

Catfish come at a surprise time

My buddy Chris and I went white perch fishing and a catfishing trip broke out. We were acting on a hot fishing tip about perch being caught using bottom rigs and shrimp. I'm more of a beetle spin kind of guy but I can adapt.

Chris and I are both morning people so we were fishing before sunrise and had already eaten breakfast. Our first fish came quickly, I was thinking "wow the hot tip was correct" and then when the fish broke the surface it was easy to tell it wasn't a perch. Based on my limited catfish identifying skills it was a Blue catfish. I've heard of some being around but had never actually caught one. For the next two hours the bite was on, we drifted out of the fish a couple of times but were able to get back on them. The fish ranged from too small to keep to about five pounds, mostly blues but with a White cat and a few small White perch thrown in. Just as soon as the sun cleared the trees the fun was over. I can't wait to get back and give those cats a try at night.

For years I thought I was catching Channel catfish. I'm just warming to the idea that they might have been White catfish. Now we add Blues to the mix. According to ncwildlife.org Blue catfish are native to the Mississippi River basin and have been introduced into the larger rivers in North

Do It Outdoors



Wade Betts

Carolina. Sometimes it's hard to tell Channel cats and Blue cats apart. Blues will be blueish-grey on their backs fading to white on their sides and belly. Coloration on Channel catfish is similar but may also be olive and or yellowish, Channel cats also have black spots on their sides. To further complicate things, older, larger channel cats often lose their spots. The surefire way to tell the difference is to look at the anal fins. Anal fins on Blue catfish will be straight edged and have 30 to 36 rays. On a Channel cat the anal fin will have a curve edge and have between 24 and 29 rays.

Whites, Blues and Channel cats are all good to eat and after skinning and filleting they all look the same. However in our area it is recommended that women of childbearing age and children not eat catfish at all and others should eat only one meal per month due to the chemical dioxin. For more info contact the N. C. Dept. of Health and Human Services or see epi.publichealth.nc.gov and click on fish consumption advisories.

Be on the lookout for a more in-depth column on Albemarle area catfish. I'm going to get in touch with an inland fisheries biologist maybe they can help me tell a White from a Blue. One thing for sure a pile of fried catfish filets might just turn even me into a fish eater.

Fishing duo finishes second overall

BY PETER WILLIAMS
News Editor

The Perquimans County High School fishing duo of Dylan Valousky and Timmy Estep managed to finish in second place overall in the series points championship.

The season wrapped up Aug. 6 with a bass fishing tournament in Plymouth.

Valousky and Estep missed out on first place by two points for the season.

For the Plymouth tournament, they caught 8.32 pounds of fish, but suffered a .25 pound penalty because one of the fish was dead.

All but one of the Perquimans teams brought in fish to weigh-in. They caught a lot of them, but

they just weren't able to tell the keepers. In Plymouth, Dawan Skinner and Kevin Spivey caught just over four pounds and Austin Overton and Caleb Richardson caught about 2.5 pounds. Luke Fuller was fishing with Nathan Scaff who filled in for Colton Meads, and they were unable to bring any keepers to weigh-in.

It's the first season PCHS has field a fishing team. Lifejackets were supplied by the NC Wildlife Resource Commission. The PCHS season included the largest fish caught in the Youth Educational Series (YES).

Here is a season recap for the PCHS team.

- Third place at Jordan Lake - Austin Overton/Nick Foley
- Fifth place at Jordan

Lake - Luke Fuller/Colton Meads

- Second place at Lake Gaston - Dylan Valousky/Timmy Estep

- Tournament Lunker at Lake Gaston - Dylan Valousky (6.42lbs - also biggest fish of the YES)

- Fifth place at Pembroke - Dylan Valousky/Timmy Estep

- First place at Falls Lake - Dylan Valousky/Timmy Estep

- Fourth place at Roanoke River - Dylan Valousky/Timmy Estep

- Eighth place at NC Student Angler Federation High School State Championship - Dylan Valousky/Timmy Estep

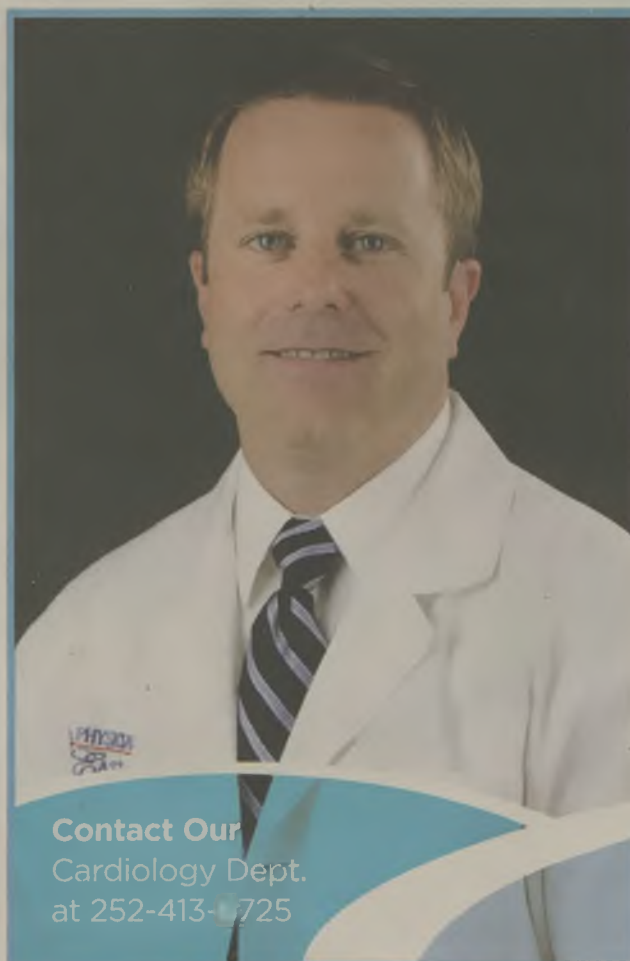
- Second place overall YES Points Championship - Dylan Valousky/Timmy Estep

- New YES weight record (22.51lbs) - Dylan Valousky/Timmy Estep.

ALBEMARLE URGENT CARE

NO Appointment Necessary • Walk-In
On-Site Lab & X-rays • Sports & DOT Physicals
Open 7 Days A Week
Most Insurance Plans Welcome
Mon - Fri 8am - 7pm • Sat - Sun 8am - 4pm

252.482.6100
709 N Broad Street, Edenton
www.albemarleurgentcare.com



Contact Our
Cardiology Dept.
at 252-413-6725

Physicians East Welcomes

Christopher Gregory, MD

We are proud to welcome Dr. Christopher Gregory to the Physicians East Department of Cardiology. A native of Hertford, NC, Dr. Gregory has spent his entire professional career serving eastern North Carolina. Dr. Gregory received his Bachelor's degree from UNC-Chapel Hill before attending East Carolina University Brody School of Medicine in Greenville, NC. He completed his residency in Internal and Family Medicine at Eastern Virginia Medical School before returning to East Carolina University for fellowship training in both Interventional Cardiology and Cardiovascular Diseases. Dr. Gregory is board certified in Internal Medicine, Family Medicine, Cardiovascular Medicine and Interventional Cardiology. His work has received numerous awards and honors in his already distinguished career. In his free time, Dr. Gregory enjoys watching college sports and spending time with his wife, Lauren.

PHYSICIANS EAST

PhysiciansEast.com

TIMBERMILL WIND



For more than two years, the Timbermill Wind team has worked to develop the best possible renewable energy project for northeastern North Carolina, one that is capable of furthering the region's reputation for clean energy.

Timbermill Wind exceeds the health and safety requirements of Chowan and Perquimans Counties' ordinances in every possible way. This has been confirmed by consulting firms hired by the counties to look over the project applications.

Once built, Timbermill Wind will safely and reliably provide decades of tax revenue for area schools and government services.

We are proud of this and are thankful for the support and endorsements we've received from local individuals and organizations. Timbermill Wind appreciates the opportunity to become a part of these wonderful communities!



To learn more about Timbermill Wind, visit www.timbermillwind.com or stop by our local office at 109 Market Street in Hertford Monday through Thursday between 10 a.m. and 3 p.m.

APEX
CLEAN ENERGY