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Issue 207

May 2011



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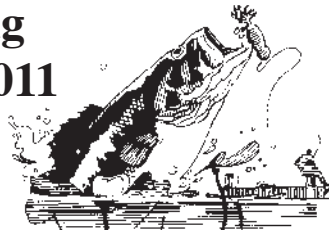
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Cover Photo

John Nock, from Reedsville, was hoping that this musky would be a new length record. It measured 51 7/8 inch and was caught while crappie fishing at Stonewall Jackson Lake. The fish was not weighed. This fish missed a state record by around one inch.

This lake is starting to produce lots of large muskies.

This magazine is online each month : www.wvasportsman.net
Photo courtesy of Jerry's Sporting Goods in Horner.

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Crappie Basics

Are you looking to perfect your crappie fishing tactics? With crappie being one of the best tasting freshwater fish (other than fried catfish), you'll definitely want to learn these techniques so you can easily bring in buckets of crappie. Ok, so what I want to go over today is the basics of crappie fishing, where to look for them during the different seasons, what types of crappie bait to use, and some techniques for fishing your selected baits.

Crappie Fishing Basics

The first thing you should know about crappie is that they are a schooling fish. So when you find one, often you can fish several out of the same location. But not only are crappie a schooling fish, but they are also a small, panfish fish with very fragile mouths. Therefore, they aren't going to put up much of a fight (unless you catch a 2 plus pound whopper), and if you

set the hook too hard, you could tear the hook out of the crappie's mouth. Also, because crappie are in the panfish family, their mouths are very small, and you'll need to gear down your rigs when you go after them, or they simply won't be able to get their mouth around the bait, and you'll lose lots of fish.

Crappie multiply quickly in environments that have a good balance of shallow water, deep water, and good cover. I'll talk more about their seasonal movements in just a minute.

Where to Find Crappie

Finding crappie depends on the time of year and conditions. During the spring crappie spawn, you'll find them in very shallow areas, perhaps even as shallow as a foot or two of water. The structure will typically be a slow, sloping bottom, without many points or drop offs

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John Brookover had turkey success. Photo courtesy of Crossroads General Store near Newark.



Steve Jackson, from Elkins, went to Florida and caught an 11 pound, 3 oz. largemouth bass.



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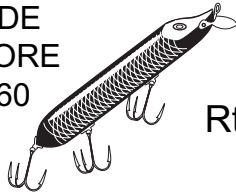
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that would trigger ambushments from other game fish. Also, the area will likely be a cove or other wind and current protected area with lots of cover. Submerged tree branches and bulrushes with some sandy bottom areas in between are great locations for crappie schools.

During the summer months, you'll want to look for schools of crappie under bridges, lilly pads, underwater tree limbs, docks, and other shady areas. Look for them in depths of at least 4 feet, and as much as 15 to 20 feet of more, or perhaps even more. Like most fish, when the summer heat is on, they like to dive where the water is cooler; however, they are oxygen sensitive, and they'll be in areas that have plenty of it.

Find fall crappie can be challenging. As the surface water temperature cools, it falls and warmer, deep water is brought to the surface, thus bottom debris is brought to the surface. This can disrupt the oxy-

gen levels and water clarity. The continue to the next page

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Phil Rager (rt) caught a 5 1/2 pound largemouth with his friends. Photo courtesy of RRHAMCO in Grafton.

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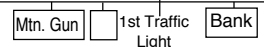
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problem is the water temperature begins to be constant, whether you are deep or shallow. So the crappie could be at any depth.

But crappie fishing during the fall still follows some basic precepts. Crappie are going to try to find areas that have good light, plenty of oxygen, and suitable cover. So if there is a lot of debris in the water, find areas of clear and shallow water, as the fish will have more oxygen and availability of food. Once the water turnover is over, look for crappie to congregate around stumps and other standing timber. This offers the crappie the luxury of running shallow, or deep, depending on light levels. On bright, clear water days, they're likely to be deep, likewise on overcast days with murky water, they'll probably be shallow.

Catching winter crappie can be challenging as well, but not impossible. The fish will be looking for the warmest water possible, so they will likely be deep. During the middle of the day, when the weather is warmest, you can find them in a little higher, as they look for bait fish to feed on. Adjust your rigs, and slow your retrieve after you find a school of fish on your fish finder, and go after them.

Crappie Fishing Bait

The part you've been waiting for, what bait to use to catch them. Probably the best live bait to use



Young Brandon Wright caught a bluegill. Photo courtesy of Backwater Bait in Newport, Ohio.

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are small minnows. Get them in 1 to 2 inch sizes, and hook them through the upper and lower lip. Worms and maggots may work as well, but most bait stores will have small minnows that will be great for crappie fishing.

Crappie lures are my favorite way to go. You can use small spinner-
continue to the next page

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and crankbaits, but the best option for catching the crappie are jigs. And the best of the best in the jig class are marabou jigs. For beginners, stick with white, yellow and chartreuse colored jigs. If the water clarity is really low, try some darker colors like black, purple or dark orange.

Some Crappie Fishing Tactics

Crappie aren't very fast fish, and because of their schooling tendencies, probably the most widely used method to catch them is "jigging". This is mostly effective when using crappie jigs, where you select an area to fish, drop your jig(s), and bounce them up and down at the depth your fish finder shows the fish to be in. This will keep the bait in the strike zone for a good length of time, and entice the fish.

If you are fishing live bait, you may put them under a bobber, or drop them to the bottom, and then slowly raise them up to try and find the depth that the crappie are located in. Once you find the depth, adjust your rig to keep your bait at that same level.

At times, trolling can be an acceptable way to find crappie. Use small crankbaits or spinnerbaits, and once you find the fish, stop and commence with jigging or live bait tactics, until the fishing action slows down.



Elbert Wright, from Kistler, caught a 22" citation golden trout.

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Daniel Lilly hooked a 2 1/2 pound crappie at Bluestone. *Photo courtesy of Cardinal Pawnbrokers in Beckley.*



Matt Hornbeck bagged a nice gobbler. *Photo courtesy of Crossroads General Store near Newark.*

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Roger Goff shot a turkey with a 10" beard. Photo courtesy of Jarrett's Bait in Elizabeth.



Matthew & Trevor Jones have a turkey with a 11 1'2" beard. Photo courtesy of Crossroads General Store near Newark.



Haley Fluharty, from Pine Grove, went to Ohio for this big buck.

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Now, ten years after the cowardly attacks that were designed to bring America to her knees but instead inspired her finest hour, Historical Armory is proud to introduce the 9/11 Tenth Anniversary Limited Edition Rifle in honor of those who lost their lives in the attack, as well as those whose actions in response to the crisis represented the very best of American courage, compassion, and resilience.

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Roger Gray landed a big catfish at this pay lake. *Photo courtesy of Family Fishing in Grafton.*

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Dylan McDonald caught several trout at this pay lake. Photo courtesy of Sure Catch Fish Farm in Elkins.

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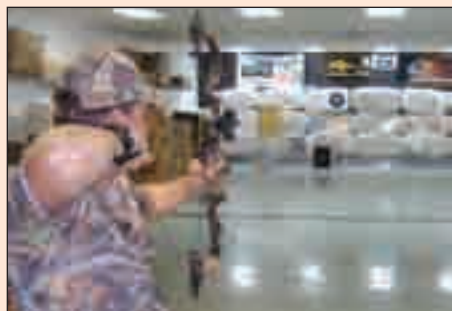
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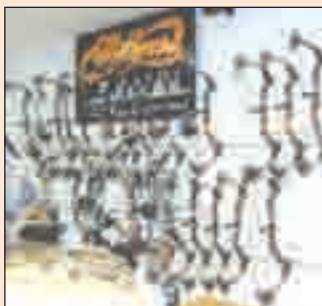


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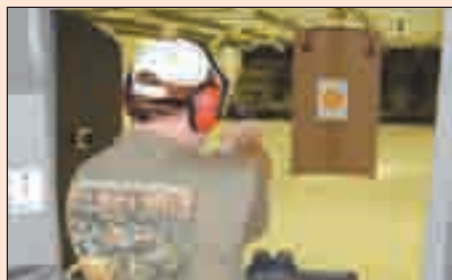
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Pro Bass Fishing Techniques

Technological innovations have long been an integral part of the sport of professional bass fishing. As such, successful anglers are constantly on the lookout for new techniques and tools to elevate their game in an effort to gain an edge over the competition. But what are some of the newest innovations in the sport that anglers have been paying particular attention to? To help answer that question, the staff at FLWOutdoors.com decided to contact a diverse array of FLW Tour pros to get their thoughts on the topic.


In addition to asking the pros to provide their take on which major innovations have had the most impact on the sport over the past few years, FLWOutdoors.com also asked each pro to reveal their Achilles Heel and divulge which fishing techniques they'd personally like to improve upon the most.

FLWOutdoors.com: "In your opinion, what is the most significant innovation in bass fishing over the past few years?"

Kellogg's pro Dave Lefebre - Union City, Pa.: "I'd have to say the Lowrance Structure Scan. There were obviously sonar units and depth finders before that but



Dave Riddle landed a big Stonecoal Lake largemouth bass. *Photo courtesy of Jerry's Sporting Goods in Horner.*



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Another thing that's neat about Structure Scan is that I've fished structure for 20 years and now I can go back to those lakes I've fished all of my life and discover in detail what my key fishing areas really look like. I've done that countless times and it's pretty cool. For example, on one lake I thought I was fishing a hump all of these years and as it turned out, it was an old boat covered with Zebra mussels. And there are plenty of other examples I could give along those same lines.

In my opinion, it's the biggest must-have tool out there today."

FLWOutdoors.com: "What techniques would you really like to improve upon heading into the second half of the 2011 season and beyond?"

Kellogg's pro Dave Lefebre – Union City, Pa.: "This question is a no-brainer for me. Definitely one of my weaknesses is fishing for sus-

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pended bass. Those fish are usually inactive. So the thought of reeling a crankbait through an open water column and being successful catching those suspended bass really intrigues me. If I could spend a day on the boat with somebody, be a fly on the wall so to speak, it would definitely be David Fritts. He's just so proficient with that style of fishing and I'd really love to see how that all comes together.

What I think some people don't realize is that even as FLW Tour pros, you still need to keep on learning. If I have a bad tournament I defi-

continue to the next page



Ronald Smearman, from Wellsburg, hooked a 22" citation brook.



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nately want to know why. The moment you lose that willingness to learn new things, you're in trouble and might as well give up on fishing professionally."

FLWOutdoors.com: "In your opinion, what is the most significant innovation in bass fishing over the past few years?"

Chevy pro Bryan Thrift – Shelby, N.C.: "In my opinion, the biggest innovation over the last few years is how good the electronics are now. I have Hummingbird and Lowrance GPS units/depth finders and I feel that by using them in tandem I can get a far better feel for how things are shaping up out on the water. Specifically, the clarity that those electronics provide are really great – you don't get as many false signals as you did before. Now when I see arches on the graph, I know there's fish there. (Because of the sensitivity) you can now see fish on the graph and actually watch them follow your bait around. With the

advances in color screens, you can now tell actually how hard the bottom is your fishing.

FLWOutdoors.com: "What techniques would you really like to improve upon heading into the second half of the 2011 season and beyond?"

Chevy pro Bryan Thrift – Shelby, N.C.: "You can always get better

at everything. What people have to understand is no matter how good you are, you can always get better. Bass fishing isn't like any other sport. In baseball, the pitcher's mound is always 60 feet away and the bases are 90 feet apart. In basketball, the rim is always 10 feet high. But in bass fishing, you don't

continue to the next page



Doninic Tenney caught a 22 1/2" citation rainbow trout.

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have that because the playing field, so to speak, is different every time. So as a bass pro, you have to be prepared for everything.

As far as improving my techniques, the biggest thing is just having more confidence in the baits I'm throwing. However, that being said, I'd like to learn a little bit more about sight-fishing. I'd like to know more about how to get those spawning females to bite – especially when you have a female and a buck in the same general area. I would also like to improve my light-line fishing skills. I'd really like to get better at fishing lighter line in the 6-pound range, learning the parameters of what you can and can't do with it. But like I said earlier, no matter how good you are, you can always improve on everything."

FLWOutdoors.com: "In your opinion, what is the most significant innovation in bass fishing over the past few years?"

Chevy pro Larry Nixon – Bee Branch, Ark.: "Electronics are constantly changing and there are a bunch of innovations like the newer side scan units, etc., that I'd really like to figure out. I can see how advantageous those tools are going to be in the future and it's definitely one of those things I need to learn.

But as far as the most important innovations in our sport, I'd have to say the GPS units. It's the big-



Ben Woods, from Grantsville, landed a 27" rainbow trout.

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gest breakthrough in the history of bass fishing in my opinion. Now you really don't even need lake maps anymore. I think a lot of the younger guys take those GPS units for granted now, but back in the day we didn't have that luxury. It'd take us three or four days just to figure stuff out. But now you can wind up with 100 waypoints in a single day."

FLWOutdoors.com: "What techniques would you really like to improve upon heading into the second half of the 2011 season and continue to the next page



Larry Huggins, from Pine Grove, caught a 5 pound, 9 oz. rainbow.

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beyond?"

Chevy pro Larry Nixon – Bee Branch, Ark.: “As far as what I’d like to improve upon, the hardest thing for me these days is keeping up with all of the young guys. I’ve been doing this for 35 years and you never quit trying to learn new things. This might be different from some people, but my approach is to get better at the things I really like to do – drop-shotting, fishing deep and really (mastering) my GPS. These are some of the things I still work the hardest at but it’s also what I really like to do. And I continually try to get better at those techniques. At my age and with my aches and pains, power fishing is a little bit more difficult for me. So my main advantage is to stay one step ahead of the (field with regard

continue to the next page



Robert Lane landed a big small-mouth. Photo courtesy of PC Bait & Tackle in Hinton.

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to) finesse fishing techniques, dropshots, and fishing plastic worms and jigs. But it's also important to make sure that you learn something new every year – whether it's how to fish a new lure, how to take advantage of a new color or how to fish a new style."

FLWOutdoors.com: "In your opinion, what is the most significant innovation in bass fishing over the past few years?"

Cabela's pro Clark Wendlandt – Leander, Texas: "I'd probably have to say that the one thing that's changed the sport the most in the last few years has been the great improvements made to the mapping and GPS capabilities of electronics – especially when it comes to fishing deeper water. Right now, with the newer equipment, you can really get a complete picture of what things really look like under the water."

FLWOutdoors.com: "What techniques would you really like to improve upon heading into the second half of the 2011 season and beyond?"

Cabela's pro Clark Wendlandt – Le-

ander, Texas: "As far as what techniques I'd like to improve upon I'd have to say that I'd love to get more adept at fishing ledges – especially deepwater ledges that run 10 feet deep or more. Just being able to learn how those bass act in relation to the ledges is something I'm really interested in. When I see those schools of fish (relating) to those deeper ledges on my depth finder, I'd love to get a whole lot better about figuring out what they're doing and how to catch them."

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Cristopher Eagle, from Frankford, landed a 16" citation brook.



Eric Romanello hooked a large smallmouth. *Photo courtesy of Three Rivers Edge in Hinton.*

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Jimmy Eddy trapped this fisher.
Photo courtesy of Jerry's Sporting Goods in Horner.



A big New River smallmouth was caught.
Photo courtesy of PC Bait & Tackle in Hinton.



Robert McClanahan, from Poca, caught this 63 pound paddlefish.



Dave Riddle hooked a 7 pound, 3 oz. largemouth.
Photo courtesy of Jerry's Sporting Goods in Horner.

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Kenny Cox, from Ritchie County, caught a 7 pound, 5 oz. brown trout.



Shawn Talbert landed a 4 pound golden trout. Photo courtesy of Willie's Sport Shop in Glenville.



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A.J. Starcher hooked several catfish. Photo courtesy of Jarrett's Bait in Elizabeth.



Shawn Moyers hooked a 5 1/2 pound rainbow trout. Photo courtesy of Willie's Sport Shop in Glenville.

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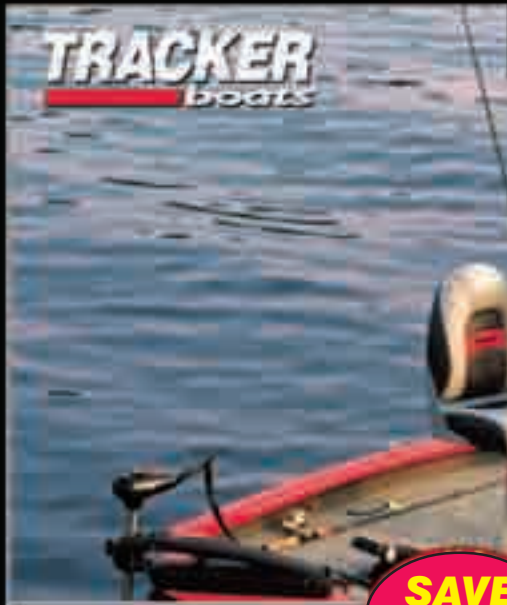
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Big Buck Contest Winners

SOUTH CHARLESTON, W.Va. – The West Virginia Division of Natural Resources (DNR) has announced the winners of the 2010 West Virginia Big Buck Contest, according to Gene Thorn, Chairman of the West Virginia Big Buck Contest Review Committee. The contest is cosponsored by the DNR, Izaak Walton League of West Virginia, West Virginia Bowhunter's Association, West Virginia Muzzleloader's Association, West Virginia Physically Challenged Advisory Board and Toyota to recognize sportsmen and women who take an extraordinarily big antlered buck in West Virginia.

This past year, 292 hunters had their deer antlers scored at one of the six DNR district offices, field offices, or during the West Virginia Hunting and Fishing Show in Charleston. Sixty-five (65) hunters qualified for the 2010 Big Buck Contest by entering their legally-harvested bucks into one of four categories (gun, muzzleloader, bow or crossbow). Contestants were required to meet certain conditions to participate: deer antlers needed to meet or exceed a minimum score established for the respective

category, an Official Game Check Tag had to be presented, and a Fair Chase Statement had to be signed.

Eleven bucks killed by gun hunters scored above 140 points typical or 165 points non-typical. In the Typical Gun category, the winner was Jeffery Whitman from Hurricane, W.Va., with a 10-point buck killed in Ritchie County that scored 157 7/8. There were no entries this year in the Non-typical Gun category.

Muzzleloader hunters needed to score above 140 points typical or 165 points non-typical to win. There were no typical or non-typical bucks taken with the muzzleloader this year that met the minimum score.

Bowhunters killed 52 deer that scored above 125 points typical or 155 points non-typical. The winner of the Typical Bow category was Bucky Sargent of Blair, W.Va., with an 11-point buck from Logan County that scored 163 6/8. There was no non-typical buck taken with the bow this year that met the minimum score.

Two bucks killed by physical-challenged crossbow hunters scored above 125 points typical or

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155 points non-typical. The Typical Crossbow category winner was Carl Pate of Williamstown, W.Va., with a 16-point Wood County buck that scored 149 3/8. The Non-typical Crossbow category winner was Joe DeBerry of Rockport, W.Va., who took a big 18-point buck in Wood County that scored 171 4/8.

continue to the next page



Victor Caldwell, from Moundsville, shot a nice 10 point buck.

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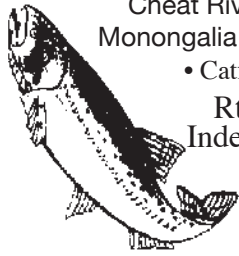
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at least 125 points typical or 155 points non-typical.

The winner in each category will receive a plaque during the 2011 National Hunting and Fishing Day Celebration, held the last weekend of September at Stonewall Resort State Park. A list of bucks meeting the minimum qualifications will be posted on the DNR's web-

site: www.wvdnr.gov/hunting/Big-BuckContest.shtm

The Big Buck Contest Committee thanks all the hunters who participated in this year's contest.

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~Details on Page 3~**

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SOUTH CHARLESTON, W.Va. – The West Virginia Division of Natural Resources will be stocking more than 11,000 catchable-sized channel catfish during the weeks of May 16 and June 6. The fish will weigh from three-fourths pound to two pounds in size and were either reared at the Apple Grove State Fish Hatchery or purchased from a private vendor.

According to Bret Preston, Assistant Chief for Warmwater Fisheries Management, this stocking program provides fishing opportunities at easily accessible lakes for all to enjoy. The success of this program has been a cooperative effort by the DNR Wildlife Resources and State Parks sections.

DNR Wildlife Resources Section personnel will stock 27 lakes located across the state.

Lakes to be stocked the week of May 16 are: Anawalt Lake (McDowell County), Barboursville Lake (Cabell County), Cedar Creek State Park Lake (Gilmer County), Chief Logan State Park Lake (Logan County), Conaway Run Lake (Tyler County), Coopers Rock Lake (Monongalia County),

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Dixon Lake (Monongalia County), French Creek Pond (Upshur County), Handley Pond (Pocahontas County), Hurricane Lake (Putnam County), Indian Rock Lake (Nicholas County), Krodel Lake (Mason County), Mason Lake (Monongalia County), North Bend State Park Pond (Ritchie County), Pipestem State Park Lake (Summers County), Tomlinson Run State Park Lake (Hancock County), Turkey Run Lake (Jackson County), Wallback Lake (Clay County), Watoga State Park Lake (Pocahontas County),

continue to the next page



Jack Herron, from Buckhannon, landed a 25" walleye.



Andy Calvanese hooked a big New River smallmouth bass..

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Lakes to be stocked the week of June 6 are: Cacapon State Park Lake (Morgan County) and Poorhouse Pond (Berkeley County).

Tagged channel catfish will be stocked into Berwind Lake (McDowell County), Charles Fork Lake (Roane County), French Creek Pond (Upshur County), Laurel Lake (Mingo County), Little Beaver State Park Lake (Raleigh County), and Mountwood Lake (Wood County). Anglers who catch a tagged fish are asked to return the tag or tag number along with information on the date of capture, if the fish was kept or released, and the name and address of the angler, to WVDNR, 2311 Ohio Ave, Parkersburg, WV 26101. Anglers also can call in the information (304-420-4550) or provide the information via email to dnrfishtags@wv.gov.

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Nathan Allen caught a nice New River smallmouth bass.. *Photo courtesy of PC Bait & Tackle in Hinton.*

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Leave Young Wildlife Alone

SOUTH CHARLESTON, W.Va. – The West Virginia Division of Natural Resources advises people to leave all young wildlife alone. “The spring season is the time of year when the woods and fields of West Virginia are full of new life,” said Gene Thorn, wildlife biologist at the West Virginia State Wildlife Center in Upshur County. “People have a great opportunity to view and enjoy young wildlife during this season, but it is especially important for the public to understand the need to avoid touching or disturbing these wild animals.”

Attempts to rescue or rehabilitate

young wildlife are often counter-productive. Picking up or getting too close to wildlife greatly increases the chance of harm to the animal and/or the persons involved in this unwise practice. By touching young animals or close approach, humans leave scent that may attract predators. Wildlife viewing is an enjoyable and perfectly acceptable activity; however, the DNR recommends that this pastime be conducted from a safe distance and with the aid of binoculars.

“In addition to being detrimental to the welfare of young animals,

continue to the next page

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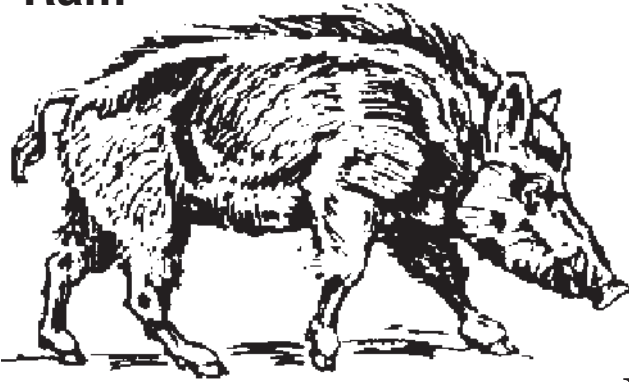
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handling wildlife can expose humans to various wildlife-associated diseases, parasites and other health-related risks," said Thorn. "Rabies, roundworms and other parasites such as lice and ticks can be transmitted to humans through the improper handling of wildlife."

The Wildlife Center and DNR district offices receive numerous calls each year concerning young wildlife, especially fawn deer that have been picked up by well-meaning residents. It is important to note that in almost every case, these young animals have not been abandoned. In fact, the offspring are often hidden as the adult searches for food, and this separation can last for a few hours or all day. Humans are poor substitute parents for wild animals, as young wildlife require special diets and learn survival

skills from their parents. Removing the young wildlife from its natural environment almost certainly leads to death of the animal.

Many people often mistake a bedded fawn, with no mother in sight, as abandoned. Hiding the fawn and leaving it while the doe searches for food is an important survival tactic. The spotted pattern and coloration of fawns and their lack of scent afford protection to these young animals and make them difficult for predators to detect. If a predator happens to approach close to a fawn, the young deer will normally hold very still until the threat passes. If discovered by a predator, the fawn will wait until the very last moment before fleeing to safety. Fawns should always be left undisturbed and never be picked up by people.

As a final caution, remember that state laws and regulations prohibit the possession of wildlife without a permit. Under any circumstances, when you pick up a young animal in the wild you have taken it into your possession. The fines for illegal possession of a fawn deer, black bear cub, baby raccoon, squirrel or any other species taken or possessed during the closed season, range from \$20 up to a maximum of \$1,000 and/or up to 100 days in jail.

"We want everyone to enjoy wildlife in West Virginia," said Thorn. "For your own health and safety and to protect the state's wildlife, remember these wild animals should be left alone and allowed to stay wild."

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Jeff Cales landed 2 whopper crappie. Photo courtesy of PC Bait & Tackle in Hinton.



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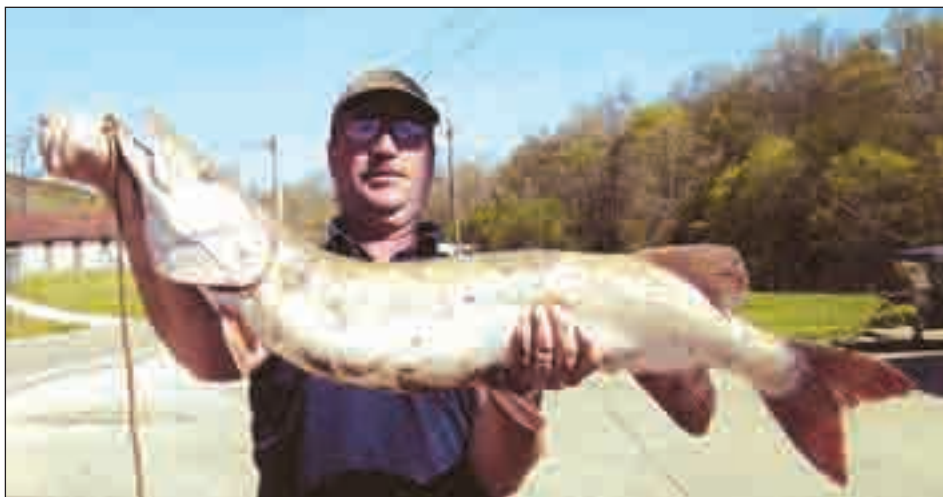
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Gerald Matheny hooked a 42" musky. Photo courtesy of Jarrett's Bait in Elizabethtown.

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James Riley received a citation for this 6 1/4 pound rainbow trout.

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Don't Feed The Bears

SOUTH CHARLESTON, W.Va. – West Virginia residents are reminded that feeding black bears is a violation of state law, as well as a misguided disservice to our state animal, according to Colin Carpenter, black bear project leader for the West Virginia Division of Natural Resources.

“It is understandable that some people will illegally set out food so they can observe this often secretive animal,” Carpenter says. “However, these actions often lead to the destruction of the bear. Bear movements are tied to food sources and animals that roam in and around residential areas in search of food are less likely to stay if they do not find anything to eat.”

Capturing and moving bears that have become accustomed to humans is a costly and often ineffective way of addressing the problem, especially when faced with the possibility of merely moving a problem bear from one area to another. That is why wildlife agencies around the country tell people that a “fed bear is a dead bear.”

Bear populations have increased in both number and distribution in the past 20 years. Bears are now
continue to the next page



Austin Lockhart caught a 41” musky. Photo courtesy of jarrett’s Bait in Elizabeth.

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found in areas where they have been absent for decades and have been reported in all 55 counties. Multiple reports of sows with cubs have been received from the northern and western portions of the state.

Human-bear interactions increase during the spring and summer for several reasons. Natural food sources are at their lowest point when bears leave their dens in the spring. Bears often spend several weeks feeding on green vegetation while continuing to lose weight. High-energy foods such as serviceberries, blackberries, raspberries, and blueberries do not become available until later in the summer.

In addition, the bear breeding season, which peaks from late June through July, puts many bears on the move. During the breeding season, males will cover large areas while searching for females. This is also the time of year when adult female bears will chase off their yearlings so that they may breed again. Human-related food sources are higher in calories and easier to obtain than natural foods. All bears, especially yearlings that are on their own for the first time,



Young Bryce Merrill shot a nice gobbler. *Photo courtesy of Jarrett's Bait in Elizabeth.*

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will take advantage of easy food sources. Bears will continue on their way if they do not find easy food sources.

Bears quickly become habituated to handouts in the form of trash, bird seed, pet food and feed placed out for other animals, and lose their fear of humans. Bears that have lost their fear of humans resort to raiding garbage, outdoor freezers, storage sheds, vehicles and other structures associated with people. Unfortunately, when these activities are repeated, DNR personnel are forced to humanely destroy the

offending animal for safety reasons.

“The unintentional feeding of black bears is something that can be prevented,” Carpenter says. “Garbage needs to be secured in a bear-proof facility and placed out for collection on the morning of pick-up, not the night before. Food scraps that produce large amounts of odor should be sealed in a plastic bag before being placed in the trash. Food scraps should not be placed in a compost pile during the summer months. Residents

continue to the next page

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Kyle Wyatt is with a 14 3/4 pound rainbow trout caught at this pay lake. *Photo courtesy of Sure Catch Fish Farm in Elkins.*



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should remove all outside pet food at night, and bird feeders should be taken down, cleaned, and stored until late fall to further discourage bears from feeding around human habitation.”

Feeding of any wildlife should be avoided for numerous reasons, including, but not limited to, disease transmission, increased predation, habitat destruction around the feeding site, ethical concerns, and the animal’s overall health. Following these practical and common sense recommendations will reduce human-bear conflicts and assure that more of the state’s animals remain wild.



Dave Boggs, from Delbarton, caught a 5 pound, 6 oz. rainbow.

Archery In The Schools Program

SOUTH CHARLESTON, W.Va. – The West Virginia Division of Natural Resources Wildlife Resources Section (DNR) will hold its next training for the Archery in the Schools (AIS) Program August 2 and 3 at Pipestem Resort State Park, according to Scott Warner, DNR’s AIS Program Coordinator.

“We are very excited to be holding our next training at Pipestem Resort State Park,” said Warner. “When possible, we like to provide trainings at our state parks and Pipestem is a perfect venue for PE teachers, coaches, and others wanting to get their school involved in the AIS Program. This training is especially important because it will be the only one offered before schools open this fall, which will allow some ambitious schools just starting the program enough time to possibly participate in our state tournament next spring.”

The AIS Program has become continue to the next page

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"In order for schools to have the AIS Program, they must first have a certified instructor – preferably a PE instructor or coach who will introduce as many kids as possible to the joys of target archery," said Warner. "The DNR only has about four trainings a year and, because

class size is limited to 25, training slots are highly sought after. As an added incentive, teachers taking this training may be eligible to receive Continuing Education Hours (CEH's) – provided they submit their paperwork to their principal before the end of the school year."

To ensure a training slot, anyone interested in getting their school involved in the program is encouraged to apply as soon as possible, before the July 15th deadline. This training costs \$25 for all school employees and \$50 for non-school employees. This fee will be paid to WVDNR – Archery in the Schools Program (via check, money order, or exact currency only) during the first morning of the training.

To register for the AIS training at Pipestem Resort State Park, please call Scott Warner at 304- 558-2771; email Scott.A.Warner@wv.gov for information on the AIS Program, or visit the DNR's AIS website at www.wvdnr.gov/archery. For more information on Pipestem Resort State Park, go to www.pipestemresort.com.

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Southern Flooding Affects Tygart Lake

CHARLESTON, W.Va. – All launch ramps associated with Tygart Lake are closed due to high-water conditions. The park's launch areas and marina are underwater, according to Brennon O'Sullivan, Tygart Lake State Park Superintendent. The park marina and launch ramps, as well as the Pleasant Creek WMA side of the lake, is affected.

"These conditions may exist for the next several weeks and are dependent upon the severity of continuing rains," O'Sullivan said.

Tygart Lake is monitored and controlled by the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers as a flood-control dam. "I met with Mike Estock with the Corps of Engineers and I understand that Tygart Lake water is being retained due to severe flooding conditions on the lower Ohio and Mississippi Rivers, O'Sullivan said. "Also, if rains occur to the south of Grafton, the boat launch ramps will remain underwater as they are currently."

When storms hit, multi-purpose flood control reservoirs built and maintained by the Corps of Engineers retain excess water upstream of the dam. Controlled releases of this excess water prevent or reduce downstream flooding. Prevention of flooding downstream in turn often limits the use of lake facilities such as launch ramps.

Tygart Lake is located minutes from Grafton, W.Va. The state park features a 20-room lodge overlooking Tygart Lake, marina operations, vacation cabins, fishing and boating. The Boston Beanery recently accepted the food service operations at the lodge and is open daily. "With Memorial Weekend

approaching, we are hopeful that rain in our area subsides and water levels will return to normal, but currently, Tygart Lake Dam is serving the purpose it was intended – flood control – not only for our

area, but also when disaster strikes elsewhere." The park will post launch ramp access on the website www.tygartlake.com.

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May 2011



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