Drugs” materials. Please contact Greg Kucharewski with your listing of youth and family events and don’t forget the Sportsmen Shows include your booth location, fishing club or organization that will attend. By providing this information your fishing club or organization can improve membership and increase consumer participation.

### **YOUTH ACTIVITIES**

The Hudson River Fishermen’s Association had another successful Annual Fishing Contest in Seaside. Plenty of bluefish were caught and kids had a great day out. The Lacey High School Fishing Club was at IBSP on Columbus Day attending the "Beginners Surf Fishing Clinic". Besides Al leading the presentation, Bill Mackintosh and Tim Burden spoke about safety and assisted on the beach. There were close twenty participants in all from Lacey high school. While there weren't any fish caught while out on the beach, all of the young anglers had a great time. The fishing club moderator and one of the school's drug counselors mentioned he would be interested in having the HOFNOD program at their school. The JCAA Youth Education committee will follow up and assist Lacey high school with an informational packet to start their HOFNOD program.

On October 7th, the Governors Surf Fishing Tournament was held at Island Beach State Park. Fishing was tough and anglers had to deal with rain and wind. As usual everyone had fun time fishing despite the weather. After fishing participants gathered at the pavilion to win raffle prizes and prizes for the largest fish caught in participant categories. We had a lot of activity at our JCAA youth education-learning booth. Children received a goodie-bag with HOFOND materials and fishing line for identifying different species of fish.

**MARK YOUR  
CALENDAR  
AUGUST 24<sup>TH</sup>**

**JCAA 19<sup>TH</sup>  
ANNUAL JCAA  
FLUKE  
TOURNAMENT**