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**Vol. 1 Issue 183**

**September 2008**



## **INSIDE THIS ISSUE**

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TIPS**

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**Volume 1 Issue 183**

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## Cover Photo

Fishing at Stonecoal Lake, Bob Sowers, caught this large musky. His huge fish measured 46 1/2 inches and weighed 34 pounds. He was bluegill fishing at the time with 6 pound test line and had on a nightcrawler. Try out Stonecoal Lake for a chance at a big musky. The two current state record muskies for weight and length came from this lake near Weston.

This magazine is on line [www.wvasportsman.net](http://www.wvasportsman.net)



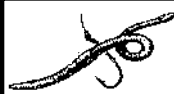
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## Fall Fishing Pattern

It might still be hot but in a month or so the temperatures will start dropping and the days will get a lot shorter — the fall pattern will be on then, and I can't wait.

These waning days of summer are a good time to straighten up your tackle, inventory all the extra baits you bought this year and get ready for some of the best fishing of the year. I thought I might offer some tips on how to become a lean, mean, bass fishing machine for the upcoming fall bite.

The goal is to pare down that small tackle store we all carry with us and develop a bait storage system that's selective and relevant.

The first thing you need to do is dump everything on the floor and separate it into types, colors, sizes, etc. Now, in the very likely event that dumping it out would be an issue with the better half, just get

some inexpensive tubs to put it all in.

If you have an extra wall and some discretionary cash, consider putting up some pegboard and hangers. That way all those bags of baits can be kept organized, and you'll always know when it's time to restock.

Once you have plastics with plastics, cranks with cranks and so forth, you'll be able to pick and choose which baits will be needed for which trip without pawing through every Plano box in your boat or garage.

The second thing is to develop an idea of which baits you'll need for different types of fishing situations.



Derrick Burdette, from Kenna, landed a 25 pound Ohio River catfish.

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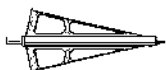
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In other words, consider a list of baits you've found particularly successful for a particular fishery, season or water condition. Use that list to stock your arsenal for that fishing trip. Stay strong, don't second guess yourself, and stick to the list.

I don't carry 50 different lizards or 50 different craws. I can put to—  
continue to the next page

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gether a bait toolbox specifically designed for a certain body of water, species of bass, season or water conditions.

For example, if I know I'm going to a lake where I'll be fishing a lot of plastics, like lizards, craws and worms, I might select my baits in this manner:

**Craws:** I'll take two kinds — one for pitching and flipping grass and another for jig trailers or Texas rigs. Of those two kinds, I might carry two packs of each in a couple or three different colors.

**Worms:** Again, two kinds — one for casting and the other for flipping heavy cover. Same number of colors.

**Lizards:** Same as above — one with single tails and the other twin-tailed Zellamanders. I'll probably stay with the same color choices



Corey Staats caught a 21" sauger. Photo courtesy of Jarrett's Bait in Elizabeth.

for both.

What I'd end up with is a selection of about 18 bags of plastics that pretty much cover most situations. When we consider that a lot of anglers have 100 pounds of plastics on their boats or in their homes, 18 bags is nothing. In fact, once you have the core baits selected, it wouldn't hurt to have a small emergency kit that has a few specialty plastics like big worms, small finesse craws or a couple of baits in untraditional colors.

This system really works for me, even considering the joking I did about too many baits in my boat in last week's column. I really believe if you give it a shot it'll work for you, too. Once you see how successful limiting your plastics choices to what is relevant to any given situation can be, it'll be a lot easier to do the same with all the other types of bait. You'll be leaner, meaner and spend more time fishing rather than choosing.

But, seriously, when you get started, don't dump all your stuff out on the floor and blame it on Zell, okay? Zell Rowland Fishing Tips

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Robert Wood caught a rainbow trout in the New River.

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## Archery Basics

When we're starting to coach novices we have a tendency to over-emphasise the importance of the release and follow through, and to neglect the importance of the bow arm. If you think about it, though, the bow arm is clearly vital: if the bow isn't pointing consistently at the target at all stages of the shot, then the arrow isn't going to go in the middle. Common sense really, but less than obvious until it's pointed out to you.

It's common to talk about archers falling into two broad categories: pushers and pullers. The pullers are the ones who focus on the draw, use of the back muscles, smooth release and follow-through, without worrying too much about the bow arm. Pushers do exactly the opposite. This doesn't mean that each only actually pulls or pushes: good archers will do both, but possibly only think about one. It also doesn't mean that you should view one as more important than the other: generally you have to do both properly to shoot well. If you mostly try to concentrate on the draw etc., try focusing on your bow arm for a few sessions, especially if you have never given it any real




Lonnie Wilcoxon landed a 34 pound flathead. *Photo courtesy of Catfish Cove in Hurricane.*



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attention before. It's entirely possible that you will shoot better by concentrating mostly on keeping good form in the bow arm, rather than worrying about the draw etc. Even if you find that you do shoot better with a focus on the draw etc., you still need to get your bow arm doing the right thing.

continue to the next page

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The first thing to sort out is the type of grip you use, as this is very influential in the set of your entire arm. **DON'T GRIP THE BOW.** That's the first thing to get straight. You don't have to keep your fingers around the handle of the bow to stop it from falling from your hands, especially at full draw, when the action and pressure of the draw obviously keeps it in your hand. If you're using a sling (as you should be!) then the bow won't fall out of your hands after the shot either. If you do grip the bow then almost inevitably the pressure of your fingers will deflect it by a fraction and it won't be pointing where you think it is: when you let go of the string the bow will start to turn and point in the direction that the pressure of your hand dictates. This should be at the middle of the target, but it won't be if your grip is pushing on the bow. So don't grip it. Equally, don't keep your fingers rigidly straight away from the bow: this can cause just as many problems!

The second thing to do is to use a 45 degree angled grip on the bow. This means that the knuckles on your bow hand form a 45 degree angle with the bow, and the handle

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of the bow goes down the side of the ball of the thumb rather than the palm of the hand. The main point of pressure should be just at the top of the ball of the thumb. This helps keep your fingers out of the way

of the bow handle: tuck them into your palm and keep them relaxed. It also helps with the set of the rest of the arm.

Your bow arm should be straight:  
continue to the next page



George Lambert, from Mullens, caught a 41" musky while fishing in the New River near Hinton.

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not rigid (ie tense), but definitely straight rather than bent. There are several reasons for this. If you're using a clicker then it will prove immensely difficult to achieve a consistent draw length with a bent arm, partly because you will inevitably bend it different amounts on different shots, and partly because the bent arm is not as strong as the straight one, and will probably start to bend more as you come up to full draw and try to come through the clicker. Getting the forward pressure right is also much easier with a straight arm, and it should ensure a more consistent direction of pressure as well (more on this later).

Lots of people, me included, have problems or have had problems with elbows sticking out and getting hit by the string when we release. This hurts lots if you aren't wearing an arm guard, and also sends the arrow off in random directions: this very quickly leads to a pissed off archer, and no one likes that. The solution is simple. If you are successfully keeping your arm straight and using the 45 degree angled grip then your elbow should be pointing sideways, so that if you bent it, it would point towards

continue to page 13



Patrick Toler, from Clear Fork, used a bow last season on this bobcat.

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Conner Hamstreet hooked a 5 pound, 11 oz. New River walleye.



Don Sowers, from Poca, caught a 22 1/2 inch fish.



Biff Healy, from Big Springs, went to Alaska for this big king salmon.

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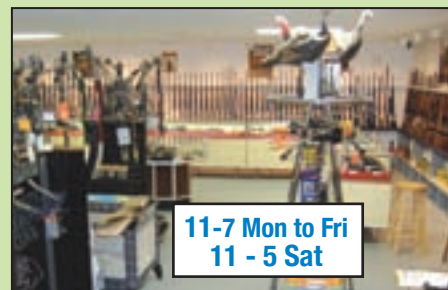
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This angler caught a nice catfish.  
Photo courtesy River-Side Bait in Hockingport, Ohio.



Thad Duvall reeled in a 32" carp.  
Photo courtesy of Backwater Bait in New-  
port, Ohio.



Jill Buckley hooked a flathead catfish.  
Photo courtesy of Starcher's Sport Shop in Lubeck.

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Shaawn Ramme hooked a large catfish. Photo courtesy of Jarrett's Bait in Elizabeth.



John Bowery, from Shadyside, Ohio, caught this 25 pound carp in the Ohio River on a crankbait.

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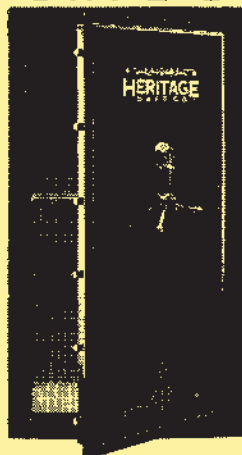
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Josh Compton, from Ellenboro, hunted in Alaska for this nice 300 point plus caribou.



Alice Warden, from Fayetteville, fished at Kanawha Falls for this hybrid.

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Pete Mollihan landed an 18 pound catfish. Photo courtesy of River-Side Bait in Hockingport, Ohio.

## Archery Basics Continued

the wall rather than the floor. This means that it won't be sticking out into the path of the string. If you're doing all the above and still have a sticking out elbow then pay extra attention to moving it out of the way by rotating it: most people can do this, even if their elbows stick out a bit. When you're setting up the shot, make sure that the elbow is in the right position, and try to keep it there. Also make sure that you're wearing an arm guard so that you don't develop a flinching reaction in an attempt to avoid hit-

ting your arm.

You should also avoid letting the drawing shoulder creep up towards your ear as the shot progresses and you stand at full draw. This will cause an entirely different set to the muscles involved, and bring a change in the feeling of the shot, as well as altering your draw length. If this is a problem (it's something to watch out for when increasing poundage, changing bow, or starting to shoot again after a bit of a

break), then focus on bringing the bow arm shoulder blade down and towards the middle of the back. This should be the correct set of the shoulder blade anyway, but lots of people don't pay much attention to it.

The straight arm should be pressing forward towards the target as you come up to full draw: the term often used is "feeling for the target". This pressure should be

continue to the next page

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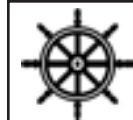
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maintained throughout the shot, including the time just after the shot. The pressure needed is not huge, but pressure is needed. Pressing towards the target keeps your arm straight and makes sure that the bow does not deviate from the correct line in the moments after you release the string. It is absolutely vital that there is both a push and a pull involved in the shot, otherwise consistency is near impossible. Think of the arm as a single unit, and push with all of it rather than just with the hand or the wrist: imagine it as a solid piece of wood if that helps. You can practice this by putting your palm flat on a wall, keeping the arm straight, and pushing with different parts of the arm: try to push with the whole thing, and remember how it feels.

So in summary:

1. Don't grip the bow with your



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fingers. Let it rest in your hand.

2. Use the 45 degree angled grip with the fingers off the bow.

3. Keep the arm straight without a bend in the elbow.

4. Keep the elbow pointing sideways, not down. Don't let it stick out into the path of the string.

5. Push forward with the bow arm towards the target. Imagine the arm as a single unit and push with all of it.

Getting this right takes time, especially if you haven't been paying that much attention to the bow arm previously. Spend a few prac-

tice sessions focusing primarily on these techniques, possibly without a target on the boss. Don't expect to get it right in ten minutes, but you should find it easier within the space of a session or two.

### The Draw

This is the other fundamental of good archery technique: if you have a good bow arm and a good draw, you're well on the way to shooting your best. There are lots of separate issues involved with the draw, so I'll deal with them differently. I choose to shoot with a certain type

continue to the next page

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of draw, but others may not find this type the best for them. There are lots of different opinions out there: don't be afraid to ask other people what they think about a particular point, and don't be afraid to experiment for a session or so.

Grip on the string. There are two ways of doing this, either a deep grip or a fingertip grip. In the first type you place the string into the first joint of the fingers and keep it there for the duration of the shot. The advantage of this is that having your string in the joints allows you to relax your drawing fingers a lot, and they may come off the string more smoothly. In the second type you grip the string with the tips of your fingers: this causes more tension in the fingers, potentially leading to a less smooth release, but there is less finger to get out of the way of the string. Personally speaking, I found the deep grip very useful when I tried it, producing far better grouping than the fingertip grip, but have recently gone back to the fingertip grip for various reasons, and have found this much more consistent than I originally did. The deep grip takes some getting used to, but can certainly yield very good results. Try both, and see which you prefer.

Use of the back muscles. Not a lot of debate over this one really: you should use your back muscles as

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the main drawing force. What this means is that the arm and shoulder muscles are as relaxed as possible and the back muscles do most of the work: this causes less tension in the drawing arm, especially the forearm, which leads to a smoother release. It also helps enormously with correct line (more of which later), and is less tiring than using the arm muscles. When you're drawing the bow, try to move one scapula towards the other, feeling the bone and muscle in the back working to bring the arm, hand and string back towards your face: other muscles

continue to the next page



The big catfish have been biting at this popular pay lake.. Photo courtesy of Catfish Paradise near Marietta.



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should be as relaxed as possible. Practising this is absolutely vital, and luckily you can do a lot towards good technique at home. Stand as if on the shooting line, one arm out as if holding the bow, the other as if holding the string. Move the back muscles and shoulder blade to bring the string arm back towards your face and in towards where it would normally anchor on your face. Keep the pressure up on the back muscles, and imagine yourself letting go of the string with a smooth motion so that your drawing arm follows through directly backwards and the hand ends up by your rear shoulder. At all times try to feel the back muscles working, and keep the other muscles relaxed. This exercise is even better when you use a stretch band: the Cliniband is an old favourite, and Win&Win have just brought out a new version which looks good. Do exactly the same exercise: this time it should be more realistic, and you should be able to feel the muscles working better. It's very important



Ted Nutter hooked a 41" musky.  
Photo courtesy of Christy's Tradin Post in Mt. Nebo.

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that you carry on doing this exercise at home even when you think you've got it right and are shooting well: it's the best substitute for actually shooting and is an important exercise in its own right. Doing this for 15/20 minutes a day should improve technique dramatically, and is useful if you're not going to be shooting during the vacations.

The T-draw. Most archers prefer to use this draw: it's the classic technique which we all get taught as beginners, and it should work for the majority of people. Having settled the fingers on the string properly, turn to face the target and bring the bow up in front of you. The sight should be slightly above the gold (assuming that this is where you are aiming) as the action of the draw will bring the bow arm and bow down, dropping the sight onto the gold. Using the back muscles pull the string towards your face, continuing to use the sight, but concentrating on technique, and then release. Simple! The alternative is to

start the draw with the bow pointing at the ground, with the bow arm straight and in position, and to raise the bow as you draw, sighting and aiming at the same time: some people feel that this gives them better back muscle usage, although I can't say it helped me at all when I tried it. Pointing the bow up in the air at a 45 degree angle and doing the draw like this could produce the same effect, but is sensibly against the rules of shooting, so don't try that one. Try doing the first part of the draw relatively quickly, perhaps until a couple of inches away from your face, and then slow it down a lot. This gives you a chance to make sure that you will be anchoring in the right place, lets you aim as you draw, and generally helps you do a smooth draw rather than

continue to the next page

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a stop-start one.

Aiming. The main point here is that you should do this at all stages of the draw. Don't draw and then aim, as the movement will lack smoothness: aim before you draw, and continue to aim while you draw and at full draw. Having said that, the act of aiming should be as unconscious as possible: if you concentrate on keeping the sight in the gold, you can be sure that it'll wander all over the place, you'll spend lots of time and effort at full draw trying to get it back into the gold, stay at full draw too long, and the eventual shot will be a poor one. Keep your attention focused on the target, on where you want the sight to be, and focus on good technique: with practice the sight will stay more or less where you want it to be, and aiming won't be a problem. Bear in mind that the sight is bound to move about on the target: don't try to overcorrect for this consciously, subconscious aiming will do it for you.

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## New Ramp On Buckhannon River

The Division of Natural Resources has completed construction of a new public fishing and boating access site on the Buckhannon River in Upshur County, according to Frank Jezioro, Director. Development of the site was accomplished through a joint effort by the Upshur County Commission, Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) and the DNR. Construction assistance was provided by the Tygart Valley Conservation District. The site is located approximately three miles north of the City of Buckhannon on County Rt. 4/13.

Additionally, the DNR, the City of Buckhannon and Tygart Valley Conservation District assisted in the improvements to an existing

fishing and boating access on the Buckhannon River.

"The newly constructed site and the improved access area provide excellent opportunities for small-mouth bass, rock bass and muskie fishing on the Buckhannon River,"

continue to the next page



Alex Fields landed a smallmouth bass. Photo courtesy of Crossroads General Store near Newark.

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said Jezioro.

These projects are funded by the sale of hunting and fishing licenses by the Division of Natural Resources and matching funds through the Federal Aid in Sport Fish Restoration program.

"Anglers and hunters provide the basis for financial support of public access and fisheries and wildlife management activities through their license purchases, along with the federal excise taxes they pay on the sale of hunting and fishing equipment and motor boat fuels. The DNR also counts on the support of local governments and organizations like the City of Buckhannon and the Upshur County Commission in helping to make these projects happen," stated Jezioro.

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**Details On Page 3**

## Trappers Must Tag Furbearers

Trappers harvesting beaver and fisher are reminded they must present the whole animal or pelt to a game checking station or Division of Natural Resources representative within 30 days after the close of the respective season. A tag provided by the checking station shall be attached to the whole animal or pelt until it has been sold, tanned, or mounted.

The law requires bobcat hunters and trappers to field tag each bobcat before moving the animal from the location where it was killed. The field tag must remain on the carcass until it is retagged with an official game checking tag at an official game checking station. Hunters and trappers are to present the unskinned bobcat when checking the animal.

Information provided by hunters or trappers on the checking tag is used to monitor harvest and assist in future management of the different species in West Virginia. Decisions regarding season length,

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opening and closing dates, and bag limits are reliant upon accurate data obtained from these tags.

"Improvements in international fur markets have resulted in increased harvests of furbearers, making it extremely important to closely monitor harvests at this time," according to Curtis Taylor, Wildlife Chief for DNR.



Chris Roberts trapped a 35 pound coyote. *Photo courtesy of Jarrett's Bait in Elizabeth.*

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Form Is On Page 38**

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Marty Capral brought in a brown trout. Photo courtesy of Middle Mountain Sporting Goods in Elkins.



Charles Bias has a nice mess of fish. Photo courtesy of Christy's Trading post in Mt. Nebo.



Josh Murray brought in a nice bass. Photo courtesy of Starcher's Sport Shop in Lubeck.



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Justin Sampson, age 12 from Rockport, hooked a 7 1/2 pound largemouth in Ohio. Photo courtesy of Starcher's Sport Shop in Lubeck.



Josh Carr caught a new state record yellow perch. He was fishing in a farm pond in Upshur County for this 1.74 pound fish. It measured 15.25 inches. Photo courtesy of Rick's Taxidermy in Buckhannon.

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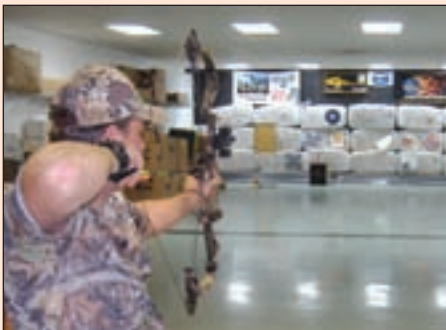
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Young Hunter Rummer hooked a 4 pound bass. *Photo courtesy of Johnny's Outdoors in Boaz.*



Mike Mace caught a 40" musky. *Photo courtesy Jarrett's Bait in Elizabeth.*



Josh Murray reeled in a nice brown trout. *Photo courtesy Starcher's Sport Shop in Lubeck.*

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# 2008 Year Of The Frog

Amphibian populations are in decline in many areas of the world. In cities and the countryside, in rainforests and wetlands, countless areas which previously hosted a range of healthy amphibian populations now have fewer- or even no- frogs, toads, and salamanders. While healthy populations of some species still exist, many species are in decline and a few species - including Costa Rica's Monteverde golden toad and Australia's Gastric brooding frog - are now believed extinct.

In response to this alarming trend, Amphibian Ark and its member organizations, including the World Association of Zoos and Aquariums (WAZA), have declared 2008 as the "Year of the Frog" to highlight the amphibian extinction crisis and emphasize the importance of amphibian conservation.

## Why are Amphibians Declining?

Research to date indicates that a host of environmental variables including competition, contamination, disease, habitat destruction, parasitism, predation, and ultraviolet radiation may cause amphibian population declines or malformations. It is likely that amphibians


are subject to combinations of these stressors, and that the combinations vary by region and time.



## Why Should We Care?

Amphibians are considered good indicators of general ecosystem health. Many amphibians lay their eggs in water and their offspring spend the first part of their lives in water. Both amphibian eggs and skin are highly permeable, allowing them to absorb water and oxygen. Unfortunately, this makes them especially vulnerable to pollutants which can also readily enter the body.

Amphibians play essential roles, both as predators and prey, in the ecosystems of the world. Adult amphibians regulate populations of pest insects- those which damage crops or spread disease. Amphibians have very important functions in the food chains of both aquatic and terrestrial systems. Amphibians consume aquatic vegetation, as well as invertebrates and other vertebrates. In the absence of fish, amphibians are usually the top predators in freshwater systems. However, amphibians are also prey to numerous predators, including snakes, fish, birds, mammals, spi-

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ders, and even each other. Consequently, amphibians influence the population dynamics of other organisms, as well as the cycling of nutrients and the flow of energy.

Amphibians provide vital biomedicines. These include compounds  
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Dave Starcher landed a big large-mouth bass. Photo courtesy of Starcher's Sport Shop in Lubeck.

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Research into the mechanics of the unique hearing system of frogs is being used as a model for "intelligent" hearing aids. The hearing aids can spatially separate sounds, process them the way that human brains do, and boost sound signals of interest, ignoring background noise.



Hayden Rummer caught 2 bass at the same time. *Photo courtesy of John-ny's Outdoors in Boaz.*



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## B.A.S.S. Angler Of The Year

It has been just more than a month since Kevin VanDam of Kalamazoo, Mich., won his fourth Toyota Tundra Bassmaster Angler of the Year title. Since that mid-August day, the Bassmaster Elite Series pro has been on the go.

Known as a "power angler," VanDam also is a powerhouse off the water. It's easy to see how his signature style of fast, hard fishing relates to his drive to always be doing something. But since the

14-time BASS winner captured the 2008 AOY title, he hasn't always been the one doing the driving.

"I have been pretty much jammed up since the day I won Angler of the Year. The day after, I went to Bristol (Conn.) and did the ESPN 'car wash' and it's been wide open since then," VanDam said.

By "car wash," he meant the process of making several ESPN show appearances in succession.

*continue to the next page*



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VanDam appeared live on ESPN Radio's Mike & Mike in the Morning, and then taped segments for ESPN's morning show, First Take, and ESPNEWS. That was just the beginning of the media interviews for the Angler of the Year.

"With the tour schedule, we're just so busy through the year, I schedule a lot of my other appearances — like television commercials, TV shows and things that I do for my sponsors — in the off-seasons. When I won Angler of the Year, I ended up with quite a few different obligations added to my schedule."

His most recent stint was a week-long Tracker dealer convention that included meeting with the media as well as photo shoots for the boat maker's catalogs and marketing materials.

"I do that for most of my sponsors, so that keeps you going," he said.

He was not complaining, rather he was explaining. He has been able to have a few days at home with his wife and 11-year-old twin sons, and they have taken a family vacation. This week he's in New Mexico on an elk hunting trip with five hometown buddies, last year's Christmas gift from their wives.

If he's not recognized as a famous bass pro during his trip, it would be only because he doesn't meet any other hunting parties in the backwoods of New Mexico. Nowadays, VanDam is approached by fans

almost everywhere he goes. Each time he gets personal recognition, he sees it as proof that the general public has become more aware of professional bass fishing.

"I don't even have to be in my tournament jersey, and people recognize me. I get a tremendous amount of fan mail, a lot of letters, especially from kids, but I get them from people of all ages. It's very flattering to be known, without a doubt, but everybody within our industry has worked real hard to build this sport, including BASS and ESPN, and it's paying off," he said.

VanDam recently was asked by The Topps Co. to be the only pro fisherman represented in a new "champions" set of collector's cards that encompasses many sports.

"They've been on the market only a few weeks, and I am getting piles of them sent to me (for autographs)," he said. "It's pretty amazing to me that I'd get that kind of response. I've already signed and sent back 75 to 100 cards, and that's an individual sending one card."

Ever the competitor, VanDam is looking forward to the upcoming Bassmaster Classic, Feb. 20-22 on the Red River out of Shreveport-Bossier City, La. It will be his 19th consecutive Classic, and he's eyeing a third Classic title to add to those of 2001 and 2005.

While he says it's not his habit to scout tournament waters, he might swing by to check out the Red

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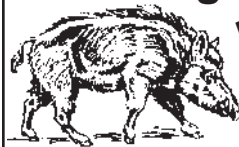
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River, especially if heavy rainfall pushes enough water into areas not normally accessible by boat — clear-water spots that can be key in a stained-water fishery.

"The Red River is a place I've been to a few times, so it's going to be pretty exciting to get back down there and see it again," VanDam said. "I've never been down there that time of year (February). I know what kind of fishery it is, and it really fits my style, so I'm excited about it. The Classic is the biggest single event in the sport."

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# Unusual Fishing Tips

Cheap Fishing and Lots of Fun: Here is a little tip for cheap fishing and lots of fun. Catch a small bluegill (I like to catch them while I am waiting for my catfish to bite) then cut the tail off. Now find a large needle or make one with a small wire like I did. Thread your line through the needle and pull the needle threw the bluegill and tie a treble hook to it. I have caught many cats with this method. You can also dip it in one of these other great stink bait recipes on this site. I hope it works for you and please send me an email with your results



Megan Smith hooked an Ohio River walleye. Photo courtesy of Starcher's Sport Shop in Lubeck.

at [lucasauctioneering@hotmail.com](mailto:lucasauctioneering@hotmail.com) Lucas - Iowa

**For Cats Use Your Head:** I have tried everything and let me tell you I have not had one thing do better for me than anchovie heads. Jack - Phoenix, AZ

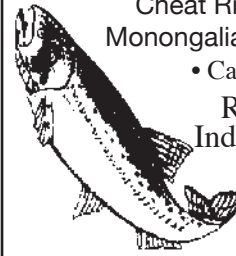
**Campfire Channel Cats:** If you have a campfire, heat a hotdog and a marshmallow. Smear the marshmallow over the hotdog. Pour garlic salt over it and cut the hotdog into a few pieces. I have seen variations of this catch channel cats. Roger - Indianapolis, IN

**Carp Love Dr. Pepper Too!** All you need is Wheaties and Dr. Pepper. It is simple but it is one of the best carp baits I have ever used. I've caught some giants on this simple dough bait. Austin Lanford - Fort Worth, TX

**Basic Carp Mix:** Get some beef, parmesan cheese and garlic powder. Cut Beef liver into 1" chunks. Add cheese and garlic powder. You want it a little pastie. Spread the

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chunks out on a board and let dry in the sun a couple of days. You can either bait hooks with the chunks or put in a net laundry bag and put in a fish basket. Otis Rabun - Thomson, GA

**Trout Killer:** Use some Powerbait next time your at your favorite lake. The night before you fish for trout, douse the Powerbait in salmon eggs that are smashed. When you get to the lake spray the bait with

continue to the next page

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Hog's Back Falls in Ontario: I fish a place the Hog's Back Falls for monster muskies and huge carp and people said the carp in there are 35+ pounds. If you live in Ottawa, Ontario fish the Hog's Back Falls! Jacob - Ottawa, Ontario Canada



Sam Hamilton landed a 9.84 pound channel catfish. Photo courtesy of Christy's Trading Post in Mt. Nebo.

Do What They Do in the Bayou: Out here in the Louisiana Bayou Country we use a different type of catfish bait. Here are just a few: live minnows, worms, duck guts, shrimp, shad. The best I have ever used is: chunks of deer liver, nutra (big marsh rat) liver and fresh chicken liver. Harold J. Billiot - Montegut, LA

Grab Your Wife's.... Pantyhose: First of all I want to remind you that I am only 15 and I go fishing rain or shine. So I was thinking to myself what stinks real bad (catfish are attracted to smell) so cat poo is

really smelly (we all know that) and you take cat poo and mix it with a can of tuna put a little cheese in and put it all in a food processor (make sure you don't use the one you prepare food in) and you mix it all up. Add garlic if necessary and put outside for 2 to 3 hours. Grab some pantyhose out of your wife's drawer and put the mixture in it and cast out in deep water. Once they smell it you better watch out - I caught a 43 pounder so try it!! Harvey Pennington - Glasgow, KY

Catch Mega Pounds: To catch continue to the next page



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a pretty good size carp, and I've done this before. You take a piece of meat....(beef chicken etc.) and you cut it into chunks. Put it on your hook and make sure the hook's tip is through the meat or it won't work. Cast out in a spot like a cove like area or near the weeds or shore. Trust me, Im only 13 but I've fished all my life and I've caught 39 lbers this way. Have fun and make sure you show your kids how to be a great angler!! Matthew D., The 13 year Old Angler - Glendale, CO

Our Tips-Galore: For the best results for season fishing (Summer and Winter), fish on the top in the Summer time because the oxygen



Young Dakota Riffle, from Roanoke, hooked a flathead.

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level will be low at the bottom because of the heat. In the Winter time fish on the bottom because more oxygen stays at the bottom. About the best thing to use for catfish here in Georgia is chicken livers and grasshoppers. Stink bate works fine but live or dead fresh bait works the best. When you are fishing with chicken livers tie the chicken livers in a small piece of pantyhose, this will help the chicken liver stay on the hook for a while longer. Use a small amount of bait, just enough to cover the hook, because most of the fish we have caught are 3 lbs - 10 lbs on that. A bigger bait usually attracts allot of small bait that strips the hook. Bread balls with melted cheese on them work great too. Dog food works good to attract



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catfish and bream. Cut bait works fine too. Shad works too..... Tyler and Josh - Thomasville, GA

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Scott Doss hooked a 25 pound fish.  
Photo courtesy of Catfish Cove in Hurricane.

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Justin Conner caught a 33 pound catfish. Photo courtesy of Catfish Cove in Hurricane.



Walker Shoulds, from Given, reeled in a 7 pound, 2 oz. largemouth bass.

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Dwayne Jennings went to Chesapeake Bay for these cobia. *Photo courtesy of Cardinal Pawnbrokers in Beckley.*

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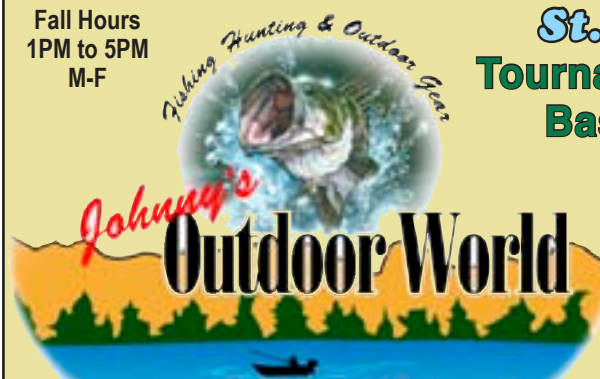
John Murray landed a 30 pound flathead catfish. *Photo courtesy of Stacher's Sport Shop in Lubeck.*

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Brian Trunk fished at Stonewall Jackson Lake for this 5 pound plus largemouth bass. Photo courtesy of Backwater Bait in Newport, Ohio.

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



Philip Hedrick landed 2 nice trout. Photo courtesy of Middle Mountain Sporting Goods in Elkins.



Kevin Six hooked a 34 1/2 pound flathead catfish. Photo courtesy of River-Side Bait in Hockingport, Ohio.

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Mat Reese caught an 8 pound brown trout. *Photo courtesy of Middle Mountain Sporting Goods in Elkins.*



A nice channel catfish over 25 inches was landed. *Photo courtesy of Christy's Trading Post in Mt. Nebo.*



Jay Kellione hooked 2 gar at Douglas Lake. *Photo courtesy of Cardinal Pawnbrokers in Beckley.*



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Chris Quick just missed a state record by 1/8" on this saugeye caught at Stonewall Jackson Lake. *Photo courtesy of Rick's Taxidermy in Buckhannon.*

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# National Hunting & Fishing Days

The largest outdoor-oriented event in the state, West Virginia's Celebration of National Hunting and Fishing Days, is Stonewall Resort State Park in Lewis County, according to Division of Natural Resources Director Frank Jezioro. The event is sponsored each year by DNR and the West Virginia Wildlife Federation.

"Last year, we had nearly 19,000 people over two days enjoying an endless variety of demonstrations, seminars, activities, displays and vendors focusing on our hunting, fishing and wildlife-watching heritage," Jezioro said. "This event is very family-oriented, offering folks of all ages a multitude of activities. It is almost impossible to take in everything in just one day!"

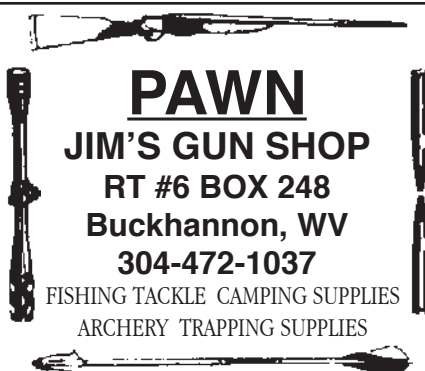
New to National Hunting & Fishing Days this year are the squirrel

field dressing/skinning demonstration, a tree stand safety demonstration, and a seminar on trophy care and taxidermy techniques by Chad See. All the popular items are also back, including the West Virginia Big Buck Display, the West Virginia Trophy Fish Display, deer field dressing and skinning demonstration, bow and gun shooting, fly-fishing instruction, Tom Bechdel's coyote calling and hunting seminars, West Virginia Army National Guard Blackhawk Helicopter, and much more. To see a schedule of activities go to the event's Web page: [www.wvdnr.gov/hunting/nathuntfish.shtm](http://www.wvdnr.gov/hunting/nathuntfish.shtm).

"We are very pleased to have back once again the internationally acclaimed longbow trick shooter, Byron Ferguson – the event's highlight and largest draw," said DNR Event Coordinator Jerry Westfall. "Byron is an amazing talent. He can split playing cards in half from the side, shoot dimes out of the air, and has been known to snuff out candles with an arrow in a dark room."

This event is unlike most hunt shows, which feature mainly just vendors. National Hunting and Fishing Days also has many wildlife and outdoor-oriented vendors, but its primary purpose is to educate, entertain, and encourage active participation.

"This may be the first opportunity for some kids to hold a compound



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bow, .22 rifle, shotgun, muzzle-loader rifle or fly-fishing rod, and they will be receiving instruction from those who are truly skilled in their use," Westfall said.

"The Outdoor Youth Challenge al-

continue to the next page



These hunters brought in 11 groundhogs. Photo courtesy of the Jarrett's Bait in Elizabeth.



Paul Butterfield landed a huge flat-head catfish.

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llenge allows children to compete, or merely just participate, in numerous wildlife and outdoor-oriented activities. Older children and adults will love wildlife seminars by top experts and the opportunity to view some of the latest in hunting, fishing and wildlife-watching equipment”

The entrance fee is \$3 for adults, \$1 for children ages 4-15, and free to children ages 3 and younger. The event is held both inside and outside over a 100-acre facility at Stonewall Resort State Park ([www.stonewallresort.com](http://www.stonewallresort.com)), conveniently located off Interstate 79 (Exit 91 - Roanoke).

For more information on National Hunting & Fishing Days, visit the event Web page at [www.wvdnr.gov/hunting/nathuntfish.shtm](http://www.wvdnr.gov/hunting/nathuntfish.shtm) or contact Event Coordinator Jerry Westfall, at (304) 558-2771; [jerrywestfall@wvdnr.gov](mailto:jerrywestfall@wvdnr.gov).

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## Master Archer Comes To Event

Roanoke, W.Va. - Master archer Byron Ferguson will return as part of the 2008 line-up during West Virginia's Celebration of National Hunting and Fishing Days at Stonewall Resort State Park September 27 and 28. The event, which draws nearly 20,000 outdoor enthusiasts each year and is the biggest outdoor-oriented event in the state, is sponsored by the West Virginia Division of Natural Resources and the West Virginia Wildlife Federation.

Ferguson first amazed the crowd



Wanda Roberts caught a large drum.  
*Photo courtesy of Jarrett's Bait in Elizabeth.*

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 Turkeys European Mounts

**JANE LEW, WV**  
 eMail [toms\\_taxidermy@msn.com](mailto:toms_taxidermy@msn.com)

at the 2007 Hunting and Fishing Days event. "We're proud to have him back this year," said Jerry Westfall, event coordinator for DNR. "Byron is able to do the nearly impossible when it involves the bow and arrow."

Ferguson took an interest in the longbow at the age of 12, first shooting out candles in the pitch dark to hone his skill. He is able to shoot coins out of the air, split playing cards, and even shoot an arrow through a wedding ring in mid-air.

When asked why he prefers the longbow, Byron replied, "It's because of the romance that is tied to the weapon. Longbows are trace-

continue to the next page

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able to the cavemen and have been praised in songs, poems and stories since the dawn of mankind.”

Byron Ferguson is expected to be a show favorite again this year, attracting not only avid bow hunters and archers, but also the whole family. He has taken his talents around the world, performing in eight foreign countries and on dozens of television programs. Additional information is available from Ferguson’s Web site at [www.byronferguson.com](http://www.byronferguson.com).

The public is invited to attend the 2008 West Virginia’s Celebration of National Hunting and Fishing Days at Stonewall Resort State Park on September 27th and 28th between the hours of 9 a.m. and 6 p.m. on Saturday and 9 a.m. and 5 p.m. on Sunday. A complete show listing and schedule are available on the Division of Natural Resources Web site at [www.wvdnr.gov](http://www.wvdnr.gov).



Steve Cain, from Big Springs, hooked a musky.

<b>Elkins Motor Lodge</b>  <b>HUNTERS WELCOME</b> <b>1863 TAVERN</b> <b>Harrison Av.</b> <b>ELKINS, WV</b>	<b>Toll Free</b> <b>877-636-1863</b>  <b>(304)</b> <b>636-1400</b>
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## Toyota Sponsors Big Bucks

“The Division of Natural Resources (DNR) will partner with Toyota to promote the West Virginia Big Buck Display and West Virginia Big Buck Contest,” according to DNR Director Frank Jezioro. “The DNR is very excited about this partnership because it gives us an opportunity to promote these popular programs to a much greater extent and allows the DNR to utilize the resources of a large manufacturing corporation.”

Toyota will be sponsoring both the W.Va. Big Buck Display and the W.Va. Big Buck Contest, which differ in their scope and time frame.

- The West Virginia Big Buck Display allows hunters with legally-taken West Virginia white-tailed buck mounts, taken in any year and scoring 150 or more in either Pope & Young or Boone and Crockett, a chance to display these at West Virginia’s Celebration of National Hunting & Fishing Days. This event is held at Stonewall Resort State Park on September 27-28,

2008. Those accepted will be given reimbursement for some travel expenses and will have a chance to win prizes. Because participation is limited to the first 30 qualifying trophy entries received, applicants should enter very soon. More information on the WV Big Buck Display can be found at: [www.wvdnr.gov/hunting/wvbigbucks.shtm](http://www.wvdnr.gov/hunting/wvbigbucks.shtm).

continue to the next page



Another big catfish was caught at this popular pay lake. Photo courtesy of Catfish Paradise near Marietta, Ohio.

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• The West Virginia Big Buck Contest allows hunters who legally harvest bucks in the upcoming 2008 seasons opportunities to submit these for official recognition. These animals must be scored by an official measurer and must meet certain standards. All entries must be completed by January 31, 2009. The bucks, with their dimensions, county of kill, and owner's name will be prominently displayed in DNR's 2008 Big Game Bulletin (available February 2009). Hunters also will receive recognition and plaques at the 2009 National Hunting & Fishing Days at Stonewall Resort State Park. More information on the Big Buck Contest can be found at: [www.wvdnr.gov/hunting/BigBuckContest.shtm](http://www.wvdnr.gov/hunting/BigBuckContest.shtm).

"DNR's relationship with the Toyota with regard to the Big Buck Display and the Big Buck Contest has been fantastic," noted National Hunting & Fishing Days Event Coordinator Jerry Westfall. "Toyota has been very cooperative and responsive in providing us the necessary promotional items for these programs. Everyone should check out the W.Va. Big Buck Display Web page, and consider bringing a mount to the upcoming National Hunting & Fishing Days Celebration. Successful hunters should check out the W.Va. Big Buck Contest Web page and consider applying if their bucks meet the minimum standards. Good luck and safe hunting this season.

## Sale Of Live Foxes Permitted

West Virginia trappers will be allowed to sell live foxes to hound coursing pens in West Virginia during the 2008-2009 trapping season, according to Curtis I. Taylor, Chief of the West Virginia Division of Natural Resources Wildlife Resources Section. All foxes used in hound coursing pens must be live-trapped in the county in which the pen is located.

"This action will help to avoid any additional westward spread of rabies and reduce the possibility of moving diseased animals across the state," Taylor said. "In addition, since raccoon are the primary carriers of the raccoon strain of rabies, the sale of live raccoon remains suspended for the 2008-2009 trapping season."

Hound coursing pens are licensed in West Virginia and regulated by best management standards which are designed to promote humane treatment of the wild animals being pursued. Trappers are urged to use extreme care when handling live animals due to the dangers of expo-

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sure to rabies and other diseases.

Please contact your local Wildlife Biologist for more information about the sale of live foxes. Division of Natural Resources offices are located in Farmington (304-825-6787), Romney (304-822-3551), French Creek (304-924-6211), Beckley (304-256-6947), Point Pleasant (304-675-0871) and Parkersburg (304-420-4550).



Blake Walls, from Huntington, shot an 8 point last season.

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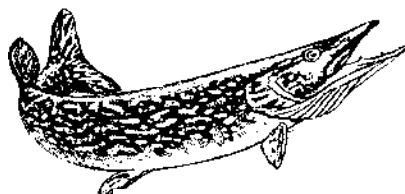
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