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Issue 278

June/July 2019

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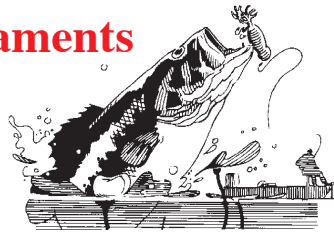
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Cover Photo

Tai Letan, from Elkins, caught 2 huge largemouth at Stonewall Jackson at the May 26th Bass Sportsman tournament. He and his son caught 16 pounds, 11 ounces to win the event. Look on page 6 for the entry form for the September 7 & 8 Stonewall Classic bass tournament.

Go online to see this magazine online every 6 weeks. It is www.wvasportsman.net

TEXT, mail or email your large fish or game pictures - page 38.

Hank Parker's Spinnerbait Tips

Catch bass with these 10 spinnerbait tips.

It's no secret I love to fish a spinnerbait. I'm convinced it's second only to the worm in terms of versatility and productivity.

Not everyone agrees. People tell me they never catch fish on a spinnerbait, even though they've tried slow rolling it along drop-offs and crashing it through brush tops. For those with a similar story, perhaps you're using the wrong spinnerbait design or not fishing it where bass are. Here are 10 tips guaranteed to help make you be more successful.

1. Keep it simple. Rig a baitcasting outfit with 17-pound-test line, tie on a 3/4-ounce spinnerbait and

cast around the thickest cover. The chances of snagging a lure are greater, but so are the chances of catching fish.

Never let the spinnerbait sink out of sight. Jimmy Houston, one of the best spinnerbait fishermen I know, keeps his lure in sight 99 percent of the time. This will help you see strikes and learn to catch bass on a spinnerbait. Also, avoid setting the hook when you see the fish strike. Bass will hold a spinnerbait for a long time, so don't jerk until the fish is felt.

2. Blade selection. Indiana blades offer a good compromise between willow-leaf and Colorado designs. The Colorado creates a lot of vibra-
continue to the next page



Alex Goff landed a 6 pound bass at Stonewall Jackson Lake.



Mark Taylor caught a nice rainbow trout in Wheeling Creek.

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Carter Sole had success with a nice spring gobbler.

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tion, while the willow-leaf produces a lot of flash. The Indiana has some of both without overdoing it. There are times, however, when a lure needs more vibration and flash – in dirty water or over thick vegetation. The Colorado will attract



Brody Greenwood, from Newport, OH, bagged his first turkey.

stubborn fish to the lure, while the willow-leaf retrieves better through grass.

3. Tandem vs. single spin. A single spin may produce more vibration, but the tandem helps ensure at least one blade spins continuously when banging brush. If a single-spin blade stops spinning, the lure lays on its side and hangs up. To keep it relatively snag-free, the spinner-bait must be running upright so the wire arm protects the hook. The tandem not only produces more flash, it also can be retrieved more slowly because the two blades provide more lift.

Opt for a single blade when the lure needs to fall. For example, if I want to drop the lure along stumps, docks or pilings, I prefer a single, Colorado blade; it rotates seductively when fished on the fall.

4. Lure color. I prefer white in

clear water during sunny days; chartreuse and white for dirty water and sunny days; blue and/or chartreuse for clear water on overcast days; chartreuse in dirty water on overcast days and bright colors in muddy water regardless of sky conditions.

5. Vibration. Bigger blades produce more vibration, which is good in some situations. If wind or cur-

continue to the next page



Cody Bailey caught an 18 inch bass at Elk Fork Lake in Jackson Co.

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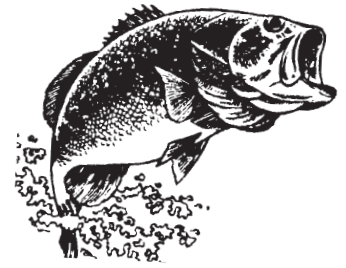
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rent has stirred the water, increase the vibration and flash. If it's calm, try smaller blades with less flash. It's easy to spook fish in shallow water by throwing big, noisy lures. However, when fishing brush tops in 10 to 15 feet of water, big flashy baits are best.

6. Dressings. I always use a 3-inch



Cody Huddleston reeled in a spring largemouth bass.

plastic trailer. Pork rind will work, but it can discolor whereas plastic trailers remain the same all day. Skirts can make a difference, too. I prefer split-rubber skirts over living-rubber. Always put the skirt on backward; it gives the lure more lift.

I avoid trailer hooks because they prohibit working thick brush — where the fish are. The extra hook simply causes the lure to snag more often.

7. Big baits. A 1-ounce spinnerbait is my favorite for slowly winding the lure over the top of deep vegetation, down river ledges or along large logs in deep water.

8. Wire arm. My spinnerbaits are built with 32nd-grade wire, a small wire that creates more vibration. Also, the flexibility of small wire reduces the number of fish lost.

9. Weather conditions. Low-light days are good spinnerbait days, but the opposite can be true, too. Sun-

ny days push bass under logs and into thick cover, where a spinnerbait will call them out.

Wind can make a difference, too. If you're catching bass on worms and the wind picks up, switch to a spinnerbait. Chances are you'll not only catch fish, but bigger ones, too.

10. Location. Cover is the key when selecting a location for this lure. In shallow water swim it through brush, or best of all, along laying logs that angle into deep water. Retrieve the lure slowly through deeper branches turning the handle just fast enough to keep the line tight. Keep the lure near structure.

The spinnerbait will catch fish in most waters and under any condition, providing the angler is consistent and selects the right lure for a given area. Gain confidence in it, and you'll be a firm believer like me.

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Umbrella Rig Fishing

Like any good technique, lure or rig, anglers have to continually adapt to the conditions, the pressure and the mood of the bass. The Alabama Rig and all the bass umbrella rigs that came after caught bass easily and often when they first hit the market. But now it's becoming more like any other rig. You've got to fish umbrella rigs in the right conditions and tailor them to the environment and bass. Here are 7 tips on how to fish for bass with castable umbrella rigs. Most of these tips, moreover, apply to a single swimbait fishing.

1. Experiment with bait size and shape

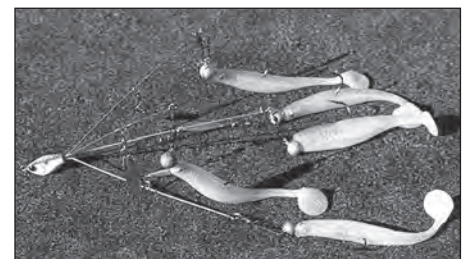
In 2012 when the Alabama Rig hit the scene, I honestly think you could put five of anything on an there and catch the heck out of bass for the first couple of months. But now the baits you choose really

seem to matter. Fishing recently with some good umbrella rig anglers, there were definitely smaller baits that produced well on certain days and colors of water. And there were also times where one big bait in the middle with 4 little ones around it caught bigger fish

Five big swimbaits still catches fish, but it seems like the bites are a lot less compared to last year. I ac-

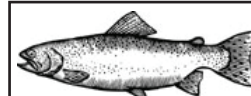


Brendon Large reeled in his first musky



Umbrella or Alabama rig lure.

tually keep a Plano box of 4 complete rigs all with different baits so I can mix it up constantly. One might have 5 grubs. One holds 5 hollow bodied swimbaits and one continue to page 10



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I lace with 5 shad tails to keep experimenting with profile and color
 2. Spin the bass out

Like with any other rig or lure, multiple variations of umbrella rigs exist, but one variation, umbrella rigs with willow leaf blades, produces especially well. Deep, cold-water bass seem especially susceptible to spinners. When you're catching bass 20-30 feet deep, a spinner can help slow the rig down and help lock the bass on its target.

3. Fish deeper

When the water was a lot warmer just running the bays and flats and chunking and winding umbrella rigs worked well. But as the water quickly got colder, bass dropped off the side of channel breaks and stayed deep with the massive schools of shad trying to insulate against the freezing temperatures. For this reason an angler needs to get off the bank and focus more on

continue to the next page



Billy West, from Brownsville OH, bagged a 23 pound gobbler.

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the bottom of drops and deep flats.
4. Let it fall

Folks assume you have to emulate trolling when fishing a castable umbrella rig. But truth be told, letting the rig pendulum down a drop is highly effective. I've seen and taken several bass this winter letting the rig pendulum down a deep break and before it gets into the school, a fight has already ensued.

5. It's okay to have a stutter

The stutter step with a crankbait, a spinnerbait and even a topwater can prove deadly. Guess what? It works well with umbrella rigs too. Try to envision what the bass sees when you fish an umbrella rig. Five little shad go easing by, so he decides to follow it slowly behind.



Dustin White hooked a big large-mouth on Upper Mud Lake.



RJ Carr brought in a nice spring gobbler.

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Not sure if he really wants to run it down. Then for no reason all the shad just sort of stop and collide and act frantic for a split second, then take off again. It's the trigger that fish needed to push him over the top.

6. Fish it near cover

There is at least \$30 tied up in one umbrella rig in most cases, and losing one nauseates most anglers. But that also means bass around cover aren't going to see as many. This is a little harder to master. But you need good lineups on
continue to the next page



Charlie Keeney reeled in a 16 inch crappie.




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your dead grass edges, brush piles, stumps, etc. You want to be able to run over or next to without being stuck. I've taken and seen some mighty big bass recently in deep water near large stumps and brush piles. It's worth the extra effort for a really big bass

7. Slow your roll

When the water is warm and the bass are schooled and competitive and willing to chase, winding the rig in at a good clip will produce some bites. But in cold water those bass are waiting for something to just creep in and out of their zone. Shad aren't in any big hurry this time of year. You want to wind it just fast enough to keep it off the bottom and the blades turning and the tails kicking. Much faster than that and you're drastically reducing your bites in the winter.

In late winter and early spring,

I will put the rigs away, and they won't see the light of day until the next fall. But I've had a ball fishing with FLW Tour anglers Charlie Evans and Terry Bolton and FLW Tour Director Bill Taylor for big Kentucky Lake bass the last couple



Conner McCloy bagged a good gobbler in Wood County.

of years in the winter. Guys have been catching big strings still on the umbrella rigs in the winter, but the approaches and lures have become a lot more refined just like with any bass fishing technique.



An angler hooked a huge rainbow trout. Photo courtesy of Middle Mountain Sporting Goods in Elkins.

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Pipetem Peaks Zipline

Pipetem, W.Va. – Zipline tours are officially underway at Pipetem Resort State Park, and just in time for summer.

West Virginia State Parks unveiled the state's newest aerial adventure Thursday with the first trips on a series of ziplines that lets riders soar for more than a mile above the breathtaking Bluestone National Scenic River.

"This is truly a great day for West

Virginia State Parks," Division of Natural Resources Director Stephen McDaniel said. "Since day one on the job, Governor Justice has charged me with finding ways to improve our parks, and he has been involved every step of the way in this project. Thanks to his leadership, we're able to diversify our parks system and add out-of-this-world recreation opportunities for our park visitors and guests."

McDaniel participated in a ribbon-cutting ceremony at Pipetem Resort in Summers County to mark the occasion. Also on hand to celebrate were Tourism Commissioner Chelsea Ruby, State Parks Chief Sam England, and Paul Buechler of ACE Adventure Resort, which operates the zipline.

The partnership with ACE, announced earlier this year, rep-



Sherry Walton landed a 31" catfish from a pond. It weighed 22 pounds

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Seminole Weekley had success this spring with a gobbler.

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resents a new era in recreation at West Virginia State Parks focused on family friendly activities to draw a new generation of visitors.

ACE has several other projects in the works at Pipestem, including an adventure lake and splash park similar to ACE's lake in Oak Hill, rock climbing and rappelling instruction, kayaking and paddle board tours, guided mountain bike excursions, and tubing and white-water adventures. Guided fishing trips on the Bluestone River began earlier this spring.

"The partnership project between West Virginia State Parks and ACE Adventure Resort demonstrates just how committed our partners

are to growing and developing West Virginia's tourism industry," Tourism Commissioner Chelsea Ruby said. "This world-class zipline will make this beloved park into an even more popular tourism destination, and I can't wait to get more visitors to come and experience these almost heaven adventures."

The Pipestem Peaks canopy

tour spans more than 1.5 miles of ziplines and crosses the Bluestone Gorge three times. The tour soars more than 300 feet above the river valley and can reach speeds up to 50 mph. At the end of the tour, riders can return from the gorge via the park's iconic tram.

Overall, the adventure takes between 2 to 3.5 hours to complete, continue to the next page



James Arison caught a huge bass in his kayak in Jackson County.

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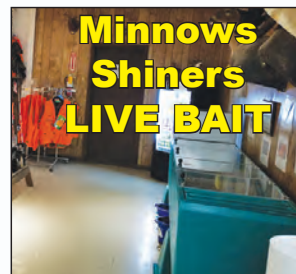
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Matt Foster landed a huge walleye.

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including the gear-up process, training and transportation. This one-of-a-kind course was designed by Bonsai Design of Grand Junction, Colorado, a leading company in zipline construction.

The zipline is just one part of an \$11 million investment at Pipestem Resort State Park. Pipestem is also undergoing extensive improvements to its cabins, lodge, campgrounds, water treatment facility and tram, all designed to improve the visitor experience.

Guests can reserve their room, cabin, campsite and zipline tour on the recently launched online booking engine at wvstateparks.com.

The zipline is set to officially open for public tours Saturday, May 11. To celebrate the grand opening,



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customers can receive \$15 off a zipline tour when they book online with the code ZIPLINE15.

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June/July 2019 ~ Page 15

Summersville Lake Trout Stocking

SUMMERSVILLE, W.Va. – Just in time for free fishing weekend June 8 and 9, the West Virginia Division of Natural Resources (DNR), in cooperation with the West Virginia Professional River Outfitters Association, stocked 650 pounds of rainbow trout in the Summersville Dam tailwater of the Gauley River June 6.

“The goal of the stocking is to provide increased summer trout fishing opportunities in the Gauley River,” said DNR Director Stephen McDaniel.

“We placed the fish in three locations to spread them out. That creates more opportunity for anglers to catch fish from the dam downstream to Carnifex Ferry Battlefield State Park,” said Mark Scott,



Robert Ciarapica, from Leon, caught a 7lb. 9 oz. Elk Fork bass.

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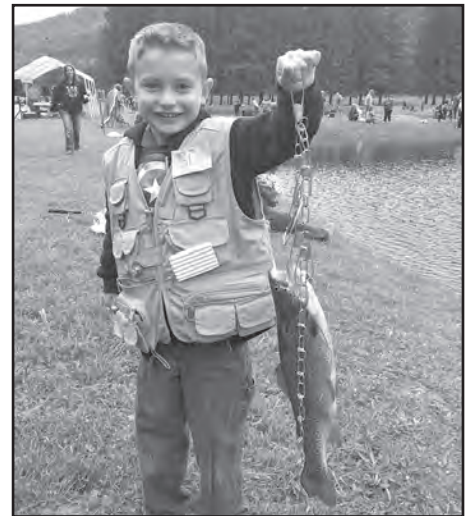
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DNR assistant chief of fisheries management.

The locations were: Summersville power plant tailwater site, the USGS gage station, and just upstream of Carnifex Ferry State Park.

Anglers interested in a backcountry fishing experience can hike down a strenuous trail from the park and enjoy the beauty of the rugged Gauley River while having a good chance of catching trout.

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Young Landon Kolas came from Ohio to the Bowden Trout Derby.



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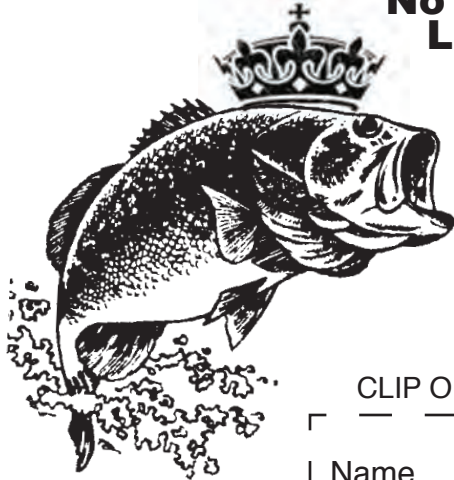
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June/July 2019 ~ Page 17

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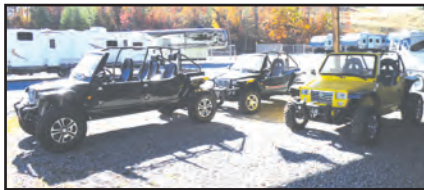
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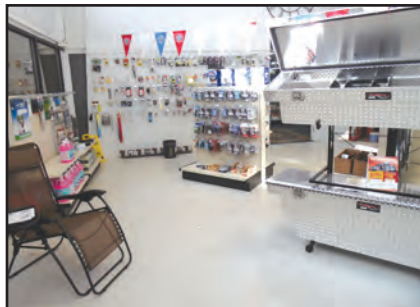
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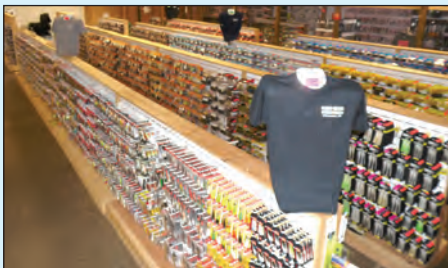
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Major Rail Trail Announced

CLAY, WV – CLAY, WV – Adventure seekers from across the country will soon have a new opportunity to enjoy West Virginia’s natural beauty. Gov. Jim Justice announced today that the state plans to build a major rail trail along the Elk River and Buffalo Creek.

The state has signed a letter of intent to purchase the land needed to complete the project, which aims to utilize 72 miles of existing rail lines in Clay and Kanawha counties and either repurpose the tracks for recreational purposes or convert them into trails for walking, hiking, biking and more.

The planned trail network has the potential to become the second-longest rail trail east of the Mississippi.

“I’ve said for a long time that the natural beauty we have here in West Virginia is one of, if not our single greatest treasure and I’m tickled to death that we are on the move toward making this a reality,” Gov. Justice said. “Adding a rail trail of this size, in this absolutely gorgeous part of our state, is going

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to give us a tourist attraction that’s one of the very best of its kind in the country and it’s going to bring in people from all over the world to discover just how wonderful it is in West Virginia.”

Gov. Justice made the announcement Wednesday, along with officials from the West Virginia Tourism Office, the Division of Natural Resources and State Parks, at the
continue to the next page



Tyler Armstrong caught a nice largemouth at Burnsville Lake..



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Buffalo Creek Rail Rides facility in Clay County. This location, which offers tourists the opportunity to use "railbikes" to pedal their way along existing railroad, is part of the smaller rail trail that currently runs along Buffalo Creek. This trail would stand to be extended as part of the new project, work that would come in addition to the construction of dozens of miles of new rail trail along the Elk River.

Activities specific to rail trails, such as railbikes or rail excursion rides, have gained popularity as recreation destinations in recent years. Buffalo Creek Rail Rides has hosted visitors from 27 different states and several countries throughout their explorations in



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"This exciting new project will give us one more tool in our toolbox as we work day in and day out to promote West Virginia to visitors," said Tourism Commissioner Chelsea Ruby. "With four beautiful seasons and unmatched natural beauty, this extensive rail trail network will provide for additional recreational opportunities to explore Almost Heaven now and for years to come."

West Virginia already boasts one of the largest rail trail systems of any state in the nation, with more than 375 miles of these trails already in service. The new trail will become the second-longest in the state, after the Greenbrier River Trail.

"This opportunity for a new trail like this is so exciting because it's going to be one of those things that brings people in and then those

people will give the economy here in West Virginia so much of a boost it will be truly unbelievable," Gov. Justice said. "It's just another one of the ways that I've been working to bring people and business into our state to make our economy continue to the next page



Julie Ward caught her first fish, a bluegill, at Plum Orchard Lake.

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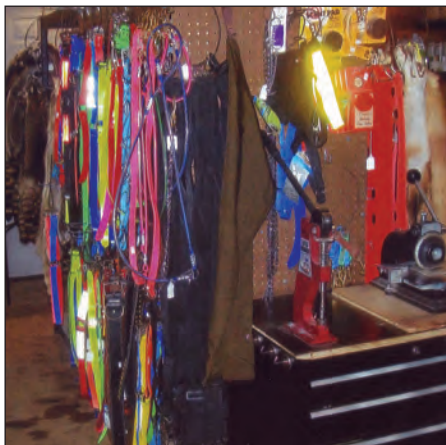
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grow like never before.”

The entire 72-mile system would be divided into two sections.

The Elk River Trail will span across 54 miles and run adjacent to the Elk River, starting in Clendenin and ending just south of Duck on the Clay-Braxton county border. The trail will be ideal for hiking and biking and will also provide easy access to local boating, fishing and kayaking opportunities along the Elk River.

The Buffalo Creek Trail will spur from the Elk River Trail, span across 18 miles and run adjacent to Buffalo Creek, starting near the city of Clay and ending at Widen in Clay County. Upon completion, the Buffalo Creek subset will feature a walking and biking trail.

Both sections will increase tourism opportunities in areas historically limited in traveler visitation and will also serve as an economic boost to these same areas, many of which were devastated by the historic June 2016 floods.

The state hopes to have portions of the new rail trail system up and running by Summer 2020. This will be a tourist destination.

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Potential World Record Buck

Get ready to hear the name Luke H. Brewster a lot in the coming months, because this Virginia man made whitetail hunting history this fall!

Boone and Crockett and Pope and Young announced on the morning of Jan. 10 that that the 38-point monster non-typical that Brewster, a Virginia resident, harvested in Edgar County, Illinois back on Nov. 2, 2018, has a net entry score of 320 5/8 inches.

If this score holds and is verified, the Brewster buck will be only the fifth whitetail deer scoring over 300 inches to be tagged, and the largest non-typical buck ever shot by a hunter. The net entry score is approximately eight inches higher than Stephen Tucker's 312-inch monster from Tennessee three years ago.

Some photos and rumors about the buck have been circulating social media since it was shot, but it's probably safe to say no one saw this announcement coming today!

If you're not up on your white-tail hunting history, there is more to this buck's unbelievable antlers. This monster can officially take over the number three all-time spot in the Boone and Crockett record book for largest non-typical. If the current score stands, it would



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It sounds like the Brewster buck continue to the next page



Dana Brown reeled in nice large-mouth at Burnsville Lake.



Luke Bruster is with his 38 point bow buck from Illinois.

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Rt. 21 North Ripley, WV

will easily topple Michael Beatty's 294-inch Pope and Young World Record, a buck that has stood atop the mountain for bow-killed non-typicals for the past 18 years.

Details on the hunt are scarce right now as the story of the hunt has already been picked up as an exclusive for North American Whitetail magazine. A video press conference by Peterson's Bow-hunting posted on Facebook from the Archery Trade Association trade show in Louisville, Kentucky seems to indicate Brewster and his buddies had multiple trail camera photos and videos. It also sounds like they had been after the giant for years. The buck also apparently broke part of its antler on his left side after Brewster shot, but it has since been repaired.

Other details revealed by Boone



Steve Panas went to Salt Fork Lake in Ohio for a nice largemouth..

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and Crockett state the buck had a 151 5/8 gross typical frame with a staggering 178 3/8 inches of non-typical antler.

While the 320 5/8 inch net non-typical score comes after the 60-day dry period, both Boone and Crockett and Pope and Young require a panel scoring before an animal can be verified as a world record. There was no word on when this panel will happen, but Boone and Crockett stated in their press release the panel will include measurers from both organizations.



Young Tanner Starkey harvested a great gobbler.

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Make The Second One Count

Lower the buck limit in WV in the national trend of reducing buck bag limits and shift management focus on quality rather than quantity. By reducing pressure on bucks and balancing the harvest, a more natural sex ratio and an older age structure is expected to result. In other words, manage as nature intended. Bottom line...hunters should expect to see a lot more older aged bucks with larger antlers and they should experience more intense rut activity while afield.

The great thing about the way this thing is structured is that WVDNR Biologists will still have the ability to fine tune the doe harvest in order to keep population levels on target.

Will it work? Tennessee, which went from a 3 to a 2 buck limit in 2015 went to this limit. The Volunteer State is seeing good increases in older and larger bucks as a result of their limit reduction. It's important to note that the third buck tag in TN was utilized even less

continue to the next page

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- Cull After 6th Fish
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requently than it currently is in WV (1.2% in WV and 1% in TN). The lesson learned from the TN experience is that it really isn't about how many hunters use the third tag, it boils down to the decision a hunter makes with their second tag when there isn't a third tag to fall back on. Hence, make the second one count.

It seems the persistence on the part of advocates for better buck management in WV is finally paying off. After numerous appeals at Commission meetings, leveraging of a strong social media presence and a dose of political pressure from the WV Legislature the DNR is finally ready to take up the issue this year.

The WV Natural Resources Commission will vote in August on a proposal to reduce the annual antlered deer bag limit from three (3) to two (2) bucks per year in WV. The proposal, if adopted, would allow one (1) antlered deer on the base license with an additional one (1) antlered deer tag available for purchase to be used in the hunter's choice of season (bow, rifle or muzzleloader). Additional tag restructuring will take place once additional information is gathered from an independent third party

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survey being conducted by the consultant Southwick Associates.



Josh Perry caught a 22" walleye at Summersville Lake.



Kathy Dunlap bagged a 25 1/2 pound gobbler Photo courtesy of Crossroads General Store near Newark.

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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.

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Wild Turkey Harvest From Spring

SOUTH CHARLESTON, W.Va. – Preliminary data indicates spring turkey hunters harvested 11,210 gobblers this year, according to Mike Peters, Game Bird and Small Game Project Leader for the West Virginia Division of Natural Resources. Although 9% less than last year, this year's harvest is still 3% above the 5-year average and 9% above the 10-year average.

Districts 4 and 5, encompassing

the southern and southwestern counties, reported slight increases above last year's harvests with the remaining districts harvesting fewer birds than last year.

Hunters in District 1 in the northern part of the state harvested 656 fewer birds than last year, a 20% decrease. However, the counties in District 1 harvested the most birds again this year (2,762), followed by District 6 (2,362), District 5

(1,839), District 3 (1,659), District 4 (1,521) and District 2 (1,067).

The five counties with the highest harvest were Mason (464), Preston (455), Jackson (447), Wood (362), and Harrison (347).

Youth hunters harvested 357 turkeys during the one-day youth season April 13, which was 74 fewer than last year. Those numbers are included in the table below with county totals.



Young Isaiah Crockett, from Sutton, brought in a nice turkey.



David Eisner reeled in a huge rainbow trout.

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WV Hunters For A Two Buck Limit

Improve Deer Management in WV

Sign the Petition

CLIP OUT FORM & MAIL IN



Mountaineer Branch

The Director of the WVDNR has called upon the WV Natural Resources Commission to vote this Summer on a proposal to improve deer management and hunting in WV by reducing the annual antlered deer bag limit from three (3) to two (2) bucks per year in WV. The proposal, if adopted, would allow one (1) antlered deer and two (2) antlerless deer on the base license with an additional one (1) antlered deer tag available for purchase to be used in the hunter's choice of season (bow, rifle or muzzleloader). Additional class N antlerless tags will be available for purchase on a county by county basis as needed per WVDNR biologist's recommendations.

This is a much needed first step toward achieving better buck management in WV, shifting the focus on quality rather than quantity and joining WV in the national trend of reducing buck bag limits. For more information regarding the proposal please visit: mountaineerqdma.org/petition

Please join us in supporting the DNR Director's proposal by signing this petition. The time is now!

CLIP OUT AND MAIL TO:

MOUNTAINEER QDMA Petition
P.O. Box 351 Bridgeport, WV 26330

NAME _____

ADDRESS _____

CITY _____ ST _____

ZIP CODE _____ Phone _____

EMAIL (OPT.) _____

We, the undersigned, call on the West Virginia Natural Resources Commission to vote yes to the Director's proposal to lower the annual antlered deer bag limit from three (3) to two (2) antlered deer per year AND approve a restructuring of the base hunting license to include one (1) buck and two (2) antlerless deer with one (1) additional antlered deer tag available for purchase to be used in the hunter's choice of season (bow, rifle, or muzzleloader).

Restructuring of the base hunting license to include one (1) buck and two (2) antlerless deer with one (1) additional antlered deer tag available for purchase to be used in the hunter's choice of season (bow, rifle, or muzzleloader).

**Plan On Attending Our Annual Banquet
On August 3rd At Mylan Park AND
The WV DNR Comission Meeting At
Tygart Lake State Park On August 4th**

Details on our Facebook & Webpage

**The petition can be completed on our facebook
page, our Mountaineer QDMA website or by clip-
ping and mailing the form to the left.**

<http://mountaineerqdma.org/petition>

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Money Donations (optional) Are Tax Deductable
can be mailed to the below address.

Any Amount Welcomed: Mountaineer QDMA
P.O. Box 351 Bridgeport, WV 26330

www.mountaineerqdma.org

Summer Crappie

When the weather finally starting to warm up into spring, you can guarantee that the crappie are going to go into a frenzy. Once the water temps hit right around 50 degrees, they'll move to shallower water and feed until the water gets closer to 60, when they'll start spawning.

Crappie will eat just about any kind of grub bait you throw at them, but any person who's fished for crappie knows that different crappie baits will work better for different days. Here are a few things to keep in mind while you're filling your tackle box for spring crappie.

Bait Color Guidelines

You won't believe the difference you can make to a crappie by switching from a pumpkinseed grub to a chartreuse grub. There's no perfect science to tell you which colors will work, but there are some general guidelines out there that at least give you a good idea

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where to start.

If the water's clear, try to keep them natural-colored, like whatever

er a crappie might be feeding on anyway.

On bright, sunny days, the fish continue to the next page



Jimmy Brogan caught and released a nice musky.



Damon Abshire, from Dunbar, hooked a big largemouth bass.



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Canoes



Kayaks

are getting a good amount of light in the water. These days, you can pick pretty much whatever color you want, but bright colors should be your go-to. Think chartreuse, yellow, electric pink, and the like.

For darker water, you'll need bright colors again: anything that will reflect as much light as possible, since there won't be much of it

in the water for the crappie to see.

If you're looking at cloudy or overcast skies, go a little darker for your grubs, but choose something that has a flash of bright to it, whether it's a chartreuse tail or a bright spinner.

Use those guidelines as a starting point, and if it's not working, change it out.

Jigs, Grubs and Spinners

If switching out the color isn't
continue to the next page

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working for you, change the bait entirely. Try using a crappie jig. The Bass Pro Shops Maribou Jig might be one of the oldest, most well-known crappie baits out there. It's a favorite of many crappie fishers. With a feather tail and a little furry body, they usually come in either 1/16 or 1/32 oz. sizes, and there's no wrong way to fish it.

Crappie spinner lures like the

Uncle Buck's Panfish Creatures - Beetle with Spinner tend to work a pretty wide variety of fish, and crappie are no exception. There are so many different kinds of spinners. Look to use spinners with tube baits, curly-tailed grubs or beetles on one side, and a leaf blade or circular blade on the other to reflect some light. It's hard to go wrong with most spinners, but remember,

it's in the way that you fish them. You're not only reflecting light; you're also making vibration in the water that the crappie can sense. Vary your retrieval speed and see what works best.

Curly-tailed grub bait like the Bass Pro Shops Triple Ripple Grub can be fished just as jigs as well, and they work. The beauty of a bullet head jig is that you can swap off the color of the grub you're using without tying on a new jig. This gives you plenty of opportunity to try different colors and see whether you should swap out to a spinner.

Live Bait

Never underestimate live bait when you're fishing for crappie. Minnows, worms, insects—just

continue to page 35

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Travis Yost caught a nice trout at Upper Shavers.



Dalton Schubach, from Paden City, hooked a Middle Island musky.



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TAYLOR COUNTY FAIRGROUNDS, GRAFTON WV

11:00 OPENING BAND

- 12:30 2019 Ford Ranger
- 12:32 \$500 Cabela's Gift Card
- 12:34 Yeti Hard/Soft Cooler Pkg
- 12:36 Springfield XDM Pistol
- 12:38 \$2000 Cold Hard Cash
- 12:40 Mossberg MVP Shotgun
- 12:42 Old Town Vapor 10XT Kayak
- 12:44 Browning A-Bolt Rifle
- 12:46 ProVault 24 Gun Safe
- 12:48 \$3500 Cold Hard Cash

12:50 DOOR PRIZE GIVEAWAY

- 1:00 2019 Pontoon Boat
- 1:02 \$500 Cabela's Gift Card
- 1:04 Otterbox Hard/Soft Cooler Pkg
- 1:06 Glock 19 Pistol
- 1:08 \$1000 Cold Hard Cash
- 1:10 Sunbrite Weatherproof 43" TV
- 1:12 Snapper 46" Zero Turn
- 1:14 \$5000 Cold Hard Cash
- 1:16 Ohio Whitetail Hunt Pkg
- 1:18 \$1000 Cold Hard Cash
- 1:20 Stihl Trimmer/Saw/Blower Pkg
- 1:22 Generac iQ2000 Port. Generator
- 1:24 Ruger AR556
- 1:26 Suunto Smartwatch
- 1:28 \$3500 Cold Hard Cash

1:30 DOOR PRIZE GIVEAWAY

- 1:40 Sea-Doo SPARK
- 1:42 \$500 Cabela's Gift Card
- 1:44 Pelican Hard/Soft Cooler Pkg
- 1:46 Weatherby Vanguard Rifle
- 1:48 \$2000 Cold Hard Cash
- 1:50 Mossberg Patriot Rifle
- 1:52 Old Town Vap. 12 Ang. Kayak
- 1:54 Savage Arms 10BA Rifle
- 1:56 Bradley 6-Rack Smoker
- 1:58 \$3500 Cold Hard Cash

2:00 BORN & BREAD MUSIC BREAK

- 2:20 Honda FourTrax Rancher 4X4
- 2:22 \$500 Cabela's Gift Card
- 2:24 Grizzly Hard/Soft Cooler Pkg
- 2:26 Rock Island M1911 Pistol
- 2:28 \$1000 Cold Hard Cash
- 2:30 WVU Football Season Tkts
- 2:32 Honda FourTrax Recon
- 2:34 \$5000 Cold Hard Cash
- 2:36 Carnival Cruise Pkg - Caribbean
- 2:38 Large Green Egg Grill
- 2:40 Echo Trimmer/Saw/Blower Pkg
- 2:42 Excalibur Micro Crossbow
- 2:44 Ruger American Rifle
- 2:46 GoPro Drone w/HERO6
- 2:48 \$3500 Cold Hard Cash

2:50 DOOR PRIZE GIVEAWAY

- 3:00 Polaris Sportsman 450
- 3:02 \$500 Cabela's Gift Card
- 3:04 Canyon Hard/Soft Cooler Pkg
- 3:06 Winchester SXP Shotgun
- 3:08 \$2000 Cold Hard Cash
- 3:10 Henry Railroad Tribute Rifle
- 3:12 Old Town Loon 126 Kayak
- 3:14 FN FNX Pistol
- 3:16 Redneck Hay Bale Blind
- 3:18 \$3500 Cold Hard Cash

3:20 DOOR PRIZE GIVEAWAY

- 3:30 Yamaha Kodiak 450
- 3:32 \$500 Cabela's Gift Card
- 3:34 Rtic Hard/Soft Cooler Pkg
- 3:36 Taurus Tracker Pistol
- 3:38 \$1000 Cold Hard Cash
- 3:40 Sunbrite Waterproof 43" TV
- 3:42 Cub Cadet 46" Mower
- 3:44 \$5000 Cold Hard Cash
- 3:46 Kentucky Whitetail Hunt Pkg
- 3:48 \$1000 Cold Hard Cash
- 3:50 Stihl Trimmer/Saw/Blower Pkg
- 3:52 Tenpoint Crossbow
- 3:54 Browning BPS Rifle
- 3:56 Nikon D3400 DSLR Camera
- 3:58 \$3500 Cold Hard Cash

4:00 BORN & BREAD MUSIC BREAK

- 4:30 Polaris RZR 570
- 4:32 \$500 Cabela's Gift Card
- 4:34 Yeti Hard/Soft Cooler Pkg
- 4:36 Taurus Tracker Pistol
- 4:38 \$1000 Cold Hard Cash
- 4:40 Sunbrite Weatherproof 43" TV
- 4:42 46" Cub Cadet Zero Turn Mower
- 4:44 \$5000 Cold Hard Cash
- 4:46 Carnival Cruise Pkg - Bahamas
- 4:48 \$1000 Cold Hard Cash
- 4:50 Echo Trimmer/Saw/Blower Pkg
- 4:52 Generac iQ2000 Port. Generator
- 4:54 Beretta Nano Pistol
- 4:56 Night Owl Nightvision Binoculars
- 4:58 \$3500 Cold Hard Cash

5:00 DOOR PRIZE GIVEAWAY

- 5:10 2019 Harley Davidson Iron
- 5:12 \$500 Cabela's Gift Card
- 5:14 Orion 65 & 25 Cooler Pkg
- 5:16 Savage Arms Axis Rifle
- 5:18 \$2000 Cold Hard Cash
- 5:20 Remington Versa Max Shotgun
- 5:22 Old Town Vapor 10XT Kayak
- 5:24 S&W SW1911 Pistol
- 5:26 Bradley 6-Rack Digital Smoker
- 5:28 \$3500 Cold Hard Cash

5:30 DOOR PRIZE GIVEAWAY

- 5:40 2019 Ford Explorer
- 5:42 \$500 Cabela's Gift Card
- 5:44 K2 Summit Cooler Pkg
- 5:46 HP VP-9 Pistol
- 5:48 Webber Grill
- 5:50 \$2000 Cold Hard Cash
- 5:52 Generac Whole House Gen.
- 5:54 Old Town Loon 106 Kayak
- 5:56 Pike Co, Ill Whitetail Hunt Pkg
- 5:58 Sea-Doo SPARK
- 6:00 \$25000 Cold Hard Cash

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Dalton Cutwright, owner

about anything can catch a crappie's attention. You don't have to worry about the color of the bait, and you're only throwing them what they would be eating anyway. Minnows are hands-down the favorite used by most, and some even tip a jig with a live minnow for a double-whammy.

The best thing about crappie baits is that they aren't expensive, so you can fill up a small, dedicated fishing tackle box to carry with you and swap out as necessary, and not worry if you snag and lose one. If one isn't working, swap it out, and you'll be catching slabs in no time.

Summer Catfishing

To target catfish successfully, especially trophy-size cats, anglers must acquire an in-depth understanding of the primary feeding patterns specific to each species during each season. What are catfish likely to be eating? When? Where? Armed with the answers to these questions, the angler can have reasonable expectations of finding and hooking catfish. Without these answers, luck alone determines the outcome.

Here are three patterns you should

know when catfishing this summer, one for each major species.

If channel cats can find concentrations of favored foods on the surface, they'll feed on top. If you don't believe it, drop by a catfish continue to the next page

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Ashley, 14, got a gobbler in Braxton County.



Justin McCloy and sister Olivia were happy with this bass.

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aquaculture operation at feeding time. Fish farmers fatten cats on a diet of floating chow, and when they scatter the food over a pond, you'll see thousands of whiskers as cats rise to feed.

One natural food that encourages a topwater bite is grasshoppers. When something spooks them from their grassy haunts, they'll leap, fly and often dive right in the water. If one lands in water inhabited by channel cats, it won't sit long before a cat will come up and eat it. Catfish sometimes feed on other insects as well — mayflies, moths, caddis larvae, hellgrammites and more. But these puny bugs don't appeal to larger cats the way a fat 'hopper does.

Grasshoppers usually live in tall grass and are relatively easy to catch. A good trick an uncle taught me is to spread an old flannel blanket across the grass then drive the 'hoppers to it. Their feet stick in the fabric. A fine-mesh insect net works, too. Keep the grasshoppers in a cricket cage until you're ready to use them.

As catfish baits, grasshoppers work equally on the surface, at mid-depths or on the bottom. But fishing them as topwater baits is the ultimate thrill. You watch the wake of a catfish homing in on your bait. You see the fish boil beneath it. You witness the hook-set. Catfishing doesn't get better than that.

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To fish a grasshopper this way, secure it to a 2/0 or 3/0 Aberdeen

hook with a small rubber band (the type used by people who wear braces or in little girls' pigtails). Then flip the insect beside shallow cover using a fly rod or spinning outfit. No weight, bobber or other terminal tackle is necessary unless

continue to the next page



Steve Moneypenny landed a Wirt Co. over 50 pound catfish.



Nole Kidwell caught a huge New River walleye.

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you need something to help you make longer casts. As soon as the bug hits the water, prepare for the strike. Cats hit 'hoppers hard and fast, like a largemouth blasting a topwater plug. Within seconds of each cast, you'll be enjoying a rod-bending battle, and watching the action as it happens makes it all unforgettable.

Flatheads on Sunfish

Wherever flathead catfish are found, sunfish such as bluegills, redears, green sunfish and longear sunfish are found as well. Not surprisingly, flatheads, being fish-eaters, love a meal of these usually-abundant panfish. In some waters, sunfish are the number one component of the flatheads' diet.

Summer flatheads tend to hole up in deep-water haunts during the day and come out at night to feed in shallows. Sunfish usually stay in relatively shallow water, and many are still nesting along the shoreline this season. That makes them prime targets for prowling flatheads and excellent baits for summer anglers.



Tom Lincoln caught a 43 pound Kanawha River flathead catfish.



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

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There is an intricate gold border on the top of the barrel around the address. There is a gold relief serpentine COLT logo on the back strap shovel. Arabesque flush gold accents are featured on both sides of the frame. There is 24k gold plating on the hammer, trigger guard, backstrap, ejector rod, ejector rod head and base pin. It is fitted with AAA Select One Piece walnut grips.

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