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Issue 229

May 2013



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ARCTIC CAT & SUZUKI BLOW-OUT!



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Cover Photo

The big smallmouth bass are in the Ohio River. Scott Bayless landed a 6 pound even smallmouth at a recent bass event. The Ohio River has been great for the past few years. Have some fun and visit the river this season.

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Send in your fishing pics from 2013. Look for a form on page 38 this month.

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The Polar Express

I know, at first, you readers will think I'm way early writing about a train trip to the North Pole in November and December in order to see Santa. But there is a reason I'm pushing the season that will become clear soon enough.

For the last two Christmas Seasons the Durbin & Greenbrier Valley Railroad, out of Elkins, has run this trip to the delight of its thousands of passengers. The railroad company has a three year agreement with Warner Brothers out of Hollywood and Rail Events, Inc. to put on this nostalgic extravaganza, called The Polar Express.

The trip from Elkins to The North Pole (Belington terminal) follows the script from the 2004 movie, The Polar Express, starring Tom Hanks. The movie was taken from a children's classic book of the same name. It's about a doubting boy that takes this magical journey on a Christmas Eve. The original

By Jim Wilson

Warner Bros. soundtrack is played over the sound system on the train. There are dancing chefs and elves roaming the isles serving hot chocolate and talking to the kids on the way to The North Pole.

There are only 29 licensed tourist trains in the United States authorized to use this Warner Bros. copyrighted material. They get a percentage of tickets sold. There is a huge commitment on the part of the D & GV R Corporation to secure these rights, but that is not germane to this article.

The purpose is to give you readers advance notice of the 2013 trips so you may secure tickets before they are sold out. These tickets are reservation only. The first year 5900 tickets were sold and last year 9600 passengers rode the train. But the rides are all sold out by mid-summer. I know that many of you readers, that have kids or grandkids who still believe in the magic

continue to the next page

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Pat Webber had turkey success with a nice bird. Photo courtesy of Anderson Otdoors in Buckhannon.



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of Christmas, will want to take this surreal trip. So this is your cue to get reservations and put them in the bank!!

Kids wear their pajamas just as in the movie. There are two trips per day when the Polar Express runs its mid-November thru mid-December trips. The first train leaves the Elkins downtown depot around 5pm and the other at 7:30. It's about a 90 minute roundtrip for the six passenger cars that make up the train. Each car holds a little over 30 people.

The D & GVR hires actors to follow the script in the movie. These actors are members of the Old Brick Playhouse in Elkins. There is an hour of pre-departure festivities at the Elkins depot designed to entertain the kids while waiting to board. Jugglers, magic tricks and a chef's parade from the Old Brick Playhouse to the depot are part of

the celebration. Even engineers assigned to take letters from the kids to Santa are included.

The Belington Revitalization Committee is in charge of lighting up the North Pole at the depot there. Wooden frameworks and dazzling lights depict Santa's home town and workshops. Santa and the elves await the arrival of the Polar Express. Upon the much anticipated arrival, Santa boards the train with his bag of presents. Each passenger receives a gift. It is the special

gift from the book and movie. If you shake the bell and it rings, you are a believer! If it doesn't ring, you are not!

The first year this special train made its runs, the license-agreement had not been in effect long enough to give the public the advance publicity it warranted. So many dozens of people were turned away at the depot because of being sold out. Train owners, John and Kathy Smith, were themselves amazed at

continue to the next page



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the demand and hated turning people away.

Last year more trips were added and more publicity was in effect. This writer did a full feature article on the Polar Express for Wonderful West Virginia magazine's November, 2012, issue. The publication came out in early October, but the trips were all sold out by then, even by adding about 3,700 more seats. I'll admit there is another reason I'm writing this piece. All the material I got when writing about the trip last year was second-handed. The people I interviewed were bedazzled even weeks and months later, both believers and those that had passed that stage. I wanted some of that magic, myself. I made arrangements with John and Kathy to do just that.

But I wanted to take this magical journey with some believers that I personally knew. Sure enough some good friends of mine had reservations for a December trip. I met Becky Sharp and her step-daughter, Blair Campbell and Blair's two children at the depot. Blair is the owner of Pretty Penny Café in Hillsboro, Pocahontas Co. This unique new restaurant was featured in April, 2013, issue of WWV magazine. Four-year-old Penelope Josephine and two-year-old Oliver Sage were ready and rearing to get the conductors loud announcement, "All Aboard, All Aboard! All Aboard for the Polar Express to the North Pole!

Pajama clad wide-eyed kids and even some wide-eyed adults adorned in same clambered aboard and took their places in assigned cars. The Tygart Flyer engine had been idling for several minutes. Slowly, but surely it chugged out of the depot with a loud CHOO-CHOO! The soundtrack was turned

on and the conductor made his rounds punching tickets and chatting up the passengers. The excitement inside the cars was like static electricity! The trip had begun.

Don't worry folks, I'm not going
continue to the next page



Don Salisbury brought in a wild tukey again. Photo courtesy of Crossroads General Store near Newark.



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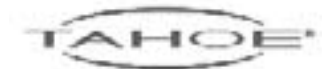
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give away anymore of the trip. It must be experienced! I chatted with Becky and Blair, but out of the corner of my eyes I watched Jose and Oliver the whole time. The mounting excitement as we neared the North Pole was almost palatable. Santa, by his sled was observed, and watching the kids shout "Santa!" with their eyeballs glued to the glass windows was magic! When he came aboard our car with bags of presents slung over his shoulder.... it was magic!

This was a moment in time that no believer or those of us who had lost that innocence would ever forget. No folks, I am not a shill for the railroad, but I know magic when I see it...that's MAGIC, all caps!

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21 Annual



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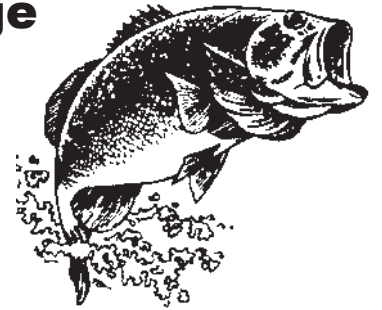
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Mika Belt shot a 21 lb. bird. Photo courtesy of Jarrett's Bait in Elizabeth.



John King, from Pennsboro, used an 1858 14 guage muzzleloader to take this gobbler. He has used it for around 50 years - still knocks them out.

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- Support Hunting & Fishing Rates On Page 3

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Tyler Turner went to the Hughes River for these. *Photo courtesy of Crossroads General Store near Newark.*



Randy Lilly hooked a large New River smallmouth bass. *Photo courtesy of PC Bait & Tackle in Hinton.*



Mike Murray had success with a nice gobbler. *Photo courtesy of Crossroads General Store near Newark.*

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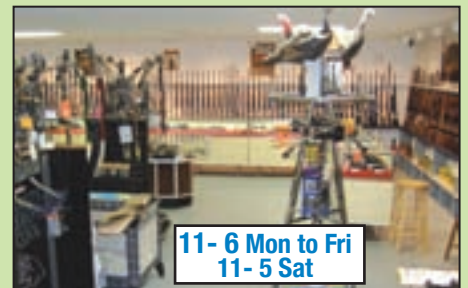
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Young Ryan Smith bagged his first wild turkey, 19.4 lbs. *Photo courtesy of Mr. Clean in Glenville.*

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Josette White went to Fayette Co. for a 26 pound gobbler.



Jack Buckbee, from Ravenswood, shot a 22 pound wild turkey.

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 Details On Page 3

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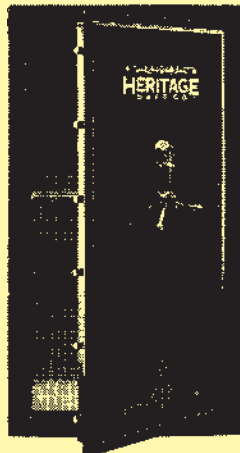
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Catfish Stocking Begins In Mid-May

PARKERSBURG, W.Va. – Catfish stocking begins in mid-May in West Virginia, and that provides another opportunity to encourage youth and families to get outdoors. Others include Kids to Parks Day on May 18, National Get Outdoors Day on June 8, and National Fishing and Boating week, June 1 -9. The latter includes Free Fishing days on June 8 and June 9 in West Virginia.

Fishing is especially attractive to youngsters and is a West Virginia tradition. Catfishing opportunities are available at many lakes in West Virginia's State Parks in addition to stream and river fishing for other fish species.

“I got hooked on fishing at an early age,” said Kristi Steed, group sales coordinator at North Bend State Park. “My dad took me hunting and fishing as a child. I watched

my son catch his first fish and for our family, a tradition continues.”

“Catfishing is increasing in popularity with young people,” according Frank Jezioro, director of the West Virginia Division of Natural Resources. “Catchable-size catfish are stocked at user friendly lakes across the state as one of our warm-water fisheries programs.”

The DNR Wildlife Resources Section and West Virginia's state parks have teamed to make catfishing even more rewarding. Tagged channel catfish will be stocked into lakes at these state parks in mid-

May: Cacapon (Morgan Co.), Cedar Creek (Gilmer Co.), Chief Logan (Logan Co.), Pipestem (Summers Co.), and Tomlinson Run (Hancock Co.). Anglers who catch a tagged fish are asked to return the tag or the tag number along with information on the date of capture, if the fish was kept or released, and the name and address of the angler to WVDNR, 2311 Ohio Ave, Parkersburg, WV 26101. Anglers also can call in the information (304-420-4550) or provide the information via e-mail dnrfishtags@wv.gov

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A 20" New River smallmouth was hooked. *Photo courtesy of 2fishwv.com*

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- * June 28 - 29...Catfish Hole Car Classic. Bluegrass Band Music/Car Show 11am to 4pm Biggest 3 fish each night awarded 1st \$250, 2nd \$100 & 3rd \$50 (must be entered in biggest fish contest to win \$\$\$) Hourly Jackpot Winners/Additional Jackpots
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- * August 30-31...Labor Day Luau. Pig Roast & Brown Beans Sat, Aug 31st. Biggest fish of the year trophy & purse. Extra \$50 added each night to the biggest fish jackpot.

Anglers who report a tagged fish will receive the "tagged reward," park information, a certificate and a letter of congratulations via US mail after the information is received and recorded by DNR fisheries biologists. Each certificate has a choice of three prizes: a train ride at Cass Scenic Railroad, a boat ride on the sternwheeler "Island Belle" to Blennerhassett Island or a Recreational Activity Pass at Pipestem resort.

Other state park area lakes stocked with catfish but not tagged include: Berwind Lake (McDowell Co.), Laurel Lake (Mingo Co.), Little Beaver State Park Lake (Raleigh Co.), North Bend State Park Pond (Ritchie Co.), and Watoga State Park Lake (Pocahontas Co.).

Fishing at state parks and forests requires a West Virginia fishing license for anyone age 15 and older except for the free fishing days scheduled June 8 and 9, 2013. Also, residents who turn age 65 after January 1, 2012, are required to purchase a Senior Lifetime License.

There is no admission charge to state-operated parks and forests to go fishing. More than 30 areas in the West Virginia state parks system offer fishing opportunities on-site. Catfish stocking is in addition to spring trout stocking at many state park and forest locations.

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stockings visit www.wvdnr.gov. For more about West Virginia's state park system and outdoor activities in May and June, visit www.wvstateparks.com and click Event Calendar.

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Form On Page 38



Nolan Smallridge shot a good bird.
Photo courtesy of Andersons Outdoors in Buckhannon.

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Spring Swim Baits

Hey folks, it's springtime. That means the water's at or above the 58-60 degree mark almost everywhere. You might want to start thinking about putting your hard jerkbait away in favor of a soft swimbait, but not just any soft swimbait.

You want one that has good tail action at slow speeds. A swimbait that lacks tail motion is useless. The easiest way to test one is to drag it real slow past your boat. If it glides or doesn't have serious tail movement, put it back. It won't catch them. My preference is the Rago BV 3D. (Tightlines has a UV version of it.) Berkley and Basstrix also make good ones.

When you choose a color and a size you must match the hatch. There are no exceptions to this rule. And I'm not talking about threadfin shad and other tiny forage, either. I'm talking about the bigger things that pose a threat to the bass' nest — bluegill, crappie, bullheads or whatever else is in your lake or river.

The importance of this can't be overstated. If it doesn't look real, you're wasting your time fishing with it. Bass do not strike at swimbaits because of instinct. Regardless of whether a bass is going to their nest, on it or leaving it they have an innate instinct to clear the area. Sometimes they kill and eat, and sometimes they just kill. Either way, you can catch them if your swimbait looks like something they've seen before.

Another important thing about springtime swimbait fishing is that your best bite will be in the late afternoon — after 2:00 for sure. Sometimes there's a very early bite

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right at daybreak, but it tends to be light and sporadic. Don't depend on it. Avoid the hours between 9:00 and 1:00 at all cost. They're killers. It's cast after cast with nothing happening.

I'm guessing that the late afternoon bite is so good is because the water warms up during the afternoon. Spring nights are cool, sometimes downright cold. That slows down the bigger bass, the ones that'll chase a big swimbait.

continue to the next page



Young Ethan Barker hooked several crappie.

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They need some extra warmth to get going.

Make long casts. This is not target fishing. You're covering water, often water that looks ordinary and barren. Bring your swimbait back as slow as possible in a straight line with a low-speed reel — if you don't have a bow in your line, you're fishing way too fast — and keep your lure down, near the bottom. In fact, I like to bump the bottom occasionally with mine.

Winding a swimbait back slowly is every bit as important as matching the hatch. It's really easy to fish one too fast. Guys do it all the time. I can't tell you how often I see this happening. It's so frustrating to me. They aren't catching anything, and they're blaming the lure. They should be blaming themselves.



Derrick Wood caught a 4 1/2 lb. smallie. *Photo courtesy of PC Bait & Tackle in Hinton.*

Late Season Turkey Hunting

When it comes to applying for turkey permits, my last few seasons have been a comedy of errors. I've either forgotten to apply for a tag or drawn a time period that I could not hunt for one reason or another. This has forced me to hunt late in the year because the only time periods available for over-the-counter purchase were late season tags. Guess what? I'll be hunting late this season as well. My wife has a bun in the oven and the baby is expected to arrive in early April. That means I won't be released to hunt until early May. Hunting late has become a science for me. Hopefully, these tips will work if you find yourself turkey hunting late in the year.

Roost Birds

This is obviously a good idea for any turkey hunt. But it's even more important early in the year. Use the evening to locate and watch birds roost. If you are hunting a familiar area, you probably already know the likely spots. All that is necessary is confirmation. You need to get in close, really close. I'm talking about 50 to 75 yards away. When locating birds, look for a place to set up as well. In most cases, birds are going to come out of

continue to the next page

May 2013 ~ Page 16

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Info On Page 3

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the trees in the same place the flew up from. Find a spot that allows you to get close to their fly down area. Try to walk like a deer when walking to your spot. When you know your close, walk a few steps before pausing. Avoid walking ridgelines to prevent being silhouetted.

Swimming In Green

There are leaves on the trees later in the year so getting in close is much easier. Just be sure to move quietly. Oftentimes, I won't even

set up a decoy. You want to limit the amount of commotion on the ground. With thick foliage, turkeys have a hard time finding the decoy anyway. When they do, they will often hang up because they won't feel comfortable moving through a bunch of cover to get to the decoy. Open areas work best for decoy sets. If you are hunting in deep timber, it helps to have a caller 20 yards behind the shooter. Toms won't gobble as much as they do late in the year and often walk right up without making so much as a peep.

Find The Food

After late season turkeys get of the roost, gobblers will strut as hens head for their nest. Once the hens abandon them, gobblers start looking to fill their bellies. If you strike-out on the roost hunt, get to a known feeding area. Again, keeping a log book of lessons learned during seasons past will help a lot. Scouting and getting to know your hunting area is invaluable. Turkey sign is pretty easy to find in May. Concentrations of droppings, feathers, and turkey trails are a good indication of where turkeys are eating. Turkeys will use deer trails but if the

continue to the next page

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trail runs under brush and logs, you know it's a turkey trail.

Ten O'Clock Toms

. I think this is truly the golden hour of turkey hunting. By ten o'clock toms are well fed and looking for action. Most hens are still on the nest and lying low. Yelps and cuts can really be persuasive as loneliness sets in. Set up on strutting areas this time of day. If you can get between a strutting area and a feeding area, even better. Decoys work well in this situation.

Crazy Calls

By the end of the season, most gobblers have heard tons of calling. Educated birds know the difference between a call and a real

hen. I like to use oddball calls this time of year. The Squeeling Hen is a new call that isn't used by a lot of hunters. I'll also use a push button call late in the year. Most hunters are too macho to use one so the sound is fresh and in my opinion they sound pretty good, especially if you keep them chalked. My secret weapons for late season birds

are my wingbone calls. There are not a lot of hunters using them and it's easy to get a good sound out of them.

Late season turkey hunting is full of new challenges early season hunters don't have to deal with. Those challenges make bagging a late season bird that much more rewarding.



Sam Lambert, from Ellenboro, shot these two coyotes with one shot - his lucky day.

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Details On Page 3

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Forrest Elmore used a bow in Logan Co. for this awesome buck.

Illegal Swimming

GRAFTON, W.Va. – The West Virginia Division of Natural Resources (DNR) announces that swimming from the shoreline of Tygart Lake on the Pleasant Creek Wildlife Management Area (WMA) is prohibited by regulations governing public use of Wildlife Management Areas (§58-70-2.11). This regulation will be strictly enforced beginning immediately, according to Curtis I. Taylor, Chief of the Wildlife Resources Section and Colonel Dave Murphy, Chief of the Law Enforcement Section.

“Illegal swimming and associated

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parking of vehicles has negatively impacted the launching and parking of boat trailers using the boat ramp on Pleasant Creek WMA,” Taylor said. “This illegal swimming has also created serious public safety concerns; therefore, strict enforcement of the no swimming regulation is necessary.”

The DNR Parks and Recreation Section plans to reopen the public swimming area at Tygart Lake State Park in 2014. This will provide the public with safe and convenient shoreline swimming opportunities on Tygart Lake. In addition, swimming from boats and other watercraft is permissible now.

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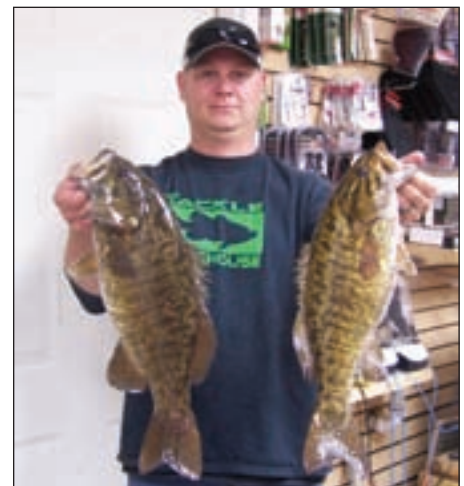
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Young Jonathan Dennison is dwarfed by his big turkey.



Steve Freed landed the lunker river bass, 4 lbs. 14 oz, at a bass event.



Robert Lane caught 2 large New River smallmouth. Photo courtesy of PC Bait & Tackle in Hinton.



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Terry Williams shot a 23 1/2 pound bird. Photo courtesy of Anderson Outdoors in Buckhannon.

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GREEN BANK, W.Va. – In 1900, a community's economy would rely on logging timber on Cheat Mountain and the mill operations in town. Cass, West Virginia, was a logging town. In 1960, after years of op-



Dillon Goodnight caught some smallies on the Hughes River. Photo courtesy of Crossroads General Store near Newark.

eration, that industry was worked out and regeneration of a different forest and community would begin again. On June 15, 1963, that new economy would become Cass Scenic Railroad, a tourist train. Shay No. 4 (and No. 1) departed the depot at 10:30 a.m. with the passengers riding in four converted flat car took the inaugural run.

Since then, Cass Scenic Railroad State Park has continued to preserve railroad history and community. On Saturday, June 15, 2013, 50 years to the date and hour, Shay No. 4 will once again haul its "people cargo" up Cheat Mountain to Whittaker Station to commemorate what has become an icon for the Mountain State's tourism industry – Cass Scenic Railroad State Park. Tickets for this Golden Anniversary run are limited to 240 passengers and may be purchased in advance.

Cass Scenic Railroad begins daily trips on May 24 and continues through October 27, 2013. Except for major Monday holidays, trips are not scheduled on Mondays and for 10 days mid-week in early September. Train fares are \$18 weekday and \$21 weekends for adults to Whittaker Station; \$13 and \$16 for youth fare in the summer and

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slightly more in Fall Foliage season that begins September 20. For ticket information and advance ticket sales, call Cass Scenic Railroad at 304-456-4300 or visit www.cass-railroad.com.

Other special train runs at Cass Scenic Railroad in 2013 include: Heisler/Old Spruce Run – May 25, June 20, July 20, July 27, August 31, September 21

Special runs to Old Spruce depart at 10:30 a.m. with Heisler #6 continue to the next page

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working the rails. This locomotive was built in 1929 for the Bostonia Coal and Clay Products Company of New Bethlehem PA as their #20, and is Heisler #6 today at Cass Scenic Railroad. She's a standard class C-90 3 truck Heisler. Advance ticket purchases are encouraged. Evening Dinner Train with Entertainment – June 1, June 22, July 13, July 27, August 10, August 24

Evening dinner trains feature musical entertainment, a train ride to Whittaker Station and a wonderful buffet-style meal. Dinner trains depart at 5:15 p.m. from the Cass Depot and advance reservations are required.

50th Anniversary Run – June 15

Individuals with advance ticket purchases for the 10:30 a.m. departure to Whittaker Station will help mark the 50th anniversary run. Tickets will be sold in advance and are limited to 240. A second Whittaker Run departs at 2 p.m. A Bald Knob Run departs at noon. For ticket information and purchase, call 304-456-4300

Double Header to Bald Knob – June 16, July 5, August 11, September 22

Four Sunday trips to Bald Knob, which depart at noon, will feature a double header which would have been typical of a run in logging years. Prices remain the same as typical Bald Knob fares, but on



John Tracewell, from Parkersburg, hooked a 24" Florida bass.

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New Moon Run - Lunar Express Series – July 9, August 6

A new moon means dark skies for this trip. There are two "New Moon" runs in 2013. Departing the depot at 8 p.m., (that's right, 8 p.m.) the train climbs to Whittaker Station. This Lunar Express will host 100 passengers.

The Great Train Race – July 13

A special run to Old Spruce departs at 10:30 a.m. This run features a double header and part of the great train race event; music and food. This event is in conjunction with the Durbin & Greenbrier Valley Railroad. Ticket sales to ride Cass Scenic Railroad with Shay No. 6 for this event can be made by phoning 304-636-9477.

Full Moon Run - Lunar Express Series – August 20, September 19

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These are two special evening "Full Moon" runs that travel to Bald Knob, departing the depot at 8 p.m. with a short stop at Whittaker and then proceeding to Bald Knob. There will be a stop at Oats Run for water and moonlight visit at West Virginia's second highest natural elevation. Return to depot by 12:30 a.m.

Halloween Train – October 26

The "Haunted Train" ride to Whittaker Station on the last Saturday in October is filled with ghostly

continue to the next page

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surprises for all. It includes a rare night descent back to Cass is part of the experience. Train departs the depot at 6 p.m. Passengers are encouraged to wear costumes.

About Shay No. 4 – The 50th Anniversary Locomotive

Looking like she did in 1963 with no signs of aging or slowing down, Shay No. 4 will do the honors on June 15, 2013, 50 years to the date of the inaugural run of Cass Scenic Railroad as a tourist train and destination.

Specifications – Builder No. 3189. Class: C-70. Bore: 12 inches. Drivers: 36 inches. Trucks: 3. Weight: 80 tons. Date in service: December 9, 1922

Originally numbered 5, this Shay began service at Birch Valley Lumber Company, Tioga, West Virginia in 1922. Mower Lumber Company at Cass, West Virginia acquired the engine in 1943 and re-numbered it No. 4.

Shay Number 4 represents typical Lima Class C-70 locomotives built for West Virginia loggers during the 1920s. With its well-proportioned diamond stack and arch-windowed cab, Shay No. 4 is a very traditional locomotive.

To learn more about Cass Scenic Railroad, visit www.cassrailroad.com or call 304-456-4300.

West Virginia is full of historic sights and take advantage of what our state has to offer.

Bass Boat Wind Fishing

Wind can be a blessing or a curse to your fishing, but it's almost always a factor in the spring. Most of the time, wind improves bass fishing. It stirs up the food chain, gets fish feeding and breaks up the surface so the fish can't see you or your baits too well.

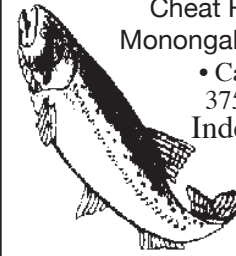
Sometimes, though, wind can hurt you. It can destroy a sight-fishing bite, make boat control difficult and is often downright dangerous. When the wind is strong enough to make boating unsafe, get off the water immediately. If it's not that bad, there are ways to cope with it and even make it work for you.



BJ Thomas shot a large 22 1/4 lb. gobbler. *Photo courtesy of Three Rivers Edge in Hinton.*

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When it's not, another great way to work with the wind is to use the Power-Pole Drift Paddle. It's an accessory for your Power-Pole that will slow your drift in current. They work great, are easy to install and can be adjusted on the fly to best

continue to the next page

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handle any situation you might run into. Even using the Power-Pole alone can help a lot. By deploying them part or all of the way, you can slow your drift quite a bit.

If you don't have Power-Poles or the Drift Paddle, and the current's not too strong, you can use your outboard to slow your drift and even adjust the direction of your drift somewhat. Just trim the motor down — the harder the wind's blowing, the more motor you want in the water — and turn your steering wheel to alter the direction you are being pushed. If you turn hard to the right, your boat will be pushed a little to the left, and vice versa.

Change Your Line

When the wind's blowing, pay special attention to your line size. By decreasing the diameter of your line, you can cast more easily in (and into) the wind and maintain better bottom contact because lighter (thinner) lines cut through the wind and current better than heavier (thicker) lines.

If you're fishing baits you want to keep in contact with the bottom, try fluorocarbon — especially in the wind. Because it sinks, fluorocarbon will help to keep your lures deeper, even when your boat is moving and the bait is drifting. Braid can sometimes present issues in the wind because it floats and moves more with surface currents.

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It casts well, though, and if you're fishing horizontal baits that are moving fast and high in the water column, it can be your best choice.

Don't forget to drop your rod tip when fishing in the wind. If the wind's really tough, you might even want to keep your rod tip in the water on the retrieve. With your rod tip high, you might get more sensitivity on calm days, but on windy days it will just put a big bow in your line and reduce the contact you have with the bait. You'll have a hard time feeling strikes.

Add Weight

Don't be afraid to go heavy when the wind's blowing. If you're fishing a bait or pattern that requires good bottom contact, be sure you have enough weight to get it. Yes, you might get fewer strikes that way, but at least you'll be getting some action. Sometimes maintaining bottom contact is critical to your success. Being able to feel your bait is always critical, and you must never let the wind take that

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Remember, the wind is your friend ... at least most of the time. Just make sure you use it properly and adjust to the opportunities it presents. And if the wind gets to be too much, get off the water right away!

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Locate Whip-or-wills

SOUTH CHARLESTON, W.Va. – The West Virginia Division of Natural Resources needs help in locating whip-poor-wills, according to Curtis I. Taylor, Chief of the Division of Natural Resources' Wildlife Resources Section.

“If you see or hear whip-poor-wills in West Virginia between the dates of May 10 and July 31, please email DNR Wildlife Resources Section biologist Rich Bailey at richard.s.bailey@wv.gov,” Taylor said. “Include the date and location, being very specific; where you saw or heard the bird; your name and phone number; and whether you saw or heard the bird.”

The whip-poor-will is a gray, black and brown bird with a black throat. It is well-camouflaged and is easier to hear than see. Its namesake song is a loud, rhythmic “whip-poor-will” which it sings re-

peatedly at night.

“Recent Breeding Bird Survey data indicate significant population declines of this bird in nearby states, and your observations will enable us to get a better sense of their population status in West Virginia,” Bailey said.

The Wildlife Resources Section is also interested in discovering locations of barn owls and bald eagle nests. Please email Bailey if you see or hear either of these species with the same information as for the whip-poor-will. Barn owls have a distinctive white, heart-shaped face and a variety of unique calls including clicks, hisses, grunts and screams.



Blake Hutchins hooked a nice smallie. Photo courtesy of PC Bait & Tackle in Hinton..



Adam Pettrey shot a nice spring gobbler. Photo courtesy of PC Bait & Tackle in Hinton..

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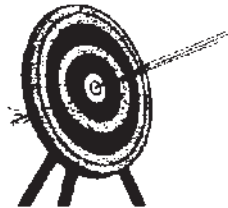


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Luke King landed a 53" Little Kanawha musky and released it.



Grover Rooker hooked a 20 pound New River musky. Photo courtesy of Three Rivers Edge in Hinton.



Young Tiffany Huffman, from Rivoton, shot a huge buck

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Chris Hall hooked a large crappie.
 Photo courtesy of jarrett's Bait in Elizabeth.



Tammy Bostick went to the Elk River for a big brook trout.

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Young Coleman Shreve shot a nice gobbler. Photo courtesy of Anderson OUtdoors in Buckhannon.



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Joel Miller landed a large bass while musky fishing.



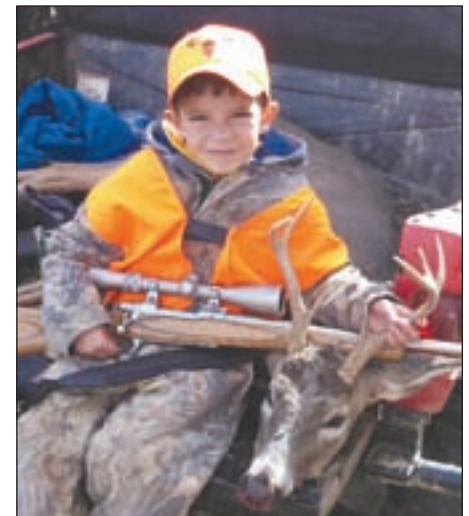
Josh McGuire used a bow to get 104 pounds of carp.



Bub Short brought in a gobbler. Photo courtesy of Anderson Outdoors in Buckhannon.



Paul Vance caught a 20" rainbow in the Logan area.



Young Caleb Pierson shot a Mason County buck.

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Spooling On Fishing Line

Spooling fishing line on you reels correctly will save you many headaches when your on the water.

If you spool line on your bass fishing reels incorrectly, especially your spinning reel, twists and loops that are created while winding on line will cause you major heartburn later when you're fishing. Fishing line memory will result in line twist, casting problems and valuable "fishing time" taken up messing with backlashes.

So the question is how to spool fishing line the "correct" way using fishing line spoolers or by putting the filler spool on the floor.

Spinning Reels

There are more potential problems related to spooling fishing line on spinning reels than baitcasters so let's look at how to spool fishing line on them first.

Step One - make sure you're spooling fishing line on your reel in the right direction.

Important Point!

A critical consideration when spooling fishing line on a spinning reel is to insure that the line goes on your reel the same way it was spooled on the manufacturers filler spool.

Line is usually, though not al-

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ways, spooled on a spinning reel in a clockwise direction. The direction in which your reel winds line is easy to determine. Merely look at the front of the reel as you turn the reel's handle. Observe the direction the bail arm turns. If it turns in a clockwise direction it places line on the spool in a clockwise direction. So it is very important to have line coming off the filler spool onto your reel in a clockwise direction. How do you make sure this is what's happening?

Check your filler spool "with the label facing you and free line end at the top of the spool". Often the line is secured with a piece of tape so look for that.

Determine the direction the free tag end points. If the tag end is pointing to your left the line will come off the spool clockwise.

Place the plastic filler spool on the ground face up.

Step Two - tie line on the reel spool.

Run some line from the filler spool to the reel down through the three or four rod guides in front of the reel.

Make sure either (1) your bail is open or (2) you thread the line under the bail arm if you keep it
continue to the next page



Austin Phillips hooked a big smallmouth. *Photo courtesy of Three Rivers Edge in Hinton.*

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closed.

Put a loop of line around your spool.

Tie your line securely on the reel using one of the following: Arbor knot (preferred) Uni-knot

Close the bail if open.

Step Three - test for loops and twists in your line.

Turn your reel handle six or eight times and stop.

If the line has loops or twists in it flip the filler spool over and continue winding.

The line should appear slightly undulating as it runs through the guides. There must not be any twists or loops hanging from the rod.

Step Four - wind on line

Make sure there is "tension" on the line as you wind it onto your



Damian Alltel reeled in a nice musky. Photo courtesy of Jarrett's Bait in Elizabeth.

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reel's spool.

Lightly pinch the line between your index finger and thumb at a point above the reel but before the first guide.

Alternatively, hold a rag soaked in a silicone lubricant like Real Magic and wind the line through it (this helps limber up monofilament line).

Fill your spool to a level no more than 1/8" below the rim of the reel.

Baitcasting Reels

Spooling fishing line on a bait-

casting reel is quite simple compared to a spinning reel. When adding or changing fishing line on a baitcaster follow these steps.

Run some line from the filler spool down through the rod guides to the reel. Run the line through the level-wind device.

Put a loop of line around your spool.

Tie your line securely on the reel using one of the following: Arbor knot

Wind the line on your reel while
continue to the next page

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maintaining tension on the line. This can be done by

Putting a pencil, pen etc through the hole off the filler spool and having someone hold it while you wind on line, or by using a fishing line winder device (there are several)

Fishing line spoolers like the one It is quick and simple to use. There are others available which fasten to the rod shaft or stick to table tops with suction cups that are much more portable.

New Bass Species Discovered

Scientists with the Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission (FWC) have uncovered a new species of black bass in the southeastern United States.

Scientists have proposed naming the new species the Choctaw bass and recommended the scientific name of *Micropterus haiaka*. They revealed their discovery at a meeting of the Southern Division of the American Fisheries Society earlier this year.

FWC scientists first noted a DNA profile that did not belong to any recognized species while testing a bass specimen from the Chipola River in 2007, as part of a broader genetic study of bass.

"We didn't set out to find a new species," said Mike Tringali, who heads the genetics laboratory at the FWC's Fish and Wildlife Research

Institute. "It found us."

After confirming the initial discovery, scientists searched for the DNA profile in bass caught in nearby rivers to determine the species' range. They found that the Choctaw bass inhabits coastal river systems in Alabama and along the western Florida panhandle, including the Choctawhatchee River.

"We chose the name 'Choctaw bass' because the species' range overlaps the historic range of the Choctaw Indians," said Tringali. "As for our recommended scientific name, *Micropterus haiaka*, 'haiaka' is a Choctaw word that means 'revealed.'"

The American Fisheries Society must approve the suggested scientific name for it to take effect.

The Choctaw bass is very similar in appearance to its relative, the spotted bass. The physical differences between the two species are

not easily seen with the naked eye, one reason they had never before been distinguished despite decades of bass studies in the region.



Jackie Meadows shot a nice gobbler. Photo courtesy of PC Bait & Tackle in Hinton.



Troy Banks went West to tag this mule deer.

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GAME CHECKING



Types Of Fishing Line

You may notice that there are a large number of fishing lines on-line or in the store. Actually, they can be divided into five main types. They are as follows:

1. Monofilament

Monofilament fishing line is the most common type of fishing line which has been in use for years. It can be used for all kinds of conditions for fishing, especially best for freshwater fishing in lakes or streams. It has a wide variety of colors, including clear, red, green, etc.

However, if the line has been stored for a long time, it can not easily straighten out again as it will take the shape in which it has been stored. Therefore, this line is not the right choice for you if you do not fish often. It is suitable for fishermen who have frequent fishing activities.

Also, as this type of line does not promise long-lasting durability against heat and water, you would be well advised to replace it after

using for a long period of time.

2. Braided

Braided fishing line is one of the earliest types of fishing lines and has been quite popular during the past few years.

Nowadays, the popularity of braided dacron has dropped as there are more types of fishing lines become available. Today, it is mostly used as backing material on fly reels or as a big-game trolling product.

Braided super line is a type of fishing line made from braiding multiple line materials, which is created through the latest technological methods. It is extremely strong and has minimal stretch. It is great for casting but as it is very strong, you also have to prepare long-lasting fishing rods and reels to cope with the line.

3. Fluorocarbon

Fluorocarbon fishing line is becoming more and more popular today. It is invisible under water and as the line is heavier than other types of fishing lines, it is easier for the lures to dive faster and deeper

in water.

Also, it does not absorb water and resists deterioration by sunlight, gasoline, battery acid.

However, please pay more attention to the "balance" of your tackle. That is to say, when you use heavier fluorocarbon line, you will experience more difficulty if you use

continue to the next page



Rusty And Brandon Wamsley both bagged turkeys. *Photo courtesy of Anderson Outdoors in Buckhannon.*

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lighter rods, reels and lures to cope with the line.

4. Trolling Line

Trolling line is the type of fishing line with natural or artificial baited hooks and is trailed by a vessel near the surface or at a certain depth. It has a controlled sink rate and always has color coded to reveal how deep your lure is running.

5. Fly Line

Fly line is the type of fishing line used for fly fishing. There are four main factors involved in choosing the right line, namely fly size, the size of the fish you are fishing for, wind & temperature and your skill.



Brandon Chain, from Millstone, shot his 1st squirrel.



Another nice catfish was reeled in. Photo courtesy of Catfish Paradise near Marietta, Ohio.



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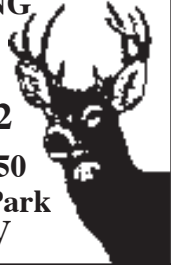
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