



"The where to and how to magazine for the outdoor enthusiast."

Issue 254

June/July 2016



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# Fishing TIPS

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P.O. Box 5521 Vienna, WV 26105

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#### **Cover Photo**

Bryan Maynard, from Huntington, caught and released a 7 pound, 13 oz. largemouth bass at Upper Mud River Lake. This lake has a catch & release rule.

Send in your 2015 game & 2016 game and fish TEXT pics. Send to 304-482-7217.

There have been numerous text pics sent in this year. If you are not in the last couple of issues, look in future issues for your pic. *Photo courtesy of Rodger Smith Marine in Lavalette*.

#### **Summer Catfishing**

Current seams are created naturally by the obstruction of the water flow. Major structural elements in a river that create current breaks include points, wing dams, eddies, backwaters and deep holes.

Bait placement on a current seam Obstructions such as points and humps have developed on the river bank or river bed that will cause the water flow to slower, creating a seam between the fast flowing current and the slower diverted water.

In most cases deeper holes are created on the back side of these obstructions creating Eddy's [dead mostly slower water] the water is funneled from the tail of the Eddie towards its head creating a whirl-



Jason Feltis got lots of crappie at North Bend Lake. Photo courtesy of Biat Shack in Harrisville

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pool effect. Current seams and particularly eddies can concentrate drifting food. Small forage fish will use the current seam to pick through the drift, in turn these current seams will also attract the trophy catfish as they feed on the forage fish.

Current speed will effect the way the seam develops on each break or structure, so the trick is to learn and understand when each spot (or spot within the spot) will be productive and when the fish will use them and only concentrate on these areas and fish these them during the correct water flow.

If the flow is to slow, the seams will just disappear and look nonexistent and therefore not very productive in low water times.

In a nutshell, understanding where the catfish hold at during the different water levels and current speeds on this particular seam will help you catch them. When the flow changes the catfish will change so you should too.

However setting up or anchoring on these current seams can sometimes be tricky, boat placement is crucial.

If you anchor too far out in the fast side of the seam, this will cause your bait presentation to drift further out into the main current away from the seam, and if you anchor too far in on the slower side of seam, (the Eddie) will cause your continue to the next page

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Terry Miller landed a 62 pound flathead on the Little Kanawha River.

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bait presentation to drift further out into the main current away from the seam, and if you anchor too far in on the slower side of seam, (the Eddie) will cause your boat to spin in the whirlpool effect the eddy produces. There is a fine line between these two transitions, once you find your positioning you will drastically increase your chances of hooking into a trophy catfish.

#### CURRENT SEAMS AND SHORE FISHERMAN

Current seams and eddy's are not limited to guys who only fish from a boat, bank anglers can also fish these types of spots as there are many different size current seams created naturally from river bank erosion. Small points and cut away banks all create a current seam even in small rivers and streams. Setting up on a point with moderate current flow and casting your rig out, allowing the current to sweep it into the seam is the same as anchoring a boat on it.

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Payton Berry hooked a bluegill at Barboursville Lake.



Peyton Meadows got a 6 point buck in Tyler County.



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James McVey, from Beaver, caught a big grass carp.



Matthew Butterfield caught a large flathead catfish.

#### **Flathead Fishing**

Hooking into a flathead catfish should be characterized as the title refers. "The Fresh water freight train". The shear brute strength and fight these fish give are challenging to say the least. Keeping the fish from taking you to a snag or jagged rocks once hooked is the challenging part. A forty pound flathead does what it wants, so using good equipment to turn and control the fish is a must.

One of Kentucky's least talked about flathead Catfishing river systems that actually hold our state record for flathead catfish is the green river. Not the lake!

But the river system, that stretches over 360 miles through central Kentucky and joins the Ohio River near Henderson Kentucky. I be-

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lieve there is a 100 pounder waiting to be caught between Central City and Munfordville Kentucky.

Targeting and catching a flathead catfish is a little more time consuming than fishing for the channel cats or blue catfish. I would categorize targeting flatheads as more of a stalk and hunt, understanding there patterns and feeding habits much like deer hunting, figuring out

where and when to intercept them.

Flatheads are loners and very territorial and their habits of ambush feeding is somewhat different that other catfish species however they are also an opportunist when it comes to feeding as is all catfish, but their appetite tends to be a bit more finicky than the other catfish species.

continue to the next page



Most folks think flatheads can only be caught at night but for the guys who chase the flatheads will tell you different. Flatheads can be taken in the day; you just have to put the bait in front of them where they hold up during the day which is generally heavy cover. Flathead prefer live bait over the dead bait, however they will take a piece of fresh and I mean fresh cut, still bleeding piece of cut bait.

A flathead catfish will take up residence in or around a good bait-fish attracter such as rock piles of log jams and protect and ward off any competing flatheads, generally the bigger fish calls the shots.

Other good ambush points are tributaries that feed the main river, scour holes, drops and ledges along the river channel, flathead will lay tight against the ledges and wait on an unsuspecting prey to pass by for the ambush. A drop in the contour of the river bed as small as 1 ft. can hold a forty lb flathead.

Flatheads will tolerate current but prefer some slack water. I will generally target eddies, current breaks and current seams in the spring and summer when there is current flow. These types of places allow the flatheads to rest and take advantage of the food that washes by them in the current.

But this time of year the green river is pretty much void of current which makes anchoring on a hole or brush pile a little more difficult. A double anchor technique will be required to fish these spots efficiently.

The equipment required for targeting these fresh water freight trains is a medium heavy seven foot rod, either a bait cast or spin cast-continue to the next page

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Lucy Spencer got a smallmouth..





ing combo which ever you prefer, spooled with at least 65 lb braided fishing line. The heavy pound test will help you pull the flathead away from cover or possible snags.

I use a 50 lb. mono leader with a #9 Mustad demon circle hook. If I do get snagged the leader will break before the mainline keeping me from having to retie the whole rig again, I just replace the leader and hook and I'm fishing again quickly.

The best rig for search for monster flatheads is the slip rig /Carolina rig, it allows the flathead to take the bait and feel little resistance. I like to use a short leader and at least a 4 oz egg or no roll sinker, the heavier weight and shorter leader helps keep the lively baitfish from swimming of into nearby cover getting you tangled up.

www.wvasportsman.net

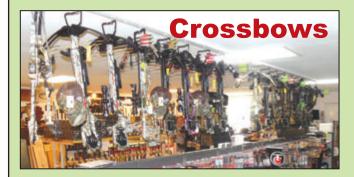
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Kirk McDonald caught his 1st musky on the Kanawha River. June?July 2016 ~ Page 8

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Larry Kearsey, from Harrisville, landed a 7 pound rainbow trout.



Shawn Ramme got a 21 pound gobbler with a 10 1/2" beard.



Larry Cook went to Tyler Co. for this 10 point buck.

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Mike Venettozzi, from Mt. Clare, brought in a 10 point buck.

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Wes Durst caught a big blue cat on the Ohio River in Mason County.

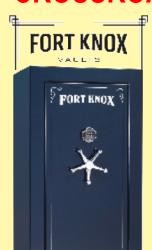


Joe Fleming landed a 7 pound largemouth bass on East Lynn Lake.





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**CROSSBOWS** 

June/July 2016 ~ Page 11

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#### **Choosing A Topwater Lure**

I'm often asked how I choose the right topwater lure for a given situation, and that's a tough question. There are so many variables to consider - the weather, water color, type of cover. The list is long.

But it doesn't mean we can't narrow the possibilities a bit.

Here are a few guidelines that have worked for me over the years, and hopefully they'll help simplify things for you next time you're out on the water.

To start, it's important to break down the various types of topwater lures. Among them are poppers, walking baits, prop baits and buzzbaits. And while each of these are designed to draw fish to the surface, the way they achieve that is quite different. Here's why.

#### LEARNING TO WALK

Let's take walking baits, for in-

stance. Unless you're throwing a really large profile model, or one with a loud internal noise maker. the actions for walking baits are fairly subtle. They simply move



Jerry Phillips went to Deep Creek Lake for a 30" walleye.

By Bernie Shultz

from side to side in a smooth, gliding motion.

Of course, that's not always the case. They can also be worked agcontinue to the next page



Alex Nulter, from Cowen, caught a 22" largemouth bass.





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gressively to create more commotion. But for the most part, walking baits are the stealthier members of the topwater family.

They are excellent in deep, clear reservoirs and on natural lakes ... especially those with grass, docks or flooded cypress trees. They have the ability to catch larger than average fish. That goes for largemouth, spots and smallmouth. They also have the ability to raise suspended fish. So, for those reasons, I try them whenever conditions seem right.

When I feel a walking bait might work, I'll start with a steady, medium-speed retrieve — sashaying the lure next to or over various visual targets, like stumps, holes in the grass, etc. If I don't see a fairly quick response from the fish, I'll slow the retrieve and shorten the distance of each pull. When the lure reaches the target, I'll either make contact, pause it or both. If that fails, then I'm probably switching to another lure.

#### POPPING FRESH

Because the profile of a walking bait may be too large for certain situations, I'll sometimes drop down to a standard-sized popper. And depending on the mood of the fish, I'll work the popper accordingly.

continue to the next page



Preston Lee hooked and released a nice musky.





A huge North Bend Lake largemouth was reeled in by this fellow.



This young fellow caught a North Bend Lake crappie.





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For instance, when bass are chasing shad or some other type of forage fish on the surface, I'll usually start with a brisk retrieve – sliding and popping the lure steadily through what I believe are the highest percentage areas. This presentation works extremely well when bass are on the feed, but it can also provoke fish that aren't in the mood.

On other occasions, I may work a popper more slowly ... much like a walking bait. In fact, by tying a loop knot, you can get some poppers to also walk from side to side. Their gait is obviously less, but they can still sashay enough to make fish mad, and that can generate strikes.

When less action is best, I'll pause a popper next to the target and let it bob. You'd be surprised how many strikes this can produce.

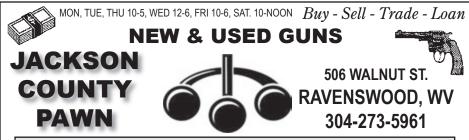
Poppers are good around grass, continue to the next page



Raylee Cunningham got her first buck in Calhoun County.



Wayne Lilly got a 20 pound gobbler in Greenbrier County.



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wood and rock, especially under calm, overcast conditions.

#### A PREFERENCE FOR PROPS

My favorite topwater lure type is the prop bait. Maybe it's because I'm from the South, but I have a tremendous amount of confidence in them.

Of all the topwaters, I feel the prop bait requires the most patience. Too often, the tendency is to overwork the lure - continually pulling it so the props are sputtering and chirping, making excessive commotion.

The truth is most of the strikes I get on prop baits come as the lure is sitting still, or just as it begins to move after a lengthy pause.

Sure, there are times when bass will connect on a quicker cadence, but not usually. That's why I use the propellers to get the fish's attention, and then let the lure's profile do the rest. This slow, almost glacial-speed retrieve works parGet Ready For Hunting Season With Our Large Selection Of

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ticularly well when there's a slight ripple on the surface. At that point, continue to the page 18



Jason Turner caught a 7 1/2 pound largemouth at Stonewall Jackson.



Jordan Burdette, from Fayetteville, used a bow for a 9 point buck.



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the lure takes on its own action.

I like prop baits anytime there is grass, either emergent or submerged. They also work well around flooded brush, cypress and laydowns. The trick is getting the lure tight to the cover without fouling, then working it with patience.

It's important to carry both single and tandem-prop models. Sometimes one will outperform the other. And if you're throwing a tandem, I highly recommend those with counter-rotating props. To me, they are by far the best producers.

Lastly, be sure the hardware is loose so that the props can turn freely to create a subtle chattering sound. That drives bass crazy.

#### SURFACE LURE SUMMARY

Although I've tried to provide some separation from one group to the next, the truth is, these various types of topwaters can and will overlap each other. When a walking bait might work, so could a popper, and so on. So keep an open mind and let the situation and the fish help you make the best choice.



Ron Davis hooked a largemouth at Stonewall Jackson Lake..

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#### Advertise In The W. Va. Sportsman - Details On Page 3



Davis Jackson got a long tined buck.



Tommy Eudy went to Raleigh County for a 320 pound bear.



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CHANGING LIVES FOR THE BETTER - ONE BOAT AT A TIME



Louden Goodpaster, from Green Bottom, hooked a 5 pound bass.



TJ Smith caught a 4 1/4 pund smallmouth bass. Photo courtesy of PC Bait & Tackle in Hinton..



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Rick VanDyne used a bow for a nice buck.



Curtis Reed landed a nice Burnsville Lake largemouth bass.



Don Salisbury brought in a coyote. Photo courtesy of Crossroads General Store near Newark.

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#### **Catfishing In The State Parks Program**

SOUTH CHARLESTON, W.Va. – The West Virginia Division of Natural Resources (DNR) will be stocking more than 1,000 catchable-sized channel catfish at seven state park lakes in June. This popular Catfish in the Parks program provides additional fishing opportunities at Cacapon, Cedar Creek, Chief Logan, Little Beaver, Pipestem, Tomlinson Run and Watoga state parks.

The stocking will take place before West Virginia's Free Fishing Days, June 11-12, to enhance fishing opportunities for individuals

and families at state parks.

"Fishing with your family and friends is a great way to enjoy the outdoors," said Bret Preston, assistant chief of the Wildlife Resources Section. "Catfish in the Parks can provide the opportunity to introduce someone to fishing or reacquaint a friend or family member to fishing."

New to the program this year is the addition of a "mystery lake," home to tagged catfish.

"One of the state parks lakes will be stocked with tagged catfish," said Sissie Summers with the state park system. "Lucky anglers who catch a tagged fish and submit the tag information are eligible to receive a free overnight stay at North Bend State Park."

The free stay is redeemable Sundays through Thursdays. Anglers receiving the free night reward may opt to stay Friday or Saturday night for a \$40 room rate.

continue to the next page



Luke Smith caught a 48" musky on the Hughes River. *Photo courtesy Crossroads General Store Near Newark*.



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Anglers who catch a tagged fish are asked to return the tag or the tag number, along with information on the date of capture, whether the fish was kept or released and the name and address of the angler to WVD-NR, 2311 Ohio Ave., Parkersburg, WV 26101. Anglers also can call in the information to 304-420-4550 or provide the information by email to dnrfishtags@wv.gov.

Additional information about the catfish tagging programs can be found at www.wvdnr.gov/Fishing/Fish\_Tagging.shtm.



Danny Stutler hooked a 47 pound flathead catfish. *Photo courtesy of Crossroads General Store near Newark*.



**740-484-4572**Exit 208 I-70 S. on SR 149-2.7 Miles **Belmont, Ohio** 



#### **Summer Bluegill Fishing**

What are the key things to consider for awesome summer bluegill fishing?

Where are the best hot spots and locations to catch those beautiful sunfish in any freshwater fishing

body of water?

How to fish for those bull slabs of bluegills in the summer time?

These questions will be answered for you as we talk about their continue to the next page



spawning and breeding habits, the best time frames, and a brief introduction leading to more information about baits, lures and the proper tackle to use.

Summer is a great season to take advantage of fishing for bluegills, redbreasts and shellcrackers. The following tips will help aide you into figuring what you should look for during the hottest days of the year.

**About Bluegill Spawning Habits** 

Their spawning and breeding habits play an important roll for us fishermen looking to successfully locate and catch them.

When do bluegills spawn?

Some panfish may begin spawning during the spring, barring that the conditions are right for them to do so. They begin to breed once the water temperatures reach right around 70 degrees, which usually heats to that comfort zone by June and July.

Bluegills spawn any from in 2 to 15 feet of water, but most likely and more often from 2 to 6 feet. The hotter it is, then the deeper the beds will be due to lower oxygen levels. The 'gills nest up their spawning beds in creek mouths and sloughs of main rivers, lakes, reservoirs and ponds, and much prefer to build their spawning beds on sandy or gravel bottom flats.

Bluegills are also actually known



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#### 2016 Bass & Catfish Tournament Schedule

#### NORTH BEND LAKE ROCKY HOOVER RAMP Paper Bass Tournaments

May 24 7am to 4pm
June 18 7am to 4pm
July 23 7am to 4pm
August 13 7am to 4pm
Sept. 3 7am to 4pm
Oct. 29 7:30am to 4:30pm

#### Ohio River & North Bend Catfish Tournaments

May 7 7am to 7pm NB Lake

May 28 6am to 3pm OHR - Corning

June 4 7pm to 7am NR Lake

July 9 7pm to 7am

August 9 7pm to 7am

August 27 6pm to 8am OHR Corning

Sept. 10 6pm to 8am OHR Corning

to spawn multiple times during the season. The ones that do spawn a second time are often found to be the larger sized bull bluegills.



Drew & Jacob Johnson were in on a fish catch.

June/July 2016 ~ Page 25

Those bigger bluegills may most likely be found out deeper in the water column.

Summer Bluegill Fishing Tactics

So, what does the panfish breeding habits have to do with catching bluegills in the summer?

Well, now we know exactly where to find most of the bluegills, continue to the next page



Frank Sauchuck, from Beaver, caught a big walleye on the New.

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including the big bull bluegills. It's just a matter of getting out on the water to catch them suckers.

Without pulling directly on top of your fishing spot, position your boat just outside of the area. I would recommend to begin working the deeper water first. The reason is because, and as with a lot of other fish, bluegills tend to head straight for deeper waters when hooked, thus spooking those other fish that might be out there.

Best Times For Bluegill Fishing The full moon is an excellent time frame for summer bluegill fishing. Search out their beds and fish them as you normally would.

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During the regular daylight hours as the sun is up, fish with your favorite bluegill lures. During dusk and dawn, plug away with your top water baits. Bluegills have somewhat similar feeding habits as bass do, so bluegill fishing is sometimes referred to as a scaled down version of largemouth bass fishing tactics. Summer Bluegill Bait And Lures

Many species of fish go on a feeding binge around their spawn NEW 17 Pitch - 4 Blade Michigan Brand Stainless Propeller **And Hubs**  Ideal 70 to 135 HP CALL 304-482-7217 WILL DELIVER

seasons, and bluegills are no exception to the rule. Live bluegill baits like worms, maggots, crickets or red wrigglers will most likely do the trick. And micro sized lures are just as fun and effective.

**Advertise In The** W. Va. Sportsman Details On Page3



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- · No Dead Fish
- Cull After 6th Fish
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- Entering At The Ramp Must Be Before 6am 8/1

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#### **Spring Gobbler**

ELKINS, W.Va. - Spring turkey hunters harvested 10,369 gobblers this year, up 14 percent from 2015, according to Keith Krantz, wild turkey and upland game biologist for the West Virginia Division of Natural Resources (DNR). The 2016 season, April 18 through May 14, started on the third Monday in April for the first time in recent history, a week earlier than usual.

Youth hunters checked in 380 gobblers during the one-day youth season held April 16. Preston County had the highest reported harvest of 16, followed by Raleigh and Upshur counties with 15 apiece, Wyoming County with 14 and Nicholas and Greenbrier counties with 13 each.

All six DNR districts showed an increase in overall harvest compared to 2015. District 1 in the northern part of the state recorded the most birds checked with 2,093, followed by District 4 (1,979), District 6 (1,926), District 5 (1,811), District 3 (1,622) and District 2 (938).

Mason County in District 5 led the state with 379 gobblers checked. Preston County (372), Nicholas (330), Wood (326) and Wyoming (320) counties rounded out the top five.

"The harvest stayed high throughout the entire four-week season."



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Krantz said. "Good weather during much of the season, coupled with an earlier starting date, likely affected the harvest in 2016. Now we're hoping we will have the proper brood-rearing conditions for high poult survival this year." Krantz said.

#### **Like To Tournament Bass Fish?**

Several bass tournaments are listed in this magazine.



A near state record bluegill was caught. Photo courtesy of PC Bait & Tackle in Hinton.

# **Rifles Pistols**

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June/July 2016 ~ Page 27

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Wendy Meadows bagged an 8 point buck in Tyler County.

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Details On Page 3
LOW RATES



Zack Nolan, from Prichard, hooked a large crappie.



Peyton Meadows shot a 6 point buck in Tyler County.



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John Harrison caught and released this 46 1/2" Burnsville Lake musky.

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Nick Stalnaker used a bow in Wyoming Co. for this 167 class buck.



Steven Cunningham used a bow in Calhoun County for this buck.

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#### **Fishing For Summertime Musky**

The name Muskie (also known as Musky) is derived from the word Muskellunge. Esox Masquinongy is the scientific name of Muskie. The term Muskellunge came from the French word Masgue Alongé, which means "Ugly Pike". In order to catch one of these top predators, follow our summer muskie fishing

tips below.

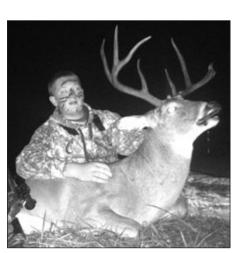
Muskies have only one species, but found in 6 different patterns that include Clear, Barred, Silver, Pure Leopard, Spotted Black Panther and Spotted Leopard. Spotted Black Panther is one of the rarest patterns and only found in Lac Seul. Pure Leopard is the rarest and only can be seen in few lakes in Ontario.

Muskies are greatly affected by climatic changes and usually prefer stable weather. During the summer, Muskies become solitary hunters. They either rest at the bottom, or hide under the weed beds or near rock piles. Once the water temperature hovers around 60 degrees, they start moving towards summer territories.

In early summer Muskies spend most of their time in shallow water feeding on ciscoes and whitefish. Late summer is the best time of the continue to the next page



Gabe Sigman got a 21 pound gobbler. *Photo courtesy of WV WIld Outdoors in Birch River.* 



Chris Grose bagged an 8 point with a muzzleloader in Cabell County.

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June/July 2016 ~ Page 33



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year to catch tiger muskies. They are on the go and generally very active during this period. They tend to react well to fast moving presentations and larger lures.

Selecting the right weed beds is an important factor when looking for summer muskies. They are known to be top of the food chain predators and always looking for prey. That is why you need to choose weed beds which offer plenty of food options and space to move around.

Lure Choices For Catching Musky In The Summer

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When choosing the lure, versatility is the key, especially during summer. The main reason behind this is that the Muskie becomes familiar with their surroundings, and more often, with our lure presentations. Trolling or casting bucktails, crankbaits, jerkbaits or large minnow baits are most effective when you are fishing around rock humps as Muskies stay on the shallow water, not far from the spawning area.

Look for the emerging weeds patches, as these are known as musky hotspots. This early season weed growth means rising water temperature and bait fishes, it also offers cover for the muskies to hide in. Good lures to target fish around these early growing weed patches are bucktail spinners and minnow baits, especially in overcast days



Doug Sigman got a 20.4 pound gobbler. Photo courtesy of WV Wild Outdoors in Birch River.

June/July 2016 ~ Page 34

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continue to the next page



Hannah White used a crossbow for a Jackson Co. 8 point buck.

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The growing popularity of musky fishing and technological innovation has created an industry today that produce quality Muskie rods and reels which make your fishing job much easier. Some of the most popular summer Muskie fishing rods include Shimano Compre Muskie Rod, St. Croix Legend Musky Rod, and St. Croix Premier casting series.

The reels that you choose are one of the most important components of your musky tackle, and can make a huge difference between a successful Muskie fishing trip or a disappointing one. Some of the most popular Muskie fishing reels includes Shimano Calcutta D Series, Okuma Isis Round Baitcast Musky Reels, Daiwa Lexa High Capacity Baitcast Reel, and Shimano Corvalus Round Casting Musky Reels.

Other Factors to Consider When Fishing For Muskie In Summer

As the air temperature touches 65 degrees, muskies are scattered all



Drew Parrish got a nice gobbler.

over the lake. You will find them on the rocky piles, island clusters, rocky reefs, and cabbage weed beds near deep water. During peak summer, lake surface temperature hovers above 75 degrees; because of this reason muskies become very active due to high metabolism and feed more often than any other time of the year.

During the day, they stay in deeper water. Trolling with deep running plugs or large bucktails is the most effective way to cover a lot of area. The ideal speed for trolling in the summer should be 6-8 miles per hour. Be sure to use a top electric trolling motor for best results. For a better result you need to troll fast with a long line along the weed "Business Goes Where Invited -Stays Where Appreciated"

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Dalton Cutright, owner

beds near deep water. It also helps to use a portable cheap fish finder to determine water depth and temperature.

continue to the next page



Bill Blake shot a 20 pound gobbler. Photo courtesy of Tri Lakes in Walkers-

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#### Birds Of Prey Visits Cities

SOUTH CHARLESTON, W.Va. - The "Wings of Wonder - Birds of Prey" program series will be featured at 14 state parks in 2016. Ron and Wendy Perrone of Three Rivers Avian Center will present the birds and information about each species. The presentation includes information about the incredible abilities of raptors, their differences, and how birds are connected with their ecosystems.

"We feature the program every year, and every year it is wonderful," says Cheryle Boggs, seasonal naturalist at Watoga State Park. "Birds, and particularly raptors, are fascinating."

Three Rivers Avian Center is scheduled to present "Wings of Wonder - Birds of Prey" at these West Virginia state parks and forests. Location and presentation times are posted on each park's events website, or call the park for times.

June 3, 2016 – Pipestem State Park – 304-466-1800

June 18, 2016 – Beech Fork State Park – 304-528-5794

June 24, 2016 – Twin Falls State



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Park – 304-294-4000

June 25, 2016 – Babcock State Park – 304-438-3004

July 8, 2016 - Audra State Park - 304-457-1162

July 16, 2016 – Holly River State Park – 304-493-6353

July 22, 2016 – Cacapon State Park – 304-258-1022

July 23, 2016 - Lost River State

Park – 304-897-5372 July 29, 2016 – Blackwater Falls State Park – 304-259-5216 July 30, 2016 – Watoga State Park – 304-799-4087

August 13, 2016 – North Bend continue to the next page



Jerry Spencer got a big Ohio buck.



Randy Blake caught a 5 pound, 3 oz. largemouth in Harrison Co.

# TOP GUN

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August 14, 2016 – Blennerhassett Island State Park – 304-420-4800 August 19, 2016 - Tygart Lake State Park - 304-265-6148 September 10, 2016 - Kanawha State Forest – 304-558-3500

Special summer programs and a variety of daily activities are conducted at West Virginia state parks and are open to the public at no charge. Times vary and should be confirmed with individual parks. For more information about special programs, click on Park Programs at www.wvstateparks.com.

Why outdoor education works

Three Rivers Avian Center started presenting programs in West Virginia State Parks in 1993. Its popularity and response has been outstanding. "People are genuinely interested in raptors, conservation of birds and visiting a state park and being outdoors," says Sissie Summers, programming coordinator for West Virginia State Parks.

Three Rivers Avian Center is a private nonprofit organization dedicated to wild bird conservation.



Joshua Judge caught a 19 pound carp. Photo courtesy of PC Bait & Tackle in Hinton.



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