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Issue 293

June/July 2021



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BLUEGILL**

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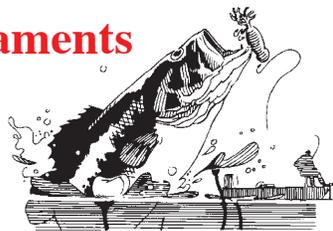
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Cover Photo

Chris Stepp, from Powhatan Point, Ohio, landed a 7 pound, 6 ounce smallmouth bass at a bass tournament on the Ohio River. It was the biggest smallmouth bass ever recorded in an Ohio River event.

Fishing season is going strong again this year. Send in your big fish pictures from this year. There is a form on page 38. Either mail in - text- or email.

Good luck to all -this season.

Fishing Trivia

FAO (Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations) statistics say that there are around 38 million fishermen and fish farmers in the world. Some 500 million people are, directly or indirectly employed, thanks to Fisheries and aquaculture.

Most fish cannot swim backwards.

Statistics from 2005, say that fish captured from wild fisheries and harvested from fish farms per year is enough for 21.8 kilograms of fish per every living human on Earth.

Catfish have no scales like other fish. They also have chemoreceptors across their entire bodies meaning they can taste and smell with their skin.

Some statistics say that anglers are more commonly hit by lightning than any other sportsmen be-

cause the extra time required to seek shelter and because of general carelessness.

There are 32,000 species of fish which is more than any other group of vertebrates.

Lungfish can survive, buried underground, for years without water because they have both gills and lungs. That helps them survive dry spells.

There is estimation that there are over 15,000 fish species that are still not yet identified. Oceans are vast and who knows what waits for us there.

Not all fish spend all their time in water. Some fish can fly short distances.

continue to the next page

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Ty Thompson landed his personal best largemouth bass.



Riley McCloy bagged her 1st gobbler on the youth day hunt.



Hunter Knight landed a 30" drum at the Willow Island dam.

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There is archeological evidence that human race eats fish for 40,000 years now.

The first fishing reels were invented in 4th century China.

Philippine goby is the smallest fish in the world. It can “reach” 8mm when fully grown.

Oldest fish hook that we found until now is made of shell and is between 16,000 and 23,000 years old.

When the angling (fishing with a fish hook) became popular in 15th century, line for fishing was made by hand from horsehair.

If water that fish lives in doesn't have enough oxygen - a fish can

“drown” (suffocate).

Most fish have an air bladder (or swim bladder) which helps them to rise to surface or sink (when the

bladder is empty).

Before angling that we know today, people used spears for fish-

continue to the next page



Tia Letan and Tyler Davis won a Stonewall Jackson tournament with 5 fish weighing 20 lbs, 9 oz. The biggest fish weighed 5 lbs, 13 ounces.



David Yeager bagged a 22 1/2 pound gobbler in Tyler County.

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ng. Some places still use spears to catch fish.

The lateral line is a sense organ found mainly in fish. It allows them for instance to follow the vortices produced by fleeing prey, for orientation and to produce spatial awareness.

97% of all known fish reproduce by laying eggs.

Fisherman Superstitions

Fishermen can be very superstitious. Here are some of their beliefs:

You will not catch any fish if you take your fishing rods into the house before you go fishing.

It is a bad luck if you let a dog (any dog) stand near the fishing equipment that you intend to use. On the other hand, black cats bring good luck if they are seen on the way to the fishing ground.

If you go fishing by boat, don't look back once you cast off - it also brings bad luck.

One superstition that fishermen inherited from sailors is that a one who wear earrings or have tattoos won't drown in case of a shipwreck or falling overboard.

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New WV State Record Skipjack

SOUTH CHARLESTON, WV — An Ohio angler caught a West Virginia state record skipjack on April 29 from the Ohio River.

Ethan Moss of Gallipolis caught the 20.15-inch, 3.1-pound skipjack in the RC Byrd Tailwaters south of Point Pleasant, breaking the previous record for both length (19.21

inches) and weight (2.64 pounds) held by Zachary Hankins since 2013.

Skipjacks are not a game fish but are a popular bait fish for catching catfish. Because of similar features, some anglers refer to them as freshwater tarpon, which is a salt-water game fish.

Anglers who believe they may have caught a state record fish should check the current records in the fishing regulations at wvdnr.gov. Procedures for reporting a record catch also are included in the regulations.



Rosa Packer caught a 5 1/2 lb. rainbow trout at Tracey Lake.

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Bluestate Lake Update

SOUTH CHARLESTON, WV
 — The West Virginia Division of Natural Resources (WVDNR) boat launches, access roads, parking areas and campgrounds at Bluestone

Lake Wildlife Management Area will be submerged more often and for longer periods over the next 10 years.

The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers is in the process of improving the stability and safety of Bluestone Dam. During this modification, routine outflow from the dam will be reduced by more than half, which will cause increased lake levels anytime flows coming into the lake equal or exceed 10,000 cubic feet per second. The lake level will also change more frequently resulting in boat ramps, parking lots, campgrounds and other features of the WMA to flood more often, at higher levels and for longer periods of time.

The five roadway gates, located on the access roads of Bluestone Lake WMA, will be closed during predicted high-water events. These closures will be made for public safety and to prevent vehicles from being flooded or trapped due to flooded roadways.

For current lake level information and water conditions, visitors are encouraged to visit <http://www.lrh-wc.usace.army.mil/wm/?basin/>

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Lewis Andrake hooked a 5 lb., 3 oz. rainbow trout. *Photo courtesy of Middle Mountain Sporting Goods in Elkins.*

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Please contact the WVDNR District 4 Office, located in Beckley, WV, at 304-256-6947 for gate closure information and updates.



James Hively landed a largemouth bass in Jackson County.



Jennell Winters hooked a huge carp at Burnsville Lake.

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Fishing With A Spinnerbait

At first glance, a spinnerbait doesn't appear like it would be an effective lure because there's really nothing natural looking about them. But that couldn't be further from the truth. Spinnerbaits have been one of the best bass lures for decades, using flash and vibration to trigger the attention of bass.

Simply put, a spinnerbait is a wire that is bent at a ninety degree angle with a jig head on one end and a blade on the other. The jig head is typically dressed with a rubber skirt. The blade end will have a swivel connecting the blade to the wire and allowing the blade to flutter and spin freely. The fishing line ties at the bend.

Fishing a spinnerbait can be as easy as casting it out and reeling it straight in. That's the beauty of a spinnerbait, they produce their own action. Of course there's more to it if you want to become an expert in all conditions with these lures.

Selecting A Spinnerbait

The two most important factors you need to consider when selecting a spinnerbait is the retrieve speed and depth you're looking to achieve. These two factors are

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heavily based on the style of spinnerbait blade you choose. Not only the style but the number of blades as well. Most spinnerbaits today have multiple blades on them.

continue to the next page



Storm Keeler landed a 30" walleye out of the Elk River.



Rodney Bumgardner hooked a quality 16" crappie.

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Naturally, the weight of the spinnerbait is going to have an effect on the running depth as well. The heavier the weighted head of the bait is the faster it is going to sink down in the water column. Spinnerbaits come in a variety of different weights, but the most popular weight for a spinnerbait is in the three-eighths to half an ounce range.

The blades on spinnerbaits put out a ton of vibrations in the water, and these vibrations are easily detected by bass through their unique sensing ability. Bass have a line of modified scales that are sensitive to vibrations in the water known as the lateral line. And it's so sensitive that bass are able to sense vibrations from several dozen yards away.

Lateral line of a bass

The lateral line starts just behind eye of a bass and goes all the way to the tail on both sides of their bodies. Not only does it transmit the vibrations to the brain, it also measures distance and direction.

Not only are the various blades of a spinnerbait putting out different vibrations, but they are also controlling the speed and running depth of the bait. The size and style



Avelin Kay Boothe landed a large carp. Had help holding with Cory..

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of the blade is going to determine how much water it displaces.

The more water displacement there is, the slower it is going to move through the water. As well as keep it higher up in the water column. Same is true for increasing the amount of blades on the spinnerbait. So to be truly effective spinnerbait fishing, you are going to need more than one style blade in your spinnerbait box.

Types of Spinnerbait Blades
spinnerbait-blades

There are three styles of spinner-
continue to the next page



Mark Taylor, from New Martinsville, hooked an Ohio River bass




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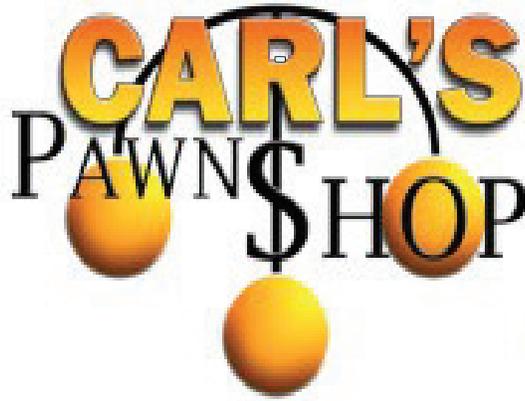


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bait blades: the Willow blade, the Colorado blade, and the Indiana blade. They all work the same way by spinning to create flash and vibration in the water.



What makes one style blade different from the next is the shape. This is what regulates how much vibration they create and how fast or slow they travel through the water.

Each style has their own strengths and weaknesses that either make them better or worse in certain conditions. Here's a breakdown of each one and when you should use them.

Willow Blade

The Willow blade is long and

skinny, designed to cut through the water much faster than any of the other blade styles. This is good choice for a blade when bass are active and chasing fast moving baits.

The skinnier blade also makes them the best spinnerbait blade for targeting deeper water because they dive down in the water column faster. They can even continue to sink as they are retrieved.

Willow blades spin the fastest so the vibration is tighter but not as powerful as other blade styles. Since they don't thump as loud as other blades bass won't be able to detect them as easily from a long distance with their lateral line.

That's why they are best used in clear water, where bass are mainly relying on their sight to detect prey. But that said, you don't want a bass to get a good look at a spinnerbait

because of how unnatural they appear. All you want them to see is flash and movement. That's what makes these fast moving blades ideal for clear water conditions.

Colorado Blade

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Young Tanner Chidester went to Upshur County on the youth hunt.



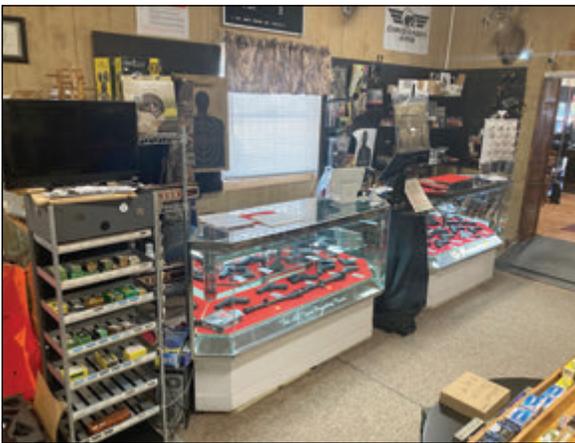
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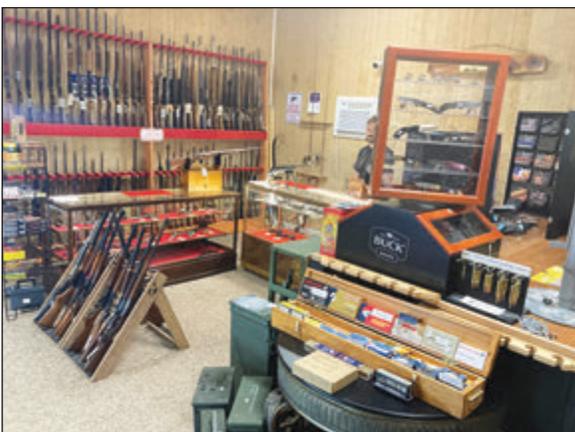
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Pistol Range



The slowest moving spinnerbait blade is the Colorado blade. These blades have more of a rounded shape that causes them to displace more water as they spin, while slowing the bait down big time.

They also give the bait some lift, keeping it up in the water column as it's retrieved. These blades are ideal for fishing shallow water or when you want to run the bait just below the surface.

Colorado blades spin slowest and put out more of a thumping vibration. They are the best choice when you need to use sound to attract bass.

That's why these blades work so well in murky water where visibility is low. Bass will be relying more on their lateral lines than their eyes for find prey. It's hard to beat a spinnerbait with a Colorado blade when fishing in shallow, murky water.

Indiana Blade

The Indiana blade falls somewhere in between the Colorado blade and the Willow blade. It takes the attributes from both blades and combines them in to a single blade, creating more of an oval shape.

This is a good blade when your fishing different water depths and still zeroing in on where the bass are holding. It's also perfect for when you're looking for a more

continue to the next page

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moderate speed, like when water is not completely clear or murky.

Blade Combinations

Combining blades can help you zero in on the exact depth your targeting and action your looking to put out. You may have heard anglers refer to a tandem spinnerbait, which means it has a main blade combined with a secondary blade.

Some spinnerbaits are even designed to have three or more blades. The purpose of these multi-blade designs is to create more vibration and flash, while combining the advantages of the different style blades in to one spinnerbait.

Trailer Hooks

It's never a bad idea to implement the use of trailer hooks on your spinnerbaits. Bass often come up short when attempting to bite these fast moving lures, which you will begin to see once you catch a few bass on your trailer hook.

A trailer hook is simply an additional hook attached to the back end of the lure. The eyelet of the trailer hook slides over the main hook and trails behind the lure as its retrieved. A little plastic stopper needs to be added to keep the trailer hook from slipping off.

Fishing Spinnerbaits

Since spinnerbaits create their



Logan Gardner hooked a huge bass at O'Brien Lake.



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own action, the most common way to fish them is by simply casting them out and reeling them back in a straight retrieve. Fishing them this way will certainly catch fish, but it's knowing where and when to use a spinnerbait that makes the difference.

Spinnerbaits work exceptionally well on overcast days when there is some wind and ripple on the surface. You should always be trying to cast them at targets like along docks, rocks, and weed edges.

To increase and decrease the
continue to the next page



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Rick Campbell hunted in Lewis County and got a bearded -7" hen.

speed of retrieval, aside from adjusting reel speed and blade style, you can bend the wire frame wider or narrower than the original ninety degrees. Bending it open to a wider angle will slow the bait down and narrower will increase the speed.

The wire has a secondary benefit of functioning as a weed guard, making the lure somewhat weedless. Your not going to be able to get these baits through thick cover, but spinnerbaits work exceptionally well in light cover like through grass and timber.

Being able to cast and reel spinnerbaits in a straight retrieve effectively, make them great for covering a lot of water and trying to locate fish. But there are a few other ways to entice bites than with a simple straight retrieve.

Spinnerbait Techniques

The repetitive motion of a spinnerbait in a straight retrieve can be unappealing to bass when they're inactive, seeing too many spinnerbaits, or when the conditions sim-

ply don't call for it. That's when different techniques should be implemented that better fit the conditions. Here are some very effective methods for fishing spinnerbaits.

Reaction Bites

A great way of triggering strikes when a straight retrieve isn't doing the trick, is to every so often as you're reeling give your rod a jerk to make the bait change up it's repetitive action. The best time to jerk the rod is right when the lure is passing by some sort of cover like a rock or log. A lot of times this can be the difference between a bass instantly attacking it or slowly investigating it.

Jerking the rod like this creates what is called a reaction bite. This is when a bass reacts to the sudden random movement of a lure by attacking it. If an inactive bass sees a spinnerbait rolling by at a consistent pace, they know they have time to follow and investigate it. By randomly jerking the rod tip

continue to page 18

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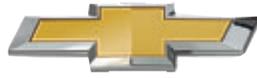


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you're making the bait's behavior seem more unpredictable, making a curious bass more likely to attack it.

Sub-Surface

Running a spinnerbait just under the surface so that the blade disturbs the surface is a very effective tactic. You'll have to keep the rod tip up high as you reel to keep the bait up close to the surface. Using a

Colorado blade will also help keep the bait up.

This technique is almost like fishing a topwater lure. It works best in warm shallow water, like in late spring or summer. But you can get good results in deeper water too, especially if you see baitfish swirling on the surface and run the spinnerbait right through them.

YoYo Method

This is a great tactic when bass are inactive and not chasing fast retrieves. It's called the yoyo retrieve because you make the lure go up and down like a yoyo.

Basically you let the spinnerbait sink to the bottom right off the cast. Then you lift the rod tip up and lower it while reeling in the slack. This will make the bait jump up and down off the bottom, spinning the blade as it rises and letting it flutter as it sinks. This is an excellent method for fishing a spinnerbait in cold water.

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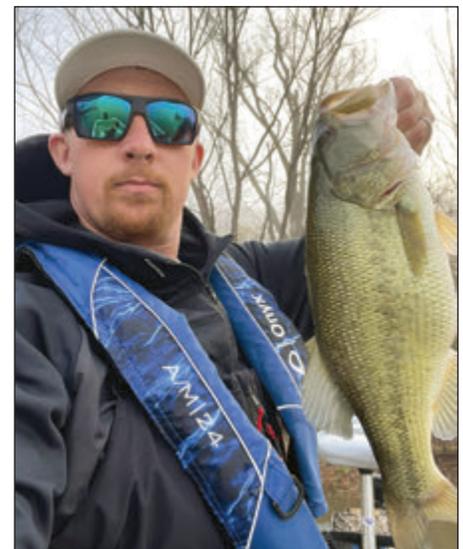


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Mussel Survey Protocol

SOUTH CHARLESTON, W.V.A. — The West Virginia Division of Natural Resources is seeking public comment on draft documents regarding mussel survey protocols and stream guidance.

Mussel protocols are designed to document the presence of mussel species and to provide consistent and standardized guidance to mussel surveyors in order to ensure compliance with state laws.

To review the documents, visit wvdnr.gov/regcomments/mussel-comments.shtm. Comments may be sent by email or mail, but must be submitted or postmarked by July 9, 2021. Comments submitted by email should be sent to Kevin.M.Eliason@wv.gov.

West Virginia is home to 64 species of freshwater mussels, 10 of which are federally listed as threatened or endangered. The state recognizes 42 mussel species as very rare or rare and species of greatest conservation need. To learn more about mussels in West Virginia, visit wvdnr.gov/Mussels/Main.shtm.

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2021 Spring Turkey Harvest

SOUTH CHARLESTON, W.VA. — According to preliminary data released by the West Virginia Division of Natural Resources (WVDNR), hunters harvested 10,134 turkeys during the state's spring gobbler season.

The 2021 harvest is 10.43 percent lower than the 2020 harvest, when hunters took 11,320 birds. The 2021 harvest is 10.32 percent below the five-year average of 11,300 and 2.93 percent below the 10-year average of 10,449.

“Even though our turkey population appears relatively stable, we will always experience ebbs and flows in population abundance and accordingly our harvest,” said Mike Peters, wild turkey project leader for WVDNR.

WVDNR field staff observed relatively low turkey production in 2019 compared to the previous five years. Peters said most turkeys harvested during the spring season are 2 years old and that this year's harvest reflects the lower production in 2019.

2021 Spring Turkey Season Harvest Numbers

Districts 2 and 4 reported a slight increase in the number of birds harvested during the 2021 spring season compared to last year's totals. The remaining districts harvested fewer birds. District 1 harvested the most birds (2,298), followed by District 6 (1,930), District 5 (1,701), District 4 (1,673), District 3 (1,484) and District 2 (1,048).

The top five counties with the

highest turkey harvest were Mason (364), Preston (343), Jackson

continue to page26



David Booth, from Bridgeport, harvested a nice spring gobbler.



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(323), Kanawha (299) and Harrison (271) counties.

During the two-day youth season, youth hunters harvested 487 turkeys, 328 of which were taken on Saturday with the remaining 159 taken on Sunday. The youth harvest made up 5.7 percent of the season's total harvest.



Randy McAdams brought in an unusual triple bearded turkey. *Photo courtesy of Tyler Outdoor Supply in Middlebourne.*

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Kolden Winters caught a big largemouth bass in Lewis County.

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WVDNR Announces Archery Winners

SOUTH CHARLESTON, WV — The results are in and several schools and students in West Virginia placed highly in the National Archery in the Schools Tournament.

On Tuesday, the West Virginia Division of Natural Resources (WVDNR) announced that three West Virginia schools were among the top teams in their respective di-

visions and that 27 students qualified individually for the NASP World Championship in June.

"We want to thank everyone who participated in the Archery in the Schools program this year and extend a big congratulations to all of our teams and students who made our state proud at the national tournament this spring," said Kayla

continue to the next page

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Donathan, who coordinates the Archery in the Schools program for the WVDNR.

Ripley High School placed third in the high school division, while Riverside High School came in 12th place. Elkview Middle School finished sixth in their division. The following West Virginia students have qualified for the World Championship.

High School – Male

Jacob Harless – Riverside High School

Jackson Wilson – Riverside High School

Levi Radabaugh– Ripley High School

Elijah Bryant – Buckhannon Upshur High School

Klay Ranson– Ripley High School
Kristopher Pomeroy – Riverside High School

Logen Ord – Hurricane High School

Jordan Kerns – Ripley High School
Sean Cooper – Summers Co. High School

Charlie Taylor – Magnolia High School

High School – Female

Rayne Thompson – Ripley High School

Gracie Freeman – Ripley High



Eric Johnson bagged a 19 1/2 lb. Wood County gobbler.

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School

Abigail Okes – Shady Spring High School

Andi Kees – Riverside High School
Netis Woodall – Poca High School

Jaiden George – Ripley High School

Middle School – Male

Max Moore – Elkview Middle School

Riley Peyton – Elkview Middle School

Hunter Harrison – Ripley Middle School

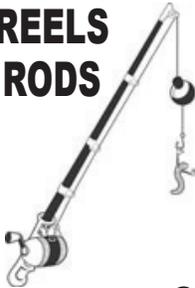
Easton Dickenson – Summers Middle School

continue to page 29



Ron Mullins hooked a 5 lb., 7 z. rainbow trout *Photo courtesy of Middle Mountain Sporting Goods in Elkins.*

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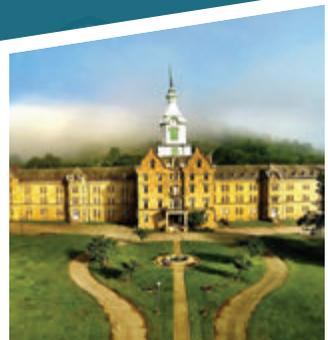
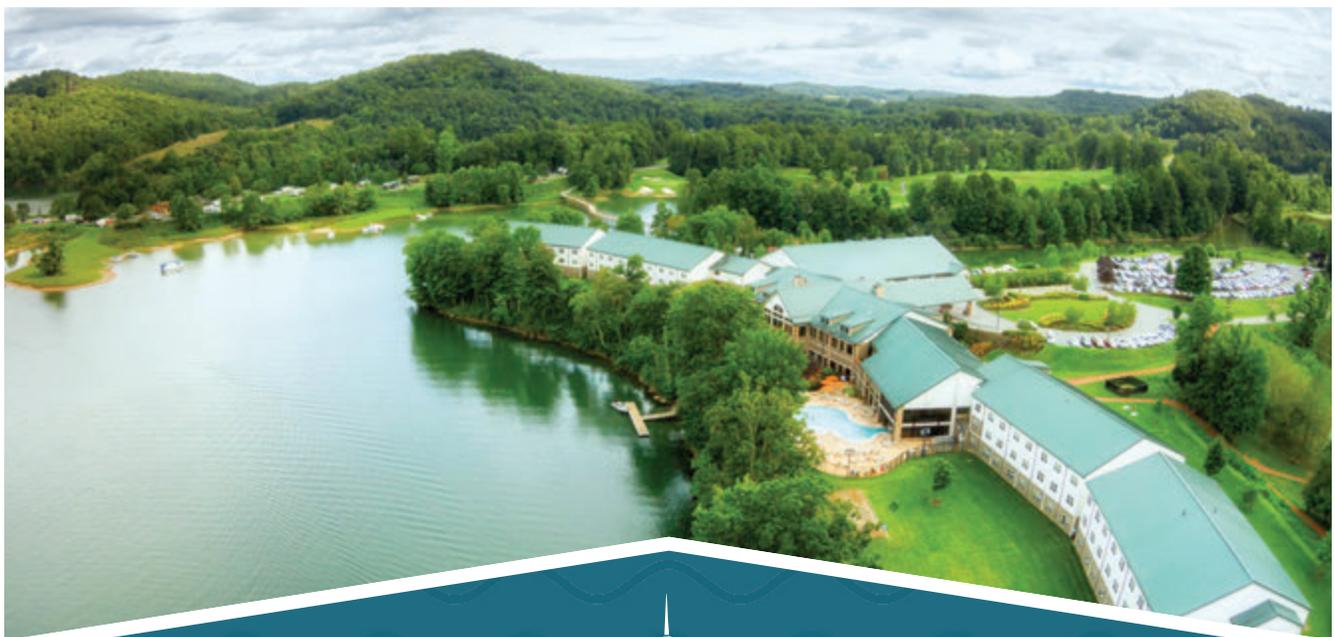


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Austin Lacy – Elkview Middle School
 Middle School – Female
 Abigail Szuch – Shady Spring Middle School
 Kara Stephens – Elkview Middle School
 Lilli Slater – Elkview Middle School
 Elementary School – Male
 Elijah Longwell – Elk Elementary Center
 Lenon Hodge – Hurricane Town Elementary
 Keegan Perdew – Elk Elementary Center

Due to the COVID-19 pandemic, the national tournament was hosted in a virtual format from April 18 to May 9. Each participant shot 30 arrows (15 from 10 meters and 15 from 15 meters) with a maximum score of 300. Because the tournament was virtual, schools were required to shoot a competitive round within the scoring window and submit their scores online. After the competition closed, scores were tabulated and winners were announced.

In addition to well-performing teams, the top 100 boys and top



Danny Harper, from Burnsville, caught the lunker at a tournament.

100 girls in each division are eligible to advance to the NASP World Championship in Myrtle Beach, South Carolina, this June.

For more information about the Archery in the Schools Program, visit www.wvdnr.gov/archery



A big drop tine buck was harvested. Photo courtesy of Hardcore Hunters in Grafton.

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Trevor Cassell caught a 6 lb., 7 oz. rainbow trout. Photo courtesy of Middle Mountain Sporting Goods in Elkins.



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Cherry Wins Bassmaster Classic

Hank Cherry made history last weekend in Fort Worth, Texas, by becoming only the fourth angler in Bassmaster Classic history to hoist the iconic trophy in back-to-back years. Along with the \$300,000 payday and bass fishing's most coveted title, Cherry won \$7,500 from Toyota Bonus Bucks.

The two-time Bassmaster Classic champ has been a longtime supporter of Toyota in his tow-vehicle selection and has won \$18,000 from the popular bass fishing contingency program in the last year and a half alone.

"The Bonus Bucks program and Toyota's reliability should be enough to convince any angler who tows a boat to trust this brand," Cherry said. "I bought a new 2021 Tundra from Scott Clark Toyota in North Carolina at the start of this season. It's the sixth Tundra I have owned, and I've enjoyed every one of them."

Even though Cherry's Classic wins were just over a year apart, it seems there are more differences than similarities between the two victories. His 2020 win took place in March on the Tennessee River as

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Greg Athey hooked a 62 pound Kanawha River flathead.



Cole Taylor landed a 50" musky at North Bend Lake.

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opposed to a scorching hot, flooded Texas fishery in June. The type of structure Cherry targeted and the pattern(s) he employed were vastly different.

Throw in the fact that his two Classic wins were essentially bookends to a global pandemic that stopped the world from turning for several months, and it's quite the contrast when you sit back and think about it.

On the water Cherry had a two-prong pattern that included targeting flooded bushes like most of his fellow competitors, as well as employing a new Berkley Stunna Jerkbait on Lake Ray Roberts' dam in the afternoons. Both patterns



Kevin Ross, from Jane Lew, caught a fine smallmouth bass.

proved critical for Cherry as he held off a hard-charging Matt Arey on the final day to have less than a 2-pound winning margin.

Chris Jones, an Oklahoma pro who qualified through the Bassmaster Opens and finished in third place was the second-highest placing Bonus Bucks angler due to Arey (second place) being a sponsored Team Toyota pro. Jones took home an impressive \$2,500 from the Bonus Bucks rewards program.



Mike Stills, from Cairo, landed a 5 lb. 9 oz., North Bend largemouth.

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New Adventure Opens At Tygart Lake

GRAFTON, WV – Tygart Lake State Park's new Adventure Lake is officially open to the public, following a ribbon cutting ceremony held Tuesday with State officials.

West Virginia Division of Natural Resources Director (WVDNR) Stephen McDaniel, Department of Tourism Secretary Chelsea Ruby, State Parks Chief Brad Reed, Tygart Lake State Park Superintendent Jim Browning, and ACE Adventure Resort Chief Financial Officer Paul Buechler participated in the ribbon cutting.

"Governor Justice and the the rest of us are so excited for some of the wonderful things that are getting ready to happen this summer at Tygart Lake," Director McDan-

iel said. "This addition to the park is a collaboration. It's a public and private partnership, and one of the things that the Governor loves to see is when we go out and we involve people in the community; the entrepreneurs, the experts that know how to put stuff on."

The Adventure Lake, made possible by a partnership between the West Virginia State Parks system and ACE Adventure Resort, features 25 slides, obstacles and other inflatables, as well as a sandy beach area with lounge chairs. Tickets are now on sale at WVstateparks.com and cost \$16 for an all-day pass and \$12 for a half-day pass. The lake has capacity limits and day-of
continue to page 36



Mario Mayle caught a nice rainbow. Photo courtesy of Hardcore Hunters in Grafton.

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tickets will be limited, so guests are encouraged to book reservations in advance. It will be open daily from 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. Half-day pass session times are 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. or 2 p.m. to 6 p.m. All participants must wear a life jacket and complete a waiver form to enter.

"I want to thank Governor Justice...and everyone who has been so helpful to make this happen," Buechler said. "I truly believe that, with the investment being made in state parks to upgrade them, as well as adding activities – people want to do something when they come to a state park or when they go on vacation – the State is really setting itself up to have world-class adventure resorts."

This is the latest of several enhancements at Tygart Lake State Park. Recent improvements include \$3 million in upgrades to the park's cabins, campground and lodge, which are expected to be completed this summer. Additionally, more than \$100 million in major improvements have been completed or started at every state

park and forest over the past four years.

"I want to say thank you to our Governor because we are in the middle of a State Park evolution," Chief Reed said. "The overwhelming majority of it has happened over the past four years. That's a direct credit to our Governor."

"All the innovation and things that we are bringing, not only to the good folks here of Taylor County, but also across the state, I'm very
continue to the next page



Rod Anderson hooked a big Stonewall Jackson largemouth bass.

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happy to be a part of it," Chief Reed continued.

During the grand opening ceremony, it was also announced that year-to-date online reservations at West Virginia State Parks increased by 119% compared to the same timeframe in 2019, despite four park lodges being closed for renovations. So far this year, online reservations have brought in more than \$4.5 million in revenue, an increase of \$2.68 million compared to the same timeframe in 2019.

"If you think about four years ago when Governor Justice got here, the first thing he said is 'We've got to play in the big leagues.' So he said that we were going to triple the advertising budget," Secretary Ruby said. "We did that and we started playing in the big leagues; we started competing with the states around us."

"We had all-time record-breaking attendance in our state parks last year. We blew every record out of the water, and this was coming off of three years of a 20% increase in revenue, and we started blowing out those records, so it has been an amazing amazing ride," Secretary Ruby commented.



Matt Brown, from Lyburn, knows how to catych big largemouth bass.



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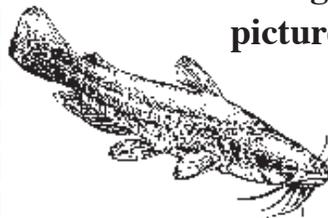
Jeremy McCloy caught a nice hybrid bass at the Willow Island dam.

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