

## Message from the Editor

Welcome to the second electronic edition of “Weyerhaeuser Outdoors.” I hope each of you had a safe, fun, and productive fall hunting season. At the Miller household, we have already put up the beagles and moved into the spring with my oldest daughter and I doubling on gobblers the opening day of the Mississippi spring turkey season. To make it more special, it was Hannah’s first gobbler, making it one of those many unforgettable memories from the woods that we all cherish.

In this issue, we cover a diversity of topics, including an article on the North American Model of Wildlife Conservation. I strongly

suggest taking the time to read the article as it explains how each of us, as hunters, are key to conservation success in North America. I also encourage you to share the main points of the article with hunters and non-hunters alike. Several of the articles in this issue have a common theme – getting others, including kids and handicapped individuals, involved in hunting and preserving those memories via photographs and/or a journal. As always, we are seeking input from our hunt club members to make the newsletter successful. Refer to the green box on page 11 to see how you can contribute to upcoming issues of our newsletter. Take time to enjoy the great outdoors this spring and summer! *Darren Miller, Newsletter Editor*



**Two Millers and 2 opening day Mississippi gobblers.** *Photo by Michelle Miller.*

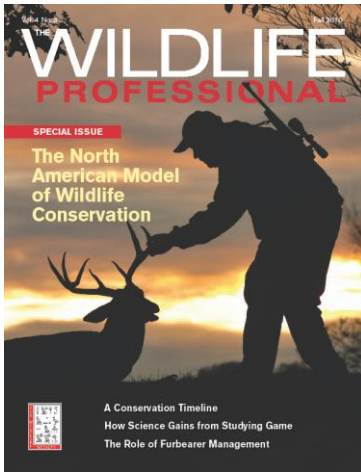


**A Miller girl with a nice swamper.**  
*Photo by Darren Miller.*

# The North American Model of Wildlife Conservation

Darren A. Miller, Ph.D., Certified Wildlife Biologist®, Weyerhaeuser NR Company

Most of us have heard how hunters provide critical funding for wildlife conservation. But, did you know that this is part of a larger framework for managing wildlife in the U.S. and Canada? This framework, now referred to as “The North American Model of Wildlife Conservation”, is the most successful approach to wildlife conservation ever conceived. The 7 key elements, or pillars, were developed over time. Here, I briefly outline origins of the Model and each of the 7 pillars. I took this information largely from an article in Fall 2010 issue of *The Wildlife Professional* (member magazine for [The Wildlife Society](#)) written by Dr. John Organ, Shane Mahoney, and Dr. Valerius Geist.



The beginnings of the model are rooted in the European settlement of North America. In Europe, only landowners, who were wealthy, were able to hunt with game owned by property owners. European settlers ensured that wildlife was available for all to use. However, this attitude, prior to game laws, allowed market hunting and led to the decimation of many wildlife species, including extinction for some like the passenger pigeon. However, concerned sportsmen, led by Teddy Roosevelt and others, demanded changes to ensure continuation of

wildlife populations. To this end, influential members of the Boone and Crockett Club leveraged congress to pass much-needed conservation laws including the Lacey Act (1900) and the Migratory Bird Treaty Act (1916). Later, Aldo Leopold, the father of wildlife management, would create the first wildlife management college curriculum (1933). Then, Congress passed the Duck Stamp Act (1934) and the Federal Aid in Wildlife Restoration Act (1937; Pittman-Robertson Act) to provide reliable funding for wildlife conservation. From this point, the North American Model was firmly established.

**Pillar 1. Public Trust Doctrine.** This pillar states that wildlife is owned by no one, but is held in trust by the government for current and future generations. This pillar was formalized in an 1841 supreme court decision. Although crucial, this pillar is threatened by claims of private ownership of wildlife (e.g., high fencing), commercial sale of some species, limited public access, and the animal rights philosophy.

**Pillar 2. Elimination of Markets for Game.** The unregulated hunting of game for sale in the market place is what led to devastation or extinction of a number of species – the American bison being the most famous example. Today, with few, highly regulated exceptions (e.g., fur sales), it is illegal to sell wildlife or wildlife parts. This elimination of a profit motive for wildlife harvest has allowed many species, such as white-tailed deer and wild turkey, to rebound to where they are sometimes overabundant today.

**Pillar 3. Allocation of Wildlife by Law.** As stated earlier, the government holds wildlife for

the benefit of the public. As such, agencies can use established rule-making processes to regulate wildlife harvest, make it illegal to harvest species based on conservation status, and make other regulations relative to public use of wildlife.

**Pillar 4. *Kill Only for Legitimate Purposes.*** From a societal standpoint, killing wildlife for no legitimate purpose has long been unacceptable. Reasons for wildlife harvest include food, fur, self-defense, and property protection. Thirteen states and provinces have “wanton waste” laws to make it illegal to not take salvageable meat from harvested animals.

**Pillar 5. *Wildlife as an International Resource.*** Every hunter knows that wildlife do not respect political or property boundaries. In fact, many wildlife species, such as waterfowl and songbirds, routinely cross state and national borders. Thus, it is important to consider wildlife needs across political boundaries to ensure conservation is successful.

**Pillar 6. *Science-based Wildlife Policy.*** Science has been recognized as critically important to informed decisions relative to wildlife resources. This has included tackling very complex conservation issues and has led to a phenomenal increase of our understanding of wildlife ecology and management. Unfortunately, political appointees and many stakeholder groups, such as animal rights activists and some sporting advocacy groups, often make decisions or try to influence policy without science. Our wildlife success is only as strong as application of good science and eroding this ability is a very real threat to the future of wildlife conservation.

**Pillar 7. *Democracy of Hunting.*** This concept relates to the public trust doctrine, in which everyone should have access to hunting opportunities and not just those with special

status within society. This pillar sets apart North America from many other countries where only certain populations segments are allowed the privilege to hunt.

**Summary.** These 7 tenets have formed a firm basis for successful wildlife conservation in this country. And, one theme is important to all of them – the role of hunting and trapping. Hunters first raised the conservation alarm bells that led to formation of the Model and continue to be the primary funding source for wildlife conservation. This is not only from sales of licenses, permits, and the 11% excise tax on



**Hunting and trapping are essential to the Model.**  
*Photo by Elsa Gallagher.*

hunting equipment (Pittman-Robertson), but also contributions to habitat conservation from individual efforts and by belonging to hunting-oriented conservation organizations (e.g, National Wild Turkey Federation, Ducks Unlimited). However, the model can fail and we must remain thoughtful of the pillars and understand how each of us can ensure its continued success. This may include writing letters to congress and state representatives to encourage them to take action compatible with the Model to the simple act of introducing a child to the outdoors. The future is in our hands.

## Bringing in the Kids

*Peyton Weeks, Planning Forester, North Louisiana Timberlands*

As the darkness of night starts the slow progression to first light, anticipation of the opening morning of youth turkey season is overwhelming. Robby Keen, Red River Specialties Area Sales Manager in Shreveport, LA, and his son Marshall are waiting to hear the first “thunder chicken” gobble. Then it begins. The excitement of just knowing that you are going to be in the game this hunt is enough to give you chill bumps. Throughout the morning, Robby and Marshall are back and forth with an older gobbler. As we all know, adult gobblers usually out smart us but the ever curious jakes just have to go and see where the hens are hanging out. As they come into view, Marshall has his 20 gauge up and ready. After what seems like forever and with Robby telling him to shoot time and time again, BOOM! The bird rolls up and is down for the count. The young hunter is



**Make time to take a child hunting.  
Marshall Keen with his first turkey.**  
*Photo by Robby Keen.*

there to retrieve the bird barely before it hits the ground. The hunt is over right? Wrong, the hunt now just begins! Marshall will hopefully make many more hunts with his father in the years to come. It is our responsibility as hunters to make sure our children and friends never let the hunt end.

How do you get a young person with the attention span of a minute to start enjoying the outdoors? Always make safety the top priority. I personally think that one adult per child is the best way to start out. That way each child has your undivided attention. Cover all the topics over and over again: firearms, ATV's, make sure they know how to call for help, and etc. No one wants to have an accident with a child!

Start them out slow. Make short trips so that the child is still hungry for whatever outdoor activity you may be doing when you leave. Not very many young hunters want to sit in 33 degree weather with a light rain and high wind for five hours. Take them on days when the weather is nice. Remember, when starting out with kids, it is not about you or what you are going to kill. It is about getting them hooked on the outdoors. That means you may sacrifice your personal agenda.

Make it fun. My little girl loves for me to fill water bottles up and shoot them. For some reason that is hilarious to a three year old. I have shot foam footballs, milk jugs, fruit, and anything else that I can find to keep her saying, “shoot this Daddy”. But, you get my point. I have seen some of my friends kids learn to shoot on the life sized paper targets. That is a great way to show shot placement and to symbolize a real life shooting picture. Once they see that they can make a lethal shot, the real fun starts.

I get this controversial topic a few times a year: what to shoot or what not to shoot? So, I will have to say that is up to you. Some parents or mentors are on opposite sides on this. Some let the kids shoot at any legal animal while others hardly let them shot at all. I think you find the happy medium depending on where you hunt. Those that hunt in areas with larger game numbers can afford to be a little more selective. Those that hunt public land or have low game numbers need to be a little more aggressive. If they harvest too much too quickly, they may lose interest. If you never let them pull the trigger, they may lose interest. Each child is different. Do whatever it takes to keep them wanting to go back. The main objective is to make sure they have an ethical shot opportunity, wounding animals is not good for anyone. Hold the shot if it is going to be questionable.

What it all really boils down to is having safe fun with kids. You have a wonderful chance to teach, learn, grow, and to pass down a wonderful pastime to them. You will make memories that will never be forgotten.



**Involve kids in every aspect of the hunt. Here, Ainsley Weeks helps her Dad celebrate a successful deer hunt. Photo by Peyton Weeks.**



**Small game hunting is a great way to introduce kids to the outdoors. Regardless of what is hunted, keep it safe, simple, and focused on the kids. Photos by Darren Miller.**

## MORE THAN A HUNT

*Ken McCool, Environmental Manager, MS/AL Timberlands*

The afternoon temperatures were in the mid 50's with forecast for the night being in the low to mid 30's. The food plots were really starting to grow after all the rain we had been given in the previous weeks. We had 16 special needs and/or youth hunters board the vans to make the 15 minute drive to the recreation area. The start of the 2010-2011 deer season in Mississippi was about to begin with one of the most unbelievable afternoons that most had ever experienced.

In 2003, I had the pleasure to meet Doug Stokes who was pastor of Harvestime Church and Cross Mountain ministries. Brother Doug had a conviction to establish an outdoor ministry thru outdoor recreation such as youth camps, hunting, fishing, horseback riding and camping. To facilitate this dream, Weyerhaeuser agreed to sell Cross Mountain Ministry a parcel of land on which to build a camp facility.

In 2009, Doug and I discussed the possibilities of growing the outdoor outreach to include a larger group of handicap hunters from across the

1,550 acres on which to conduct these special needs hunting and fishing outings.

The summer of 2010 was spent developing access and hunting stands on the property. We established 23 food plots and local volunteers helped construct and erect 16 handicap accessible shooting houses. The anxious handicap participants supervised the early November work as the final hunting houses were put in place. Opening day could not come soon enough.

In the months leading up to the events, we searched for a name for the new outdoor recreational area. Several suggested names just never seemed to fit, until one day one of the participants said you know this is "more than a hunt"; it is about the experience and the blessing that we receive". At that moment we all knew that the outreach area would be known as "More Than A Hunt". It is truly amazing that what a few years earlier had only been a dream was about to come to fruition. The partnership between Weyerhaeuser Company and a local ministry will bless many people in years to come.

As is customary, the afternoon hunts began with a meal at the Cross Mountain's activity building. The meal was followed by a devotional and blessing of the afternoon hunt by Evan Edwards, one of the participants. As we readied for our afternoon excursions, the anticipation could be seen in the faces of both hunters and volunteers. Little did we know what blessings would be bestowed on us on that cool fall afternoon.

We arrived at the first food plot around 2:15 and as we approached we could see several deer in the field. The second food plot like the first was full of deer, as was every field we passed. The majestic beauty of God's creation had already blessed us and not a shot had been fired.



**Evan Edwards delivers a devotional and blessing of the hunt.** *Photo by Ken McCool.*

nation, but to do this would require additional lands on which to conduct the hunting and fishing trips. In 2010, the partnership between Cross Mountain and Weyerhaeuser took another major step when Weyerhaeuser committed over

The day ended with many deer being harvested by our hunting guests. The large number of deer taken that day was unbelievable, but does not tell the full story of that day. The most success was in the number of blessings that were received by all the hunters and the volunteers that worked tirelessly to make it truly “More Than A Hunt”.

As far as deer hunting , the 2010-2011 season was a tremendous success , but for all the participants and volunteers , the blessing will never end. I have many treasured memories from my time spent with this outreach effort, but I was taught an amazing lesson from one of my guests, Allen. He and I were so excited about going to hunt “The Hardwoods”, as the stand is called. The hunting house is located on the edge of a hardwood timber stand and overlooks the food plot and the hardwood timber. During our hunt that day, the joystick that controls the firing mechanism on his gun malfunctioned. As deer were coming into the field we tried everything to repair it, but to no avail. The day ended with ten to twelve deer coming to the food plot, but we could only watch. I was so frustrated, but Allen was all smiles, as he always is. Allen said “I am so glad I got to see “the

hardwoods”, I don’t get this chance very often”.

We are very fortunate to have the opportunity to enjoy the outdoors, so no matter what the circumstances, just remember how fortunate we are to have God’s creation to experience on a daily basis. The great outdoors is a wonderful gift to share with family and friends old and new, and we should always learn from our experiences. Some people are mentors and some are novices, but we all have an important role to play. I assumed on this day, that I would be the mentor and Allen would be the novice, but boy was I wrong. I was truly blessed by his patience and attitude and learned a great deal from him that day. God is good and he has truly blessed this outreach with some most amazing VIP’s.

Philippians 2:2-4

Then make my joy complete by being like-minded, having the same love, being one in spirit and purpose. Do nothing out of selfish ambition or vain conceit, but in humility consider others better than yourselves. Each of you should look not to your own interest, but also to the interests of others.



**Left, Allen checks his specialized shooting equipment to make sure all is in working order. Right, a buck taken by Dylan, one of our handicapped youth hunters. During this hunt, the hunters provided inspiration and lifetime memories to the guides. Photos by Ken McCool.**

## The Shot After the Shot – Make It Count

*Steve Gullede, Mid-Rotation Forester, MS/AL Timberlands*

I have my Dad to thank for my passion for the great outdoors. We spent many days together trekking behind pointer bird dogs hunting quail, slipping through hardwood hollows for squirrels and also on the water after crappie, bluegills and catfish. What I wouldn't give for just one photo of my Dad and I together enjoying one of those memorable moments.

Many of you are passing on the hunting and fishing tradition to your own sons and daughters. Do yourself and them a great service and capture some of those moments with photos. With today's digital camera equipment, there is no excuse for not taking lots of images of your time together in the field.

When I am not managing Weyerhaeuser's forests, I spend my outdoors time hunting, fishing or behind a camera trying to capture outdoor images that magazine editors will buy. As a self-taught free-lance photographer, I have



learned a few things over the years about taking quality outdoor images. Here are a few tips that will help you preserve those special moments outdoors.

- For shots of harvested animals, take time to remove blood, smooth ruffled feathers and if it is a deer, stick the tongue back in the animal's mouth before snapping the shutter.
- Take time to set up the shot in a pleasant natural setting. Move away from buildings and vehicles. Put the animal in a visually pleasing position. Check the background for limbs and vines that look like they are growing out of the person's head or ear.
- Shoot with the sun over the photographer's back. Raise cap bills up so that the subject's eyes are visible. Watch for shadows on your subject. Use your flash, if needed, to fill in shadows.
- Keep a tripod handy. It does not have to be an expensive model but just steady enough to support your camera. Tripods are invaluable when taking self-portraits using the shutter release timer on your camera.
- Know your camera equipment. Take a little time and read the user's manual. Shooting on fully automatic does not always get the best results. By checking each image after you shoot, you can make necessary adjustments. Shoot lots of frames.
- Get low. If your subject is on the ground, get at the same level, or even better slightly lower, to take the shot.
- Set your camera to the highest quality setting (largest file size). Use lowest ISO setting possible. If using a camera with RAW capability (SLRs usually have this option), shoot in RAW. RAW files are easily converted to jpegs using camera software and results can be manipulated much more easily than jpegs.

**Use photographs to help keep those special hunting memories alive.** *Photo by Darren Miller*



**Whether it is the trophy of a lifetime or another special moment in the great outdoors, you can capture quality images that will last a lifetime with a little know-how and planning. Grant Dorris proudly shows off a trophy buck he took near his home in Calhoun County, Miss (left). Self-portraits are easy when you use a tripod and the camera's shutter release timer (right). Photos by Steve Gullede. See more of Steve's photography work at**

## **New Additions to Hunting Website!**

*Wesley Merideth, Accounting, MS/AL Timberlands and Aaron Welch, LAP Manager, AR/OK Timberlands*

### **Electronic leases (E-lease) – No More Paper Contracts!!!**

- Upon acceptance of your lease, you can begin creating your electronic lease (E-lease).
- Your old handwritten signatures will be replaced with your e-signature.
- The E-lease will be stored on the website, so there is no need to mail a signed paper copy of your lease to your local Weyerhaeuser office. You do have the option of printing a paper copy.
- Once your E-lease has been executed, you will receive e-mail notification that it has been executed.

### **Alternative Payment Methods – Online Payment is now an option!!!**

- You will now have the ability to make online payments using a checking or savings account.
- Once the transaction has cleared, you will receive an e-mail notification that your payment has cleared.
- This process is very secure - it does not use your information for anything more than what is needed to execute that particular transaction.

You **STILL** have the option to pay by check. Since we no longer require paper contracts this has been simplified as well. You will simply send in a half-page remittance advice with your check. Your checks will need to be mailed to a lockbox rather than the local Weyerhaeuser office. The lockbox address is on the remittance advice.

If you have any questions while creating your lease or making your payment, you can contact your hunt club administrator.

# Outdoor Journaling – It's Not That Hard!

Aaron Welch, LAP Manager, AR/OK Timberlands

I don't know how you are, but I have always been one of those outdoorsman that is so excited when the big outdoor moment comes that I forget to take the time to really enjoy it. If I have said it once, I have said it 100 times, "Shoot, I forgot to take a picture" (be sure to see Steve Gullledge's tips in the preceding article!). I get so caught up in the moment, whether it is catching a big fish, finally tagging the trophy whitetail I have spent countless hours chasing, or one of my sons catching his first blue gill, I forget to really take time to savor success. Before you know it, a few days have passed and the details begin to fade.

I have always been envious of those who had organized photo albums that document all their memorable outdoor experiences from the past. I have never been a big outdoor writer or any kind of writer for that matter. If it wasn't for filling out the tag, I probably wouldn't have written anything down in the past.

This year was different. I set out to guide my two oldest boys to their first whitetail. I wanted to remember the experience. We were successful; both of them got a white-tailed doe. Unlike the hunting shows where 30 minutes of deer walk by and it is all capped off with one shot, ours took several hunts, several mistakes, and was a roller coaster ride ranging from regret to victory lane. At the end I wrote it all down. It wasn't written very well, but I included the parts of the experience that boys and I thought were important. It was written in such a way that the mistakes were funny, the specifics could be remembered, and all the bragging points were highlighted. I wrote my younger son's story and, when I finished, we read it out loud around the table. What I found was when I started writing it down and then read it out loud, it came

to life again. My son started retelling the parts of the story that he remembered the most and you could see how he felt the pride of success all over again. Mommy was able to celebrate even though she could be in the deer stand, and our youngest son wanted to know when it would be his turn.

I went on to write down my other son's story as well, and found it to be just as much fun. I tried to write them down in a notebook first, but found I couldn't read my writing very well. I needed spell check, so I typed it on my computer and added a photo or two. Next thing you know my "outdoor journal entry", had become more of a newspaper article. It had become something I was really proud of. In the end, each boy had a one page record of the events of his day.

I can't promise that I will be diligent to document every future outdoor experience. I do know that the ones that I do will be remembered much clearer, longer, and we will be able to revisit them over and over again.

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*Nate's First Deer*  
November 10, 2010  
Several hunts down we got to the "War Wagon" around 2:45. It was on Lawrence as a member of Steezy Creek Hunting Club, and we had found what felt like a great stand location. Having seen deer on every stand hunt we were full of confidence that Nate would get another opportunity to shoot a deer.

So far Nate and I had hunted one other time. On that hunt Nate had a single deer show up, but it was very cold. He spent the majority of the hunt hunkered over the heater. A few prior he was sitting on his last stand with the heater directly under his soiled feet. His toes were frozen.

As night on that hunt he did shoot at two different deer. Both were over 100 yards and I had to set up for him to shoot that direction. Throw in his cheap four power scope and it was unlikely that I would hit the deer.

how we would go and check for blood after the hunt, but I was 200% sure it was a deer with.

Nate was discouraged and felt bad that he had missed. He was afraid nothing else would run after his shot. On other hunts this year Nate had shot twins. Then had ones, and I had shot more, and each time deer came back. I encouraged him to be patient.

It wasn't 20 minutes and a mature doe and a couple younger deer came out near the feeder. Nate threw up his gun and shot. Again a miss and our hearts sank. The deer didn't leave. The doe started moving into the bushes behind. Nate could get the scope back on her as he moved to the other deer. The one on the left was a mule-horn buck, so I told him to shoot at the one on the right. All of this happened in about 10 seconds. I told him all the secrets to making the shot that I know. "Stay steady. Don't touch the trigger. Take a deep breath..." They started moving to the left and by the time Nate got steady and said he could see the deer, she had moved to where I could barely see her. She was 90 yards away at the edge of the tree line - just waiting to disappear.

"Nate, Can you see her? It's your Steep!"  
"Yes, Dad - I can see her!"  
"OK - Squeeze the trigger!"

Before I finished the sentence he shot. This time the deer hit. He grinned. It was obvious to Nate he had hit her. "I got her Dad!" Grinning ear to ear we celebrated and then looked out the window to see she was trying to get away.

I panicked trying to find another shot. Nate had started with 3 in his gun, but he shot them all. Nate hit the 6th shot - he shot it! He had good luck because someone had told him after his last hunt not to worry about missing. His friend around seven before he got one. Nate was proud and his older brother was going to be green with envy.

Finally, I found two more shells in the bottom of my buck pack. We bailed out of the War Wagon and headed to the deer. Fortunately the deer had only gone about 20 yards. With a quick shot in the neck it was over and Nate's one-year-old buck was in my hands.

We tagged her trophy and loaded to deer camp. As we checked the deer Nate looked up at me as a sign of respect one at a time. Afterwards he sat around and enjoyed an outdoor camp fire. Life was good and Nate was one proud little boy.



**Journaling is a great way to record those cherished memories. Reading entries years later will bring back forgotten details and allow the trip to be "re-lived."** Photo by Aaron Welch

## We want to hear from you!

We are looking for hunt club members to submit questions (wildlife management, forestry, hunting, etc.), ideas for articles, comments, and photos to include in future newsletters. We would also like to feature different Weyerhaeuser hunting clubs in our newsletter. If you have something of interest for us or are interested in having your club profiled, please send an email to [MSALHunting@Weyerhaeuser.com](mailto:MSALHunting@Weyerhaeuser.com) and we will work with you to get a story on your club into a future newsletter - *Editor*

## FISHING SAFETY TIPS

The weather turns warmer and many folks begin thinking about fishing. While we often hear about the importance of hunting safety, when is the last time anyone talked about remaining safe while fishing? The fact is that any outdoor activities has risks and thinking about these risks ahead of time can keep a great day on the water into turning into something unpleasant at best and deadly at worst. Here are some fishing safety tips from <http://www.takemefishing.org/fishing/fishopedia/fishing-safety/fishing-safety-tips> (modified slightly). Remember, the 2 goals of any outdoor adventure should be to (1) have fun and (2) return home safely at the end of the trip!! Remember to THINK SAFE! – *Editor*

1. If using a boat to fish, wear a life jacket and make sure each passenger wears one, too.
2. Inspect waterfronts daily—the natural environment is subject to change without notice.
3. Don't fish in areas where it is not permitted. These areas have been declared “off limits” to protect wildlife, vegetation, or for your safety.
4. When choosing a site for fishing, always consider safety factors. Because fishing is practiced in a variety of environments, evaluate factors specific to safety in each environment.
5. Weather is always a factor. Be prepared for bad weather and do not fish in thunderstorms.
6. Bring along extra safety items such as water, flashlights, maps, and a cell phone or radio.
7. Be aware of heat-related illnesses (heat stress and heat stroke) and take along plenty of cool water to drink.
8. Always wear footwear appropriate to the conditions.
9. Stay dry, warm and protected from the elements. Wear a waterproof sunscreen with an SPF (sun protection factor) of at least 15. Wear thin layers of clothing that progress outward to include water and wind protection as the final layer.
10. Use appropriate insect protection measures, including proper clothing and repellents.
11. Keep fishing knives sharp and cover the blade when not in use.
12. Handle fish carefully.
13. Use safety glasses when casting.
14. Use caution when baiting and removing hooks.
15. Drinking and boating do not mix – ever.