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Issue 236

March/April 2014



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Cover Photo

With the bad weather the past few months, great fish pictures are hard to come by. Robert Lane did catch two real nice small-mouth bass on the New River on one of the nicer days.

Stonewall Jackson Lake will be open to bass fishing tournaments this season. Look for an entry form in this issue.

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Early Trout Fishing

Trout stocking has been well underway in the state for several weeks now which means that it's time for you to get out there and do a little trout fishing! These tips for trout fishing in the early spring will help to ensure that you go home with a full creel.

Use An Ultralight Rod And Reel

Combo

Although trout in the early spring are a little less "finicky" than they will be in the forthcoming weeks it is still important to understand that you can't just throw any old lure or live bait out there and expect to get a bite. Water temperatures are often not much warmer than 40 F and visibility is often very poor due to rapid spring currents. Knowing this, you'll want to equip yourself with an ultralight rod and reel combo and use 4-6 lb test monofilament. Lighter weight test monofilament is more difficult for trout to see and helps to reduce drag in rapidly moving water. As far as rod and reel are concerned, I personally use a 5 foot long Ugly Stick with an Orvis No. 1 Spin reel. The ultra light action Ugly Stick is sensitive enough to feel even the most subtle of strikes from timid spring trout.

Spring Trout Bait

continue to the next page



Matt Armentrout used a bow in Pendelton Co. for this buck.

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Alex Bentley got a 6 point in Cabell County.

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As far as using live bait to catch early spring trout is concerned, you can't go wrong with using either trout worms or small live minnows hooked to a single size 4 – 8 fishing hook. I've also had a great deal of success using Berkley Powerbait to catch trout in the early spring as well as throughout the entirety of the trout fishing season. I have found that the Chartreuse Power Nuggets seem to work the best. You'll want to use just enough split-shot sinkers to submerge your bait between 12 – 18 inches above the bottom of the water body in which you are fishing. Don't use too much weight however as you want to allow your bait to have as much natural movement as possible.

Spring Trout Lures

You'll want to be sure that you have a wide variety of shiny and brightly colored trout fishing lures on hand before you head out. Ice melts and rainstorms cause spring water to move rapidly and appear murky so the shinier the lure the better. I am mostly familiar with trout fishing in the Berkshires as well as trout fishing in the Farmington Valley area of Connecticut so I am going to tell you what lures work best in these particular areas. It could very well be that these fishing lures will work well for you



Chase Canterbury, from Fayetteville, landed a 24 3/4" rainbow.

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throughout the rest of the country, when in doubt, just go down to your local tackle shop and ask around! I have had the best luck by far when using the following trout lures;
 1/32 – 1/8 Ounce chartreuse Rooster Tail
 1/4 Ounce gold Thomas Buoyant
 1/4 Ounce Daredevil, the original red and white one

I have also had some degree of luck with different colored varia- continue to the next page



Austin King, from Poca, hooked a 6 1/2 pound rainbow trout.

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ations of the above mentioned lures and before you throw stones at me for not mentioning the Panther Martin, let me just say that although the Panther Martin trout lure has worked well for others, it has not worked well for me!

When fishing for trout in the early spring using lures I tend to cast and then reel in the lure at a medium to somewhat slow pace. If I'm using a spoon such as the Thomas Buoyant or Daredevil then I will gently pulling back the rod tip as I reel in the lure in order to produce a wounded minnow-like effect.

The DNR trout stocking program is active currently. Good luck this season.



Tyler Cain, from Arnoldsburg, harvested a 7 point in Calhoun Co..

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Spring Bluegill Spawn

Spring is an excellent time to catch monster bluegills. With the hardships of winter ending, the bluegill's attention turns toward feasting to gather energy for the bluegill spawn. Conditions are optimal for a fisherman to take advantage of this frenzy of activity since the bluegills will be less cautious and more voracious than any other time of the year.

Pre-spawn activities begin when the water temperatures approach 60 degrees. The bluegills will move up from the deep winter haunts following weed lines, dead-falls and whatever other cover they can utilize to make a stealthy move to the shallows. They will take every opportunity to feed and build strength for the rigors of nest building, attracting a mate and defending the

brood. During this time very little can interrupt the feeding frenzy, only prolonged cold snaps will slow them down.

The spawn will follow the feeding phase when waters warm a bit more. The males will move into the nesting sites and start to prepare a nest to draw a mate. The nests usually appear as light colored "elephant tracks" surrounded by the darker bottom all around. The bigger females remain close to the nesting site in the adjacent deeper water. After the water warms a few more degrees, the spawning begins with the females moving in to deposit their eggs in the prepared nests and then returning to the deeper water. Males remain on the nests after the eggs have been deposited and fertilized to protect them from preda-

tors. They are scrappy fighters that will take on fish much bigger than themselves such as bass and catfish to keep their young safe. At this time they are more likely to attack your jig just to move it out of their nest rather than to eat the bait. The end result is the same though, a
continue to the next page



Steve Lanham caught a 7.2 pound rainbow at Riddenour Lake.

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hooked bluegill.

These shallow bluegills will be spooked easily, so whether you shore fish, wade or go by boat tread carefully and quietly. Spooked fish may remain on the nest but will develop lock jaw that will frustrate the bahgeebers out of you.

Please practice responsible fishing when targeting nesting bluegills. They are very vulnerable and can be decimated at this time. Removing all of the large males can actually irreversibly affect an entire population of bluegills. In effect, you are artificially altering the natural selection process that produced the big guys in the first place. Once the DNA for big bluegills is lost, it cannot be replaced in that pond or lake without introducing new fish and allowing them to disperse their genetics. That could take years and may cause other problems if not done correctly. By only harvesting some of your catch and releasing many of the larger bluegill, you can have a feast while allowing the fish to continue to finish the mating process.



Chuck Spears, from Cairo, harvested an 11 point in Ritchie County.

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Ethan McCallister used a bow for this massive buck.

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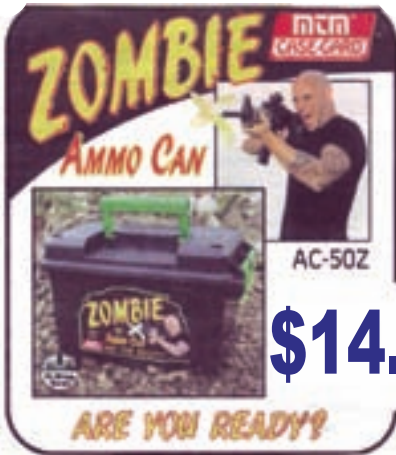


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Justin Bunner shot a nice 10 point buck. Photo courtesy of Holbert's Store in Big Bend.



Cory Szabo brought in a nice 10 point. Photo courtesy of Crossroads General Store near Newark.

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Spring Crappie Fishing Tips

It has been a long hard winter and one of the most anticipated events in the spring is wetting a line on open water. While ice fishing is fun and productive, there is nothing like being out in the boat after taking a few months off. What really adds to the open water fishing experience is the thrill of catching

slab crappies.

There are many fishermen who wait in the spring for the crappies to move in to spawn. Don't get me wrong; if you find crappies on their spawning beds, the fishing can be fantastic! But why wait to the spawn when you can have your cake and eat it too. Crappie fishing right after ice out can be equally rewarding.

The water temperature right after ice out will be very frigid. After a few bright warm sunny days the

lakes ecosystem will start to come alive. Many crappies in the early spring will be found deep. These deep water spots typically will be the last spots the ice fisherman were having success. By using light jigs and minnows in these deep-water spots, chances are you will have good success. But if you are really looking for fast action think shallow water.

As the water starts warming up, the insects will start hatching and continue to the next page



Mike Bonnet landed a Niagara River king salmon. *Photo courtesy of Sparky's Charters in NY.*

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small baitfish will move closer to shore. When that happens the crappies will move in right behind the food to feed. The best thing about early season crappie fishing is that the best times of the day to be out is during the peak of late afternoon and early evening when the weather is the nicest. Every lake is different, but the best early season lakes are the more shallow and muddy bottom lakes because they tend to warm up quicker.

If the lake has a small bay or channel the crappies will be drawn in there like magnets. Fallen trees, sticks brush and last years weeds will attract more insects that are hatching that the crappies will feed upon. This combination will become your "A" fishing spot. The water temp that typically starts this early season action is about 50 degrees. There are many fishermen who incorrectly think the crappies at this time are coming in to spawn. They are simply coming in to feed at this time. Crappies will move in to spawn a little later in the spring when the water temperature is about 65 degrees.

There are many fishermen that will use a jig and minnow. They will catch fish, but if you really want the fast action switch your presentation to a tube jig. The best depths typically here are about 6

continue to the next page

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Dale Ritchea got a 12 point in Ohio County.



Cliff Jones harvested an nice 8 point in Wood County.



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feet or less. When you rig your tube jig, place a small bobber a foot and a half up from the jig. Cast and retrieve it slow. The bobber basically simply keeps your jig at the same depth. In detecting the bite, crappies will often grab your jig and swim side to side or the bobber will tip up and then move slowly down.

The tube jig body is plastic so give the crappie a little time to suck it down. The best thing about the tube jig is that if you miss you will often get another bite right away. When using minnows for bait, you miss your done.

Once the crappies move in, the action can get very fast. This spring crappie pattern usually lasts a few weeks. After that the crappies move slightly deeper staging for the spawn and then move back in. So why wait for the crappies to spawn? You waited all winter. Early spring crappie fishing is a real bonus. Have Fun!



Paul Jones bagged a nice 8 point. Photo courtesy of Crossroads General Store near Newark.



Ryan Snider harvested an 8 point buck. Photo courtesy of Holbert's Store in Big Bend.

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Ralph Shamblin, from Winfield, caught a musky in Mason Co.

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Three Spring Trout Fishing Tips

The spring of the year means a lot of things to a lot of different people, but one group of people that really get excited as the spring season gets underway are fishermen. While all fishermen begin to get a little “ant-sy” during the spring as they think about heading out onto the water, nowhere is this more true than with trout fishermen. The spring season is the holy grail to many trout fishermen and with good reason as the spring coincides with the beginning of trout season in many areas of the United States.

Below I will draw upon my twenty plus years of experience fishing for trout to outline 3 tips for catching more trout in the spring season. Although the tips themselves are being listed in no particular order, I have found all of them to be extremely effective when fishing for trout, especially during the spring of the year.

A Longer Fishing Rod Is In Order - Many trout fishermen tend not to think much about the length of their fishing rod and this is a big mistake. The reason that this is a mistake is that during the spring of the year you are normally dealing with water conditions that are higher than normal in both lakes and rivers and

continue to the next page

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Wayne Helmick, from Morgantown, went west for a mule deer.



Levi Kessler, from Milton, used a bow for a 10 point buck.

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a longer fishing rod will give you much more "feel" when detecting bites, setting the hook, and fighting trout. This fact is especially true in river fishing scenarios where drift fishing is the technique of choice. Under "normal" river and water conditions you more than likely employ a four to five foot ultralight rod while fishing for trout and during the spring season an ultralight rod that is from six to seven feet is in order.

Smaller Baits Are In Order - No matter what type of trout bait you choose to use for trout during the spring many times smaller is better. So spinners should be in the 1/32 ounce range, spoons should be no larger than 1/4 of an ounce, and any trout jigs should be as small as you can get away with. If you are using live bait or eggs as trout bait, make sure that you employ very small fishing hooks. An example of this rule would be with our friends live worms. During the spring never use an entire night crawler as bait, but rather pinch the night crawler in half or opt instead to use the night

crawlers smaller cousin the red worm as your trout bait choice.

Use The Correct Fly - There is no doubt that when you talk about trout fishing or trout bait you have to mention the use of artificial flies as bait and choosing the correct fly is vitally important during the spring trout season. Whether you are a traditional fly fisherman or are a spin fisherman who uses a casting bubble to fish with artificial flies there are certain fly choices that you need to have at the ready early in the trout season. These flies would include woolly buggers, the freshwater clouser, an egg pattern or two, Adams, blue winged olive parachutes, and a couple of pheasant tail nymphs.

Keep these simple trout fishing tips in mind this spring as you head out on your next trout fishing excursion and you will surely experience more success on the water.



Mike Taylor went to Mason Co. for his 8 point buck.

March/April 2014 ~ Page 17

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Jason Wilson, from Camden, went to Ohio for a giant buck.

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WV Becoming An Outdoors - Woman

SOUTH CHARLESTON, W.Va. - The West Virginia Division of Natural Resources announces that the spring Becoming an Outdoors-Woman (BOW) Workshop will be held April 11-14, 2014, at Tygart Lake State Park near Grafton in Taylor County.

“Have you ever wanted to learn a new skill but have never had the opportunity to try?” asked West Virginia BOW Coordinator Billie Shearer of the DNR Wildlife Resources Section. “Or, have you wanted to take up an outdoor sport but were afraid to purchase all the equipment and then find out later that you hated it? Well, the Becoming an Outdoors-Woman Program is definitely for you!” Women who are at least 18 years old can learn a new outdoor skill at this weekend workshop.



Randy Redman hooked a 7 1/4 pound largemouth last year in Marshall County.

This spring BOW Workshop offers outdoor classes that include archery, shooting, overnight camping, fly tying, fly fishing, self-defense, outdoor cooking, and many other topics. A registration fee of \$150 covers lodging, some meals, and some class materials

during the workshop.

For more information or to register for the workshop, contact BOW at 304-558-2771 or billie.j.shearer@wv.gov. The registration form can be downloaded at www.wvdnr.gov/hunting/bow.shtm.

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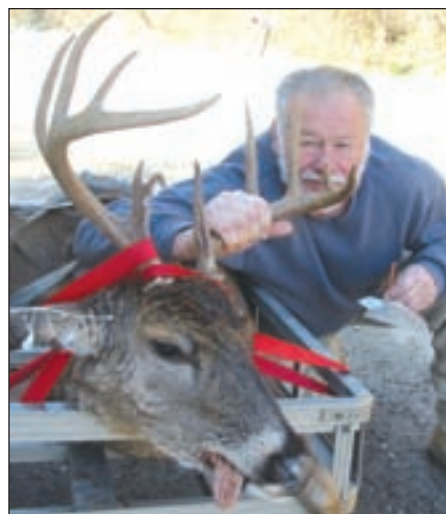
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Chris Elliot had success with this nice 10 point buck Photo courtesy of Reese's Country Store in Deerwalk.



Steve Dunn harvested a double brow 11 point buck Photo courtesy of Reese's Country Store in Deerwalk.



Tom Frame, from Bridgeport, bagged a wide raked buck.



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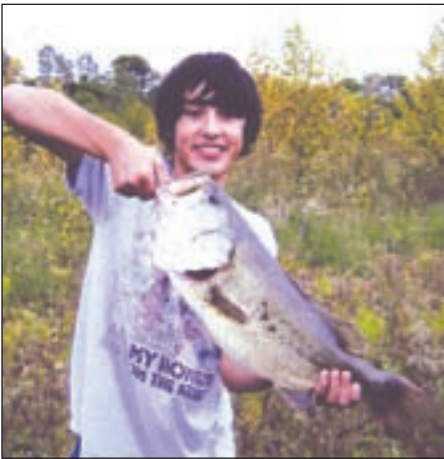
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Danny Schreckengost, from Palestine, used a bow for a big 10 point.



Richard Hughes landed a 6 pound, 10 oz. largemouth bass last fall in Marshall County..



Young Sammy Murphy went to Mountain Meadow Hunting Preserve for this huge wild boar.

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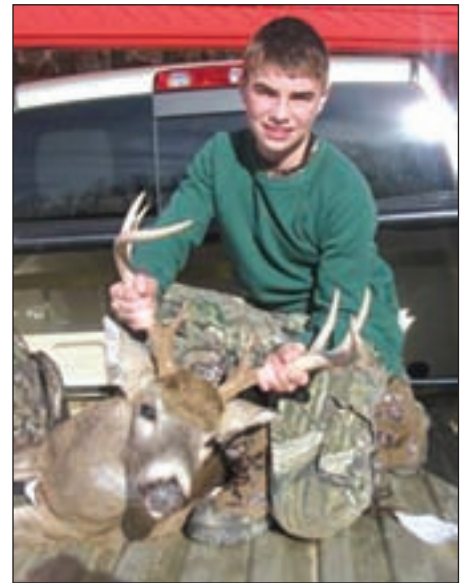
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Mike Sams shot a good 11 point buck. Photo courtesy of Holbert's Store in Big Bend.



Ben Erb tagged a nice 9 point buck. Photo courtesy of Reese's Country Store in Deerwalk.



This young fellow got a nice buck. Photo courtesy of Middle Mountain Sporting Goods in Elkins.

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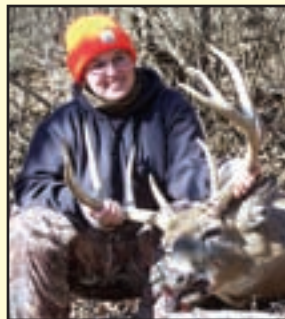
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Sunday Hunting Vote Coming

By Cory Boothe

Sunday Hunting on private land only will be on the ballot this May 13th in Braxton, Calhoun, Gilmer, Lewis, Nicholas, Webster, and Wirt Counties.. If you want the right to hunt on Sunday, you MUST vote. You cannot hope that others pass this for you. If you need, participate with early voting. Please take others who will vote yes with you.

If you do not feel that Sunday hunting is for you, that is fine. Just please do not decide that Sunday hunting is not for me. What I do on my own land, or land I have



Joshua Satterfield, from Pennsboro, got a nice 10 point in Ritchie Co.

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permission to hunt, does not affect you.

44 of 50 states have Sunday hunting. Virginia recently passed this same measure statewide. Nine of the top ten church attendance states have Sunday hunting. 14 of 55 counties in West Virginia have had Sunday hunting for 14 years without a farmer, horseback rider, or hiker shot. As a matter of fact, in the last ten years, over four million licensed hunters have taken to the woods without a single incident of a nonhunter being shot. You are more likely to be hit by lightning that shot by a hunter.

Church and Sunday hunting can coexist. It is perfectly acceptable to hunt before or after church. Hunting is not work, however, it might be the only break from work many people get now of days. In today's

world of six days a week work, a great way to commune with god is by taking a child out in nature for a squirrel hunt on Sunday evening.

Sunday hunting only adds one day to rifle season for deer. It does add numerous days to small game and bow season, along with 3 days a piece to bear and spring turkey. Bag limits stay the same.

In conclusion, get out and vote yes. Stores are open on Sunday, people work on Sunday, professional sports are on Sunday. It is time we can hunt on Sunday.

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Springtime Bass Fishing Ideas

Springtime is the ultimate time of change for bass and bass anglers alike. I realize that many of you reading this just wish the ice would melt from the surface of your favorite fishery, while others in the southern U.S. have already fished your first tournament.

So let's approach it this way, let's base the "early spring" lure selection tips I'm about to share more on water temps than actual calendar dates. We'll talk about what lures you might consider casting when water temps range from 45 to 55 degrees.

I'll begin with one that's easy to fish with, the XCalibur Xr50 lipless crankbait. This is essentially a "cast it out, and wind it in" lure that requires the angler to do very little to make the fish bite it, and it always seems to be at its best when you have aquatic vegetation present. The key, though, is to retrieve it really slowly when water temps are running 45 to 55. I use 15-pound line, and as you may have noticed by what guys were throwing in the recent Bassmaster Classic, the color Rayburn Red is a great shade to throw in early spring.

The next choice is one that is legendary on lakes where shad and rocky shorelines are present. It's

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the suspending Rogue. It's famous because it works. And the reason it works is because it impersonates the many dying or slow moving shad that are present in really cold water. A lot of anglers struggle with suspending jerkbaits like the Rogue because they can be a little difficult to cast, and they work best only when you pause them for several seconds between slight jerks or pops of the rod tip. Some anglers aren't patient enough to pause as long as they need to, but you definitely need to pause a couple of seconds before you jerk it or turn the reel handle. Rogues work best on light, 8-pound line, and you'll have an easier time casting them if you use a spinning reel.

Lastly, and this one totally de-

pends on the angler to impart any action on it, but it's a great one in cold water – it's the old skool rubber skirted jig. I like a 3/8-ounce jig with plenty of strands in the skirt when the water is 45 to 55 degrees, and if you can find one that has the strands made of rubber versus silicone – that's even better in cold water. A jig is big time versatile. You can drag it on the bottom like a slow moving crawfish where the original creek or river channel swings closest to the rocky shoreline, or you can pitch it into a shallow tree resting along the shoreline. And with a jig in hand, you may just catch the biggest bass of your life.

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JR Rooker, from Alderson, caught a 6 pound, 2 oz. smallmouth bass in mid-December.

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Cold Weather Bass Fishing

Myths come in all shapes and sizes – and truths do too for that matter.

There's the myth that a penny tossed off the top of the Empire State Building can penetrate the concrete sidewalk below (false). There's also the myth that a duck's quack doesn't echo (true).

Not surprisingly, bass fishing has its own set of myths: Bass don't eat topwaters when it's sunny, big fish only eat big lures and so on. Winter fishing seems to take myths to a whole new level. Maybe the long hours in freezing cold numbs the mind as much as it does the hands, but one could write an article about how many myths there are regarding this chilly time of year – and whether or not they're true.

So we did.

Myth: You can't catch fish shallow in winter

Truth:



Geraldine McKinney, from Wilsondale, got an 11 point buck.

in the winter, where water temperatures are more stable and can be higher than in the shallows. Yet certain shallows with the right characteristics will offer the warmest water, and that compels bass to feed more often.

Pro's Comment:

"This is the biggest myth that I've ever heard," OFF! pro Terry Bolton says. "I catch a lot of fish shallow even when the water temperatures are in the low 40s and upper 30s in 2 feet of water. The shallows just have to be close to deep water."

How to debunk the myth:

Bolton seeks out 45-degree banks with deep water nearby. The other

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stipulation is that the banks have to have large chunk rock.

"The fish will always be around these areas because of how much heat those rocks hold [and subsequently stimulate the food chain from the bottom up]," Bolton says.

Other factors such as wind and sunlight also affect the water temperature on certain banks. For instance, chilly wind from a cold front blowing across an open basin can push cold water into a shoreline, while waves lapping against a bank in more typical weather can stir up sediment that causes the wa-

continue to the next page

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ter temperature on certain banks. For instance, chilly wind from a cold front blowing across an open basin can push cold water into a shoreline, while waves lapping against a bank in more typical weather can stir up sediment that causes the water to hold heat a little longer. And when the sun is lowest in the morning and evening, some banks will be shaded while others receive direct sunlight, depending on the terrain, trees lining the shoreline and the angle of the bank. It's often best to target the sunniest banks in the morning, and to wait to fish shaded banks until later in the day, when the sun position has changed or the air temperature has risen.

To catch fish, Bolton ties on a Rapala Shad Rap, puts the nose of his boat almost on the bank and makes parallel casts to the bank, slowly reeling in his lure. This allows him

to keep the crankbait in the shallow strike zone throughout the entire retrieve, while also determining if the fish are right against the rocks or holding just off of them.



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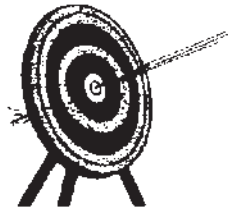


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Raven Starkey enjoyed her nice buck she took.



William Wallace used a bow for this quality buck.



William Stoneking, from Williamstown, brought in an 8 point buck.

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Cory Boothe used a bow in Nicholas Co. for a nice 10 point buck.

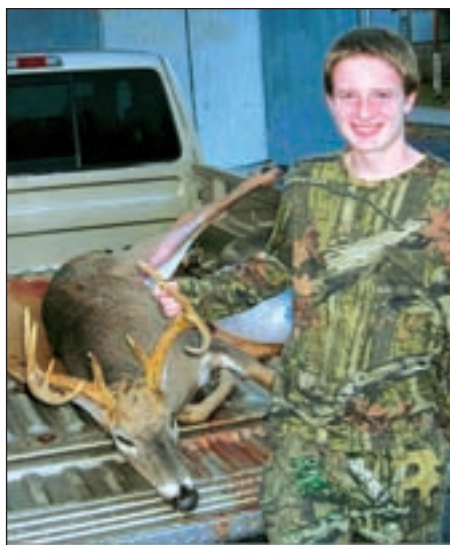


Young Braiden Short, from Philippi, shot a nice buck.

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Noah Hoskinson won the annual bow contest in Shinnston. *Photo courtesy of J&R Sporting Goods in Shinnston.*

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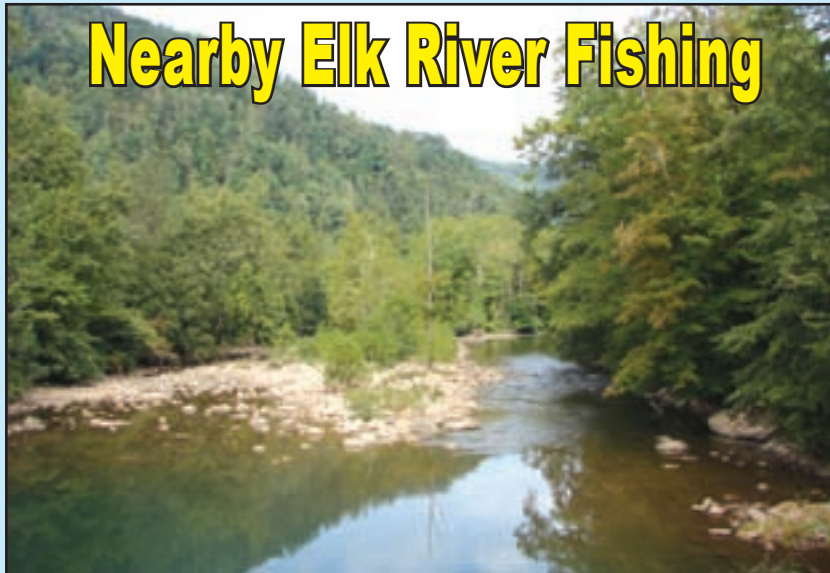


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Hanah Bowser shot a quality 8 point buck. Photo courtesy of Reese's Country Store in Deerwalk.



Chad Prather harvested a wide racked buck in Wirt County.



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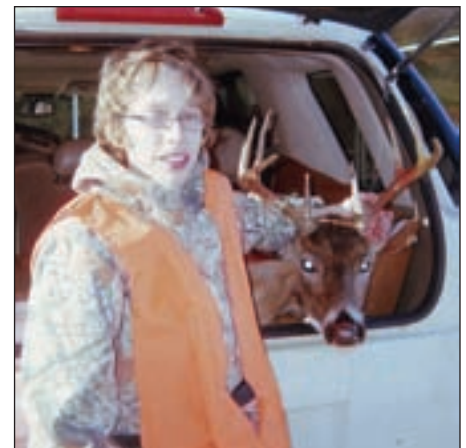
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Tim Fluharty bagged his 1st buck. Photo courtesy of Holbert's Store in Big Bend.

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Bassmaster Classic 2014 Winner

BIRMINGHAM, Ala. — Every angler dreams of catching bass after giant bass like Randy Howell did on Sunday.

Howell began hauling in Lake Guntersville lunkers minutes into the final round of the GEICO Bassmaster Classic presented by Diet Mountain Dew and GoPro. He lost track of how many culls he was able to make, but at one point he was trading 4- and 5-pounders for even larger bass.

When Howell brought his bag to the scales, his five bass weighed 29 pounds, 2 ounces, with the largest going 7-3. The banner day beefed up his total to 67 pounds, 8 ounce-



Randy Howell is given a confetti shower after winning the 2014 Bassmaster Classic.

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GAME CHECKING

es.

"I don't even know if I'm going to win, but it doesn't matter," Howell said before all the 25 finalists came to the scales. "It was the best day I've ever had in 21 years of professional bass fishing, a day of a lifetime."

But his day did get better: He became the world champion, the 2014 Bassmaster Classic champ.

"I've had this dream so many times, and it's happening now. I can't believe I won the Bassmaster Classic. I don't win tournaments very often," said Howell as he was announced the winner.

Howell is a two-time Bassmaster event winner, including a 2013 Bass Pro Shops Bassmaster Northern Open presented by Allstate event that earned him his 2014 Classic qualification.

Sunday's victory — Howell's first after 11 other tries as a Classic competitor — was worth \$300,000 and the most coveted trophy in the sport. From Springville, Ala., Howell became only the second

continue to the next page

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Jimmie Williams brought in a big bobcat. Photo courtesy of Reese's Country Store in Deerwalk.

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angler to win the Classic in his home state.

Howell edged out B.A.S.S. Nation qualifier Paul Mueller of Naugatuck, Conn., by 1 pound. Mueller, who on Day 2 set a new one-day Classic weight record at 32-3, totaled 66-8 for second place.

Third place was claimed by second-day leader Edwin Evers of Talala, Okla., with 65-11. Fourth was Ott DeFoe of Knoxville, Tenn., with 63-6, including the day's largest bass, an 8-4. First-day leader Randall Tharp of Port St. Joe, Fla., finished in fifth place at 62-12.

Howell repeatedly used the words "perfect" and "effortless" to describe his day on Lake Gunter-



Shawn King, from Hurricane landed a 24 3/4" rainbow trout.

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ville.

"I caught my first one on my second or third cast," he said. "I caught one almost every cast or two and had a limit in the first 10 or 15 minutes. It was quick. It would have been quicker if I hadn't had to stop and retie every time because of the rocks."

The rocks were the riprap up against a causeway bridge on Spring Creek. That early flurry included releasing eight 4-pounders.

Howell spent most of his time on the riprap. He moved only once,

going farther back into the creek to a grassy area. The move yielded a 6-pounder and allowed him to cull a 4-pounder. He then motored back to the riprap. His largest was a 7-3. It was his fourth bass of the day and the one that told him he'd made the right decision to go to Spring Creek.

His Classic lure arsenal included a Livingston Lures model being developed within the Pro Series. Not yet available to the public, it's a medium diver in a crawfish color.

continue to the next page



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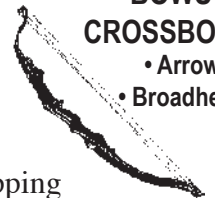
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He also used a Rapala DT6 crank-bait in the "demon" crawfish color and a Yamamoto bladed jig.

"I went out this morning believing I could win," the champ said. "That's the weirdest thing. Typically, I would never be in 11th place and 9 pounds back and think I had a chance to win. But for some reason I had the feeling I could win on Spring Creek — that something big would happen there."

Fred Roumbanis' 9-3 largemouth from Day 1 won the event's Carhartt Big Bass Award of \$1,000 plus \$1,500 for wearing Carhartt clothing.

Howell earned a \$7,500 Toyota Bonus Bucks award.

Tharp received the Day 1 GEICO Everyday Leader Award of \$1,000 plus \$1,500 for having a GEICO decal on his boat's windshield. Evers won the same bonus on Day 2.

World Record Trout Not Official

A Minnesota angler was on top of the world after a recent ice-fishing expedition across the border in Ontario, Canada, during which he reeled in an enormous lake trout that weighed 52 pounds, 3 ounces. Rob Scott's enthusiasm was understandable. It was the largest trout he had ever tangled with, by far, and he'd later learn that the 45-inch fish was nearly 24 pounds heavier than the existing world record for a tip-up-caught lake trout.

(Tip-ups are wood or plastic devices, with a spool of line, attached to a flag that raises to signal a strike; the angler then brings in the line with his hands.)

But three weeks after the February 8 catch on the Ontario side of Lac la Croix, Scott finds himself

the subject of an Ontario Ministry of Natural Resources investigation, his fish-of-a-lifetime seized as evidence.

It's not venturing far on a limb to state that Scott will not be credited with a world record, and that he faces a possible fine and/or a restriction of fishing privileges.

Why so much fuss? A simple explanation is that the catch appears to have put Scott one fish over the legal limit.

It turns out that also on February 8, before catching the behemoth, he landed a 4-pound lake trout, and the Ontario daily bag limit for the species is one per day.

What's interesting, though, is how the 65-year-old U.S. Navy veteran was caught.

After landing the giant trout, he
continue to the next page



Bill Ray (r) brought in a 166 7/8 score buck from Pendelton Co.

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Brenda Lee used a bow for this buck. Photo courtesy of Trappers Den in Cowen.



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the 4-pound trout to another angler, and toted the big fish back to Minnesota via snowmobile. He had only one trout in possession, and seemed home free.

But two officers with the Ontario Ministry of Natural Resources had checked Scott's fishing license on February 8, before he landed the 52-pounder. They had noticed the 4-pound trout.

It was not until one of the officers saw a newspaper report on the monster catch, however, that he recalled his encounter with Scott, and making note of the 4-pound trout. The officers contacted the Minnesota Department of Natural Resources, which helped track down Scott and his fish, which was being stored by a taxidermist. The fish was scheduled to be delivered by the DNR to the MNR, where it would be stored as evidence.

Late last week the Minnesota Star Tribune quoted Scott as saying there was nothing malicious about his actions, and that he was not trying to hide anything.

"I called the Ontario officers and said I owed them an apology," Scott said. "It wasn't illegal for me to keep fishing after I caught the first trout. But when I caught the bigger fish, with the adrenaline and everything I had going, and the fact that it wasn't going to survive if I released it, I figured if I gave the smaller fish away, that would be OK."

Scott explained that the big trout probably would have died if it'd had been released, because of the prolonged struggle.

Officers are not talking about the



Giant trout does not get the world record for this 52 pound giant.



Fred Hammond had success with this nice buck..

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Online Registration For Small Bass Events

ROANOKE, W.Va. - A new online registration system is available for fishing tournaments at Stonewall Jackson Lake in Lewis County, according to Bret Preston, assistant chief of the Division of Natural Resources Wildlife Resources Section. The online system is for tournaments composed of 10 or fewer boats at the lake. A change in the bass regulations this year from catch-and-release allows for fishing tournaments with weigh-ins. A lottery drawing for large tournaments was held in January and those tournaments are scheduled for 2014.

Tournament organizers may access the online system at www.wvdnr.gov under the "Fishing" section for the tournament guidelines and the tournament registration page. Tournament organizers can complete the registration page and submit the application. Applications are accepted on a first-come, first-served basis. If approved, tournament permits will be issued by the Division of Natural Resources.



Derrick Dillon landed an early mucky. Photo courtesy of PC Bait in Hinton.



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'00 HONDA GOLDWING.....	\$7,199	\$4,899
'12 HONDA FOREMAN 4x4.....	\$5,999	\$5,399
'12 HONDA CRF250R.....	\$6,849	\$5,499
'12 KAWASAKI TERYX.....	\$9,199	\$6,999
'06 POLARIS RANGER 700.....	\$6,399	\$4,999
'11 POLARIS 800 EFI.....	\$6,599	\$5,499
'10 POLARIS 800 RANGER CREW.....	\$9,949	\$8,799
'11 POLARIS 800 RANGER CREW.....	\$9,999	\$8,999
'12 YAMAHA FZ6R.....	\$5,699	\$4,999
'11 YAMAHA 700 RAPTOR.....	\$6,899	\$5,999
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