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Issue 301

July/August 2022



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Magazine

Volume 31 Issue 301

Publisher and Editor

Mark A. Goudy

Contributing Editors

West Virginia Division Of
Natural Resources

No Subscriptions Offered

Printed Every Six Weeks

W.Va. Sportsman

P.O. Box 5521

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Cover Photo

A new state record blue catfish record was taken by Steve Price, from Lancaster, Ohio. He was using cut shad on the Kanawha River to land his record fish.

His fish weighed 67 pounds, 3 oz. and measured 50.7 inches. Steve now claims the weight and length records. He broke Cody Carver's weight record that was landed over a month earlier.

Head to the Kanawha River.

13 Fishing Facts

People have been fishing for, at least, 40000 years, which is a long time! And people continue to practice this ancient hobby. The main difference is that they don't fish because their lives depend on it. They fish because it is fun. Plus, fishing is a great way to connect with nature, with others, and with your past.

With so many years and so many people involved, it is not a surprise to find a bunch of records, tales, and facts about fishing. That's why we bring you 13 fun facts about fishing:

Fish can swim backward

While there is no reason for fish to swim backward, most of them

can do it if the need arises. Sharks can't, though. Their hard fins don't bend. Therefore, they can neither swim backward nor stop swimming suddenly. It is a little funny how the top predator can't swim as it pleases. But everything should have some sort of balance, right?

In fact, if you manage to grab a shark by its tail and pull it, it will die. But who in heaven will do that?

The first fishing hooks were made out of bone, stone, or wood

People started fishing with their bare hands. But as time passed by, people started to realize that they can use some tools to make fishing easier. So, they begin to use harpoons, nets, and fishing hooks.

However, there weren't any

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Luke Humphries, from Upper Falls, bagged a great wild turkey.



Phillip Trouten Jr. reeled in a 4 1/2 pound smallmouth bass.



Darrin Wyrick caught a big rainbow trout at Barboursville Lake.

blacksmiths around to make metal hooks. So, people created hooks with what they had around. That's how they invented the gorge, the continue to the next page

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first fishing hook. It was a straight piece of wood or bone with two pointy ends. Some anglers still use the legendary gorge today.

Later on, the shape changed to the curved shape we know today. Bluefin tuna: The treasure of the sea

In some countries, canned tuna is so inexpensive that people use it to feed their cats. But bluefin meat is a different story. The price per pound sits around 20 to 200 dollars. So, a 300-pound fish could put between 6000 to 60000 dollars in your pocket. Crazy, right?

Two of the most expensive bluefin tunas ever sold had a price tag

of 736 thousand and 3.1 million dollars. Yes, they were worth more than your house or car!

However, you can't fish bluefin as you please, as they are protected by some regulations. Plus, fishing them is not easy. Bluefins lurk in the depths, and you must battle them for hours. And even though you manage to reel the fish in, if you don't dispatch it properly, you can render the meat useless. A little sad if you ask us. So, it takes strength, ability, luck, and never of steel to catch them.

Black marlin, Sailfish, and Swordfish: The speed demons of the sea

In terms of speed, the sailfish, black marlin, and swordfish have no match. They are the fastest fish in the world. Well, in this case, seas. The sailfish alone can swim

up to 70 miles per hour, which equals 61 knots. It is faster than most yachts available and faster than your average boat. Be ready for a hell of a fight if you ever happen to hook one.

There are over 20,000 fish species
continue to page 7



Larry Driggs, from St. Albans, reeled in a huge largemouth bass.



Megan Butcher used a bow for a nice buck. Photo courtesy of Tyler Outdoor Supply in Middlebourne



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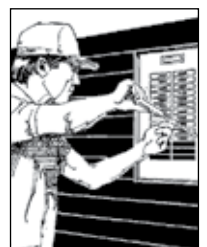
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cies in the sea

“There is plenty of fish at sea” All of us have heard this phrase at least once in our life. And let us tell you that with over 20,000 fish species and more than 3,500,000 fishes, this phrase is as real as it can be.

You might be thinking to yourself. How in god’s grace do they manage to count them? Well, they use GPS, sonars, and drones to estimate fish populations.

But this is merely an estimation. Keep in mind that close to 80% of the sea remains unexplored. So, there is plenty of space for more fish to hide. And plenty of opportunities for you to find them.

A wooden pole? All I see is a fishing rod

The first fishing rod ever used was a straight, wooden pole. The Egyptians and the Chinese were the first to use such technology. Like bone, stone, and wooden hooks, some people still use wooden poles as rods today. It is not the best tackle available. But something is better than nothing.

It took a couple of years for people to realize that adding rings to the pole prevents the line from tangling and snapping. Reels continue to the next page

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Freddie Collins hooked a musky while bass fishing.



Derek Tucker caught and released a 51” musky.



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come into play around 1600, completing the first blueprint of what we know today as fishing reels and poles.

Bananas are a wonderful snack

but Leave then at home

This is an old and funny superstition. And still today a lot of anglers don't bring these delicious snacks on their trips. But why? We all know that bananas get bad as soon as you stop looking at them. So, if you are transporting bananas by boat, you will go as fast as you can to minimize your losses. It is only logical, right?

Sadly, fast-moving boats make fishing impossible. They can't see the bait. Plus, it adds more tension to the line, making it more likely to snap. So, fishing from a boat that is transporting bananas is next to impossible. But anglers didn't blame the speed. They blamed the cargo.

The fact many crew members of ships transporting bananas died during the trip helped to reinforce this belief. Bananas release methane during the decomposition process, which is deadly at the right concentrations. Plus, deadly spiders love to lurk around them. However, a direct connection between these accidents and the fruit was never found. Still, a coincidence is more than enough to spread the fear until today. Therefore, you will rarely see an angler



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who brings bananas during his/her boating fishing trip.

The Greenland shark is the grandpa of the seas

The Greenland sharks have an average life span of 200 years, making them the longest-lived vertebrates in all the world. These creatures live in the arctic ocean and can grow to tremendous sizes.

Another fun fact about this amazing creature is that its meat is poisonous. It has trimethylamine oxide, shortly known as TMAO. This substance helps

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Chris Waldron landed a huge flathead catfish at Burnsville Lake. Photo courtesy of Burnsville Docks on the lake.



Cory Boothe used a bow in Nicholas County for a nice gobbler.

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the Greenland shark to stabilize proteins and tissue. But you can destroy the TMAO molecules by fermentation, which makes the meat edible. A curious fact is that Greenland shark meat is a national dish in Greenland.

No fishing at the dead sea

It is not prohibited to cast a rod in these waters. But everyone will laugh at you since this sea houses no fish. The salt concentrations are so high that nothing can live inside it. Nevertheless, it is quite a beautiful place to visit.

Anglers spend over 300 million dollars to keep fish cool

Nobody wants to spend long-time fishing and then realize that their catch has gone bad. So, the logical thing to do is to bring some ice. Anglers around the world invest more than 300 million dollars each year to buy ice. It is quite funny how something so cheap could be so expensive in the long run.

The name anglers come from the old English word "angle" which means hook

Have you ever wondered where the term anglers come from? It comes from the ancient English word angle, which means hook. Therefore, the term anglers refer to those people who fish with hook and line. That means that anyone who catches a fish by any other means is not an angler.

Anglers spend 7.4 billion dollars on fishing gear in the US alone Yes, you read that right. American anglers spend 7.4 billion dollars on fishing tackle alone. That includes rod, reel, lines, bait,

continue to the next page

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Bradley Westbrook, from St. Marys, bagged a 24 pound bird.



Larry Owens got an 18 point in Wood County.

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and hooks. If we assume that the American angling community has around 60 million anglers, it means that each one spends 120 dollars on gear per year. And that is a lot, considering that most of this money goes to lines, hooks, bait, and lures.

All fishermen/women have a “lucky hat”

All fishermen/women, regardless of what and how they are fishing, have one thing in common: A hat. You start using it for convenience at first. Like, to protect your head from the sun. But you will find yourself using it at night as well. So, the hat is more than a simple piece of clothing. It is a lucky amulet and an essential piece of gear.

Fish are more body than brains

As simple as that, fish have relatively small brains in comparison with their bodies. Typically, one-fifteenth of the fish’s weight is brains. Feeling bad about not being able to outsmart them? Don’t be. Fish are exceptionally smart, and they have sharp senses.

Obviously, not all fishes are
continue to the next page

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John Smarr caught a big crappie while bass fishing.



Kevin Subank landed a trout on the South Branch.



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equally smart. Some are wearier about their surroundings than others. Needless to say, they are harder to land than others. So, don't feel bad about it. Fishing is endless learning.

Going for muskies or pikes? Check The temperature first

Pike and muskies love to lurk in cold water. Therefore, before casting your rod, make sure to check the water temperature first. Muskies typically love to swim in waters with temperatures around 60 to 70 degrees Fahrenheit. In contrast, pikes prefer waters with 50 to 55 degrees.

Some fishing superstitions

These are more myths than facts. But they are funny still, and they are part of the amazing fishing

industry. So, here you have some classic fishing superstitions.

No whistling while fishing

Sailors believe that whistling was a way to challenge the wind. Needless to say, challenging a force of nature is not a wise choice, right? Plus, some people believe that whistling scares fish away.

Don't fish on a boat without a name

Many sailors believe that fishing or sailing in a boat without a name is bad luck. They believe that ships have minds on their own, and by naming it, the boat becomes alive, and it will help you in your voyage.

Additionally, renaming it, without the proper renaming ceremo-

ny is of bad luck also. According to the legend, the sea keeps a record of all ships. Thus, renaming it will only enrage the sea.

contunue to the next page



Cory Boothe called in a turkey for daughter, Avelin, in Nicholas Co.

There is some truth behind all these. Trading ships built their reputation by their names. Thus, changing it will only bring problems to the captain and crew.

Fishing nets

Use odd numbers when fishing with nets. We don't know the origin of this superstition.

No redheads on board

Ancient cultures believe that redheads were not normal people and that they were a bad omen. Thus, sailors and anglers grew weary of these people and tried to avoid them, if possible.

That's all for now. So, tell us. Which are your favorite facts or

superstitions about fishing? We find it funny how much money anglers spend on ice and fishing tackle alone. And the price of a bluefin tuna? It is impressive how one of these monsters could be worth more than your house. But what is more impressive is the fact that a wrong move and the meat loses all its value.

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Joey O'Dell looks pleased with his turkey hunt. The Youth Season has been a success in WV.

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Travis Heater landed a nice spring largemouth bass.

Summer Crappie

by Karl's Fishing

Crappie readily bite for nearly everyone in the spring, but these panfish become more of a challenge to catch in the heat of summer.

When the summertime sun raises water temperatures above the 80-degree mark, crappie seek deeper water and heavier cover. The fish still remain active though as they feed on schools of shad passing through the crappie's hot-weather haunts.

How To Fish For Crappie

On my home waters of Lake of the Ozarks, summertime crappie fishing poses two problems:

heavy recreational boat traffic and a lack of visible cover. I solve the first problem by fishing early and late in the day to avoid traffic. Crappie tend to burrow into the middle of brush when recreational boaters churn up the water and it becomes difficult to position

my boat in the rolling waves and properly present my lure through the brush.

Some fish can also be caught in the clear water early and late in the day, but mid-day action is slow as the crappie suspend over deep

continue to the next page

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Jada & Paul Foley have a big carp.

water. In the stained water areas of a lake, the fish stay shallower and are easier to catch throughout the day.

How To Fish For Crappie In Shallow Water

Minnnows are the most popular summertime bait for anglers fishing a tight line off docks or spider rigging in boats. Since a crappie's appetite is voracious during the summer, I select larger minnows (sometimes bigger than 3 inches) for my bait. I prefer using 2/0 and 3/0 hooks because the bigger hook is easier to remove from a crappie and the fish don't swallow it as much as they do a smaller hook.

Jigs are also productive for summertime crappie. I use either a single 1/16-ounce jig for shooting docks or a double rig for vertically jigging above brush piles. The double rig consists of a 1/16-ounce jig spaced 18 inches above a 1/8-ounce jig at the end of my line.

While my home lake lacks visible cover, Truman Lake is another



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one of my favorite summertime crappie fisheries that has plenty of it. Lots of standing timber was left in Truman when the Army

Corps of Engineers filled the lake. The lowland lake has more turbid water so crappie can be caught
continue to the next page



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in both shallow and deep water in the summertime. A shallow-water pattern produces best when a summertime shad hatch occurs, but for most of the summer you need to fish deeper water.
How To Fish For Crappie In Deep Water

The shallow pattern consists of dipping minnows with a long pole and slip-bobber system in timber along fence rows and tree lines on the main lake or creek channel. You can catch these fish less than 10 feet deep and sometimes even as shallow as 2 feet. The slip-bobber system allows you to adjust your bobber up or down to find the magic depth in which the crappie are holding. Use number 2 or 4 hooks and pinch on a couple of number 5 split shots about 2 to 3 inches above the hook. Keeping the weight close to the minnow will restrict its movement to prevent hang-ups in the heavy cover. Summertime Crappie Fishing: Deep Water

The deep-water pattern works best in timber along main lake bluffs and channel swings during the hottest part of summer.. The same slip-bobber rig used for catching shallow crappie also

works in the deeper water because the fish will be suspended in the timber. If it's too windy the bobber will bounce too much in the

waves. Remove the slip bobber rig then and present your minnow vertically on a tight line next to the timber to trigger a bite.



Alan White & Dan Selmon won a tournament with these largemouth

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2nd Record Blue Catfish This Year

LEON, W.Va. — A Wednesday morning on the water turned out to be an epic adventure for an Ohio angler on the Kanawha River in West Virginia.

Steven Price, of Lancaster, Ohio, anchored up on a spot between Point Pleasant and the Winfield Lock and Dam where he has had success hunting for big catfish. He started his day with rods baited up with cut shad around 7:30 a.m.

“About 10 minutes into the trip my rod bent all the way over the

back of the boat. Four or five minutes into the fight I’m thinking this thing is 40 to 50 pounds. But he turned and went right into the structure and got me hung up,” he told MetroNews.

The record catch was his third bite of the day. Price also caught this 56 pounder and lost one he believes was in the same class on his first bite of the day.

It was a disappointment and Price admitted he didn’t expect he would hook up with one that

big again. But, it was early and he was on the water so he rebaited and cast his lines back into the water to see what would happen. In about 15 minutes, Deja-vu.

“The rod goes down on the back of the boat, I pick it up and it’s another big one. He came up and rolled and I got him into the boat and that fish was 56 pounds. I was thinking man what a day!” he explained.

The standing record for a blue continue to the next page



Doug Stamper caught a 5 lb., 13 oz. largemouth bass at the Great Outdoors Marine bass tournament at Stonewall Jackson Lake. His fish was the biggest bass of the day.

catfish at that moment in time was 59.74 pounds, a fish caught a little over a month ago further up the Kanawha River by Cody Carver.

“I was all excited and calling all of my buddies and telling them this may be the biggest fish I catch all year, well low and behold, about 10 minutes later another rod goes down,” he said.

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As Yogi Berra would say, it was Deja-vu all over again.

“I see a boil about 60 feet behind the boat and I see his tail come up out of the water and I think, ‘Holy Moly I got another big one,’” said Price.

But this one was different. It was

even bigger and it was fighting hard. Price’s net handle was disconnected from the net after the first big fish and the net is the only easy way to get a big one into the boat. He was fishing alone and the fish on the line was giving him all he could handle.



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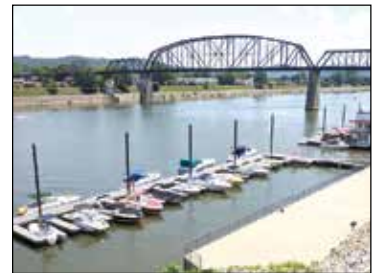
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Darren Pettus bagged a big gobbler in Wood County.



Chad Baker caught & released a musky on the Elk River.

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www.wvasportsman.net Back issues are there from 2006 on.



Chase Sanson caught a couple of nice largemouth bass in a tournament in June at Stonewall.



Alex Goff weighed in a big bass at the Great Outdoors bass tournament at Stonewall Jackson Lake.

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New State Record- Carp Caught

SOUTH CHARLESTON, WV — West Virginia lakes and streams continue to produce both trophy-sized game fish and record catches. On Saturday, May 7, Ayden Minick of Mt. Pleasant, PA, caught and released a new state record common carp while fishing from the bank of Summersville Lake in Nicholas County.

Minick's record fish was 41.2 inches long and weighed 45.2 pounds. The trophy carp surpassed the previous West Virginia length record of 41.0 inches caught in 1988 by Charles Cook at Stone-coal Lake. However, Minick's fish did not beat the current weight

record of 47.0 pounds caught in a Preston County farm pond by Gary Johnson in 1998.

The catch was measured by West Virginia Division of Natural Resources fisheries biologist, Aaron Yeager.

Anglers who believe they may have caught a state record fish should check the current records in the fishing regulations at wvdnr.gov. Procedures for reporting a

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Ayden Minick caught & released a new state record carp with a 41.2 inches long

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David Riddle landed a 7 pound bass at a recent bass tournament.

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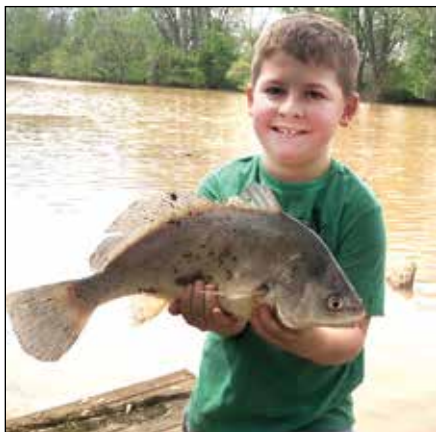
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How To Pick A Spot To Bass Fish

It's time to go fishing. Before we do that, though, we need to make sure we're in compliance with all the rules and laws. I'm writing this during the pandemic. I'm a firm believer in following local, state and federal guidelines, laws and rules that govern it. You also need to check out the laws about fishing licenses. I think every adult needs one everywhere I know about, and depending on where you're fishing, kids might need one as well.

Follow the rules! And that means



Kolton Boothe caught a big freshwater drum.



Joe Fridley landed a golden trout. Photo courtesy of Middle Mountain Sporting Goods in Elkins.

By Michael Iaconelli the regulations too. I'm talking about the size and the number of fish you can keep. Check too to see if there are any species that are off limits. You'll have to throw them back immediately if you catch one, and you're never allowed to target them.

So anyway, I want to say that I've caught fish everywhere — wilderness areas, suburban areas, metropolitan areas, ponds, streams, rivers, lakes and reservoirs. If there's water, there is a 99.9% chance there's a fish living in it. Fish are adaptable. Never forget that.

Starting your search for a place

to fish begins with technology. You can find good spots on internet sites, discussion boards and satellite mapping views of waters. The place to start is with the state and local websites. Bassmaster.com has a lot of that kind of information on it, too, but smaller

continue to page 29

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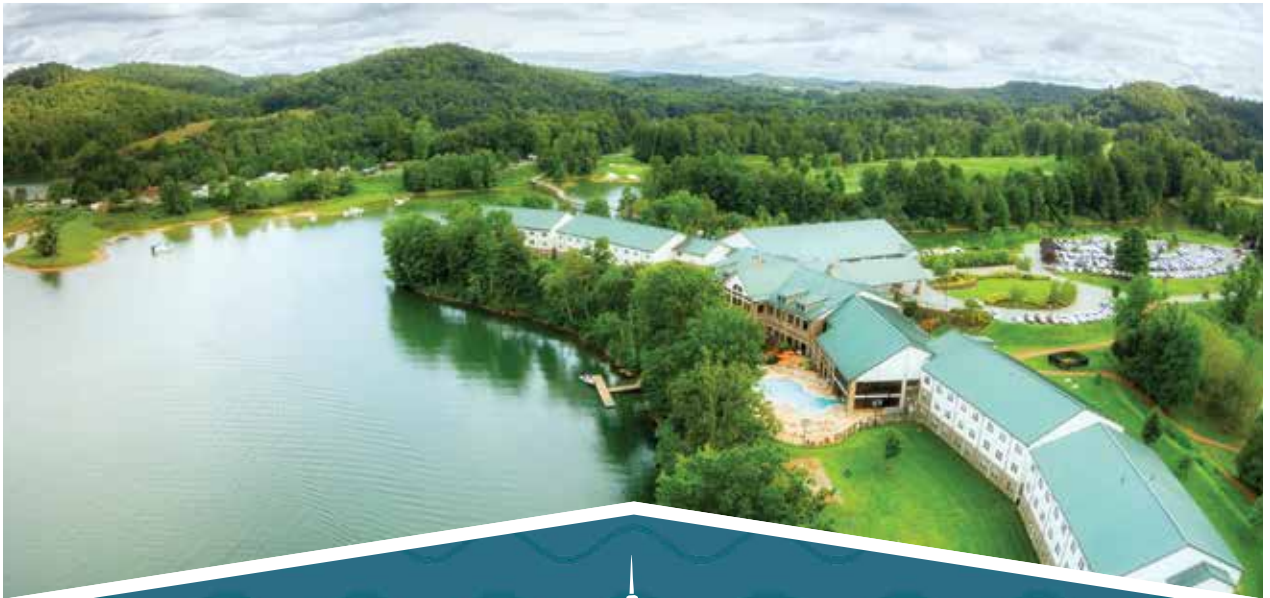
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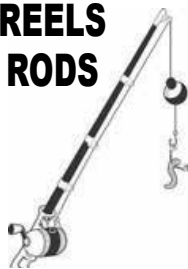
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places can be found if you search for them. Not everyone lives near a major water system, but that doesn't make any difference. You can still go fishing and have fun.

Private waters are around and are available if you handle things properly. Always ask — individuals and businesses alike — and never fish anywhere without permission. Most everyone will cooperate if they believe you're a responsible person. That's especially true if you make sure they know you're working with new anglers and kids. Most people like that.

Another thing, you should remember to call your local tackle shop and ask for help. They'll help you because they're fellow continue to the next page

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anglers and because they want you to catch fish. They sell more fishing products that way.

We now know how to get started finding a place to fish. But you still have to know where to fish in that place. Let me say that every fish I've ever caught was on or near some change, or an area that is different somehow from the surrounding water. It might be a depth change, a rock, a stump, a tree laying in the water or even a dock. Do not forget what I just



Frank Bailey bagged a huge Nicholas County buck



Cody Haynes landed a 4 lb., 4 oz. Monongahela River smallmouth.



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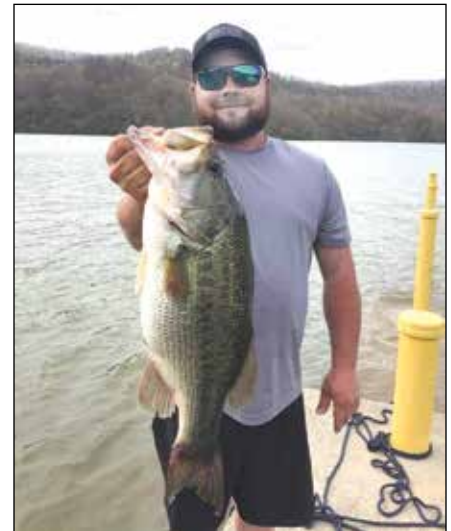
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said. It might be the most important thing that's in this column. Change is good. Different is good.

You should always fish around incoming water too, no matter if it's a river, a stream, a creek or simply a ditch. And, that reminds me of something else. Fish love current. When you find current it's usually a great place to fish, especially when the water is warm.

Another thing to keep in mind is that fish like vegetation that's growing in the water. When it's green it puts oxygen in the water and it gives them a place to hide and ambush their prey. It's a rare patch of weeds or pads that doesn't hold something that'll pull back on your line.

The last thing I want to mention is, if you're fishing a creek, stream or river, always fish its bends and anywhere else where it changes direction. Those spots have been consistent producers for me.



Nick Stone landed a 6 lb. 2 oz. largemouth bass at Stonewall.

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Catching Summer Bluegill

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The problem with many anglers are that they can catch fish during

the spawn but struggle to locate the larger fish once they vacate the shallows and get back to the creek channel to travel looking for food sources. Typically when the water reaches 80 degrees this will signal the end of the spawn.

This is actually a great thing if you're willing to do some searching as the fish will gather into much larger schools than they were in when guarding their beds. You can really smash them this time of year and I'll share what I've learned from more than thirty years of chasing bluegill on the hottest days of the year. What Bluegill Feed On In Summer?

Once located, bluegill come fast and easy!

Bluegills are omnivores but

definitely lean more to being carnivores. Their high metabolism from being a dual-purpose predator and prey is on overdrive until

continue to page 34



Curt Ross bagged a large buck in Jackson County.

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Conner Boothe, from Peterstown, harvested a great buck.

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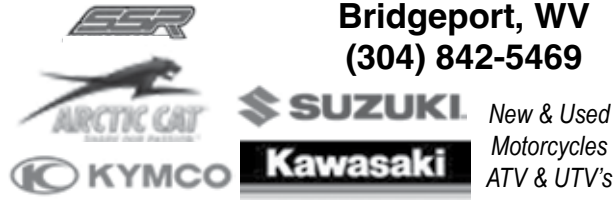
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wintertime when they aren't being chased as regularly.

This means that they will always be looking for an easy meal, and when you're competing against anywhere between 20 and 100 of your peers if it falls in the water and you're closest then you eat!

People believe that Bluegill go straight to the bottom to feed but

that really doesn't happen so much as it does in winter. There are just way too many opportunities at the surface for falling insects, spiders, grasshoppers, and don't forget about those crazy mayfly hatches where you can't take a breath without inhaling one!

This is why you have to keep

your eyes open for a small bust at the top. Once you see this, one fish has literally given up the en-



Todd James hooked a huge Stone-wall Jackson bass.



Nikolas Trent brought in a winter whitetail buck.



David Bokey caught a huge brown trout this spring..

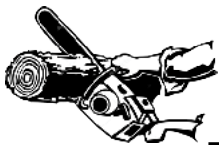
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Get your family hooked on fishing by taking them to a West Virginia state park or forest. Our lakes and streams are stocked with trout, bass, bluegill and other sport fish. State parks and forests are some of the best places for new anglers to catch a fish, and many of our top spots are easily accessible for people of all skill sets. But before you head out on your trip, make sure you have a current license and stamps. If you don't have one, purchase one today at www.wvfish.com.

Announced trout stockings

Several state park and forest lakes and streams receive announced trout stockings in the spring. While getting a fish to bite requires some skill and a little luck, casting a line in stocked waters gives you and your family a better chance to catch a fish. Stockings are planned in March, April and May.

Fishing at parks and forests is



Ronnie Moyers reeled in two crappie. Photo courtesy of Middle Mountain Sporting Goods in Elkins.

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weekend activities at our beautiful parks and forests. You'll see why fishing at state parks and forests is so much fun! If you need overnight accommodations, many of our parks and forests have cabins or lodge rooms. But hurry! They book up fast.

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Sam Howell took a massive Preston County buck.



Robert Beckner brought in a huge Cabell County whitetail buck..



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James Forrester hooked a long musky at Middle Island Creek.

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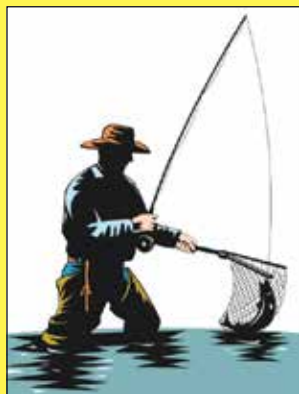
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