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Issue 208

June 2011



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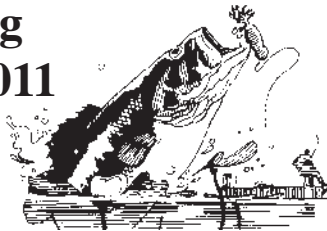
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Cover Photo

This fish looks too big to hold!
Josh Miller went to the Willow
Island locks on the Ohio River for
this mammoth flathead catfish.
His giant weighed 46 pounds
and measured 48 inches. Other
slang terms for flathead catfish
includes: shovel head & mud
cats. He was using a big live fish
for the offering.

This magazine is online each
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*Photo courtesy of Reese's Country Store
in Deerwalk - Off of Route 50.*

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What A Day

While fishing in the last week of May on our favorite stretch of the West Fork River near Weston, West Virginia, my brother and I caught 5 musky and had another big one hooked until it got off right at the boat. We also caught several bass that day.

Although we were on a small Jon boat with no seats for 8 hours and the sun was beating down and we had ran out of food and drink, we considered it the best fishing day we've had in a long time.

We put the boat in around 6:55am. The river looked great and we just had a good feeling we would catch some fish. Within the first 5 minutes Yancy, my brother, started the day off by reeling in a 20" musky. We would have considered that a successful day even if we didn't catch another fish the rest of the

day. But as soon as we got situated and had that fish back in the river and started to float, he hooked another musky. This one was bigger, going 26". Here we were only on the water for 18 minutes and we had landed two musky, wow.. what a start to a day. As we started to float again, I inadvertently and accidentally hit him in the back with my lure twice. He took the hint and let me catch the next fish. Less than 30 minutes later it was my turn as I reeled in a 33" musky.

It was starting to warm up a little and the fishing became slower. Although we pulled in several bass over the next 4 hours we thought we had caught our last musky.

We continued fishing for the "BIG" one for several hours as we love to musky fish. We grew up fishing with dad for trout, bass, crappie and catfish. Although we

continue to the next page



Howard Martin caught a nice musky on the West Fork.

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Yancy Martin hooked a nice musky on the West Fork.

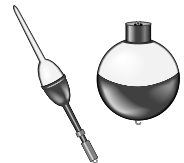
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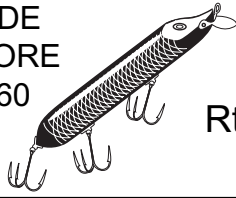
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still fish for these fish our love for musky fishing started one day 7 years ago while we were on the West Fork near Good Hope, WV.

We were small mouth and crappie fishing that day. Our father, Howard, Yancy and myself (Howard Jr.) were floating in a Jon boat and someone became snagged. I sat my pole down and once we were untangled I went to reel in and thought I had got snagged. But this snag took off, I had a light weight pole with 4lb test and no leader. I fought what looked like an alligator to me and managed to get it to the boat 4 times.

We grabbed the fish and almost rolled it in the boat, but like every GREAT fish story it got off. Judging from the boat and guessing the best we can this fish was 46" to 48". The sad part about this story is we did not have a net. Yancy had brought one with him but my dad and I teased him asking what did

we need that big of a net for crappie and small mouth. So he left the net in the truck and I have learned not to ask questions anymore. Needless to say once you hook one that



Tyler Thompson, from South Charleston, bagged a nice boar at a preserve in Jackson County.

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big we became addicted and chase these musky now every chance we can.

continue to the next page



Wendall Flowers, from Waverly, used a bow for this 8 point..

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Alright back to my story... It had been a good while since the last musky but we were all smiles and high fiving what a great day it had been. We tried different lures and were about to call it a day when Yancy decided to put our secret lure back on.

Within 10 minutes he had landed another musky. This one measured 36" and put up one heck of a fight. Landing a musky in a Jon boat is like combing your hair in a tornado.

It was nearing the end of the day and were on our way back to the truck and he catches another fish even bigger this time. It went 39" plus almost 40". As we were in our last 200 yards before hitting the boat ramp we were slow trolling and I had another big musky tear the water up. I managed to get it near the boat but it was not to be.

We loaded up and headed home after a day to remember and as we called people to tell our story we did not get a lot of believers. We did not bring a camera but luckily I had my cell phone and was able to take some pictures during the day and after all "Seeing" is believing.

By Howard Martin
Jane Lew, WV



Tim Terry landed a 5 pound, 5 oz, smallie. Photo courtesy of Three Rivers Edge in Hinton.


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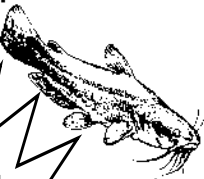

Two year-old Sissy Butler, from Big Bend, caught her 1st fish.

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Don't Boat And Drink

SOUTH CHARLESTON, W.Va. – Natural Resources Police Officers with the West Virginia Division of Natural Resources (DNR) will participate in Operation Dry Water and will be out in force June 24-26 looking for boaters whose Blood Alcohol Content exceeds the state limit of .08 percent. Operation Dry Water will include increased patrols, breathalyzer tests, and checkpoints as well as boater education.

“We intend to stop intoxicated boaters and to educate as many boaters as possible about the hazards of Boating Under the Influence (BUI),” said Lt. Tim Coleman, DNR’s State Boating Safety Program coordinator. DNR has added six additional patrol boats to its fleet this year and will be patrolling all major rivers and lakes during the boating season.

A boat operator or passenger with a blood alcohol concentration above the legal limit runs a significantly increased risk of being involved in a boating accident. When impaired by alcohol, boating accidents are more likely and more deadly for both passengers and boat operators, many of whom capsize their vessel or simply fall overboard.

BUI is a primary contributing factor in nearly one in five boating fatalities nationwide, according to the U.S. Coast Guard. Five boating-related fatalities have been recorded in West Virginia in 2011.

Operation Dry Water, a multi-agency, education and enforcement initiative launched by the National Association of State Boating Law Administrators (NASBLA) in 2009 in partnership with the U.S. Coast Guard, puts thousands of local, state and federal marine law

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enforcement officers on the water nationwide the last weekend in June to give BUI enforcement high visibility during the peak boating season.

“There will be arrests this weekend, and some boaters will face the consequences of boating under the influence,” said Lt. Coleman “We want recreational boaters to enjoy themselves, but there will be zero tolerance for BUI.”

Operation Dry Water is a joint program of the West Virginia DNR, NASBLA, the U.S. Coast Guard and several local law enforcement agencies. Operate your boat in a sensible manner in 2011,

Mail Or Email Your Pics Form On Page 38



Larry Prince landed a musky recently on Stonewall Jackson Lake. Photo courtesy of Husky Musky Guides.

ADVERTISE IN THE W. VA. SPORTSMAN - DETAILS ON PAGE 3



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Cody Hardbarger & Hannah Watkins brought in a 28 pounder. *Photo courtesy of Jarrett's Bait in Elizabeth.*

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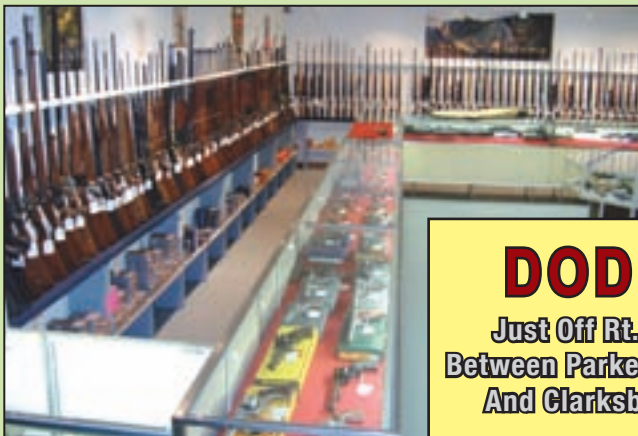
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Mark Jackson landed a large fresh-water drum. Photo courtesy of Jarrett's Bait in Elizabeth

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An unusual cross fox (red & gray) was brought in by Harold Statler. The hair is two lengths. Photo courtesy of Crossroads General Store near Newark..

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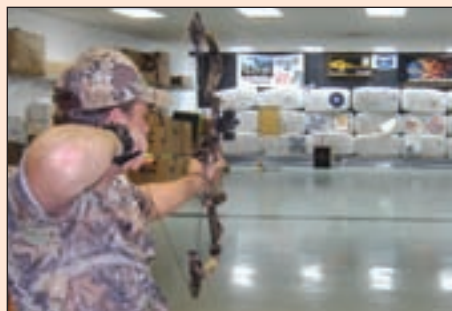
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Duckett - Business Is A Pleasure

By Randy Coleman

As you drive around West Virginia, Kentucky and southern Ohio, a familiar site on the interstates is a tank trailer embossed with name Southern Tank Leasing. More than likely, the tank trailer you're seeing came out of the company's office lot in Charleston, W.Va.

What people in West Virginia likely don't know is that the company is owned by professional angler Boyd Duckett, winner of the 2007 Bassmaster Classic and one-time holder of the single-season B.A.S.S. competition earnings record. His mark of \$863,000, set in 2007, was eclipsed last year – barely – by legendary angler Kevin VanDam.

Duckett set his West Virginia roots more than 20 years ago when he began hauling product for chemical companies in the Kanawha Valley and Ohio River Valley. He visits the Mountain State as often as possible and can occasionally be found grabbing lunch at his favorite local restaurant, The Grill, on Washington Street in West Charleston.



Boyd Duckett, 2007 Bassmaster Classic winner, has business in WV..

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Duckett's company – or more accurately, this particular company, because Duckett has more than one – is thriving.

So is Duckett's pro fishing career. The Businessman Angler

A little more than three months ago, Boyd Duckett finished his fifth

straight Bassmaster Classic. He pulled the final day's biggest fish – an 8 pound, 15-ounce giant – that helped him net a Super Six finish. In his five straight Classic appearances, he has garnered a sixth and a 12-place finish to go along with
continue to the next page

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a title.

When Duckett, whose home base is Demopolis, Alabama, hit the highest-level of competitive bass fishing in 2007, he blew in like a Great Plains Nor'easter. He won the Bassmaster Classic, took the title in an Elite Series "major" and captured another first-place finish on the Outdoor Channel's Ultimate Match Fishing series. By year's end he had earned more money in one season than any B.A.S.S. competitor in history.

He was 46 at the time.

Although he had a regional reputation, especially in Alabama and Tennessee because he had been fishing B.A.S.S. Open tournaments and other local and regional events in that region for two decades, Duckett was essentially unknown nationally.

His Classic victory came on central Alabama's Lay Lake, 140 miles home of 15 years. He led the tournament after the first day of competition, yet when he sat before media members that day, he was treated as something of a novelty - a one-day wonder.

Kevin VanDam, the world's No. 1 angler, who was in second place, set the record straight.

"Kevin basically told the writers that they needed to pay attention," Duckett said. "Kevin said that I know Lay Lake as well as anybody,

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and that I had enough experience that I probably wasn't going to go away."

In other words, this was no Cinderella story.

On the final day of the 2007 Classic, Duckett caught a 6-pound-9-ounce largemouth - the day's largest fish - roughly an hour from check-in time, allowing him to sneak past Skeet Reese and VanDam to take the Classic title. Duckett, as fellow anglers will tell you, has a flair for the dramatic.

Though not as successful as he was in 2007, Duckett has shown re-continue to the next page



Dylan Wager hooked a nice catfish. Photo courtesy of Crossroads General Store near Newark.



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markable steadiness during his past three-plus seasons. He has also displayed an amazing ability to catch fish when he has to. Two of the past three seasons, he has entered the final two tournaments outside the Bassmaster Classic outline only to close out both seasons with strong finishes – strong enough to secure his Classic berth. He followed that pattern last month in New Orleans. He made the final-day cut, starting the day in a respectable 19th place. Then he put together a 29-pound bag that was the Sunday’s best. He lost another fish that he believes was roughly the same size as his almost 9-pounder.

“Still wouldn’t have been good enough to make a run at Kevin, but it would have added a little spice,” Duckett said.

The public got to know Duckett better after his Classic victory and during the rest of 2007 as he strung together his remarkable year. Through regular interviews, blog postings on his own Web site and ESPN Outdoors’ site, as well as through a syndicated column about competitive angling, Duckett poured out his thoughts on a vari-



DJ Justin and his son are shown with an 18 pound catfish.

ety of subjects. Duckett offers the picture of a savvy, cerebral angler who has been around the block more than a few times. Many of his blog postings, not surprisingly, refer to business.

His peers and bass fishing fans seem amazed that Duckett is able to compete at such a high level, considering his day-to-day involve-

ment in a wide array of businesses and interests. He owns and manages a multi-million-dollar tank-trailer company (Southern Tank Leasing) and helps manage a second tank-trailer operation (Charlotte, N.C.-based Duckett Tanks, which he co-owns with his brother, Errol). By his own estimation, Duckett has

continue to the next page

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been an owner or partner in more than two-dozen businesses. Most were successful.

“No matter what I do, I’m still probably most comfortable in the tank-trailer business,” Duckett says. “I’ve been working in that industry my entire adult life. But I’ve started plenty of businesses. Some made it. Some didn’t.”

Before moving to Demopolis, Duckett spent roughly a decade in Nashville. There, in addition to running a Nashville-based tank trailer business, Duckett was heavily into the music industry. He was a partner in a corporation called Affiliated Publishers Image Inc., which had songwriters’ services and talent management branches. During Duckett’s time in Nashville, his companies managed three artists with No. 1 country hits: Tim McGraw, Ty Herndon and Joe Diffie.

“I really enjoyed living in Nashville. It was a great town,” Duckett said. “One thing I enjoyed was that a lot of country music performers loved fishing.

“We used to have midnight fishing tournaments at J Percy Priest Reservoir. A lot of country music performers would come out to those tournaments after they performed,” Duckett said. “I don’t think Porter Waggoner ever missed one.”

Gary Klein said he is constantly surprised by Duckett’s anecdotes. “My introduction to Boyd came



Larry Huggins, from Pine Grove, caught a 5 pound, 9 oz. rainbow.

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through his fishing. I really had no idea who he was until the he was in the final six at the 2007 Classic. Kevin and Skeet and couple of other guys and I were in the finals with Boyd. We sat back behind the stage, and we were there for quite a while. Boyd’s a great story-teller, so I got to listen to a lot of stories and jokes, but it was pretty evident that Boyd was somebody who’s a little different – and I mean that in a good way,” said Gary Klein.

Klein and Duckett are now close friends, but that wasn’t always the case.

“Later that year I had a run-in

with him on Kentucky Lake. It was over territory, and I just flat-out had an issue with him - and I confronted him over it,” Klein said. “We worked it out to the point that afterward we were cordial around each other, but I was still gritting my teeth a little bit.

The not-backing-off approach is precisely the story behind his latest business success: Duckett Fishing. In 2009, Duckett parted ways with his rod sponsor: E21. The company had produced a widely successful campaign around Carrot Stix, a rod that Duckett had helped develop
continue to the next page

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and promote.

By early 2009, however, Duckett was preparing to split with E21 over what he will only describe as “extreme philosophical differences” in the way the rods were being manufactured and warranted.

Duckett did the unprecedented. He dropped his E21 sponsorship, forfeiting considerable income, and decided that instead of seeking an existing manufacturer’s sponsorship as a replacement, he would just make his own rods.

That, in a nutshell, is the first chapter in the evolution of Duckett Fishing, manufacturers of one of the hottest fishing properties on the market. Duckett, through this new company, created and introduced the rod he had been personally seeking: an ultra-light, highly sensitive rod that utilizes microgides.

Always with an eye for the dramatic, Duckett decided to make his rods white.

Duckett Fishing has taken off, to put it mildly. Projected initially to turn a profit in perhaps three years, Duckett Fishing has outsold projections three-fold. The company is fighting every day to keep production up with the swelling load



Chauncey hooked a nice large-mouth. *Photo courtesy of PC Bait & Tackle in Hinton.*

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of orders. Online and specialty store sales were strong early. The rods are sold in more than 200 independent retail outlets. You can also now find MICROMagic rods in Bass Pro Shops, Cabela's and Gander Mountain.

“We’ve been fortunate,” Duckett

says. “We’re ahead of schedule.”

Former angler-of-the-year Tim Horton, who recently joined Duckett’s pro staff, went further.

“With Boyd, every action gets broken down. He’s concerned about every aspect of his product,”

continue to the next page

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Horton said.

"I was working with a company a few years ago, and I tried to tell them that it would be a good idea to change the cosmetics, to do something that would distinguish their rods. In our business, we've always been tied to dark rods, and it's hard to tell what anybody is using," Horton said. "But when I suggested doing something that would make the rods stand out, nobody wanted to hear it.

I heard about the time his employees were supposed to be releasing the pressure on the inside of one of his tanks. Only on this occasion, the pressure valves weren't actually opened. Duckett walked into the shop just in time to hear a high-pitched whistle, then see the tank crumble like an aluminum can as a top mount blew off the tank at about 300 miles an hour.

"We just looked straight up as part of my tank blew a hole through the roof of the shop," Duckett said. "It was like a Bugs Bunny cartoon."

Along with the entertaining stories, though, Duckett tells another one – one that invokes a different

mood.

"I worked hard for a lot of years, and those hard years of work allowed me the opportunity, in my mid-forties, to give one last shot at fishing at the highest level. I was always a tournament angler, and I was always good. But by 2007 I had finally reached a point in my business life where I could devote time to becoming not just a good angler, but an angler who could compete at the Elite Series level," he said.

"I'm humbled that I was able to get here," Duckett said. "But the truth is that I still get drawn back into work so much that it's hard to compete every week with the Kevin VanDams and the Skeet Reeses and the Gary Kleins of our world. I really, really want to win another Classic, and I want to win angler-of-the-year. But it's an uphill fight."

Last year, with the startup of Duckett Fishing and pressures of keeping up with more than 800 tank trailers around the country, for a few weeks Duckett lost focus on his tournament series and found

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himself 12 spots out of the Bassmaster Classic cut. Two tournaments remained.

He did make. Boyd Duckett finished sixth as he competed in his fifth straight Bassmaster Classic.



Roy White tagged a 20 1/2 pound-gobbler. *Photo courtesy of Crossroads General Store near Newark.*

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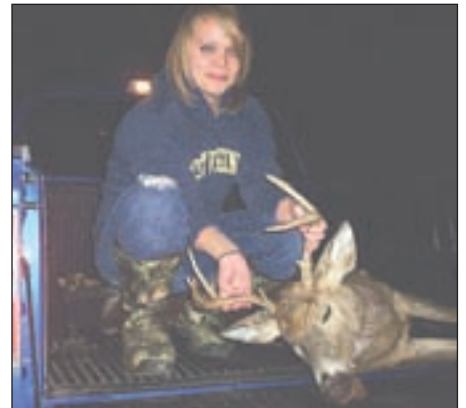


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Jamie Workman went to Family Fishing in Grafton for this blue cat



Emma Burnside got her 1st deer - an 8 point from Ramdolph Co.



Josh Smith won \$1,000 in a catfish tournament at this popular pay lake.
Photo courtesy of Catfish Paradise in Marietta, Ohio.



Josh Stephens hooked a 47" catfish on the Little Kanawha - Zebco 33.

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Cousins Paul Camp and Eric Johnson doubled up on these 2 Wood County gobblers. They have hunted for many years together for their 1st double.



David Hart hooked a quality New River smallmouth. Photo courtesy of PC Bait & Tackle in Hinton.



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7 year-old Cameron Ross hooked his 1st musky. *Photo courtesy of Husky Musky Guides in Jane Lew.*



A 33 pound New River catfish was hooked. *Photo courtesy of PC Bait & Tackle in Hinton.*

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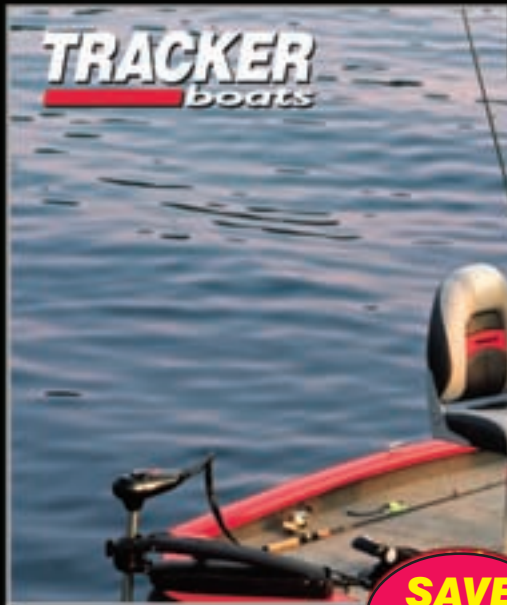
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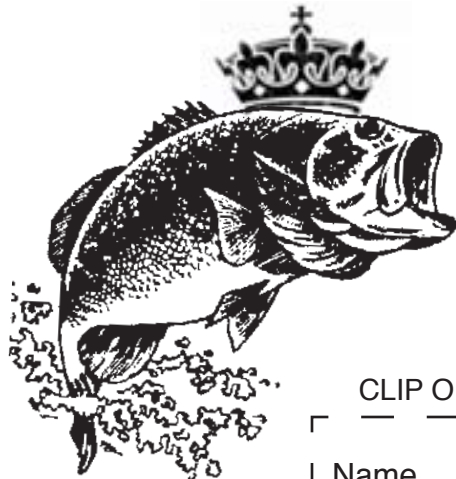
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Fish Trivia

1. We all know that fish travel in schools, but do you know some other plural fishey names?

- A. Clutch
- B. Shoal
- C. Draft
- D. Wave
- E. All of the above
- F. None of the above
- G. B and C
- G. B and C

TBD: It should have been wave though, don't you think?

2. Can you name the phobia that means a fear of fish?

- A. Ichthyophobia
- B. Limnophobia
- C. Entomophobia
- D. Pantophobia

TBD: If you have a fear of lakes you suffer from limnophobia, of insects you have entomophobia, and of everything its pantophobia.

3. How do fish hear?

- A. They don't
- B. Through sound vibrations reverberating through the bones of their skull
- C. Through their gills
- D. Through their fins

B. Through sound vibrations reverberating through the bones of their

skull
 TBD: Fish hear without the aid of external ears. Sound vibrations reverberate through the bones of the skull to an internal ear. Fish also possess unique sensory organs called lateral lines. These canals along the sides of the fish can sense vibrations and, in some species, weak electrical fields.

4. What do you call a baby fish?

- A. A guppy



Rodney Kirkendoll bagged a 20 pound gobbler.

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B. A fry continue to the next page



Rodney Deem shot a big bied. Photo courtesy of Crossroads General Store near Newark.

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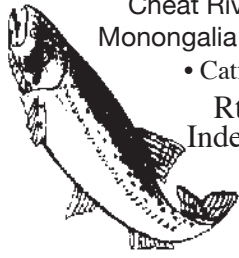
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C. A minnow

D. A baby fish

B. A fry

TBD: We guess that's where the
expression “small fry” came from!

5. How do Antarctic icefish survive
in freezing water?

A. Special antifreeze chemicals in
their blood

B. Extra layers of fat which earned
them the nickname “Puffy Fish”

C. Constant high level of motion to
keep blood circulating

D. There is no such fish

A. Special antifreeze chemicals in
their blood

TBD: We would have thought this
was a made up answer if we hadn't
researched it ourselves!

6. Just how much hot water can fish
take?

A. Pot boilers in Ecuador survive
in hot springs approaching 200 de-
grees Fahrenheit

B. Desert pupfish found in hot
springs of western North America
live in temperatures higher than

100 degrees Fahrenheit

C. Some fresh-water fish can take
temperatures up to 80 degrees
Fahrenheit without difficulty

D. Anything over 60 degrees Fahr-
enheit causes distress

B. Desert pupfish found in hot
springs of western North America
live in temperatures higher than
100 degrees Fahrenheit

TBD: We know we couldn't live in
those springs without cooking!

7. How high can a flying fish fly?

A. 6 feet

B. 36 feet

C. 60 feet

D. 360 feet

B. 36 feet

TBD: Their flight may consist of
several glides, in which they re-
peatedly return to the surface of the
water long enough to renew their
propelling power. They rise to a
maximum of about 36 feet into the
air and glide as far as 200 yards.

Kelli Jo Bennett brought in a nice
gobbler.

8. Just how fast can a fish swim?

A. Never over 40 mph

B. Barely 50 mph

C. About 60 mph

D. Over 70 mph

D. Over 70 mph

TBD: The fastest-swimming fish
continue to the next page



Tyler Hutchinson, from Walker,
brought in a 22' largemouth.

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are the billfish and the tunas. One billfish, the sailfish, can swim in bursts of speed over 70 mph.

9. Known as one of the fastest fish, tunas are also built for long-distance endurance. How far do tuna migrate?

- A. 7700 miles
- B. 770 miles
- C. 77 miles
- D. 7 miles

A. 7700 miles

TBD: Swimming as fast as 30 mph, they migrate as far as 7700 miles in only four months.

10. What are the biggest fish?

- A. Whales
- B. Whale sharks
- C. Great white sharks
- D. Leviathans

B. Whale sharks

TBD: Whale sharks can reach 40 feet in length. Yes, whales are bigger, but they are not fish. Fish are cold-blooded and breathe underwater using gills; whales, on the other hand, maintain a warm and constant body temperature.

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Spring Gobbler Harvest

CHARLESTON, W.Va. – Preliminary harvest numbers for the 2011 spring gobbler season show a take of 9,216 bearded turkeys, a decline of 10 percent from the 2010 harvest of 10,209 birds. Division of Natural Resources’ wildlife officials surmise a combination of inclement weather, high gas prices, and lower turkey numbers were major factors in the lower kill.

“Our biologists had predicted a slightly lower harvest based on

poorer productivity in 2009,” said Curtis I. Taylor, Chief of the Wildlife Resources Section. “Preliminary reports from field personnel also indicate a lower hunter turnout, probably due to high fuel prices and many rainy days during the season.”

The harvest was down 12 percent each in Districts 1 and 2, down 9 percent each in Districts 3 and 6, down 16 percent in District 5, and
continue to the next page



Donald Hall, from Lenore, used a muzzleloader for this 8 point.

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up slightly in District 4. Top counties were Mason with a kill of 447, Preston (325), Kanawha (310), Jackson (291), and Wood (276). Rounding out the top 10 counties were Marshall (254), Greenbrier (253), Harrison (242), Wyoming (242), Fayette (237), and Putnam (237).

The 2011 spring kill is the lowest since 1990, when 9,152 birds were checked. "Let's hope for a dry June so young poults will have high survival and bolster populations, although it will take several years of good brood production to get turkey numbers to levels they were 10 years ago," Taylor said.



AJ Pollack, from Leon, caught a 4 pound largemouth bass.



Terry Styler won a St. Croix rod at this store. Photo courtesy of PC Bait & Tackle in Hinton.

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Bass Fishing Quiz

Q. In what century did bass fishing begin?

A. Bass fishing is an old sport. The correct answer is that it started in the 18th century. However, like most beginnings it was a rudimentary beginning, the progress we've made a few centuries is almost frightening. Most likely, it began in the southern regions of the US. But, today bass fishing is an international obsession and professional as well as amateur fishing competitions can be found all over the world.

Q. When was the first bass fishing reel invented?

A. Between 1768 and 1770. The first multiplying reel was invented during this time. This is the great granddaddy of your modern bait casting reel. The proud inventor was one Onesimus Ustonson.

Three cheers for Onesimus!

Q. Who invented the first level-wind design reel?

A. No other than William Shakespeare Jr. from Shakespeare Company fame. Before he secured a patent for his invention in 1897 he was a patent medicine salesman. His invention was a hit with fisherman of his day and as they

continue to the next page

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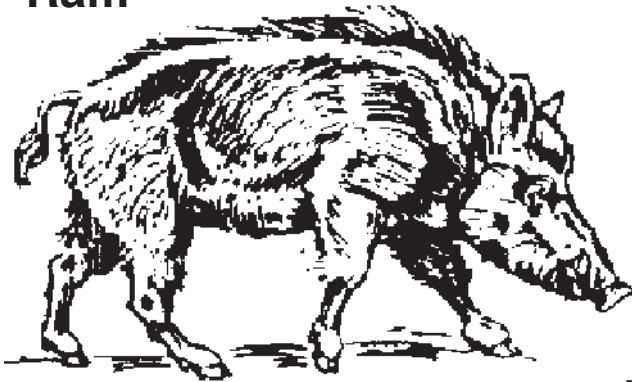
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Q. What year was the first spinner lure created?

A. 1915. This was the creation of the William J. Jamison Co. The spinner that started it all was called the Twin Spinner is the grandpa of your modern spinner.

Q. Can you name the US president that precipitated today's bass fisheries?

A. Did you guess Franklin D. Roosevelt? I hope so. You are correct. He created the Tennessee Valley Authority which was responsible for the building of various dams throughout the United States. These impoundments became the playgrounds of today's bass fishermen.

Q. Which US Company is responsible for the development of nylon fishing line?

A. DuPont invented nylon in and started selling nylon monofilament fishing lines. The DuPont factory in Parkersburg, WV is one of only two Stren manufacturing facilities in the world

Q. In what year did the first professional bass fisherman win the first million dollars in fishing?

A. The year is 1992 and the winner of was Larry Nixon and those million dollars were the total earnings he made in one year fishing professionally.

Q. Can you name three species of bass that are currently being fished in professional bass fishing events?

A. Large mouth bass, small mouth bass, and Kentucky bass

Q. In what decade did bass fishing first become popular?

A. The 1950's is widely consid-

ered as the decade that popularized bass fishing in the United States and prompted the technical developments in bass rods, reels, boats and lines that we enjoy today.

Q. How much money does the bass fishing industry contribute to the US economy?

A. You would probably be surprised to know that the bass fishing industry is responsible for \$50 - \$70 billion dollars of activity in the US economy, and that number is growing every year as fishing related sales increase because of bass fishing's growing popularity.

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Roman Rader caught a big flat-head... Photo courtesy of Jarrett's Bait in Elizabeth.



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Cliff Calloway caught a 6 pound, 1 oz. largemouth bass at Bluestone Lake.
 Photo courtesy of Three Rivers Edge in Hinton.

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Brandy Goodwin landed a 35' grass carp. Photo courtesy of Crossroads General Store near Newark.



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Sandra Bright hooked a 3 1/2 pound crappie. Photo courtesy of Jerry's Sporting Goods in Horner.

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Twin Falls Park Additions

MULLENS, W.Va. –June 15 is the date for the official grand opening and dedication of the \$7 million Twin Falls Lodge renovation and expansion. “It has been about 30 years in the making and I think most folks will agree, worth the wait. It is a beautiful lodge complex,” said Scott Durham, park superintendent. “A lot of people have been involved to make this capital improvement a reality. June 15 will be a celebration!”

Improvements include expansion of the lodge from 20 to 47 rooms, a swimming pool for guests, upgraded furniture and decorations, five reconfigured conference rooms, elevator access, and many other modern amenities that appeal to tourists and business guests.

The dedication is set for 10:30 a.m., Wednesday, June 15, at Twin Falls State Park near Mullens and is open to the public. Congratulatory remarks will be made during the ceremony followed by a ribbon cutting.

“Tours of the facility and refreshments will highlight activities,” said Ken Caplinger, Chief of West Virginia’s state parks. “The opportunity to visit with the park staff and seeing the obvious pride in a job well done will make this spe-



Kevin Ross landed a musky at Stonewall Jackson. *Photo courtesy of Husky Musky Guides in Jane Lew.*

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cial day in Wyoming County as well as our park system.”

Caplinger will be joined by Division of Natural Resources Director Frank Jezioro, area legislators and special guests. Caplinger encourages anyone to attend and be part of the celebration.

About the Twin Falls Lodge Expansion

Expansion of the 42-year old lodge began in July 2008. Swope Construction, based in Bluefield, W.Va., was awarded the capital continue to the next page



Scott Hatcher landed a big smallmouth bass. *Photo courtesy of Three Rivers Edge in Hinton.*

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improvement project via state purchasing procedures. The expansion cost was less than \$7.5 million and funded via Economic Development Fund and other funding sources. The project included moving infrastructure, reconfiguring land mass and parking areas, the building construction, furnishings, access and other design elements. The original park development funding from 1970 is recorded as being \$4,423,000.

The lodge expansion developed the original 20-room lodge into a 47-room destination hotel. It includes a guest swimming pool (34' x 15'), a fitness center for overnight guest use, guest laundry area, elevator access, upgraded furnishing and decoration. The lodge lobby is transformed into an Adirondack-styled public area that blends seamlessly with the origi-



Michelle Rawson, from Parkersburg, hooked a 19 pound carp.

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nal Bauhaus design. There are still five conference rooms at the lodge, but the space is reconfigured and with easier access for meetings and catering.

The 27-rooms added include two king suites with Jacuzzis. The rooms offer queen and king bedding. The new rooms are located in the Cardinal wing of the completed lodge complex. The front desk staff is partial to the Monarch Wing Rooms due to the cozy feeling and great views offered. Rooms in the Monarch wing of the lodge complex are the original rooms. Both

the Monarch and Cardinal wings have new furniture, soft goods, art, window treatment, and decoration.

The Cardinal and Monarch sections of the lodge reflect the West Virginia state bird and state butterfly. The conference rooms are named for deciduous tree and shrub species found at Twin Falls: Azalea, Dogwood, Maple, Chinquapin, and

continue to the next page

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Porter Bennett caught a big catfish and crappie. Photo courtesy of *SThree Rivers Edge* in Hinton.



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Oak. The Azalea Room has been renovated; the Dogwood Room is a new addition.

The original loop road that approached the lodge entrance was removed entirely and replaced with a 100 space parking area that complements the façade of the building. The lodge exterior shades three memorials located at Twin Falls. A miner's statue recognizing individuals who have lost their lives while mining coal, two mill stones from Foley Mill that was in operation in the early 1900s on Marsh Fork, and a granite tribute to Morris "Smokey" Harsh, the first superintendent at Twin Falls State Park, and a visionary in the park developmental years. Harsh is responsible for the salvation of the Bowers home place, today known as the Pioneer Farm. Scott Durham is only the second superintendent in the park's history and provided vital commitment to needed development over the past 30 years.

Brad Leslie, chief engineer with West Virginia's state parks, and engineering staff oversaw the project

completion in cooperation with Supt. Durham, Swope Construction, subcontractors, and countless workers, restaurant employees, and park staff.

About Twin Falls State Park

Twin Falls State Park, 3776-acres, was developed by funding from the Area Redevelopment Act (ARA) in 1963. The land mass was a "gift of land" to the state of West Virginia by Western Pocahontas Corporation and the Pocahontas Land Corporation for the park development. The nine-hole golf course opened in the fall of 1967. The park opened to the public on June 26, 1970. Located in Wyoming County, Twin Falls was and continues to be a source of pride for area residents and a tourist and group destination.

Twin Falls was conceived and developed as a total park and not piece-at-a-time as many recreational areas experience when being developed. The 20-room lodge was one of three state park lodges of that era where architectural form superseded function. Other state park lodges designed by the Ar-

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chitects Collaborative and a Walter Gropius influence are Hawks Nest and Pipestem Resort state parks. Twin Falls' initial development phase included a 20-room lodge with restaurant, gift shop, and coffee shop, golf proshop and outdoor swimming pool, and 13-deluxe cabins. The campground and pic-nic area will continue to the next page



Cody Hardbarger hooked a 23 pound catfish. Photo courtesy of Jarrett's Bait in Elizabeth.

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nicking areas soon followed and were developed in the early 1970s. A nine-hole golf course was opened in 1968 and expanded to an 18-hole championship course in 1984. The original course was a Geoffrey Cornish design, the additional nine holes were designed by noted golf course designer, George Cobb, Sr.

“There is always change occurring at state parks” says Durham. “The general public rarely is aware of most changes, but those are vital in park operations.” Twin Falls has undergone infrastructure improvements over the years that include replacement of the waste water treatment plant, moving from wa-

ter treatment and production to water supplied by the Ravencliff PSD and associated pipeline installment, expansion of conference and kitchen facilities in the mid-1980s, addition of an accessible cabin meeting ADA requirements, electrification of 25 camp sites, paving of golf cart paths, and general maintenance issues and updates that occur in facility upkeep.

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Dillon McDaniels fished at Stonewall Jackson Lake with Jerry Myers. He landed and released a 50 1/2" musky. The pic is a little fuzzy - wiggles.



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ing of wireless service at the lodge, getting cable television to the lodge and cottages are technology needs that also push us forward,” explained Durham. “It isn’t the easiest topography to make major changes like water lines, buildings, and electrical updates. But like all state parks, we work at keeping Twin Falls current, and still retain the hospitality and personality of the area – keeping it a cherished state park for the generations that will visit here.”

Durham adds that it is the park



Kelsi McFarland, from Walker, had a 1st turkey that weighed 23 pounds.



Donnie Williams hunted in Fayetteville for this large buck.

staff through the years that have met the challenge when improvements are made. “It is our staff that retains customer loyalty and satisfaction when change occurs.” The lodge did not close during construction phases. “You’ll find the employees at Twin Falls models for

the tourism industry when it comes to guest service and hospitality.”

For more information about Twin Falls State Park visit www.twinfallsresort.com or call Twin Falls State Park at 304-294-4000 for dedication details, park information or lodging reservation.



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

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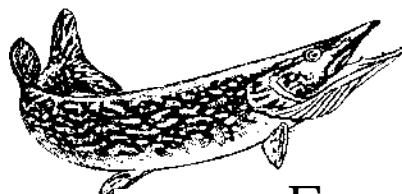
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