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Issue 308

May/June 2023



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Bass**

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Volume 32 Issue 308

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

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Attention Bass Fishermen!

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Cover Photo

Experienced hunters, Roger and Sheila Perry doubled up on turkeys on the first day. This married couple, from Buckhannon, have also started P&R White-tail Supreme. They offer supplemental feed, deer blocks and minerals. Check them out on Facebook for more info. Their ad is on page 27 of this issue.

Photo courtesy of P&R White-tail Supreme in Buckhannon.

Spring Fishing In WV Guide

Whether you're a seasoned angler or new to the sport, May is a great time to go fishing in West Virginia. There's no better time to experience all that West Virginia has to offer. So, if you want to try out a new hobby or switch up your fishing routine, let this guide help you plan your fishing adventure!

Don't want to read the entire spring fishing guide? That's OK. Here's everything you need to know:

Late spring is a perfect time for a fishing adventure in West Virginia! Streams and lakes stocked with trout still have excellent numbers of trout to pursue, and warming waters mean that warm-water species, such as bass and sun-

fish, are more actively feeding in preparation for spawning. The month of May is the final month of trout stocking but trout can be found in many streams even into the summer. Don't miss out on some prime spring fishing in the Mountain State!

Just remember to:

- Buy your fishing license and stamps at WVfish.com.
- Find your fishing spot at mapwv.gov/huntfish.
- Plan your fishing trip before it's too late.

If you want a more in-depth guide for fishing in West Virginia, keep reading!

WHAT KIND OF FISH CAN I CATCH?

With more than 40,000 miles continue to the next page



Trent Mullenex has a 7 lb., 13 oz. tiger trout. Photo courtesy of Middle Mountain Sporting Goods in Elkins.



Alan White had success with a nice early largemouth bass.

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Jimmy Taylor brought in a double bearded spring gobbler.

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of streams, more than 100 public lakes and nearly 40 different kinds of sportfish, there's no shortage of options when it comes to fishing in West Virginia. We understand if you feel a little overwhelmed by all the options. We feel that way too sometimes. Fishing should be relaxing and enjoyable, so don't worry about finding the perfect spot or catching the biggest fish. Just enjoy yourself.

So, what kind of fish can you catch in West Virginia? Trout, bass, bluegill, catfish, sunfish, walleye, musky and other sport

fish can all be found in the state's lakes, rivers and streams. For more information about sportfish in West Virginia, check out our Sportfish Identification Guide. If you know what kind of fish you want to catch, use our interactive fishing map to search for waters where it can be found.

DO I NEED ANY ESSENTIAL FISHING GEAR?

Whether you're a seasoned angler or a beginner, having the proper gear can make all the difference in your fishing experience. First, you'll need a fishing

rod and reel that is appropriate for the type of fishing you plan to do. For trout fishing, a fly rod or lightweight spinning rod and reel combo are great choices. If you're heading to a lake to catch bass or other warm-water fish, a medium to heavy action rod paired with a baitcasting or spinning reel will do the trick.

In addition to your rod and reel, you'll also need to bring along bait or lures, hooks and fishing line. When it comes to bait, live bait such as worms or minnows can be effective for catching a variety of fish. Alternatively, lures such as crankbaits, spinners and

continue to page 7



Gary Ross landed a 6 lb., 10 oz bass at Stonewall Jackson Lake.



Reed Elder & dad Darren won an Ohio River Challenge event.



Avelin Boothe shot a nice Nicholas County spring gobbler.



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jigs can also be effective and they come in a wide range of colors and styles. Make sure you bring a variety of sizes and types to match the conditions and fish you are trying to catch. Don't forget to check the weather forecast and pack appropriate clothing and accessories such as rain gear or sunscreen to ensure that your fishing trip is comfortable and enjoyable. HOW DO I FIND THE BEST FISHING SPOTS?

The quickest and easiest way to find a fishing spot is to ask a friend or family member who's an avid angler to give you recommendations. Many state parks and forests have popular fishing streams and lakes that are perfect for anglers of any experience. You can also contact your local

WVDNR District Office to speak with the fishery biologist or use our interactive fishing map to find a spot that fits your needs.

If you want a few recommendations, here are a few fishing streams and lakes we think you'll continue to the next page



Hunter Rager hooked and released a nice largemouth bass.

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Josh Murray went to an Ohio River dam for his huge hybrid bass.



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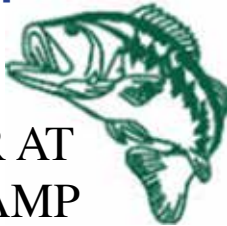


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enjoy this spring.

CRANBERRY RIVER

Located in the Monongahela National Forest, Cranberry River is arguably West Virginia's top trout stream and known for its beautiful scenery and excellent trout fishing. The main stream is regularly stocked with rainbow, brown, golden rainbow, tiger, and brook trout, making it a great spot for both experienced and novice anglers. In addition to fishing, the area offers camping, hiking, and stunning scenery and native brook trout can be found in many of the small tributaries of the Cranberry River

SUMMERSVILLE LAKE

Summersville Lake is the largest lake in West Virginia and a popular destination for bass fishing. The lake is home to both large-mouth and smallmouth bass, as well as channel catfish, walleye, yellow perch, bluegill and crappie. The lake's clear water and rocky shoreline make for some picturesque fishing too!.

NEW RIVER

The New River is the second oldest river in the world and while known for its white-water rafting, it's also one of the nation's best known destinations for trophy

continue to page 10



Lawson Blake caught and released a 5 lb. 14oz. largemouth.



Brucey Wayne, from Gassoway, hooked a huge spotted bass.

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smallmouth, walleye, and musky fishing. The river is also home to flathead catfish and sunfish species. The New River Gorge is also home to some of the most beautiful scenery in West Virginia, making it a must-visit destination for any angler.

ELK FORK LAKE AND OTHER SMALL IMPOUNDMENTS

West Virginia has many small impoundments such as Elk Fork Lake. These small lakes are found in most every county throughout the state and provide easy access for shore anglers. Some of West Virginia's best largemouth bass fishing can be found in these small impoundments. The small lakes are home to largemouth bass, as well as channel catfish, crappie and bluegill. Many of these lakes are found in state parks or wildlife management areas where you can partake in other activities when you get tired of catching fish!

SOUTH AND NORTH BRANCHES OF THE POTOMAC RIVER

Both branches of the Potomac River are popular destinations for trout and smallmouth bass fishing in West Virginia. Sections of both branches are home to rainbow and brown trout, as well as smallmouth bass, channel catfish and sunfish. The rivers are also known for their scenic beauty, with stunning mountain views and easy access points for fishing.

It's also worth noting that West Virginia has reciprocal fishing agreements with Ohio, Maryland and Kentucky. These agreements allow you to fish in certain waters without purchasing an additional

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license. For example, West Virginia anglers can fish on the Ohio, Potomac, Big Sandy and Tug Fork rivers with just their West Virginia fishing license. For more information about these agreements, check page 9 in the West Virginia Fishing Regulations Summary.

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Mark Mellega caught 2 big smallmouth bass at a tournament.



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Prevent Human Bear Conflict

BECKLEY, W.VA. — To prevent nuisance black bear activity, the West Virginia Division of Natural Resources is reminding residents to remove bear attractants from their yards in the coming months.

To avoid potential conflicts with bears, residents should remove bird feeders, pet food and food scraps from their yards and secure trash and other bear attractants on their property. The same preventative steps should be taken while camping.

“Deliberately feeding a black

bear is illegal in West Virginia, but unintentionally feeding a bear also causes serious problems for humans, their property and our state animal,” said Colin Carpenter, black bear project leader for the WVDNR. “Once a bear gets used to getting food from humans, they can become a danger and often must be humanely killed.”

While the WVDNR starts getting reports of nuisance bear activity in April, conflicts increase and peak in May and June because high-energy foods such as serviceberries, raspberries, blackberries and blueberries do not become available until later in the summer.

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“Bears that visit residential areas are less likely to stay if they don’t find anything to eat,” Carpenter said. “If we all take responsibility for our property and remove or secure food attractants before bears

continue to the next page



Billy Gue caught another quality largemouth bass this spring.



David Yeater hunted in Harrison County for a 21 1/2 pound turkey.

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find them, we can reduce the likelihood of human-bear conflicts.”

To help prevent nuisance bear activity, residents are encouraged to follow these BearWise steps:
Never feed or approach bears.
Secure food, garbage and recycling.

Remove bird feeders when bears are active.

Never leave pet food outdoors.

Clean and store grills.

Alert neighbors of bear activity.

To learn more about black bears

and how to prevent human-bear conflicts, visit bearwise.org.



Danny Price, from Belle, caught & released a 6 lb., 13 oz. bass.



Stacy Hart, from New Milton, landed a nice flathead catfish.

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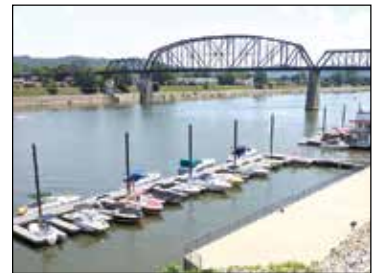


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More Fun Fishing Facts

The World's Biggest Fish Eats
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The world's biggest fish is the whale shark which reaches lengths of over 50 feet and can weigh several tons.

Instead of eating equally massive

food, the whale sharks subsist on tiny krill, fish, and plankton that they strain in vast quantities from the ocean water

If A Fish Chewed Its Food, It Would Drown

Fish breathe by passing water

over their gills, which extract oxygen from the water.

If a fish chewed its food, this would stop the flow of water past the gills and they could suffocate.

Fish use their teeth only to grab, slice or crush, then swallow the food down.

Brown Trout Are One Of The Most Diverse Vertebrates

Brown Trout, while all one species, have an incredibly diverse genome.

Instead of having a set number of chromosomes, like most species, they can have anywhere between
continue to the next page

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Cale Varney, Kyrie Fleming & Bart Beckley, from Parkersburg, got a green teal duck.

38 and 42 pairs.

Humans have only 23!

Largest Collection Of Fishing Lures

The largest certified collection of fishing lures belongs to Will (Spike) Yoacum from Carterville, Illinois.

His collection contains 3,563 lures!

The Million Dollar Lure

The most expensive fishing lure in the world is Mac Daddy's Million Dollar Lure, which cost, unsurprisingly, a million dollars.

Why is it so expensive? Because it has over 3 pounds of 14-carat gold and platinum and is encrusted with diamonds and rubies.

It was trolled behind a boat once, with a massive insurance policy in place, but has never caught a fish. Venomous Bait

While out fishing in his kayak, fishing guide Shane Davies caught a 10-pound bass.

His bait? A rattlesnake!

When the snake swam dangerously close to his kayak he stunned it with his paddle, put it on a hook, and cast it out in the river.



Derrick Milhoan, from Murrysville, used decoys for his gobbler.



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Apparently, it looked just fine to the bass

Longest Migration

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ing a fish that came from really far away? If you like to fish for eels, they are very good.

continue to the next page



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Paul Kirk harvested a quality 10 point buck.

The American eel lives in fresh-water rivers for most of its life. However, at spawning time it can swim thousands of miles from its home to its spawning ground.

Eels spawn in the Sargasso Sea in the North Atlantic!

Fish Camouflage

Fish can have all different kinds of camouflage. They are all lighter on the bottom and darker on the top.

The dark top allows them to blend with the bottom. The bright bottom lets them blend with the sun's light coming from above!

Dads Do The Work

When it comes to guarding the nest, bass have single-parent fam-

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The mother bass will be at the nest before she spawns, but once the spawning is done, she leaves and the father stays to guard the nest.

It is not uncommon for female bass to have several nests, while the males only have one each!

Biggest Fly Rod And Reel

The biggest fly rod and reel ever made were created by Tiny Mitchell of Port Isabel, in Texas.

It's over 71 feet long, with a reel that is over 4 feet in diameter! Circle Hooks Are Nothing New

In a recent find in a 12,000-year-old grave of a woman in East Asia, there were several perfectly preserved circular fish hooks.

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Spawning Bass Phase Options

On any given fishery, all of the bass never do the same thing at the same time during the spawning phase. They come to the bank to spawn in waves.

Part of this is nature's way of ensuring that at least some of the bass manage to spawn successful-

ly. Say, that all of the bass were spawning at the same time and a massive release at the dam sucked the beds dry. The entire spawn for that year would be lost.

Since the bass come to the bank in waves, some of them would spawn before or after such a cata-

strophic event.

Another reason nature directs bass to spawn in waves is that the prime nesting areas may be limited. Spawning in waves allows the bass to share the most productive bedding habitat.

Water temperature waves

Because different parts of a lake heat up quicker, the bass to come to the bank sooner in some places than others. I divide a lake into thirds, especially with reservoirs.

Bass traditionally spawn earlier in the upper third of a lake. That's

continue to page 20

By Mike Iaconelli

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Chris Turley caught a 5 lb., 11 oz.. rainbow. Photo courtesy of Middle Mountain Sporting Goods in Elkins.

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mainly because this section has shallow, protected flats.

The middle section of a lake is not as shallow as the headwaters and usually warms a little later. The last bass to spawn live in the lower third of the lake where the deepest water is the last to warm up.

What I love about fishing during

the spawning phase is that I'm not pigeonholed regarding how I have to fish. You can almost choose what you prefer to do.

If you like to sight fish for spawners, the bass will be on the beds in one of the three sections of the lake. One of those three sections will also have prespawn or postspawn bass, so you can fish

the phase of the spawn that suits your strength.

Prespawn bass

I can catch spawning bass by sight fishing for them, but I'm not good at it. I run away from those fish and search for prespawn bass. A lot of times they'll be in the cooler, lower third of the lake.

I'll go into coves and creeks and look for the last point or two that stick out just before I reach the shallow spawning area. This is where the prespawners will stage.

I love to crank those points with something that dives deep enough to deflect off the bottom. If the point is 5- to 6-feet deep, I'll tie on a Rapala DT6. I go with a

continue to the next page



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This is not a one-and-done deal. You can catch multiple fish from one point. They're almost always loaded up on a sweet spot. That could be a stump, a little patch of grass or a hard spot like a shell bed.

Spawning bass

Although I'm not good at sight fishing for spawners, I feel confidence doing what I call "blind bed fishing," mainly in the upper third of a lake. The water is often too dingy there to see a bass on a bed.

I slip into protected coves and target isolated pieces of cover, like a single dock, stump or stick. If there are lily pads, reeds or some other type of vegetation, I cast to holes and indentations in the grass.

My favorite bait for blind bed fishing is Berkley's 5-inch Powerbait The General or Maxscent The General. I wacky rig it with a VMC No. 2 Wacky Neko Hook that has a weedguard.

I throw it anyplace I think there might be a bed and don't do a
continue to page 23



Danielle Casto got a big gobbler in Pleasants Co. Photo courtesy of Tyler Outdoor Supply in Middlebourne.



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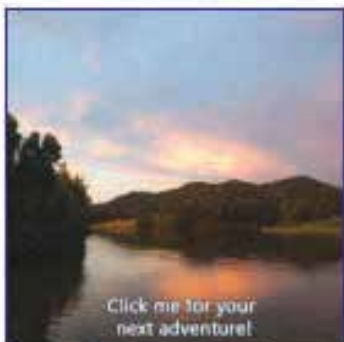
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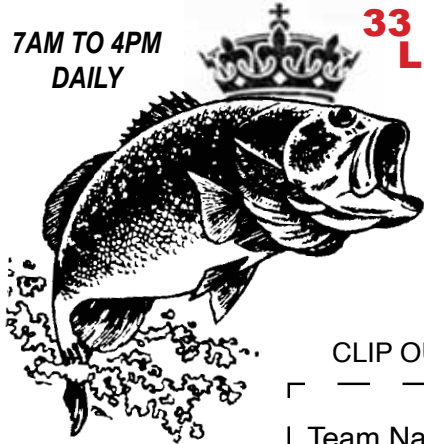
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thing with it. I'll let it sit there for as long as 50 seconds before twitching it. You have to play a mind game and imagine that there's a bass there on a bed.

Postspawn bass

When the bass in the lower end of a lake are in a full-blown spawning mode, there should be postspawn bass starting to move out of the shallows in the upper and middle sections. I locate them by looking for the first significant depth change coming out of a spawning pocket.

These places are easy to locate with digital mapping charts. With

C-Map on my Lowrance units I color different depth contours to help me see where I'm mostly likely to find postspawners.

I shade 0 to 2 feet in green, 2 to 4 feet in yellow and 5 to 10 feet in red. Anything in red marks the first significant depth change I'm looking for.

I target isolated cover and points in this zone. Some of the productive points will be the same ones I would fish for prespawn bass.

When the bass are done spawning, forage species like shad, herring and bluegills go into their spawning mode. This is my fa-

vorite time to fish a topwater bait. continue to the next page



Young Greg Adkins got his first turkey in Wayne County.

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That could be a walking bait, prop bait, popper or buzzbait. The best option depends on the lake you're fishing.

Then again, there's something about a popper that postspawn bass love. It's a great imitation of a spawning bluegill.

You can learn more about how I fish during the spawning phase and many other techniques at www.mikeiaconelli.com or www.youtube.com/c/goingike.



Matt Given reeled in a huge farm pond largemouth bass.



Mark Gray and Tony Crumbliss landed 18 3/4 lbs. pounds of bass to win an early USA Bassin' event at Stonewall Jackson Lake.



Earl Lafever used an Alabama rig to catch a smallmouth bass.



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Catching Bluegill

They say that we need to enjoy the simple things in life. Well in the angling world, there isn't another fish that's more simple than bluegill. These small panfish are easy to find, will eat almost anything, and are one of the most populous fish in North America with a range that extends from southern Canada to northern Mexico. While there are certainly many more popular gamefish species out there, bluegill are unique because I don't think there's an angler out there who didn't cut their teeth pulling a few gills out of a farm pond or slow-moving creek as a kid.

Almost all of us have caught at least a few bluegills over the years, but many anglers only know one or two ways to fish for them. Additionally, when most of those anglers aren't having any luck catching bluegill with their usual methods, they simply shrug it off and move on to another species of panfish. However, if

you're as big of a bluegill fan as I am, you'll want to be able to catch them throughout the season. This is entirely possible, so long as you use the right baits at the right time of year.

Best Baits for Bluegill

When it comes to bluegill bait, there's no question that the most popular and commonly used is the worm. During the summer, the quick stop at the gas station to pick up a pack of dillies or crawlers is almost synonymous with going out to the bluegill pond. These worms are rigged simply, with small earthworms being strung entirely onto the hook or with small chunks of larger night-

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crawlers being pierced onto the hook point. Worm rigs for bluegill are usually hung a few feet under a bobber and then haphazardly cast into some fishy-looking water around weed beds and spawning areas.

While this is an effective method

continue to the next page



Daniel Hempel bagged a 21 1/2 lb. gobbler. Photo courtesy of Middle Mountain Sporting Goods in Elkins.



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Raelyn Starkey used a crossbow for a nice buck.

as a few fish can always be found in the shallows, many true bluegill aficionados know that the real slabs are found in deeper water. In the mid-summer when water temperatures have climbed, most of the largest bluegill to be had in any given body of water will move off the shallow sandbars and weedy shelves that they inhabit during the spring and early summer and gather in depths of 10 to 20 feet of water immediately adjacent to their spring haunts.

These fish are true meat eaters, and while they can be caught

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on worms and bobbers, you'll be much better off using larger, more lively baits like leeches or minnows rigged on small jigs or a small size 8 or 10 bait hook weighted down with a couple of split shot. Using your electronics, locate the deep edges of weed lines or small sandbars where you have seen or caught bluegill early in the season and drop your baits

down to the bottom. Reel them up

so that they're a few inches from the bottom and then start jiggging your baits with a small twitching motion using just the tip of your rod. You'll have a cooler full of fat bluegills before you know it.

In addition to worms, leeches, and small baitfish, bluegill also have a special affinity for terrestrial insects such as grasshoppers and especially crickets. If you

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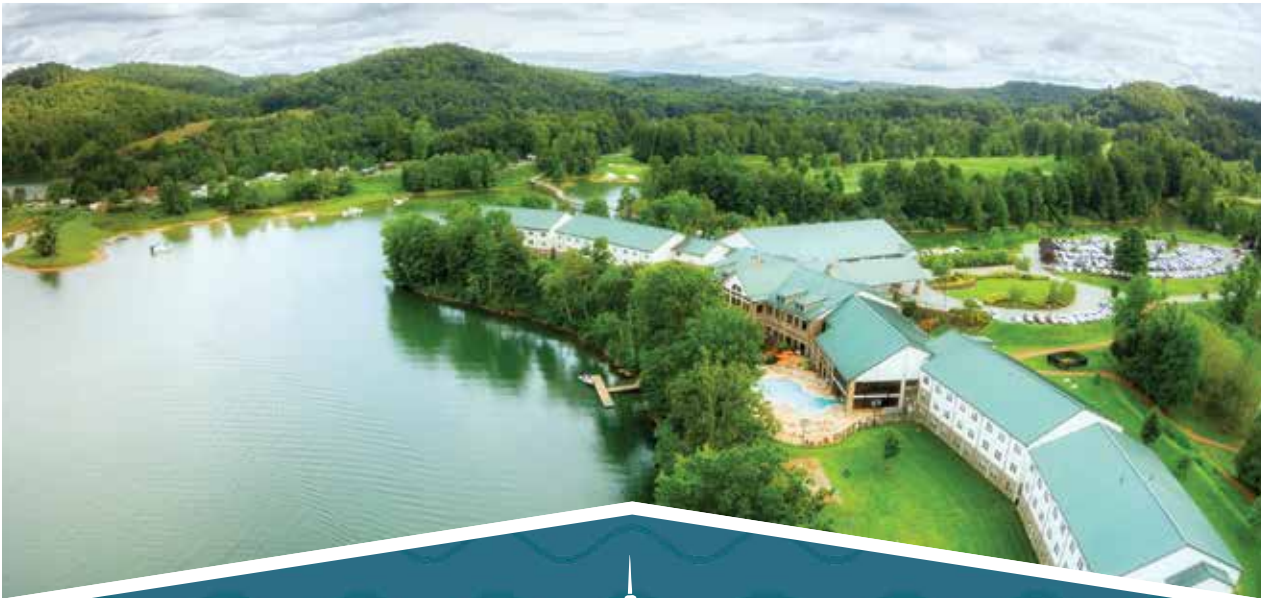
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don't have a lot of deep water or weed beds in your local bluegill spot, these can be a great option for increasing your bluegill catch. Crickets and grasshoppers can be bought in many bait shops, or you can easily catch them yourself. Rig the insects by pushing the point of a small baithook through their thorax and then add a bee-bee spit shot the line about 5 to 6 inches above the bait. Cast these rigs onto the edges of shallow structures such as docks or log jams on lakes and ponds or into swirling back eddies on rivers or



Ron Dewitt hooked an 8 lb. 4 oz. trout. *Photo courtesy of Middle Mountain Sporting Goods in Elkins.*



Aaron Riffle caught some nice bass in a bass tournament.

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creeks. Let them slowly sink to the bottom of the water, occasionally twitching them as they fall until they are slammed by a hungry bluegill.

Best Lures for Bluegill

Not a lot of anglers realize just how effective certain lures can be for bluegill. The small panfish are generally thought of as rather docile and opportunistic feeders that only eat live bait, but they

have a serious predatory side as well when the mood strikes them.

The best time to use lures for bluegill is either when they are on or just moving off their spawning beds in early spring or in the late fall when the fish are aggressively feeding in preparation for winter. During these times a wide variety of lures can be effective so long as they are fished either near or on

continue to the next page

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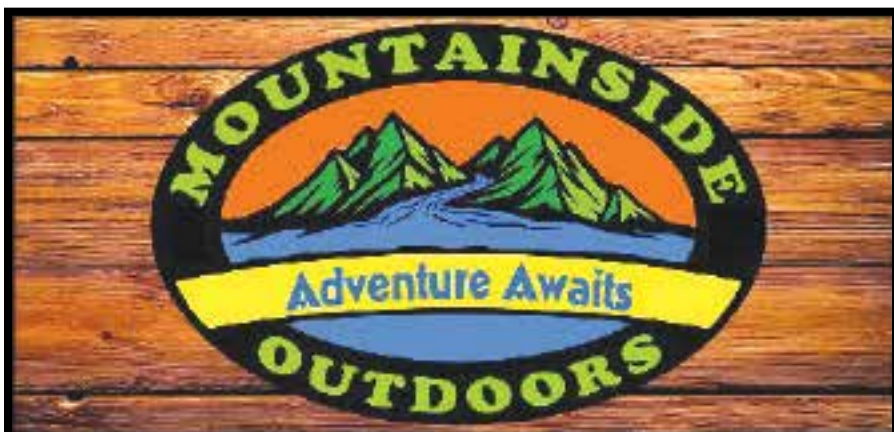
the surface of the water.

The hands-down best bluegill lure out there is a small rubber grub like a 1- to 2-inch Squirming Grub or a Mister Crappie paired with a 1/64- to a 1/4-ounce jig head. String the grub onto the hook so that the tail fully extends behind the rig and then cast it into a likely-looking spot. Let the grub sink a few inches beneath surface before reeling it in with a rapid jiggling retrieve that keeps the rig only a few inches beneath the surface.

While the grub is most effective when you know where the fish are, when you're covering water in search of bluegills, it's hard to beat a small inline trout spinner like a Panther Martin or a Roostertail. These small flashy lures can be cast a long distance when using a light-action rod and light line and reeled in at a rapid pace just below the surface. Any cruising schools of gills that spot the



Brock Waggoner got a Pleasants Co. turkey. *Photo courtesy of Tyler Outdoor Supply in Middlebourne.*



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spinner moving past will find it impossible to resist.

If you need some more intense bluegill action in your life, you need to be chasing them on top-water. Using small lures like the Micro Popper and the Tiny Torpedo is the ultimate way to chase bluegill, especially when the fish are gathered in large schools in the shallows. Smacking these lures down among the gathered fish and twitching and popping them across the surface can draw some truly explosive takes and make you look at the tiny docile



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Best Flies for Bluegill

Fly anglers have a ton of options when it comes to chasing bluegill. The fish eat a wide variety of small nymphs and surface insects just like a trout and will even chase down and crush a small streamer like a Woolly Bugger if given the chance. Combine these flies with a 2- or 3-weight fly rod and some light tippet and fly fishing for bluegill can become one of your favorite pursuits.

Enjoy bluegill fishing this year. Fun to catch & great to eat!



Doug Belcher hunted in Gilmer County for his 20 lb. turkey.

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Summer Catfishing

It seems most people fish for catfish in warm weather during the summertime months. If you want to catch more and larger summertime or hot weather catfish, you need to observe a few specific principles regarding how catfish move and position themselves in these conditions. You also should be fishing during the optimum times of the day.

How do you catch catfish in hot weather and during the summer?

To catch hot weather or summer catfish, it is best to locate shallow water feeding zones adjacent to deeper holes where catfish will head to every night to feed on bluegill and shad.

Using live or dead bait, it is best to hit these zones from sunset until sunrise for best results. Catfish can be a pretty predictable fish once you understand their movement patterns and behavior in response to hot weather.

Let's take a much closer look at how to have success for warm weather catfish. Since the summertime is when most people target catfish, having this knowledge will help you maximize your time on the water and result in better catches. The tips in this article will make you a better catfisherman overall and help you become

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a more informed angler.

During the day in summer, catfish will rest down deep in water that is cooler and contains structure such as logs and fallen trees. Down here, they will be feeding
continue to page 34



Damon Abshire, from Dunbar, has a 42 pound flathead catfish.

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on shad and bluegill that are hiding among the logs.

You can catch catfish during the day but you will need to fish deep and it may be tough to access these deep spots without a boat. At night, catfish move into shallower water following the bluegill and shad.

They also become a lot more active feeding and will wander in search of food. You can catch catfish all day long but I would recommend fishing from sunset until sunrise as catfish will be easier to reach and easier to catch.

Best Time to Catch Hot Weather Catfish

During the summer and in warm weather, the best time of day to catch catfish at and around the nighttime hours of darkness. About an hour before sunset all the way until an hour after sunrise tends to be the best time window for these hot weather catfish.

During this time frame, catfish are actively hunting following prey like shad and bluegill into shallower water.

Because catfish don't rely so much on vision to find and catch food, they can operate ideally in dark or near-dark conditions better than vision-oriented fish like bass and pike can.

Catfish rely heavily on their senses of feel and smell to find prey in the dark hours. The middle of the day can be decent too but you need to fish much deeper water and catfish will be less eager to feed than they will at night.

The first few and last few hours of darkness can be awesome times to intercept catfish moving into and out of shallow water for their nighttime feeding sessions.

This is a great time to set up along specific chokepoints between deep water and shallow ar-

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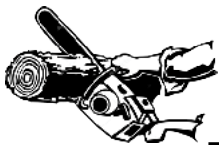
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Travis Brady has his hands full with this large catfish.

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areas where catfish will be moving in and out of every night. Where to Setup to Catch Warm Water Fish

The best place to set up for hot water catfish is at chokepoints where you can intercept catfish heading to and from shallow water. Find shallow water lagoons and bays adjacent to deep water.



Eric Johnson got a 22 1/2 lb. Wood County spring turkey.



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Catfish will spend all day down deep in deeper water especially if it has sunken logs. In the late afternoon, catfish will move into shallow water lagoons and bays to hunt shad and bluegill.

If you want a great place to set up, cast your lines along the

choke point where catfish will pass through en route to the shallow water. This is a great place to fish all night long and guaranteed to see plenty of hungry cat passing through.

Be Patient & Soak Baits Longer
continue to the next page

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LIVE BAIT

The best bait to use for hot weather catfish is whatever natural bait they are feeding on. In some bodies of water that can be shad, shiners, bluegills, suckers, carp, or clams.

Don't fall for the marketing nonsense of all these blood, cheese, or liver-based catfish baits that line the aisles of bait shops. Do not waste your money or your sanity dealing with messy nasty stink baits.

The reality is that catfish almost always prefer natural bait to something concocted in a lab or stuffed with crazy rotten smells and preservatives.

But for big catfish, they can really only be caught using natural bait they are already feeding on. Under most circumstances, the best bait to use for big catfish are bluegill and shad.

Channel cats and blue catfish prey shad and since they have smaller mouths, they prefer medium-sized shad cut in half.

Big flatheads prefer live bait and bluegill are their food of choice.



Riley McCloy, with dad Jeremy, brought in a 21 1/2 pound turkey.



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Scott Smith hunted in Cabell County for his 1st gobbler.

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