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Issue 302

August/September 2022



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Crappie PISHING

BASS. News DNR
Updates

Outdoor Photos

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W. Va. Sportsman

Magazine

Volume 32 Issue 302

Publisher and Editor Mark A. Goudy

Contributing Editors West Virginia Division Of Natural Resources

No Subscriptions Offered

Printed Every Six Weeks

W.Va. Sportsman

P.O. Box 5521 Vienna, WV 26105

304-482-7217

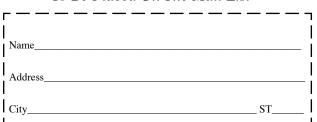
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Attention Bass Fishermen!

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Cover Photo

A new state record channel catfish was broken after 17 years. Allen Burkett, from Criders, VA was fishing at South Mill Creek in Grant County.

His weight and length catfish measured 36.96 pounds (almost 37 pounds). It was 40.59 inches long.

This magazine is 32 years old this month. Over 4 million magazines have been printed.

Migratory Game Bird Seasons

— West Virginia's hunting season dates and bag limits for migratory game birds have been set for the 2022-2023 season in accordance with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service's annual guidelines.

The mourning dove season is split into three segments, with the first segment running from Sept. 1 to Oct. 9. The second and third segments are Oct. 31 to Nov. 13 and Dec. 19 to Jan. 24, respectively. Shooting hours on Sept. 1 are noon to sunset. For the remainder

Eddie Humphries, caught a big largemouth bass and released it.

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SOUTH CHARLESTON, W.VA. of the season, shooting hours are one-half hour before sunrise to sunset.

> The woodcock season is split into two segments, from Oct. 15 to Nov. 19 and Nov. 28 to Dec. 6. The sora and Virginia rail season runs Sept. 1 to Nov. 9. The snipe season runs from Sept. 1 to Dec. 16. The early Canada goose season runs Sept. 1 to Sept. 11. The duck season is split into three segments from Oct. 1 to Oct. 14, from Nov. 7 to Nov. 12 and from Dec. 23 to Jan. 31.

Shooting hours for woodcock, snipe, rails, Canada goose, ducks





Bryan Poole reeled in a quality Gary Ross hooked 2 huge largewalleye.

and other waterfowl are one-half hour before sunrise to sunset.

Booking Wild

Boar Hunts

One notable change to this year's continue to the next page



mouth at Stonewall Jackson Lake.

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waterfowl regulations is the removal of the restriction on hooded mergansers. The five-daily merganser bag limit can now include up to five hooded mergansers with a possession limit of 15 in aggregate.

Federal regulations require all licensed migratory, including lifetime license holders and senior citizens, bird hunters to register with the Migratory Bird Harvest Information Program and carry



Joey Wells caught some trout at Conaway Lake. Photo courtesy of Tyler Outdoor Supply in Middlebourne

proof of registration while hunting. HIP cards are free and available at all hunting license agents and online at wvhunt.com.

All waterfowl hunters 16 and older must also possess a federal migratory bird hunting and conservation stamp or duck stamp, which must be signed by the hunter. Duck stamps can be purchased at local post offices, by calling 1-800-782-6724 or at usps.com/ shop. Hunters should report harvested banded birds online at reportband.gov.

For more information about game bird hunting in West Virginia and for a full list of season dates and bag and possession limits, download a copy of the Migratory Bird Regulations at wvdnr.gov/hunting-regulations.

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Danny Harper brought in a couple of big tournament largemouth.



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Summer & Fall Crappie Fishing

1. Myth #1 Crappie are Down Deep

Many anglers assume all crappie are down deep during the summer. It is true many crappie will go deep where the water is cooler but not all. Many crappie will be shallow and use structure like docks, bridge pilings, and timber to ambush food and beat the heat. 2. Myth #2 Crappie Won't Bite

This is another myth and it's less true than the 1st one. Crappie will bite very aggressively during the summer but you need to find them first. You also need to fish low-light situations around sunrise and sunset. Most people who say you can't catch summer crappie are fishing in the wrong locations and during midday when they can get away from yard work.

3. Fish Docks

During the summer, fish the docks. Crappie will utilize shallow-water docks in as shallow of water as 3 feet and deeper marina docks that could dropoff to 25 feet. These are great places to find crappie as they provide cool water, shade, and plenty of food.

4. Cast Far Under Docks



It is a good idea when fishing docks to cast your baits as far under the docks as you can get them. Large crappie like to rest far back under the protection of docks. If It's a calm day with little wind chop on the water, you can cast your lure really hard and skip it like you would a stone on the surface of the water for extra discontinue to the next page



Alex Goff, from Clendenin, caught a big largemouth bass.





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ance.

5. Docks, Bridge Pillars, Weeds, ture features. and Timber

These are where you need to focus your time during the summer.



Crappie will head for these struc-

6. Use Bobber Rigs

A bobber rig is a great way to deliver a lure to crappie in a slow methodical way to ensure the bait remains in the strike zone teasing a crappie as long as possible.

Any small bobber or float will do. Bobber rigs work really good fishing over thick weeds as they'll keep your lure out of the vegetation and free of snags.

7. Weeds Near Deep Water

Crappie love weeds during the summer. The summer also rings about extensive weed growth in a lake. To better locate good weeds that will hold crappie, remember crappie also love deeper water. Look for big weed pockets adjacent to deeper dropoffs. These weeds will hold baitfish and oftentimes, a lot of crappie.

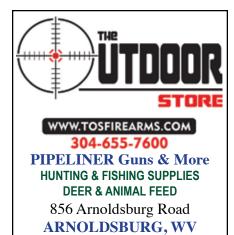
8. Don't Fall in Love with One Weed Patch

Not every weed patch will hold fish. Even the juiciest weed patch near the sharpest dropoff may not be attractive to crappie. Just because it looks great to you doesn't mean it is worth more than a few



Colby Campbell hooked a large flathead catfish.

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minutes fishing. Freely bounce around from weed pocket to weed pocket until you find the crappie.

9. Switch Up Colors

Don't hesitate to swap out lure colors if fish aren't biting. You may find they ignore pink but eat white. Likewise, if you have been catching crappie on one color but the bite stops, switch colors before moving elsewhere. It could be crappie wise up and notice all their buddies were getting caught on pink so they should not bite pink. Throw a white or yellow continue to page 10



Dustin Dennis hooked a nice North Bend largemouth bass.

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in there and see if you can trick them.

Fall

During the fall, look for shad in shallow bays. Crappie follow the shad in the fall. If you find crappie near the surface, you will find crappie. Look into back bays and near creek inlets. Live shad and shad-pattern lures will be your ticket. I think tube jigs and shad swimbaits will work best.

Fall Crappie Tips

1. Look for Shad

During the fall, shad are a crappie's favorite food. If you find shad, you will find crappie. Look in back bays and near the mouths of creeks. You may be able to spot them on the surface or with sonar. 2. Weeds Near Deep Water

Crappie love feeding in weeds that are near deep water. Crappie will pile into the weeds looking for baitfish then draw back into the deeper water where they can suspend. Look for large pockets of weeds near deeper water and fish these weeds thoroughly.

3. Crappie Scatter During Fall Turnover

During the fall turnover when the water in lakes essentially flips from cool water on the bottom in summer to cool water on top in winter, crappie can become very hard to find. Crappie will scatter and even if you locate a few, you will need to move to catch more. Again, find the shad first.

4. Downsize Everything

During the fall, downsize your entire setup. Go with a lighter fishing line, smaller fishing hooks, smaller lures, and smaller

continue to the next page

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Jeremy McCloy had gobbler success this spring.



Johnny Richards hooked & released a 5 lb., 11 oz. largemouth.

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baits. Also, fish everything slower and more methodically. Crappie slow way down in the fall so slow down for them.

5. Thermocline Dissolves

During the summer, the thermocline in a lake can make the bottom section of the water column void of dissolved oxygen, this means crappie can only live in the upper 2/3 of the water. In the fall, the thermocline dissolves making the entire water column capable of supporting crappie. This means crappie will become more scattered and tougher to find.

6. Use Sonar to Find Bait Balls

I recommend using a good fish finder sonar with side-imaging capabilities. Use your sonar to locate large bait balls. They will look like big black blogs with small white specs inside the black. These small white specs are crappie and other predators lunging into the bait to feed.

7. Minnow/Jig Rig

A great way to catch fall crappie is by rigging a minnow up higher on your line and a jig down low. Crappie use their senses of sight, smell, and feel to detect food.







farm pond largemouth bass.



Paul Michael used a jig for a huge Melinda Goff landed a nice largemouth in the family farm pond.





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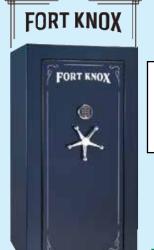
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Cheat Lake Monster Buck

The Cheat Mountain area of typical antler on the Boone and Randolph County has always held intrigue to the hunters of the mountain state. That same mountain also holds the distinction of producing one of the largest bucks ever taken in the mountain state.

In December of 1969, with a shot from his semi-automatic Remington 280, Joseph Volitis put his name at the top of the record book kept for the largest typical whitetail buck ever taken in West Virginia at that time. His buck was a massive ten point with two distinctive drop tines. The spread stretched the tape to an amazing 24 6/8ths inches. In total, the Volitis buck carried 180 5/8ths of

Crockett scale.

Joseph Volitis found his buck on a mountain farm in Wildell, nestled between Glady and Durbin. Mr. Volitis hunted with friends and was largely ahead of the times. At a time when most hunters were searching for any deer, he made a habit of searching for a deer with the largest antlers. Having a friend who was a forester helped his group find parcels of land that held such bucks.

While hunting one such parcel with plentiful big buck sign, Mr. Volitis used his Redfield scope to put the cross hairs on a gigantic

buck coming out of the rhododen-

By Cory Boothe dron thickets that Cheat Mountain continue to the next page



Alex Goff, from Clendenin, used his muzzleloader for a nice buck.

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is famous for having.

Since 1969 the Volitis buck has been topped twice. Once in the late 1970's by a teenage Doug Given from Strange Creek in Braxton County, and later by the current gun typical WV record taken by Junior Bailes in 1994 in Nicholas County.

Does another mountain monarch currently call Cheat Mountain home? While the chances of a deer the size of the Volitis buck currently roaming the mountain tops are slim. One never knows what a track through the high mountain called Cheat could bring for a lucky hunter.



The current typical state record typical gun buck was taken by Junior Bailes in 1994. It scored 185 4/8 and was harvested in Nicholas County.

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Jackie Eades bagged a nice 10 point in Fayette Co. last year.

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Blake Bennett landed a nice bass in a Fayette Co. farm pond.

Pre-Season **Archery Tips**

To ensure that you are ready for deer season, there are a lot of things that you need to do to prepare. It helps to have a to-do list that you can pull out each year to make sure that you are ready when opening day comes around. Here are six steps that you need to take when it comes to pre-season preparations.

Step 1: Practice

While you should know that practice is important, there are so many people that will avoid practicing during the off-season and wait until opening day and expect to be able to shoot like they have been doing it all year long. Even if you only do a few arrows each

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day, it is important to practice. Ultimately, as a hunter, practicing should be done year-round.

Step 2: Bow Maintenance

When it comes to maintenance of your bow, you need to take a look at it once a year. Keep in mind, though, you may not need

to change anything. Check the bow string to ensure it doesn't require replacement, as the lifespan of a string is roughly one year, depending on your shooting frequency. Check your arrows for cracks and ensure they don't require continue to the next page

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Cassy Brown bagged a nice buck in Wood County last season.

refletching. If you are shooting feathers, this may be necessary. If you are reusing broadheads, ensure they're sharp. It is easy to resharpen fixed blades, as dull broadheads are not any assistance in the field. By ensuring that your bow and accessories are ready to go, you can rest assured that they will perform well when you need them to.

Step 3: Organize Your Pack

Unless you need them at some point in time, you may want to consider leaving your basicsbinoculars, knife, extra shooting glove, arm guard, waterproof box, etc.—in your back pack yearround and then just add the extras that you need for hunting a particular game when necessary. For instance, if you are hunting deer, you may want to add a face mask, grunt tube, water, snacks, and an additional layer of clothing, some of which will be added to the pack for other game. By keeping your pack organized, you will know exactly what's in your pack and where it is when it is needed.



Step 4: Scouting and Stand Preparations

spots that they plan to hunt at cho-

sen well in advance, and a lot of hunters will actually sit in the ex-Many hunters will have the act same spot year after year with continue to the next page



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extreme success. If you intend Step 6: House and Food Preparaon using a treestand, ensure that cables or straps do not need to be replaced. If you intend on hunting from a blind and setting the blind up in advance, ensure that you get the chair set up and that any crunchy leaves and grass are removed from the blind's floor. In addition, before the season's opening day, inspect the blind for any wasp nests. The last thing that you want is to be in the blind with a dozen wasps. You will also want to double- and even triple-check your shooting lanes. Trim back anything that may even slightly keep you from making your shot when the time comes.

Step 5: Wash Your Gear

This will vary from one hunter to the next. Some hunters prefer to wash their hunting gear in scentfree detergent and then store them away in plastic tubs, while others prefer to air them out outdoors and then spray them down with their preferred scent killer. Whatever method you choose to use, make sure that it is done well before the season opener!

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tions

While this may seem a bit unusual, it is actually more helpful than you may realize, particularly if you intend on being away from the house for extended periods of time. No one enjoys cleaning the house, but taking the time to organize and clean the home prior to hunting season simply means that

you have one less thing to worry about throughout the season. Take the time to plan some easy meals, make them ahead of time, and stick them in the freezer. You can also prep and throw a meal in the crock pot before you head out the door in the morning (for your excursions that will have you home the same night), allowing you to have a hot meal ready to go.



James Carez reeled in and released a North Bend Lake bass.



Jaxen Bragg 9, caught a golden trout at Cranberry.

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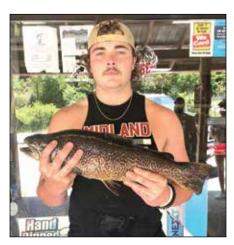


Native Brook Trout

The brook trout is the only trout species native to West Virginia streams. Native brook trout live and reproduce in only the coldest and purest of our mountain streams. These streams are generally less than 15 feet wide, well shaded, and have numerous pools. Although these streams often support large numbers of brook trout, the trout tend to be small fish that average five to six inches in length and seldom exceed 10 inches.

Brook trout are characterized by a dark green back covered with lighter worm-shaped markings, bluish sides and a pink to scarlet belly. The sides of the trout are profusely sprinkled with yellow spots, interspersed with red ones. The lower fins are orange-red with a distinctive white stripe on the front edge. Given its beauty and the fact that the brook trout is our only native trout, it's no wonder that in 1973 it was selected to be the official state fish.

Brook trout spawn primaricontinue to the next page



Ethan Bills caught a 6 lb., 6 oz. tiger trout. *Photo courtesy of Middle Mountain Sporting Goods in Elkins*.

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Daniel Clark caught & released a big Jackson County largemouth.

ily during October. Their nests, called redds, are built near the lower end of the pools where the gravel is swept clean of silt and fresh oxygenated water is abundant. Since these streams are generally low and clear during the fall, spawning activity can be readily observed in many of the small, cold headwater streams of the Elk. Greenbrier and Williams rivers, as well as Seneca and Gandy creeks.

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While there are 500 miles of native trout streams in West Virginia, the streams are small and represent only two percent of the total miles of stream in the state. Brook trout are not picky eaters and feed on a wide variety of food items. During the winter and ear-

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ly spring, much of their food consists of aquatic insects and other fish. The insects include mayflies, caddisflies and stoneflies.

In the summer and early fall, their diet changes to terrestrial insects. Insects that normally are on land but drop in the water.



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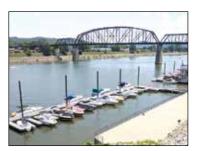


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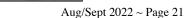






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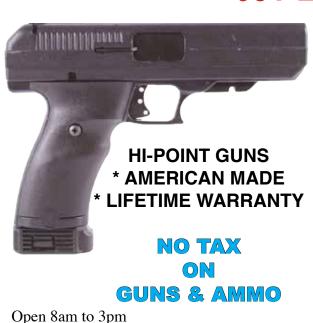


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Invasive Species

By Clark Wendlandt

References to "invasive species" are often pitched with doom and gloom scenarios, but sometimes the result isn't as bad as some scientists predicted.

I'm not promoting invasive species or the spread of them. B.A.S.S. has a long history of fighting invasive species alongside other conservation partners. And with my fisheries degree from Texas A&M University, I realize there are situations where invasive species can cause major problems. Obviously, the exotic carp problem in the Tennessee River is a good example of an exotic that has created major problems for the fisheries.

But because fish management really interests me, I pay a lot of attention to what's going on in the waters we fish.

And sometimes good things happen. Nature often has a way of sorting things out and bass populations learn how to adapt.

What we saw at Thousand Iscontinue to page 26

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Wyatt McGraw belongs to the Spring Valley High School bass team. Looks like he studying.



Terry Turley, from Hurricane reeled in a largemouth bass.

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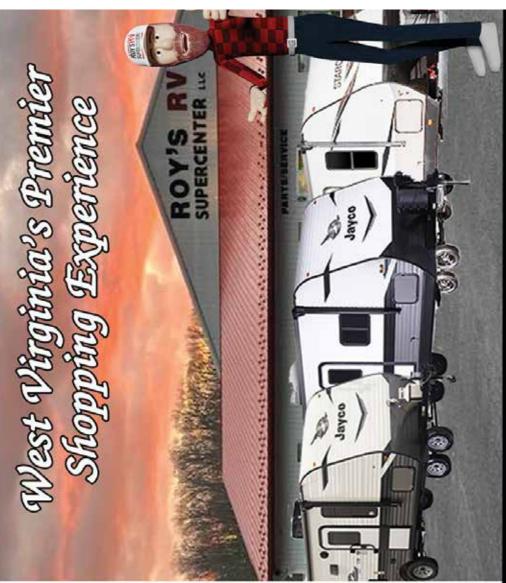
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	2015 Micro-Lite 21FBRS
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ands, N.Y., is a good example. When non-native gobies found their way into our Great Lakes, many predicted they would cause irrevocable harm to fisheries. And to be fair, gobies have reduced populations of some sport fish by eating their eggs and fry.

But with the "invasion" of gobies, the St. Lawrence River and Lake Ontario bass fishing has done nothing but get better.

The first time I fished there was in 1992, and Rick Clunn won with 44 pounds. Granted, that was a three-day total, but after three days this year that weight put you in 48th place.

Fans have probably seen the statistics – the top two anglers eclipsed the century mark by



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catching 100 pounds or more of smallmouth bass in a B.A.S.S. event.

To make Championship Sunday, an angler needed nearly a 24-pound average each day. Over the four days, 68% of all bags weighed in were 20 pounds or more.

And look at Lake St. Clair. The first time I competed there in the continue to the next page



Ben Harman hooked a 5 lb., 4 oz. rainbow. *Photo courtesy of Middle Mountain Sporting Goods in Elkins*.

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Jason Kokosinski used his bow for a turkey hunt this spring.

late 1990s, 16 to 17 pounds was a good bag. Nowadays, a good bag weighs 25 pounds. Gobies have been the difference maker.

dock owners and are the cause for expensive control measures where they clog water intake pipes.

However, they do filter algae. On Lake Travis near my home, with the clearer water, the bluegill fishing has improved exponentially since the zebras showed up. In many lakes, that clearer water led to increases in aquatic vegetation which benefits many species of ed habitat. fish.

species that have been a curse for lakefront owners, power companies and many state agencies. While it's somewhat understandable that some plants need to be kept in check on waters where they interfere with other uses, they also provide excellent habitat for bass and forage fish.

Unfortunately, some groups want to carpet-bomb all the vegetation in a lake. My hope is that managers take a more balanced approach that includes the impacts



Pooty Simmons caught a rainbow trout. Photo courtesy of Middle Mountain Sporting Goods in Elkins.

on the fishery when decisions are being made on vegetation control.

Reservoirs begin aging the day they are impounded. Sure, the Zebra mussels are a pain for boat fishing is fabulous for a few years, but it usually goes downhill as silt and sediment bury the bottom and flooded timber and brush decay away. Without some vegetation, fishing often suffers dearly. And despite many agencies' best efforts to reintroduce native plants, the non-native species often seem to be the only ones that can survive and provide the much-need-

Milfoil and hydrilla are invasive itable in life and our fisheries. Sometimes the change is for the better. But as ethical anglers, we



need to understand the problems associated with invasive species and the risks of introducing them in other waters.

While there is no denying how Changing conditions are inev- in some cases such as with gobies in the Great Lakes, they are a big part of the reason for record-setting weigh-ins.



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Interesting Archery Facts

Do you love to impress your even say it's ... "on target." family and friends with random knowledge? Well, now you can add some cool archery facts to your repertoire of information. These fun archery facts will help you understand your favorite sport/hobby and give you a deeper connection to an ancient tradition. **ARCHERY** HAS LATIN ROOTS.

Ever wondered how archery got its name? According to World Archery, the word "archery" comes from the Latin word "arcus," which means "bow," So, it's surprisingly straightforward. I'd



This fellow brought in some great Photo courtesy of Hardcore Hunters in Grafton.

2. THE OLDEST ARCHERY ARTIFACT IS 64,000 YEARS OLD.

The oldest known evidence of the bow and arrow, or archery artifacts, are small stone arrow continue to the next page

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points that were found in Sibudu Cave, KwaZulu-Natal, South Africa. They are a stunning 64,000 years old.

3. THE SECOND OLDEST ARCHERY ARTIFACT IS 48,000 YEARS OLD.

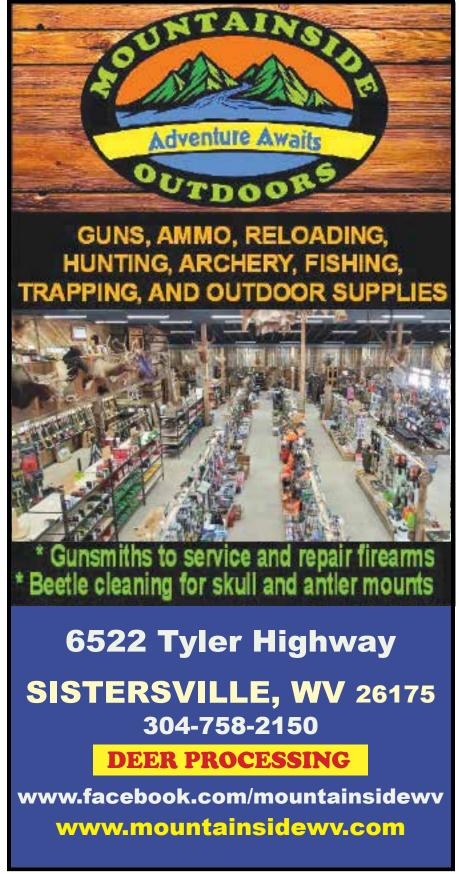
Artifacts were recently found in Sri Lanka that date back 48,000 years. The points in South Africa have held the top spot for years, but a couple of years ago, a new artifact claimed the No. 2 spot. In 2020, archaeologists discovered arrowheads crafted from animal bone in a rainforest cave in Sri Lanka. They date the arrowheads at a whopping 48,000 years old. And we're not referring to just one little point. The excavations in Sri Lanka produced 130 bow arrow tips. That's a lot of archery being practiced.

4. THE OLDEST ARCHERS TO MEDAL AT THE OLYMPIC GAMES ALL RECEIVED THEIR TITLES IN 1904.

We've all seen the cute statements on board games that note continue to the next page



Tony Baldwin hooked & released a North Bend Lake largemouth.





they are for "ages 9-99." You could place the same notice on archery. At 68 years old, Samuel Duvall is the oldest — old being a relative term - archery medal winner at an Olympic Games, claiming silver. Galen Carter Spencer won his archery gold medal at 64 years old. At 63 years old, Lida "Eliza" Peyton Pollock is the oldest woman to win a gold medal at the Olympics. And get this: All three archers won their medals at the 1904 Games in St. Louis, where women's archery made its debut.

5. THE YOUNGEST ARCHERY MEDALIST WAS 14 YEARS OLD.

On the other end of the spec-





trum, the youngest archery medal winner at an Olympic Games is Denise Parker, who was just 14 years old when she won her bronze medal in 1988. Nothing like claiming Olympic gold before you get your driver's license! Parker also went on to become the CEO of USA Archery in 2009.

6. THE YOUNGEST ARCHER TO SCORE A PERFECT 900 WAS 13 YEARS OLD.

In 2021, Liko Arreola became the youngest archer ever to score a perfect 900 at the Vegas Shoot.

continue to the next page



Jared Oxlley hooked a 4 lb, 14 oz. tiger trout. *Photo courtesy of Middle Mountain Sporting Goods in Elkins*



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She's no stranger to perfection: She had just scored another perfect 900 only months before at the Rushmore Rumble competition. She's also only the seventh female archer to achieve that score. These young archers are here to ever in Europe, give it a try. make their mark on the sport.

7. THE OLDEST ARCHERY "TOURNAMENT" STARTED IN 1483.

The oldest recorded official archery event is a papingo shoot. This is an archery game in which

the archers shoot at a fake bird at various heights instead of at a target based on the ground. It was created by the Ancient Society of Kilwinning Archers in 1483 and is still practiced today. If you're

8. THE OLDEST TRADITION-**AL-STYLE TOURNAMENT** STARTED IN 1603.

There's a historic archery competition still held in Scotland today. Photo Credit: East Lothian Cou-

Though archery events date back further than this, the Musselburgh Silver Arrow archery tournament might be the oldest, longest-running, traditional-style archery tournament still practiced today, also in Europe. I sense an archery-themed European vacation on the horizon.

9. ARROWS CAN TRAVEL UP TO 200 MPH.

The average recurve arrow travels at about 150 mph and the average compound arrow travels at about 200 mph. That's race car level speed!

10. THE FIRST COMPOUND BOW WAS PATENTED IN 1966.

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compound bows didn't come around until 1966, created by Holless Wilbur Allen. That's less than 60 years ago!

Hopefully this knowledge makes you feel closer to the sport and will maybe even help you encourage a new archer to give it a try.



John Dennison, from Exchage, took a tall brow tine buck.

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New Channel Catfish Record

Division of Natural Resources an- state-records. nounced on Tuesday.

On June 20, Allen Burkett of Criders, Va., caught a channel catfish that weighed 36.96 pounds and measured 40.59 inches in length. Burkett was fishing with chicken liver from the shore of South Mill Creek Lake in Grant County. Burkett's record fish was measured by DNR fishery biologist, Brandon Keplinger.

The previous record channel catfish of 33.42 pounds and 40.3 inches was caught by Michael Sears in 2005 at Patterson Creek.

Anglers who believe they have caught a potential record-breaking fish should report his or her catch to the WVDNR for verifica-

SOUTH CHARLESTON, W.VA. tion. Fish that do not qualify as a - A 17-year record for the larg- state record, may still qualify for est channel catfish caught in West a trophy citation. For more infor-Virginia has been broken, the state mation, visit wvdnr.gov/fishing/



Jacob Barstor has his hands full of flathead catfish.

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Matt Cronin reeled in a 6 lb., 5 oz. largemouth bass.

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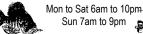


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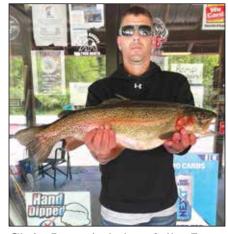
Big Game Bulletin

SOUTH CHARLESTON, WV — The 2021 West Virginia Big Game Bulletin is now available, according to the West Virginia Division of Natural Resources (WVDNR).

Each year, the Big Game Bulletin supplies the public with annual white-tailed deer, wild turkey, black bear and wild boar harvests. Harvests by season and county area are also displayed in the publication.

"The Big Game Bulletin equips hunters with a wealth of data and information that may help them plan their next hunt," said Paul Johansen, chief of the WVDNR's Wildlife Resources Section. "The publication also has updates on

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Chris Isner Inded a 6 lb. 7 oz. rainbow. Photo courtesy of Middle Mountain Sporting Goods in Elkins.

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current big game research and WVDNR district offices, the Elmonitoring projects."

kins operations center or down-Copies can be picked up at loaded online at WVdnr.gov.





Jack Beal hunted in Plesants Co for his gobbler. *Photo courtesy of Tyler Outdoor Supply in Middlebourne*.



Thomas Wood landed a wild brown trout.



Jeremy Cooper used a muzzle-loader in Cabell County.



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Ursula Perry bagged a long bearded gobbler this spring.

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