June offers anglers a smorgasbord of catches

by Capt.Billy Pipken

The month of June offers a preamble to the summer season with warm weather, great fishing and excited anglers. Fishing is in full swing this month with a variety of species available. Some of the favorites being bluefish, rockfish, spot, croaker, Flounder and Trout. Here are a few tips on how and where to catch them:

BLUEFISH usually frequent our area when the water temperature climbs into the mid 60's. Although limited in numbers over the past decade, "chopper" blues (6-20 pounds) are the first to arrive. They are a large motivation for the hundreds of anglers that enter the local Reedville Bluefish/Rockfish Derby each year. This three-day tournament, one of the largest on the Chesapeake bay, will be held June 9-10. The large blues can be caught throughout June as they continue northward to the upper bay. Currently, with the water temperature climbing through the 60's, the smaller one to five pound "Taylor" blues are making a showing as well.

Traditionally, bluefish tend to feed on the upper edges of channels and on flats adjacent to deep channels. With this in mind, some of the most productive areas are: The MIDDLE GROUNDS, which are located west of Smith Island just below the target ship. Along the edge of the shipping channel at BUOY 62 there have been consistent catches for many years. This area is located roughly 5 miles east of the Ingram Bay/Reedville area. The Northern Neck Reef, just north, was placed on location 10 years ago holds good numbers of fish as well. The Asphalt Pile and Windmill Point reefs are good bets for the smaller blues.

Bluefish are among the many species available at the CUT CHANNEL, which is east of Windmill Point at the mouth of the Rappahannock River. This area runs from Buoy 60 down to Buoy 46. THE CELL is another area holding bluefish in May and June. There is a state reef located in this area. This is roughly 11 miles Southeast of the hole-in-the-wall at Gwynn's Island.

Bluefish are primarily caught by two methods: chumming and trolling.

CHUMMING is usually performed while anchored. While using this method, small amounts of ground menhaden or a similarly oily fish is placed in the water to create a "chum" line to attract fish to the larger chunks of bait, which are placed on a strong wire leader at the end of your line. Chumming is very effective on fish feeding below the surface.

TROLLING is used when bluefish are "surface" feeding on smaller fish such as shiners, anchovies or small menhaden. A boat speed of 3-4 knots is recommended when trolling for these fish. Some of the artificial lures used with this technique are spoons, surgical tube eels and plugs. Stay away from rubber shad due to the blues' toothy grin. The lure should mirror the food that the blues are eating at the time. For example, in the spring, bluefish feed on large menhaden. Therefore, a large spoon would represent a more natural meal than an eel would. During the summer months, minnows and shiners are on the menu for surface feeding blues. Small Clark or Drone spoons work well in that environment. I've always said that if you think like a fish you can catch fish.

STRIPED BASS (ROCKFISH) should remain available until the end of June. This species is so plentiful that it has become the mainstay of spring and fall fishing. The Virginia spring season opened on May 16 and runs through June 15. Anglers may continue to fish in that jurisdiction into the summer months. The Potomac River spring season runs concurrently with Maryland. Anglers holding a valid Virginia Saltwater fishing license may fish in Maryland and the Potomac River as the licenses are reciprocal.

SPOT and CROAKER have become the mainstay for summer bottom fishing. They can be caught just about everywhere. A store bought "bottom rig," bloodworms or squid, and light tackle are all that you will need to have fun. This type of fishing is ideal for children since the action is usually fast. The Rappahannock River has excellent bottom fishing for a variety of species. The flats running on each side of the main shipping channel of the

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Bob Campbell of Smith Point Sea Rescue hoists the biggest rockfish caught on the first day of the 2005 Reedville Bluefish Derby. Ryan Shackleford of Wicomico Church caught the 44.5-inch, 34.81-pounder. This year's Derby is June 9-10.

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2006 Size and Limits: Recreational Fishing Regulations in Virginia's Marine Waters

Amberjack
Minimum Size Limit.....32" Total Length
Limit .....2 Amberjack per person per day

Black Drum
Minimum Size Limit .....16" Total Length
Limit .....1 Black Drum per person per day

Bluefish
Minimum Size Limit.....None
Limit .....10 Bluefish per person per day

Cobia (Bonita)
Minimum Size Limit.....37" Total Length
Limit .....1 Cobia per person per day

Grey Trout (Weakfish)
Minimum Size Limit .....12" Total Length
Limit .....7 Grey Trout per day per person

King Mackerel
Minimum Size Limit .....27" Total Length
Limit .....3 King Mackerel per person per day

Red Drum (Channel Bass)
Minimum Size Limit .....18" Total Length
Maximum Size Limit .....26" Total Length
Limit .....3 Red Drum per person per day

Spadefish
Minimum Size Limit.....None
Limit .....4 Spadefish per person per day

Spanish Mackerel
Minimum Size Limit .....14" Total Length
Limit .....15 Spanish Mackerel per person per day

Speckled Trout (Spotted Sea Trout)
Minimum Size Limit .....14" Total Length
Limit .....10 Speckled Trout per person per day

Striped Bass (Striper, Rockfish)
Virginia Trophy Season, May 1-May 15
Minimum Size Limit.....32"
Possession Limit .....1 Rockfish per person per day
Spring Season, May 16-June 15
Minimum Size Limit.....18"
Maximum Size Limit ** .....28"
Limit .....2 Rockfish per person per day
** One fish of the two fish limit may be 32" in length or larger
Fall Season, October 4-December 31
Minimum Size Limit.....18"
Maximum Size Limit .....28"
Limit .....2 Rockfish per person per day;
no Rockfish between 28" and 34" may be kept

Shad..... Illegal to catch or possess Shad in Virginia waters

Sturgeon.....Illegal to catch or possess Sturgeon

Summer Flounder (Fluke)
Minimum Size Limit.....17.5"
Limit .....8 Flounder per person per day
TAUTOG
Minimum Size Limit.....14"
Limit .....7 Tautog per person per day

For information on the most current regulations, contact Virginia Marine Resources Commission, 2600 Washington Ave., P.O. Box 756, Newport News, Va. 23607: (757) 247-2200. VMRC "Hotline" number to report violations: (800) 541-4646. VMRC monitors VHF Channel 17. The VMRC website is www.mrc.state.va.us. Fish illustrations, courtesy Duane Raver, may not be reproduced without permission 9919) 553-0280.

Anglers aboard the "Hokie High" of Mechanicsville landed some big rockfish in the 2005 Reedville Bluefish Derby. From left are David Walker, Mark Gray, Jason Anderson and Greg Lewter.

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bay also hold good numbers of bottom feeders as they migrate northward. Most creeks and river entrances are holding fish this month. Tangier Sound is also a good bet for bottom fishing.

FLOUNDER are a very tasty species which are the single most desired out of the above mentioned fish. Flounder feed on small minnows and baitfish, which live on the shallow bars leading to deeper channel areas. The CUT CHANNEL, and CELL areas are noted for good sized specimens but the channel edges at Buoy 62 and Smith Point are productive locations as well. Don't forget to try the entrances to the rivers and creeks.

Flounder can be caught by using three distinct methods: trolling, drifting and anchoring. Trolling for flatties has become more popular during recent years. There are several types of trolling and drifting rigs, with most of them consisting of a slide sinker with one or two baits being suspended and one bait skimming along the bottom behind the sinker, which is causing an eye-catching disturbance. Bucktails, doodle bugs, skirts and other jigs dressed with live bait such as minnows or squid are sure winners when slow trolled. A rig that works well while drifting is the "Flounder Pounder." The "Fish-Finder Rig" is another that is often used. They are both easily made, versatile rigs. Typically, more weight is used when trolling to keep your rig on bottom.

Fishing while at anchor can be successful only when you are sure that there are flounder in the vicinity. In this case, chumming will greatly improve your catches by drawing more fish to the area.

TROUT fishing consists of both grey and speckled trout. Grey trout can be found in many of the same areas as other bottom fishing species such as spot and croaker and on large structures like the target ships off of Smith and Tangier islands. Speckled trout tend to linger in areas offering protection for them. They are most often found in shallow areas where sea grasses are plentiful. Gwynn's Island, Windmill Point and the marshes at the mouth of the Great Wicomico River are among the best locations that lend themselves well to this type of fishing.

Grey trout are usually picked up with "live" bait such as peeler crab, squid, strips of baitfish fillets and even the old standby, bloodworm. The standard bottom rig works well but the less terminal tackle and wire on your rig the more effective your presentation will be. For trout, a homemade monofilament bottom rig works best.

Speckled trout run as large as six pounds in the area. As with the grey trout, they may also be caught with "live" bait but the trend has shifted over to artificial baits when pursuing these tasty specimens. Bucktails rigged with twister tails, Mirrolures, small spinners, small sassy shad and Mr. Wiffles are among the many lures used to attract them.

Other species caught while bottom fishing include: black sea bass, porgies and whiting and an occasional surprise. That's the great thing about fishing in the Bay—you just never know what you are going to hook next.

Capt. Billy Pipkin, a charter boat operator and fishing columnist, owns and operates Capt. Billy's Charters and Ingram Bay Marina in Wicomico Church (580-7292). For the latest up-to-date fishing reports read "The Fishing Line" each week in the Rappahannock Record.

Full field expected for Bluefish Derby

Set for June 9-10 in Reedville

Andy Kauders, president of Smith Point Sea Rescue, indicated that tournament officials have high expectations that the maximum of 300 boats for the 23rd annual Reedville Bluefish Derby will be reached before the June 8 cutoff.

The maximum was lowered from 500 boats this year to make a more manageable and safe tournament for everyone.

This tournament will be held on June 9-10 at Buzzard's Point Marina in Reedville. Eligible species which will qualify for over $32,000 in cash and prizes are bluefish, striped bass and, for the first time, croaker.

The fish fry, a community favorite will be back this year on Saturday evening. Plan on bringing friends and family to Buzzard's Point Marina for the fish fry dinner followed by live entertainment by the very popular band "Casper." Friday night's entertainment will be "Leggz."

Applications can be obtained on line at www.reedvillebluefishderby.com or contact Roger Wilkins at 804-453-5325.

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Rivah Area Tide Tables for June 2006

Sewells Point Hampton Roads								Cherry Point Piankatank River								Grey's Point Rappahannock River								Great Wicomico River Light								Smith Point Light Chesapeake Bay							
06/01	1:24a	H	7:51a	L	1:50p	H	7:52p	L	06/01	2:11a	H	8:53a	L	2:37p	H	8:54p	L	06/01	3:53a	H	10:37a	L	4:19p	H	10:38p	L	06/01	4:19a	H	11:01a	L	4:48p	H	11:00p	L	06/01	4:50a	H	11:25a	L	5:19p	H	11:24p	L
06/02	2:11a	H	8:36a	L	2:40p	H	8:46p	L	06/02	2:58a	H	9:38a	L	3:27p	H	9:48p	L	06/02	4:40a	H	11:22a	L	5:09p	H	11:32p	L	06/02	5:03a	H	11:49a	L	5:37p	H	11:58p	L	06/02	5:34a	H	12:13p	L	6:08p	H	--------	
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06/28	5:55a	L	11:51a	H	5:50p	L	--------		06/28	12:17a	H	6:57a	L	12:38p	H	6:52p	L	06/28	1:59a	H	8:41a	L	2:20p	H	8:36p	L	06/28	2:31a	H	9:02a	L	2:56p	H	8:53p	L	06/28	3:02a	H	9:26a	L	3:27p	H	9:17p	L
06/29	12:11a	H	6:34a	L	12:33p	H	6:35p	L	06/29	12:58a	H	7:36a	L	1:20p	H	7:37p	L	06/29	2:40a	H	9:20a	L	3:02p	H	9:21p	L	06/29	3:10a	H	9:40a	L	3:37p	H	9:38p	L	06/29	3:41a	H	10:04a	L	4:08p	H	10:02p	L
06/30	12:50a	H	7:12a	L	1:15p	H	7:21p	L	06/30	1:37a	H	8:14a	L	2:02p	H	8:23p	L	06/30	3:19a	H	9:58a	L	3:44p	H	10:07p	L	06/30	3:48a	H	10:18a	L	4:18p	H	10:25p	L	06/30	4:19a	H	10:42a	L	4:49p	H	10:49p	L

Yorktown: add 8 min.
West Point: add 2:20

Jackson Creek:
add 35 min.

Urbanna: add 15 min.
Dividing Creek: add 5 min.

Coles Point/ Ragged Point:
add 1:20

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More Rivah Fishing

Citation flounder

Bernard T. Smith of New Kent caught this citation 8-lb., 28.25-inch flounder at Buoy 36A on April 24. The big fish hit cut bait and a minnow. The citation was registered at Queen's Creek Outfitters and Patriot Charters in Mathews.

Send fishing news and photos to rivah@ssentinel.com

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State record striper caught

A 68-lb., 1-oz. striped bass (rockfish) caught on March 4 by Clay T. Armstrong of Mechanicsville has been certified as a new Virginia state record by the Virginia Saltwater Fishing Tournament.

Armstrong caught his fish in the Atlantic Ocean just south of the Sandbridge area of Virginia Beach on his private boat, "Fin Addict."

He was fishing with two of his regular fishing partners, Michael Lowery and Cameron Gray.

The trio of anglers had just deployed their spread of four rods and were trolling through a "beehive" of gannets when all four rods "went off." After Gray lost the first fish, he and Lowery landed fish in the 30-pound class. Armstrong was still fighting a big fish on the fourth rod, and as it neared the boat the anglers realized the fish was huge.

Compounding the problem was a second fish on the "double-drop" rig. They opened the transom door and Lowery reached over the swim platform and lifted the huge fish into the boat. After the second fish was boated, the anglers immediately ran back to Rudee Inlet to weigh the fish they hoped would be a new state record.

The record-setting striper measured 52 inches in length and had a girth of 33.5 inches.

The prior state record of 63-lbs., 8-ozs. was caught in the Atlantic Ocean off Wachapregue by Paul W. Kleckner on January 2, 2005.

For more information, contact Claude Bain, Virginia Saltwater Fishing Tournament, 968 S. Oriole Drive, Virginia Beach, VA 23451; (757) 491-5160;mrcswt@visi.net.

Flatfish haul

Austin Cooper (right) of Middlesex and his grandfather, Gordon West (left), took a fishing trip on April 22 aboard the "Puddin Pop." Austin landed nine flounder, the largest being 25.5 inches.

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From left, Bob Vogel, Wade Cameron and Pat Cameron display the rockfish caught aboard "Spider Web." The "Day on the Bay" was an item donated by Capt. Caroll Webb to the annual CAPINNÉ Auction last July.

CAPINNÉ fishing trip rocks

After several aborted attempts due to winter weather, Rotarians Don Caskie and Roy Cameron redeemed a gift certificate for a fishing trip they purchased at the annual CAPINNÉ Dinner and Auction last July. The group also included Donald Caskie of Virginia Beach; Pat Cameron, of Erwin, N.C.; Wade Cameron of Roswell, Ga; and Bob Vogel.

The trip was made available through the generosity of Capt. Carol Webb and is typical of services offered for auction by local businesses. The group spent a relaxing day aboard the Spider Webb cruising north to Maryland waters to take fish ranging between 34 and 40 inches.

The 2006 CAPINNÉ Dinner and Auction will be held July 15 at Indian Creek Yacht and Country Club. CAPINNÉ is sponsored by The Northern Neck Rotary Club. More than $350,000 has been distributed to local programs and charities in the past 15 years through funds raised by the event, said Cameron.

YMCA plans summer camp

Summer Day Camp registration for all ages is taking place at the Middlesex YMCA on Route 33 at Hartfield.

This year the YMCA will have half-day Pre School Day Camp, Youth Day Camp, and Teen Camp from June 19 to August 19. The Y will also provide specialty camps such as sailing, Eurotech Soccer, and a variety of others throughout the summer.

Call 776-8846 for more information.

Habitat to raffle Deere lawn tractor

Habitat for Humanity is having a raffle for a John Deere LT 180 lawn tractor with a 42-inch deck and cart. The donation is $5 per ticket or five tickets for $20.

The drawing will be held after 2,000 tickets have been sold. For future sale locations, call Jim Ritter at 776-6226.

Wine and arts festival slated

The Wine and Arts Festival at Locust Grove in Walkerton will be held from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. on Saturday, June 10. The public is invited to enjoy wine, art, food and live music. Visit www.locustgrove1665.com or call 769-8201 for more information.

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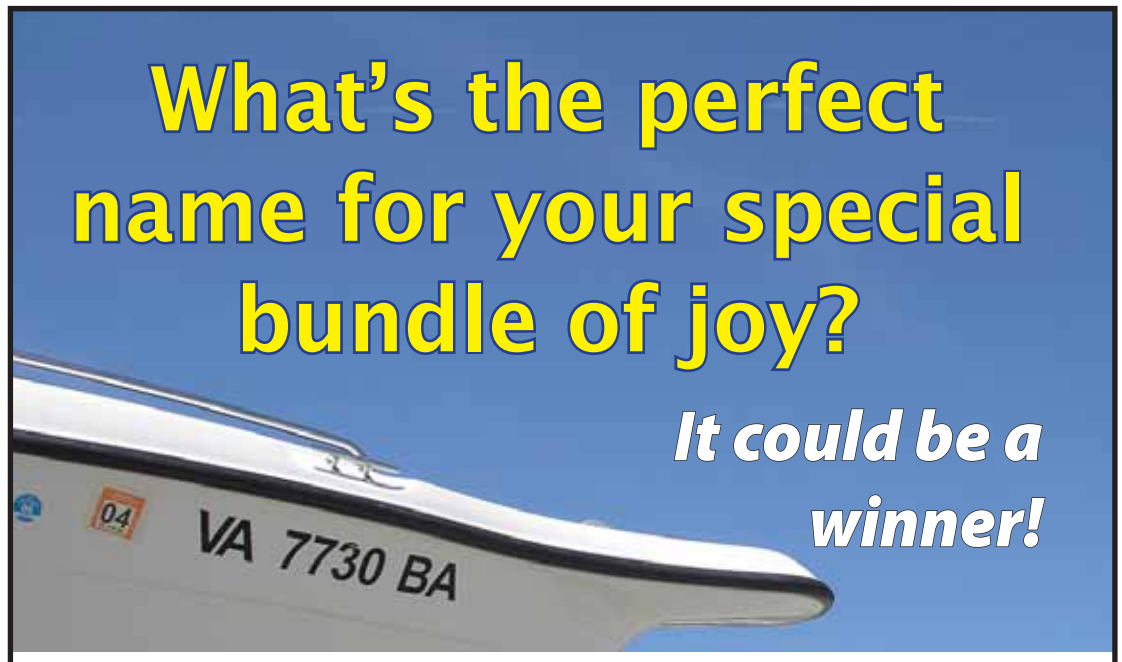

We suppose you might spend a few moments deciding on a name for a new baby, or even a new pet. But, when it comes to picking the name for a boat, weeks and weeks of research and contemplation could possibly be expected!

There could be family connections. There could be business, work or hobby considerations. There could be associations with Mother Nature, wildlife or the waterways where the boat will be used.

It could take a while!

What's the name of YOUR boat, and how did you decide on it?
Tell us by entering

The Rivah Visitor's Guide
Best Boat Name Contest!

First-, second- and third-place winners will be selected. The top award will be a catered dinner for four delivered to your boat. Other winners will be dining at area restaurants where you can arrive by boat.

HOW TO ENTER: Take a high resolution digital photo of your boat with its name readily visible. Attach it to an email containing no more than 50 words explaining the significance of your boat's name. Indicate where the boat is berthed and include your name, address and phone number. Send it all to rivah@ssentinel.com before Friday, August 11, 2006. Good luck!

For more information, call 804-758-2328.

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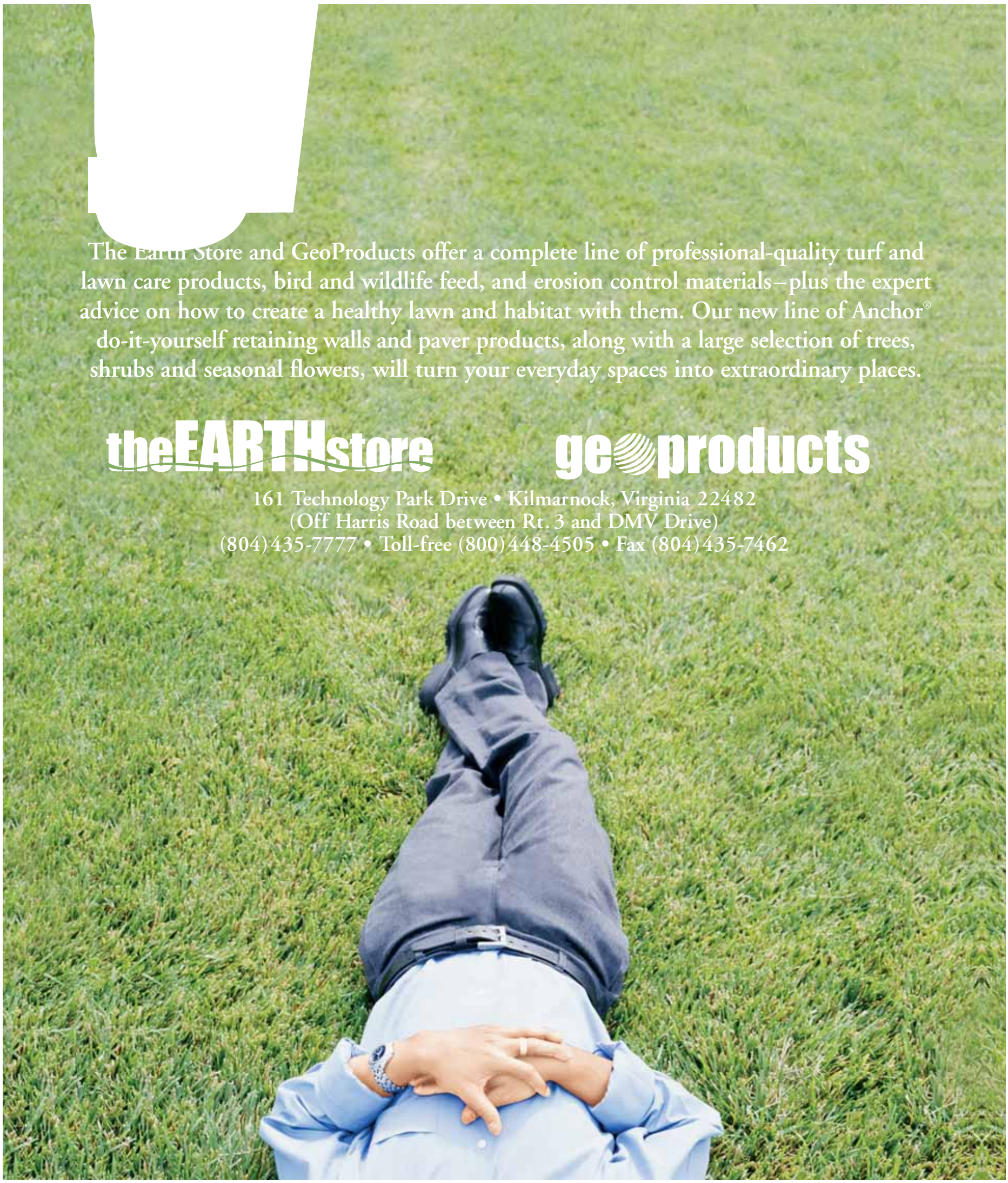

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UMVFD car show set for June 10 at Water View

The Upper Middlesex Volunteer Fire Department at Water View will hold its Spring Car Show on Saturday, June 10, at the firehouse on Route 640.

The car show will be held from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. The cost for car entries is $10. Spectator admission is $4.00; 8 and under free.

Craft and yard sale vendors can rent spaces for $10. This year there will be a moon walk for the smaller children. The fire department will be selling food and drinks. For more information, call 758-4816 after 6 p.m.

Military exhibit on display

May is National Military Appreciation Month. The Gloucester Museum of History is featuring a World Wars I and II military exhibit by Jesse and Beverly Black of Gloucester plus memorabilia loaned by two Gloucester men. The exhibit will continue through June 3.

The museum will have special hours from 1 to 3 p.m. on Sunday, May 28, and will be closed Memorial Day, May 29.

The daffodil exhibit, "Golden Memories," which features a complete collection of Gloucester County daffodil posters, will continue through the month of May.

Other ongoing exhibits include the original manuscript of *The Honey-Pod Tree*, the Gremer Doll Houses, and various permanent exhibits.

The museum is located in the historic Botetourt Building at 6539 Main Street. For appointments and tours, call 693-1234.

Urbanna library to host concert

On Friday, June 2, the "Old Dominion Songsters" will perform at the Urbanna Branch of the Middlesex Library at 7:30 p.m. The program is free and will support the Library of Virginia exhibit on display at Urbanna. The event is sponsored by the Friends of the Urbanna Library. Call 758-5717 for more information.

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Middlesex Museum to host 'Saluda Exhibit'

The Middlesex County Museum asks county residents to contribute stories, historical information, and profiles of Saluda residents and their homes to help bring to life a spring social at the museum and a tour of Leafwood, home of Dr. and Mrs. Brockett Muir Jr.

The museum's social and home tour planned for Sunday, June 4, from 2 to 5 p.m. includes photos and memorabilia from the years after 1875. The museum is seeking additional photos, stories, and memorabilia related to the Saluda area, especially after 1875.

The idea to highlight the historic residence of Leafwood and village of Saluda grew out of the museum board's commitment to reprint, in July 2003, the popular book, *Historic Buildings in Middlesex County Virginia, 1650-1875*. The book contains wonderful photographs of county-wide historical structures, such as grist mills, homes, churches, and stores with historical details about each structure and the people connected with them. This book originally prepared in 1976 as part of the county's Bicentennial Year celebration, continues to be available to the public.

The museum welcomes calls to 758-3663 from persons with historical information of any nature to share in advance of the spring social and tour or people may bring items to the social.

'Deathtrap' takes stage June 22-25 in Gloucester

The Court House Players' production of Ira Levin's thriller "Deathtrap" will be at Peasley Middle School in Gloucester on June 22-25.

For ticket information, call 804-824-4853 or 804-642-4144, or email <shmeg@crosslink.net> or <acosta@inna.net>.

Visit <courthouseplayers.org> for more information about the play.

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Barbershop chorus to participate in June 10 concert

The Northern Neck Bay Tones barbershop chorus will perform in the "Heritage Appreciation Through Music" concert June 10 at 8 p.m. at the Lancaster Middle School Theater in Kilmarnock.

Organized in April 2002, the chorus performs locally and regionally. Concert venues have included the Mayfair House, William & Mary, Mount Vernon and Lancaster Middle School. Members are urged to form quartets to sing for special events. The group is directed by Carol Wright.

Among the selections for the Heritage Appreciation concert are "Oh Shenandoah," "Good Old Summertime" and "Down by the Old Mill Stream."

Joining the Bay Tones in the concert will be the newly formed Rappahannock Women's Chorale directed by Brenda Burtner and the Northern Neck Big Band (formerly the Norwood McCarty Big Band).

In presenting the concert, the Rappahannock Foundation for the Arts is continuing its 20-year tradition of showcasing local artistic talent and bringing special musical events to the community. The Bank of Lancaster and Bay Trust Company are sponsors.

Tickets are $10 for adults and $5 for students. Tickets can be purchased at the Kilmarnock Antique Gallery, Twice Told Tales, or by calling 436-9027.

Plans for annual Deltaville Heritage Day are under way

Plans are under way for the annual Deltaville Heritage Day, which will be held Saturday, July 1.

Events include the annual Pet Parade, Children's Parade, Heroes Parade and crab races. Live music, food and craft vendors, artists and Coastie will also be featured.

The community pool will be open at no charge all day.

In the evening a Deltas baseball game followed by the annual Oldtimers Game and fireworks finale will be held at the ballpark.

Anyone interested in volunteering or in need of more information about vendor space should contact Kris Scherrer at 776-7117. The deadline for vendor applications is May 26.

Parade entrants should contact Nevin Ramsburg at 776-6216.

MCVRS to celebrate 50th anniversary with open house

The Middlesex County Volunteer Rescue Squad and the Ladies Auxiliary invite the public to attend an open house on Saturday, June 3, to help celebrate the 50th anniversary of the rescue squad, and the 31st anniversary of the ladies auxiliary.

The Deltaville Rescue Squad building will be open from 1 to 5 p.m. for public inspection and enjoyment.

In addition to refreshments, there will be balloons and coloring books for the children, blood pressure checks, blood glucose monitoring, displays of ambulances and equipment, demonstration of the latest in automated CPR techniques, and an opportunity to inspect the state-of-the-art EMS equipment that contributions and support have allowed the squad to provide the community.

Parents will have an opportunity to enroll their children (ages 9-13) for Camp Rescue, which will be held this year on July 20.

"Please drop in anytime during the afternoon and celebrate with us," said a squad spokesperson.

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