



FREE

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

Issue 246

June/July 2015



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Magazine

Volume 1 Issue 246

Publisher and Editor
Mark A. Goudy

Contributing Editors
West Virginia Division Of
Natural Resources

No Subscriptions Offered

Printed Every Six Weeks.

W.Va. Sportsman

P.O. Box 5521
Vienna, WV 26105

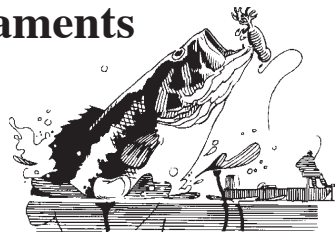
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Cover Photo

Colin Derenberger, from Mineral wells, hooked a 47.3 pound flathead catfish. He was fishing in the Ohio River.

This magazine is now accepting **TEXT** pictures. So many people have their cell phones as their only source for taking pictures. Now, you can text the pics to this magazine. Just call this number: 304-482-7217. The number is always listed on page 38.

Crossbows will be legal in archery season - buy one soon.

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Wings Of Prey

SOUTH CHARLESTON, West Virginia – “Wings of Wonder” – A Birds of Prey program series at West Virginia State Parks, will be featured at 14 areas in 2015. These birds and others appear live with Ron and Wendy Perrone of Three Rivers Avian Center (TRAC) to introduce various birds and to share aspects of each species. The presentation includes information about the incredible abilities of raptors, their differences and how connected birds are with the ecosystems they live in.

“It’s a thrill to see eagles and other birds of prey in the wild, but this is an opportunity to see these majestic creatures up close,” said Dakota Farley, seasonal naturalist at Beech Fork State Park. “Guests to our parks and forests are in for a treat to see these creatures and learn more about them.”

Three Rivers Avian Center is scheduled to present “Wings of Wonder” - Birds of Prey at these West Virginia state parks and for-

ests. Location and presentation times are posted on each park events webpage or call the park for times.

June 20, 2015 – Beech Fork State Park – 304-528-5794

June 27, 2015 – Babcock State Park – 304-438-3004

June 10, 2015 – Holly River State
continue to the next page



Bill McVay lands a 5 pound, 2 oz. Stonewall Jackson largemouth.



Tim Givens got his first turkey.

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 July 10, 2015 – Cacapon State Park – 304-258-1022
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 July 25, 2015 – Blackwater Falls State Park – 304-259-5216
 August 7, 2015 – Canaan Valley Resort State Park – 304-866-4121
 August 7, 2015 – Tygart Lake State Park – 304-265-6148
 August 14, 2015 – Twin Falls State Park – 304-294-4000
 August 22, 2015 – Blennerhassett Island State Park – 304-420-4800
 August, 22, 2015 – North Bend State Park – 304-643-2931
 August 28, 2015 – Watoga State Park – 304-799-4087
 September 4, 2015 – Pipestem State Park – 304-466-1800
 September 12, 2015 – Kanawha State Forest – 304-558-3500
 Special summer programs and a variety of daily activities conducted at West Virginia state parks are open to the public at no charge. Times vary and should be confirmed with individual areas. For more information about special programs,



Jim Carpenter and Shawn Ramme caught a lot of fish. *Photo courtesy of Jarrett's Bait in Elizabeth.*

click on "Park Programs" at www.wvstateparks.com.

Why outdoor education works

TRAC started presenting programs in West Virginia State Parks in 1993 and became part of the Special Summer Series in 1995.

According to Wendy Perrone, TRAC executive director, "In June of 2000, we presented a program at an area that is well visited for its great fishing opportunities, part of the program focused on the effects on wildlife and others of abandoned tangles of fishing line left hanging in trees, brush and in the water. Some of the injuries seen here at TRAC are from fishing line entanglements and many have been horrific. A few of the stories and some involving the ultimate death of birds were shared with the audience during the program. At
 continue to the next page

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Joyce Stump caught a channel catfish in the Little Kanawha River.

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the end of the program, as we were talking informally with visitors and local residents, a little girl broke away from the crowd and ran over to a nearby tree that was leaning out over the water. She returned, came up to me and triumphantly handed me a piece of tangled fishing line, complete with bobber that had been hanging in the tree. She announced that she and her friends would be collecting fishing line 'from now on!' We still have that bobber in the TRAC van."

About: Three Rivers Avian Center
 Three Rivers Avian Center is a private 501(c)3 nonprofit organization dedicated to wild bird conservation and to educating and involving people in ecosystem stewardship.



Brian Vance hooked a nice largemouth. Photo courtesy of Broken Wheel Campground in Weston.



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Founded in 1990, TRAC's 103 acre facility is located in the southern portion of the New River Gorge National River, between Sandstone and Hinton in Summers County, West Virginia. TRAC Executive Director Wendy Perrone is a graduate of Guilford College. TRAC Education Director Ron Perrone is a graduate of West Virginia University. Wendy currently serves as the New River Gorge Peregrine Restoration Coordinator, a five-year effort to re-establish peregrine falcon populations in their native southern Appalachian haunts. The Perrones are involved in many interpretative based organizations, wildlife rehabilitation organizations and assist conservation agencies as appropriate.

The public is invited to public tour days at Three Rivers Avian Center, held the first Saturday of each month May – October from 1 to 5 p.m. Other tours are scheduled by appointment only. TRAC is near Bluestone and Pipestem Resort state parks. For more information about Three Rivers Avian Center,

call 304-466-4683 or visit www.tracwv.org.

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Your Pics From
This Year To
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Game & Fish



A big blue catfish was landed at this lake. Photo courtesy of Catfish Paradise near Marietta.

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Don't Feed The Bears

SOUTH CHARLESTON, W.Va. - The West Virginia Division of Natural Resources reminds residents that feeding black bears is a violation of state law as well as a misguided disservice to our state animal, according to Colin Carpenter, black bear project leader for the DNR Wildlife Resources Section.

"It is understandable that some people will illegally set out food so they can get a closer look at this often-secretive animal," Carpenter said. "However, these actions often lead to the destruction of the bear. Bear movements are tied to food sources. Bears that roam in and around residential areas in search of food are less likely to stay if they do not find anything to eat. The key to avoiding human-bear conflicts is to remove or secure food attrac-

tants before a bear finds them."

Capturing and moving bears that have become accustomed to humans is a costly and often ineffective way of addressing the problem, especially when faced with the possibility of merely moving a problem bear from one area to another. That is why wildlife agencies around the country tell people that a "fed bear is a dead bear."

Bear populations have increased in both number and distribution in the past 20 years. Bears are now found in areas where they have been absent for decades, and have been reported in all 55 counties.

Human-bear interactions increase during the spring and summer for several reasons. Natural food sources are at their lowest point when bears leave their dens in the

spring. Bears often spend several weeks feeding on green vegetation while continuing to lose weight. High-energy foods such as service-continue to the next page



Cody & Larry Canby got a 7 point and a 400 pound black bear.

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June/July 2015~ Page 7

berries, blackberries, raspberries, and blueberries do not become available until later in the summer. In addition, the bear breeding season, which peaks from mid - June through July, puts many bears on the move. During the breeding season, males will cover large areas while searching for females. This is also the time of year when adult female bears will chase off their yearlings so that they may breed again.

Human-related food sources are higher in calories and easier to obtain than natural foods. All bears, especially yearlings that are on their own for the first time, will take advantage of easy food sources. Bears will continue on their way if they do not find easy food sources.

Bears quickly become habituated to handouts in the form of trash, bird seed, pet food and feed placed out for other animals, and lose



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their fear of humans. These bears resort to raiding garbage, outdoor freezers, storage sheds, vehicles and other structures associated with people. Unfortunately, when these activities are repeated, DNR personnel are forced to humanely destroy the offending animal for safety reasons.

“There is simply nowhere to move
continue to the page 13



Chance Pickens, from Parkersburg, hooked a nice largemouth bass.

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Colt Corder landed a nice small-mouth bass. *Photo courtesy of Old & New Sports in Ravenswood.*

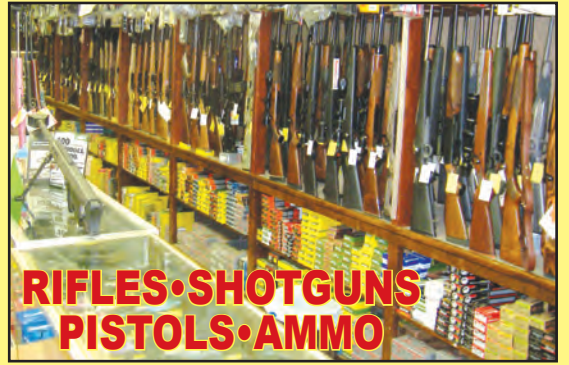
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A nice North Bend Lake musky was caught and released. *Photo courtesy of the Bait Shack in Harrisville.*

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Dean Enoch got a 10" bearded gobbler. Photo courtesy of Crossroads General Store near Newark.

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LIVE BAIT




John Vanate reeled in a large Stonewall Jackson bass. Photo courtesy of Broken Wheel Campground in Weston.



Michael Gill landed several channel catfish at Bluestone Lake. Photo courtesy of PC Bait & Tackle in Hinton.

Mail • Text • Email
Big Fish Pics
Form On Page 38

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move bears that have become a problem," Carpenter said.

"We radio-collared black bears in and around the cities of Beckley, Charleston and Morgantown, and found that these bears are resident animals that spend most of their time within 3 miles of these cities. Therefore, unintentional feeding of black bears is something that needs to be prevented," Carpenter said.

"Garbage should be secured in a bear-proof facility and placed out for collection on the morning of

pickup, not the night before. Food scraps that produce large amounts of odor should be sealed in a plastic bag before being placed in the trash. Food scraps should not be placed in a compost pile during the summer months. Residents should remove all outside pet food at night and bird feeders should be taken down, cleaned, and stored until late fall to further discourage bears from feeding around human habitation. If you do not remove food attractants until after a bear has

become a nuisance, you will have caused the death of that animal."

Feeding of any wildlife should be avoided for numerous reasons, including, but not limited to, disease transmission, increased predation, habitat destruction around the feeding site, ethical concerns and the animal's overall health.

"Following these practical and common sense recommendations will reduce human-bear conflicts and assure that more of the state's animals remain wild," he said.



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Swimbait For Bass

One of the most popular lures in all of bass fishing right now, or maybe I should say, the No. 1 most popular lure in all of fishing right now, is the swimbait.

And there's a very good reason for it – they catch a lot of larger than average bass – and that's led to major tournament wins the past two months on popular fisheries like Guntersville and Kentucky Lake. This in turn has led to more and more serious weekend anglers giving them a try.

I could fill five pages with information on all the varieties of swimbaits – where and when to throw each and how to rig them – but for now, let's try to cover the very basics.

It's important to note that swimbaits are primarily a visual lure for bass – they don't rattle, buzz or cause a ton of vibration. Instead they trigger bites primarily in clear to slightly stained water because they look similar to baitfish. As hugely popular as they are right

continue to the next page



Chayce Townson, from Bethesda, caught a nice largemouth bass.

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Details On Page 3**

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From Charleston: Take I-64 exit at Milton to Rt. 60 West to Fudges Creek Road - Follow The rest of the directions from above.

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now, they are not great in muddy water. Bass have to see them to eat them.

One of the least complicated versions is a 5 1/2-inch Smokin Shad-colored Creme Scremer on an oversized 1/2-ounce lead darter head like you see in the center of the group of baits in the photo. It's got a paddletail, and its fairly sleek body makes its way through aquatic vegetation pretty easily. Just cast them and retrieve slow and steady.

The second type of swimbait I use most is a jointed hard-bodied version like the Treeshaker Shaker

Shad or Bucca Bull Shad. First, I'll warn you – these lures range from \$35 to \$50. That's why a recent college grad like me only has a couple of them, but man do they ever look natural in the water and get bites from big fish. I keep one handy on the deck, and anytime I see schooling activity near the surface I toss a Shaker Shad or Bull Shad to them.

I throw the Bull Shad and Shaker Shad at places like Lake Fork or Toledo Bend where bass bigger than 8-pounds are not uncommon, but that's not to say a 3- or 4-pound

continue to the next page



Amanda Dawkins landed her first musky - a 40 incher.

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bass won't eat one too. They certainly will. I throw them on 25-pound fluorocarbon, or braided line if I'm around grass, and they swim barely beneath the surface.

The most popular swimbaits right now are those like the Basstrix or Shadalicious you see on the far left of the photo with the weighted hook. These are soft plastic, hollow-bodied, lures that most pros throw in the 4- to 7-inch size.

Hollow-bodied swimbaits are great right now when bass are located around deeper ledges in summer where underwater creek and river channels move through a reservoir. A 6/0 wide gap hook with a 1/2-ounce weight in the belly of the hook works well with most of these hollow-bodied baits, and you can go to a 3/4-ounce if you want to fish it deeper than about 10-feet.

My guess is that the size of these lures intimidated a lot of anglers, and suppressed their popularity, until recently when tournament anglers proved how many big stringers could be caught with

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them. They're fairly easy to cast and retrieve, and they catch a lot of above-average size bass.



David Boothe caught a five pound Stonewall Jackson largemouth.



Billy West went to Ohio for a 22 pound gobbler.



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Fishing Grubs

I fish grubs on spinning tackle. You can use a baitcaster if you want, but I think you get better casting accuracy with a light-action spinning rod and reel. Light test-weight line is an advantage, too. It gives them better action.

The difference in bait action between 8-pound-test line and 12-pound-test line might not be all that great with a 3/4-ounce crank-

By Mike Iaconelli

bait, but it's really big when you're fishing a 1/16-ounce ball head and a short, lightweight plastic. You want things to work together.

There are three basic styles of grubs — curly-tail, boot-tail and straight-tail.

My choice is usually a curly-tail but I have caught a lot on any one of the three depending upon conditions. To get maximum action out of a curly-tail grub rig it so that the bend in the tail is in the opposite direction of the bend in the hook. In most cases that'll be down. If you do use a bend-down hook, and rig the curly-tail up, make sure the hook has a weedguard on it. Otherwise, you'll spend a lot of time retying.

I use a boot-tail when I want to get less action but, at the same time, I want to get more thump and water displacement. That'll help fish find it in heavily stained or muddy water and under lowlight conditions.

Straight tail grubs are interesting for a couple of reasons. I don't fish

continue to the next page

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Shawn Stidham got a large turkey.



Walker Tolliver hooked a nice smallmouth bass. *Photo courtesy of PC Bait & Tackle in Hinton.*

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with them a lot but I do use them in really clear water when the bite is especially tough. They're pretty good at putting bass in your livewell when nothing else seems to work.

They have another fun use, however and that's catching darn near anything that swims. All grubs will do that, of course, but straight-tails seem to have a special knack for it.

If you just want to go fishing, tie a bright white, straight-tail grub on with a simple leadhead weight up front. Let it fall to the bottom and bring it back with a slow lift and fall routine. It should hit the bottom when it falls.

Most of the time, you'll end the day with one or two fish out of every species that lives in your waters including a couple of surprisingly

big flatheads. They are predators, you know, and for some reason they really like white, straight-tail grubs.

I'm serious, guys. Try it sometime when things are slow.

The white grub thing is only for special occasions, though. Most of the time I toss my grub out let it fall to the depth I want — you can estimate the rate of fall at one foot per second — and reel it straight back to the boat. I don't jerk or snap it, and I don't pull it up and down. A steady, horizontal retrieve is the way to go.

The only exception to what I just said is if I'm trying to imitate a crayfish, leech or something else that's crawling along the bottom. Then I drag it back, but even then I do it with steady movement.

The bottom line is this: Fancy lures, with fancy retrieves, catch bass. Grubs do the same thing.

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Geary Reynolds shot a bird with an 10 1/2" beard. Photo courtesy of Crossroads General Store near Newark.

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Big catfish are caught at this lake.
Photo courtesy of Bel Meadows Fishing
Preserve near Lost Creek.



Jason Dickerson caught a New
River smallmouth. Photo courtesy of
PC Bait & Tackle in Hinton..

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Bud Vanetta hooked a big largemouth bass. Photo courtesy of the Broken Wheel Campground in Weston.



A 32 pound blue catfish was hooked at his lake. Photo courtesy of Catfish Paradise near Marietta.



Dakota Lockhart caught a 48 pound flathead. Photo courtesy of Jarrett's Bait in Elizabeth.

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Eddie McLoy is helping Josh Compton hold the 48" flathead he caught.
Photo courtesy of the Bait Shack in Harrisville.



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Bob Gardner, from New Matamoras, got two big largemouth bass.

Catfishing Info

Catfish fishing “myth busters” addressing common misunderstandings, tall tales, folklore and some species habits and more on types of catfish.


Catfish “The Size Of A Volkswagen Bug”: There’s a catfish the size of a Volkswagen Bug near the dam at the Lake. My friend was a scuba diver. He saw it and got out of the water and never went in again. I can’t tell you how many times I’ve heard this story over the years and it’s been about every lake and river in the United States. Either your uncle’s buddy knows every single living person in the United States or you’ve fallen victim to urban legend. You decide! [Tweet It]

Catfish Are “Bottom Dwellers”: They’re not strictly “bottom dwellers”. Sure, they do spend time on the bottom but they’re a complex fish that feed through the entire water column including on the top or surface of the water, the bottom and

continue to the next page

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everything in between. If you're focusing solely on the bottom your not getting in front of all the fish! [Tweet It]

Catfishing Is Better At Night? You have to fish at night, right? Wrong! Cats are not nocturnal fish and fishing at night is not required. You can catch just as many fish during the day as you can at night. In fact, many savvy anglers prefer fishing in the day over fishing at night. [Tweet It]

You Need Stinky Baits?: You have to use some sort of stinky stuff, right? Wrong again! They don't just feed on stinky stuff and scavenge around for meals. All three species of catfish are highly skilled



Brody Stevens, from Weston, won the Tom Thumb event. *Photo courtesy of Broken Wheel Campground in Weston..*

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predators that will feed on a variety of foods. Channel cats (and even blues at times) love some good old stinky bait but it's certainly not required. If you're fishing for blues or flatheads or even larger channel

cats the stinky baits might even work against you!

Do Catfish Sting? They Don't Sting. Their whiskers do not sting and their fins don't either. Smaller continue to the next page



Cole Owens, 12 years old, bagged a 22 pound gobbler.



Carson Yeager, from Glenville, hooked a 40 pound flathead.

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fish do however have very sharp fins that will penetrate the skin if not handled with caution. The fins will cause a burning sensation if they puncture the skin but it's not a "sting".

If You Get "Finned" By Catfish: If you break the skin or get punctured by a fin, there's a simple way

to stop it. Turn the fish over and rub the wound on the belly of the fish for a brief period. The slime from the fish will stop the burning sensation and you'll feel no pain at all almost instantly! [Tweet It]

The "Big Three" Species: There are three species of catfish that are most sought after by anglers in the

United States, blues, channels and flatheads. They are similar in many ways but are also very different. To be successful you need to understand the differences of these fish and tailor your approach to the one you want to catch!

Channel Catfish: Channel cats continue to the next page

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cats are abundant and most widely distributed in the United States. They provide an excellent opportunity for anglers and are among the easiest to learn to catch consistently. If you want fast paced action and lots of fish channels are an excellent option. They also appeal to many because they don't require any specialized gear.

Blue Catfish: Blues are present in many parts of the United States and are the most sought after species of catfish among hardcore catfish anglers. They grow big, they fight hard and can be caught in excellent numbers. Blue catfish are the preferred species of catfish for many because they grow to trophy sizes and generally are present in high

numbers as well. This means you can catch lots of smaller blues or monster trophy cats!

High Fin Blue Catfish: "High Fin Blues" are like unicorns. There is only one species of blue catfish and that's it so "high fins" or "high fin blues" are no different than the every day run of the mill blue cats.

Mississippi White Catfish: Also like unicorns. These fish are nothing other than a blues with lighter coloring. It doesn't matter what you call it or what your friends cousin told you a "Mississippi White Catfish" is a blue cat.

Flathead Catfish: Flatheads are big and tough and put up a heck of a fight! Catching flatheads is often considered by many to be "slower"

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fishing though they can be caught in good numbers at times. Flathead hunters focus their fishing efforts on catching a few very large fish
continue to the next page



Chris Raper, from New Matamos, caught a nice largemouth.



Young Aidan Crockett, from Braxton Co., shot a 24 pound gobbler.

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- Drinks/snacks - RV or Camp

Located On Rt. 5
6 Miles West Of
GLENVILLE, WV

over trying to fill a day with a lot of activity (size over numbers).

Catfish Change Colors The pigment in the skin will change colors and it's possible for two fish of the same species to look very different. This is especially true of blues. When blue cats are in clear shallow water and exposed to sunlight they'll be dark. If they're in deeper muddy water they'll be lighter colored. In cold stained or muddy water they'll be almost white at times. [Tweet It]

Male and Female Catfish: Males usually have larger heads and smaller bodies and it's more pro-

nounced around spawning season. The head and back of the male fish are often much more muscular.

Supercharged Senses: Often perceived as "bottom dwellers", being an unsophisticated fish that lurks around eating leftovers and trash off the bottom. This might be true in some situations but they are actually a very sophisticated fish with advanced senses of smell, taste and sound. They're able to detect sounds, vibrations and smells far better than many other species of fish and their senses are far better than many other species of fish.

Catfish Sense Of "Taste": Their

entire bodies and are covered with "taste buds" and are highly concentrated in the barbels or "whiskers" surrounding the mouth.



Holly Huffman hooked an 18 pound flathead. *Photo courtesy of PC Bait & Tackle in Hinton.*



Dakota Cyrus caught a 20 pound catfish. *Photo courtesy of PC Bait & Tackle in Hinton.*

Rifles
Pistols



PC BAIT & TACKLE

HUGE SELECTION OF LIVE BAIT

*Minnows - Hellgramites - Lizards - Worms
Goldfish - Shiners - Meal & Wax Worms - More*

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2015 OHIO RIVER BONUS BASS TOURNAMENTS

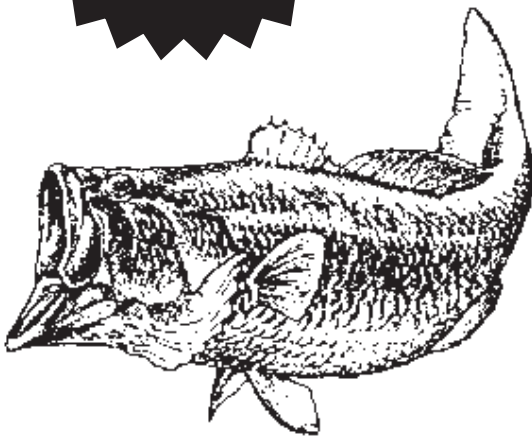
The bass fishing was more than tough on the Ohio River in 2014.
These tournaments are designed to give your team more ways to get in the money!

All Tournaments On Sunday
7am to 4pm All Events
6 Fish Limit
6 Oz. Dead Bass Penalty
Further Rules Given At Event

**MORE
WAYS
TO WIN
MONEY**

\$60 Entry Fee

20% Of Teams Get Paid On The Event
Includes A \$60 Big Bass Prize.



BONUS BIG BASS

- Optional For Teams
- Additional \$30 Per Team
- Your Team Can Win The Guaranteed \$60 For Big Bass - Plus - Bonus Big Bass Money
- Example

20 Boats Pays 3 Places On Big Bass
30 Boats Pays 5 Places On Big Bass
40 Boats Pays 6 Places On Big Bass
50 Boats Pays 7 Places On Big Bass
60 Boats Pays 8 Places On Big Bass
ETC.

April 12 Powhatan Point
May 24 New Martinsville
June 28 Powhatan Point
July 26 New Martinsville
August 23 Powhatan Point
CHAMPIONSHIP TBA

**BONUS
BIG BASS
MONEY
OFFERED**

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\$60 Tournament
(Includes \$60 1st Big Bass)
Optional Big Bass \$30
Total Of \$90 For The Event
If You Also Enter The Bonus Big Bass

Example: Your team could place 3rd on overall weight and place 5th in BONUS BIG BASS
MORE WAYS TO WIN! BONUS BIG BASS IS OPTIONAL \$60 PAYOUT FOR 1ST BIG BASS IS GUARANTEED

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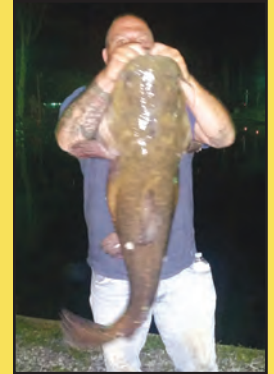
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Randy Echard caught the big bass - 19 1/2" and his team won a "paper bass tournament" at North Bend Lake. Photo courtesy of the Bait Shack in Harrisville.



Bob Epler, age 92 from Reedy, bagged a nice gobbler.

CENTENNIAL MOTEL

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Michael Wilson landed a Kanwha River large flathead catfish.



Young Amelia Smith caught her 1st big bass in Logan County.

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Brent Stutler hooked 40 & 29 pound flatheads. *Photo courtesy of Jarrett's Bait in Elizabeth.*

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Nathan Bostic hooked a Bluestone Lake carp.



Tommy Colvin from Wood County went to Ohio for a great buck.



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Josh Murray hooked a huge flat-head catfish at Lake Washington.



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Young Drayden Murdock caught his first big bass. Photo courtesy of PC Bait & Tackle in Hinton.

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- Open 365 days a year
- Stonewall Resort with fine restaurants and Arnold Palmer Signature Golf Course, and 2,650 acre Stonewall Jackson Lake with all types of water recreation, fishing, and hunting, just two minutes away



DNR Donates To DU

OMAHA, Nebraska - With this year's contribution, the West Virginia Division of Natural Resources reached the \$500,000 mark for donations to waterfowl breeding ground conservation in Canada. Ducks Unlimited (DU) recognized their commitment during the 80th North American Wildlife and Natural Resources Conference held in Omaha, Nebraska, March 13, 2015.

"It is the committed support of partners like the West Virginia Division of Natural Resources that



Levi Beaton hooked a 38" flathead.
Photo courtesy of Burnsville Docks.

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makes waterfowl conservation and the North American Waterfowl Management Plan a success," said DU Chief Conservation Officer Paul Schmidt. "With the support of the WVDNR over the past 28 years, Ducks Unlimited has conserved, enhanced and restored thousands of acres of prime breeding habitat."



David Arbogast, from Pt. Pleasant, caught a 23" largemouth bass.

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The Association of Fish and Wildlife Agencies' State Contributions continue to the next page



Leonard Pumphrey got his first bear in Webster County.



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Program represents a unique international funding partnership that preserves critical waterfowl habitat in the Prairie Pothole Region of Canada, while working toward achieving the goals of the North American Waterfowl Management Plan. Contributions from individual states are combined with other state contributions, matched by DU Inc. and DU Canada, and then leveraged through the North American Wetlands Conservation Act.

“The West Virginia Division of Natural Resources has long valued our strong partnership with Ducks Unlimited,” said Paul Johansen, acting chief for the Wildlife Resources Section. “We appreciate the opportunity to make this long-term investment in Canadian waterfowl

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habitat, as it yields long-term benefits for our sportsmen and women. By matching our financial support with other states, DU Inc. and DU Canada, we are able to protect critical nesting habitat that sends millions of ducks down the Atlantic Flyway to West Virginia and beyond each fall.”

Ducks Unlimited Inc. is the world’s largest nonprofit organization dedicated to conserving North America’s continually disappearing waterfowl habitats. Established in 1937, Ducks Unlimited has conserved more than 13 million acres thanks to contributions from more than a million supporters across the continent.

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Jay Buckabee, from Ravenswood, hunted a 21 pound gobbler..



Mike Vanscoy, from Moundsville, landed a 40 pound flathead.

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Memories Happen Here

SOUTHCHARLESTON, West Virginia – No place is better for making lifelong memories than at West Virginia’s state parks, and that’s why a new marketing campaign is underway to remind visitors that “Memories Happen Here.”

The campaign began running state-wide through a partnership with the West Virginia Broadcaster’s Association. The goal is to increase visitation to 49 areas that make up West Virginia’s state park system and emphasize the abundance of activities available for adults, children and families alike. Tools used in the campaign include print ads, TV commercials, radio spots and

continued promotion on the West Virginia State Parks Facebook and Twitter channels. All elements of the campaign are tagged with the theme “Memories Happen Here.”

The campaign launch also marked the introduction of a modern look made to the West Virginia State Parks logo that retains the beloved rhododendron. The new logo is an evolution to the previous logo that had been used for several decades.

West Virginia state parks offer adventures like skiing, boating, camping, fishing, hiking, biking and golfing, as well as opportunities to relax or just enjoy a good meal in the quiet and beauty of the Mountain State. Additionally, the system’s 10 parks with lodges and 19 areas with cabins create desti-

nation stays across the Mountain State.

“We are making a strong push to attract young adults and families, to encourage them to start a tradition of visiting our facilities regularly,” said West Virginia State Parks

continue to the next page



Mitch Liggett used a bow for a 4’ long gar. *Photo courtesy of Anderson’s Outdoors in Buckhannon.*



Chase Freeman caught a 20” small-mouth in Harrison County.



Kenny Utt, from Harrisville, caught a flathead at North Bend Lake..

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OCEANA, WV

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GAME CHECKING



Chief Sam England. "Ultimately, we want to sell the adventure and many experiences that can be found in our state parks system."

The TV spots can be viewed at www.youtube.com or by visiting the West Virginia state parks social media pages at facebook.com/wvstateparks and twitter.com/wvstateparks. Individuals are encouraged to also visit the social media pages for the latest deals and special promotions.

"As local gems and part of the greater statewide crown of jewels, West Virginia's State Parks offer a wealth of recreational opportunities," Division of Natural Resources Director Bob Fala said. "From that first bluegill caught at a state park lake or stream to an exhilarating ride on an aerial tram or swishing down a ski slope to meet a new friend or just a marshmallow toasting by the campfire – a lifetime of

fond memories beckons those who visit."

About West Virginia State Parks

The mission of the Division of Natural Resources Parks and Recreation Section is to promote conservation by preserving and protecting natural areas of unique or exceptional scenic, scientific, cultural, archaeological, or historical significance and to provide outdoor recreational opportunities for the citizens of this state and its visitors.

The system is composed of 34
continue to the next page

state parks, eight state forests, five wildlife management areas, the Greenbrier River Trail, and the North Bend Rail Trail. The State Parks Section manages or assists in managing more than 197,000 acres of public land and sees up to 7-million visitors annually in locations as diverse as undeveloped natural areas to multi-faceted resort parks. The park system manages more than 1,900 campsites, 800 lodge rooms, 350 cabins, and six golf courses, an early 20th century era railroad and logging town, and an Ohio River sternwheeler.



Russ Dawkins landed a 48" musky and released it.



Ti Anderson used a bow for this carp. Photo courtesy of Anderson Outdoors in Buckhannon.



Tina Cantarelli hooked a 24" bass in Harrison County.



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Spring Harvest

SOUTH CHARLESTON, W.Va. - Spring Gobbler hunters electronically checked in 9,038 gobblers this year, slightly lower than the number checked last year, according to Keith Krantz, Turkey and Upland Game Biologist for the West Virginia Division of Natural Resources. The 2015 spring gobbler season was the first season in which West Virginia hunters could use either the telephone, Internet or license agent to check in an animal.

“For the most part, hunters seemed to embrace being able to electronically register their gobblers,” Krantz said. “Very few issues were reported given the magnitude of this change. However, because we don’t know yet if the check-in rate changed between systems, comparing harvest figures between seasons is problematic.”

Youth hunters checked in 383 gobblers during the youth season held April 25.

www.wvasportsman.net



David Rose hooked an 8 pound largemouth at Woodrum Lake.



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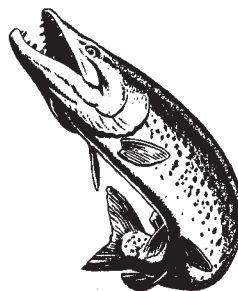
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