

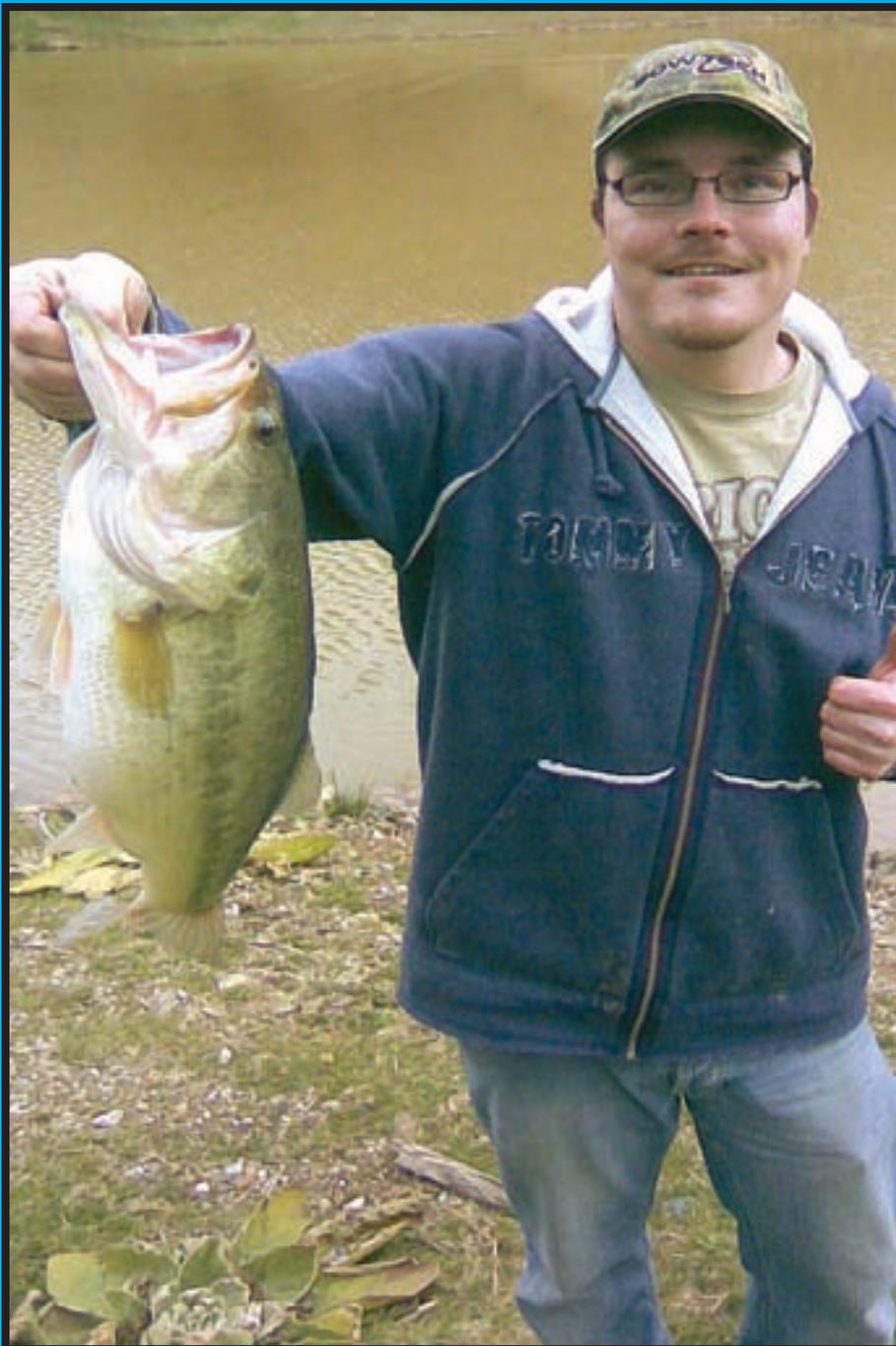


FREE

"The where to and how to magazine for the outdoor enthusiast."

Vol. 1 Issue 178

April 2008



INSIDE THIS ISSUE

**FLW
News**

**Coyote
Hunts**

**DNR
Updates**

Outdoor Photos

7th Annual Summer Bash 2008

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Ellenboro Volunteer Fire Department

Held at the Legendary Pennsboro Speedway in Pennsboro, West Virginia!

Great Food & Drinks provided at Noon on **Saturday**, July 26, 2008 at no charge to Ticket Holder & **One** Paid Guest - See Rules for Details.

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ELLENBORO WV 26346**

EARLY BIRD 1: 20 Additional Chances of \$500.00 for 2008 Summer Bash stubs returned to the Ellenboro VFD by Noon on March 29th, 2008

EARLY BIRD 2: 16 Additional Chances of \$500.00 & 2 Chances of \$1,000.00 for 2008 Summer Bash stubs returned to the Ellenboro VFD by Noon on May 31st, 2008

Featuring **JOE DIFFIE** on Friday, July 25, 2008 at 9 PM. You must be a \$100.00 – 2008 Summer Bash ticket holder in order to attend. Joe Diffie's performance will be followed by fireworks, weather permitting. Ticket guest payment **ONLY** applies to Saturday's Summer Bash...**Not Friday's** performance. See Rules for Details. There will be entertainment on Saturday beginning at 9 PM.



You must be at least 18 years of age to be in the campground or on the drawing grounds **at any time. No Exceptions!**

JOE DIFFIE Summer Bash
Friday **Saturday**
July 25, 2008 **July 26, 2008**

Credit Card orders **ONLY** on our website through **PayPal** until sold out **or** Saturday, July 12, 2008 at 5 p.m. (whichever comes first). You **Do Not** have to be a member of PayPal in order to purchase our tickets through them. No Telephone Orders!

TIME PRIZE

- 3:45 - \$2,500.00
- 3:50 - Ruger Red Label
- 3:55 - Browning A-Bolt Medallion
- 4:00 - 2008 Ford Sport Trac 4x4
- 4:05 - Remington 870 12 ga
- 4:10 - Remington 700 CDL
- 4:15 - \$2,500.00
- 4:20 - Weatherby Orion Upland
- 4:25 - \$2,000.00
- 4:30 - 2008 G-3 188 Pontoon Boat
- 4:35 - Ruger Hawkeye
- 4:40 - Tikka T-3 Hunter
- 4:45 - \$1,500.00
- 4:50 - Weatherby MARK V Sporter
- 4:55 - \$2,000.00
- 5:00 - 2008 Lincoln MKX AWD
- 5:05 - Remington 700 CDL
- 5:10 - Remington 870 12 ga
- 5:15 - \$2,000.00
- 5:20 - Browning A-Bolt Medallion
- 5:25 - \$1,500.00
- 5:30 - 2008 Harley-Davidson Fatboy
- 5:35 - \$2,000.00
- 5:40 - Weatherby Seven CDL
- 5:45 - \$1,500.00
- 5:50 - Ruger Hawkeye
- 5:55 - Remington 700 CDL
- 6:00 - 2008 Mercedes-Benz SLK 280
- 6:05 - Browning A-Bolt Micro Hunter
- 6:10 - Weatherby MARK V Sporter
- 6:15 - \$2,000.00
- 6:20 - Remington 700 CDL
- 6:25 - \$1,500.00
- 6:30 - 2008 Glastron MX 175 Pleasure Boat
- 6:35 - \$1,500.00
- 6:40 - \$2,000.00
- 6:45 - \$1,500.00
- 6:50 - Cabelas Hunting Trip
- 6:55 - \$3,000.00
- 7:00 - 10-\$1,000.00 Winners
(Match WV Daily 3 Last Numbers)
- 7:00 - \$100,000.00 (Match WV Daily 4 Exactly)

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TIME PRIZE

- NOON - 2008 Silverado Crew Cab 4x4
- 12:05 - \$2,000.00
- 12:10 - Ruger Red Label
- 12:15 - \$2,000.00
- 12:20 - Browning A-Bolt Medallion
- 12:25 - \$1,500.00
- 12:30 - 2008 Yamaha Grizzly 4x4
- 12:35 - Remington 700 CDL
- 12:40 - \$2,500.00
- 12:45 - \$2,500.00 LeRoy's Shopping Spree
- 12:50 - Tikka T-3 Laminated
- 12:55 - \$1,500.00
- 1:00 - 2008 Pontiac Solstice Conv
- 1:05 - Weatherby MARK V Sporter
- 1:10 - Ruger Hawkeye
- 1:15 - 2008 Camper
- 1:20 - Browning A-Bolt Medallion
- 1:25 - \$2,000.00
- 1:30 - 2008 Ranger 170 VX Bass Boat
- 1:35 - Weatherby Orion Upland
- 1:40 - Remington 700 CDL
- 1:45 - \$1,500.00
- 1:50 - Ruger Red Label
- 1:55 - \$2,500.00
- 2:00 - 2008 Toyota Tundra 4x4
- 2:05 - Tikka T-3 Laminated
- 2:10 - \$1,500.00
- 2:15 - \$2,000.00
- 2:20 - Browning A-Bolt Medallion
- 2:25 - \$2,500.00
- 2:30 - 2008 Harley-Davidson Softail Heritage
- 2:35 - Weatherby MARK V Sporter
- 2:40 - Remington 11-87 Prem Super Mag 12 ga
- 2:45 - 2008 Polaris 300 4 x 4
- 2:50 - Thompson/Center Encore Shotgun 12 ga
- 2:55 - Ruger Hawkeye
- 3:00 - 2008 GMC Acadia AWD
- 3:05 - Remington 700 CDL
- 3:10 - Weatherby MARK V Sporter
- 3:15 - \$2,000.00
- 3:20 - Tikka T-3 Laminated
- 3:25 - Remington Seven CDL
- 3:30 - 2008 Yamaha Rhino 450 4x4
- 3:35 - \$2,000.00
- 3:40 - Ruger Hawkeye

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Cover Photo

Fishing at a private lake in Wood County, Josh Murray reeled in a whopper 6 1/2 pound largemouth bass. He later released the fish to be caught another day.

This magazine was not printed in March. We were busy doing two sport shows in Summersville and in Huntington. We're back on schedule again.

Look for this magazine online.
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Photo courtesy of Starcher's Sport Shop in Lubeck.

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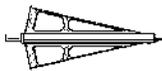
Coyote Hunting

To become a successful caller of coyotes, the hunter is required to become one with the coyotes through acting, moving and thinking like the cunning and elusive wild animal they are hunting. They must also respect the coyote of in due time coyotes will teach the hunter to give them due respect. The hunter must be capable of stalking, listening, observing for the slightest movement in the woods while behaving like the coyote – a true and wild predator. They must leave the human-like attributes in the vehicle.

With more than 50 years of calling fox and coyotes to their destine, they have taught me many lessons about cunning, stalking and becoming one with the predator. The number one reason novices at pursuing the coyote fail is because they simply do not know how to be-

come a true predator with the skill of stalking their prey. While pursuing coyotes, the hunter needs to become the alpha predator, not the second best predator in the woods. This takes time and the willingness to behave like a coyote. Donning the best camouflage, carrying the best rabbit, fan in distress or cat squealer and armed with the best hunting implement on the market simply does not make the hunter a worthy opponent of the coyote. The best coyote hunter is also the hunter who has been outsmarted by a coyote so many times that they have learned many tricks of the woods from their prey. Hunters carrying long range, big scoped rifles need to act as if they were hunting with stick and string, that is if they want to be a successful pursuer of

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Game
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Jim Carpenter had success with this 10 point.

April 2008 ~ Page 4

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The difference between a coyote and the hunter is that the coyotes if keenly aware of every tree, stump, bush, swale, ravine and knob in the woods. After all, the hunter is entering into the domain of the coyote not vice versa. In addition, every coyote in the area is keenly aware of the game in the area and knows where to locate available game during any time of the year the current time of year,

continue to the next page

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time of the day and during any type of weather. Hunters who have pursued deer or rabbits year after year on the same farm know exactly what I am alluding to.

The more time a hunter has spent traversing any particular property, the more familiar they become with its terrain and particulars. And hopefully, the more experience they have on this particular piece of property, the "luckier" they become at bagging game. Along those same lines, the more time spent pursuing one particular game species, the more likely they become at seeing that specific animal because they know where they travel and how they act under specific conditions. That's why rabbit hunters with a good dog or two does not go chasing after a rabbit. The hunter has come to realize if they simply wait, the rabbit and dog will return to the scene.

For any hunter to be a successful pursuer the coyote or any species of wildlife, they need to intimately: 1) Know the layout of the land 2) Know the traits of the prey 3) Know how to hunt properly 4) continue to the next page



Dave Starcher bagged a big 10 point in Roane County. Photo courtesy of Starcher's Sport Shop in Lubeck.

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Ryan Bailey, from Lesage, is shown with a 9 pound rainbow trout.

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How to use worthwhile hunting techniques and 5) Know how to be a patient hunter.

One of the biggest concerns for the hunter is to be keenly aware of the lay of the land. This is something that can not be taught by another hunter, it must be a self-taught lesson of hunting. The hunter needs to learn it through their own diligence and time spent in the woods. The more time they spend walking the woods, and observing everything around them, the more familiar they become with the terrain. The more time spent in the woods throughout the year, the more a person knows the woods.. Time spent talking to someone who knows the land, studying topographical maps and aerial photos, obtained from the Farm Service Agency in your area, is definitely not time wasted. Another excellent source of information are public libraries that have volumes concerning wildlife.

Novices at hunting certain species of game and may not understand the traits of the game and may not know what type of habitat the animal prefers and where to find them under all environmental conditions. They can undoubtedly learn about them by reading, listening to veteran hunters and watching videos taken by professional hunters. The more time and effort a hunter puts into attempting to grasp an understanding of their quarry, the better

the hunter will become at predicting how, when and where to find it.

A hunter may know good hunting techniques, but without good woodsmanship combined with hunting skills, learned through time spent in the woods pursuing game may not be worth a darn. Knowing how to remain, quite still and unseen while realizing that if they hunt all day the chances of seeing increases with each hour spent in the woods.

No one has even said becoming good hunter is quick and easy. Many behinds have gotten sore before the person becomes a worthwhile pursuer of game.



Ethan Miller caught two catfish. Photo courtesy of Jarrett's Bait in Elizabeth.

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Nathan Lantz, from Buckhannon, bagged his 1st deer with a bow.

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New Attractions

At Wildlife Center

The West Virginia State Wildlife Center at French Creek in Upshur County begins its 2008 season by offering visitors two new attractions. A newly-completed fisher exhibit will provide visitors a close up view of these shy and secretive animals of northern forest community, and a special display of "Jack" the black bear, a long-time favorite, will stir some memories of past visitors.

"Each year we eagerly anticipate the beginning of our visitor season," said Rob Silvester, Wildlife Center Biologist for the Division of Natural Resources (DNR). "Our staff is hard at work making necessary preparations to ensure that each visitor has a memorable and educational trip to the Center. We are especially pleased to provide these new attractions for the further enjoyment of our visitors."

Fishers are members of the mustelid family and were historically found from the Sierra-Nevada Mountains in California, north and east to New England, and south into the Appalachian Mountains of West Virginia. The species disappeared from much of its range during the late 1800s due to loss of habitat and over-exploitation by man. Fishers were reintroduced in West Virginia in the early 1970s and have increased their population and expanded their range through much of the state.

Also new this year, in the Wildlife Center Gift Shop, will be a full-body display of "Jack" the large black bear that resided at the Center from 1973 to 1994. Jack, one of the most familiar bears in the state, was born at the Center in 1973. "He was everybody's favor-

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ite," said retired Wildlife Center Superintendent, Bill Vanscoy. Jack was the biggest bear to ever reside at the Center, tipping the scales at nearly 600 pounds. Jack died of natural causes in 1994. His display is scheduled to arrive at the Wildlife Center Gift Shop on April 5, 2008.

The animal exhibits are the most familiar attribute of the Wildlife Center, but their ability to attract visitors allows DNR to accomplish its main objective – presenting a realistic and factual understanding of our state's wildlife resources. "Conservation education is a vital part of any wildlife management program. The nearly 40,000 visitors who annually come through the Center provide an outstanding opportunity to educate them on key wildlife management issues" stated Silvester. In 2007, visitors came from 11 foreign countries, 35 states, and 51 West Virginia counties.

For more information about activities at the Center, contact the West Virginia State Wildlife Center at P.O. Box 38, French Creek, WV 26218, phone: (304) 924-6211, or visit the West Virginia Division of Natural Resources Web page at www.wvdnr.gov



David Allen used a bow in McDowell County. *Photo courtesy of Middle Cardinal Pawnbrokers in Beckley.*

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Bill Legg, from Hico, bagged a nice 8 point in Fayette County



Sherry Hager took this nice 11 point in Kanawha County. Photo courtesy of Outdoor Specialties in Winfield.



Kevin Lambert, from Elkins, caught a musky.

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Michael Messner, from Kermit, shot a Wayne County 11 point..



Debbie Boggs, from Looneyville, took a 9 point form Roane County.



Ronald Maynor used a gun for this Raleigh County buck.

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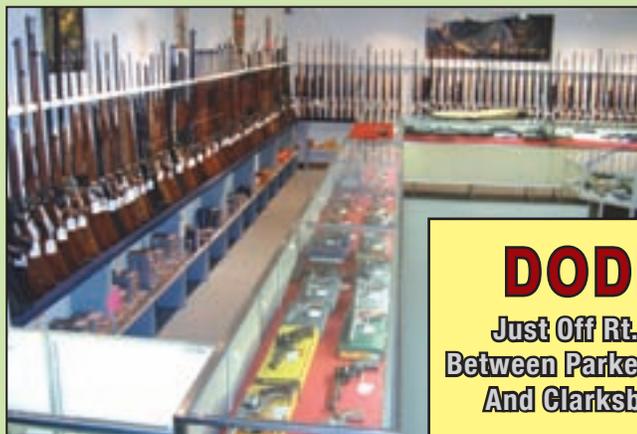
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Jim Asbury took this buck in muzzleloader season. Photo courtesy of Crossroads General Store near Newark.



David Sprouse, from Talcott, caught a 4 pound, 5 oz. smallmouth.



Mike Petrosky, from Mount Hope, hooked a 42" musky.



Craig Miles used a bow for this nice Mason County buck. Photo courtesy of Outdoor Specialties in Winfield.



Randy England, from Elkins, bagged a nice 9 point in Randolph.

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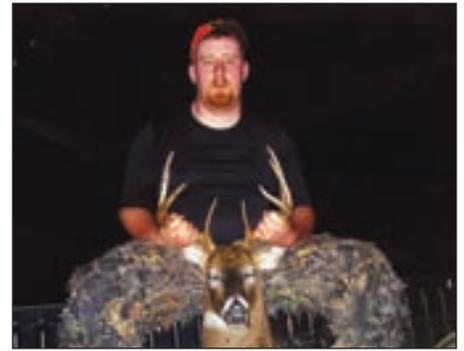
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Stephen Huber trapped a nice bobcat. Photo courtesy of Crossroads General Store near Newark.



Young Scott Rhinehart, from Scarbro, took a nice buck.



Jason Waugh, from Gauley Bridge, shot an 8 point in Fayette County.

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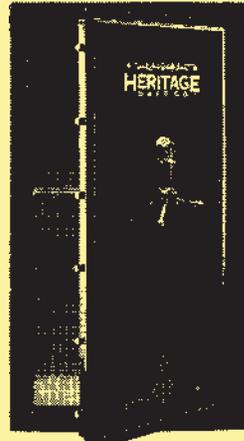
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Want to go fishing? You need to come to Spring Fest the first weekend of May. Pendleton County is known for its terrific fishing streams. With the Trout Rodeo taking place in the South Branch of the Potomac these past years, the fishing has just grown. The first weekend in May large trout from Greer Industries are placed in streams around Franklin with numbered tags that relate to prizes. Each person must register to participate in the Trout Rodeo. Once you have registered to take part in this May 3, 2008 rodeo, those tags will gain you prizes from cash to other items. Catch a trout with a tag, check it in with a stream marshal who will register the tag number and your name, and come to the award ceremony at 5:45 p.m. to see what you have won. Prizes will be awarded to registered anglers who catch the appropriate tagged trout. (To encourage, but not require catch and release as a preferred method of competing anglers cash prizes for released trout exceed those amounts awarded for trout that are kept.)

The Trophy Trout Rodeo is officially sanctioned by the DNR and will be conducted in compliance with all DNR rules and regulations.



Tom Berga went to the ocean for this big red. Photo courtesy of Backwater Bait in Newport, Ohio.

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Landowners along the stream have given permission for May 3 only. Please follow signs on any restrictions. Stream Marshals will be present to clip tags from catch-and-release trout and to register the tag number along with the name of the angler to authenticate prize awards. Only tags registered with the stream marshal while intact will be eligible for prizes.

continue to the next page



Barry Boggs, from Looneyville, brought in a coyote.

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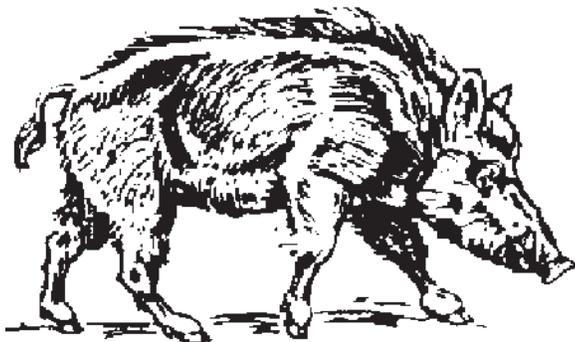
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Biscuits & Gravy Breakfast – Saturday – 7:30 AM

Bench Hound & Dog Shows – Friday – 6:00

Taxidermy Show - Saturday
 Flea Market and Craft Vendors
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Dog Show – Sunday – 2:00

Car Show – Sunday – 11:00 – 4:00

Morel Mushroom Sales

While in the area of the craft building, check out the food stands, informational booths, craft vendors, and visit the flea market. Booths will be open from 12–8 on Friday,

7-8 on Saturday and 10-4 on Sunday.

Franklin is located at the intersection of US Route 33 and 220 in Pendleton County.

For additional information check www.visitpendleton.com or phone 304 358-3884.

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Logan Ball, Tyler and Zach Burdette had great success on a fishing trip. Photo courtesy of Starcher's Sport Shop in Lubeck.

Bat Populations In Jeopardy

Charleston, W.Va. - Thousands of bats have been found dead or dying in caves and mines in New York state. The cause is a mysterious condition known as "White Nose Syndrome" because a white fungus is present on the muzzles of affected bats. The condition was first discovered in four caves in New York in 2007 but it has now been confirmed in 15 caves and mines, including sites in Vermont and Massachusetts as well as additional caves in New York. The sites where White Nose Syndrome has been confirmed contain approximately 400,000 hibernating bats. Many more caves could be impacted if



Randy Townsend brought in a nice bobcat. *Photo courtesy of Jarrett's Bait in Elizabeth.*

this condition spreads.

If this condition is introduced into West Virginia it could devastate populations of bats that reside in the state's numerous caves. Because all bats in the region feed solely on insects, the loss of significant numbers of bats would reduce the benefits these mammals provide in controlling insect populations, including species that may be pests to humans. The West Virginia Division of Natural Resources (WVD-NR) and the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service are soliciting the help of cavers and cave owners to keep this

continue to the next page



Barry Boggs, from Looneyville, bagged a big 8 point in Roane County.

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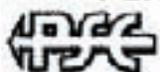
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condition out of the state's important bat caves.

As with other emerging wildlife issues, answers are not coming quickly despite the efforts of several colleges, universities and wildlife-disease laboratories across the nation. Although officials do not know the cause of the problem, what is known is that affected bats appear to have used up their winter fat stores early in the season and may not be able to survive the winter. The fungus apparent on the bats may not be the cause of the problem, but may be a secondary infection of bats weakened by some other condition. The actual cause may be fungal, viral, bacterial or some other agent.

It is not known how this syndrome is spread. It may be spread by cave soil that is transferred from cave to cave by cavers. Until officials know more, they need to presume this is a possible means by which the disease spreads. If it is carried from cave to cave by the bats themselves, there may be little that can be done to prevent the spread of White Nose Syndrome. Potential risks to humans are being assessed.

Bat surveys conducted by the WVDNR this winter have not detected White Nose Syndrome in West Virginia. To reduce the risk of this syndrome being introduced into bat populations in caves in West Virginia, a list of important bat caves has been developed, and the WVDNR and U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service are asking people to avoid these caves and to minimize caving in West Virginia until more is known. Guidelines are being developed for cavers to follow when visiting caves in West Virginia (these will minimize the likelihood of spreading this prob-

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lem) and what to do if an affected bat is observed (these will help biologists keep up with the spread of this problem). Up-to-date information on White Nose Syndrome, including the list of closed caves, a notice to cavers planning to visit West Virginia and recommendations for cavers in the Northeast can be found at http://www.fws.gov/northeast/white_nose.html.

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On The Internet



This young fellow landed a 5 pound smallmouth at Lake Cumberland. Photo courtesy of Quotdoor Specialties in Winfield.

Wilderness Designation

Gov. Joe Manchin announced today that he supports a State-developed alternative for wilderness legislation as a constructive improvement to the legislation introduced last week by the West Virginia congressional delegation.

"Conserving West Virginia's special places for this and future generations is one of my top priorities," said Gov. Manchin. "I support wilderness designation for appropriate areas on our National Forests, but good decisions about wilderness require a site-by-site assessment of the positive and negative impacts of each designation."

The State alternative announced by Gov. Manchin was developed by the West Virginia Division of Natural Resources in consultation with sportsmen and other con-

continue to the next page

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cerned individuals, and has been forwarded to the West Virginia congressional delegation and other interested groups. Division Director Frank Jezioro indicated that, given the history of human activities on some of the areas, managing their fish and wildlife requires more than simple preservation. It often requires active management of land and water habitats that can't be done effectively in wilderness areas.

"Instead of protecting wildlife, the establishment of wilderness designation for areas like Cheat Mountain would hamper beneficial wildlife management efforts to restore red spruce and stream habitats for endangered species and brook trout," said Jezioro. He



After 30 years of hunting, Marty Clark shot his 1st buck.

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also indicated that the State's alternative would create fewer isolated wilderness areas that would be difficult to manage because they do not have adequate trail systems for recreational use.

The State's alternative would include expansions to the existing Dolly Sods, Cranberry and Otter Creek Wilderness Areas and would create the new areas of Roaring

Plains in Randolph, Pendleton and Grant counties, Seneca Creek in Pendleton County and Big Draft in Greenbrier County. These areas have been supported by wilderness advocates, but some were not included in the legislation introduced by the congressional delegation. Under the State's alternative, the proposed Roaring Plains Wilderness continue to the next page



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ness Area would be almost 15,000 acres in size, encompassing some of West Virginia's most spectacular high-elevation landscapes and dovetailing with the existing Dolly Sods Wilderness Area. Seneca Creek in Pendleton County is one of the nation's best trout streams and is one of the state's most popular and traditional back-country destinations. The State's alternative would increase the new acreage under wilderness designation by almost 4,000 acres more than the introduced legislation and would result in larger, more easily managed areas that pose fewer problems for fish and wildlife.

"This is an excellent enhancement to the wilderness legislation introduced by our congressional delegation and I believe it will be supported by an even broader coalition of West Virginia's citizens," Gov. Manchin said.

**Advdertse In The
W. Va. Sportsman
Details On Page 3**

Audra State Park Upgrades Shelters

BUCKHANNON, W.Va. – Looking for a beautiful location to hold a family reunion, birthday party or company outing? Audra State Park has the perfect solution – a covered picnic shelter with water, electric and a large grill. The shelter accommodates up to 50 people, is handicap-accessible and has a large parking area.

According to Audra State Park Superintendent Jon Teets, upgraded amenities mean increased demand for the park's only shelter. "Our picnic shelter has always been available to our campers and the local community," Teets said. "With the addition of water and electric, the picnic shelter will be more popular than ever."

The shelter is near scenic hiking trails and provides easy access to the Middle Fork River for swimming or boating. "Audra is a family-friendly park," Teets said. "The shelter, which overlooks the entire park, is in a great location; it's private yet surrounded by plenty of

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opportunity for activity."

Picnicking is a tradition at state parks according to Dave Lombardo, District Administrator. "Families use park picnic areas for reunions and weekend outings, and we see more and more groups renting shelters during the week for meetings or social functions," Lombardo said. Shelters at state parks and forests are rented on a month to year basis. Mid-week rentals are at reduced rates. Shelters must be reserved in advance and reservations may be made by phone.

Rental rates at Audra State Park are \$65 per day (6 a.m. until 10 p.m.) for Saturdays, Sundays and holidays. To make a reservation, or to ask about weekday picnic shelter rental rates at Audra State Park, call (304) 457-1162. Phone numbers for all state parks and forests are listed online at www.wvstateparks.com, or call 800 CALL WVA for contact information.

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Ben Connett, from Buckhannon, landed a 40 pound grass carp.



Lee Hornbeck and his buddies trapped several animals



Wayne Kincaid trapped a couple of nice bobcats in the Drennen area.

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Form Is On Page 37**

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Fee Increase At Campgrounds

Effectively immediately, campground fees on Pleasant Creek, Teter Creek, Lewis Wetzel, Sleepy Creek, Nathaniel Mountain, Short Mountain, Handley, Chief Cornstalk, McClintic and Conway Run Wildlife Management Areas will be \$10 for a group of six or fewer and \$2 for each additional person, according to Curtis I. Taylor, Chief of the Wildlife Resources Section of the Division of Natural Resources.

"The increase is necessary due to the increased costs in fuel, labor and maintenance. The expenditures required to keep the campgrounds open have far exceeded the income received at these facilities," said Taylor. The new fees are commensurate with those campgrounds operated by the State Park

system and the U.S. Forest Service with similar accommodations.



Jacob Tackett shot his first squirrel.



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Josh Murray landed a nice Ohio River walleye. Photo courtesy Starcher's Sport Shop in Lubeck.



Daniel Fain shot his 1st buck in Wirt County



Clint Johnson bagged a big deer. Photo courtesy Starcher's Sport Shop in Lubeck.

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FLW Reel Chat - Brett Hite

- MODERATOR COMMENT -

Welcome to FLW Live Reel Chat. Today we're joined by FLW Tour pro Brett Hite of Phoenix. As the winner of the recent 2008 FLW Tour event at Lake Toho, Hite already boasts over \$276,000 in career earnings from FLW Outdoors-related events. Since the inception of his FLW Outdoors career in 2003, Hite has amassed two major victories – the 2008 FLW Tour event at Lake Toho as well as the 2003 Stren Series Western Division event at Lake Pleasant. Hite has also notched two other top-10 appearances – a third-place finish at the Stren Series California Delta event in 2003 and an eighth-place finish at the FLW Series Western Division event at Clear Lake in 2007.

With the successful Forrest Wood Cup championship runs of fellow Western anglers Luke Clausen and Brent Ehrler in recent years, it's clear that the Arizona native is yet another "young gun" poised to make plenty of noise on major bass-fishing circuits for the foreseeable future. Today, Brett Hite is here to take questions from you, the fans. So, without further delay,

let's get started.

Q: How important to you was getting your first-ever FLW Tour win at Lake Toho?

-- Jon Stebbins (San Diego, Calif.)

A: It's the biggest highlight of my career. I've qualified for the Bassmaster Classic and Forrest Wood Cup, but this is my biggest accomplishment. Definitely.

Q: How would you rate this win next to your team win at the El Cajon Ford Open?

-- Wahoo (San Diego, Calif.)

A: It's definitely a lot bigger win than the El Cajon Ford Open. I've had a pretty good fishing career so far. But there aren't too many people who win tour events. There are only six of the year. And you have all the top fishermen there. It's not just the best of the West or best of the East. It's the best of the best. So it's a nice win to have.

: How is fishing an FLW Tour event different than fishing a BASS event?

-- Matt Arneson (Lenoir City, Tenn.)

A: They are fairly similar. FLW tournaments are run a little bit more smoothly. FLW officials really care about what you have to say

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as an angler, and the organization is really good about answering any questions you might have.

Q: Is the Phenix Vibrator jig from the same company that made Clayton Meyer's football-head jig from
continue to the next page



Michael Wygal shot a nice buck..
Photo courtesy of Waterfront Sporting Goods.

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Amistad? If so, that's back-to-back wins, and I've never even heard of them.

-- Randy S. (Moline, Ill.)

A: Yes, it's the same company. A lot of those baits are real similiar, but it's got a nice paint job on the head, a nice skirt and a good hook. With that swimming Senko on the back, it really made the bait look like a shiner or a bluegill, and I think that was key to getting bigger bites. The bigger fish were really keyed in on that bait, I think, because it had a bigger profile.

Q: How does the Phoenix Vibrator jig compare to the ChatterBait? How did you decide that a grub would be the best trailer? Where can a weekend angler purchase the vibrating jig?

-- Dan Rhoal (Mount Dora, Fla.)

A: All ChatterBait-(style lures) are pretty similiar. I just like everything about this particular one. I like the black blade. I like the skirt. It's basically identical to the ChatterBait. As far as the trailer, I like something that is dark to represent a bluegill. I also wanted to use a

trailer that was a little bit bigger. You won't get as many bites, but when you do, the fish will tend to be bigger. Right now, I don't know of any online store that carry it. I'd recommend calling Fishermen's Choice at: (602) 993-1139. If you call that number, they can probably send you out some.

Q: How many bites per day were you averaging in practice? Did you know at the time that you were around such quality fish?

-- Nick Lee (Cartersville, Ga.)

A: In practice, some days were better than others. But on the good days, I was getting 10 bites a day. The bites I were getting were 2- to 3 1/2-pound fish. So I was gambling a little bit that the bigger fish were around there. The second day of practice I found my winning spot. I actually went through another day of tough practice, but I stumbled upon a secondary area that helped

continue to the next page

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Robert Keaton shot a big 8 point with a wide rack. Photo courtesy of Richmond's Store in Sandstone.

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me as well.

Q: What was the biggest hurdle you faced coming out East and trying to compete on water that was relatively unfamiliar to you?

-- Jon Pageler (New York City, N.Y.)

A: I'd fished Lake Toho three or four times prior, so I was kind of familiar with the water. In Florida, you really have to focus on minute changes. In Florida, I was looking for small depressions, etc. The biggest challenge fishing out East was learning how to really fish grass. That's probably the one area I've really focused on, and now I'm doing a lot better at it. And that's helped.

Q: Not only did you win your very first FLW Tour event on Lake Toho, but you basically dominated the rest of the competition in the process. How were you able to pull off that feat with relative ease against some of the best anglers in the country?

-- Tim Halverson (Los Angeles, Calif.)

A: A lot of people had found the same areas I had found. But looking at the surroundings and finding a key bait was important. Where I was, everybody was flipping. So I wanted to try something different

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than what everybody else was doing. I was throwing a Chatter-style bait with a Yamamoto Swimming Senko on the back. I used a steady, medium retrieve, and just something about that was key to the bigger fish biting.

Q: What are the main differences between fishing Western bodies of water and Eastern fisheries?

-- Pat Zak (Oakland, Calif.)

A: Western fishing is a lot better (laughing). Seriously, they're fairly similar. Western fisheries are generally a little deeper. A good structure lake out East, you're talking about 25 to 30 feet. Out West, a good structure lake would come in at around 60 feet. Fishing areas back East are a little fatter and a little more subtle, like the breaks and stuff. In the West, we have more canyon-type lakes, so there are going to be steeper drops. The water out East is flatter, and the breaks

and underwater topography aren't as extreme.

Q: Congrats to you on your win. Being from Arizona, what is the best fishery closest to the Phoenix DMA?

-- Matt Anselm (Kansas City, Mo.)

A: Roosevelt Lake, by far. The next three years, Roosevelt lake is going to be one of the best fisheries in the entire western United States.

Q: Since I forgot to put you on my Fantasy Fishing team for Toho (big mistake), what other lake should I put you on this year?

-- Mike (Oxford, N.J.)

A: Smith Lake. Beaver Lake. You know, just put me on all of them because I'm planning on doing well all year.

Q: How is practice going on the Delta? What phase are the fish in? Are we going to see huge sacks like usual?

continue to the next page

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Danny Ball, from Buckhannon, took a giant buck.



Allison Peters, from Clendenin, caught some rainbow trout.

A: Practice, the numbers are down. They are in a prespawn pattern. But the bites you do get are good-quality fish. And, yes, you're going to see some giants weighed in this week. I'm guessing you'll see some 12- to 14-pounders weighed in.

Q: Brett, I have used the ChatterBait-style swimming jigs in Michigan when fishing weedbeds and lanes through the weeds like you did on Toho. Would you use this technique on a vegetation-free lake like Table Rock during the prespawn, or is there a better technique?

-- Ed Dyer (Byron Center, Mich.)

A: You definitely could. I think the situation with grass is the ideal situation. But I do catch them in open reservoir-style lakes with that bait, but just not as good. In prespawn on Table Rock, I'd probably use a Wiggle Wart or some kind of swimbait.

Q: I am looking to do more drop-shotting this summer and would like to hear your setup as far as rods, reels, line, bait, hook and weight for Northern natural lakes with a lot of grass.

-- Eric Schultz (Wayzata, Minn.)

A: I would have two different rods and reels set up. The first is a spinning rod with 6- to 8-pound-test (line) with an 1/8-ounce drop-shot

weight with a 1-0 Roboworm rebar hook. The worm would either be a Yamamoto 9M Senko or a 6-inch fat Roboworm in whatever color you have confidence in. The second setup I'd use is a medium-heavy baitcaster with 12- to 16-pound-test of Sunline fluorocarbon with a 2-0 Roboworm rebar hook. I'd go with a 6- to 7-inch bait like a Yamamoto 7X cuttail worm. I'd also consider a 6-inch fat Roboworm.

Q: In your opinion, why do you think Western anglers have had so much success on the FLW Tour over the past few years?

-- David Perlman (Minneapolis, MN)

A: I think our versatility is the biggest key. We're able to finesse fish and power fish. I really think that the different lakes we have out here give us a lot of confidence. You can pretty much find any type of lake out here, and it forces you to really master a variety of different techniques.

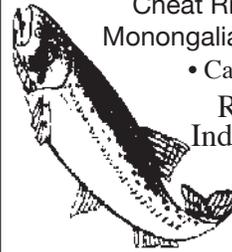
Q: Brett, congrats on the win. Two questions: How did you go about getting a sponsor deal such as Coppertone? Also, did you find those fish on the southeast side of Kissimmee?

-- Jason Guynn (Ocala, Fla.)

A: I didn't catch my fish on the southeast side of Kissimmee. As far as sponsorships go, FLW Outdoors really helped me out. But it takes a lot of hard work, being able to really do good things for your sponsors, being able to speak well

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and represent the company well. You also have to be a good fisherman. Basically, you want to work on having the complete package. And then sponsors will be interested in you.

Q: Obviously, many Western anglers have found success on the FLW Tour over the past few seasons. In your opinion, who are

continue to the next page



Andy Daniel landed a big crappie.
Photo courtesy of Johnny's Outdoors in Boaz.

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some other lesser-known Western sticks who bass-fishing fans should expect to hear more about in the next few years?

-- Pete Engeldinger (St. Peter, Minn.)

A: There are some guys from out West who are doing well right now, but who haven't won a tour event yet. But you're going to keep hearing about them in the next couple years. Michael Bennett and Gabe Bolivar are two names that come to mind. Tim Klinger is another guy.

Q: How does the boat and motor affect your success or failure in tournaments?

-- Angie (Paducah, Ky.)

A: You always have to get to the spot and get back. I'm running a Ranger Z520 with an Evinrude 250 HO. It's the best high-speed, all-around fishing boat I've had. Speed just gives you more time to fish. And the setup also gives me good fishability; I can really maintain my position on the lake.

Q: Brett, how did you decide on Kissimmee? All those lakes can produce big strings.

-- Jeffrey (Lakeland, Fla.)

A: I think in practice you need to come up with a game plan. But Kissimmee is a huge lake, and you only get four days of practice. So you need to make up your mind where you're going to fish first. That way you can be more efficient and try to keep your areas relatively close to each other. I just decided I was going to stay in Kissimmee because I didn't want to have areas in Toho and Kissimmee, because then you wind up running around the whole time. One of the mistakes people make in practice is that they spend the whole time running all over the place instead of concentrating on certain areas and figuring out where the fish are in more manage-

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GAME CHECKING

able sections of the lake.

Q: Brett, what is the hardest thing about being a pro angler?

-- Sean Sills (Metter, Ga.)

A: Driving is probably one of the biggest downfalls. Being away from home is another one. I don't have a family, but there is nothing like sleeping in your own bed. People think bass fishing is a glorious thing, which it is. But a lot of people don't really know how hard it is. I mean, just go fishing for a week straight, logging 10-hour days on the water the whole time. It's a much more grueling sport than people give it credit for.

Q: Did it hurt when Hulk Hogan shook your hand before Sunday's takeoff?

-- Wrestling rules (Indianapolis, Ind.)

A: No. I hurt his hand.

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Zach Waggoner took a nice buck.
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Archery In The Schools Program

The West Virginia Division of Natural Resources Wildlife Resources Section hosted its third annual West Virginia Archery in the Schools Program State Tournament at Summersville National Guard Armory on Saturday, March 1, 2008. Approximately 30 schools and 500 students from across West Virginia participated in this year's tournament.

"Participation in West Virginia Archery in the Schools state tournaments, like the program itself, seems to be growing at a phenomenal rate," said Frank Jezioro, Director of the Division of Natural Resources. "The first year's tournament at Capitol High School had 280 students; the second year's tournament at Braxton County High School had 350 students. The Summersville National Guard facility allowed us to accommodate a much higher number this year."

"We at the DNR are very encouraged about the success of the Archery in the Schools Program," said Jerry Westfall, Program Coordinator. "The Program is really geared to generate participation rather than competition. However, we are aware that competition generates a lot of excitement in the program. Also, some students are more motivated by competition than just participation, so a tournament is very useful to the program as a whole. Keep in mind, this may be the only time in some of these student's lives they will wear school team colors and compete in front of a thousand or more spectators."

"Thanks go to the army of volunteers required to score, register, and assist these students. Without the continued support of these vol-



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unteers, state tournaments at this level would not be possible, and as we continue to expand, we will need more next year," said Westfall.

For more information on the West Virginia Archery in the Schools Program or to attend the next instructor training, scheduled April 15th and 16th at Shepherd University in Shepherdstown, visit our Web site

at www.wvdnr.gov/archery

Randy, George & Mike Wells, from Williamstown with their deer.

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John Goots caught this 6 1/2 pound walleye below Kanawha Falls. Photo courtesy of Johnny's Outdoors in Boaz.



Danny Edwards hooked a big largemouth bass. Photo courtesy of Johnny's Outdoors in Boaz.



Jeremy Batten landed a musky recently. Photo courtesy of Jarrett's Bait in Elizabeth.

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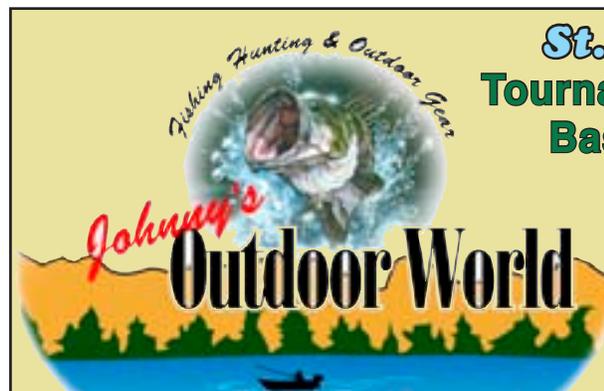


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Jeannie Tetrick, from West Union, caught a 10 pound, 4 oz. musky.



David Sprouse, from Talcott, hooked a 5 pound, 2 oz. smallie.

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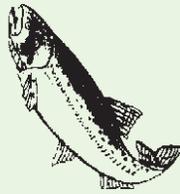
Dean Hensley caught his biggest bass - an 8 pound, 2 oz. whopper at Elk Fork Lake. *Photo courtesy of Old & New Sports in Ravenswood.*

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Daniel McFee brought in a 33 pound bobcat. *Photo courtesy of Jarrett's Bait in Elizabeth.*

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Becky Stalnaker, from Elizabeth, hunted in Wirt County for this big buck- 9 point with a muzzleloader.

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Shades Of The Past

By Jim Wilson

I was sitting around in my camp last week in Barbour County listening to a '50's music station on Direct TV (it's 802 if you have this service). I started reminiscing about those days and decided to call my best high school buddy. I hadn't talked to him in nine years; since I'd had my kidney removed.

His name is Bob Hickman. I dialed his number, which I remembered by heart and got his answering machine. I left a message and he returned my call that evening.

We talked for about half-an-hour getting caught up. Bob is a committee person on organizing our class reunions. He reminded me our 50th was coming up this October. I asked him who had kicked off recently.

He replied, "Just about two weeks ago, uh, uh, uh, ol' what's their name died."

There was a long pause and he continued, "Uh, on crap - - I'll think of their name in a minute." He never did, but said he'd email me when he remembered.

After we hung up, I suddenly remembered a fishing trip we went on in 1957. My dad organized the trip and invited my mother's first cousin, Ed "Whitey" Kiska, and a friend of Whitey's. Ed was a first year's intern at Emory University

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Hospital in Atlanta, as was his friend (who's name I don't remember). Ed had a full head of white-blond hair at an early age, thus Whitey.

We were going on a two-day, three night trip to Lake Loudin, in Tennessee. The lake was one of the Tennessee Valley Authority (TVA) impoundments.

My Dad and his two guests drove in his car. Bob and I followed in my Volkswagon convertible. I remember driving with the top down singing the song of the day, "Transfusion" along with Nervous Norvus, "Z-xxxxooooommm!

Tooling down the highway doing
79
I'm a twin pipe papa and I'm feeling fine
Hey man dig that - was that a red stop sign
(Screech - BANG!! Tinkle)
Transfusion - transfusion
I'm just a solid mess of contusions
Never, never, never gonna speed again
Slip the blood to me Bud

Each stanza ended with our hero in the hospital getting transfusions saying,

Shoot the juice to me Bruce,
"Pass the crimson to me Jimson,"
"Pass the claret to me Jarrett."
"Pump the fluid to me Louie."
"Put a gallon in me Alan."

continue to the next page



Jonpaul McCullough, from Lavalette, hunted in Wayne County for this 9 point.

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We had every word memorized by the time we got to the lake (I can't believe I still remember all the words as I am writing this).

Early the next morning we got our licenses, ate a big breakfast and set out in our rental boats. The lake was a little murky from recent rains.

My dad was an avid fisherman. Whitey and his friend were, also, which is the main reason he invited them. The two docs were excited as my dad had really pumped up this lake. Plus they were just recovering from the rigors of med school.

Bob and I were nonchalant about fishing as we were just along to have a good time. My Dad and the two docs went one way and Bob and I another. Loudin Lake was a big impoundment comprising several thousand acres, so we quickly lost sight of the other boat.

By noon we hadn't even had a strike, so we motored to shore in order to stretch our legs and eat our

packed lunches. Over a rise we noticed a pond. It was about an acre and wasn't visible from the lake.

After lunch we took our tackle and trudged over to the pond. There were no signs that read "Private Property" or "No Fishing", so we started casting. We were both using about four inch, heavy silver spoons. The pond was also murky, so we were not expecting what subsequently occurred. Bob shouted, "I got one!" His pole was bent double. About that time I had a huge strike that almost knocked the rod outta my hand.

The pond was steep banked and we both had trouble getting our fish out of the pond. But finally there they were, flopping on the bank. Two huge 5-6 pound largemouth bass. Our adrenaline was soaring now. We stringered them up and resumed casting. We caught two or three more, lost several but were having the time of our lives! The

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ones we stringered up were at least as big as the first two.

About that time we heard a buzzing noise. We looked around but saw nothing. Bob looked up and
continue to the next page



Chris Arden, from Glenville, shot an 8 point.

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Chuck Tanner took a buck. Photo courtesy of Crossroads General Store near Newark.

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shouted, "Watch out, here comes a plane!" My first reaction was he saw a plane crash. I looked up and, sure enough, here came a small aircraft coming right at us!

The plane buzzed over us not missing our hunkered down bodies by 50 feet. The plane circled back around and came at us again! This time he came even closer. "That idiot - - the SOB is trying to kill us!" I screamed.

Bob shouted, "Jim, I think he's trying to tell us something! It's probably the owner of the property - - and he's telling us to get outta here!"

The realization hit me that Bob was probably right. He was always smarter than me. The plane made one more pass as we grabbed our gear and stringer of fish. I wasn't gonna leave our fish there. The stringer weighed at least 30 pounds. We shoved off in the boat and that's the last we saw of the plane.

We motored back to the marina. It was only about 20'clock. I knew my Dad wouldn't get back til about dark, no matter if they were catching fish or not.

We secured the boat and went to our room and got our pellet rifles. There was an old deserted building on the marina property that looked like a good place to shoot some rats. This was a big sport with us back home. We would go to the B & B Supermarket after hours and shoot the rats at the back of the store where they threw out garbage.

Once inside the half torn down barn, we didn't see any rats, but stirred up a huge bevy of bats. I mean those suckers were dive bombing us. We got behind some barrels and started firing at them. Bob actually got lucky and picked one off in mid-air. We were laughing like crazy, pretending they were enemy planes (Yes, like the one that dive bombed us). I think we only got the one, but we had a ball shooting and singing lyrics from "Transfusion."

*My foot's on the throttle
and it's made of lead
But I'm a fast riding daddy
with a real cool head
I'm gonna pass a truck on
the hill ahead
(screech - BANG - tinkle)
Transfusion - - transfusion
My red corpuscles are in
mass confusion
Never, Never, Never gonna
speed again
Pass the crimson to me
Jimson*

We killed some more time and went down to the dock to await my Dad's boat. I went over the scenario with Bob to tell the other three about how and where we caught

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our monstrous stringer of fish. "Just follow my lead." I told him. Finally, around dusk, here they came. When they got close enough to see their faces, I could tell they were tired and frustrated.

We helped them out of the boat and tied it up. "Do any good?" I asked. My Dad ignored the question. Finally, Whitey said with
continue to the next page



Tommy Nichols reeled in a nice bass. Photo courtesy of Johnny's Outdoors in Boaz.

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disgust, "We got skunked." The other doc said, "We didn't even get a bite. The water was just too muddy." (didga ever notice fishermen always have excuses).

After a few minutes one of the frustrated group asked, "Did you guys do any good?"

I answered, "We got back around 2 o'clock - - we did all right considering the conditions." Bob went over to our boat and with two hands lifted our stringer. The bass were fresh and flopped about, making it difficult for Bob to hold them up.

I have NEVER seen three grown men more shocked. Their eyes were as big as grandma's saucers! "W - where d-did ya catch dem lunkers?" they asked almost in unison.

That they were impressed is a vast understatement! They were near speechless. Some other lingering fishermen around the marina saw Bob lift the stringer. We were the center of attention and loving every minute.

My Dad finally spoke, "What were you using?"

I said, "We trolled the shoreline about two miles up to the right (I pointed). I was using my Heddon River Runt. Bob was using a Midget Digit. We narrowed the strike zone to about 50 yards. We

threw out an anchor and started casting with silver spoons. That's when we got into them. We lost more than we caught."

I knew my Dad would believe our lure selections. We fished the TVA lakes a lot when we lived in Oak Ridge, Tenn. And of course, he taught me everything I knew about fishing.

"Bob and I will take you to our hot spot in the morning." I lied. That seemed to appease them for the moment.

The next morning Dad and the two docs followed our boat to the general area I lied to them about. We fished for two or three hours without a strike. The water in the lake was too murky for any action. Loudin Lake is a productive impoundment when conditions are right. But not on this trip.

Finally my Dad pulled his boat up to ours. He knew something was fishy (pardon the pun). His face scowled up and he practically screamed at me, "This isn't where you caught those fish. You're ly-

ing to me! I want to know WHERE you caught them - - or I'll bust your butt!" His face was so red; I thought he was going to have a stroke or heart attack!

So, it was time to 'fess up. We told them the whole story leaving nothing out. The two docs starting laughing hysterically! Whitey said, trying to control his laughter, "Jim, the boys really got us on this one! Give 'em credit - - can't ya just see that plane buzzing them? Funniest dang thing I ever heard of." The two docs were still bent over with laughter. My Dad finally joined in. I think all 3 were relieved Bob and I hadn't caught our lunkers in the lake. Made 'em feel better.

I said, "I don't even know if we could find the pond again (which was true), but I wouldn't advise anybody going there. That guy (owner) is probably laying in wait for us. Hard telling what he would do. Probably having us arrested would be the least thing."

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Gary Bragg landed a 5 pound smallmouth. *Photo courtesy of Water-front Sporting Goods in Alderson.*



Sandy Shingleton caught a rainbow trout on the Elk River.

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They really wanted the action, but in the end thought my advice was sage. On the way back to the marina my Dad had switched boats and was riding in the bow. The two young docs wanted to fish some more, thinking they may get lucky. Just before we got there I inadvertently pushed the acceleration lever to full speed, thinking I was turning it off. The boat hit the dock so hard it knocked Dad out of the boat and onto the wood decking. Not a good way to end the trip.

Our cabins had kitchens. Whitey was of Czech descent and loved to cook. That evening he fixed up a fine meal that included fresh fish fillets. The men folks brought out the bourbon while Bob and I guzzled beer. The more we rehashed our adventure the harder they laughed!

All in all a great trip. We sang Transfusion all the way back.

*Sometimes with
and other times without, Nervous
Norvus!
Oh, barnyard drivers are found in
two classes
Line crowding hogs and speeding
jackasses
So remember to slow down today
Hey daddy-o
Make that type O hub*

*Atta-boy
(Screech – bang – tinkle)*

BOW Announces Spring Workshop

The WV Division of Natural Resources announces that the spring Becoming an Outdoors-Woman Workshop at North Bend State Park will be April 18-20, 2008.

Have you ever wanted to learn a new skill but have never had the opportunity to try? Or, have you wanted to take up an outdoor sport but were afraid to purchase all the equipment and then find out later that you hated it? Well, the WV Becoming an Outdoors-Woman (WV BOW) Program is definitely for you! Women who are at least 18 years old can learn a new outdoor skill in a safe, non-threatening atmosphere.

In the spring's WV BOW schedule, approximately 25 classes are being offered and they include archery, biking, shooting, fishing, camping, bird buffet, fly tying and outdoor cooking, to list a few. Registration is now open with a fee of \$150, which covers lodging, dinner on Friday, all meals on Saturday, breakfast on Sunday, plus class

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Details On Page 3**

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materials during the workshop.

For more information or to register for the workshop, please contact BOW at 304-558-2771 or billieshearer@wvdnr.gov. The registration form can be downloaded at <http://www.wvdnr.gov/hunting/bow.shtm>. Come see what more than 1,000 women have enjoyed and participated in since 1997.



Nathaniel Taylor, from Nitro used a bow for this 150 class Putnam County buck.

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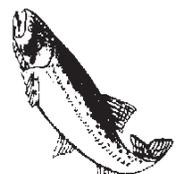
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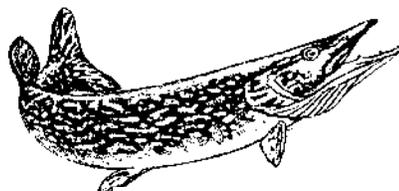
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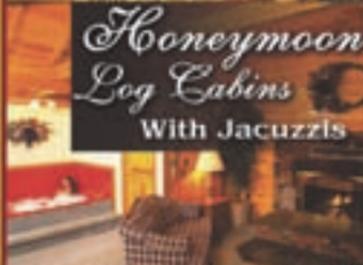
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