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Issue 228

April 2013



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TIPS**

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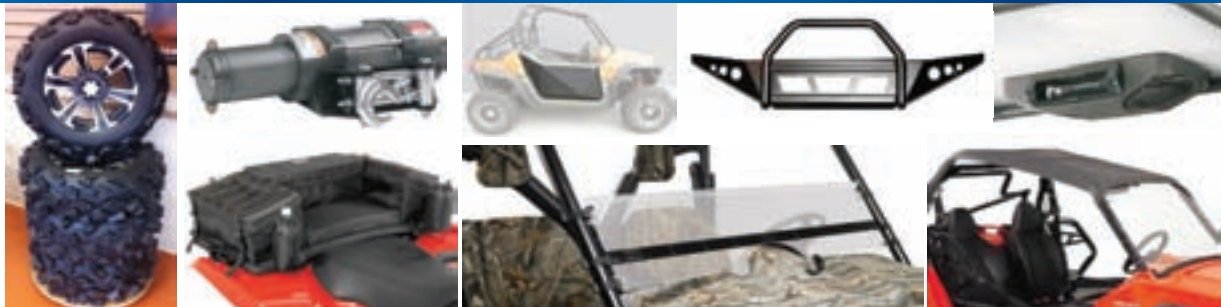
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Cover Photo

While fishing in the first Ohio River Team Tournament out of Moundsville, Larry Vucelich hooked a giant musky on a watermelon tube. It was landed in a creek off the Ohio River. The next tournament is in St. Marys on April 14th. Look for the schedule for 2013 in this months issue.

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Turkey Calls

The tell tale red waddles moving down the ridge gave me plenty of time to prepare myself for the shot. After just a few yelps on my box call, these toms answered with a series of gobbles and hotfooted right to my field. I shut down the calling as they approached and let their curiosity let the best of them. On this day there would be no hesitation. Five big gobblers surrounded my jake decoy. As the second bird raised his head up in a display of dominance, my hot load of #5's immediately placed him at the bottom of the pecking order.

Those birds were loaded with testosterone and more than willing to respond to just about any call. Once I had their attention, more calling would have just fowled up any chances of filling my tag. But turkey calls are fun and turkey calling is what gets most hunters motivated to roll out of bed at insane hours. While I like my trusty box, many veteran hunters will use several different calls during a hunt. There are a multitude of calls available and they all have their advantages and disadvantages.

Push Button Calls

Often called "idiot boxes," these calls are by far the easiest to learn and use. Most veteran hunters wouldn't be caught dead with one. But with some tuning and a minimum amount of work, anyone can make yelps, purrs, and clucks with push button calls. I'll be the first to admit, I have a push button that I still use.. alot. A lot of manufacturers design them to be attached to the stock of your gun. This allows for easy, one-handed operation. The only real disadvantage with push button calls, aside from perhaps the embarrassment factor, is that they are highly sensitive to rain and even high humidity. Moisture can silence the sweet sounds of the push button call in a hurry.

Box calls are also very user friendly, but they are far more versatile. The range of sounds are limitless depending on how you manipulate the paddle while operating the call. In my opinion, a box call is the best long distance call you can use. One of my favorite tricks is to wrap a rubber band around the call

continue to the next page

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and move the paddle slowly. This will make a purring sound that is devastating. Box calls are traditionally made of wood, so rain can do a number on them. However, some call companies are coming out with weatherproof box calls that sound great. You can make a few sounds with one hand, but generally box calls are two handed instruments. This can be a problem if your hunting in close quarters.

Slate Calls

Slate calls are also known as pot calls. They are round discs of slate, ceramic, glass, or other materials paired with a striker. Strikers can be made of wood, carbon, and other materials. Slate calls take a little more work to learn than box calls, but you can make just about every turkey sound under the sun. Another advantage to slate calls is that every striker will make a little different sound. Wood and slate pots can be affected by rain and moisture, but ceramic and glass pots are typically weatherproof.



Carson Bloomingdale, 5 years old, reeled in a big channel catfish.

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The biggest disadvantage to slate calls is that they require two hands to operate.

Diaphragm Calls

These are also known as mouth calls. They are the most difficult to learn but easiest to operate once you have mastered them. Diaphragm calls are obviously weatherproof and they offer hands free operation. But the fact that they are

continue to the next page



Doug Boyles landed a 22" New River smallmouth. *Photo courtesy of 2fishwv.com*



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hard to learn, impossible for some, makes them a no-go for many hunters. They are worth a try. But if you can't figure them out, don't worry. While expert level turkey callers wouldn't leave the house without them, any of the above calls are just as good at luring big gobblers. **Wing Bone Calls**

These are the original turkey calls. Pieces of the wing bone are boiled and the marrow is removed. From there, the pieces are glued together. You can't buy these in the store! They are very simple to operate. You tighten your lips together and make a kissing type sound. This will produce a yelp. Put three or four of those kisses together to make a series of yelps. You don't see a lot of people using wing bone calls but it's fun to use a call you made yourself.

The Camo Glove
This is my favorite turkey call! When turkeys come out of their roost, they are usually hungry. Use your gloves to comb through leaves around you. This will mimic the sound of feeding turkeys and attract birds to your location. It's not something that will draw birds



Matt Booth shot a big racked 10 point in Monroe County.

in from hundreds of yards, but it can help close the deal if you have a bird that is hanging up.



Rhonda Marlow took a nice 11 point buck. *Photo courtesy of Clark's Taxidermy in Parkersburg.*

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Apprentice Hunting License Online

SOUTH CHARLESTON, W.Va. – The West Virginia Apprentice Hunting and Trapping License (Class AH) is now available online, according to Frank Jezioro, director of the West Virginia Division of Natural Resources. The license allows people to try hunting without completing a hunter education course.

“Hunter safety education can be a hurdle for novice hunters and we’re really expecting to see many new hunters take advantage of this opportunity,” said Jezioro. “After these novice hunters get a taste of the experience, we believe they will complete hunter safety courses and become lifetime hunters.”

Apprentice licenses can only be purchased online at: www.wv-hunt.com by people who have not



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previously held a hunting license. Residents who have reached their 18th birthday can purchase a Class AH license for \$19. This license includes the same privileges as a Class A (resident hunting and trapping) license, so holders must buy a Class CS Conservation Stamp.

Nonresidents who have reached their 18th birthday can purchase a Class AAH license for \$119. This license includes the same privileges as a Class E (nonresident

continue to the next page



Jacob Frederick, from Moorefield, caught a nice largemouth bass.

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21 Annual



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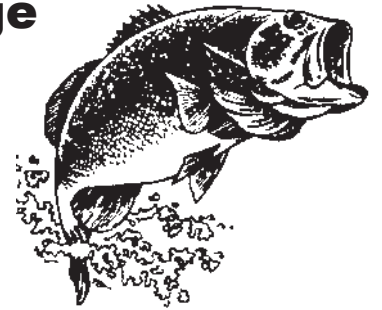
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hunting and trapping) license, so holders must buy a Class CS/LE Conservation Stamp/Law Enforcement stamp.

Resident and nonresident youth ages 15 through 17 can buy a Junior Apprentice Hunting and Trapping License for \$16. The Class AHJ license for residents includes the same privileges as a Class XJ (junior sportsman hunting/trapping/fishing) license. The Class AAHJ license for nonresidents, combined with a Class CS/LE stamp, includes the same privileges as a Class XXJ license.

Hunters may buy up to three apprentice licenses within five consecutive years. Apprentice license holders must be supervised by a licensed hunter at least 18 years of age.

“We’re hoping this license will help us recruit first-time hunters, whether they be youth just getting a start or adults wanting to give

hunting a try,” said Curtis I. Taylor, chief of the Wildlife Resources Section of DNR. “Hunter recruitment is a prime topic around the country and is key to continuing the successful management programs we have implemented in the past.”

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Matt Foutty, from Belpre, used his bow to take this big Washington County 10 point buck.

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Michael Thompson, from Mineralwells, used a bow for this Fayette County 350 pound black bear.



Travis Ashley brought in a big 9 point buck. Photo courtesy of Crossroads General Store near Newark.

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Young Luke Harper brought in a great buck. *Photo courtesy of Boone's Bow Shop in Parkersburg.*

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Darren Pettus, from Parkersburg, used a bow for this nice 11 point.



Tater Wiseman, from Clarksburg, shot a good 8 point buck.

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10 Turkey Hunting Tips

Tips for spring turkey hunting are mostly common sense techniques, but there are a few you might not have in your bag of tricks or may have forgot about. Using these back to basic turkey hunting tips will increase your odds of success while chasing spring gobblers this season.

Don't push it. If you can't call a reluctant tom in close to you, back off and wait. Give him some time and come back later. Most of all, don't aggressively call a turkey that is not responding. A lot of times,

that big gobbler who ignored you all morning might just charge you in the afternoon when his hens are ignoring him. Making a few gentle hen calls might just be enough to entice him.

Don't lose focus when it's quiet. Jakes do strut and gobble but they're less likely than a dominant tom to show off, especially later in the breeding season when they've been whapped on by the big toms. If you don't hear any gobbling anywhere, don't assume there are no
continue to the next page



Ronnie Mundy, from Phillipi, shot a 405 pound black bear.

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turkeys around.

Hunt the edges. Just like with deer hunting, you'll often find turkeys along the edges between wooded habitat and open fields or meadows. Turkeys year-round are looking for good feeding areas with their primary food sources of insects, berries, seeds, or nuts. For a while in the spring, the breeding birds will focus a bit less on food sources and a bit more on each other, but you'll do well to focus on areas close to good feeding areas. If you're out in rainy weather, pay special attention to fields and open areas. Turkeys do exhibit mating behavior on rainy days – they're just a whole lot quieter about it.

Try to put turkeys to bed. If you are out late in the day and you can identify roosting trees where turkeys are spending the night, you're way ahead of the game. Come back a couple hours before dawn and set up in a spot where you're likely to have a shot when they come off their roost.



Joe Richards landed a 37" musky. Photo courtesy of Jarrett's Bait in Elizabeth.

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Calling a reluctant tom. This technique works only with a hunting partner. The shooter should be set up in a spot where he is well hidden – backed up against a big tree, root wad, or a tangle of brush. The caller sets up about 10 yards behind the shooter and is also well hidden. The goal is not to call the bird to the shooter, but past the shooter. If the turkey's attention is focused on the call, he's far less likely to detect the shooter. Make sure you are ready – some shooters have nearly been run over using this maneuver. Call like a turkey.

continue to the next page



Richard Eddie shot a nice buck. Photo courtesy of Andersons Outdoors in Buckhannon.

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Use clucking sounds. A cluck is a turkey's way of getting another turkey's attention. Hens cluck to let a tom know they're waiting for him. Purring, if you do it right, is a soft and contented sound that hens make when all is well with their world. Do not make turkey putt sounds. A turkey putt is an alarm call, consisting of several quick notes. It signals danger to the other birds. A hen's yelp means just about the same thing, but it can have other meanings during the breeding season.

A squealing hen call mimics a breeding hen getting mounted by a tom and could start a breeding frenzy.

Don't use a fly-down call. Turkeys make this cackling noise when they fly down from roosting trees in the dark or right at first light. They make the same sound when they fly over a creek or take off from a ridge or high spot. It signals movement, so don't use it. You should, however, be very familiar with this call because when you hear turkeys do it at dawn – you know they're likely to be on the ground.

Decoy safety tips. Never transport an uncovered turkey decoy – it's a great way to get shot. Be sure you set up in a spot with a tree or other large object behind you that is wider than your shoulders and taller than your head. Set up your decoy about 20 yards from your spot and make sure you have a clear line of sight for at least 50 to 100 yards if possible. If you spot another hunter, call out and let them know where you are.

Take care of your calling tools. If you use a box call, keep it clean
continue to the next page

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Bobby Lanham, from Virginia, shot a WV 10 point buck.



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and keep your fingers off the striking surface. Do not use sandpaper on a box call. Don't use anything but box call chinks – carpenter's chalk or teacher's chalk works fine but don't use it on the beveled edges. If you use a slate call, keep your fingers off the striking area. A slate call (which might actually be made of aluminum or glass) will last for many years if you keep it clean and store it in a plastic bag in a cool dry place. You can sand the surface of a slate call with sandpaper, a stone, or steel wool but don't rub it back and forth – you should sand in just one direction.

Make safety a priority. According to the National Safety Council, hunters suffer fewer injuries than athletes involved in tennis, cycling, and even bowling. The most common turkey hunting accident is

a hunter who gets shot – because he was mistaken for a turkey. According to the International Hunter Education Association, there were only 5 fatal accidents (across Canada, the U.S. and Mexico) involving turkey hunters, and 107 non-fatal accidents. Just 6 percent of two-party hunting accidents were fatal, but you don't want to be a statistic.

Basic safety rules for turkey hunters:

Don't aim anything but binoculars at a turkey before you identify its head and beard.

Be certain of your target but also continue to the next page



JD Barnette shot a big 12 point buck. *Photo courtesy of Crossroads General Store near Newark.*

April 2013 ~ Page 16

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April 14 - Sun - St. Marys

April 28 - Sun - Moundsville

May 19 - Sun - St. Marys

June 16 - Sun - Moundsville

June 30 - Sun - St. Marys

July 28 - Sun - Moundsville

Aug 4 - Sun - St. Marys

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of what's behind it.

Don't ever shoot at movement or sound. Until you see a turkey, assume it's a hunter.

When you're moving around before or after you set up in a stand, wear orange.

Flag your stand with orange tape – whether it's an actual ground blind, tree stand, or just the spot where you're sitting.

Do not wear turkey colors – hunters wearing red, white, or blue are

more likely to be shot.

If you give a spring gobbler a little space and don't push him, he's more likely to come to you in the afternoon or on the next day. Seek out good feeding areas and focus on the edges of habitat to increase your odds of finding birds.

Know how to call properly and how to take care of your calls. Focus on safety – you don't want to be a statistic. Practice these spring turkey hunting tips and increase your chances of success this turkey season.

The WV season opens April 22 to May 18 - hunt safely.



76 year old Thomas Scherich shot a nine point buck and a coyote on the same day in Pendelton County.

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April Wonderful WV Featured Articles

SOUTH CHARLESTON, W.Va.
 – The April 2013 issue of Wonderful West Virginia, now on sale, celebrates 50 years of the famous centennial golden trout, along with articles and photos about some of the most interesting people and places in the Mountain State. The cover is a striking close-up of a group of the popular golden trout that is treasured by anglers from across the nation.

Hiking Historic Nuttallburg

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ment of victory arrives. This is the mark of a true turkey hunter.

Wonderful West Virginia magazine, the state's premier full-color magazine of outdoor adventure, is published monthly by the West Virginia Division of Natural Resources. It is available at newsstands for \$3 a copy, or by subscription by

calling 1-800-225-5982 or online at www.wonderfulwv.com. You can subscribe for one year for \$18 or two years for \$36.

Subscribe now to be assured of receiving the special "Day in the Life" June 2013 all-photo issue celebrating West Virginia's sesquicentennial!

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 Details On Page 3



Matt Huffman used a bow for this large buck. Photo courtesy of Boone's Bow Shop in Parkersburg.

2012 Big Game Bulletin Available

SOUTH CHARLESTON, W.Va. – The 2012 West Virginia Big Game Bulletin is available at Division of Natural Resources district offices, the Elkins operations center and on the agency's website, according to Curtis I. Taylor, Chief of the Wildlife Resources Section.

The Big Game Bulletin supplies the public with the annual white-

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tailed deer, wild turkey, black bear and wild boar harvests. In addition, harvests by season, county and wildlife management area are displayed in the publication.

“The Big Game Bulletin equips hunters with a wealth of data and information that may help them

plan their next hunt. The publication also has updates on current big game research and monitoring projects,” said Taylor.

To view the 2012 Big Game Bulletin, look under “Hunting” on the Division of Natural Resources website at www.wvdnr.gov.

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April 2013 ~ Page 19

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Tommy Thompson, from Beverly, shot a nice fall gobbler.



Gary Mitchell, from Phillipi, used a big gun for this coyote.



Derrick Dillon hooked a 4 1/4 pound smallmouth. Photo courtesy of PC Bait & Tackle in Hinton.



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William Kirby shot a big 11 point.
Photo courtesy of Crossroads General Store near Newark.



Steve Slack caught & released this 21 1/2" Elk River smallmouth.



Baldy & Caleb Smith had fun going after these rabbits.

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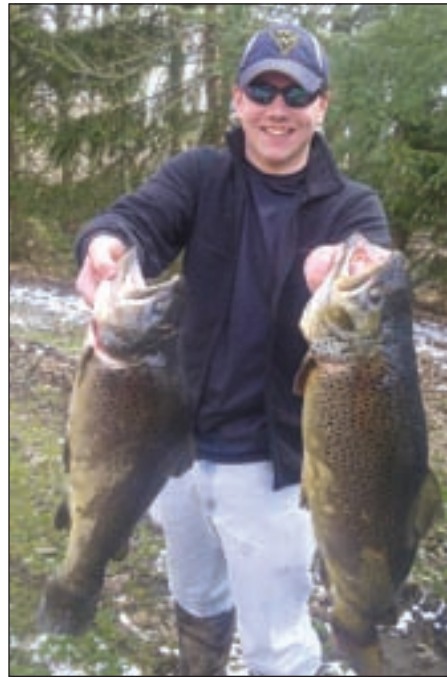


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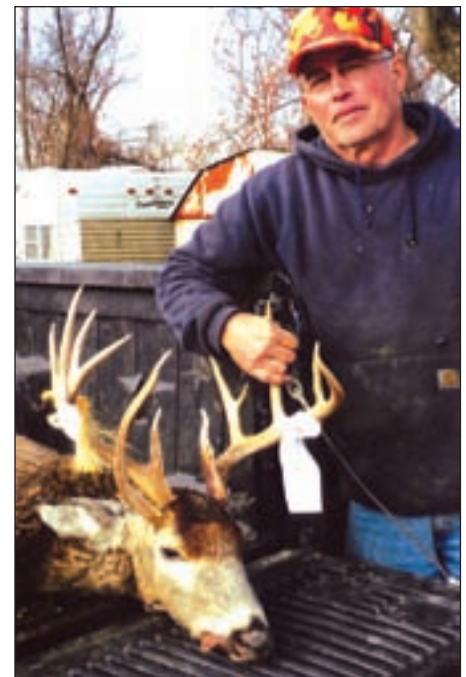
14
Acre Lake



Larry Vucelich hooked this big drum at a bass tournament.



Seth Conley, from Summersville, hooked an 8 1/2 & 10 1/2 brown.



Bill Mason's buck has another antler coming out below the brows.

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More Turkey Hunting Tips

With the burgeoning explosion of wild turkey populations, most hunters think that you can just jump in your car and go out and quick-like get a 25-pound wild turkey. You MAY get "lucky," but in order to be consistently successful, you must do your "scouting."

Every year is different for spring turkey hunting. You never know where the turkeys are going to be. There may snow on the ground; there may be a real early spring; it may be warm or cold -- one never knows. So you need to do some pre-season scouting to see where the birds are going to be localized.

Before you start scouting, however, you've got to get permission from a local farmer to hunt his/her land! And that isn't difficult. Farmers HATE wild turkeys. Deer will cause problems for farmers, but NOTHING like turkeys do. Turkeys do far more damage to crops than the deer herd. Turkeys eat the

seeds from a farmer's planting, so nothing grows. Turkeys indeed will often literally follow a farmer as he plants his seeds in the spring, and they eat the seeds as they're being planted. Now, there's nothing wrong with using public hunting land, but it's a lot easier to hunt private farmland. The turkeys know where the food is!

Once you've gotten permission -- a courteous phone call to someone, a pleasant knock on the door at a reasonable day and hour -- a small gift -- a "referral" from a friend. Be nice. It works. Farmers are good people and will generally welcome you with open arms if you're decent; if you set up in your chosen area the night before your hunt; and "put the birds to bed."

Set up near where the birds are seen, and then wait for them to roost. Don't get too close. Check out the birds with binoculars, they could be clean across a field, maybe two-three hundred yards away. Turkeys are skittish, have superb eyesight, and will catch any movement instantly, and then they'll be spooked.

. If you've done your homework right, the birds will come to YOU, and you'll be home eating turkey.

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Keith McCord, from Roanoke, shot nice 8 point buck.

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Remembering Doug Hannon

TAMPA, Fla., -- 4/1/2013 -- Doug Hannon, a legend in the fishing world known as the "Bass Professor" whose unique expertise in a wide range of design skills and academic subjects in and outside of angling, died Thursday at his home in Keystone, a north Tampa suburb.

Hannon was 66.

He recently had neck surgery and was recovering at home said friend Russ Riley, a family spokesman and president of WaveSpin/MicroWave, a fishing components design company Hannon launched eight years ago, and which he served as its chief engineer.

Hannon the inventor

Hannon, who was best known by recreational anglers for catching-and-releasing over 800 largemouth bass of 10 or more pounds, also had nearly 20 patents for numerous fishing tackle, lures and boating propulsion designs. After its launch last summer Hannon was again riding the crest of worldwide acclaim with his newest innovation the MicroWave Line Control System by American Tackle, introduced at fall and winter fishing



A nice 20" New River smallmouth was caught in March. Photo courtesy of 2fishwv.com

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and trade shows in Australia, Asia, and Europe and recently in North America. A key component for light tackle spinning and casting rods called a guide train, Hannon's new light weight advancement gives anglers longer and more accurate casts with far less vibration and friction to the line.

Doug Hannon

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Don Midkiff, from Parkersburg, hooked a nice Muskingum River smallmouth bass.

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across the globe with increasing sales to major rod builders, Hannon had been scheduled for more fishing show appearances in the U.S., said Riley.

"He was deeply analytical and had an exceptional ability to visualize and solve complex issues, especially when it came to fishing tackle, lures and components geared to helping anglers enjoy the sport," he said. "You could instantly see and feel his passion when he was showing anglers at fishing shows

continue to the next page

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his engineering designs in use such as casting and catching fish. He absolutely loved the sport.”

Hannon had also recently re-invented the spinning reel naming his new advancement WaveSpin based on its “radical” wave spool design, the antithesis of the spinning reel’s smooth face fabrication found on all other reels for over 60 years. The WaveSpin reel eliminates birds’ nests giving tens of thousands of anglers using it long “tangle-free” effortless casts.

Hannon’s WaveSpin spool design won virtually every award including the “Best of the Best” from Field & Stream Magazine. It was hailed as the “first significant ad-



Danny Frazier landed 2 early season smallmouth bass. *Photo courtesy of Three Rivers Edge in Hinton.*

vancement in spin fishing in more than 50 years,” by Outdoor Life Magazine and has been used since 2009 as the “Official Spinning Reel of Walt Disney World Guided Fishing Excursions” becoming popular among families usually fishing for the first time, because of its tangle-free feature.

With the growth and popularity of bass fishing, one of his earlier inventions introduced four decades ago was of the weedless trolling motor blade. It allowed anglers to fish vast areas of previously inaccessible weed beds where bass live and is still used by millions of anglers today. It also put him in the fishing world spotlight.

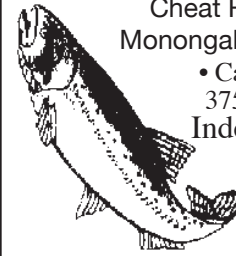
Hannon was hailed by Outdoor Life as one of the O.L. 25: people “whose lifetime achievement has had the greatest positive influence on hunting and fishing.” In 2000 he was inducted into the Freshwater Fishing Hall of Fame in Hayward, Wisc.

“Doug was not only the brains behind so many designs like the WaveSpin Reel and the Micro-Wave, he was also the heart and soul,” said a saddened Riley. “Anglers found him to be very approachable.

“It will be extremely hard without him but Doug and his business partners mapped out great plans for the future of the company. Doug laid the ground work for this com-

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pany to continue on and be very successful, not only with his recent technology now on the market, but with several other designs in the wings,” said Riley.

Top angler and observer of nature
continue to the next page



Junior Rooker reeled in an early smallmouth bass. *Photo courtesy of Three Rivers Edge in Hinton.*

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Details On Page 3

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Besides his recent success as a fishing tackle and components inventor Hannon documented the catch-and-release of more than 800 largemouth bass weighing 10 pounds or greater to his credit, making him one of the country's preeminent big-bass authorities. He was also a highly skilled diver, underwater photographer, author, filmmaker and lure designer.

The legendary angler and renowned bass fishing expert was one of the long time hosts on ESPN's Sportsman's Challenge TV series. He spoke and wrote about the battles to stop the irresponsible use of herbicides in the nation's waterways.

As one of the world's greatest authorities on bass fishing Hannon wrote hundreds of magazine and newspaper articles on his observations. He also penned three books, Hannon's Field Guide for Bass Fishing, Catch Bass, and Big Bass Magic. He filmed and produced videos with 3M called Understanding Bass, Catching Big Bass, and Bass-Formula for Success, which among them won Cleo and Teddy awards.

He published the Hannon Moon Times nationally for TV, magazines, newspapers, and radio and an annual pocket guide for anglers called the Moon Clock now in its 32nd year.

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Through his TV work and tips at fishing shows, Hannon gained a following of thousands of friends in the fishing community and often was called on to speak worldwide on his fishing knowledge. He introduced tips to millions of anglers enriching their enjoyment of fishing, along with many celebrities among them the late General H. Norman Schwarzkopf who he taught how to fly fish for bass.

Born in Winnipeg, Manitoba in 1946 to a Canadian mother and a father from Texas, Hannon moved to the United States at the age of seven. He attended Governor Dummer Academy in South Byfield, Mass., and went onto Tulane University in New Orleans, La., to complete a B.A. degree. He was also an accomplished guitarist playing in rock and roll bands there, and developed a lifelong love for running.

Editors Note:

I purchased a Wave Spin reel last year off the internet. It eliminates the line twist that I always get,

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Gerald Matheny hooked a nice musky. Photo courtesy of Jarrett's Bait in Elizabeth.

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Early Season Bass

It seems that the weather has been more up and down this year than usual, which makes it even harder to get dialed in to where the bass are and what they're doing. Despite the dramatic weather swings this spring, though, the fish in general are gradually moving up toward their spawning areas.

With the erratic weather in mind, some of the best places to count on now are transition banks, places where one type of bottom gives way to another or where there are depth changes. For instance, this might be where a bluff bank transitions into a more angled bottom, or where that last little bit of deep water in the back of a bay bumps up

against a shallow flat. Bass stage in areas like these.

When we have a couple of days of cooler, cloudy weather, a lot of times the fish will back off into the deeper water and take an umbrella rig or a suspending Rapala Husky Jerk. If there's a stretch of warmer, sunny weather, the bass might spread out over a flat where you can catch them on a Shad Rap or Rippin' Rap. When you fish a transition bank in early spring, try it all – there's no set rule. Sometimes a slight adjustment of a few hundred yards and a lure change can make all the difference.

Good luck on your 2013 fishing season.



Brad Teter, from Martinsburg, got a fall gobbler in Randolph County.

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Rob Law arrowed a large carp.

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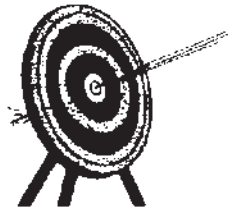


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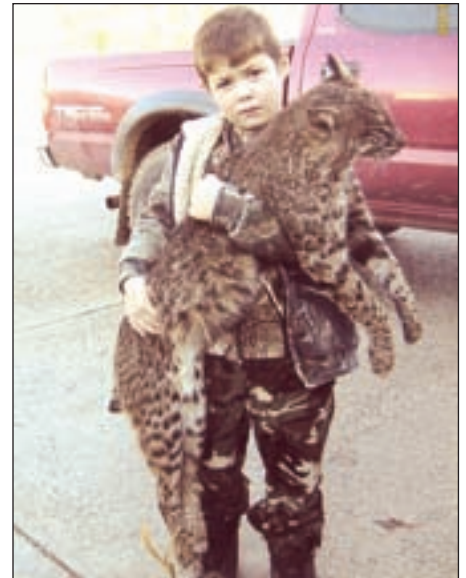
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Kolton Toler is holding a 23 pound bobcat. Photo courtesy of Jarrett's Bait in Elizabeth.



Hunter Reveal, 7 years old, caught a 4 1/2 pound bass at a farm pond.



Lonnie Price Jr. used a bow for a massive Raleigh Co. 10 pointer.



Nick Jones trapped a good sized bobcat.

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Rob Neal hooked a nice rainbow trout. *Photo courtesy of PC Bait & Tackle in Hinton.*



Johnny Bowe landed a hybrid out of the Muskingum River.

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Mark Burns brought in a big bobcat. *Photo courtesy of Crossroads General Store near Newark.*



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Jalen Cook, from Logan, caught a large brown trout.



Ron Bachman, from Wheeling, shot a big 10 point buck.



Shelia Walton went to Barbour Co. for this quality 9 point buck.



Young Ashton Melrose bagged a big buck. *Photo courtesy of Clark's Taxidermy in Parkersburg.*



Jason Conner, from Proctor, used a bow for this nice 10 point buck.

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Fishing Line

Q: BRAID, FLUOROCARBON, MONOFILAMENT — WHICH SHOULD I USE?

Expert: Bobby Lane, Lakeland, Fla. — 2008 Bassmaster Rookie of the Year, Elite Series champion and six-time Bassmaster Classic qualifier

There's a place for all three line types in your bass fishing, and I carry all three with me every time I'm on the water.

Here's how I break them down.

Braid

Braided lines have been around a long time — longer than monofilament or fluorocarbon, though most of us grew up using mono. The ad-



Paul Hackney, from Dunbar, shot an 8 point buck.

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GAME CHECKING

vantages of braid are its incredible strength despite its small diameter and that it has no stretch. It's extremely castable.

The only disadvantage of traditional braided lines is that they may be more visible to bass than monofilament or fluorocarbon. In heavy cover or low light conditions, though, that probably doesn't matter.

I use Spiderwire braid for about 50 percent of my bass fishing and carry it in three line sizes — 10-, 50- and 65-pound test. I use the 10-pound Spiderwire on spinning tackle and the heavier sizes on casting gear. I use 50- and 65-pound braid only when fishing single-hook lures like worms and jigs. It's the ideal line for flipping heavy cover, and unlike some other anglers I never use a fluorocarbon or monofila-

ment leader with the heavy braid; I use only the braid. An extra knot is something that can go wrong, and I don't want that with my tournament fishing.

In all my years of competitive fishing with Spiderwire, I've never
continue to the next page



This hunter brought in a good buck. Photo courtesy of Boone's Bow Shop in Parkersburg.

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broken a fish off using their braid. It's extremely reliable.

Fluorocarbon

Fluorocarbon came around first as a leader material, and it's only been in the past decade or so that fluorocarbon lines became limp and castable enough to use as the main lines on spinning and casting reels.

The big advantages of fluorocarbon are its relative invisibility and lack of stretch. Because it has about the same refractive qualities as water, it's hard to see underwater, and though it stretches some, it's more sensitive than monofilament.

If fluorocarbon has any disadvantages, it's that it sinks and may not be as abrasion-resistant as monofilament. That makes it a poor choice for floating lures. I also tend to use other line types when fishing really heavy cover where I expect my line to get nicked up.

I use Spiderwire Ultracast 100% Fluorocarbon in sizes ranging from 6- to 25-pound-test. I like it with treble-hooked baits like crankbaits and jerkbaits. It has tremendous castability and very little stretch. Occasionally I pair up 10-pound-test braided line with a short (2- to 3-foot) fluorocarbon leader on

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spinning gear. That gives me really long casts with almost no stretch. I use a double Uni-knot to connect the braid to the fluorocarbon leader, and I use a very short leader so that the knot doesn't have to run through the tip-top guide on the cast.

My favorite knot for fluorocarbon is the improved clinch knot. That's the only one I use to tie baits to fluorocarbon line.

Monofilament

Monofilament has been around
continue to the next page



Max Hesch, from Parkersburg, gunned an 8 point buck.

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for more than 50 years, and it was just about the only kind of line that bass anglers used for most of that time. It's very castable, not very visible to the fish and it floats, so it's the natural choice for floating baits. It also stretches more than braid or fluorocarbon, which can be good or bad.

I use Spiderwire Ultracast Ultimate Mono in all sizes between 10- and 20-pound-test, and I use it in ways lots of other anglers don't — at least not anymore — because it works for me. Of course, I use it for floating topwater baits because I don't want a highly visible line (braid) or a line that sinks (fluorocarbon).

I also like mono for fishing certain treble-hooked lures like diving and lipless crankbaits. There, the stretch offered by mono is an advantage. It makes it tougher for bass to "throw" the lures during the fight. The stretch is also helpful when it's cold or the bass are finicky and you need them to hold the bait just an instant longer so you can hook them.

One place I use mono that might surprise a lot of people is with my worm fishing — Texas rigging or Carolina rigging. I think it holds up better around rocks, brush and shell beds than fluorocarbon. And even though it has more stretch than fluorocarbon, I can compensate for that with a heavier rod. By using a mono main line and leader, I can give my baits more lift with a

Carolina rig. The baits won't drag the bottom as much as they do with fluorocarbon, and that means more bites.

Good luck and happy fishing.



Richard Crawford, from Glen Jean, shot a nice 13 point buck..

3 Keys To Catch Spawning Bass

Big Bass" Bobby Lane is an expert when it comes to taking giants during the spawning season

Florida native Bobby Lane knows how to catch big, spawning female bass.

He's boated nearly thirty 10-pounders in his life, and many of those came off beds. His biggest, an 11.8, was caught from Lake Toho in a tournament in which he caught four over 10 pounds.

"I've spent a lot of time studying big spawners and learned a lot about how they react and what it takes to catch them," said Lane. "These are tactics I've found to work all around the country — not just in Florida."

Be stealthy

Giant bass don't grow big being stupid. That doesn't mean you can't catch one on your first cast, but it does mean you need to move stealthily.

"Big bass tend to spawn in the same areas of a lake," he explained. "When I go in those areas, I do so as quietly and unnoticed as possible."

continue to the next page

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“Big fish like to spawn shallow — less than a foot and half at times,” he offered. “A trolling motor not only disturbs the water, but stirs up the bottom.”

He keeps his back to the sun, and he turns off his sonar to eliminate the underwater pinging noise the graph emits.

“Your success will go up 85 percent by simply keeping the sun to your back and limiting movements and noises,” he added.

Assess the area

When a bed or big bass is spotted, Lane assesses the area around it.

“If a bass leaves the bed when spooked, I will watch her and look at nearby cover and bottom to determine what she might do,” he described.

A spooked bass will be watching you, he added, so remain still. Think about where she will seek comfort before moving back to the bed.

“Also, make sure there isn’t a male bumping on the female because you’re probably not going to catch that fish,” added Lane. “Mark

the bed and come back to her at a later time.”

Be patient

Most anglers are too anxious to cast at a bass that’s moving on or off a bed. If a fish spooks, Lane will watch the direction she enters and leaves the bed and cast to it only when he believes she isn’t looking. He doesn’t want her to see the bait go in.

“I let the bait sit on the bed until the bass comes back and don’t



Lee Richards, from Parkersburg, shot an 8 point buck

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GAME CHECKING



move it until she settles down,” Lane described. “You’ve got to make her feel it’s safe.”

If she’s swimming around the bed or appears to be jittery, he hesitates.

“When she’s calm, I’ll barely move or wiggle the bait to see if I get a reaction,” he described. “I’m less concerned about the bait and more observant of the fish.”

continue to the next page



Kaiden Jae, from Williamstown, took a nice 11 point.

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He watches for the fish's tail to quiver or for her to spin and look at the bait. That's an indication she's ready to bite it.

"If she swims off, I might wait her out and repeat the action when she comes back," Lane offered. "But if she moves off again, I'll probably leave her alone, and come back and try in the afternoon when the water is a little warmer or the fish is a little more active."



Chris Amos, from New Martinsville, shot a nice 10 point buck.

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Raymond Snyder, from Ridgeley, used a bow for a great 12 point.



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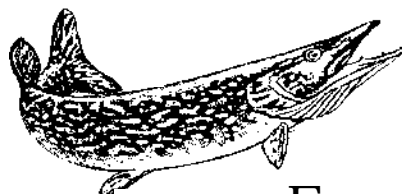
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