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**Vol. 1 Issue 172**

**August 2007**



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Publisher and Editor  
**Mark A. Goudy**

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Natural Resources

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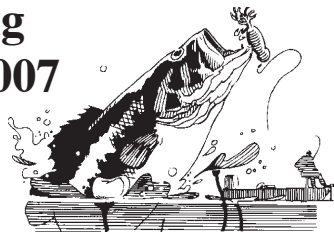
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## Cover Photo

A new length record for striped bass was established by Michael Pittman, from Wayside. Mr. Pittman, far left in picture, used a crank bait while fishing at the mouth of Bluestone River. His fish measured 40.88 inches and weighed 21.38 pounds.

Look for this magazine online each month towards the middle of the month.

[www.wvasportsman.net](http://www.wvasportsman.net)

*Photo courtesy of Grandpa's General Store in Hinton.*

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## Controlled Deer Hunt

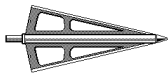
A controlled deer hunt will be held on Blennerhassett Island on Nov. 1 - 3 this fall. Wildlife biologists with the West Virginia Division of Natural Resources have been monitoring the deer population on the island for a number of years, and along with personnel from the State Parks section, they have determined that the number should be reduced. Deer on the island are usually not subject to being hunted; and as a result, their density gets much higher than on the mainland. Controlled hunts previously were conducted on Blennerhassett Island in 2001 and 2002. Since then, the deer population on the island has continued to increase.

Hunting will be by permit only. Applications and rules for the hunt are available at [www.wvdnr.gov](http://www.wvdnr.gov) or at Division of Natural Resources district offices. Applications must

be postmarked no later than August 31, 2007, to be eligible. All hunting will be conducted from elevated tree stands that must be provided by the hunter. Participants will be permitted to use muzzleloading rifles, shot guns with slugs, or bows and arrows. High-powered rifles will not be permitted.

Successful applicants will be ferried from Parkersburg, West Virginia, to the island on the mornings of the hunt. More than 40 hunters for each day will be randomly selected for the hunt. Deer harvested will not count against the hunters' annual bag limit. Harvesting antlerless deer only will be permitted, except that a special drawing the morning of the hunt will select five people to be eligible to hunt for

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**Game Check**



Shawn Wears, from Serenity Acres, caught a big flathead.

Aug. 2007 ~ Page 4

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**Have A Large Fish  
Picture From 2007?**

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Details On Page 37**

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## Longbow Archer To Be At Celebration

World-famous longbow archer Byron Ferguson will demonstrate his amazing bow-shooting skills during this year's Celebration of National Hunting & Fishing Days event at Stonewall Jackson Lake Resort State Park on September 22 and 23, according to Frank Jezioro, Director of the West Virginia Division of Natural Resources.

"For years, Byron Ferguson has dazzled audiences across the globe with his ability to perform feats with a bow and arrow that are unbelievable, said Jezioro." I have wanted to see Byron in person ever since the first time I saw him on 'American Shooter' performing his 'Shot of the Week' segment. He is going to be a great addition to an already successful event."

West Virginia's National Hunting and Fishing Days Celebration is like no other event held in the state, with hands-on learning opportunities for youngsters and families in the area of wildlife and outdoor recreation. Over the weekend event, nearly 20,000 wildlife enthusiasts will be in attendance to try their hand at everything from



Stephanie Roby, from Winchester, caught a golden trout that measured 21".

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archery, shooting, fly-fishing, and kids fishing derby, to list only a few; making it the state's largest outdoor hunting and fishing event.

"I'm sure archers and archery enthusiasts will take advantage of this opportunity to view Ferguson's expertise and attend his shows at National Hunting & Fishing Days,"

continue to the next page

**UNCLE TOM'S LOANS**

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Jeziro said. "But even if you are not into archery, you don't want to miss this once in a lifetime opportunity. I can assure you that you will be amazed."

The Schedule of Events denoting the times of his demonstrations, as well as other activities, will be posted on the DNR's Web site, [www.wvdnr.gov](http://www.wvdnr.gov) in late August.

The 2007 West Virginia Celebration of National Hunting and Fishing Day, sponsored by the West Virginia Division of Natural Resources and the West Virginia Wildlife Federation, will be held at Stonewall Jackson Lake State Park in Lewis County (Interstate 79 exit 91) September 22 and 23. Admission is \$3 for adults, \$1 for children under age 15, and children 3 and under free. For more information call (304) 558-2771, or visit the DNR's Web site at [www.wvdnr.gov/hunting/nathuntfish.shtm](http://www.wvdnr.gov/hunting/nathuntfish.shtm).



Ted Anderson caught a 5 1/2 pound smallmouth. *Photo courtesy of three Rivers Edge in Hinton.*

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## Don't Feed The Bears

The Division of Natural Resources cautions all West Virginia residents that feeding black bears is a violation of state law, as well as a misguided disservice to our state animal, according to Christopher Ryan, black bear project leader for the DNR Wildlife Resources Section.

"It is understandable that some people will illegally set out food to get a glimpse of this magnificent animal," Ryan says. "However, too

often these actions regrettably result in the death of the bear. Bears that wander near 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 sometimes ineffective way of addressing the problem, especially when faced with the possibility of merely mov-

*continue to the next page*

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ing 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 and expanded across the state in the past 10 years. "We have been receiving numerous calls concerning bear sightings from areas that have not had bears in the recent past," Ryan says. "Bears have been reported in all 55 counties and we have received many reports of sows with cubs in the northern and western portion of the state."

Bears have long breeding seasons that may last from May through September. However, the peak of breeding season is late June through July. Adult male bears may cover large tracts of land in search of females. In addition, this is the time of the year when adult female bears will chase off their yearlings so that they may breed again. These youngsters are often on their own for the first time and will be looking for easy food sources. Bears will continue on their way if they do not find food sources to attract them.

Bears often become used to hand-outs in the form of bird seed, trash, and pet food, and they lose their fear of humans. When bears lose this fear they resort to raiding garbage, outdoor freezers, and other food sources associated with people. Unfortunately, if these activi-



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ties are repeated, Division of Natural Resources personnel are forced to humanely destroy the offender for safety reasons.

"Unintentional feeding of black bears is a major concern to the DNR," Ryan says. "People need to secure garbage in bear-proof facilities and place trash out for collection on the morning of pick-up, not the night before. Residents should remove all outside pet food at night, and bird feeders should be taken down, cleaned, and stored until late fall to further discourage 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 animals' overall health. Following these practical and common sense recommendations will reduce bear-human conflicts and assure that more of the state's animals will remain wild.

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**Details Are On Page 3.  
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Dennis McGlaughlin hooked a nice bass. *Photo courtesy of Backwater Bait in Newport, Ohio.*



Mark Burns caught a couple of nice catfish. *Photo courtesy of Crossroads General Store near Newark.*



Allen Bills hooked a big bass. *Photo courtesy of Backwater Bait in Newport, Ohio.*

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A 12 pound carp was landed by Shawn Burton. *Photo courtesy of Amish Country Store in Marmet.*

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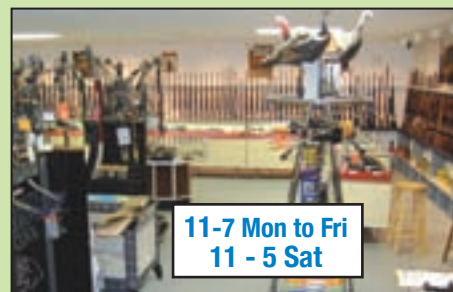
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Mike Burns, Kaleband Zack Wilson reeled in several fish. *Photo courtesy of Jarrett's Bait in Elizabeth.*



Ryan Miller, from Griffithsville, caught a nice bass.



Lamont Smith, from Jumping Branch, reeled in a 5 1/4 pounder.



Eric Gilbert took a 20 pound gobbler. *Photo courtesy of Boone's Bow Shop in Parkersburg.*



Kelly Tiat & Mike Doulton caught some nice fish. *Photo courtesy of Backwater Biat in Newport, Ohio.*

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Justin Beeler landed a huge flathead. *Photo courtesy of Starcher's Sport Shop in Lubeck.*



Garrett Witterman, from Waverly, caught a 6 pound, 4 oz. Nth. pike.



Kevin McKaughan hooked a 30" brown trout in Tennessee. *Photo courtesy of Starcher's Sport Shop in Lubeck.*

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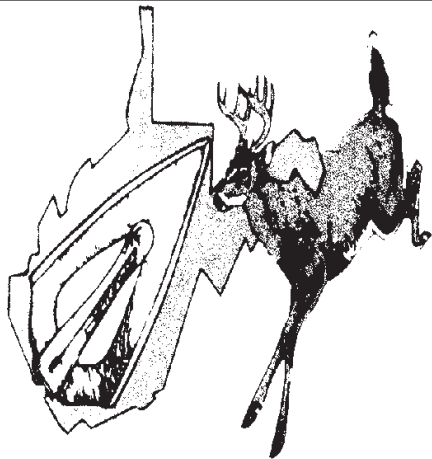
Randy Echard landed a nice North Bend Lake bass. *Photo courtesy of Hess Fish and Tackle in Harrisville.*



Hunter Maul, 14 years old, caught a farm pond bass. *Photo courtesy of Broken Wheel Campground in Weston.*



Young Owen McClelland hooked a New River 4 1/4 smallmouth. *Photo courtesy of Three Rivers Edge in Hinton.*



## West Virginia Bowhunters Association

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*September 29th*

*September 30th*

8:00am - 6:00pm

8:00am - 2:00pm

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**FOR MORE INFORMATION  
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Call George Coleman  
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## Sugg's Wins One Million Dollars At FLW Event

HOT SPRINGS, Ark. A new chapter in the history of professional bass fishing was written Sunday at Summit Arena in downtown Hot Springs as Scott Suggs of nearby Bryant, Ark., became the first angler to win a million dollars in a single tournament at the 2007 Forrest Wood Cup on Lake Ouachita.

The second Suggs grasped victory, Summit Arena erupted into a deafening home-state roar as the victor thrust his fist through a shower of confetti that rained down from above.

Suggs' family then rushed the stage to celebrate with tearful hugs.

Moments later Irwin Jacobs, chairman of FLW Outdoors, realized his own decade-long dream of awarding one angler \$1 million for winning a bass tournament by handing Suggs a check with seven figures.

Of the thousands of fishing fans who turned out to witness the spectacle first hand, few were without goose bumps.

"My little girls are getting a pool!" Suggs announced about the first place his momentous funds would be directed."My daughters are 4 and 10 years old, and I promised them and my wife a pool if I won. This is a dream come true for all

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of us."

For the record, Suggs won the event with a two-day total of 17 pounds, 1 ounce.

It could be argued that the Folgers pro actually won the event on day three when he brought in 11 pounds to head into day four with a 4-pound lead. He defended that lead with just two bass today, but one was in the 5-pound class and it was the one he needed to give him a 4-pound, 9-ounce margin of victory.

"All week I never got nervous, but when I boated that big one today, that was the first time my hands started shaking all week," he said.


"That one got to me."

"I knew that I didn't have much weight today, but I also knew that this lake is absolutely brutal on summer weekends, and I think that's why these fish really didn't bite the last two days. The summer boat traffic really affects them.

"When I stopped on my first spot this morning, which has been one of my best spots all week, I never got a bite," he added. "I knew then that it was going to be tough."

Suggs used three key baits during the week, with a 3/4-ounce War Eagle spinnerbait featuring a firecrack-

*continue to the next page*



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er skirt and hologram blades delivering the bulk of his catch during the event.

His other two lures were big worms: a Berkley 10-inch Power Worm in plum and a Zoom worm in cherry-seed, both capped with 3/8-ounce Tru-Tungsten weights.

Suggs' key structure was standing timber. He concentrated on places where fish normally school in the fall after the water cools.

"I was fishing 40 to 80 feet of water, and the fish were suspended in the tops of flooded timber about 25 feet down," he said. "I'd take that spinnerbait, cast it out, count it down and roll it through those trees."

He also relied on a rich patch of milfoil that he found, which was located in about 16 feet of water.


"It's some of the greenest, prettiest milfoil I've found on this lake this year, and it was holding some fish," he said. "During the event, I probably weighed in four or five fish off that spot."

Suggs noted that his vast experience on Ouachita played a huge role in his win.

"I know where the fish usually school, and I know the specific trees they use in the hot summertime before the waters cools," he said. "Each day I ran a minimum



Morgan Watkins landed a 7 pound, 3 oz. rainbowl. Photo courtesy of Kile's Grocery in Upper Tract.



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of 25 places where those key trees are located."

Robertson second

Castrol pro Darrel Robertson of Jay, Okla., won \$100,000 for his second-place finish at the Forrest Wood Cup with a two-day total of 12 pounds, 8 ounces, but Robertson harbored zero regret about missing out on the million-dollar payday.

"It might be different if the deficit was like 2 ounces or something, but 5 1/2 pounds there's not much else I could have done about that," Robertson said. "I was fortunate to catch what I caught all week. And three of the days I was blessed with a 4-pounder with 15 minutes left in the day without

those Iâ€™TMd have never made the top 10 anyway.

"I missed a bite or two during the week, but never did I feel like I had the fish on to win it. I'm tickled to death with \$100,000 for second."

Robertson's primary pattern all week was fishing a mixture of timber and grass in 12 to 20 feet of water.

"During practice I was actually catching them pretty good off of just straight wood in about 28 feet of water," he added. "But during the tournament, I couldn't get those fish to bite, and I had to move shallower and get in the grass."

Wendlandt winds up third

continue to the next page

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Kellogg's pro Clark Wendlandt of Leander, Texas, finished in third place with a two-day total of 10 pounds, 1 ounce for \$75,000.

Wendlandt alternated between two patterns all week.

In the mornings he fished shallow around bream beds with a Brian's Bees Prop B 3, and then he moved out deeper in the afternoons to fish grass edges in 10 to 12 feet of water with a 10-inch Gambler worm topped with a 3/4-ounce tungsten weight.

"My better-quality fish came from the grass on the big worm," Wendlandt said. "The topwater pattern worked on and off and was real situational. I had to have a little breeze on the bream beds to make it work."

Surman fourth

Castrol pro Mike Surman of Boca Raton, Fla., finished fourth with a two-day total of 9 pounds, 14 ounces, worth \$60,000.

Surman also fished two patterns, which were similar to Wendlandt's.

In fact, Wendlandt lent Surman the Prop B 3 topwaters he was using. "I only used the topwater for about an hour each morning, and then that bite died," Surman said. "Then I'd moved out and fish the grass with a 10-inch Gambler red-bug worm. One worm was rigged with a 1/4-ounce weight and the other was rigged with a 3/4-ounce weight.

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"I used the 3/4-ounce worm to pitch into the thicker grass on top of the humps in 10 to 14 feet of water, and I used the lighter-weighted worm to fish the outsides of the grass in 14 to 18 feet. For me, the outside of the grass was a little better, but I did catch a couple of my better fish

up in the thicker stuff on top."

Thrift fifth

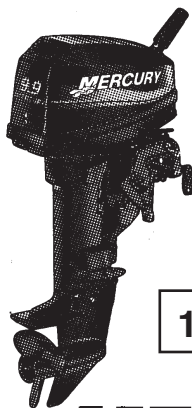
2007 Gain Rookie of the Year Bryan Thrift of Shelby, N.C., finished in fifth place with a two-day total of 9 pounds, 12 ounces for \$50,000.

continue to the next page



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Thrift also alternated between shallow and deep patterns during the week.

Interestingly, he, too, settled on the Brian's Bees Prop 3 for his shallow-water bite.

His lure of choice for deep grass was a Zoom Ultravibe speed worm in green-pumpkin with a 1/4-ounce weight.

Rest of the best

Rounding out the top 10 pros in the 2007 Forrest Wood Cup:

6th: Greg Pugh of Cullman, Ala., two-day total of 9-8, \$45,000

7th: John Devere of Berea, Ky., two-day total of 9-2, \$40,000

8th: David Dudley of Lynchburg, Va., two-day total of 8-14, \$35,000

9th: Anthony Gagliardi of Prosperity, S.C., two-day total of 8-11, \$30,000

10th: Jack Wade of Knoxville, Tenn., two-day total of 7-9, \$25,000

[www.wvasportsman.net](http://www.wvasportsman.net)

## Restructuring Of DNR Real Estate Management

As a result of legislation approved this year, the Real Estate Management Section of the Division of Natural Resources has been restructured. Beginning July 1, it became the Office of Land and Streams. Joe Scarberry, who had been serving as acting Chief for the Real Estate Management Section, will continue as supervisor for the Office of Land and Streams.

The Public Land Corporation Board and its land functions, which had been part of the Real Estate Management Section, have been moved to the WV Dept. of Administration. The title to the streams, creeks and rivers (as per Senate Bill 582) remains vested with the Division of Natural Resources. All permits, rights-of entries, etc, can be obtained through the DNR Office of Land and Streams using the same process, application, and pro-

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cedure as before.

The main function of the Office of Land and streams is to supervise and administer DNR's land acquisition and real estate title documents program. This involves the acquisition, exchange, transfer or disposal of land and improvements for public use.

**Have A Large Fish  
Picture From 2007?  
Form Is On Page 37**



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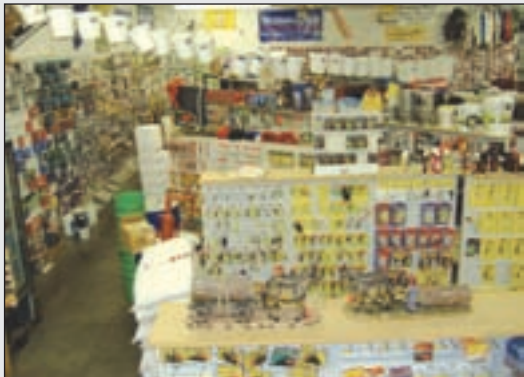
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Shirley Kirby & Courtney Smith have a 52" rattlesnake. *Photo courtesy of Jarrett's Bait in Elizabeth*



Randy Arthur caught a big Middle Island Creek turtle. *Photo courtesy of Satcher's Sport Shop in Lubeck.*

**Mail In Your BIG FISH Pictures  
From The 2006 & 2007 Season  
Form Is On Page 37**



Young Andrew Enoch hooked a 28 1/2 " blue cat. *Photo courtesy of Crossroads General Store near Newark.*

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Arianna Buckley caught a nice largemouth bass. *Photo courtesy of Starcher's Sport Shop in Lubeck.*



Randy Arthur hooked a big musky at North Bend Lake. *Photo courtesy of Starcher's Sport Shop in Lubeck.*



Ann Oglesby reeled in a 10 pound, 5 oz. channel catfish. *Photo courtesy of Three Rivers Edge in Hinton.*



Bob Marsh hooked a 21" largemouth. *Photo courtesy of Broken Wheel Campground in Weston.*



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Aug. 2007 ~ Page 20

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Kaci Longwell, from Minerlwells caught this golden trout at Stone-wall Jackson Lake.

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Josh Murray brought in a big carp.  
Photo courtesy of Starcher's Sports Shop  
in Lubeck.

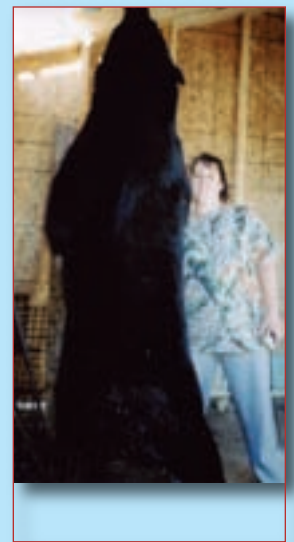
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# Fishing For Carp Basics

The first thing you must do to get started in carp fishing is to go out and buy a pickup truck. Full size is best but a small pickup will be ok too. The reason you need a truck, is to carry all the kit and bait needed to fish for carp. What about tackle? Actually the trucks main function isn't for the safety of your rods but instead it's to haul all your new carp tackle. Where do you get all this carp tackle? First thing to do is get a big carp tackle catalogue from England and order everything in it. This saves you lots of time trying to figure out what tackle you need to carp fish, you will eventually need it all even if you won't ever know what it's for. Buying everything in one big order also allows you to save lots of money on shipping things from England to Spain.

Maybe we should talk a little about some of the things you need to carp fish the modern way, first thing you need is a hair rig. It's a hook with some extra line coming off the shank of the hook with a little loop on it. I know it looks strange you will need some until you can learn to tie the no-knot knot. That's right, you will eventually have to learn to tie the no-knot

knot, more on that later, but for now just get some pre made hair rigs. Second thing you will need are some sinkers, but first you have to decide if your carp are going to be close to the bank or far away. If you learn to bait up you can bring them close to shore but sometimes they want the bait delivered out in the middle of the lake, and so you might have to cast far anyway. Better to get a big box with 1-4 oz weights, since you are a beginner it doesn't matter what shape they are. Get some fishing line, any type will do to start with because until you learn how to handle big carp they will just take it all anyway so might as well start off with a store brand and then work your way up

continue to the next page

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Bryan Cook landed a 16 1/2 pound New River carp. Photo courtesy of Three Rivers Edge in Hinton.

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to braid or quality line. You won't need swivels just yet as your pre-made rigs will already have some attached, but you will need to learn to tie a good clinch knot, we aren't fishing for little bleak so your knots need to be good, practice tying your knots!

Reels, there is only one kind of you need to get. It's called a bait-runner; it has a little lever that lets the carp take out line during a screaming run so he doesn't pull your new reel into the water. The little baitrunner lever is guaranteed to work every time you remember to engage it, if you forget just once you get to buy a new rod and reel. It also holds a lot of line so you can fish all day and only have to refill it once since it's almost impossible for even a big carp to take all the line off a baitrunner on just one run.

Now we need some long rods to cast with. Those long rods just look so cool actually they are a pain in the arse to deal with, but you need them anyway. If you really want to impress people buy the most ex-

pensive rods which are very pretty and cast out further. If you learn to bait up you can catch most of your carp at a range of 50 yards. I must confess though long range casting is fun, just make sure nobody is standing in your line of fire. Actually the long rods are worth the pain it is to deal with them. If you fish a snaggy place they can really lift the line up in the air they also conduct electricity so you won't fish near high power lines more than once. You will also need a spod rod.

A spod is a neat little cup with string attached to it that you fill with bait and cast out. If you release the cast too soon the bait showers down upon your head, this is much worse than even a flock of seagulls flying over. If you release too late you get to make the biggest splash, you have ever made whilst learning to cast. Most spods are made with little forethought right

continue to the next page

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Reggie Robertson, from Blue Creek, caught a 49 1/4" musky on the Buckhannon River..

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on the bank from plastic bottles and some spare fishing line. These are known as temporary spods; some spods can cost more than 20 Euros and referred to as a specialist spod. A carp angler should be comfortable swimming 100 yards out into the lake to retrieve his special spod, before some kayaker finds it, temporary spods are never swam for unless they happen to be made from the last plastic bottle left, then they become special spods only if the carp are really biting that day.

Now you have your rod, a hair rig fitted and some nice new line. What do you do now? You put it in your rod pod. The first rod pods were just forked sticks hacked of nearby trees and poked into the ground. Then one day a carp fisherman found himself fishing on a beach with no trees in sight. Not wanting to hold all his rods in his hands, at one time he came up with an idea

of making permanent forked sticks. The first ones he tried were made from coat hangers and lasted for one carp each run, the next ones for his new rods were made from thicker metal rods and the first bank sticks were born. At first they just had a little V formed in the end but that didn't allow for expensive bite alarms to be attached later when they were developed so he tapped

the end with threads and made different little rod holder attachments. Then one day our inventive carper got the idea to use two bank sticks for each rod thereby doubling the amount of stuff he had to carry just to hold his rods and free his hands. Bank sticks grew in popularity and everyone had a few pairs. The tackle industry grew frustrated with simple bank sticks, you just can't make many different attachments or improvements and good bank sticks last for years and years.

continue to the next page



Pansy Burns landed a big Salt Fork Lake bass. *Photo courtesy of Johnny's Outdoors in Boaz.*

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Then one day a fellow was out carp fishing and forgot to pick up his bank sticks and so lost them. He thought if you attach all the bank sticks together so you don't lose them all the time. He first joined three together and made a tripod. But it kept falling over so he joined the tripod together with a piece in the middle and soon the rod pod was born. Tackle dealers loved the rod pod there were so many attachments and extras that could be added. They are now made from the finest hand crafted space age materials that make them so light, you can even get a special bag to carry everything you need to attach to your rod pod, and a separate bag just for you rod pod.

How do we know when we get a bite? That's the job of the bite detector, the first were just a piece of dough squeezed on the line. These were watched very carefully, if the dough jumped up so did the carp angler because he knew he had a fish on. But they couldn't make the dough glow at night plus after every bite the dough would fly off and be lost forever. Next came the swingers they even came with a light inside. Of course, if you can't improve something you just invent another way to do the same thing, only better. Thus the draw back to the swinger was it didn't wake you up no matter how many times it went up and down. The bite alarm solved this problem, screw it into the rod pod crank up the volume and it would wake even the deepest sleeper, and could be heard over the most awful snoring ever to be encountered among your fishing friends. One good effect of a loud bite alarm is that it tells your fishing friends you have a fish on and to get off their butts and get the landing net ready to net it for you.



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Always check your batteries and carry spares, never take them out of your smoke detector unless it's an emergency.

Groundbait, recommended is at least 40lbs of the stuff for one session. This can be made yourself, or purchased from tackle dealers, costing more than a meal for two at the Clock House, I can't begin to tell you what to put in it, but the base usually starts with bread flake and every angler as his secret recipe to add to this. They will never reveal

their secret, and neither will I.

Regular baiting up diminishes your sense of smell, dinner parties and going to church requires long hot showers after baiting up. Going to MacDonald's is ok before your shower, hugging the wife pre shower is forbidden, but hugging the dog before showering will make his day.

Baits, there are only two kinds of bait cheap and expensive. Cheap baits like sweet corn and bread

*continue to the next page*

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work really well, and should never be dismissed and used whenever possible. Flavours are important to carp fishing more so than any other kind of fishing, or so the bait companies tell us. The most common of the expensive baits is the boilies, these come in a million flavours and cost the earth, bait companies recommended you have at least 20 different colour and flavours. You can of course buy books on making your own boilies and give them your secret flavours like tutti-frutti and even give chocolate a try. Stalking the big fish though you may need power flavours like mulberry, florentine and green lipped mussel, be careful with these, one whiff can cause amnesia and sterility.

Oh I forgot you will need a boilie needle and boilie stops.

Bait manufacturers claim boilies make carp hungry. Some have special attractions in them, some even claim they contain fibre so the carp can poop easier, some have milk and protein in them like body builders drink to make the carp grow big and strong . Some are big and some are small, some float and some sink. What they have in common is that they are all expensive and carp eat a lot of them. One good way to teach the carp in your swim that boilies are good to eat is to bait up with them. Not 10lbs of them though if you can afford that much you can come fishing with

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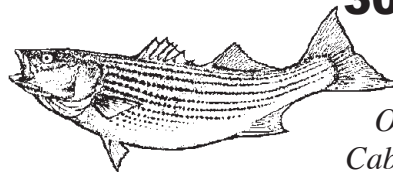
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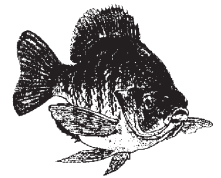
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me anytime. You can also purchase a boilie stick which is hollow and then whip it out towards the middle of the lake. This is great fun and a good way to build up your arm muscles.

So let's put all this together and go and catch us some big carp. First you should load up your truck with 40 or 50lbs of groundbait a nice carp chair or carp bed a bivvie, that's just a tent but green, cooler box full of your favourite sandwiches, your rod bag, your rod pod bag and your rod pod extras bag. Of course you will need other bags to hold your reels spare line

continue to the next page



Cody Bailey reeled in a 39 1/2" flathead catfish.



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hooks and all the other things you bought when you first started but haven't figured out what they are for yet ...and you will need landing net, keep net, weighing scales and a camera to capture that magic moment. Try and keep all your bags green or camouflaged.

Once at the lake, try and park as near to the water's edge as possible, but don't worry if you can't, you can buy special carp wheelbarrows designed to carry all your carp gear. Buy the biggest you can find so you don't have to make two trips.

Spread all your new tackle out on the ground so you know where everything is. Bait up with half your groundbait, set up your rod pod and bait up your hooks with the bait you feel most confident with on the day. Test your bite alarms to make sure it's on, hook up your swinger in case you get a drop bite, and adjust your baitrunner so it lets the carp run free with just a little tension. Double check your drag to make sure it's not too tight and then double check again that you have your baitrunner lever flipped up or down. That's it for your first rod, repeat two more times until you have every rod rigged and cast out.

Now it's time to sit back and open a cold beer and wait for the carp to bite. That's if you have the right bait, are in the right spot, have baited up correctly, and after all the bait you threw in are the carp still hungry? Did you really need to cast that far out, or did you cast far enough? I can't help you with all those questions so I wish you good luck! That was easy wasn't it?

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Now is the time to start planning a visit to West Virginia State Parks to enjoy pre-autumn in the mountains of West Virginia, according to Sis Summers, State Parks program administrator. Guests are invited to take advantage of West Virginia State Parks' late-summer travel discounts for cabins and cottages from September 4-30, 2007.

Fifteen state parks and forests offer discounts ranging from 15 percent to 40 percent off standard nightly rentals depending upon the area for midweek rentals. The discount amounts vary by park.

This special is only available at Beech Fork, Blackwater Falls, Bluestone, Cacapon Resort, Canaan Valley Resort, Holly River, Lost River, Pipestem Resort, Twin Falls Resort, Tygart Lake and Watoga state parks and Cabwaylingo, Greenbrier, Kumbrabow and Seneca state forests when requesting the September cabin and cottage midweek special.

A minimum two-day rental is required with the exception of Pipestem Resort, which requires a three-

night minimum. Reservations are recommended. Discounts at specific parks or forests are posted online at [www.wvstateparks.com](http://www.wvstateparks.com), click on Packages/Cabin Discounts for details or call 1-800-CALL WVA and ask for the participating area and discount details.

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Bobby Villers caught a nice large-mouth. Photo courtesy of Jarrett's Bait in Elizabeth.



A 5 pound, 10 oz. bass was landed by Larry Thompson. Photo courtesy of Three Rivers Edge in Hinton.



Mike Kehl caught a blue & flathead catfish. Photo courtesy Backwater Bait in Newport, Ohio.

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Young Tristan Nelson landed a big catfish. Photo courtesy of Angell's Grocery in Nimitz.



A 6 pound, 9 oz. largemouth was hooked by Ervin Fritzman. Photo courtesy of Broken Wheel Campground in Weston.



Matt Dettman reeled in a good largemouth. Photo courtesy of Jarrett's Bait in Elizabeth.

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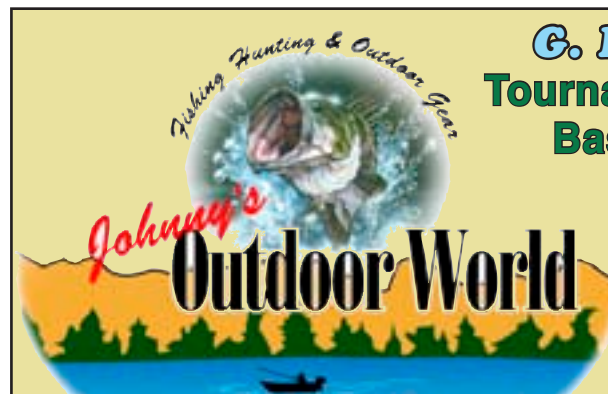
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Todd Knopp hooked a nice Little Kanawha River musky..



Alice Warden, from Fayetteville caught a 10 1/2 pound hybrid bass.



Ben Connell, from Buckhannon, brought in a 40 pound carp.

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Tony Laferty hooked a 6 1/2 pound brown trout. *Photo courtesy of Crossroads General Store near Newport.*



Danny Frazier landed a 4 1/4 pound smallmouth bass. *Photo courtesy of Three Rivers Edge in Hinton.*



Young Colton Phillips caught a Greenbrier River smallmouth. *Photo courtesy of Waterfront Sporting Goods in Alderson.*

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## In Search Of Old Lures

I recently returned from the National Fishing Lure Collector's Club show, held in Louisville, KY, July 12th, 13th, and 14th. I am always completely overwhelmed by the amount of lures for sale or trade. Almost so many you can't see them all! That is some of the fun of it, trying to look at every single lure at the show.

I arrived in Louisville the 10th, on Tuesday afternoon, to participate in the in-room trading. This is almost as big as the show itself. The N.F.L.C.C. blocks 500-700 rooms in the Executive West Hotel, and almost all of them are 'Open' for trading. This gives us serious collectors the opportunity to get a first-chance look at what's for sale. The hotel is twelve stories, and with hundreds of rooms open for trading and a couple

By "Grumpy" Ash  
thousand people shopping room to room, you can only imagine what a mad house it is.

People from all over the U.S. and Canada attend the national show. The Japanese are also serious about old lures. I saw several buying lures at the show. I believe this was the eighth "Big Dance" I was able to attend. My first was in '97 in Dayton, OH.

It's getting harder and harder to find pieces I need for my collection, but the national show is the best place to look. Many items I find are 'out of my price range' — lures I would love to own, but simply can't lay down the hundreds of dollars for. That's one reason I look so hard; I'm trying to find a 'deal' on a nice bait I need.

Let's talk about a few of the lures I was able to purchase through in-room trading. My prize lure this year was a 900 Heddon Swimming Minnow, made only from 1909 - 1917, with only 20,694 ever made.



George Lambert caught a 44" musky. Photo courtesy of Three Rivers Edge in Hinton.

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You can imagine how tough it would be to find a 100-year-old lure that was among the few of its kind ever made. I also was able to buy a 2600 jointed pikie, a common lure, but in a really tough color, goldfish. You have to see this bait to appreciate the beauty of the color. They are very special and almost too beautiful to fish with. I also picked up four Sur-Lurs made in Huntington, WV. They are not important to anybody but me, since I collect them, and I now have 15 in a display case. It's a neat plastic lure made only 3-4 years.

Maybe the best lures I found were for my South Bend Two-Oreno collection. I bought two black and white, one large and one small. These are the cutest baits. They have four eyes - two at each end. One end is a bass-oreno; the other is a pike-oreno. You can tie on to either end, thus two baits in one! I also bought a Grumpy lure made by

continue to the next page

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Shakespeare. I only collect these for my namesake. This one was all yellow, the only one I ever saw.

After in-room trading Tuesday and Wednesday, the show began on Thursday morning at 9:00 a.m. and continued until 8:00 p.m. You can shop until you drop, looking at lures day and night. I always start home Friday morning, the main reason being I'm flat broke! Let me mention a few lures I purchased at the show. I got a punkinseed spook in white shore in mint condition. Lures in this condition are beautiful, but bring top dollar. I also got two Moonlight Bait Co. lures, a Seagull and a Little Wonder, both made in 1923. I bought two Paw Paw Bait



Doug Belcher, from Robson, caught a 7 pound trout.

Co. lures in one of the most beautiful colors ever made, rainbow trout. The look so real that if you put them in the water, they could swim away. One was a pikie minnow, the other, a trout caster. It's a tough color to find, because everybody wants them. I also got a cool Carter Dunks double-header. With this 1935 bait, the metal lip rotates to make it a top water or diving lure. Another two for the price of one bait.

In the 30's and 40's money was tight. I you could get a lure that had two actions for the price of one lure, that would be a bargain. Lures in this period were only 50-70 cents each. Creek Chub baits were very high priced, .90 - \$1.20. They were so high that most people could hardly afford them, so Creek Chub started producing a less expensive line of lures called Sure Strike. These lures were even cheaper to buy than the other companies 50 - 70 cent lures. Wow! What a lure war! Paw Paw also made an economy line of lures called Best-O-Luck. It was also an inexpensive lure that appealed to more people.

I bought a small South Bend pikie in peach color. When I came home and did some research, I found out it

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was also an economy plug called the baby Jointed Pikie lure. You could never tell by the beautiful paint it was a "cheap" bait.

As you can tell, I had the best time buying and looking at lures for sale and admiring collections on "display only" that people have put together over years and years of hard work. I'm glad it's only once a year (the national show). I couldn't afford to go twice! Next year it's back in Peoria, IL. I want to go, but it's a long drive.

If you want information on joining the N.F.L.C.C. or have questions about lures, please call me at 304-782-2324. I'm always happy to talk about the hobby I love. Until next time, good lure hunting to all.

4 Ponds

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## Weather Affects Fishing

The study of weather will give us a bigger piece of the puzzle of fish behavior than any other single study. From the number of fish caught, to the safety and confront of a trip the weather is a big factor. Knowing what the weather has in store helps us plan what direction we go when we leave the ramp. If the wind is going to blow 20 mph out the North it's not time to fish the South shore. Not only would fishing conditions be tough but safety and confront would be left at the ramp.

Understanding the fish's reaction to the weather helps the anglers respond in the proper manor. A prime example of wrong response would be passing of a front, water temperature drops 10 plus degrees and a anglers chooses a shallow running crank bait to burn over shallow flats. What do you give this anglers chance of success? This is a prime reason to study weather and its effect on fish behavior.

Understanding a front's make up and origin and the weather they bring is a key in predicting weather events. Most of the winter weather starts in the Northern Pacific Ocean and moves northwest to southeast. Most all weather starts in the west and moves east. Tropical weather is the exception to this rule. Now with all this said lets look at frontal effects. Now this is not a lesson on weather as taught by the weather

experts but one taught by a fisherman that spends almost every day observing it and its effects on the fish in the area.

After three days of any constant weather the fish will start to become accustom to the conditions and return to a normal activity. The passing of fronts are the change factors. Cold fronts have the biggest negative effect. Let us first define a cold front characteristic: high pressure, freakily high winds, always-high blue skies. The first day after a cold front passes the fish movement is short in distance and duration. The resident fish bury up in the heavy cover and are sluggish at best. With each day the movement will get better, but the movements will be best with the return of some cloud. By the forth day with constant weather the fish will return to normal movements.

Warm fronts are the fish catching fronts. Cloudy weather, dropping barometer, south to west winds are the predominant conditions. These conditions will trigger long movements in distance and time. Resi-

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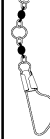
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dent fish will move out from under the heavy cover to the edge and feed. The deep open water fish will move to all breaks even to the shallows to feed. If the water temperatures are warm these are good days for top water baits.



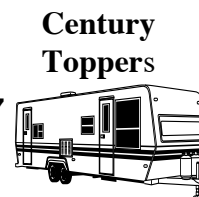
Eric Hayhurst, from Weston, reeled in a 49" musky that weighed 35 pounds.

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## Fishing Stick Baits

Top water fishing is always exciting because the strikes can occur from the time the baits hit the water to the end of the retrieve. Water temperatures are already high and shallow as well as deep fish will take a very effective bait all day and even at night. The lure is called the stick bait. This bait is very easy to use and on light line top water fishing becomes even more challenging. This lure is also referred to as the jerk bait simply because that is how it can be fished. With simply jerks on the rod tip these lures dance across the water and fish cannot resist a tempting meal. These baits can be fished on the surface to 5 feet deep.

Many anglers have discovered that making the lure move in a rhythm can be very effective. Once the lure reaches a likely stump or grass line the lure can be stopped and it then floats up on the surface. Many times this lure may be dead still and all of a sudden a bass comes out of the darkness and destroys the bait.

These lures come in a wide variety of sizes and colors. In the early spring, the lures should be smaller because the bait fish are small. Then as the summer progresses the lures can be as long as 7 inches and still be very productive.

Most anglers find that using light line and a spinning or spin cast reel is much easier to use with these lures. The line is almost always very loose on the reel due to the lack of pressure placed on the lures retrieves. A shorter rod can be helpful because the rod tip is pulled downward on the retrieve. Short pulls or jerks can make the fish react to the bait and this makes the lure look alive to the fish.



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Colors are as endless as the rainbow and almost any combination can work. Shad, bream and blue and silver combinations can catch fish almost all summer long. In colored or stained water brighter colors are easier for the fish to see. In clear water pick try a wide variety of colors until a pattern works.

Cast these lures and then start with simple downward jerks on the rod and take up the line at the same time. Practice with these lures and duplicate the retrieves that draw strikes.

### New State Record

A state record for striped bass was recently caught by Michael Pittman, Jr., of Wayside in Monroe County, according to Frank Jezioro, Director of the Division of Natural Resources. Pittman caught the 40.88-inch, 21.38-pound fish from Bluestone Lake in Summers Coun-

[www.wvasportsman.net](http://www.wvasportsman.net)

ty on July 8, 2007. He caught the record striped bass using a crank bait while fishing near the mouth of the Bluestone River. Pittman's catch establishes a new West Virginia record for length. The previous length record for striped bass was a 37.75-inch fish caught by Harold Mills from Bluestone Lake in 2006. The current state record weight for striped bass is a 29.56-pound fish caught by Terry Watkins at Bluestone Lake.

Anglers who believe that they have caught a state record fish should check the record listing in the 2007 Fishing Regulations brochure. The brochure also outlines the procedure to follow for reporting their catch. This information is also available online at [www.wvdnr.gov](http://www.wvdnr.gov)

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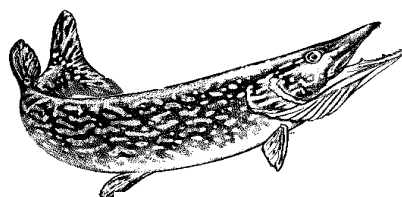
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 Fish \_\_\_\_\_ Pound \_\_\_\_\_ Oz \_\_\_\_\_

We are looking for citation fish  
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WVS  
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- 6 Fish Limit per Team
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Number Of Places Paid	300 6th	300
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Clip Out & Mail 5 Days Prior To Event- Send \$25 Advance Fee

Boater \_\_\_\_\_

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Sept. 1 \_\_\_\_\_

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Mark Lewis (top) caught a 7 1/2 pound bass at Elk Fork Lake. Fred Lynch (below) landed a big Conaway Lake largemouth. Photos courtesy of Hess Fish and Tackle in Harrisville.



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