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

**Issue 279**

**July/August 2019**



***INSIDE THIS ISSUE***

**Crossbow  
TIPS**

**B.A.S.S.  
NEWS**

**DNR  
Updates**

**Outdoor Photos**

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## Magazine

**Volume 1 Issue 279**

Publisher and Editor  
**Mark A. Goudy**

Contributing Editors  
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Natural Resources

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**W.Va. Sportsman**

P.O. Box 5521  
Vienna, WV 26105

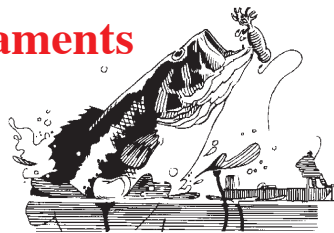
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## Cover Photo

Troy Cline landed a huge flat-head in Tyler County. He was fishing on the Ohio River.

See "Call of the Wild" TV stars Turtle Man & Squirrel at the WV Outdoor adventures in Kingwood. The ad is on page 34. Vendor space is still available.

Go online to see this magazine online every 6 weeks. It is [www.wvasportsman.net](http://www.wvasportsman.net)

TEXT, mail or email your large fish or game pictures - page 38.

# Controlled Deer Hunt Permits

SOUTH CHARLESTON, W.Va. — Applications are being accepted through Aug. 25, 2019, for controlled deer hunts at six West Virginia state parks. The six areas are Beech Fork (Cabell County), Cacapon Resort (Morgan County), Canaan Valley Resort (Tucker County), North Bend (Ritchie County), Pipestem Resort (Summers County) and Twin Falls Resort (Wyoming County) state parks. The drawings will be held Aug. 26 with notification of successful applicants occurring between Sept. 3 and 13, 2019.

“Controlled hunts have been successful in deer management in West Virginia state parks during the past few years,” said State Parks Chief Sam England. “It is an effective and efficient means of

maintaining a biologically and socially-balanced deer herd at areas with overpopulation.”

Changes have been made for the 2019 controlled hunts. Each application remains as a three-day harvest opportunity using archery/crossbow, archery or muzzleloader, depending upon the dates, hunt types and designated areas. However, rather than specified hunting stands for each hunter as in past controlled hunts, all hunters will be provided a map and will be able to roam and hunt as they like within the designated hunting zones.

Controlled Hunt Application Process

Hunters must apply online at [www.wvhunt.com](http://www.wvhunt.com) using their existing DNR ID account. First-time users must enroll using the Electronic Licensing and Game Checking system (ELS). Once logged in, applicants must select “State Park Lottery Hunts” and then choose one of the hunting options for each \$15

continue to the next page



Chad Vanburen, from Frametown, hooked a 28” Lake Erie walleye.

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Brian Clark, from Belle, caught a 5 pound bass at Coonskin Park.

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Warning: Polaris off-road vehicles can be hazardous to operate and are not intended for on-road use. Driver must be at least 16 years old with a valid driver's license to operate. Passengers, if permitted, must be at least 12 years old. All riders should always wear helmets, eye protection, and protective clothing. Always use seat belts and cab nets or doors (as equipped). Never engage in stunt driving, and avoid excessive speeds and sharp turns. Riding and alcohol / drugs don't mix. All riders should take a safety training course. Call 800-342-3764 for additional information. Check local laws before riding on trails. ©2018 Polaris Industries Inc.

application fee. Each application can be for one or two people.

Hunters will be selected at random; successful applicants will be notified between Sept. 3 through Sept. 13, 2019.

Each hunter will be required to confirm participation and possess a valid West Virginia Hunting License (or be legally exempt from



Rodney Starcher, from Washington, landed and released a musky.

purchasing a license) within one week of being contacted, if selected.

Deer harvested do not count against a hunter's annual deer season bag limit.

The West Virginia Division of Natural Resources hunting regulations will apply to all managed hunts. To learn more about hunting in West Virginia and to view the 2019-2020 hunting regulations, visit [www.wvhunt.com](http://www.wvhunt.com).

Hunters interested in overnight accommodations can visit [wvstateparks.com](http://wvstateparks.com) to book a lodge room, cabin or campground.

Please visit [wvdnr.gov](http://wvdnr.gov) for more detailed information on the 2019 state park controlled hunt dates and methods.

**Controlled Hunt Benefits**

Without the principle tool of controlled hunting, deer can reach

levels that become detrimental to the landscape. Over-browsing by deer leads to loss of native vegetation, prevents forest regeneration, and alters habitat for all wildlife species living in the park. The primary goal of controlled hunts is to reduce deer numbers to levels that prevent habitat loss, property damage, vehicle collisions and potential human injuries.



Doug Belcher used a crossbow in Gilmer County for a nice 8 point.

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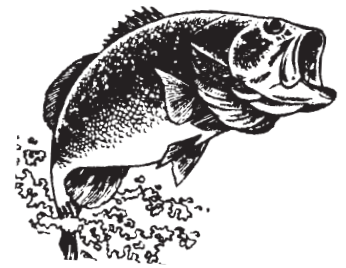
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## WV Mountaineer Sportsman

FAIRLEA, W.Va. – If you have a keen eye and vast knowledge of West Virginia wildlife, you may qualify to be the 2019 West Virginia Mountaineer Sportsman.

A free contest to determine the winner of the title is being offered



Emma Carr bagged her 1st turkey in Randolph County.

by West Virginia Natural Resources Police Officers during the State Fair of West Virginia Aug. 8-17, 2019. The challenge will be administered by the West Virginia Natural Resource Police Officers Association (NRPOA).

Contestants must be West Virginia residents age 15 or older. The challenge can be quickly completed while visiting the NRPOA booth in the West Virginia Building. Contestants will represent their home Division of Natural Resources districts, which can be found on the inside front page of the West Virginia hunting or fishing regulations brochures.

Prizes will be awarded to the top scorer in each of the six districts with a grand prize going to the overall top scorer. The overall winner will also earn the prestigious title of the "2019 West Virginia DNR

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Mountaineer Sportsman" and will be presented a gift by the Natural Resource Police Officers Association. Also, all top six district finalists will have their names posted on the West Virginia Natural Resource Police Facebook page.

**SEND IN YOUR  
Current Wildlife Pictures  
Details On Page 38**

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## Antlerless Deer Permits

SOUTH CHARLESTON, W.Va.  
 — Applications for the 2019 Antlerless Deer Season limited permit areas are now available online at [www.wvhunt.com](http://www.wvhunt.com). Applications will be accepted until midnight,

Aug. 14.

Hunters who apply for a limited antlerless firearms permit must use the Electronic Licensing System at [www.wvhunt.com](http://www.wvhunt.com). Applicants must log on, select "Enter Lottery" on the home screen, select "2019 Antlerless Hunt," then choose the county or wildlife management area (WMA) for which they want to apply.

Hunters also may select a secondary county or WMA. Hunters without accounts can create one at [www.wvhunt.com](http://www.wvhunt.com).

"These limited permit areas provide antlerless deer hunting opportunities in counties or areas of the state where wildlife biologists have determined that the deer population exceeds management objectives," said Chris Ryan, supervisor of game management services for the West Virginia Division of Natural



Joe Parcell caught a huge blue catfish from the Kanawha River.

## BASS TOURNAMENT

Mountain State Forest Festival  
**Stonewall Jackson Lake**  
**September 28**

**\$75 Entry Fee** (includes big bass)

Go To [www.forestfestival.com](http://www.forestfestival.com)

Look On: **REGISTRATION**

For The Entry Form



Register Online  
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 At 6am Sept. 28

**Vandalia Ramp**

Resources. "Issuing limited numbers of antlerless deer permits will help meet our management goals."

Successful applicants will be notified by mail by the first week of October. Starting Sept. 1, all applicants can see whether they received a permit by logging into

continue to page 10



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their account.

The following wildlife management areas and counties are open for this drawing:

- Beech Fork Lake
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- Bluestone
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- Greenbrier State Forest
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- Kumbrabow State Forest
- Little Canaan
- McCausland
- Seneca State Forest
- Boone
- Greenbrier
- Lincoln
- Mineral
- Nicholas
- Pocahontas
- Raleigh
- Wayne
- Webster

A limited number of Class N licenses for resident and Class NN licenses for nonresident hunters will be available. Successful applicants may hunt antlerless deer Oct. 24–27 on private land only, and Nov. 25–Dec. 7, Dec. 12–15 and Dec. 28–31 on private and public land.

continue to the next page



Griffin Fields - 6, caught a large bass at McClintic Wildlife Area..

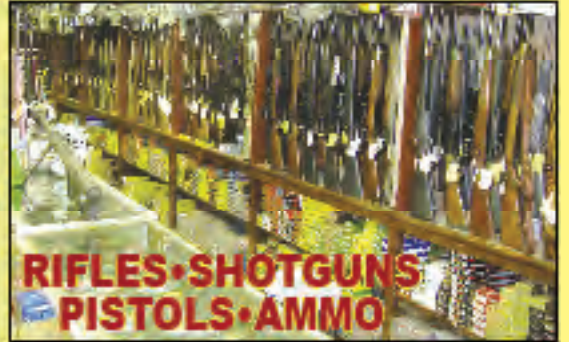
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Hunters who want to enter as a group must know the other hunters' DNR ID numbers to enter the lottery. Hunters also may call their local DNR district office for help with the application process.

For complete information on antlerless deer season dates and bag limits, consult the 2019–2020 Hunting and Trapping Regulations Summary. It will be available online at [www.wvdnr.gov](http://www.wvdnr.gov) and at West Virginia license agents and DNR offices in July.



Thomas Boothe hooked a 7 lb. 2 oz. largemouth in Jackson County.



Terry Turley caught a big golden trout on the Williams River.

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## Beginners Bass Fishing Tips

By David Fritts

I've been around this bass fishing thing for while now, and I've learned a few things I want to share with new anglers. You should start slow and build on your experiences. Read our columns but always remember that fishing is an individual thing. One size does not fit all.

When you're first starting out pick

a good serviceable baitcasting outfit and a good serviceable spinning outfit. Don't spend a lot of money on specialized rods and reels until you know what suits your style of fishing on the waters you fish.

Some anglers like long rods, others like shorter rods. Some like a heavy action and some prefer a lighter action. It's the same with

reels. Some guys like fast gear ratios but other anglers like slower models.

There's no one thing that works for everyone. You can survey the 75 professional anglers fishing the Bassmaster Elite Series about what's best and you'll probably get

continue to the next page

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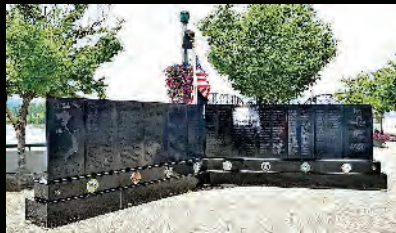


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- 2: Hunt Waterfowl Like a Pro - Joe Austin
- 3: West Virginia Snakes - Jim Fregonara
- 4: Raptors in Flight - Raptors up Close
- 5: How to Film Your Hunts - Brothers of the Woods Outdoors
- 6: WV University Archery Team Exhibition
- 7: Whitetail Deer Taxidermy Seminar - Jeremy Simon of Re-creations Taxidermy

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Rods & Reels  
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75 different answers. And, we all catch our share of bass. None of us are wrong. We're just different.

My recommendation for a starter set of rods and reels is to take a close look at Lew's Mach Smash outfits. They are rod and reel combinations. The baitcasting model won Best of Show Rod and Reel

Combo this year at ICAST. They're reasonably priced and will do you a good job until you know what best suits you when you get ready to upgrade.

It's the same with line and lures. At first you won't have a very good idea of what you need or how you like to fish. Try everything. Finding that out before you spend a ton of money on tackle is important.

Unless you're a pro you'll proba-

bly find out pretty quick that there are certain things you like to do better than others. Maybe you develop a thing for topwater fishing, or maybe you fall in love with the steady action of crankbaits. But it might also be that flipping and pitching gets your attention.

Why buy hundreds of dollars worth of line, lures and terminal tackle that you'll never use and that you don't even like to use?



Joe Hall used 4 pound test to catch this 43" musky at Belleville Dam.



Mackie Brown hooked a 40" catfish in Wyoming County.

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## Crossbow Do's And Dont's

When I first started shooting modern crossbows several years ago, I had no idea what to expect. Like many who had never played with them, these tools confused me. I had seen them on TV, but without ever handling one, I wasn't sure about a lot of things. How do you load one? How do you pull the string back? What's the trigger like? Do they kick, like a rifle? Are they noisy? Are they accurate? How far away can you accurately shoot one? Do they have enough power to kill a deer?

Was I in for a surprise! Modern crossbows are fast, accurate, and plenty powerful enough to cleanly take the largest big-game animals in North America. They are also a pleasure to shoot. To get the most out of your crossbow, you need to understand the basics of how to set one up for hunting and how to shoot it. Here are 12 tips to make you a crossbow-shooting machine, using a crossbow-and-arrow set-up designed specifically for hunting big game.

1. Buy the Best You Can Afford  
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Mason Nutter - 11, got a nice buck last season in Wood County.



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el cheapo, bargain-basement crossbow and a top-of-the-line model. Sure, the bargain model costs a

lot less, but it will not be built as well, be as accurate or reliable, continue to the next page

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and sooner or later it will fail you when the moment of truth arrives. You can buy crossbow packages that include everything you need to get out shooting and hunting—crossbow, a few arrows and arrow points, a scope sight, cocking device and quiver—from anywhere between about \$800 to \$1,500.

As in all things in life, here you get what you pay for. Spend a few more dollars and get the best you can. You'll never be sorry.

**2. Use Enough Draw Weight**

The principle specification that distinguishes a hunting crossbow from a target model is draw weight. Fortunately, most states have taken the guesswork out of determining what is sufficient by establishing a regulatory minimum. While those regulations vary considerably from state to state, the overall range runs from 75 to 125 pounds of draw weight.



Mark Foster, from St. Albans, caught a 24" hybrid bass.

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With little exception, any crossbow in that range should be adequate to kill a whitetail deer at moderate ranges. That said, most of the better hunting crossbows are in the 150 to 175 pounds range, with a few topping out over 200 pounds. In general, bigger is better—or in this case, faster. Keep in mind that you can go too heavy, too, as at least one state—Ohio—has a maximum allowable draw weight of 200 pounds.

**3. Shoot a Fast Enough Arrow**

Both crossbow and compound bow makers continually strive to push

the speed envelope. You make a crossbow faster by increasing the draw weight. That's why the above point is so important. How fast is fast enough? I like my crossbows to shoot a hunting-weight arrow with an initial velocity of at least 300 feet per second (fps.) That will both give your arrow enough kinetic energy (K.E.) to cleanly take any big-game animal, and reduce arrow trajectory at longer ranges, which makes accurate shooting easier. Some crossbows are beginning to push the 400 fps envelope, so look

continue to page 18



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Andrew Russell hooked a large flathead catfish.

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for improvements in this number across the board in coming years.

#### 4. Use a Scope Sight

Though some crossbows still come with open sights, you will be much better served using some sort of scope sight. These optical sighting devices make accurate shooting much easier. For magnification, you can choose from just about anything between zero pow-

er and 5X. Inside the scope is the reticle, defined as some configuration of horizontal and vertical crosshairs—though for crossbows, it also includes any object projected or suspended across the field of view. Choices begin with a simple, single red dot or crosshair. With them you sight in for a fixed distance, typically 20 yards, then have to compensate for longer shots

by holding higher. Multi-reticle scopes are the most popular, particularly those with three to four dots or horizontal crosshairs. The top one is sighted in for 20 yards and the next two are fixed at intervals that will be dead-on at 30, 40 and 50 yards, respectively, on most bows.

#### 5. Use Quality Arrows

Unless your arrows (or bolts) fly like laser beams, you'll never be able to precisely hit your target. Cheap arrows manufactured to sloppy tolerances will fly like a knuckleball. That's why you should use only the very best arrows, designed specifically for crossbow shooting, you can afford. Many crossbow companies sell arrows, but they're made for them by  
continue to page 20

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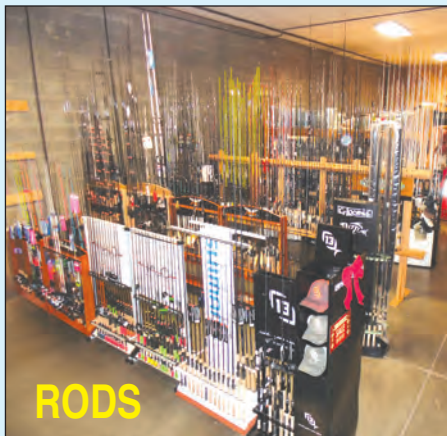


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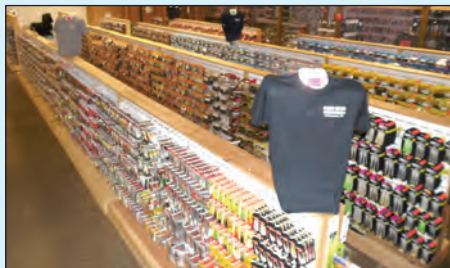
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arrow manufacturers like Gold Tip, Carbon Express and Easton. Make sure they have a nock designed for crossbows, not compound bows, are cut to the proper length and have the proper fletches. Both carbon and aluminum arrows work well, but by far the most rugged and high-tech are made from carbon.

6. Use Quality Broadheads

The business end of a hunting arrow is the broadhead. There are more makes, models and styles of hunting broadheads available than you can shake a stick at. Here again, the most expensive are generally those built to the tightest tolerances, with the sharpest blades, that fly straight and true, and have a long track record of success. Both replaceable-blade and mechanical broadhead designs will work well for crossbow shooters, with the mechanical design becoming more and more popular each year. The most common weight for a hunting broadhead is 100 grains, with 125 grains a distant second.

7. Take a Rest

A crossbow is somewhat heavy and clunky, making it almost impossible to accurately shoot without us-

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ing some sort of rest. That can be everything from using standard rifle shooting positions like kneeling and sitting, to using a set of shooting sticks or monopod, to using a shooting rail in a tree stand or shooting house. I never, ever turn an arrow loose from my crossbows without taking a rest of some kind.

When using a rest, try padding the crossbow's forearm with some-

continue to the next page



Gary Probst went to Pendelton Co. for a 25" rainbow trout.



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hing soft—your hand, a rolled-up jacket, a day pack, something—which will help absorb recoil and make precise sighting easier than if you shoot off a hard surface.

### 8. Learn Arrow Trajectory

All arrows fired from a crossbow travel downrange in a large parabolic arc. Your crosshairs are set to hit dead-on at specific distances, but often you'll be shooting at a deer or other animal between these distances. When you practice you'll soon learn where you have to place your crosshairs relative to the animal to hit the "tweener" ranges. To learn how to chart your arrow trajectory, click here.

### 9. Use a Rangefinder

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ern laser rangefinder can instantaneously give you the exact distance from you to the target—a critical bit of information in accurate shooting when you are lobbing an arrow at the target. The best laser rangefinders are as reliable as the sunrise. My Nikon Archer's Choice model even tells me exactly where to aim

when shooting at steep uphill and downhill angles. Costing somewhere between \$250 and \$400, they're a lifetime investment worth every penny.

### 10. Get a 'Feel' For the Trigger

Every crossbow has a trigger unique unto itself. You need to shoot your crossbow enough so that you know exactly when the

continue to the next page



Christopher Hartley landed a 42" New River musky.



Mason Perdue, from Hughston, got a 25" Kanawha River hybrid.

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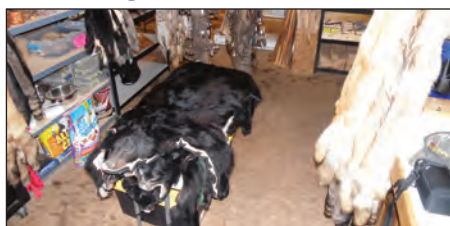
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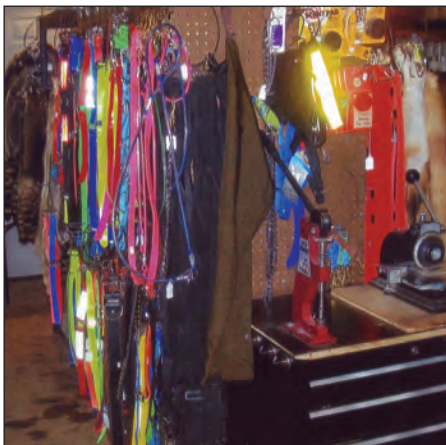
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trigger will send the arrow on its way. Shoot both with and without gloves so you know how both feel (it will be different).

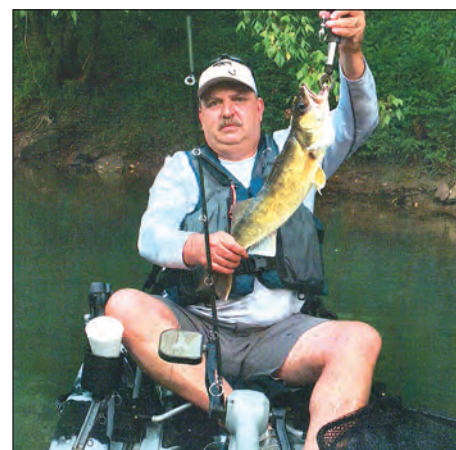
### 11. Practice in the Field

The old axiom, "practice makes perfect," certainly applies to shooting your crossbow. Once you get it set up and sighted in, spend some time shooting off a bench rest. Use these sessions to precisely set your sights and get a feel for the trigger. However, you then need to move away from the bench and practice taking shots that simulate actual hunting conditions. Shoot from the kneeling and sitting positions. Climb into your tree stand or ground blind and take shots at the same angles and distances you anticipate you'll be taking during hunting season. Learn to use your shooting sticks or monopod quickly, quietly and efficiently.

### 12. Maintain String, Rail, Trigger

A crossbow is a machine, which means it will need regular maintenance if it is to keep on ticking like a fine Swiss watch. That means you should always check the string and cables for wear. This is very important on a crossbow because you have direct string-to-rail contact, which creates friction and abrasion,

continue to page 24



Brian Graley, from Griffingville, was in a kayak for a 25" walleye.

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with every shot. At the first sign of fraying or abnormal wear, replace them. You can reduce the need for replacement with regular maintenance. Keep the string, cables and center serving clean and well maintained after each practice session, and especially after each trip to the field. Make sure you lubricate the center serving, and the rails should also be regularly lubed per the manufacturer's instructions.

Don't Do This!

There are some real mistakes that can cost you accuracy and/or lead to injury if you are not careful when shooting a crossbow. Here are the three most common:

1. Watch Fingers & Thumb

Many shooters used to shooting rifles have a tendency to stick the fingers of the hand that holds the rifle's forearm straight up in the air when they cradle the rifle. If you do this with a crossbow, you risk placing your digits in the path of a bowstring that is rocketing down the rail and will slice the fingers and/or thumb to the bone. Never, ever do this!

2. Don't Shoot Off-Hand

The construction of a crossbow puts a lot of weight in its front end, making it very difficult to balance when trying to shoot from the off-hand position. Even the very best rifle shooters only shoot off-hand as a last resort. You'll be much



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better off learning to shoot quickly from the kneeling and sitting positions, and when using shooting sticks or a rail for a rock-solid rest.

3. Shoot Outside Your Own MESR

Many years ago, I coined a phrase for bowhunters, Maximum Effective Shooting Range, or MESR. Your MESR is the maximum distance you can consistently place a hunting arrow into the bullseye. For some crossbow hunters that's 20 yards; for others it is 60 yards. For most of us, it is somewhere in between.

You will learn your own MESR as you practice. At some point, you just won't be plunking that arrow into the bullseye on a regular basis. When that happens, it's time to back off a few yards until you are once again placing at least 90 percent of your shots into the center of the target.



Josh Keller hooked a 22 1/2" small-mouth at the South Branch.

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## 40 Fishing Facts

1. Fishing is the activity of trying to catch fishes using different automated and traditional techniques.
2. An angler is a person who fishes with a rod and line.
3. One million Americans spend an average of 17 days fishing.  
One million Americans spent an average of 17 days fishing.
4. Anglers spent a total of \$15.5 billion dollars on fishing in 2011.
5. An average angler spends \$1,261 on fishing each year.
6. Anglers spend almost \$300 million a year just on ice to preserve fishes longer.  
Anglers spend almost \$300 million a year just on ice.
7. Anglers spend more than \$1 billion a year on bait alone.



James Arrison hooked a nice largemouth in Jackson County..

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8. The fun thing about sports fishing is that mostly, the caught fish is thrown back into the water.
9. Total Fishing expenditures per year is \$42.2 billion.  
In 1933, Captain Jay Gould of Hollywood, Florida captured a manta ray that measured 19 feet, 9 inches.
10. More than 44 million Americans enjoy fishing every year.
11. Techniques for catching fish include hand gathering, spearing, nesting, angling and trapping.

continue to the next page



Jyles Johnson, from Washington, caught a big pond largemouth

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12. India is second largest producer of fish worldwide.

Indian American Relations

13. There are 27,000 living species of fish worldwide, out of which 6,000 species are found in Australian waters alone.

14. Fishing with spinning outfits and fly rods are the most popular.

15. The act of fishing can be divided into two categories: Sports fishing and commercial fishing.

The act of fishing can be divided into two categories: Sports fishing and Commercial Fishing.

16. Many people pursue fishing as sports.

17. Fly fishing, a method of fishing, was invented around 200 CE.

18. There are 21 million fishermen and almost 200 million people depend on fishing to survive.

There are 21 million fishermen and almost 200 million people de-



Bo Kosik, from Morgantown, got a 46 1/2" Tygart River musky.

pend on fishing for survival.

continue to the next page



Austin Barber caught a brown trout in Fayette County.

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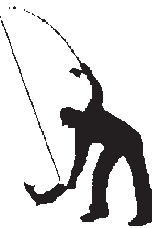
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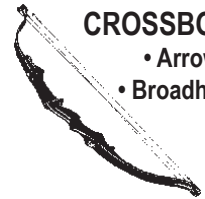


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19. China has the world's largest fishing industry.
20. Fly fishing is the most popular style of fishing.
21. The hungrier the fish the easier is to catch.
22. The most common bait fishing rig is a number 8 or 10 hook tied to 4 lb.
23. In Fishing, two types of trolling are employed: flatline and down rigger.
24. Unfortunately, many sea birds are also killed during fishing.
25. Drift Gill Netting is one of the most destructive methods of fishing.
26. Fishing is most popular outdoor activities in the U.S. from 2009 to 2016.
27. Trawling is one of the most common methods of commercial fishing in the world.
28. Australia has a large commercial fishing fleet.
29. The number of people fishing and practising aquaculture worldwide has doubled since 1970.
30. Asia is the base for the fish industry since 1980s.
31. Around 24,000 people engaged in fishing, fish farming and processing are killed at work every year.
32. The world's fishing industry

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34. In line fishing, the fish can be attracted by a natural or artificial

- bait to catch and hold the fish.
35. China is the leading country in terms of fishing.



John David reeled in a nice large-mouth bass.



Lucinda Myers got a buck last season. Photo courtesy of Trappers Den in Cowen.

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# Catch Summer Panfish

No fish are more appealing to go after on a hot summer day than panfish. Unlike bass, trout and stripers, which can sometimes be difficult to catch, species like crappies, bluegills and white bass are almost always willing to nab a lure, bait or fly. They're made to order for those days when you want to take it easy, kick back and enjoy being out on a lake or river without too much concentration on finesse tactics-yet

still come home with a cooler full of fish!

Simply put: panfish are reliable. And because of that, they're great quarries for taking youngsters or newcomers to angling along to enjoy the sport.

Here are 10 proven tips to help you score on a variety of panfish this summer.

#1. White and chartreuse jigs are top offerings for white bass in 1/8-

1/4 ounce sizes. Try a variety of retrieves, starting with slow steady reeling. If that doesn't produce, pause part way back and let the lure drop for a few seconds like a wounded minnow. For a third approach, try reeling a few feet, then twitching, reeling, then twitching.

#2. One of the top spots to find crappies in summer is around bridge pilings. These concrete spans offer

continue to page 31



Luke Powell shot a nice gobbler in the youth season.



Aaron Johnson bagged a nice spring gobbler in Lincoln County.

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shade and structure for the fish to hang out next to and ambush bait-fish that fin past. Work the pilings closest to land first. Then probe those where the creek or river channel drops off into deeper water if they don't produce. Use marabou or plastic tailed jigs or small live shiners suspended beneath a bobber.

#3. If you missed the spring bluegill spawn, don't fret. These fish often return to the shallows to breed a second and even third time through July. Look for the beds in 1 to 4 feet of water during full moon periods.

#4. When white bass are hard to locate, try trolling. This lets you present the fish with several lure choices at one time and probe a variety of depths. Top offerings include silver spoons, small crankbaits, diving thin-minnow plugs, lipless crankbaits and jig-spinner combos. Motor slowly through areas where humps rise up off the lake floor and

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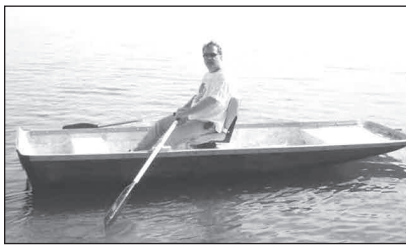
over points, drop-offs and creek mouths in depths of 8-24 feet.

#5. Sponge rubber spiders are one of the top fly rod offerings for bluegills. But often the legs are tied too long. This makes them tangle on the hook and encourages fish to grab the tails without getting the hook in their mouths. If legs are more than 1/3-inch long, trim them back to that length with scissors. They won't tangle and you'll draw solid hookups.

#6. One of the top baits for yellow perch is a small live minnow. If you don't have any or run out of bait, continue to the next page



Joe Posey, from Burnsville, bagged his first gobbler.



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try this trick. Cut a thin tapered strip of white belly meat from one of the fish you've already caught. It should be 1/4- to 1/2-inch wide at the end and taper for 1-2 inches to a thin tip. This offering also works on crappies, bluegills, rock bass and pickerel.

#7. If action is slow, try slapping the water with your paddle. May sound crazy, but the commotion imitates feeding fish and at times will attract nearby crappies, bluegills and white bass to your offerings.

#8. A top lure for bluegills is a grub with a short stubby plastic body. Fish it slowly-just fast enough to keep it off the bottom. Part way back, pause briefly to draw strikes from trailing fish. Use 1/32- to 1/8-ounce versions in brown, green, black, smoke and purple.

#9. Try chumming if fishing is slow. Keep egg shells from your breakfast, crumple them up and sprinkle overboard. The slowly descending fragments will flutter through the water and draw in both baitfish and panfish.

#10. When fishing lakes, try these spots for panfish: inlets, outlets,



Triston Kocher caught a big pike in New Martinsville.

points, coves, weed beds, areas with fallen trees or brush, underwater humps, springs, rock piles, flats and drop-offs.

When these tips pay off for you, be sure to keep a few specimens for a fish fry. Most of these species breed prolifically and thrive when their numbers are kept in check. Deep fry them dipped in batter or saute in lemon and butter. After all, there's a reason they're called "pan" fish: they're delicious!

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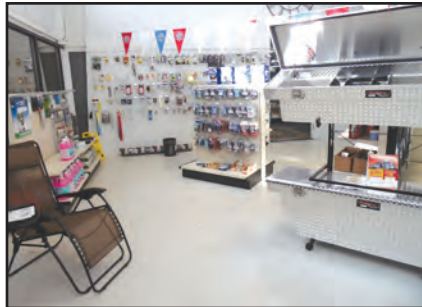
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**Summer Carp Fishing**

Carp fishing tips often go in one ear and out the other, but what we have shared here really will be worth logging and following...

**1. LINK LENGTH**

The length of your link is far more important than changing your presentation to some fancy anti-eject, suck and blow special.

A 3 inch link can be enough to mess up even tricky carp where everyone else is using 6 inches.

And there's a huge mileage the other way, too - a 12 - 15 in. link is as rare as rocking horse droppings.

When replacing a link that has caught a carp, always make sure that the new is the same length again as the successful one.

Measure or mentally note the lengths that you are using and look for trends in your success rate.

**2. BAIT CHOICE**

If forced to pick one single change that makes the difference between blanking and catching after swim

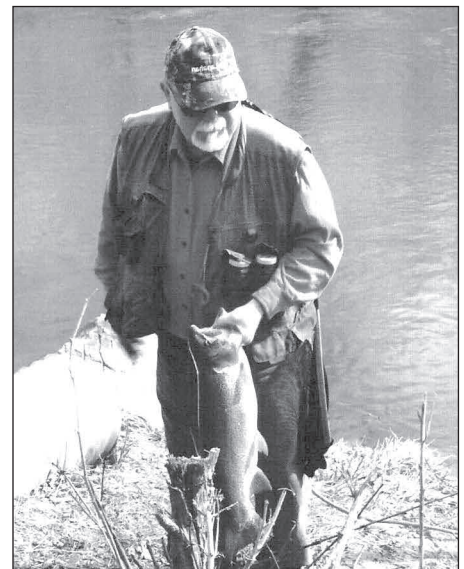
choice, it's always hook bait. Carp anglers can learn from matchmen here, and it really is one of the key carp fishing tips.

Carp are incredibly fickle about what they will eat with enthusiasm - continue to the next page

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**Details On Page 3**



Greg St. Clair, from Weston, caught a 25" walleye at Stonecoal Lake



Stanley Eddy, from Masontown, hooked a 25 1/2" Smokehole trout.

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asm and what they don't eat keenly enough to get caught on.

Experiment on different rods with different flavours, colours and shapes of boilie and pop-up, to plastic or tigers, Peperami, mag-gots and pellets.

You will find that carp quickly get caught on one when you find which is the winner.

### 3. FREE MOVEMENT

Use an end tackle that has an element of free movement. They are an invaluable defence against carp that shake their heads to bounce hooks out, and tell you if there is any interest in a hook bait.

A simple running lead up the line is hard to beat, while clips and run beads are excellent for longer range work.

With running end tackles you will know more clearly what the problem is, even if that means they are telling you that you're rig is being picked up but that you are not getting the rig and baiting quite right.

### 4. ACCURACY






Fish accurately. The difference between consistent catchers and those who land just occasional carp is being able to drop end tackles back on productive spots and over baited areas. This is consistent whether it is daytime or at night, blowing a hooligan or lashing down with rain.

Once you have located likely spots and baited up, you must mark your main line and use spool clips,


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so that you can land rigs back exactly on the same spots time and time again.

A roll of electrical tape will mark your lines and will last you for a season or more.

### 5. TIMING

Be a clock watcher – yes, this is one of those overlooked carp fishing tips.

Look for patterns in takes and captures, even if they are to other anglers not to your own rods. Is action coming during mornings, afternoons, evenings or after dark?

If you are getting no encouragement, try fishing at different times. Stay a few hours after dark to see if

they switch on, or try an overnighter if days aren't producing.

If mornings are always quiet, treat yourself to treat yourself to a lie in!

*continue to the next page*



Tom Miller shot a big 8 point buck in Tyler County last season.

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And if you are night fishing, always set your alarm for down to watch for carp activity as the light lifts.

### 6. CONCEALMENT

Carp are incredibly aware of end tackle, and anything we can do to make it less obtrusive can increase the likelihood of carp feeding confidently and carelessly.

Lead core and pre-formed nylon leaders are standard issue, but don't sit line down along the bottom anywhere near as reliably as several lumps of tungsten putty behind the end tackle.

Doing this will help conceal line even when it is running over large stones, dead weed, sunken twigs or over chances in depth close to the hook and bait.

Conceal your line so the carp don't spook off it. This is one of those carp fishing tips many people are aware of, but don't do properly.

### 7. SEE MORE

Your indication system is the same as watching a float – you need to learn to interpret what it is telling you.

Lightweight, free-hanging bobbins on lightweight chains are still the most responsive option.



Riley McCloy bagged a 23 pound gobbler in Wirt County.



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I	E	E	Y	A	E	A	N	X	E	R	Z	S	T	N	T	C	S	A	E
E	Z	G	E	A	L	Y	A	Z	O	H	E	I	N	O	R	R	T	N	L
F	A	E	L	K	W	E	Z	E	C	K	M	S	G	T	E	N	O	A	D
S	E	R	I	R	U	L	M	E	C	M	T	A	U	I	O	O	V	W	D
H	S	O	A	O	N	O	E	O	U	R	B	R	V	S	P	B	E	H	E
C	C	A	B	D	Y	B	H	S	A	N	R	G	A	S	G	P	R	A	O
R	O	A	M	E	L	R	S	G	L	T	A	M	E	C	S	K	A	G	H
U	N	O	O	L	I	Q	Y	K	L	I	N	U	I	P	Y	C	E	R	A
J	A	H	P	E	N	T	A	L	E	H	D	L	C	N	L	I	U	M	K
E	E	H	S	E	P	A	E	L	D	B	Y	N	U	D	K	R	D	E	C
T	L	Z	D	I	R	S	E	T	F	K	W	L	T	N	T	T	R	T	U
I	D	R	M	R	F	S	R	R	E	I	I	H	K	I	E	A	A	S	T
H	A	N	A	W	A	L	T	T	A	R	N	H	F	W	N	P	K	E	I
W	A	L	L	E	Y	E	E	K	A	L	E	C	L	R	N	Z	N	P	N
C	O	E	U	N	R	L	L	S	D	N	F	L	L	E	K	T	U	I	G
Y	N	O	U	B	S	N	I	L	L	O	R	L	L	B	M	I	D	P	S
G	H	A	D	U	S	J	M	P	A	R	O	O	L	A	F	F	U	B	R
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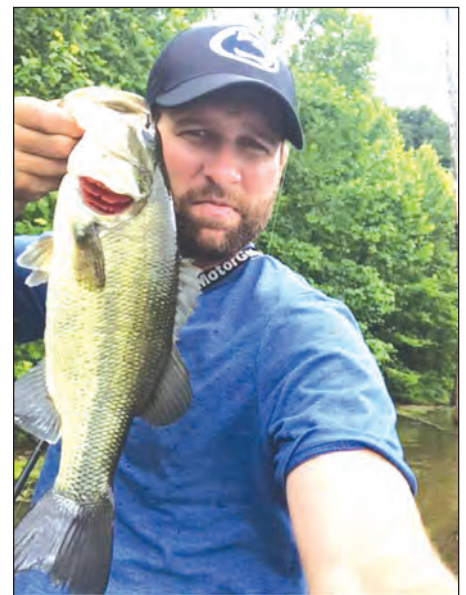
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Dustin Dennis caught a nice bass at North Bend Lake.

## LARGE FISH & GAME PICS WANTED

Clip Out

Name \_\_\_\_\_  
 Address \_\_\_\_\_  
 City \_\_\_\_\_  
 State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_  
 Fish \_\_\_\_\_ Pound \_\_\_\_\_ Oz \_\_\_\_\_  
 Deer \_\_\_\_\_ Other \_\_\_\_\_ #Points \_\_\_\_\_

We are looking for LARGE fish & game pictures from 2019.



**NO  
 DOES**

Send Photo To:

**WVS**  
**P.O. Box 5521**  
**Vienna, WV**  
**26105**

**TEXT 304-482-7217**

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