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Issue 217

April 2012



**INSIDE THIS ISSUE**

**Turkey  
TIPS**

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NEWS**

**DNR  
Updates**

**Outdoor Photos**

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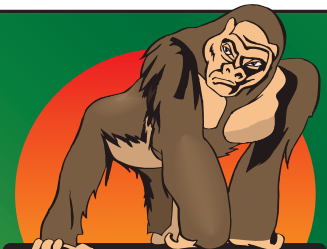
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## Magazine

**Volume 1 Issue 217**

Publisher and Editor  
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Contributing Editors  
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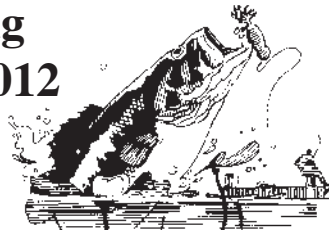
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## Cover Photo

A 6 1/2 pound brook trout was reeled in by Jay Sessions. Fishing has been outstanding all over the state due to the early spring.

Mail in your big fish pictures to this magazine. Email or mail to the info on page 38.

This magazine is online each month: [www.wvasportsman.net](http://www.wvasportsman.net)  
Back issues are there too. It's free to view each month.

*Photo courtesy of Middle Mountain Sporting Goods in Elkins.*



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## TBF Co-Angler Winner

31.Mar.2012

BRANSON, Mo. – Gilbert Gagner of Highgate Springs, Vt., weighed a five-bass limit totaling 13 pounds, 10 ounces Saturday to win the TBF National Championship event on Bull Shoals Lake with a three-day total of 15 bass weighing 35 pounds, 5 ounces. For his victory, Gagner earned the \$100,000 “Living the Dream” prize package which includes entry into the 2013 FLW Tour.

Gilbert spent 20 years trying to qualify for the TBF National Championship and when all the fish were weighed he was in a tie with second-place finisher Jeff Erickson of Phoenix, Ariz. TBF rules state that in a tie the first tie-breaker is the total number of fish caught. Each had 15. The next tie-breaker is the total

number of fish weighed alive. All 15 of Gilbert’s fish were weighed alive, while Erickson only weighed 14 of his 15 alive.

“This is a great honor for me,” said the choked-up Gagner. “Stuff like this doesn’t happen to people like me. I was just thrilled to be competing in the TBF National Championship and just came to fish. I didn’t care how I finished. I was just honored to be here.

“I had a really horrible practice ... didn’t catch a fish,” Gagner went on to say. “I was moving way too fast and tried to force feed the fish. Come tournament time I slowed way down and that is what made the difference. During the competition I was able to make meticulous casts to the base of bushes and let the bait sit.

“The first two days I fished the  
continue to the next page

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Gene and Roseanna Hines



Gary Jones shot a big buck. Photo courtesy Of Crossroads General Store near Newark.

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Tyler Webb, from Arnett, won the co-angler award at the Bass Federation National Champonship. He had 30.6 pounds for three days.

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same area using Senkos. Today, I moved to a new area and started throwing a jig. The lake is up about 8 feet, so I found the lip of where the lake is normally and fished a submerged ledge where the bass were just getting ready to spawn.”

For his efforts Gagner won the \$100,000 “Living the Dream” prize package, including cash and prizes, fully paid entry fees into the FLW tour, travel funds and use of a wrapped Ranger Boat and Chevrolet truck for the year.

Rounding out the top seven pros:  
 2nd: Jeff Erickson, Phoenix, Ariz., 35-5  
 3rd: Miles Burghoff, Orlando, Fla., 35-2  
 4th: Marc Snyder, St. Johns, Mich., 33-0  
 5th: Steve Hughes, Rimersburg, Pa., 31-3  
 6th: Brian Maloney, Osage Beach, Mo., 29-13  
 7th: Brandon Glass, Resaca, Ga., 28-15  
 Webb nets co-angler title Tyler Webb of Arnett, W. Va., won the Co-angler Division with a three-day total of 30 pounds, 6 ounces.

Rounding out the top seven co-anglers:  
 2nd: Robert Hime, Odessa, Mo.,



Denver Mullenix, from Harrisville, shot a wide-racked 10 point buck.



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29-12  
 3rd: Wesley Taylor, Decherd, Tenn., 28-13  
 4th: Chris Lambert, Olympia, Wash., 19-3  
 5th: Robert Cox, Tippecanoe, Ohio, 18-2

6th: Karl Beltz, Tucson, Ariz., 15-8  
 7th: Gary Kurensky, Bridgeport, Conn., 10-12  
 For complete details and updated information visit the BassFederation.com website.

## BASS SPORTSMAN 2012 - TEAM TOURNAMENTS

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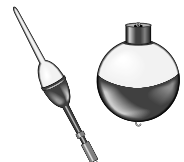
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## Holly River State Park Events

HACKER VALLEY, W.Va. – Holly River State Park in Hacker Valley, Webster County, has been a family favorite for decades for camping, picnicking, fishing, and staying in a cabin in the spring, summer or fall for vacation. Now is the time to begin planning for a spring and summer schedule of free and fun events at the park. “We have many family oriented activities for park visitors that are open to the public at no charge,” said Park Supt. Ken McClintic.

Holly River activities in the summer of 2012 include hikes led by the park naturalist, night-hikes, hayrides, and campfire programs. Specialty activities such as knot tying, fly tying, and outdoor cooking are often scheduled. Holly River hosts special events “Wings of Wonder – Birds of Prey” on July 6 and Irish Road Bowling on October 6.

Special Spring and Summer Activities at Holly River State Park

In May and June, Trout Unlimited conducts an education presentation at 10 a.m. Visitors meet at the Trout Pond to learn about West Virginia’s State Fish (the brook trout) and the Centennial (Golden) trout. This ac-



Travis Greenlief landed an early musky. *Photo courtesy of Husky Musky Guide in Jane Lew.*



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tivity is scheduled on May 25, 26, 27, 28, 31; June 1, 2, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9, 12, 13, 14, 15, 16, 19, 20, 21, 22, continue to the next page

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23, 26, 27, 28, 29 and 30.

Fundamentals of Fly Fishing class is scheduled at the activities building at noon on June 30. July and August dates will be posted on-line.

Lou Maiuri will be calling square dancing and line dances on Friday, June 15, at 7:30 p.m. in the Old Pavillion. "Knowing how to dance isn't necessary," McClintic said. "Maiuri teaches and calls the dances. It is good fun for families and visitors of any age."

Maiuri is an old-time square dance caller who has conducted square dance workshops at many of West Virginia's state parks in the summer. Maiuri says "Dance and you'll stay young!" At four score plus a half decade or so in years of age, Maiuri continues to promenade with park guests and teaches his "fountain of youth" – square dancing.

For more information about Hol-



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ly River State Park, visit [www.hollyriver.com](http://www.hollyriver.com) or call 304-493-6353. The activities schedule is posted

monthly with activities scheduled from Memorial Weekend through Labor Day weekend.

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These four-stroke outboards, which debuted at the 2012 Miami International Boat Show. Both engines are easy to start – one pull and they were running without the need to prime or choke the engine. Driving solo, A top speed of 9 mph with the 5 hp model on 12-foot aluminum boat was obtained.

The 5 hp model has neutral, forward and reverse gears, and carries an MSRP of \$1,919.99 for the 49.6-pound 15-inch version; \$1,955.99 for the 52.8-pound 20-inch version. The 2.5 (available in a 37.9-pound 15-inch model only) has just neutral and forward (spin the outboard around to back up) and an MSRP of \$1,199.99. All of the models carry three-year limited warranties.

While you may not get excited about these small, tiller-steer, pull-start outboards, the prospect of more powerful propane-powered outboards is intriguing. According to Lehr founder and CEO Bernardo Herzer, propane may well be the

fuel of the future. The U.S. produces so much that it is a net exporter of this clean-burning, high-octane fuel.

To learn more about the test of the Lehr propane outboards, look for the April 2012 issue of Boating magazine. Or call 310-839-9009 or visit [golehr.com](http://golehr.com).

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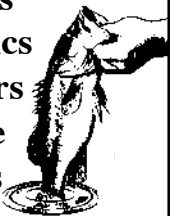
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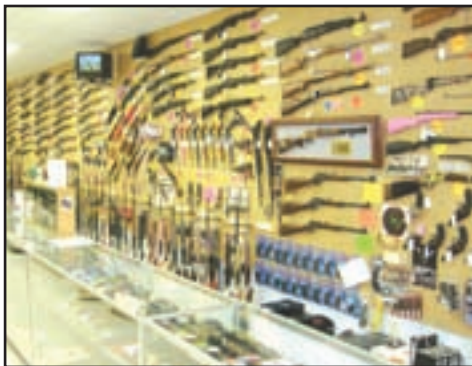
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Alan White landed the large bass (3-10) at the recent Ohio River Team Tournaments at Moundsville on April 1. 30 teams competed and 22 teams caught their 6 fish limit. The Moundsville pool has been great the last couple of years with smallmouth being the primary fish caught. *Look for the schedule on page 18 for the team tournamnets.*

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A great 13 point was taken with a bow this season.

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Terry Turner used his bow for this 9 point buck. Photo courtesy of Gladys Fork Archery in Weston.



John Jones shot a wide racked 8 point buck. Photo courtesy of Broken Wheel Campground in Weston.

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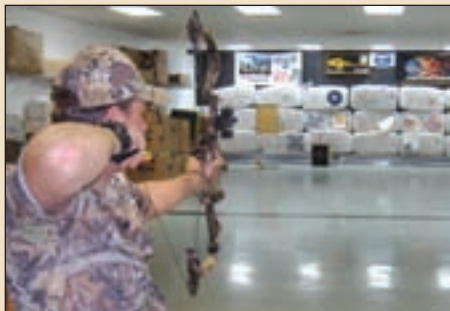
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## Turkey Hunting For Beginners

### Box Calls

Starting with the first of several friction calls — and one of the simplest to master, we'll begin with the box call. Invented in 1897 by Henry Gibson of Dardanelle, Ark., the hinged-lid box call is a simple design. Box calls are basically two pieces of wood; a coffin-shaped tone chamber and a paddle-like striker or lid. The two pieces are fastened together loosely by a screw at one end. Today's box calls are mostly made from cedar, walnut and a host of other hard woods. Chalk or rosin is used to coat the playing surfaces to allow it to strike consistently and vibrate properly, which, in turn, produces sound.

To play or "work" a box call, lightly grasp the lid handle between the thumb, index and middle finger of the right hand while holding the box in the palm of the left. (Southpaws should reverse their hold.) Flexing the wrist, the lid is stroked across the thin, top edges of the box to produce any of several turkey calls.

For an alternate method of hold-



Cody Canterbury & Arnett Nichols bagged birds last year. *Photo courtesy of Johnson's Sporting Goods in Summersville.*

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ing a box call, hold it in a vertical position with the hinged end down. Hold your hands straight out in a

thumbs-up position. Grasp the bottom of the box in the left hand, while continue to the next page

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grasping the lid handle between the right index finger and thumb. The forward stroke produces a yelp. For best results, try to keep the lid in contact with the box on the forward stroke and away from the box on the non-calling return stroke. A cluck is made by placing the lid on the lip of the sound chamber and giving it a quick stroke while pulling the lid away sharply.

Box calls are best for producing the hen or gobbler "yelp," depending on how the box is tuned. The two-toned yelp is the foundation to communicating with wild turkeys. Box calls produce realistic clucks & # 8212 another basic call turkey hunters rely on. With practice, box calls realistically reproduce a hen's "cutting" call, which is a staccato series of clucks. Advanced callers can also produce the kee kee of a young gobbler and a rough gobble of a mature tom.

#### Slate-type Friction Calls

Slate calls, also known as "peg and pot" type calls, are another type of friction call and, today, come in a wide array of surface and striker materials. The earliest calls were made from a flat piece of thin wood or slate. Early strikers, or pegs, were made from hickory and other hard woods or bone. The playing surface of the earliest calls was cupped in one hand while the striker was held

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(like a pencil) in the opposite hand. The tip of the striker is scratched across the playing surface to produce sound.

The evolution of the modern slate call comes from a flowerpot, or more accurately, the round water-catching tray that sits beneath it. The round, shallow shape created a cup or sound chamber to hold a round piece of slate. The pot kept the fingers off the sounding board of the call, which would play havoc with creating consistent sound. It also allowed the slate sounding board to vibrate more freely, ampli-

continue to the next page



Marlon Henry, from Montose, has a Randolph County 10 point buck.



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fy the created tones.

Today's calls come with sounding boards made of slate, glass, aluminum, ceramic and a host of other materials. Strikers come in several wood types, carbon, plastic, aluminum and more.

To properly use a slate call, grasp the pot in the left hand by forming a "C" with the index and thumb. Hold the outside edge of the pot inside the "C" and use the other fingers to give support to the bottom of the call. Hold the peg like a pencil in the right hand. Draw small circles on the sounding board to produce yelps. Pushing down firmly with the striker and pulling it in a short, straight line will create a cluck. Increase the speed of the rhythm to produce a cackle or cutting of an excited hen. Quiet purring calls, as well as louder aggravated purrs, can be mastered on the slate call. Simply allow the striker to skip across the surface as you softly draw it across the call.

Wingbone and Trumpet Calls  
Crafting calls from the wing bones of wild turkeys dates back to 6500



Mark Banks, from West Columbia, hunted in Mason County for this fine 10 point buck.

BC, according to archeological findings of early American inhabitants. Early Americans frequently yelped up their quarry into blow-gun or bow range using wingbone calls. Several wingbone calls have been unearthed and show where a single bone or multiple bones were fastened together to create a bugle-type call. One such call, dat-

ing back 4,000 to 6,000 years, is on display in the NWTf's Wild Turkey Museum in Edgefield, S.C.

Several variations of the wingbone call have been made from materials such as cane, bone, horn and other hollow, slender materials. One such call is the "Turpin Yelper" created in the early days of

ontinue to the next page

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the 20th century by calling legend Tom Turpin of Memphis, Tenn.

Years ago, Nick Gilmore gave a turkey calling tip in a copy of Outdoor Life. Gilmore told of watching a flock of feeding turkeys from his deer stand one fall day. He was without a call to lure the flock closer, so he improvised by pulling a Bic ballpoint pen from his pocket. He pulled the guts out of his pen and used the hollow tube as a call. He put the call to his lips, puckered up and yelped one of the curious birds within range.

Instead of blowing on this call, the small mouthpiece is "kissed"



Danny Brown's buck scored 138 P & Y and was taken in Logan Co.

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with pursed lips and air is drawn inward to create several life-like turkey calls. As with any call, practice will prepare you to make yelps, clucks, kee kees, cackles and other requisite hunting calls.  
Diaphragm Calls

Diaphragm calls are some of the "oldest" modern turkey calls. According to research, in 1867, Samuel McClain invented and patented a bird whistle that held a thin membrane inside a horseshoe-shaped, continue to the next page

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May 26 - Ravenswood Ramp

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thin metal frame. In 1921, Henry Bridges of Maryland patented his own "sound producing device" specifically to call wild turkeys. Again, Bridges affixed a membrane material inside a horseshoe-shaped frame, which was to be held to the roof of the mouth and blown across to create a sound.

Predating these patents was the use of leaves or grass as a reed material for improvised turkey calls. The leaf was held between both hands and blown across. Early pioneers learned the craft from indigenous Americans to bring wild turkeys close for the shot.

Today's mouth diaphragms use thin latex rubber as reed material in place of green leaves. The reed material is held inside a horseshoe-shaped frame and is most commonly taped with waterproof tape. The call is placed in your mouth with rounded side to the back and is pressed to the roof of the mouth with the tongue. Huffing breath across the reed, which causes the reed to vibrate and create sound, makes the call sound.

Because of their versatility and range, mouth diaphragms are the most widely used calls in turkey calling competitions. Realistic yelps, clucks, purrs, kee kee whistles, cackles and more can be made with some practice.

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### Tube Calls

Tube calls are another version of the diaphragm call. Instead of the reed being held inside the mouth, the latex material is stretched across the top of a round tube. Some refer to this call as a "snuff can" call, which was an early source of sound chambers for this effective turkey call. Today, calls typically are made from plastic or wood, with the reed stretched across the top and held in

continue to the next page



Greg Musgrave, from New Martinsville, went out west for an elk.

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# 2012 Bass Sportsman Schedule • Ohio River & Salt Fork Lake

All Of The Regular Team Events Are 7am to 4pm \$90 Entry \$10 Big Bass

No Late Fees - Enter At The Ramp - Rules At The Events

## OHIO RIVER TEAM

4/1 - MOUNDSVILLE

4/22 - MOUNDSVILLE

5/12 - ST. MARYS

5/26 - MOUNDSVILLE

6/16 - MOUNDSVILLE

7/29 - ST. MARYS

8/12 - MOUNDSVILLE

8/26 (Sat) - MOUNDSVILLE

9/9 - ST. MARYS

9/22 & 9/23

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place with a rubber band. The call is held against the lower lip and blown across to produce a wide range of effective calls.

### Push-Pin Calls

Also called "push-button box calls," the push-pin call is a wooden or plastic friction box similar in shape to the paddle-type box call. Instead of having an external hinged lid, it incorporates a lid that rides on a dowel that sticks through the end of the box. A spring or rubberband is used to give the paddle proper tension as it rides over a pillar inside. Pushing the rod causes the paddle to scrape over the internal pillar, which vibrates to make turkey-like sounds.

Push-button calls are the easiest turkey call for beginners to learn to use. To use a push-button call, simply hold it in either palm and push the operating rod. Slow to

medium rhythmic strokes produce yelps. Quick taps on the rod produce clucks.

### Wild Turkey Vocabulary

The calls of the wild turkey are a universal language. Whether you're hunting Osceola wild turkeys in Florida or Merriam's in the Rocky Mountains, the basics:

Yelp — A two-toned call that starts with a whistling "kee" and ends with a quick "oak" sound. This call means, "Here I am, come here" in turkey talk.

Cluck — A single, sharp "puck" sound that means, "Here I am, where are you?" in turkey language.

Purr — A staccato sound that, when uttered at a low volume, tells flock mates that all is well. Increase the volume and turkeys interpret it as a sign of agitation, frustration, anger or aggression.

Putt — A loud cluck uttered when turkeys are alarmed. Putting is most often shortly followed by a hasty retreat.

Kee Kee — The whistling sound uttered by young fall turkeys. When a flock is scattered the young turkeys will kee kee to each other and the boss hen until the flock regroups.

Cackle — A series of fast clucks uttered when a turkey is flying or when a hen is sexually excited.

Gobble — The grandest sound to a turkey hunter's ears, this call is uttered by the male turkeys to attract hens for breeding and to announce to the world that the tom is on watch and ready to defend his territory.

Information provided - NWTF

The West Virginia spring season dates are April 23 through May 19. Hunt safely this year and be careful in the woods. Good Luck!

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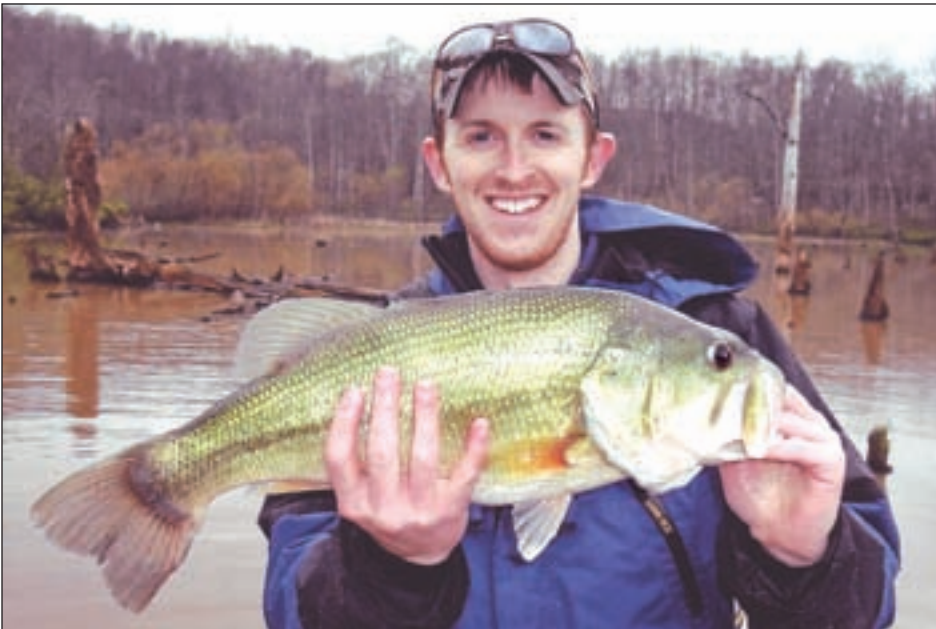


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Michael Gaines, from Parkersburg, caught and released this 6 1/2 pound Elk Fork Lake bass.



Tom Berga landed and later released this big Ohio River spring bass. Photo courtesy of Backwater Bait in Newport, Ohio.



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Brodu Gumm, from Alum Creek, got a nice 9 point Calhoun buck.



Josh Compton, from Ritchie Co., went to Alaska for a siver salmon.



Jeremy Simons brought in a 55 pound beaver. Photo courtesy of Middle Mountain Sporting Goods in Elkins.

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Darren Dean caught a 5 1/2 pound smallmouth. Photo courtesy of PC Bait in Hinton.



Mark Gapa brought in a nice buck. Photo courtesy of Crossroads General Store near Newark.



Mark Powell hooked a musky. Photo courtesy of Jarrett's Bait in Elizabeth.



# Fishing Tips 101

Plan your fishing trip where the fish are plentiful, especially if you're just starting out. Just getting outdoors to fish is part of the fun, but nothing beats landing lots of fish!

## Where fish live

A city park, a pay-per-catch pond or a heavily stocked lake is a good bet. Rivers, streams, lakes, ponds and man-made reservoirs also hold fish. If you don't know where to fish near your community, call an official from your state fisheries department or ask someone working at a local bait shop.

## Where fish swim

Fish love to swim off sandbars, in deep edges, in weed beds and

around sunken islands. They also swim near artificial structures such as boat docks or piers and around natural cover such as fallen trees. Get a map of the lake if possible. It will help you locate some of these popular fish locations.

## FISHING TIPS: FISH LOVE LIVE BAIT!

Not all people like the same foods. Fish are no different. Choosing the right kind of live bait can depend on the kind of fish you're trying to catch. Here are some commonly used live baits, some listed with tips on where to find them outside of a bait shop. Click on the links to learn how to get them on your hook:

Corn (it's not alive, of course, but it works for some kinds of fish) - In a can from the kitchen.

Crayfish - Under rocks or other shelter in lots of cold-water ponds, lakes, streams and rivers.

Crickets - Outside under rocks or maybe even in your house!

Frogs - In swamps, ponds and other areas with still, shallow water.

Grasshoppers - In fields of tall grass.

Grubs (insect larvae) - Sometimes

continue to the next page



Baylee Dilling caught a nice crayfish. Photo courtesy of Backwater Bait in Newport, Ohio.



Rodney Hardbarger, from Elizabeth, shot a nice 8 point buck.



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Dakota White, from Ronceverte, landed a nice rainbow trout.

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**FISHING IS FUN! BUT REMEMBER TO STAY SAFE!**

Tips for a safe fishing trip

Always wear your life jacket when fishing and keep it fastened. Safety should be your main focus, so the life jacket should be the right size (not too big) so that it won't slide over your head.

Have plenty of cold drinks and snacks in the boat.

Avoid getting sunburned while fishing. You should apply sunscreen to any part of your body that isn't covered by clothing.

Sunscreen should be applied at least 30 minutes before going outdoors, even on a cloudy day, and reapplied every two hours.

Keep hooks, sharp knives and fishing line in a tackle box. You don't want to get hurt.

Fins are sharp. Always handle fish carefully and under the supervision of an adult.

It is important to be aware of weather conditions before setting out on a fishing trip. Also, weather

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can change quickly so it is a good idea to take a radio along to stay tuned in to changing conditions.

Wearing the right clothing for a fishing trip is important and it can help to keep you dry. Footwear should be appropriate for the occasion, and wearing multiple layers

continue to the next page



Danny Cunningham, from Gypsy, caught a 5.68 pound rainbow.

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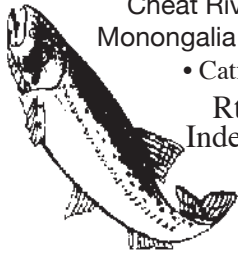
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of thin clothes allows you to adjust to changing temperatures.

The right clothes and repellents can help keep the bugs away.

If fishing from shore, pick an area free of debris and large enough to allow casting space for all of the anglers in your group.

Never fish from bridges or roadways.

### FISHING EQUIPMENT

Rod, reel and line

Start with a spincasting reel (the one with the push button on the back) rigged with 10-pound-test monofilament and a 5- to 5 1/2-foot, two-piece rod with light action. This outfit is easy to use and transport, and it will cast light lures.

Tackle

No. 2 straight shank hooks, 1/16-ounce clamp-on weights and floaters. This live-bait outfit works great with earthworms, minnows or PowerBait eggs and is highly effective for anything that swims. The most important factor to an en-

joyable day of fishing is catching fish.

Spinner baits, 1/4- and 3/8-ounce willow-leaf blades in both white and chartreuse. These baits have plenty of flash, are easy to cast and retrieve, and are relatively snag-proof.

8-inch purple plastic worms, wire guard No. 3 hooks, and 1/8-ounce bullet-shaped slip sinkers.

Shad colored Pop-R top-water bait. Top-water baits are exciting to fish; this one can't be fished too fast or too slow. Be sure to purchase treble-hook covers to cover the hooks when not in use.

Bait bucket

If you're fishing with minnows or other types of baitfish, you'll need a bait bucket. It should be tethered to land or your boat whether it is the kind that floats or sinks. This container will have small holes to allow fresh water inside.

Other items for a pleasant fishing trip

Cold drinks

Lots of snacks

Sunscreen

Sunscreen should be applied at least 30 minutes prior to going outdoors, even on a cloudy day, and reapplied every two hours.

Camera

Flashlight

Batteries

Fishing cap

Sunglasses



Kaleb Greathouse, from Walton, shot a buck.

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### Trout Tips

For best results, remember these Trout Tips...

Trout Don't Need to be Scaled..

Removal of the tiny scales also removes the thin coat of natural jelly around the scales that allows the trout to be breaded without using any type of liquid

Use Mild Flavored Oils...Off-flavors in fats can be transferred to the taste of the trout. Best fats include butter, hydrogenated shortening, peanut or corn oils.

Hot and Quick...Trout fried at a

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low temperature absorbs too much fat. The best temperature is 325 to 350F.

Don't Overcook...Trout should be moist and fork-tender. Overcooking dries out and toughens the fish. Trout is done when it flakes easily when probed with a fork.

To assure good flavor and texture when preparing trout, follow these...

Handling How-To's

Fresh Trout...should be glistening, flawless and clean smelling. The flesh should be firm and spring back when pressed. When buying whole trout, look for bright red gills and shiny skin. Whether you buy fresh

or frozen, buy it last before heading home. If you'll be delayed, have it continue to the next page



Robert Hamrick went to Webster County for this 8 point buck.

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Details On Page 3

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packed on ice. Store fresh trout in the coldest part of your refrigerator (usually the lowest shelf at the back or in the meat keeper) as close to 32F as possible. Use fresh trout quickly; within 2 days.

Packaged Frozen Trout...should be rock-hard, clear of ice crystals, having no white spots indicating freezer burn and showing no signs of thawed juices. Packages should be clean and tightly sealed. Store at 0 F or below for no more than three months.

To Thaw Trout...gradually defrost in the refrigerator overnight. Avoid thawing at room temperature. To thaw quickly, seal fish in a plastic bag and immerse in cold water for about an hour OR microwave on the "defrost" setting, stopping when fish is still icy but pliable. Once trout thaws, it should be used immediately. NEVER RE-FREEZE TROUT AFTER THAWING...this will impair flavor.

One of the most appealing characteristics of trout is the variety of

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ways it can be cooked. For best results follow these basic...

**Preparation Pointers**

**Baking...**To preserve flavor and moisture in the flesh, bake trout at a moderately high temperature, 400' to 450'F, for the shortest period of time. Enhance moistness and flavor with a seasoned oil; or many baked recipes call for sauces or stuffings. Test for doneness by probing with a fork. Do not turn.

**Broiling...**Never place trout closer than 4 inches from the source of heat. Baste well with a basting oil or sauce before and during cooking. Broil 8 to 10 minutes, depending on thickness. Do not turn.

**Grilling...** Season to taste, or baste

trout with selected sauce before and during grilling. Place trout on grill approximately 4 to 6 inches from hot charcoal. Cooking time varies  
continue to the next page



Blace Hutchins hooked a big small-mouth bass. *Photo courtesy of PC Bait & Tackle in Hinton.*



Keagan Hartwell caught a crappie. *Photo courtesy of PC Bait & Tackle in Hinton.*

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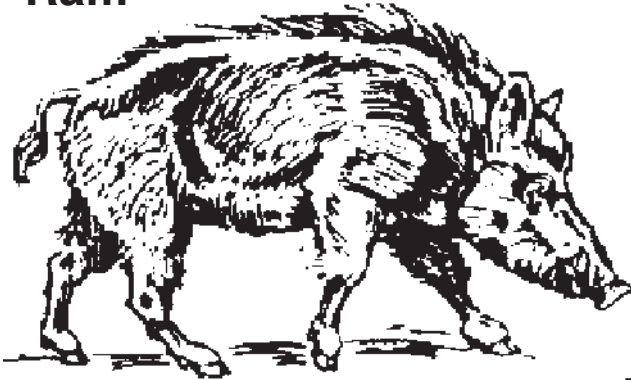
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with size of trout and temperature of grill. About 1 to 2 minutes per ounce of trout. Cook naturally folded, not open even if boned, unless otherwise directed. To turn, trout will roll easily on its rounded back. To remove from grill, slide spatula under trout from head to tail. To test for doneness, check inside that no pink is left. Trout that is done will flake easily with a fork. (NOTE: To help prevent sticking, spray grill with a non-stick product.)

Poaching...Immerse trout in liquid barely covering it. For a flavor bonus, add wines or other liquids. DO NOT BOIL. Boiling will destroy the delicate flavor.

Pan-Frying...Use a small amount of hot vegetable oil, about 1 inch, in heavy fry pan. Roll in coating and fry lightly, or saute, at a moderate temperature, until browned

on one side. Place meat-side down first. Turn and brown second side. Do not overload pan. Trout is done when it flakes easily with a fork. Deep Frying...Fill fryer about half full with oil. Use light breading (flour and/or cornmeal) or thin batter. (A thick batter absorbs fat.) Fry in deep oil at 325 to 350F until trout is brown and flakes easily with a fork.

Microwave ... Microwaving is especially suited to the high temperature and short time required for cooking trout. Always thaw trout completely to ensure even cooking. Cover fish with plastic wrap, but turn back one corner to allow venting. Cook at HIGH for 5 to 6 minutes per lb. for one whole fish; increase time for a larger number of fish. Allow to stand 3 to 5 minutes to complete cooking.

Remember ... trout is a healthy choice



Wade Stansbury went to Doddridge County for this 8 point buck.

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Robert Lane hooked a 4 pound, 15 oz. smallmouth bass. *Photo courtesy of PC Bait in Hinton.*



## OHIO RIVER TEAM TOURNAMENTS

Details On Page 18

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A big rainbow trout was landed. *Photo courtesy of Middle Mountain Sporting Goods in Elkins.*

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Richard Godfrey shot a nice buck.



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This angler caught a 6 pound brook & rainbow. Photo courtesy of Middle Mountain Sporting Goods in Elkins.



Jim McClung hooked a nice large-mouth bass. Photo courtesy of Jarrett's Bait in Elizabeth.

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Ronnie Edge, from Hamlin, buck.

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Bobby Ice got an 8 point buck.



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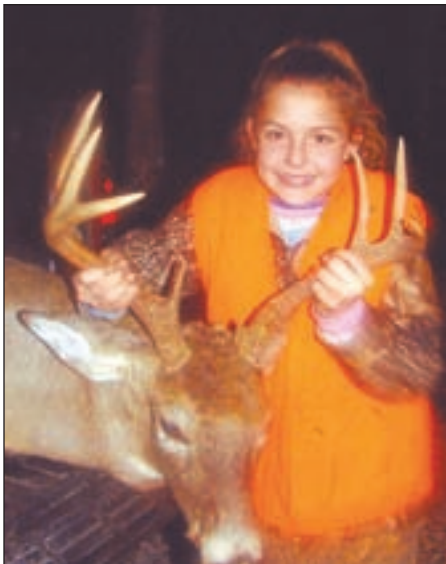
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Young Nicky got a big buck buck.  
 Photo courtesy of Mr. Clean Bow Shop (now in Willie's store) in Glenville.



Jarrold used a bow for a nice buck.  
 Photo courtesy of Glady Fork Archery in Weston.

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## Little Beaver State Park

BEAVER, W.Va. – Since 2004, the Three Rivers Avian Center (TRAC) has partnered with Little Beaver State Park as the home of its annual Migration Celebration, a festival of West Virginia's birds and of the state's natural heritage. The 2012 Migration Celebration is scheduled for May 12 from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. The event is open to the public at no charge.

Held each year on International Migratory Bird Day, the Migration Celebration encourages young and old alike to go outdoors and see what lives in their backyards and in their biologically diverse state. The day features live birds of prey on display from TRAC; exhibits from the West Virginia Division of Natural Resources' Wildlife Diversity Program and the New River Gorge National River; the West Virginia Department of Agriculture's Insect Survey; storytelling; bird, bug and nature walks; a free photography workshop; and fun for the whole family.

"Little Beaver State Park is not just for humans," said Park Supt. Erik Evans. "Animals find refuge and a place to relax, too. Squirrels, deer, foxes, bear, and many other animals call the park home, and so

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do birds. An osprey has been hunting fish in the lake for several summers, peregrine falcons have been seen flying over, and birders have counted more than 35 other species as well."

In honor of eight years of working together to conserve West Virginia's wild birds and educating and involving people in ecosystem stewardship, TRAC recently awarded Little Beaver State Park a certificate of appreciation for hosting the annual Migration Celebration.

About Three Rivers Avian Center

Three Rivers Avian Center is a private, non-profit organization dedicated to caring for West Virginia's wild birds. Founded in 1990, TRAC provides veterinary care and rehabilitative services to more than 200 wild bird species, is the project coordinator for the multi-state and multi-agency effort to restore peregrine falcons to the New River Gorge, provides environmental programs featuring

live birds of prey throughout West Virginia, and encourages public participation in birding and bird-related activities through an extensive website ([www.tracwv.org](http://www.tracwv.org)) and

continue to the next page



Eric Young hooked a 46" musky. Photo courtesy of Crossroads General Store near Newark.



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About Little Beaver State Park

Little Beaver State Park, located just outside Beckley in Raleigh County, is a popular place for family outings. Eighteen hiking and biking trails, rated from easy to strenuous and ranging in length from a quarter mile to 2.6 miles long, wind their way throughout the 562 acre park. Little Beaver Lake is an 18-acre focal point at the park entrance that provides facilities for fishing and paddle boat rides. Geocaching is also a growing activity.

Picnic shelters and tables are scattered in convenient areas around



Rodney Kirkendoll used a bow for this nice 10 point buck.

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the Lake and a playground offers youngsters a place to exercise youthful energies. Little Beaver State Park has added 30 campsites with water, electricity, a bathhouse and a laundry room. More information can be found at [www.littlebeaverstatepark.com](http://www.littlebeaverstatepark.com).

### Landing Your Fish

#### Landing

As your fish gets closer to the boat, drop your entire rod and reel to your waist. If the fish goes under the boat, get your rod tip in the water and follow it. If you can see the fish, you'll know when it's tired. It'll roll over on his side. And if you can't see the fish, you'll be able to feel it.

#### Mouth Pick-Up

Carefully avoiding hooks, many bass anglers use the thumb and index finger to grip a bass by its lower jaw. This holds the jaw wide open and temporarily paralyzes the

continue to the next page

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the fish. You can also land pan fish by pulling the fish towards you with the rod. Then grab the fish by the mouth or around the belly to remove the hook.

**Gaff Landing**

Don't gaff a fish unless you're planning to take it home. In most cases, you should try to land your catch with a net. If you gaff a red snapper or a grouper that's too small to take home, you'll be releasing a fish with a gaping hole in its side that's not likely to survive. Today's nets are made to withstand a lot of weight when handled properly.

**Netting**

Always try to land a bigger fish with a net. Place the net in the water and lead the fish into the net head first. Don't stab the net at the fish. If you don't get it the first time, re-aim and try again. Keep the fish in the water if you plan on releasing it. If you plan on eating the fish, get it out of the water as quickly as possible and take the hook out away from the water.



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To handle a fish with sharp teeth like a walleye or northern pike, carefully hold it around the body. Other fish like chinook or Atlantic salmon have a strong tail and you can grasp them in front of the tail fin.

**Eye Pick-Up**

Never hold a fish by the eyes or gills if you plan to free it.

**Beaching a Fish**

Beaching a fish involves leading it into increasingly shallower water and gradually sliding the fish on its side onto dry land. In salt water, time your retrieval with an incoming wave. As the wave recedes, quickly grab your beached fish and pull it ashore.

**Unhooking a Fish**

If you're practicing catch and release, try to remove the hook without exciting or harming the fish. The eyelet (small hole) of the hook is the best place to grab the hook. Back the hook out the same way it went in.

There are special tools designed for taking out hooks. But needle-nosed pliers work pretty well. If you need to, use a hook remover or pliers to flatten the barb. Depending on how the fish is hooked, you might be able to cut away a small amount of flesh to get the hook out.

Professionals sometimes flatten the barbs on their hooks before they start fishing to cause less harm to the fish they catch. In some ar-

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reas, you can only fish with barbless hooks.



Larry Handley, from Walker, shot a black bear.

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GAME CHECKING



## Bass Smarter Than a 5th Grader

Some anglers grossly underestimate the brain of a bass, especially its capacity for change. In reality, a bass's behavioral response to any given experience leaves a physical mark on the bass. In other words, bass learn.

Some fishermen apparently think fish are too dumb to learn anything. But the process of learning has nothing to do with intelligence.

Let's say a bass hears a rattling crankbait. The longer, or more frequently, the bass is exposed to the rattle, the more memorable the sound. Should the bass attack the crankbait and be hooked, then the trauma of being hooked will be associated mentally with the sound. With each subsequent exposure and consequent hooking, the likelihood that the bass will attack the lure shrinks because of growing negative associations with the lure. The bass learns to just say no.

There is also huge variation among bass in how quickly they learn, such as the susceptibility

of individual bass to being caught more than once. In one four-year study of angling recapture rates at a catch-and-release lake in Illinois, the average largemouth was caught twice each season. However, some bass were caught up to 16 times in a single season.

Bass can gradually become less sensitive to particular stimulus situations. One common example is bass in large store aquariums, where they regularly see huge crowds of people each day. When first placed in the aquarium, the bass shy away from the passing traffic, especially those bystanders who enjoy pressing their faces up against the glass. With time, the bass learn to ignore the people. Another example would be bass learning to ignore the presence of boating traffic on a busy lake.

When possible, bass often stake out home territories. This requires them to learn the difference between home and non-home. To do this they learn the layout of various

structural landmarks. Without this learning, bass would be forced to start afresh each time they set out to find a distant food source or relocate a preferred spot. In the labo-  
continue to the next page

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atory, bass have found their way through an underwater maze to reach a desired point.

Finally, as predators, bass have a strong dispensation for learning prey search images. An animal is said to have developed a search image if it actively looks for a particular object with an indefinable visual, acoustic, vibrational, or chemical signature. Given enough positive experience with a certain prey type, a bass will gradually come to actively seek out that specific prey.

Smarter than a fifth grader? Well, probably not. But bass are a lot smarter than most people give them credit.

## 2011 Big Game Bulletin

SOUTH CHARLESTON, W.Va. – The 2011 West Virginia Big Game Bulletin is available at Division of Natural Resources district offices, the Elkins operations center, and on the agency’s website, according to Curtis I. Taylor, Chief of the Wildlife Resources Section.

The Big Game Bulletin supplies the public with the annual white-tailed deer, wild turkey, black bear,



Taylor Tucker shot a 14 point in Harrison County.

and wild boar harvests. In addition, harvests by season, county, and wildlife management area are displayed in the publication.

“The Big Game Bulletin equips hunters with a wealth of data and information that may help them plan their next hunt. The publica-

tion also has updates on current big game research and monitoring projects,” said Taylor.

To view the 2011 Big Game Bulletin, look under “Hunting” on the Division of Natural Resources website at [www.wvdnr.gov](http://www.wvdnr.gov).

Hope you have a nice one.



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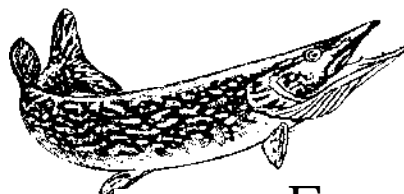
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