



**FREE**

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

**Issue 269**

**May/June 2018**



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**Spring  
BASS**

**FLW  
NEWS**

**DNR  
Updates**

**Outdoor Photos**

# WV Classic Giveaway & Outdoor Expo

TAYLOR COUNTY FAIRGROUNDS, GRAFTON WV

## A TWO DAY CHARITY RAFFLE & TRADE SHOW.

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## WV CLASSIC GIVEAWAY RAFFLE

SATURDAY, AUGUST 25<sup>TH</sup> AT 12:00 PM

12:00 2018 TOYOTA TACOMA TRD OFF-ROAD	1:10 HARLEY DAVIDSON IRON 833	2:20 BASS & QUAIL HUNT, KY	3:30 \$5000 COLD HARD CASH	4:40 2018 CAN-AM WAVERICKER SIDE X SIDE	6:00 2018 JEEP WRANGLER
12:02 SAUGE 10 BA STEALTH RIFLE	1:12 RUGER AMERICAN BOLT ACTION RIFLE	2:22 SPRINGFIELD 10M5 PISTOL	3:32 GLOCK 42 PISTOL	4:42 BROWNING BPS 16GA	6:02 HENRY 45-70 RIFLE
12:0 \$500 COLD HARD CASH	1:14 \$500 COLD HARD CASH	2:24 \$500 COLD HARD CASH	3:34 \$500 COLD HARD CASH	4:44 \$500 COLD HARD CASH	6:04 \$500 COLD HARD CASH
12:06 YETI TUNDRA 105/HOPPER TWO 20 PKG	1:16 OLD TOWN PREDATOR MK FISH KAYAK	2:26 SIG SAUER OSCAR 3 SPOTTING SCOPE	3:36 RECONVX HYPERFIRE HC 600 TRAIL CAM	4:46 OLD TOWN TWIN HERON ANGLER KAYAK	6:06 YETI TUNDRA 105/HOPPER TWO 20 PKG
12:08 SNAPPER 48" ZERO TURN MOWER	1:18 SUNBRITE OUTDOOR 55" TV	2:28 DEWALT 6-TOOL 20 VOLT COMBO	3:38 \$2000 COLD HARD CASH	4:48 GENERAC 102000 PORTABLE GENERATOR	6:08 WINCHESTER TREASURY 48 GUN SAFE
12:10 2018 POLARIS SPORTSMAN TOUR	1:20 WHITEHALE HUNT CAST & BLAST OH	2:30 \$5000 COLD HARD CASH	3:40 TRACKER PRO 170 BASS BOAT	4:50 YAMAHA VX DELUXE W/WEED EATER	6:10 2018 YAMAHA WOLVERINE SIDE X SIDE
12:12 RUGER M77 HAWKEYE RIFLE	1:22 S&W BODUGARD PISTOL W/LASER	2:32 MOSSBERG 500 410 GA	3:42 MOSSBERG 500 12GA	4:52 GLOCK 23 PISTOL	6:12 REMINGTON 700 LR 7MM
12:14 \$500 COLD HARD CASH	1:24 \$500 COLD HARD CASH	2:34 \$500 COLD HARD CASH	3:44 \$500 COLD HARD CASH	4:54 \$500 COLD HARD CASH	6:14 \$500 COLD HARD CASH
12:16 ULTRAKIFF 360 FISHING KAYAK	1:26 BRADLEY 6-RACK DIGITAL SMOKER	2:36 BARNETT WHITETAIL HUNT CROSSBOW	3:46 OLD TOWN VAPOR 12 ANGLER KAYAK	4:56 GOPRO HERO5 4K ACTION CAMERA	6:16 ULTRAKIFF 360 FISHING KAYAK
12:18 GENERAC 102000 PORTABLE GENERATOR	1:28 SUN DOLPHIN PRO 120 FISHING BOAT	2:38 \$2000 COLD HARD CASH	3:48 KOBALT 18 DRAWER STAINLESS TOOL CABIN	4:58 FAMILY VACATION- WYRTLE BEACH, SC	6:18 7X12 ENCLOSED BOX TRAILER
12:20 RAM HUNT W/BUCK & BOAR, SC	1:30 \$5000 COLD HARD CASH	2:40 SEA DOO SPARK	3:50 SNAPPER 61" ZERO TURN	5:00 KUBOTA COMPACT UTILITY TRACTOR	6:20 ELK HUNT W/BEAVER CK OUTFITTERS, CO
12:22 REMINGTON WINGMASTER 20 GA	1:32 THOMPSON CENTER MUZZLELOADER	2:42 REMINGTON R1-191 PISTOL	3:52 WINCHESTER M70 FEATHERLIGHT	5:02 RUGER GP100 357MAG PISTOL	6:22 BERETTA TIKKA 25-06
12:24 \$500 COLD HARD CASH	1:34 \$500 COLD HARD CASH	2:44 \$500 COLD HARD CASH	3:54 \$500 COLD HARD CASH	5:04 \$500 COLD HARD CASH	6:24 \$500 COLD HARD CASH
12:26 SPYPOINT SOLAR CELL TRAIL CAM	1:36 TENPOINT TURBO GT CROSSBOW	2:46 OLD TOWN PENOBSCOT 164 CANOE	3:56 SUMMIT TREESTAND/ TRAIL CAMERA PKG	5:06 YETI TUNDRA 105/HOPPER TWO 20 PKG	6:26 LIBERTY 18 GUN PROVAULT SAFE
12:28 SKI D OPEN TRAILER	1:38 \$2000 COLD HARD CASH	2:48 ECHO PRO SAW/BLOWER/TRIMMER PKG	3:58 ELK SPRINGS FISHING PACKAGE FOR 2	5:08 WEBER GENESIS II STAINLESS GRILL	6:28 ECHO PRO SAW/BLOWER/TRIMMER PKG
12:30 \$5000 COLD HARD CASH	1:40 CALDERA 5 PERSON HOT TUB	2:50 SUZUKI KINGQUAD 400 4X4	4:00 HARLEY DAVIDSON SOFTTAIL FATBOY	5:10 2018 HONDA FOURTRAX BANCHER 4X4	6:30 \$5000 COLD HARD CASH
12:32 WEATHERBY VANGUARD 257 RIFLE	1:42 RUGER AMERICAN 204 RIFLE	2:52 SIG SAUER P938 PISTOL	4:02 RUGER HAWKEYE 7MM RIFLE	5:12 RUGER SR-40	6:32 SAUGE 25V 17 HORNET
12:34 \$500 COLD HARD CASH	1:44 \$500 COLD HARD CASH	2:54 \$500 COLD HARD CASH	4:04 \$500 COLD HARD CASH	5:14 \$500 COLD HARD CASH	6:34 \$500 COLD HARD CASH
12:36 EXCALIBUR 305 CROSSBOW	1:46 OLD TOWN NEXT CANOE	2:56 MATHEWS HALON COMPOUND BOW	4:06 YETI TUNDRA 105/HOPPER TWO 20 PKG	5:16 OLD TOWN VAPOR 10 ANGLER KAYAK	6:36 TENPOINT RENEGADE CROSSBOW
12:38 \$2000 COLD HARD CASH	1:48 WEBER GENESIS II STAINLESS GRILL	2:58 FAMILY VACATION- PIGEON FORGE, TN	4:08 STIHL PRO SAW/BLOWER/TRIMMER PKG	5:18 WINCHESTER TREASURY 48 GUN SAFE	6:38 \$2000 COLD HARD CASH
12:40 GENERAC WHOLE HOUSE GENERATOR	1:50 CUSTOM HART RIFLE	3:00 2018 FORD EXPLORER	4:10 2018 POP UP CAMPER	5:20 \$5000 COLD HARD CASH	6:40 SEA DOO SPARK
12:42 RUGER LC9 PISTOL	1:52 ROCK ISLAND M1911 PISTOL	3:02 FXR-40 PISTOL	4:12 RUGER AMERICAN 6.5 CREEDMOORE	5:22 S&W SHIELD 9MM PISTOL	6:42 BROWNING X-BOLT 28 NOSLER
12:44 \$500 COLD HARD CASH	1:54 \$500 COLD HARD CASH	3:04 \$500 COLD HARD CASH	4:14 \$500 COLD HARD CASH	5:24 \$500 COLD HARD CASH	6:44 \$500 COLD HARD CASH
12:46 OLD TOWN VAPOR 10 ANGLER KAYAK	1:56 GOPRO HERO5 4K ACTION CAMERA	3:06 YETI TUNDRA 105/HOPPER TWO 20 PKG	4:16 OLD TOWN DRINGO 106 KAYAK	5:26 BARNETT GHOST 375 CROSSBOW	6:46 OLD TOWN PREDATOR POL FISHING KAYAK
12:48 STIHL PRO SAW/BLOWER/TRIMMER PKG	1:58 CAST & BLAST TURKEY HUNT	3:08 WINCHESTER TREASURY 48 GUN SAFE	4:18 LAS VEGAS GETAWAY FOR 2	5:28 \$2000 COLD HARD CASH	6:48 HUSQ PRO SAW/BLOWER/TRIMMER PKG
12:50 15' TRACKER JON BOAT W/MOTOR	2:00 2018 SUN TRACKER PONTOON	3:10 2018 HONDA FOURTRAX FOREMAN	4:20 D&B SPORT FISHING WALLEYE TRIP	5:30 2018 POLARIS BANGER SIDE X SIDE	6:50 2018 SLINGSHOT ROADSTER
12:52 SAUGE 555 0/U SHOTGUN	2:02 SAW M&P 10	3:12 RUGER WING-14 RIFLE	4:22 MOSSBERG PATRIOT RIFLE	5:32 SAUGE 17MM RIFLE	6:52 REMINGTON 700 CCL 270
12:54 \$500 COLD HARD CASH	2:04 \$500 COLD HARD CASH	3:14 \$500 COLD HARD CASH	4:24 \$500 COLD HARD CASH	5:34 \$500 COLD HARD CASH	6:54 \$500 COLD HARD CASH
12:56 INDULTRE TRAIL CAMERA, FEEDER PKG	2:06 YETI TUNDRA 105/HOPPER TWO 20 PKG	3:16 OLD TOWN PREDATOR XL FISHING KAYAK	4:26 PRIMOS BLIND / TRAIL CAMERA PKG	5:36 OLD TOWN DISCOVERY 133 CANOE	6:56 MATHEWS HALON COMPOUND BOW
12:58 FAMILY VACATION- WHITE WATER TRIP WV	2:08 BOSS BUCK BLIND W/10' TOWER	3:18 SUNBRITE OUTDOOR 55" TV	4:28 MILWAUKEE 15 TOOL 18 VOLT KIT	5:38 HUSQ PRO SAW/BLOWER/TRIMMER PKG	6:58 REDNECK 6X6 BUCK BLIND W/ TOWER
1:00 YAMAHA VX DELUXE W/WEED EATER	2:10 2018 YAMAHA KODIAK 700	3:20 WHITEHALE HUNT PIKE CO. ILLINOIS	4:30 \$5000 COLD HARD CASH	5:40 HARLEY DAVIDSON DYNA STREET BOB	
1:02 REMINGTON 380 PISTOL	2:12 RUGER SR1911 PISTOL	3:22 TAURUS 809 PISTOL	4:32 RUGER BLACKHAWK 41 MAG	5:42 S&W SHIELD 45 PISTOL	
1:04 \$500 COLD HARD CASH	2:14 \$500 COLD HARD CASH	3:24 \$500 COLD HARD CASH	4:34 \$500 COLD HARD CASH	5:44 \$500 COLD HARD CASH	
1:06 YETI TUNDRA 105/HOPPER TWO 20 PKG	2:16 OLD TOWN LOON 106 ANGLER KAYAK	3:26 EXCALIBUR MATRIX 330 CROSSBOW	4:36 TENPOINT TITAN XTREME ROSSBOW	5:46 LEUPOLD BX-3 MOJAVE 12X50 BINOCULARS	
1:08 MEC 200E SPORTER CLAY TARGET INC.	2:18 GENERAC 102000 PORTABLE GENERATOR	3:28 MUDDY BULL BOX BLIND W/ TOWER	4:38 \$2000 COLD HARD CASH	5:48 3 DAY LAKE ERIE FISHING TRIP	

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## Magazine

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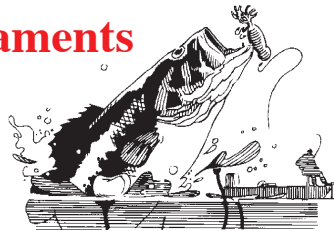
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## Attention Bass Fishermen!

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## Cover Photo

Fishing in a bass event on Stonewall Jackson Lake, Travis Bennett landed this nearly six pound largemouth (5-15). Along with his partner, Matt Summers, they caught a six fish limit that weighed 17 pounds, 13 ounces for third place. Look in this magazine for other tournaments on Stonewall Jackson Lake.

TEXT or email your pics to this magazine for fish or turkeys from 2018. Form on page 38.

# Suspended Bass Fishing

As a rule of thumb, the fishing community generally accepts that there are certain timeframes or conditional factors that make fishing flat-out tough. Post-frontal conditions, rising or falling water, dirty water, and early postspawn all can make some anglers cringe at the thought of hitting the water.

Any situation where bass are suspended can also intimidate a bass angler. When bass are floating around aimlessly in the water and willing to swim to an entirely different area code at the drop of a hat, it no doubt creates tough fishing. Largemouths, smallmouths and spotted bass are all guilty of it

from time to time, yet spots can be notorious for it.

West Coast pro Cody Meyer has grown up dealing with suspended spotted bass in clear water and has figured out how to handle this situation by perfecting an easy free-falling presentation.

As far as Meyer is concerned, his approach to catching suspended spotted bass – or any suspended bass, for that matter – can work whenever the situation arises, though he finds the late season to be prime.

“Really you can catch suspended fish year round because from postspawn to prespawn bass will suspend,” says Meyer. “I honestly think the best time to chase big spotted bass that suspend is during the fall and winter.

“There are really three reasons why bass suspend: fishing pressure, rising or falling water, and bait. Bait is probably the biggest reason. Most bass in reservoirs feed on baitfish like blueback herring, smelt or small Kokanee salmon like we have out west. Bait like this doesn’t relate to structure, so it makes sense that the bass that feed on them suspend in the water column like they do.”

continue to the next page



Andrew D'Angelo brought in a nice Barbour County gobbler.

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Randy Osbourne caught & released a 4 lb. bass at Stonewall Jackson.

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Locating suspended bass might seem like finding a needle in a haystack. And catching those fish when you can't see the target is also tough.

Meyer doesn't let that deter him, however, and relies on modern electronics to locate and catch fish.

"The first thing I do when I launch on a body of water and I know I'll try to target suspended spotted bass is find a bridge or a



Heather Ebert went to Florida for a nice snook.

bluff wall – some place that I can visually see and know holds bass throughout the year," Meyer explains. "From there I'll idle around those areas until I start to mark fish on my graph. Take note of what depth you are seeing fish because if the majority of the fish are hanging around 20 feet, then they generally will hang out at that depth across the lake."

From there you can run a variety of structure, including points, humps and deep breaks, scanning for bass at each stop.

So, what is Meyer's secret to fooling stubborn suspended bass into biting? Truth be told, it involves not doing much.

"Most people that target suspended fish and especially spotted bass like to slow-roll a swimbait or throw a jerkbait," Meyer notes. "And those work great at times, but

one of my favorite things to do is cast out a small plastic on a jighead and let it slowly fall through the school of fish. I like to think of it as open-water punching with a small rig.

"To do this I generally have a target  
continue to the next page



Danny Markle bagged a 24 pound turkey in Webster County.

# Stonewall Jackson

Team Bass Tournaments

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At The Ramp*

in mind, like a bluff wall or tip of a point. I know what depth the fish are in because I graphed around a little before making a cast. So now all I do is cast the bait out as far as I can and let it naturally fall on a slack line through the school. It is such a simple presentation, but I can't tell you how many big fish I have caught doing it."

Meyer will make several casts throughout an area where he believes fish are suspended, counting down each time until he believes the bait has passed the fish.

If you can't stand to simply do nothing on the fall, Meyer suggest shaking the bait on a semi-slack line back to the boat. Done this way, he'll let it swing as it falls like a pendulum by lifting the rod tip up and reeling up the slack, pausing to let the bait fall while shaking it as it swings.

Meyer's tackle selection is also pretty straightforward. He prefers a 1/16- or 1/8-ounce Owner Ultrahead Darter Head matched with either a Strike King Dream Shot or Fat Baby Finesse Worm. Meyer says that the darter head is a great choice because it spirals down on the fall and mimicks a dying bait-fish. He also keeps an Owner Ultrahead Round Jig Head rigged (in the same sizes with the same baits) for when the fish are looking for

something with a subtler fall.

Meyer fishes with his signature 7-4 Daiwa Tatula Elite spinning rod paired with a Daiwa Tatula LT 2500 reel to launch the lightweight baits as far as he can. Interestingly, the most important part of the whole package for Meyer is the line.

"I love using hi-vis braid for my mainline, and I think it is the most critical part of the whole thing," he says. "I like 20-pound-or-less Seaguar Smackdown yellow braided line. Not only does it help cast the bait farther, it allows you to visibly see strikes since you are letting the bait fall on a slack line. I've seen it so many times with spotted bass where your line stops for a split second and then you set the hook and catch one. Without having yellow line, there'd be no way you could catch those fish."

"From personal experience I believe the bigger spotted bass suspend and barely get fished for, so you can have them all to yourself – especially in California," says Meyer. "I'm also a firm believer that the biggest spots live offshore their whole life. That's why this presentation can be so effective. Plus, it is super easy for almost anyone to do. It's how I caught my 10.8-pound giant last year."

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## Arizona Elk Brought In For Elk Stocking Plans

HOLDEN, W.Va. — Fifty-one elk completed their journey from Arizona and were released into a holding facility in Logan County earlier this month.

The elk, which are part of West

Virginia's elk restoration project, were captured in late January and held near Flagstaff, Arizona for disease testing. The elk arrived at the holding facility near Holden, West Virginia, late on March 4.

"It has been a wonderful experience working with the wildlife professionals in Arizona and all of the private supporters who are helping make West Virginia's elk restoration project possible," said DNR Director Stephen McDaniel.

This group of elk will join more

than three dozen elk previously brought in from Kentucky over the past two years. The Arizona elk will be quarantined until they are released onto the Tomblin Wildlife Management Area in Logan County, as directed by the United States Department of Agriculture.

Each elk is equipped with a Global Positioning System (GPS) radio transmitter to monitor its movements. All GPS transmitters were purchased and donated by the Rocky Mountain Elk Foundation.



Mike Mullins harvested a large buck in Clay County.

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Blake Bennett went to Fayette County on youth day to get a bird.



Jacob Johnson hunted on youth day for a 23 1/2 lb. Wood Co. turkey.



Levi Pahl went to Wirt County for a youth day gobbler.

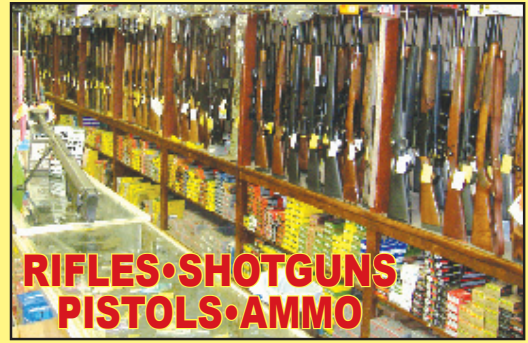
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Lori Clay, from Barboursville, caught a 24" golden trout.



Young Porter Goodwin got his 1st gobbler (22 lbs.) in Wood County.



Tommy Blakey caught 3 small-mouth over 4 pounds on the river.

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Joe, Cole & Brannon Taylor shot three gobblers in three seconds. They were all coming in together. Sounds exciting!

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## Fishing For Bass On Sand Bars And Drops

One of the most successful fishermen Kentucky Lake has ever seen, Sam Lashlee makes a living guiding and teaching on the Tennessee River reservoir. From time to time, he also fishes a tournament or two, and when he does, it usually goes well. One of the key patterns that Lashlee relies on for the fall of the year is fishing main-lake bars, or drops, with a topwater. This is how he does it.

Find the right bottom

The biggest key to putting together a bar pattern is finding the right type of bar. For Lashlee, that starts with the bottom composition.

“The key to bar fishing to me is to make sure it has a hard bottom, whether it’s gravel or whatever, and especially make sure it has shells on it,” he says.

Shells can be picked out on sonar when the water is higher in the summer, or you might simply see

the telltale white dots from overturned and broken up shells on  
continue to page 15



Tony Crumbliss and Jim Merial won the 1st Bass Sportsman event at Stonewall Jackson Lake with a 6 fish limit of 18 pounds, 14 ounces. The next Bass Sportsman event there is May 26 - ad in this magazine.

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Matt Robinson, from New Milton, used a bow for a nice gobbler.



A bunch of trout were caught at this pay lake. Photo courtesy of Sure Catch Fish Farm in Elkins.



Zach Smith caught a 22 1/2" & a 20 1/2" golden trout. Photo courtesy of Middle Mountain Sporting Goods in Elkins.

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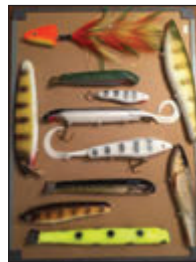
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a gravel bar if the water is clear enough.

“That’s the start of the food chain on this lake,” says Lashlee of shells. “After that, I like following those gizzard shad, and wherever the gizzard shad are is where the big largemouths are going to be.”

**Location keys**

Location is the next step, and Lashlee likes to stay on the main lake because of the current.

“I’m not going into the bays,” says Lashlee. “A lot of people catch them in the bays, but personally I really don’t do it unless the wind dictates that I have to. I like staying in a place where, if they do pull current, I’m going to be in the current.”

Aside from staying away from the bays, he’s not too picky on where the bar is located. It might be on the head or tail of an island or near a secondary channel. Lashlee says that, at times, he’s fished in 2 or 3 feet of water with his boat in the main river in 30 feet.

Even so, in the fall particularly, it is almost impossible to go too shallow.

One additional plus of staying on the main lake is the wind. Lash-



Eric Whaples hooked a 5 lb., 1 oz bass at Stonewall Jackson Lake.

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lee says he’s caught them on top in 3-footers, but his ideal wind is a light ripple, and that’s nearly always present on the main lake.

**When to fish the bars**

For Lashlee, looking for big, tournament-winning bass up shallow is a year-round deal, but the sweet

spot is from late summer through the winter.

“I’ve won tournaments the first of June on ledges fishing in 1 to 3 feet of water. So I never rule it out,” he says. “Last winter, I was catching fish out of 1 to 3 feet of water

continue to the next page

MON, TUE, THU 10-5, WED 12-6, FRI 10-6, SAT. 10-NOON **Buy - Sell - Trade - Loans**

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So I never rule it out," he says. "Last winter, I was catching fish out of 1 to 3 feet of water in 42-degree water on a Red Eye Shad in the hydrilla.

"This year, I started fishing those bars in July, and they were there," explains Lashlee. "I had a 38-pound bag, and the water was 87 degrees about a month and a half ago [late September], and they were in a foot of water or less. I always believe they are there, and I usually can catch them there."

Though Lashlee looks to shallow bars earlier and longer than many, history on Kentucky Lake says that the bar pattern really shines in the fall, and is maybe at its peak from September on through October.

One adjustment that Lashlee makes as winter gets closer is that he begins to key a little on cover and not totally on bait.

"I have noticed that they will key on those stumps," says Lashlee. "When it [the water temperature] gets to the low 60s and the 50s, they will key on those stumps a lot more. But you don't need to have cover, just a hard bottom."

The bait

Lashlee says that since August, about 90 percent of his casts have been made with one bait: a Strike King Sexy Dawg.

Only if he knows fish have been in the area and they won't bite will Lashlee make a bait change.

"There are days that they don't want the Sexy Dawg, and I'll go to a Strike King KVD Splash," says Lashlee. "It's like a Pop-R type bait, but I like it better and it's a little bit bigger. There are days where they won't hit the Sexy Dawg for whatever reason, and I can go to that Splash and just barely move it and get them to eat."



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Erin Tennant and Todd Billeter caught a couple of nice bass.



Jim Barnard went to Tyler County for a nice gobbler.

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On September 11, 2001, "America saw Evil". The realization that thousands of Americans were murdered in cold blood because they were Americans affected each of us. As our nation becomes locked in deadly combat with our foes, our thoughts are focused on troop activity.

However, we must not forget those who have already made the ultimate sacrifice. Those who answered the call for help on September 11th must be remembered. A call went out across our nation. Calls are left behind but not forgotten.

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May/June 2018 ~ Page 17



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### Removing Shed Elk Antlers Prohibited

SOUTH CHARLESTON, W.Va. — The Division of Natural Resources is reminding hunters and other outdoor enthusiasts possession of shed elk antlers and removing them from the wild is prohibited by West Virginia State Code.

It is illegal to hunt elk in West Virginia. Possession of any part of the elk is prohibited. The public may notify local DNR personnel if they encounter shed antlers, but they should not take it upon themselves to remove the antler from the wild.



Dominick Irizarry caught a 25" rainbow at Mountwood Lake.



Hannah Yoho, from Marietta, landed a hybrid in the Ohio River.

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W. Va. Sportsman  
Details On Page 3

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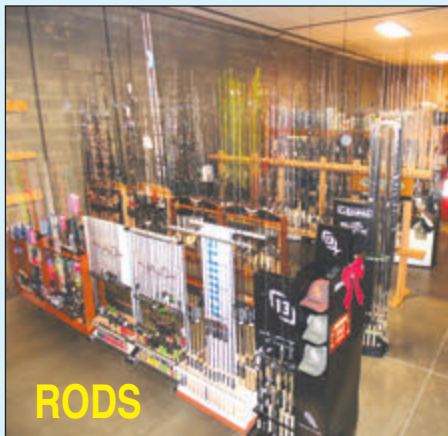


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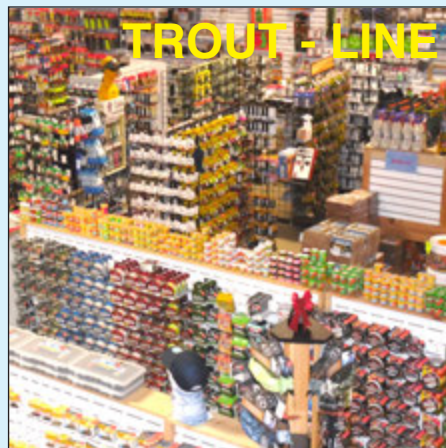
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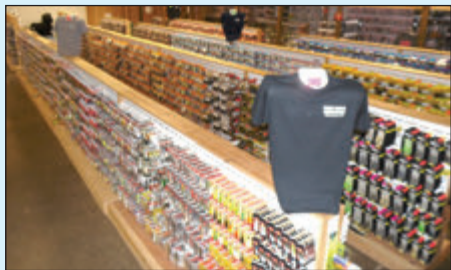
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Junior McCloud tagged a nice 24 lb. gobbler. Photo courtesy of HardCore Hunters in Grafton.

## Sunday Hunting Bill Signed

CHARLESTON, W.Va. — Gov. Jim Justice signed SB 451 on Thursday, allowing Sunday hunting on public lands in West Virginia. The bill was passed overwhelmingly during the recently completed legislative session.

Last year, Gov. Justice signed a bill permitting Sunday hunting on private land with written permission of the landowner. This new

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bill will open more than 1.5 million acres of public land to Sunday hunting, provide several additional hunting days each year and make West Virginia more attractive to out-of-state hunters. The bill will take effect in early June and affect the 2018 hunting and trapping seasons thereafter.

“People drive right through West Virginia to Ohio or wherever it continue to the next page



Rob Ciarapica, from Leon, got a 21 3/4” bass at the Winfield Locks.

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be able to hunt on Sunday,” Gov. Justice said. “We lose those dollars because they want to be able to hunt an entire weekend. This will provide additional hunting recreation for our visitors and residents and result in a major economic impact for our small rural businesses. Today is truly historical.”

A study by the National Shooting Sports Foundation projects Sunday hunting adds \$155 million to the state’s economy each year.

Gov. Justice spoke about the bill during a ceremonial signing on Thursday in the Governor’s Reception Room before a crowd of officials from the Division of Natural Resources, state legislators and Sunday hunting supporters.

Also at the event, Gov. Justice ac-



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cepted a \$50,000 donation from the West Virginia Governor’s One Shot committee for the Hunters Helping the Hungry Program (HHH). The money was raised by volunteers during last fall’s West Virginia Governor’s One Shot White-tail Deer Hunt. During the annual

event’s 11 years, sponsor corporations, land owners and hunters have raised more than \$555,000. The money helps pay for processing hunter-donated venison, which is distributed to the state’s needy residents through a network of

continue to the next page



Ray Kelley & Bruce Dennis caught an 8 lb., 4 oz. and a 7 lb., 6 oz. rainbow trout at Mountwood Park Lake near Parkersburg.

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more than 600 food pantries, senior centers, shelters and the Mountain-er Food Bank in Gassaway.

“This is just another example of the great things hunters do across our state and across our nation. It helps so many people and touches

so many lives,” Gov. Justice said. DNR has sponsored the Hunters Helping the Hungry program for 26 years, during which hunters have donated 24,630 deer, or 941,000 pounds of venison. Donations have provided 1,266,000 meals for West

Virginia families in need. More information about HHH can be found at [www.wvdnr.gov/Hunting/HHH.shtm](http://www.wvdnr.gov/Hunting/HHH.shtm).

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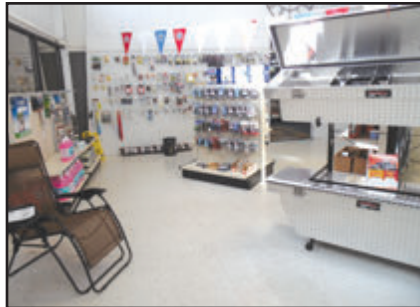
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## Walking Baits For Bass Fishing

Walking topwaters are a staple for bass fishing, particularly in the summer and fall. Being a pro, Scott Canterbury is as expert in the ways of a walking bait as about anyone. Even if you're settled in your ways, the Quaker State pro's tips might help you put a few more in the boat.

Canterbury says he keeps a walk-

ing bait tied on for much of the year, but particularly likes one in the spring and the fall.

"In the spring, during the spawn or postspawn, I'll throw it around the spawning areas," says Canterbury. "If they're down there spawning or guarding fry that will get them to come up and show themselves. A lot of times they don't get the bait, but you can come back and catch them on something else."

In the fall, it's more about getting fish to eat than show themselves.

"In the fall it's about schooling fish," says Canterbury. "If fish are chasing bait or in open water, that's when I fish a walking bait. When you're not necessarily targeting cover as much as you are bait, that's when I fish it."

continue to the next page

May/June 2018~ Page 24



Ed Franks, from Williamstown, landed a Tenn. striper this spring.

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Of course, schooling fish can be notoriously frustrating, so Canterbury likes to have other options handy.

“If they don’t hit it I go to a swim-bait or a jerkbait,” says Canterbury, “something that’s down below the surface. Even though fish are schooling a lot in the fall, they’re not necessarily coming up to get a bait, so much as chasing a bait up to the surface.

“I like a steady retrieve,” he adds. “In the fall around schooling fish, sometimes you have to walk it a little bit faster than you do in the spring. Every once in a while I’ll change it up during a cast, and if one boils at it I’ll maybe speed it up a bit like it’s trying to get away,

but usually I stick with a steady cadence.”

Tackle tips

Throwing a walking bait is like fishing any other topwater, in that you want it to stay at the surface, work well and land fish. Canterbury chooses his tackle accordingly.

“I’ve got to where I like braid, but you’ve got to have a real soft rod to throw it on braid,” says Canterbury. “So I usually throw straight copolymer – 15-pound-test green P-Line CXX – with a 7-2, medium-action rod and a 7:1 high-speed reel anytime I’m throwing a walking bait.”

There are about a million walk-  
continue to the next page

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Shawn Stidham brought in a 25 pound turkey this spring.

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ing baits on the market, and Canterbury isn't shy to say that he has used and still uses many of them. Per Canterbury, one of his favorites now is the Bagley Knocker B, a long-casting molded topwater that is easy to walk.

Canterbury likes that it comes with good hooks, but when he does need to change them he goes with standard round-bend trebles. According to Canterbury, a round bend is better than a wide-gap treble for "snagging" fish that just take a swipe at a bait.

Finally, the Alabama pro always removes the split ring and attaches the bait with a loop knot.

"A lot of baits come with a split ring, but it weighs a little bit and keeps the nose down," says Canterbury. "If you get the nose up a little bit it makes it easier to walk the bait back and forth."

Canterbury uses a simple over-hand loop knot that works regardless of line type.



Jason Zirkle, from Elkins, reeled in a nice largemouth bass.



Dave Augustine hooked a big Jackson County crappie.

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## Jarod Harmon

### Receives Award

SOUTH CHARLESTON, WV — Jarod Harman, the West Virginia B.A.S.S (Bass Anglers Sportsman Society) Conservation Director, received the B.A.S.S Nation Conservation Director of the Year award on March 17, 2018, during the biennial B.A.S.S Conservation Summit in South Carolina.

Serving as state Conservation Director for the past seven years, Harman has organized volunteers to assist the West Virginia Division of Natural Resources with many fish habitat enhancement projects. He also wrote and received a grant to build an angler access trail at Stonewall Jackson Reservoir, and has been involved in installing boat launches and collecting fishing line and discarded soft plastics.

Harman is proud of the B.A.S.S. Nation's 98-100 percent live release rate for fishing tournaments.



Rhonda Young, from Drennen, brought is an unusual “smoke phase” wild turkey.

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Recruiting young anglers is another of his priorities.

This annual award recognizes the work being done by volunteer B.A.S.S. Nation conservation directors for developing and participating in outstanding projects and programs in their state.

For 50 years, B.A.S.S. has focused on issues related to fisheries and aquatic resource conservation and works closely with state fish management agencies to develop sound management policies that protect and enhance aquatic resources.



A six pound bass was landed by Defazio at a Stonewall event.

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Weston, West Virginia was once the hand blown glass capital of the world. Now it has two charming studios where you can watch the art of blowing glass. Appalachian Glass and WV American Art Glass masterfully blend traditional glass-making methods with the best of modern techniques. Then learn more about the deep history of West Virginia glass by stopping by. The West Virginia Museum of American Glass has a collection of more than 17,000 pieces.

At the Mountaineer Military Museum, you will experience some of the United States Military's unique moments while seeing the military of our country and the nation comes alive through a soldier's eyes.

Kick back and relax at Lambert's Winery, situated on a beautiful hillside in its own hand cut stone building where you can take a tour of the facility and enjoy a tasting while visiting the gift shop.

You may also visit the childhood home of Thomas "Stonewall" Jackson at WVU's Jackson Mills Farmstead. Here you will see an 1840's farmstead with a working gristmill, blacksmith's shop, buildings, cabins and more.

Outdoor enthusiasts can visit Stonewall Jackson Lake State Park or Stone-coal Lake for boating, fishing, hiking, hunting and more. Enjoy a round of golf while spending a relaxing weekend at the four diamond awarded Stonewall Resort on the shore of Stonewall Jackson Lake.

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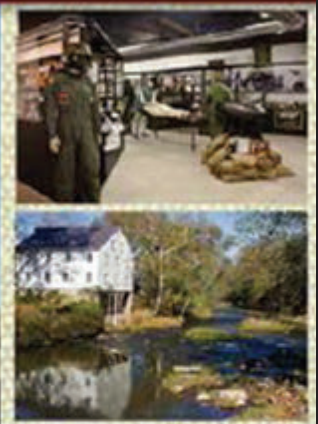
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# Archery In The Schools Winners

SOUTH CHARLESTON, W.Va. — Approximately 500 students from 55 schools participated in the 13th annual Archery in the Schools state tournament, hosted by the West Virginia Division of Natural Resources at the Summersville Arena and Conference Center on March 24.

Each participant shot 30 arrows, 15 from 10 meters and 15 from 15 meters, with a maximum score of 300.

Ripley High School sophomore Kaylee Toler was the top overall female shooter with a score of 291. Carly McHenry from Washington District Elementary was awarded the first-place elementary female individual award with a score of 275, while Danielle Fridley from Petersburg Middle School was awarded the first-place middle school female individual award with a score of 289.

Peterstown Middle School sev-

enth-grader Jacob Dillion was the top overall male shooter with a score of 292. Riley Peyton from Bridge/Clendenin Elementary was awarded the first-place elementary male individual award with a score of 280, and Damon Witschey from Magnolia High School took top individual honors in the high school male category with a 291.

Ripley High School returned to the top spot in the high school division, while Washington District Elementary and Buckhannon-Upshur Middle School took top honors for the first time in their respective divisions.

Following the competition, awards were presented to the top three teams in each division, the top 10 male and female individuals in each division, and the top two

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overall male and female archers. The top team and top 10 individuals from each division automatically received a bid to compete in the 2018 NASP National Tournament in Louisville, Kentucky on May 10-12.

For a full list of results, visit [www.wvdnr.gov/archery/tournament.shtm](http://www.wvdnr.gov/archery/tournament.shtm).



A huge rainbow trout was caught. Photo courtesy of Middle Mountain Sporting Goods in Elkins.

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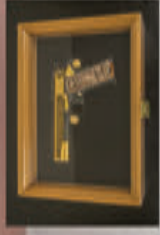
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May/June 2018 ~ Page 29

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# Fishing For Bass In High Muddy Water

In lieu of all the rain that has led to recent flooding conditions around the nation, you may be among those anglers trying to figure out how to deal with rising and, oftentimes, muddy water.

High water has impacted everyone from the Gulf States to here in Michigan, where the lakes are still ice covered. Many southern anglers are dealing with fish in a variety of stages, from late winter seasonal patterns to spawning conditions.

There is no doubt that finding the bass is hard to do when the water is rising. The fish inherently want to push shallow and spread out when the water level is moving upwards.

Just keep in mind that some of your best spring fishing days can occur when warming water is rising fast. Cold water makes it a lit-

tle tougher, and I will get into that later.

I key on runoff areas, such as backs of creeks, around culverts or even residential yards and water from city streets. Water temperature is critical, as it can vary from one pocket or creek to another. You may find as much as a five-degree difference from one spot to the next, so look for the warmest runoff you can find.

And don't overlook ultra-shallow areas. Bass will put their noses on a seawall, bank or a log even if it's in inches of water.

I will fish a spinnerbait under those conditions most of the time. The spinnerbait usually fishes well in flooded grass, bushes and around trees and allows me to cover water faster and more thoroughly.

However, spinnerbait style is critical. This is when I want a bulky spinnerbait with Colorado blades. Those blades not only put out a lot of vibration to help the fish find the bait in muddy water, but they provide lift and require you to wind

continue to the next page



Tom Morgan hooked a huge rainbow trout. *Photo courtesy of Middle Mountain Sporting Goods in Elkins.*



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the bait slower. As a result, the bait will stay in the strike zone longer and make it easier for the fish to react.

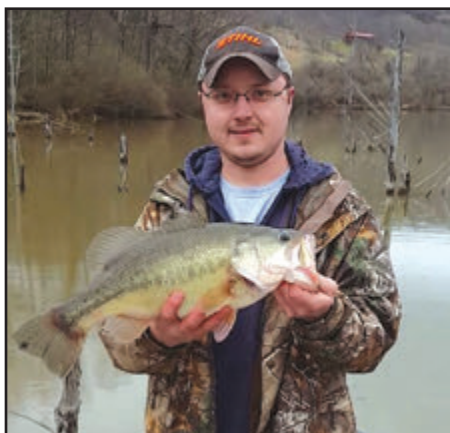
I also opt for bright colors, such as fire tiger, chartreuse, fluorescent oranges, yellows and even pearl white. Black can be good too, because it provides a good silhouette in dirty water.

If there is too much debris to fish a spinnerbait, I will go to 1/2-ounce Strike King Hack Attack Flipping Jig in black/blue with a blue craw-colored Rage Craw (or a similar rig in white) and flip it into thick cover or even swim it, depending upon the area I'm fishing.

Now, in cold water, your challenge rises. It's the toughest to face in early spring.

Just remember that if the bass are still in the winter pattern, they are less likely to move to prespawn areas when the water is cold and rising. However, there always is a segment of the fish population that lives shallow most of the time, and that's where I like to throw a KVD 1.5 Flat crankbait that displaces a lot of water and allows me to make a lot of casts while searching for fish.

It's important to fish this lure close to the bottom or near objects



Stacy Stout caught & released a huge Stonewall Jackson bass.

because that's where the fish will be holding. In cold muddy water, I will make parallel casts to channel swings, steeper banks, and riprap.

Rising water may wash out your favorite places to fish for spring bass, but that doesn't mean you can't catch them in other areas. Just employ some of the tactics outlined here, cover a lot of water and you might be surprised with the results.

And remember, it's all about the attitude!

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## Catfishing Tips

What's the best time to catch catfish?

Is one time of the year better as far as catching cats?

This is a question we're asked frequently by catfish anglers of all experience levels. It's normal to question if there's something you can do to increase your success by taking advantage of seasonal patterns.

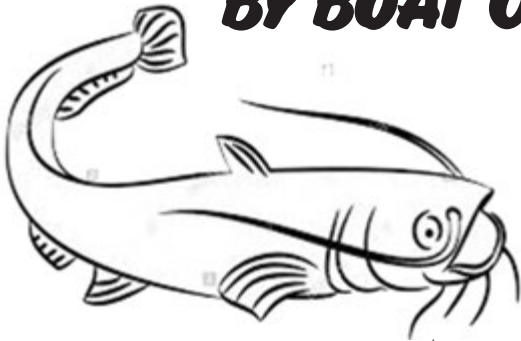
As far as the best time to catch catfish, I'll give you a general summary of the different seasons and how it impacts the catfish action.

This is based on my experience of  
continue to the next page



Bo Tallman got his 1st gobbler in Tyler County. *Photo courtesy of Tyler Outdoor Supply in Middlebourne.*

# ST. MARYS POLICE DEPARTMENT CATFISH TOURNAMENT BY BOAT OR BANK ON THE OHIO RIVER



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**2 Person Team - Boat Division** - \$100 Entry Fee Per Team. Pays 3 Places. 1st \$1,000 • 2nd \$650 • 3rd \$300  
 Pre-registration Call or Text (Sgt. Jason Reed) **304-299-3446**. Fishing boundaries are the Hannibal Dam to the Willow Island Dam and all tributaries to the 1st dam or riffle. 2 catfish per team (must be alive). NO TRAILERING ALLOWED Teams launch & return to the St. Marys Marina. BIG CAT Jackpot - \$25 per team (80% payout) Big Fish in pounds breaks ties. Sign up starts at 6:30pm 6/1/2018 or pre-register earlier.

**2 Person Team - Bank Division** - \$30 Entry Fee Per Team. Pays 3 Places. 1st \$350 • 2nd \$250 • 3rd \$150  
 Fishing boundaries are the Hannibal Dam to the Willow Island Dam and all tributaries to the 1st dam or riffle. 2 catfish per team (must be alive). Teams must stay together and fish from the bank. Teams leave & return to the St. Marys Marina for the weigh-in by 7am on Sat. Fish must be alive and are to be released. Top 5 teams must stay for the weigh-in. There will be a POLYGRAPH done!! Payout increases over 40 teams. BIG CAT Jackpot - \$10 per team (80% payout). Big Fish in pounds breaks ties. Sign up starts at 6:30pm 6/1/2018

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Austin McKeown went to Putnam County for a nice buck.

ver fifteen years as a professional catfish guide in Texas but the same information applies. The same general rules will apply everywhere across the United States but seasonal changes could happen earlier or later depending on climate.

Catfish behavior and patterns are all relative to water temperature because catfish don't have a calendar, water temperature controls everything.

I could write for hours and hours and fill multiple books with differ-

ent patterns and catfishing techniques to use different times of the year so I'm going to cover the basics.

The short answer about the best time to catch catfish is that catfishing is good all year long in much of the country but you may be better off focusing your efforts on a specific species of catfish at times to increase your success.

continue to the next page

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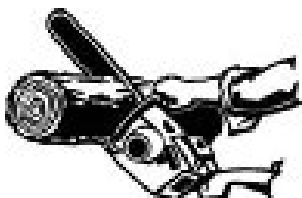
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Different Species, Different Times,  
It Makes a Difference

Answering what time of the year is best for catching catfish has many variables like the catfish species you'll be targeting, whether you want to catch blue, channel or flathead catfish, if your goal is to catch numbers or size and more.

The best time of the year to catch catfish can vary greatly depending on what your target species is and whether you are targeting bigger or smaller fish.

Winter

Catfishing in the Winter is one of my absolute favorite times of the year.

Winter affords a lot of options like cormorant catfishing for numbers of fish and excellent action for blue cats in deep or shallow water.

My favorite Winter catfishing is for trophy blue catfish.

Winter is the absolute best time here in Texas for catching big

monster blue catfish consistently and is also easy to produce excellent numbers of blue catfish and channel catfish that are "box" fish.

Winter offers excellent fishing for blue and channel catfish but the

flathead bite can be difficult. Many flathead cats are often caught in the  
continue to the next page



Josh Burge got his 1st gobbler.  
Photo courtesy of Crossroads General Store near Newark.



John Maynor used a bow for a good bear.. Photo courtesy of Uncle Tom's Loans in Oceanna.

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Winter but very few savvy catfish anglers will target them during this time.

Whether your goal is big monster trophy class cats or catching numbers of small fish winter is an excellent time for both!

Spring

Spring brings on rising water temperatures and a transitional period for fish, catfish included. This is es-



Cody Isner caught a nice bass.

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pecially true of early season fishing where catching transition catfish can be frustrating especially for inexperienced anglers. Putting some time on the water in and learning to locate and pattern seasonal transition cats will teach you that the early spring transition offers some amazing fishing.

Anytime there's a drastic change in water temperature the fish scatter and become more difficult to pattern and when water temperatures stabilize then fishing patterns and catfish locations will become more consistent. They're always biting somewhere but during certain times it can be difficult to find that "somewhere".

As the weather warms and water

temperatures stabilize the catfishing action goes crazy. The warm water makes the cats much more active. They're hungry coming out



Riley McCloy harvested a nice 20 lb. turkey on youth day.

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of a long winter where cold water makes them lethargic and they're not feeding heavily. This means them losing body weight during the winter and they're going to put that back on by feeding heavily.

Late March, April and early May is some of the best blue catfish fishing of the year for numbers of fish and also offers excellent opportunities for trophy class catfish as well.

Channel catfish action is typically excellent and very consistent also.

Flathead catfish are virtually inactive during the winter and the warm spring waters puts them in a feeding frenzy not only adding back the lost Winter weight but also getting ready for spawn.

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**DETAILS ON PAGE 3**

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Zander Stalnaker caught a big trout at Turkey Run Lake.

N	U	G	I	N	O	O	M	B	E	R	A	T	A	P	A	R	K	S	Q
P	F	A	A	T	I	G	O	B	B	L	E	R	T	T	U	G	L	C	E
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S	E	R	A	I	N	L	O	U	L	U	O	R	O	A	D	R	B	C	L
P	P	C	N	R	T	U	O	R	T	N	E	M	A	N	R	U	O	T	A

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Nina Brumfield, from Chapmanville caught a 24 1/2" largemouth at Mud River Lake.

## LARGE FISH & GAME PICS WANTED

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State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_

Fish \_\_\_\_\_ Pound \_\_\_\_\_ Oz \_\_\_\_\_

Deer \_\_\_\_\_ Other \_\_\_\_\_ #Points \_\_\_\_\_

We are looking for **LARGE** fish & game pictures from 2018.



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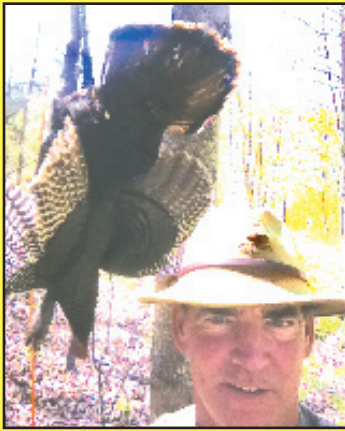


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