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Issue 317

July/August 2024

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News**

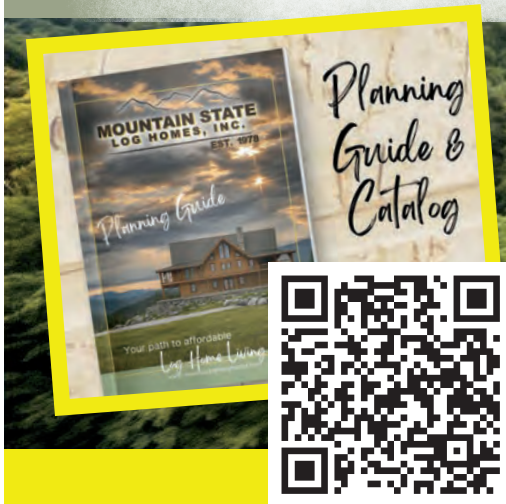
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Updates**



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Attention Bass Fishermen!

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Cover Photo

Jarrett Dudley landed a 6 pound, 9 ounce largemouth bass at Stonewall Jackson Lake on May 26th. It was the big bass for the tournament.

The next Bass Sportsman event is at Stonewall Jackson on July 21st. Look for the tournament schedules in this months issue.

The *W. Va. Sportsman* magazine has been printed for 34 years this issue.

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Two New State Record Fish

SOUTH CHARLESTON, W.Va. — Governor Jim Justice announced today that the West Virginia Division of Natural Resources (WVDNR) has reported that a record-breaking black crappie and redear sunfish were caught in June.

“With these record catches, anglers continue to show the world that West Virginia is truly a world-class fishing destination,” Gov. Justice said. “I want to congratulate the anglers who made these incredible catches for inspiring the rest of us to get out there and enjoy the thrill of casting lines in our state’s truly amazing waters.”

Craig Webb of Gandeeville, W.Va., caught a 2.85-pound, 17.32-inch black crappie with a baby shad jig at Woodrum Lake in Jackson County on June 9. The catch, which was verified by WVDNR assistant fisheries biologist Cory Hartman, is the first record catch for the black crappie category since the WVDNR added the species to the state record list in January 2024.

John Plott of Oak Hill, W.Va., caught a 1.75-pound, 12-inch redear sunfish with a nightcrawler at Plum Orchard Lake in Fayette County on June 6. The catch,

continue to the next page

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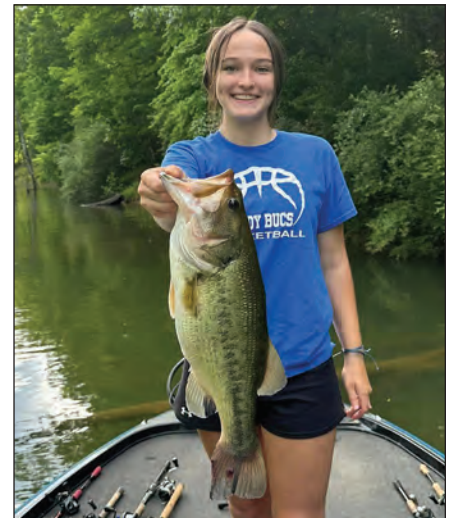
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Craig Webb, from Gandeeville, has a black crappie state record of 2.85 lbs. & 17.32 inches.



John Plott, from Oak Hill, caught a 1.75 lb & 12" redear sunfish for a new state record.



Brooklyn Smith Ryan has a huge largemouth bass.



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which was verified by WVDNR fisheries biologist Joel Slabe, is the first record catch for the red-ear sunfish category, which was also added to the state record list in January 2024.

“We’re excited to celebrate these new state records,” said WVDNR Director Brett McMillion. “These achievements showcase the quality of our fisheries and the success of our conservation efforts. We encourage all anglers to explore the abundant fishing opportunities throughout West Virginia.”

WVDNR Fish Tagging Studies

Both record fish were caught in lakes where the WVDNR’s Fish Management team is conducting tagging studies. The record crappie was tagged last year at

Woodrum Lake. The WVDNR’s fish tagging program helps biologists better manage the state’s fish population and improve angler satisfaction by providing a variety of information about fish movement, population numbers, harvest rates, size selectivity and growth rates.

Editors Note: It looks like Woodrum Lake would be a good possibility for a state record for you.



Garrett Richards caught his 1st musky at Middle Island Creek.

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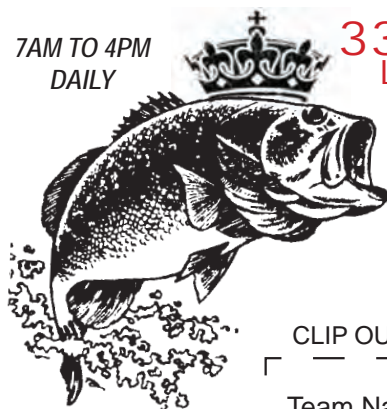
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Updated Hunting Regulations For 2024

SOUTH CHARLESTON, W.Va. — Updated hunting regulations for white-tailed deer, wild turkey and black bear will go into effect on July 1, the West Virginia Division of Natural Resources (WVDNR) announced today with the release of its 2024–25 West Virginia Hunting and Trapping Regulations Summary.

“With West Virginia’s world-class deer seasons and other small and big game hunting opportunities, hunters have a lot to look forward to this fall, so we want to encourage everyone to review these important changes and plan

accordingly,” said WVDNR Director Brett McMillion.

The updated regulations summary is available to download at WVDnr.gov/hunting-regulations. Hunters who wish to obtain a printed copy should contact their local hunting and fishing license agent or WVDNR district office. Copies will also be available at the WVDNR’s Elkins Operation Center and South Charleston

headquarters by July 1.

Major changes include the following:

Antlerless deer season dates and open counties have changed (see pages 15–20).

Fall wild turkey season dates and open counties have changed (see page 44).

Season dates and open counties for black bear firearms hunting

continue to the next page



Julianna Murphy bagged her first spring gobbler.



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seasons have changed (see page 41).

The annual antlered deer bag limit for all regular deer seasons combined is two, except that three antlered deer may be taken in a West Virginia CWD Containment Area by Class XS license holders. Deer carcass transport regulations are now implemented for Jefferson County.

Coyote night hunting is permitted only on private land with written consent of the private landowner from Sept. 1 to Dec. 31.

In addition to reviewing the updated regulations, hunters are reminded to purchase their 2024 West Virginia hunting license and stamps before the seasons start this fall. To purchase a license and stamps, visit WVhunt.com.

To learn more about the WVD-

NR's license products, such as durable license cards, visit WVD-nr.gov/2024-licenses.

New regulations are out now.

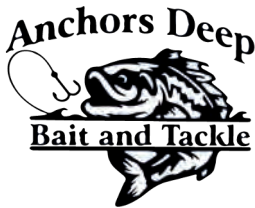
June 23 - 26 lbs., 1 oz.



JC Christopher (far right) fished by himself at Stonewall Jackson and landed 26 lbs., 1 oz. on a 6 fish limit. His dad & Matt Summers pictured.

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Catfish Tournaments At Ridenour Lake

Nitro, W.Va. – The largest lake in Kanawha County will be the site of the first of two city of Nitro Catfish Tournaments this summer. The first tournament will be held on Friday, July 19, at the city's 27-acre Ridenour Lake

“We believe these tournaments help fisherman become familiar with our beautiful Ridenour Lake and catch some big catfish,” Joe Stevens, tournament director, said. “These fishing tournaments attract fisherman from throughout the region.”

The catfish tournament will take place from 6:00 p.m. until 11 p.m. and everyone can sign-up beginning at 4:30 p.m. at the lake's gazebo. The cost will be \$15.00 per person for a chance

to win cash prizes for the highest total weight of best five fish. Children younger than 12 years old can enter free. There will be a two-pole limit for each contest-

tant. The lake will be stocked with big catfish earlier in the week. A fishing license is required. Ridenour Lake is located at the end of 21st Street in Nitro.



Charlie Miller reeled in a nice ten pound rainbow trout.



Tom Hart, from New Milton caught a quality rainbow trout.

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Live Bait Fishing For Beginners

This beginner's fishing guide will give you the rundown of the popular types of fish bait. We show you how to rig live bait, when to use it and for what fish species. There are TONS of different types of fish bait used in various regions across the US in Main Types of Fish Bait

The following is a list of the most common types of fish bait found at a live bait & tackle shop: Worms: Nightcrawlers and Red-worms

Leeches: Jumbo and Large Sizes Minnows: Flatheads, Shad, Golden Shiners, Suckers, and Creek Chubs

Insects: Wax Worms (Grubs), Meal Worms, Crickets and Grasshoppers

Fishing with Live Worms

Worms are a staple of bait shops and fishing them is the most common live bait option across the US. Nightcrawlers and Red Worms are popular option to purchase at your local baitshop or dig them up in your own backyard. These are often sold or stored in foam containers with breathable lids. A dozen to 2 dozen worms should do for a day's trip.

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fishing with live worms how to use live bait tailored tackle Storage

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shade while out on the water. Species

Virtually ALL Freshwater Species will take a worm but they're best used to target common Panfish and smaller Bass off the dock or near shore. Red Worms are an
continue to the next page

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JP Bailey hooked an interesting tiger trout with a pattern.



Elana Felts caught a nice New River carp.



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an ideal choice for Trout in streams and stocked lakes. Pinch into 1/4 pieces for Panfish on a smaller #4 or #6 Baitholder Hook. For Largemouth Bass thread a full worm onto a 3/0 EWG Worm Hook with a 1/4 Oz. Worm Weight on your Line.

Rig & Technique

Rig up #4 Baitholder Hook + 3/0 Removable Split Shot Sinkers + 1 Clip-On Bobber like those in our basic fishing kit. Cast your worm + float combination near docks or weedlines in 3-6 Ft. of water. Wait for the bobber to go

under or move erratically for over 5 seconds and you have a fish on! Check out our Ultimate Guide on Fishing for Beginners to learn how to tie this rig.

Fishing with Leeches

Fishing with Leeches is popular at deeper depths for larger gamefish like Walleye. However, it is also a good alternative to worms

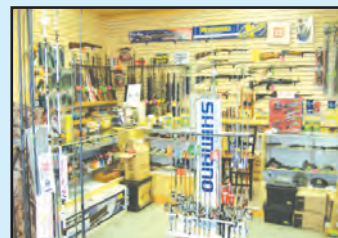
when targeting Panfish. Sized Small to Jumbo, these slippery critters purchased from a bait shop will not suck your blood and are great for sorting through the smaller bites. Leeches can be used with basic and advanced rigs, they are very versatile.

Storage

continue to the next page



Wendy Skidmore reeled in a nice gar on the lake. Photo courtesy of Burnsville Docks.



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Species

Rig & Technique

I recommend using a Slip Bobber Rig for flexibility but Leeches are also great on Jigs. With a Slip Bobber, set the depth to 1 ft. above the bottom when fishing rocky or sandy bottoms. When fishing near weedbeds adjust 1 ft. above the vegetation or at bottom when fishing along the weedline. Let the wind or current travel your bait covering water and re-drift across prime targets.

Fishing with Live Minnows

Minnows are the most challenging types of fish bait but will catch you larger fish. Most presentations are focused on providing a lively minnow near their natural location in the water you are fishing, which should be where the

predators you're after are feeding. This will often be near the bottom, where cover like rocks, boulders, and vegetation are present. However, positioning this bait according to structure, i.e. changes in depth and the outlay of the water

continue to the next page



Chris Waldron hooked a 34 lb. flathead. *Photo courtesy of Burnsville Docks.*



Paul Howard got a huge golden trout. *Photo courtesy of Middle Mountain Sporting Goods in Elkins.*



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body, such as a drop off, point, or hump is also a factor. Baitfish will school and navigate according to the structure of a water body, so offering your minnow where Baitfish school like the edge of a point will often link you up with predators. All minnows should be stored in water at all times in a minnow bucket.

Smaller Minnows

Flatheads and Creek Chubs are popular minnow types of fish bait. While big fish like Walleye and Largemouth Bass will often clobber these, they are usually used to target larger Panfish and Trout.

Species

Crappie, Perch, Trout, and Wall-

eye

Rig & Technique

A simple live bait rig (Octopus Hook #4 + #7 Split Shot Weight) with the minnow threaded through the lip or tail will work well if weeds are not abundant. Otherwise, revert to a Slip Bobber Rig. Slowly retrieve your minnow close to the bottom, bouncing it over cover and letting the minnow provide its own lively action during pauses. Bites will often be a light "tap-tap", let the fish take it before setting the hook.

Larger Minnows

Shad, Shiners, and Suckers are often used to target different larger fish. Shad are common for

trophy Largemouth Bass in the South as well as Catfish across the US. Shiners are common for Walleye but are applicable to all

continue to the next page



Brandon Hurst caught a quality New River smallmouth bass.



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Species

Largemouth Bass, Walleye, Pike, Muskellunge, Catfish

Rig & Technique

In less than 8 ft. depth, you can present the lively minnow on its own under a large Snap Bobber

or a large Slip Float threaded near the back tail on a 1/0 Circle or Octopus Hook. Greater than 8 ft. in depth, it is common to thread them through the lips on a 1/4 – 1/2 Oz. Jig Head. If fishing with a float, position near cover or a change in structure and let the bait travel. If Jigging, cast out or drift covering a larger stretch of water, bouncing the Jig off the bottom and pausing. Check your

bait every 15 minutes and re-bait for liveliness.

Fishing with Live Insects

Insects are the least common types of fish bait, but they are readily available in pet stores and prairie fields across the US. Grubs are the default option for Ice Fishing if you live in the North, and Crickets/Grasshoppers can be the hottest option for small streams when targeting Trout. These specialized forms are outside of this scope, so instructions are based on using insects for targeting Pan-fish and Trout in Lakes and ponds. live bait grasshopper cricket fishing tailored tackle

Grubs come in plastic pucks, and hoppers are typically sold in small crates or cardboard boxes. Keep both options dry and do your best to avoid too much heat.

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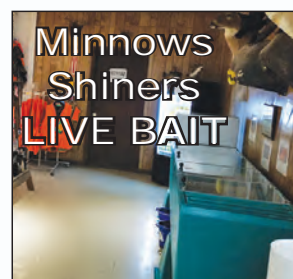
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William Plumley caught & released a New River musky.

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Young Jebidiah Short got a great Gilmer County buck

Spring Turkey Season Results

FARMINGTON, W.Va. — According to preliminary data released by the West Virginia Division of Natural Resources on Friday, hunters harvested 11,650 bearded turkeys during the spring gobbler season.

“West Virginia is a great place to go turkey hunting and these harvest numbers are not only an indication of a strong turkey population but a testament to the hard work of hunters,” said WVDNR Director Brett McMillion. “The WVDNR remains committed to maintaining sustainable wildlife management practices to ensure the long-term health and abundance of turkeys in our state.”

While hunters harvested fewer birds compared to last year’s total of 12,217, the 2024 harvest was above long-term indicators and came in 6 percent higher than the five-year and 10-year average of 10,937 and 10,913, respectively.

Hunters in District 1 harvested more birds during the 2024 season compared to last year, while



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the harvest in Districts 4 and 6 was similar to last year. The harvest in Districts 2, 3 and 5 decreased slightly from last year. Hunters in District 1 harvested the most birds (2,748), followed by those in District 6 (2,208), Dis-

trict 5 (1,897), District 4 (1,864), District 3 (1,585) and District 2 (1,348). The top five counties in terms of turkey harvests were Mason (501), Preston (441), Jackson (400), Marshall (337) and Harri-

continue to the next page



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ison (336) counties.

During the 2024 season, youth hunters harvested 601 turkeys (353 on Saturday and 248 on Sunday). This was the fifth year of the youth season being two days. The youth harvest made up approximately 5 percent of the total harvest.

The WVDNR is also reminding hunters that there's still time to report their spring gobbler hunting activity to be included in the 2024 Spring Gobbler Survey. To learn more, visit WVDnr.gov/surveys. To learn more about hunting in West Virginia or to buy a hunting license, visit WVDnr.gov.



Young Weston & Bennett Turner caught channel catfish.

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**DEER ATTRACTANTS
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Nick Marshall landed a nice river sauger.



Ryder Lockhart, from Burning Springs, has a largemouth bass.



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Interesting Fishing Information

The World's Biggest Fish Eats The Smallest Food

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

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

If A Fish Chewed Its Food, It Would Drown

Fish breathe by passing water over their gills, which extract oxygen from the water.

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

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

Brown Trout Are One Of The Most Diverse Vertebrates

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

Instead of having a set number of chromosomes, like most species, they can have anywhere between 38 and 42 pairs.

Humans have only 23!

Brown Trout Are One Of The Most Diverse Vertebrates

Largest Collection Of Fishing Lures

The largest certified collection of fishing lures belongs to Will
continue to page 20

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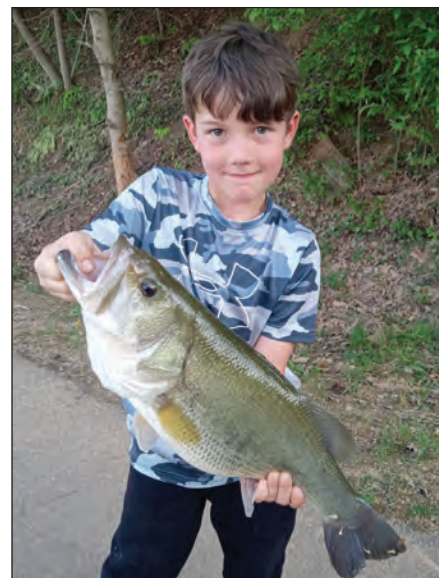
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Young Kaden Wright released a quality North Bend Lake bass.

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(Spike) Yoacum from Carterville, Illinois.

His collection contains 3,563 lures!

The Million Dollar Lure

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

Why is it so expensive? Because it has over 3 pounds of 14-carat

gold and platinum and is encrusted with diamonds and rubies.

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

Venomous Bait

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

His bait? A rattlesnake!

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

Apparently, it looked just fine to the bass!

Longest Migration

What are your chances of catching a fish that came from really far away? If you like to fish for eels, they are very good.

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

Eels spawn in the Sargasso Sea in the North Atlantic!

Fish Camouflage

Fish can have all different kinds of camouflage, but there is one type that they all have.

They are all lighter on the bottom and darker on the top.

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

Dads Do The Work

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

continue to page 22



Ronnie Drake reeled in a large blue catfish.



Steve Starkey hooked a 51 1/4" musky from the West Fork River.



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ilies.

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

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

Biggest Fly Rod And Reel

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

It's over 71 feet long, with a reel that is over 4 feet in diameter! There is no word whether it has caught anything yet!

Circle Hooks Are Nothing New Everyone is familiar with circle hooks. People think they are easy to set and it is proven that they are less likely to be swallowed.

But, they are not new. In a recent find in a 12,000-year-old grave of

a woman in East Asia, there were several perfectly preserved circular fish hooks.

Circle hooks go back to the Stone Age!

Fish Don't Sleep

Part of the definition of sleep is to close your eyes and fish (except for sharks) don't have eyelids.

So, technically a fish can never sleep. Most fish do have periods of rest where they find some shel-

ter and don't move much.

Sharks can close their eyes, but because of their biology, they can't really stop moving.

continue to page 24

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Young Jerimiah Murphy enjoyed catching a largemouth bass.



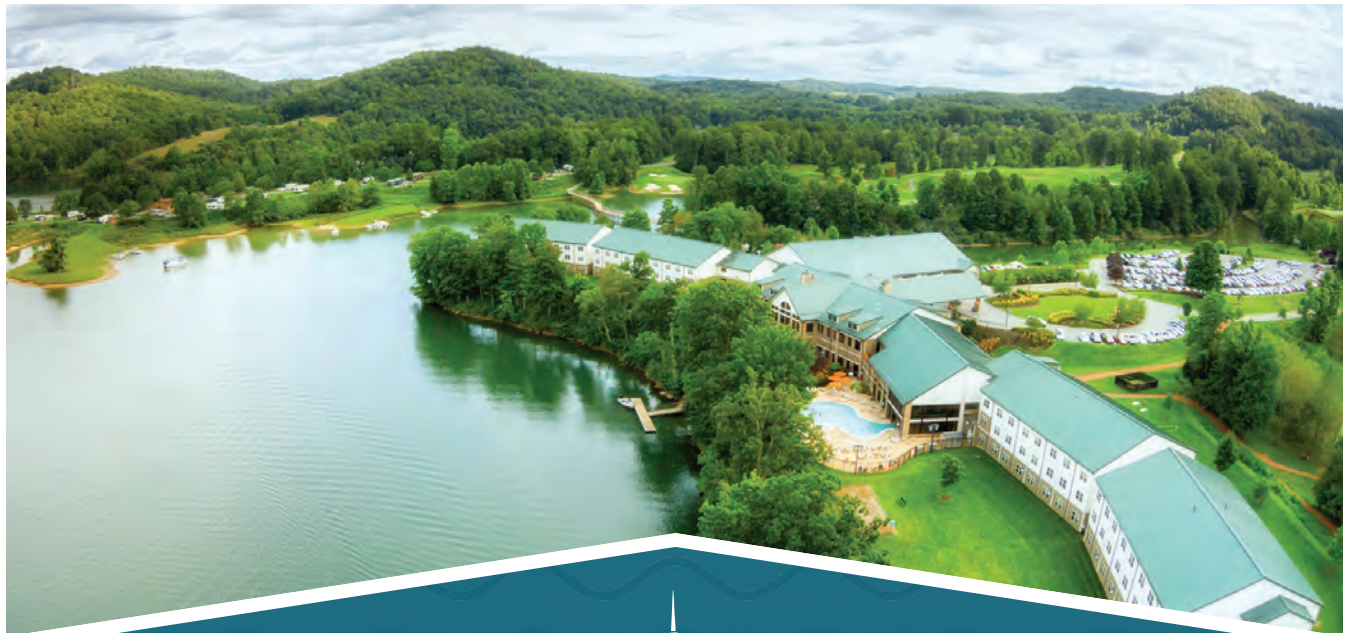
Bob Hayes reeled in a Wirt County farm pond largemouth bass.

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They lack swim bladders so they would sink, and they need to keep moving to keep water flowing through their gills!

A Fishing Book By A Medieval Nun

The earliest fishing books that still survive today were written and published in 1496 by Dame Juliana Berners, an English prioress.

This was only a few years after the invention of the printing press and was called A Treatise of

Fysshynge Wyth an Angle.

The book contains information on rod construction, the use of natural baits and lures, and the construction of artificial lures, as well as a section on streamside etiquette!

It predates Isaak Walton's Compleat Angler by around 150 years!

The Strangest Manmade Object Ever Taken From A Fish's Stomach

In the late 1890s, Mr. Douglass Smith caught a 140-pound catfish.

In the fish's stomach was a small, sealed bottle. When Mr. Smith opened the bottle he found a note inside!

The note read, "Whoever will find this will please send it back to me. H.E. Pipes."

Mr. Pipes had thrown it in nearly 75 miles away, in the Kaw river, three years before Mr. Douglass caught the fish!

Most Consecutive Casts

Brent Olgers of Macon Georgia is the current record holder for the most consecutive casts.

In July 1999, using a Zebco reel, he made 6,501 casts of over 45 feet. That comes to an average of 270 casts per hour!

The record is silent as to whether he caught any fish with those casts!

Pyramids And Fishing Poles

The ancient Egyptians also loved to fish! There is a more than 4,000-year-old painting from Egypt that shows people fishing.

Some are using nets, but others can be clearly seen to be using poles and lines!

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Logan Garner hooked a 6 lb., 5 oz. largemouth bass.

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Add Fish Attractants For Bass

A fish's sense of smell is 1000 times better than that of a dog, and fish can smell scents from hundreds of yards away. That's why a fish attractant is an important part of an angler's arsenal for a range of species, including bass.

Even though bass tend to feed by sight, sound, and vibration via their lateral line predominantly, the scent is still an important factor for bass and feeding.

Bass have a tendency to hold onto scented baits longer than unscented, and that can be a huge deciding factor in the number of fish caught, as they won't have a tendency to drop the bait quickly.

What Kind of Scents Attract Bass?

Scents based on fish or bass' natural food, such as crawfish, are a great choice of attractant for bass and a perfect lure enhancement.

It makes sense, right? But leading attractant manufacturers have also discovered that strong scents such as anise (liquorice type smell), salmon, and garlic also work very well to lure bass in any body of water.

Bass Lures: How Often Should I Apply Attractant?

There's really no wrong way to apply scent to a lure. With the spray bottle offerings that many companies offer, you just aim and shoot.

After you fish with a lure that

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you have applied attractants to, it's a good idea to refresh it if you continue fishing with it.

There isn't a set amount of time with this; just re-apply at your own discretion. This helps keep your lure potent and continues to pull fish into your area.

continue to the next page



Young Gabe Mays, from Vienna, reeled in a nice largemouth bass.



Dave Wilson landed a 7 lb. 13 oz. tiger trout. Photo courtesy of Middle Mountain Sporting Goods in Elkins.



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What Other Species Respond to Scent Attractants?

Most species will react to scent, some more than others. Species like trout, walleye, catfish, carp, crappies, and bluegills are all known to respond pretty positively to scents.

Other species like pike and musky rarely rely on their sense of smell to hunt for prey, and most anglers for these two species rarely, if ever, use scent.

Are There Any Downsides to Using Attractants?

There really aren't any down-

sides to speaking of using scent; it's just an additional tool you can use to entice more fish to bite. For beginner bass anglers who are just learning about where to find bass and how to work their lures, it is particularly important.

The only downside we can think of is the fact that it can be messy; containers can spill or leak in the boat or your tackle boxes. You could get it on your shirt or hands, but these issues are fairly minor and are more of an irritation.

Why Use an Attractant?

While you don't need attractants to catch fish, there are certainly times when there is a difference in catch rates when you start using them on a given day. These can be days when the fishing is particularly tough, and you really have to entice fish to eat by giving them something different that they normally might not sense.

Sometimes, all it takes to turn things around is something like an attractant to give you an extra edge, and if it doesn't affect your fishing in a negative way, why not give it a shot?

How to Apply Bass Attractants?

In simple terms, do what it says on the tin. The trick is in choosing the attractant that suits you – gel

continue to the next page



Dave Calvert, from Glen Jean, caught a huge black crappie.



Gary Ellison was surprised by a musky at Stonewall Jackson

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attractants require you to smear the fish attractant on the lure, whereas, with a spray attractant, you can hang the lure from the line and give it a squirt.

How Do I Get the Attractant Scent off My Hands?

This is a popular complaint among bass fishermen and women. No one likes the lingering smell of fish attractant on your fingers while you are on the water. It's especially unpleasant if you put your finger to your face or mouth for whatever reason.

You can take some scent off by washing your hands in the water, but we like to carry a tube of alcohol-based hand sanitizer to clean the attractant off properly.

Different Types of Attractants for Bass?

The different types of bass attractants include:

Base: water-based or oil-based formulas

Ingredients: synthetic and natural ingredients

Application method: spray on scents, gels, and pastes

Can You Apply Scent to All Types of Lures?

The answer to this one is yes! Scent is more easily absorbed and lasts longer on soft baits, but you can apply scent to all types of lures including spinnerbaits, spinners, blades, spoons, jerkbaits, chatterbaits, topwater lures, and jigs.

The scent is really important when you are ice fishing to draw the fish to your chosen location.

Try using scents to improve your bass catching rates. Spray baits are easier to use. Some of the top scents are Berkley Gulp Alive, Bang sprays, Smelly Jelly and Baitmate. Good luck and it makes sense to scent...

July/Aug 2024 ~ Page 28

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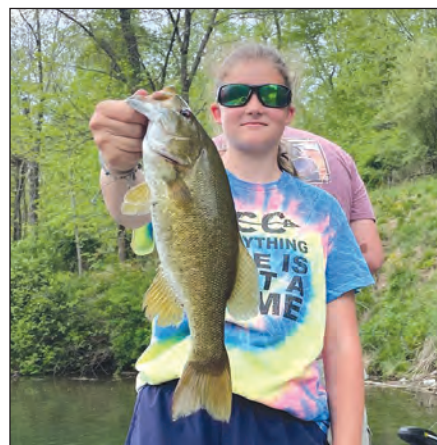
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Layla Stewart hooked a quality smallmouth bass.

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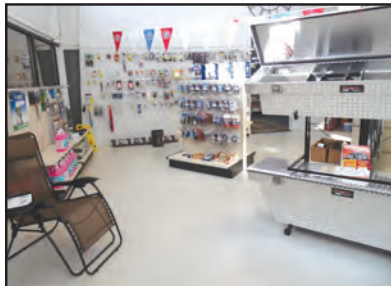
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Leave Young Wildlife Alone

SOUTH CHARLESTON, W.VA.
 — With the arrival of spring weather and the emergence of young wildlife, the West Virginia Division of Natural Resources (WVDNR) is reminding people that possessing wildlife without a permit is illegal and that handling wild animals can spread disease and parasites that can be fatal.

“Watching young animals is a rewarding pastime and a great way to appreciate the beauty of West Virginia’s natural resources, but

we want to make sure folks know that wildlife viewing must be done from a distance,” said WVDNR Director Brett McMillion.

Picking up, touching or even

getting close to young wildlife can greatly increase the chance of the animal being harmed because predators are often attracted to the

continue to the next page



Nathan Vanhoy reeled in a quality New River smallmouth bass.

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LIVE BAIT

scent humans leave behind. Handling wildlife can also harm humans, as contact increases the risk of transmitting viral diseases and parasites, such as rabies, Lyme disease, roundworms and ticks.

“We receive a lot of calls about young wildlife, especially fawns, rabbits and birds that people think are abandoned or hurt, but that is hardly ever the case,” said Vinnie Johnson, a WVDNR wildlife biologist.

Does leave their fawns hidden for hours while they search for food. Fawns remain still while the mother is away, going undetected by predators because of their unique color pattern and near lack of scent. By approaching a bedded fawn, humans can leave behind a scent that can attract predators and put the animal at risk.

Young birds are often picked up because people assume they fell out of the nest. If the bird is pink and featherless and the nest is easy to reach, the nestling can be put back into the nest. Most of the time, however, the bird is fledg-



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ing and has intentionally left the nest to learn how to feed and fly. These young birds are feathered and can hop or make short flights. Because of this behavior, people assume they fell out of the nest.

“While wanting to care for an animal is to be admired, we want to remind people that the best thing to do is to leave young wildlife alone,” said Johnson.

Possessing wildlife without a permit is illegal in West Virginia. Fines for the unlawful possession of a bear cub, fawn, squirrel, bird or any other wild animal range

from \$20 up to \$300 and/or 10-100 days in jail.



Reed Elder has done well in bass tournaments this season.

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McClintic Waterfowl Permit

ALUM CREEK, W.VA. — The West Virginia Division of Natural Resources is now accepting applications for a controlled waterfowl hunt at the McClintic Wildlife Management Area, located near Point Pleasant. Waterfowl hunters who wish to participate in the permit-only hunt must submit an application by midnight on Aug. 16.

Hunters may apply online at WVhunt.com by logging in and clicking “Enter A Lottery Drawing.” Successful applicants will be notified by mail in September.

The controlled hunt will take place on a portion of McClintic WMA during the October split of West Virginia’s waterfowl season. Hunters who are successful in the lottery draw will be randomly assigned a day to hunt and given an assigned hunting area, free of

charge. Hunters are permitted to bring one guest. A shooting station is also available for waterfowl hunters with a physical disability.

On their assigned hunting day, hunters must report to the McClintic WMA office before 6 a.m. Applicants who were not selected and anyone with a valid hunting license and migratory waterfowl stamp may come to the McClintic WMA office on the morning of each day’s hunt and sign up to use shooting stations in the event they are not filled by selected hunters and become available.

For more information about waterfowl hunting and season dates in West Virginia, check the 2024-2025 Migratory Bird Regulations, which will be available at all WVDNR offices and online at WVdnr.gov/hunting-regulations by the end of August.

New Paddling Ramp

PINEVILLE, W.VA. — The West Virginia Division of Natural Resources announced today the opening of a new public stream access site on the Guyandotte River in Pineville.



Stephen Fleming waded for a quality smallmouth bass.

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The new site, located on Willow Street off State Route 97, will provide better stream access for anglers and paddlers. The West Virginia Division of Highways installed directional signs to the access site on State Route 97.

“With construction on this access site completed, I want to thank the city of Pineville for their cooperation and want to encourage paddlers and anglers to visit this incredible stream and enjoy a day on the water,” said WVDNR Director Brett McMillion.

The access site features a large gravel parking area and gently sloping gravel ramp to the water’s edge. The city of Pineville acquired the property through the U.S. Federal Emergency Management Administration and worked closely with the WVDNR to develop this site.

All anglers 15 years of age and older are required to have a West Virginia fishing license.

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Summer Bass Fishing

1. Fish The Shade

Throughout the summer, areas with shade are going to be the bass hot spots. Always keep in mind which way the sun is hitting the water. Ask yourself, where is the shade from this plant being created.

In a perfect situation, we would be able to see the shade that's created. But during the mid day hours and in murky water, we can't always see where the shade is being cast.

Be sure to work the edges of the weed beds where the bass are seeking shelter. And as the sun moves throughout the day, move with it...always staying in the shade.

According to MarksMarineInc.com, "When fishing floating weed beds that do not reach the bottom, hook a six or eight-inch golden shiner at the base of its tale and coax it to swim under the weed bed. This technique hooks big

bass that like the cooler shallow waters."

They continue to suggest you can, "mimic the pattern of a wounded baitfish using a minnow and a bobber. Bass pick up on the "sonic signatures" very well. Lightly hook the minnow under its back fin, and place the bobber above the minnow with enough line in between to allow the minnow to reach inches from the bottom. Add enough weight to let the minnow swim to the surface and drift downwards, imitating a wounded baitfish.

2. Clear Water Bass Fishing Tips

In clear water, slowly crawl the bait through pockets in the weeds. In clear conditions, fish feed predominantly by sight – avoid using rattle-type lures that usually only frighten away potential catches.

3. Muddy Water Bass Fishing Tips

In muddy water, present your

bait in quick jumps along the deep side of the structure. Crank baits work well in muddy water

In discoloured water, bass often continue to the next page

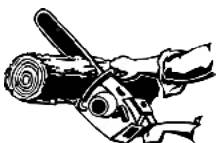


Jacob Haight, from Charleston, reeled in a big largemouth bass.

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strike a plastic worm as it drifts toward the bottom. If the worm reaches the bottom, pull the worm in little jumps across the lake floor. Black lures work well in discolored water.

4. Get To Know Your Lure

The best bass fishing tip ever given is to simply pay attention. So this list of bass fishing tips wouldn't be complete without mentioning that at least once.

Pay attention to your line and to your lure.

Get to know the "normal" motion of the lure as well as the fishing line itself. When you become familiar with what the lure is supposed to feel like on your end of the fishing rod, then any deviation from that "normal" might be a strike. And that's when you need to set the hook.

The same is true with fishing

line. Any slack or variation in the appearance of the fishing line, especially as the line is sinking to the bottom, like with a senko worm, set the hook.

5. Best Summer Bass Lures

Plastic worms, like the senko bait, are one of the best summer bass fishing lures. The reason these are so popular and why you want to use these is because you fish them off the bottom. That's where the fish are going to be during these hot summer days.

The fall rate created from the large amount of salt impregnated in the body drives fish mad.

Summer time bass really like lures that move slow. Really slow. So be very patient when fishing plastic worms. After casting the worm, always let it sit on the bottom for a long while before retrieving it.

Don't discount top water lures either. Just because you shouldn't fish top water lures during the heat of the day, doesn't mean you can try your luck at it early mornings and later in the evenings. Top water lures also work well if the weather's changed and it cools down, or if the sky becomes overcast. During retrieval of the plastic worm, move it very slowly, and allow it time to just sit on the bottom again. Each time you move the worm, let it sit on the bottom.

Don't discount top water lures either. Just because you shouldn't fish top water lures during the heat of the day, doesn't mean you can try your luck at it early mornings and later in the evenings. Top water lures also work well if the weather's changed and it cools down, or if the sky becomes overcast.



Josh Murray has been catching lots of nice Ohio River hybrids.



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6. Start Shallow And Work Deep

During the summer, bass prefer the cooler shady water closer to the bottom. But that's not where they typically start or end their day. Bass like to feed at the surface during the early morning hours as well as late evenings when the sun is down and only low light conditions exist.

So start your day by fishing top water lures near the surface and in the shallows.

As the summer sun begins to climb and temperatures begin to rise, transition to deeper bottom fishing lures such as plastic worms, jigs and slow moving spinner baits.

Then, as evening approaches, start your transition back to shallower water and consider using top water lures again.

Fishing for bass in the summer can be hot! And not just the weather. With the spawn in spring as

the exception, summer is by the best time for bass fishing.

But with the warmer weather comes a different approach to how to fish for bass. Just remember to seek out the cool water, which usually means shade and deep.



Sam Hatfield hooked a huge large-mouth bass in Mason County.



Kaden Hicks, from Wetzel Co. reeled in a nice black crappie.

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Hunter Simmons, caught a 5 lb., 2 oz. largemouth bass at Elk Fork.



Young Ava Drake landed a quality Ohio river smallmouth bass.



Keith Conley released a 51" musky to be caught again.



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