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Vol. 1 Issue 171

July 2007



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Mark A. Goudy

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Natural Resources

No Subscriptions Offered

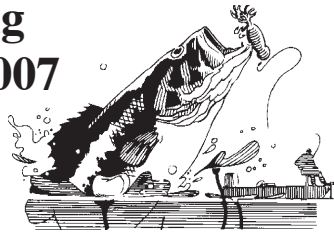
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Cover Photo

While at Fishing Creek in the Ohio River near New Martinsville, Troy Cline caught a large fish. He was using a white jig on six pound test line when this giant flathead devoured his offering. The catfish measured forty-four inches and weighed forty-six pounds. He later released the big catch.

June's magazine was delayed on the internet. Postings should be in the middle of the month.
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Fishing For Catfish

Catfish are indigeous to the continental USA and like still water. They love to lie at the bottom. They love smelly bait but will take live bait as well. They are scavengers and will eat just about anything.

You may catch Catfish year round but the best temperature for catching catfish is between 50 and 80 degrees with 70 degress being the optimal. We like to fish for Cats at night when the wind is still. Catfish will grow on average to 10-15 pounds but can get 50lbs or better.

Catfish have stiff dorsal and side fins. Be Careful they can puncture you and cause real PAIN!

Fish at night and be quiet. Catfish seem to sense noise more than most fish. Be careful not to shine your light on the water. Catfish don't strike like most fish, so be patient. Let them take the bait, wait up to 10 seconds then set the hook. Be sure

you are ready because a big cat can put up a heck of a fight. The bigs ones can fray a line quickly, so use sturdy line

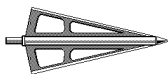
Now that you have the bait, you are ready to pick a technique that works well for you and your location. My personal favorite is commonly known as jugging. The jug lines can be made before your fishing trip and stored in some out-of-the-way place until needed. For each of the jug lines, you will need one hook, one weight, and one piece of strong line of varying lengths. Next, you will need plastic jugs. I prefer the gallon size milk jugs, but any plastic jug will work, just be certain that they are clean and kind to the environment. If you find it necessary, the jugs can be sprayed with paint so they can

be more easily seen and identified. OK, let's go cat fishing.

Pick your spot carefully and drop the anchor. If you are in a large river, a long straight stretch is a must so that your jugs have a long way to travel before a curve interferences. Tie your line to the jug and drop it overboard so that the current will keep the line tight. Bait the hook and gently drop it into the water. Do as many jugs this way as you can take care of, then raise the anchor and

continue to the next page

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**Game
Check**



Paul Barrett, from Proctor, hooked a 30 pound flathead.

July 2007 ~ Page 4

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drift along behind. There is nothing more exciting than seeing a gallon jug take off in a direction and at a speed that could not be caused by the current. This is when the real fun begins. Start your engine and speed toward the escaping jug and hope that it does not go under for a very long time. You may also find it helpful to make a long pole with a large hook attached to one end to catch the line on the jug.

For those who prefer to stay high and dry, there is the bank-pole method. This is a great way to get plenty of exercise, as it requires a substantial amount of walking, running, and bending. This method requires a number of cane poles that can be harvested along the streams where they grow. It is important to let them dry and season for one year after they are cut, and it is equally important to keep them straight while drying. They can be tied together in bundles and hung outside on a shed to season. When the poles are ready, tie a strong line near the base and wrap it around the pole to the top. This gives added support to the pole and insures that you will have another way to hold on in case the pole breaks. Wrap several feet of the line around the end so that you can adjust the length of the line to accommodate for different depths. You can also



Andrew Norman, from Grantsville, reeled in a 15 pound, 8 oz. carp.

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tie a small white strip of cloth to the end to help with visibility. OK, let's go cat fishing.

Pick your spot carefully. A dirt or mud bank is essential to hold your poles. Adjust the line length so that when your pole is in place the hook is off the bottom. Stick the base of the pole deep into the bank so that the tip is hanging over the water..

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DNR To Host 4th Annual Women's Event July 28th

The registration deadline for the fourth annual Wild & Wonderful Women's Outdoor Event to be held at Kanawha State Forest on July 28th is quickly approaching, according to Frank Jezioro, Director of the Division of Natural Resources. Registration must be received by June 29 to obtain a discount.

"The focus of the event is to provide women an opportunity to learn outdoor activities with hands-on experience," Jezioro said. "Although women make up half the population in West Virginia, they make up a much smaller percentage of those who take advantage of the opportunity to enjoy outdoor activities."

During this one-day event, which is being co-sponsored by the National Wild Turkey Federation's Women In the Outdoors program, women will have the opportunity to participate in four 90 minute classes throughout the day: archery, camping, first aid, fishing, fly tying, backpacking, outdoor cooking, outdoor survival, shooting, stream ecology, talkin' turkey, and what's in the woods.

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the equipment needed or what's involved, this field day is a wonderful opportunity to explore these areas. Experienced volunteer instructors will provide hands-on training throughout the day. In addition, women participating in the event will be eligible for door prizes, various raffles, and a silent auction that will include various items such as wildlife prints, sculptures, and quilts.

A registration fee of \$40 (if post-marked by June 29) or \$45 is required to cover the cost of training,

materials, lunch, one year subscription to the Women in the Outdoors Magazine, and a gift. Ages 14-17 must attend with a parent or legal guardian.

For more information concerning this event or to register, visit the DNR's Web site at www.wvdnr.gov or call 304-558-2771 or email billieshearer@wvdnr.gov for more information.

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No Importation Or Pet Permits Issued

Based upon serious public health and wildlife disease concerns associated with the raccoon rabies virus, the West Virginia Division of Natural Resources (DNR) wants to remind the public that no Importation or Pet Permits are issued for raccoon, fox or skunk.

The Division of Natural Resources has not issued Wildlife Importation Permits for these species since 2001 and Pet Permits have not been issued since 2006. "The decision to deny Importation and Pet Permits for raccoon, fox and skunk has been made following careful deliberation and with concurrence from the West Virginia Department



Larry Murphy caught some nice New River smallmouth. *Photo courtesy of Granpa's General Store in Hinton.*

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of Agriculture and West Virginia Bureau for Public Health. It is important for our citizens to know that just because they may be able to purchase these animals in other states; it is illegal to bring them into West Virginia. Those who transport or possess these animals face fines and the animals being confiscated," said DNR Director Frank Jezioro.


The mid-Atlantic raccoon rabies epizootic, which began in the late 1970s, expanded rapidly and spread throughout the northeastern states by the mid-1990s. In an effort to stop the westward spread of raccoon rabies across North America, West Virginia has been participat-

ing in a regional oral rabies vaccine (Raboral V-RG) barrier program for the past seven years. "The United States Department of Agriculture has spent millions of dollars in West Virginia to implement this raccoon rabies barrier program, and we simply cannot risk the potential success of this program by allowing the importation and/or possession of live raccoons, foxes or skunks as pets at this time," noted Jezioro.

Mail In Your Big Fish Pictures For Review.


Details On Page 37.

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Justin Beeler hooked a nice bass.
*Photo courtesy of Starcher's Sport Shop
 in Lubeck.*



Gary Webb caught a nice New
 River striper.



Larry Vucelich and Johnny Drengcas won the recent Oho River Team Bass Tournament at Powhatan Point. There 4 pound, 9 oz. largemouth won the big bass and the overall weight. Look for the schedule on page 14 of this issue.

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A 42 pound flathead was caught at the Marmet Locks. *Photo courtesy of Amish Country Store in Marmet.*

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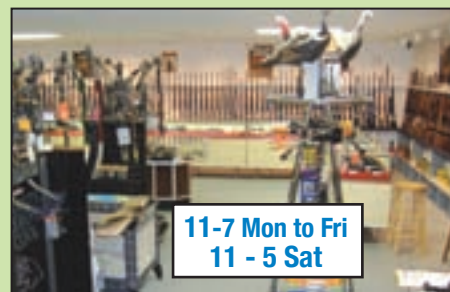
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Gary Reynolds & Chris Pauley brought in some nice catfish. *Photo courtesy of Jarrett's Bait in Elizabeth.*



Evelyn Reynolds, from Horner, got a 9 1/2 pound blue catfish.



Jimmy Gainer, from Grantsville, took a nine point buck.



Dakota Booth hooked a 24 1/2" catfish. *Photo courtesy of Crossroads General Store near Newark.*



Mark Arbogas landed a 4 pound rainbow trout. *Photo courtesy of Hess Fish and Tackle in Ellenboro.*

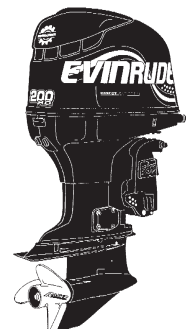
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Fishing in Middle Island Creek, Chris Phillips from Spencer, caught 4 legal muskies in one day.



Randy Redman, from Moundsville, caught a nice smallmouth bass.



Ron Haddox caught a 45" musky on the 4th of July. Photo courtesy of Crossroads General Store near Newark.

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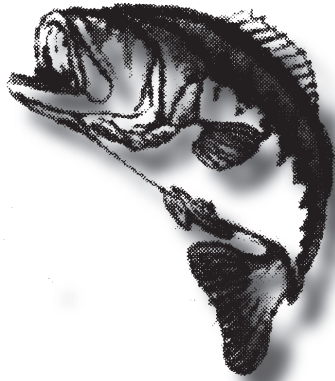
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Bass Sportsman

2007 Schedule

Ohio River Team

- June 3 - Belpre, OH**
- June 24 - Powhatan Point, OH**
- July 15 - St. Marys, WV**
- July 29 - Powhatan Point, OH**
- Aug. 12 - Belpre, OH**
- Aug. 26 - St. Marys, WV**
- Sept. 16 - Powhatan Point, OH**
- Sept 30 - St. Marys, WV**
- Oct. 21 - Powhatan Point, OH**

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Permit Applications Available For Green Bank Observatory

The National Radio Astronomy Observatory (NRAO) in Green Bank, West Virginia, has announced that applications are now available and are being accepted for the special resident-only controlled 2007 deer hunt at the NRAO site. This controlled hunt is organized and planned in cooperation with the West Virginia Division of Natural Resources (WVDNR).

Submitting an application enters the hunter in a drawing for a maximum of two (2) days on the NRAO site. Applications for the drawing must be received by NRAO on or before August 3, 2007. Successful applicants will be notified by mail and issued a special NRAO letter of authorization to deer hunt. Only hunters who have made application and have received a letter for



Scott Matheny, from Parkersburg caught a 33" carp at Stonewall Jackson Lake.

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a particular day or days can hunt. "Walk-ons" will not be permitted to hunt.

The controlled hunts, held for five days (September 29 and October 5, 6, 11 and 12) under the auspices of the WVDNR, will take place on 4 delineated areas ranging in size from 132 acres to 1,000 acres. Each area is designated: BOW ONLY; or MUZZLELOADER & SHOT-GUN WITH SLUGS; or MUZZLELOADER ONLY. Applicants must choose a bow or which type of firearm they wish to use during the hunt on the application.

continue to the next page



Kristopher Gross hooked a 25 1/2" channel catfish. *Photo courtesy of Starcher's Sport Shop in Lubeck*

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Due to the nature of the work at the Observatory, gasoline-powered vehicles are strictly controlled on the site. Hunters may park only in designated parking areas, and all vehicles will be issued a "pass" for display on the windshield. Transportation from hunter check-in to some hunt areas is provided by the NRAO. For purposes of safety and biological study of harvested deer, all hunters must pass through the check-in station each morning before the day's hunt. At the end of the day's hunt, all hunters must exit through the check-out station.

Applications may be picked up at any WVDNR District Office or may be requested by sending a self-addressed, stamped envelope to the National Radio Astronomy Observatory at PO Box 2, Green Bank,



David Willis landed a 6 pound rainbow trout. *Photo courtesy of Kile's Grocery in Upper Tract.*

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David Montgomery hooked a 5 pound, 14 oz. bass. *Photo courtesy of Three River's Edge in Hinton..*

Bass Fishing In Muddy Or Windy Days

Muddy water is often a byproduct of rains and fronts. As a general rule we avoid fishing in severely muddy water, but when this is unavoidable we only fish shallow. In muddy water, the light penetrates only a few feet and the resulting darkness keeps the bass shallow.

We use only two baits when fishing muddy water: (1) a jig-and-pig, or (2) a single bladed (#6 Colorado, gold or copper) spinner bait. Please bear this in mind; there are degrees of muddy water. We like to fish dingy water, but if we can see raccoon tracks on top of the water,
continue to the next page

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we move toward clearer water, constantly assessing water clarity. We think the bass do the same. The bass move from muddy water toward clearer water until they find conditions they can live in, then they stop.

So as we are moving toward clearer water we are constantly testing for fish. When we find where they stopped, we start fishing in earnest.

As we are moving toward clearer water, we often come upon a mud-line, and this is a signal to start fishing intently. We throw into the muddy water, and bring the lure through the mud-line into the dingy water. We expect the bite to come within inches of the transition be-



Jason Highland, from Charleston landed a big 23" largemouth bass.

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tween the muddy water and the clearer water.

Windy conditions makes for excellent fishing during late spring, summer and early fall. It makes for poor fishing in the winter and early spring.

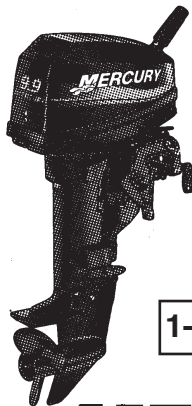
Here is why wind improves fishing. First, the wind causes waves and waves oxygenate the water. The additional oxygen invigorates the fish and causes them to feed. But more importantly, the wind

continue to the next page

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the wind blows algae and plankton to the windy shore where it stacks up. Shad feed off of plankton and bass feed off of shad. Both the shad and the bass like to actively feed shallow along a wind-blown shore.

When waves are breaking over a point or along a shoreline, we look for deeper water nearby. We expect the bass to be holding in deep water but close to the shallow, breaking waves. When fishing a shoreline, we hold the boat off shore, throw lures into the breaking waves and retrieve them to where we think the bass are holding in deeper water.

For this type of fishing we prefer crankbaits. Our favorite crankbaits for this purpose are 6A Bombers and Wiggle Warts. We throw three different colors.

First, we try a lure that matches the local crayfish. If this doesn't work we throw shad colored lures, and if this doesn't work we throw lures that are predominantly chartreuse.

We also throw spinner baits into

the waves, pull them to the deep water and let them drop, shaking them all the while. When the lure hits the bottom we slow-roll it for a few feet, then rapidly crank it back to the boat to repeat the process. If the wind is blowing across green vegetation, we will fish this vegetation much the same as we fish a wind-blown shore.

We love to fish a rocky point that has wind blowing over it. This is one of our favorite fishing places. We begin by positioning the boat on the lee side of the point. From this position we toss lures into the wind and beyond the point, then we retrieve slowly over the point, expecting the bite as the lure enters the deeper water on the lee side.

A cardinal sin often committed by novice fishermen is to fish the lee side of the lake when the wind is blowing.

Our experience is this: On the lee side of the lake the bass will be inactive, while on the windward shores the bass will be active.

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These words apply to fishing in late-spring, summer, and early-fall, but it is vice-versa for the rest of the year.

When the water is colder than 60 degrees, the wind makes it even colder, so the place to fish is where the water is sheltered, and it is even better if the spot is fully exposed to sunshine.

Don't let muddy water or windy conditions keep you off the water.



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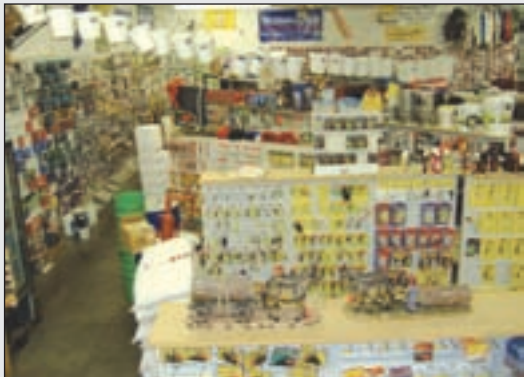
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Andrew Enoch reeled in several catfish. *Photo courtesy of Jarrett's Bait in Elizabeth*



A 28 pound catfish was hooked at the Marmet Locks. *Photo courtesy of Amich Country Store in Marmet.*

**Mail In Your BIG FISH Pictures
From The 2006 & 2007 Season
Form Is On Page 37**



A 20 3/4 pound catfish was landed by young Tim Shumar. *Photo courtesy of Backwater Bait in Newport, Ohio.*

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Marshall Nicholas caught a nice smallmouth bass. *Photo courtesy of Hess Fish and Tackle in Ellenboro.*



A big carp was brought in by Gary Jenkins. *Photo courtesy of RRHAMCO in Graton.*



A 13 1/2 pound channel cat was hooked by Dwayne Ruff. *Photo courtesy of Three Rivers Edge in Hinton.*



Using a bow, Eddie Pinkerton got a 28 pound carp. *Photo courtesy of Backwater Bait in Newport, Ohio.*



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July 2007 ~ Page 20

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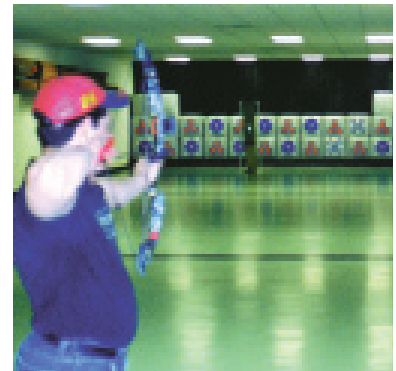


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Larry Vucelich caught this 4 pound, 9 oz. largemouth out of the main Ohio River. The bass won big bass and the tournament



Two thirty pound plus turtles were caught by Carroll Wigal and Ron Abbott. Photo courtesy of Starcher's Sports Shop in Lubeck.

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Larry's Lessons

As Larry Nixon made last-minute preparations to his gear before departing the dock for the final round of the Wal-Mart FLW Tour event on Lake Norman in April, there was something different about his tackle.

His Texas rigs were made up of tiny tungsten weights, held in place by bobber stoppers. His hooks were straight-shank, fine wire hooks, all modified with a piece of heat-shrink tubing to create a barb to hold the worm in place.

His shaky heads were a rare Japanese variety, which are hard to acquire in the United States.

The line, in which he entrusted all of his potential \$150,000-winning fish, was Vanish fluorocarbon.

The worms he put on the hooks were straight and skinny, hopped up with potent smell and taste, thanks to Berkley's latest Powerbait technology.

One rod was even rigged with the hottest lure going, a 6-inch Basstrix Paddle-tail tube, paired with a weighted hook.

Nixon's blend of cutting-edge tackle looked like something you might find in Luke Clausen or Shin Fukae's boat.

As I obsessively studied Nixon's tackle, I wondered how this could be. After all, this was Larry Nixon. Where was the 8-inch ribbon-tail worm? Where was the 1/4-ounce lead bullet weight? Where was the 15-pound-test monofilament? And why was he not pegging his weight with a toothpick? What in the world happened to the old-school Nixon?

Later that afternoon, as the 56-year-old pro held up the Lake Norman FLW Tour winner's check, his 17th national title over a 30-year pro fishing career, it dawned on me that one of the keys to Nixon's timeless success has been his ongoing effort to embrace new tackle, techniques and technology in bass fishing.

continue to the next page

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Kenny Ray brought in a couple of nice New River smallmouth. Photo courtesy of Three Rivers Edge in Hinton.

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In the current state of the professional fishing business, where 20-something-year-old "kids" continually ride new tackle and techniques to the forefront of the sport, how does Nixon stay in the know and avoid getting stuck in his ways?

Better yet, how does Nixon separate the wheat from the chaff in the bass tackle business? How does he manage to define and refine the new techniques that he considers keepers?

Recently I had the opportunity to find answers to a few of these questions when the legendary pro graciously allowed me in his boat for a day of practice just before the Wal-Mart Open on Beaver Lake.

"Updated versions of old techniques"

Upon starting the fishing day, Nixon wasted little time in getting right to the topic of keeping up with bass fishing's fast-paced changes.

"Part of the job requirement of being a professional angler is keeping up with the improvements and innovations in our sport," he began.

"There is so much stuff coming down the pike these days that has to be evaluated" it makes tackle management a real challenge.

"It's such a fine line to walk," the Chevy pro continued. "If you're hard-headed and ignore these new innovations and improvements in the name of simplicity - which is very tempting - you'll get bowled over in the check line by anglers who understand them. And on the other hand, you just can't fill your tackle box with every new gizmo that hits the tackle aisle. There's a delicate balance that must be achieved between embracing the new stuff and tackle overload. Tackle overload is a bad word for Nixon, one that he tries to avoid.

Tackle overload is basically going into a tournament with a pile of lures that you really don't understand or are not comfortable with it's the kiss of death for me.

continue to the next page

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Todd Moore landed a 6.35 pound largemouth. *Photo courtesy of Crossroads General Store near Newark.*

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For that reason, each and every new lure, innovation or technological advancement must pass a stringent evaluation process before it earns a spot in Nixon's tackle box.

From tungsten weights to fluorocarbon, from ChatterBaits to swimbaits, from bobber stoppers to weighted hooks, Nixon takes time to fully understand them before employing them in battle.

"During tournament hours, you will not find a lure in my boat that I don't completely understand, backwards and forwards. I simply will not take up space in my boat with lures I don't understand, because they can be a terrible distraction."

Exactly how something finds its way into Nixon's tackle box is a complex process.

"It's all about having a better mousetrap," he offered. "So many of the new techniques we see these days are actually updated versions of older lures or techniques. In order for a new lure to find its way into my boat, it usually has to replace an old one."

"I still chuckle when I hear someone refer to a shaky head as a new technique. I won a national tournament on a shaky head in 1981. Granted, there have been a lot of refinements since then - better molds, better hooks, better line -

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but it's still the same concept. So as an example, my Japanese shaky heads with light wire hooks have replaced my antiquated crude ball heads with inferior hooks.

"That's one of the keys to tackle management for me: When I put the new something in, the old something comes out. I don't put all the new shaky heads in there with the old ones - it's either one or the other."

How Nixon actually discovers new lures is based on a very unique friendship. He is up front on giving credit where credit is due in the discovery process of new lures and techniques.

"A dear friend of mine named Greg Scott in Dearborn, Michigan, is really the person who gets the

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credit for keeping me up to speed on what's happening in the fishing lure business," Nixon revealed. "He is my - eye in the sky, so to speak. He constantly monitors fishing Web sites, tournament results and new product releases on the Internet, keeping an eye out for anything that might make waves in tournament bass fishing."

"Greg is a fisherman, an engineer and a bona fide tackle freak, which makes him a tremendous resource. Whenever he sees something out there in bass-fishing cyberspace

continue to the next page

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Jason Kise caught a 10 pound, 10 oz. walleye at the lake. *Photo courtesy of Christy's Trading Post in Summersville.*

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with potential, he immediately orders some of it, checks it out and then tells me whether or not it's something I need to pursue. And he is usually way ahead of the curve; he's usually got it before the rest of the fishing world does."

"What's more, he knows so much about the Japanese end of the business, which, given the Japanese influence on our tackle in recent years, has been a huge help to me."

"Of the latest, greatest items that have found their way into my arsenal over the years, Greg is responsible for clueing me in to most of it."

If Scott finds something that he feels is worthy of Nixon's attention, he'll send it to him. From there, the first place the item goes is into Nixon's pool.

"I ought to be able to write that darn pool off on my taxes with as much lure research as I use it for!" exclaimed Nixon with a chuckle. "But let me tell you, Uncle Sam is not going for that idea."

With the first cast in the pool, Nixon begins an intensive evaluation of the product.

"The first thing I do is classify it in my mind based on its action and



Maranda Allen, from Shady Springs, killed her 1st big gobbler.



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vibration, which is where 35 years of fishing experience comes in. Bass react to different vibrations in the spring versus the summer and in muddy water versus clear water. And the most important thing I want to know, based on its action, is how situational the lure is.

"Like I said, most of the time weâ're dealing with an updated version of an old technique. Take for example the recent trend of buzzing frogs like the Zoom Horny Toad.

"When I first threw one, it reminded me of the topwater buzzing spoons we used to use. Well, automatically I know that's a situational lure that's cover specific, namely for vegetation."

In contrast, the first time Nixon watched a Senko waggler to the bottom of his pool several years ago, he knew he was dealing with a bait that was much more universal in its action. It was a throwback to a weightless worm, but much better.

continue to the next page

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“With a sinking stickbait, you’re talking about a lure that can be fished nearly all year, in a variety of water clarities for a variety of species. In other words, it’s not confined to a narrow window of use either by season or type of cover being fished. To me, that’s a more timeless lure. And in my fishing history, I’ve always favored timeless lures over situational lures. Look at my winning history and you’ll see that timeless lures like Texas-rigged worms and jigs are my strengths.”

Once Nixon has two or three new lures or products that pass the pool test, then he is anxious to present them to the real quarry: Mr. Bass.

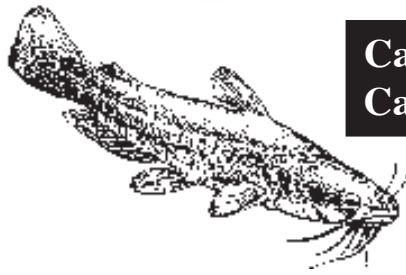
When he is ‘fun fishing’ around home, he’ll test drive products he is most curious about. Also, a couple of times of year, Nixon and longtime friend and fellow competitor George Cochran head down to ponds in southern Arkansas for some R&D with new items.

No matter what the innovation is - lure, line, weight, etc. - as he catches bass on it, Nixon begins to grade the lure with three primary criteria: Does it garner more strikes? Does it help eliminate loss of fish? And how time-consuming is the maintenance of the product?

“It’s all about efficiency, simple as that,” Nixon declared. “I want to get more strikes; I want to land more of my fish; and I don’t want

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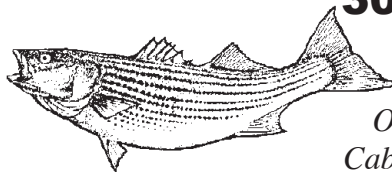
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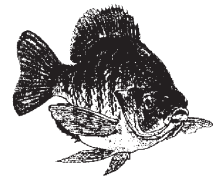
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to spend a whole lot of time fooling around with a lure to rig it or make it run right in the heat of battle.”

With these critical aspects in mind, Nixon offers two examples of baits on his continuum of efficiency, starting with a shaky head.

“How much more efficient does it get?” he questioned about the shaky head. “You can fish it all year long on nearly any kind of fishery on any kind of cover for all species of bass. It produces more strikes than most baits. Losing fish on it is rare. Keep a bag of your favorite worms in your pocket, and you’re right back in business within seconds of catching a fish. From an efficiency

standpoint, it ranks very high in my book. The only drawbacks are that
continue to the next page



This lady caught some trout. *Photo courtesy of Johnson's Sporting Goods in Summersville.*



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it is slow and it is known for numbers rather than quality.” At the other end of the spectrum, Nixon returns to the topwater toads.

“There’s no doubt, topwater toads are fun baits to fish - the spectacular strikes they provoke are phenomenal,” he explained. “But from my perspective, their inherent problem is hookup ratio and having to battle fish through thick cover to get them in the boat. The bass has more of an advantage with that technique, and I’m not real comfortable with that, especially if there is a more efficient technique available, maybe like Texas-rigging in open water.”

Again, Nixon reiterates that he is more interested in new lures and innovations that promise improvements to ‘universal’ techniques rather than improvements to ‘situational’ techniques.

With that in mind, here are Nixon’s thoughts and opinions on some of bass fishing’s recent hot trends on the FLW Tour:

ChatterBait: “Most new lures or techniques are improved or refined versions of an old technique, but every now and then we get one that creates its own category, and that’s



Gary Bragg got a 35 pound turtle. Photo courtesy of Waterfront Sporting Goods in Alderson.



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a ChatterBait: It’s not a jig; it’s not a crankbait; it’s not a spinnerbait; yet it can almost be any one of those, depending on how and where it’s fished. You might say it has a bit of an identity crisis, and in all honesty, I haven’t quite figured that bait out yet. Because of its tremendous vibration, I initially figured it to be a very situational lure for heavy vegetation or off-colored water, but now I’m starting to rethink my conclusion on that one.”

Wakebaits: “Classic example of an old technique that is being resurrected - a throwback to the old days when we used to wake a Redfin on the surface. Craig Powers has demonstrated how effective a Long A can be when waked on the surface. Now that’s a technique that

has my attention, because I think the window for doing it might be a lot broader than what many realize - it may not be as seasonally confined as we think. Let’s just say the pool has seen a lot of wakebaits lately, and I’m keeping a close eye on some of the Japanese products. designed to wake on the surface as

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A nice gobbler was taken by Robert Beeler. Photo courtesy of Starcher's Sport Shop in Lubeck.



William & Shawn Young brought in a 44" musky. Photo courtesy of Park Center Sporting Goods in Rainelle.



MacKenzie Wilson landed a 25 1/2" rainbow trout. Photo courtesy of Kile's Grocery in Upper Tract.

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Jason Aurthur hooked a real nice flathead. Photo courtesy of Starcher's Sport Shop in Lubeck.



Tobe & Jimmy Bennet landed a nice crappie. Photo courtesy of Starcher's Sport Shop in Lubeck.



Chad Neil caught a 5 pound, 1 oz. brook trout. Photo courtesy of Kile's Grocery in Upper Tract.

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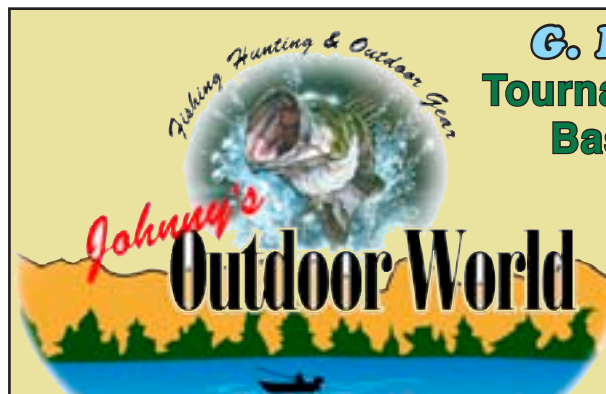
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Zach Ellison reeled in an 8 pound, 4 oz. hybrid striped bass. Photo courtesy of Jarrett's Bait in Elizabeth.



Gary Webb and Mike Davis hooked several nice New River stripers.



Tobe Bennett and friends brought in a 49" flathead Photo courtesy of Starcher's Sports Shop in Lubeck.

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Cecil Cain bagged a nice gobbler with a 10 1/2" beard.



Ryan Reeder caught a 5 pound, 5 oz. largemouth. Photo courtesy of Crossroads General Store near Newport.



Dana Dean landed a 4 1/2 pound Greenbrier smallmouth. Photo courtesy of Cardinal Pawnbrokers in Beckley.

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Young Aaron Ott caught a 30" musky. Photo courtesy of Backwater Bait in Newport, Ohio.



Josh Murray hooked a big flathead. Photo courtesy of Starcher's Sport Shop in Lubeck.

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Governor Manchin Dedicates

Gov. Joe Manchin joined West Virginia Division of Natural Resources Director Frank Jezioro, Ron Fretts of the National Wild Turkey Federation and a number of local officials in dedicating the new Little Indian Creek Wildlife Management Area and new fishing and shooting range facilities at Pedlar WMA, both in Monongalia County.

"These new facilities will provide many new and much-needed opportunities for outdoors enthusiasts in Monongalia and surrounding counties," said Gov. Manchin. "Hunters, anglers, and wildlife watchers from the Morgantown, Fairmont and Clarksburg areas will now have better access to the recreation they enjoy. Increased activity in these areas also will provide a boost to local businesses."

Little Indian Creek WMA is located in southern Monongalia County

and encompasses 1,036 acres. It will serve a significant number of hunters and other outdoors enthusiasts from the area, and is within easy access of Morgantown, Clarksburg and Fairmont. The land was purchased in late 2006 for a price of \$388,500. DNR's Conservation Fund and a generous donation by the West Virginia Chapter of the National Wild Turkey Federation in the amount of \$194,250 helped to purchase the land. The NWTF has made significant contributions to DNR's Wildlife and Law Enforcement sections over the past several years, supporting wild turkey research projects, habitat enhancement work, the purchase of law enforcement equipment and many more worthwhile projects. This is the second piece of property NWTF has helped purchase, the other being Wallback WMA in Braxton County. Little Indian Creek WMA exhibits diverse habitats, including reclaimed mine areas, oak-hickory ridge tops, ponds

and wetlands. These support many types of wildlife associated with recreational opportunities such as wildlife watching, hunting, fishing and trapping. Future management activities will include tree and shrub plantings, wetland developments, installation of informational signs, marking and painting boundaries, management of wildlife openings, road closure and parking lot development.

Access to Little Indian Creek WMA is by way of State Route 19 north of Fairmont approximately nine miles (past Arnettsville) to Little Indian Creek Road (CR 34). From Morgantown, take State Route 19 South approximately 5 miles from the I-79 interchange – exit 152, to Little Indian Creek Road (CR 34). Pedlar WMA was opened to the public in 2004, and includes 766 acres in north central Monongalia County. This year, construction has been completed on two family fishing lakes and the first pub-

continue to the next page



Jeanie Winters caught a hybrid bass. Photo courtesy of Jarrett's Bait in Elizabeth.

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nearby Little Indian Creek WMA, Pedlar has diverse habitats and provides excellent wildlife-associated recreational opportunities.

Two new family fishing lakes are now open at Pedlar WMA. Mason Lake provides 16 acres of fishable water with a maximum depth of 35 feet and includes a boat ramp, courtesy dock, and shoreline trail to more than 50 percent of the lake. The boat ramp allows for the use of trailered boats with electric motors only. The lake will be stocked with bluegills, channel catfish and largemouth bass to provide a warmwater fishery with fish large enough to catch by 2008. Trout will be stocked beginning in the spring of 2008, and, because of the cold deep water discharge, they are expected to survive the warm summer months.

Dixon Lake at Pedlar WMA has seven acres of water with a maximum depth of 10 feet, and includes an angler shoreline access to 100 percent of the lake. It will be stocked with hybrid bluegills, channel catfish and hybrid striped bass to provide a warmwater fishery specifically for family fishing



Steven Valentine caught a 24" hybrid bass. *Photo courtesy of Crossroads General Store near Newark.*

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opportunities, with fish reaching catchable size by 2008. Hybrid bluegills will be stocked every year or two so as to maintain adequate numbers for anglers. Catch and release regulations will be in effect for one to three years while growth rates, mortality and catch rates are monitored, and then a limited harvest will be allowed. Other restrictions will be a prohibition on the use of minnows as live bait to prevent the introduction of unwanted species, and barbless hooks will be required to reduce handling mortality of caught fish. Boating will be prohibited on Dixon Lake.

Another exciting addition to Pedlar WMA is a new public shoot-
continue to the next page

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ing range, the first in Monongalia County . The range has backstops at 25, 50 and 100 yards and includes eight sheltered shooting benches which also accommodate physically challenged shooters. The range will be open to the public beginning June 26, 2007 .

“This shooting range will provide shooting sports enthusiasts in this part of the state a much-needed place to enjoy sighting in their deer rifles and other aspects associated with shooting sports,” said DNR Director Frank Jezioro. “Little Indian Creek and Pedlar wildlife management areas are prime examples of how a state agency like DNR, a conservation organization like NWTF, and private industries



A big carp was landed by Charles McGraw. Photo courtesy of Three River's Edge in Hinton.

like Consol Energy Inc. can work together to provide public lands and facilities for the enjoyment of hunters, anglers and other outdoor recreationists for generations to come.”

Access to Pedlar WMA is by way of State Route 7 and County Route 41, approximately seven miles west of Morgantown .

For information about Little Indian Creek and Pedlar wildlife management areas and other public land available in the state, please visit the West Virginia Division of Natural Resources Web site at www.wvdnr.gov , or call the DNR District 1 office in Farmington at (304) 825-6787.



Rusty Viney caught a 6 3/4 pound rainbow. Photo courtesy of Kile's Grocery in Upper Tract.

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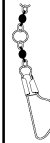
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Applications for the 2007 Antlerless Deer Season are now available at all West Virginia hunting and fishing license agents, Division of Natural Resources (DNR) District Offices, Elkins Operations Center and Charleston Headquarters, according to Curtis I. Taylor, Chief of the DNR's Wildlife Resources Section. These applications may also be downloaded from the DNR's web page at www.wvdnr.gov. These limited permit areas provide antlerless deer hunting opportunities in counties or areas of the state where wildlife biologists have determined that limited numbers of antlerless deer permits are necessary to meet management objectives.

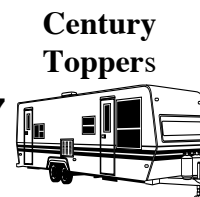
Five counties or parts thereof, including Braxton, Fayette (North continue to the next page

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and East of New River and East of Gauley River), Grant (West of top of New Creek and North Fork Mountains), Pendleton (West of the North Fork of South Branch River) and Tucker and eight Wildlife Management Areas (WMAs) will have a limited number of Class N licenses for resident antlerless deer hunting from November 19 through December 1 and December 26 through December 29 on private land only, and December 3 through 8 on public and private land. Applications must be received by the DNR before the close of business on August 24, 2007. The 2007 limited resident antlerless deer season will provide an opportunity for 1,200 residents to participate on the eight WMAs. An additional 739 residents will be selected to hunt antlerless deer in the five counties or portions thereof that are restricted to resident hunters.

For complete information on antlerless deer season dates and bag limits, consult the 2007-2008 Hunting and Trapping Regulations Summary, which is available at West Virginia hunting and fishing license agents, DNR offices and online at www.wvdnr.gov.



Danny Graham, from Woodsfield, Ohio, caught a 29" saugeye on the Ohio River.



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At night 6-pound test fluorescent line looks like a rope when viewed with a black-light.

Watch the line while feeling everything that is going on with your hands. A line that goes slack or twitches on the fall may be the only signal of a bite.

A slight variation in the feel or rhythm of the bait can also mean a bite.

Next, and still at night, and still using fluorescent line and a night-light, fishing with spinnerbaits, crankbaits and Texas-rigged worms. He taught him to feel the rhythm of a deep, slow-rolling spinnerbait and a deep running crankbait.

Often baits can be inhaled, then exhaled with the only indication being a momentary interruption of rhythm.

And when fishing on the bottom with plastic, the bite will either be a heavy feel or line movement. Seldom do you actually feel a fish.

The trick is to mentally visualize what the bait is doing and set the hook when something is different. Try to sense a "I just hung up on a dish-rag feel."

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

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Clip Out

Large Fish Pictures Wanted

Name _____
 Address _____
 City _____
 State _____ Zip _____
 Fish _____ Pound _____ Oz _____
 County _____



We are looking for large fish
(all types) from 2007.

Send Photo To:

WVS
P.O. Box 5521
Vienna, WV
26105

Photos Will Be Returned

E-mail wvsport@wirefire.com

SUMMERSVILLE LAKE NIGHT BASS TOURNAMENT

Sponsored By:

Open To All Teams

**Battle Run Ramp
7:30PM to 7AM**



Warehouse Marine

I-79 Exit 96
WESTON, WV
304-269-7726



Rugged - Reliable Aluminum Bass Boats

\$125 per Team

Plus \$20 Optional Big Bass
Big Bass Pays 3 Places
50% -30%-20% Over 25 Teams
\$5 Additional For Teams
Signing Up At Ramp



**Send in \$25 For This Event
Along With This Clip Out Form.**

**Pay The CASH Balance At The Ramp.
This Secures Your Blast-off Number.
Late Team Numbers Follow Mail in.**

- 6 Fish Limit per Team
- 6 oz. Dead Bass
- Courtesy Board
- Obey DNR Rules
- Subject To Polygraph
- Complete Rules At Event
- No Off-Limits Before Event

REGISTRATION BEGINS AT 6PM



Aluminum Bass Boats Available At
WAREHOUSE MARINE

14th ANNUAL

Sept. 1
Saturday Night

**FULL MOON
TEAM CHALLENGE**

Two Flights Over 50 Teams

\$1,500 1st

Over 35 Teams

Night Events	\$1,500 1st	
Sample Payout	1,000 2nd	
For 50 Teams	800 3rd	
	525 4th	Big Bass
	400 5th	\$500
Number Of Places Paid	300 6th	300
Based On Entered Teams	200 7th	200
Pro-rated Less Or More	150 8th	
Than 50 Teams	125 9th	

Clip Out & Mail 5 Days Prior To Event- Send \$25 Advance Fee

Boater _____

Partner _____

One Address _____

City _____

St _____ Zip _____ Phone# _____

Sept. 1 _____

Send In \$25 This Event
To Pre-Register _____

Pay The CASH Balance
At The Ramp

Mail To:
Bass Sportsman
P.O. Box 5521
Vienna, WV 26105
304-295-8450

Online At www.catfishermansparadise.com

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“Home Of The Big Cats”

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at Veto Road Intersection

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Catfisherman's Paradise has stocked 14,000 thousand
of pounds of big catfish in this season.

Our bait shop carries a full line of bait, tackle and snacks.
Tag fish - 70 pound over jar paying 1st & 2nd weekly.



100 lbs.



72 lbs.



85 lbs.



103 lbs.

Here's A Few of the BIG CATS Caught Last Year

*Don't miss out on some of the best catfishing this summer.
Plan your trip now.*

**\$1,000 weekend special tournaments paying out \$1,000 every weekend.
Starting Friday's 6PM to Sunday 6PM.*

***\$13.00 For 12 Hours of Fishing (2 Poles)
Includes All Jackpots
Open 24 Hours A Day - 7 Days A Week***

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Log Cabins*
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