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Issue 210

August 2011



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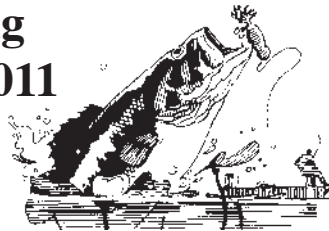
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Cover Photo

Larry Prince, from Morgantown, landed this 52" Stonewall Jackson Lake musky on a guided trip. Kevin Ross, owner of Husky Musky Guide Services (ad on page 7) has guided several clients this season. He provides baits and tackle as well as instructions on hooking these mammoth fish.

This magazine is online each month: www.wvasportsman.net
Photo courtesy of Husky Musky Guide Service in Jane Lew.

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Duck Shooting Stations

POINT PLEASANT, W.Va. – Waterfowl hunters who wish to hunt from a shooting station in the controlled waterfowl hunting zone of McClintic Wildlife Management Area (WMA), located near Point Pleasant, must submit their applications by September 9, 2011, according to David T. McClung, Wildlife Manager for the Division of Natural Resources Wildlife Resources Section.

Hunting is by permit only on a portion of McClintic WMA during the October split of waterfowl season. Hunters are assigned an area free of charge, and are allowed to bring one guest. An accessible blind is available to the handicapped waterfowl hunter. Applicants are selected randomly by drawing and will be notified if selected. Hunters may apply by visiting the DNR website www.wvdnr.gov under "Hunting/Main Page" or by printing the following information on

a postcard: name; address; telephone number; and the day(s) they desire to hunt. Cards should be addressed to: DUCK BLINDS, 1163 Wildlife Road, Point Pleasant, WV 25550.

The controlled waterfowl hunt is Oct. 1 through Oct. 8, 2011. Applicants not selected may come to the McClintic WMA office on the morning of each day's hunt to apply for a shooting station left vacant by selected hunters who do not show up. These vacancies are filled on a first come basis. Those individuals not selected for an area may hunt waterfowl on McClintic WMA outside the controlled hunting zone. Consult the 2011-2012 West Virginia Migratory Bird Hunting Regulations for more complete information. Migratory bird regulations will be available at DNR offices by the end of August and are on the DNR's website now.

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Shooting Range Damage Concerns

SOUTH CHARLESTON, W.Va. – Officials with the West Virginia Division of Natural Resources (DNR) are asking users of the state’s public shooting ranges to help curtail growing instances of damage to the property. Of biggest concern are littering and gunfire damage to target frames, trash barrels, bench posts and other structures at the ranges.

DNR maintains nearly 30 public shooting ranges at numerous wildlife management areas, two state forests and other publicly accessible locations across West Virginia. These ranges were built and are maintained using funds from the sale of hunting licenses and conservation stamps. They are popular with hunters who use them to practice and sight in their firearms

prior to the state’s various hunting seasons. Although hunters pay the costs of the ranges with their license fees, these facilities are open at no charge to the public and are becoming more popular with recreational shooters.

Recent months have shown an increase in shooting range users damaging the facilities with high-

powered firearms and ammunition for which the ranges are not designed, and bringing in inappropriate items which are not permitted under wildlife management area regulations such as household appliances, computer monitors, glass bottles, etc. Some shooters have been using these items as targets

continue to the next page



The big catfish are biting. Photo courtesy of Catfish Paradise in Marietta.

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and not removing the debris when they leave. The result is that DNR's wildlife managers are spending much of their time repairing the ranges and removing trash instead of maintaining and creating hunting and fishing opportunities, according to DNR Director Frank Jezioro. Shooters are reminded that current regulations prohibit the use of glass or metal containers as targets on any public shooting range. Only paper, clay and metal silhouette targets may be used on these ranges.

"Many of the recreational shooters do not have West Virginia hunting licenses, so they do not contribute to the upkeep of the facilities," Jezioro said. "We're asking that shooters take out what they bring in to the range, and that anyone who sees shooters abusing the shooting ranges report it to their local Natural Resources Police Officer."

Jezioro said shooting range operations will continue as they are now and they will remain open to the public at no charge. However, shooting range users are urged to read and obey the posted rules so that the facilities remain in good
 continue to the next page



Cameron Ross caught a 39" musky at Stonewall Jackson Lake. *Photo courtesy of Husky Musky Guides in Jane Lew.*



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Dave Lancaster went with his son to South Africa and took this Blesbok with his G-5 bow. *Photo courtesy of Crooked Creek Archery in Williamstown..*

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A list of public shooting ranges maintained by DNR is available online at www.wvdnr.gov/hunting/SRanges.shtm.

**MAIL or EMAIL Your PICS
• Form Is On Page 38**



Mike McGraw was fishing on the New River and landed this citation sized smallmouth. *Photo courtesy of PC Bait & Tackle in Hinton.*

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Don Cottrell landed this 5 pound, 8 oz. largemouth for big bass at the Kings Of The Lakes bass event. This fish helped his team earn \$2,750 for the two day tournament at Sutton & Burnsville Lake. *Photo courtesy of Mid-State Marina in Sutton.*

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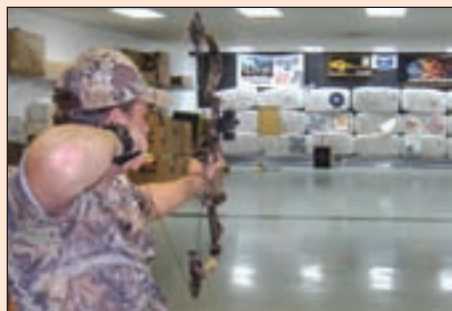
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Cover Boy: VanDam

By Tyler Reed

And the winner is ... Kevin VanDam! Again. And so goes the collective groan in our office. It's not because we have anything against Kevin VanDam.

His skill is incredible, and his hatred of losing is palpable. But the thought of putting him on the cover of our magazines again makes us cringe. In the last five years, Kevin VanDam has made the cover of BASS Times eight times.

Mathematically, that means he is on our cover 13.3 percent of the time. His closest competitor? As in life, it is Skeet Reese. He has been on the cover four times in five years.

For reference, only a handful of other anglers have gotten cover photos twice; most are one-timers. It's not arbitrary. We don't just give covers to the anglers we like the most. The cover boy (or girl) is the one who has most recently won a major tournament or award. But VanDam just keeps on winning, and therefore, he keeps getting on our cover.

At first, it was amusing. In 2005, we had a chuckle or two about VanDam getting two covers in a row.



Colton Ratliff hooked a nice small-mouth bass. *Photo courtesy of PC Bait & Tackle in Hinton.*

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But you remember 2005, right? He was on fire. He caught that monster lake record (11-13) out of Lewisville during an E-50 and won that tournament, then won the next one, then won the Classic.

It was the beginning of total Van-

Domination. In 2006, VanDam didn't win any tournaments, and he didn't get any covers.

In 2007, he won two tournaments, got two covers, and was bested by only one person in sea-
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Stop By Justin's Before Your Next Hunting Or Fishing Trip!

winnings: Skeet Reese. But in 2008, he hopped onto our cover once, and again in 2009.

In 2010, he's already gotten the April and August covers, and, well, you can see what we did with this month's cover. Let me clarify that not everyone in our office minds the VanDam: Cover Boy phenomenon. Ken Duke, editor of Bassmaster.com, would be happy if we renamed the magazine KVD Times. "He's a great guy and a terrific interview," explained Duke, "and he always makes himself available to the media." Yeah, right. VanDam once called the editor "The Great Ken Duke," and Duke has held onto that moment much like a toddler with her first doll. In fact, Duke is so protective of KVD's image that he often requests that we call the pro "Kevin VanDarn, just to keep it clean."

KVD's name is so familiar in our office, we often call him by his first name. But sometimes we call him Keith because after a late night at a tournament once, I accidentally called him Keith. He was not amused. It's like calling Tiger Woods the wrong name, like Tigger. Embarrassing. But the story lives on in our office, and every time VanDam wins a tournament, first there's the groan, then there's the question, "Oh, Keith won again?"

continue to the next page

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Emily & Bethany Moore are pleased with their catch. Photo courtesy of PC Bait & Tackle in Hinton.



Steve Groves and Bart Backus won the overall championship at the 3 Full Moon night tournaments at Summersville Lake (23 pounds).

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Last fall, when VanDam won 2009 Toyota Tundra Bassmaster Angler of the Year, the photo we ran on the cover showed off VanDam's dominance on this award: He was holding up five fingers to show it was his fifth title.

I joked to my cubicle mates that the next year, he'd probably be holding up six fingers, and that a few years from now, he'd have to add toes to the mix. The day after VanDam won the title this year, I picked up last year's cover and said out loud that, for efficiency's sake, we should just tack on an extra finger and change the year on the trophy; it would be like recycling. My boss — and editor of this lovely publication — called me on it. "Yes, do it!"

So, thanks to the handy work of our designer, Bill Gantt, we now have a photo of a six-fingered VanDam. Acting on the advice of some of the more straight-laced people in our department, it did not make it onto our cover.

But it was fun nonetheless!



Giant catfish alert! Photo courtesy of Catfish Paradise in Marietta, OH.

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Mountwood Park Lake in Wood County is not real known around the state. Chuck Hardin, from Vienna, hooked a 7 1/2 pound largemouth.

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State Parks Video Competition

SOUTH CHARLESTON, W.Va. – America’s State Parks and Sony Creative Software have teamed to introduce America’s State Parks Filmmaker Challenge, a video competition created to provide funding to state parks across the nation. “West Virginia could easily become a winner,” said Ken Caplinger, chief of West Virginia’s state parks. “It could be an incredible tribute to our West Virginia state park system for our visitors to participate in this nationwide contest.”

The video contest submission began in June and runs through Sept. 1, 2011. Participants are asked to produce a two-minute (or less) video or videos showcasing their favorite state parks. Amateurs are welcome. On Sept. 5, 19 potential finalists will be selected by representatives of the organization, America’s State Parks. Videos selected will be based on creative elements - cinematography, editing, soundtrack, effective use of special effects and film length - and technical elements - film concept, originality, coherence and overall enjoyment. Finalists will be an-

nounced at Custer State Park in South Dakota early in September and winners will be unveiled on November 15. Winners of the competition will receive various Sony prizes, including PlayStation®3 computer entertainment systems, Sony VAIO® laptops and Sony Bloggie™ Cameras

America’s State Parks will host the user videos on its YouTube page. “YouTube is a powerful media resource. Imagine Cass Scenic Railroad, Babcock, Blackwater Falls and other parks being videoed by our visitors, from a visitors point of view, and sharing our treasures continue to the next page



Austin Pringle hooked a keeper musky with his dad, Mike, at Stonecoal Lake.

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with the world,” said Caplinger.

Anyone visiting America’s State Parks website from Sept. 10 through Nov. 1 will be invited to vote for their favorite video. “We hope to find West Virginia entries and better yet, good voter turnout for West Virginia entries,” Caplinger said. “Lewisburg was recently named America’s Coolest Small Town by Budget Travel, and our state parks are worthy of winning another award for the state. And the bonus is great videos shot by park visitors and posted to YouTube. We can’t lose.”

America’s State Parks organization benefits from a partnership with Sony. A special offer of \$30 public discount on Sony’s Vegas Movie Studio HD Platinum 11 software will be available America’s State Parks website. For every sale of software from the ASP website, Sony will donate \$20 to America’s State Parks organization.

For more information on this promotion or America’s State Parks, visit www.americasstateparks.org. For the America’s State Parks Filmmaker Challenge contest rules and regulations, visit www.americasstateparks.org/filmmaker.

West Virginia’s state park sys-



Landon Hamilton, from Berkley Springs, earned a citation for this 32” carp.

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tem is one of 50 system members making up the National Association of State Park Directors. Ken Caplinger represents West Virginia in this vital network of state park leaders.

About America’s State Parks – The organization

America’s State Parks (www.americasstateparks.org) is an al-

liance of public and private organizations working to promote and enhance the collective national treasure that is the great park systems found across our 50 states. With more than 7,000 units and nearly three-quarter of a billion annual visits, America’s State Parks are vital to the American quality of

continue to the next page

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life. Leadership and governance for America's State Parks comes from members of the National Association of State Park Directors representing each region of the country. About the National Association of State Park Directors (NASPD)

Composed of 50 state park directors, the NASPD (www.naspd.org) was founded in 1962. The mission of the Association is to promote and advance the state park systems

of America for their own significance, as well as for their important contributions to the nation's environment, heritage, health and economy.

About Sony Creative Software

Sony Creative Software inspires artistic expression with its award-winning line of products for digital video, audio, and music production, as well as industry-leading technology for DVD production and

Blu-ray Disc™ authoring. Sound Forge™ Pro, ACID™ Pro, and Vegas™ Pro software have defined digital content creation for a generation of creative professionals. These signature product lines continue to advance media production by providing powerful, accessible tools. For more information about professional and consumer products, visit www.sonycreativesoftware.com.



Like to catch big catfish. Try this pay lake this season. *Photo courtesy of Catfish Paradise in Marietta, Ohio.*



Randall Hyde landed a 16 1/4 pound channel catfish.

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Young Caleb Jantuah, from Richwood, got his 1st gobbler



Chris Gay, from Chelyan, landed an unusual tiger trout on the Cherry River. No citations are offered.

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Cory Booth, from Quinwood, landed this 21" smallmouth bass for a citation. This location features some of WV's finest scenery..



Sierra Ferguson, from Petertown, hooked a citation yellow perch.



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Carolyn Sizemore, from Fraziers Bottom, hooked this 30" citation drum. A friend helped to land it.



Young Travis White, from Charleston, caught a 27" drum for a citation. Catch a big fish this season and receive a citation from the DNR. Go to wvdnr.gov for info.

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Wild Food Weekend

CAIRO, W.Va. – The 44th Annual Nature Wonder Wild Foods Weekend is scheduled at North Bend State Park September 16-18. Nature Wonder Weekend began in 1968 with author and wild foods enthusiast Euell Gibbons as the guest naturalist. Gibbons may be best remembered for a Post Grape Nuts advertisement and the phrase “Ever eat a pine tree? Many parts are edible.”

“It is at North Bend State Park where Gibbons made it okay to use and know about ‘foods from the land’,” according to Edlene Wood. For 44 years, attendees of Nature Wonder Weekend have gathered from across the country to stalk wild foods. “Back-to-nature is popular again,” Wood said.

Nature Wonder is a weekend package that includes activities,

lodging, meals – including a ‘wild’ one, – hikes and presentations. “Individuals with wild food or outdoor experiences influenced by Gibbons are asked to submit a written letter,” said Wood. Letters submitted will become part of the Mugar Memorial Library of Boston University where Gibbons’ personal papers are stored. His book, *Stalking the Wild Asparagus*, and others are still popular. Gibbons died in 1975.

The National Wild Foods Association emerged as a result this event. Association President Edlene Wood has carried on Gibbons work along with others who share this interest. “They laughed about Euell Gibbons and his ‘wild food’ in the early years,” Wood recalled.

Gibbons advocated use of nutritious plants often overlooked. His gourmet approach to odd or unusual food deemed “wild” has again become a popular focus for television shows such as the Travel Channel’s *Bizarre Food* and *No Reservations*.

continue to the next page

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Eddy Barker hooked a musky. Photo courtesy of Burnsville Docks on the lake.

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Edelene Wood has attended and served as host every year since the event's inception in 1968. Wood herself is well-known for wild food gathering and preparation.

The wild food guest expert for the 2011 Nature Wonder Weekend is John Kallas, who founded Wild Food Adventures in 1993. A botanist, nature photographer, writer, researcher and teacher, he has a doctorate in nutrition, a master's in education, and majors in biology and natural science. Kallas is one of the foremost authorities on edible wild plants of North America.

Activities include gathering and preparing of a wild dinner. A Saturday wild foods social will feature Roasted Root Tea Bags provided by Traditional Medicinals of Sebastopol, CA. Sunday includes a morning service and wild food workshop with Don Gartman. The workshop discusses enhancements of the Euell Gibbons Nature Trail located at North Bend State Park.

Although wild foods are featured throughout the weekend, five conventional meals are part of the two-night, three-day event package. The weekend is open to the public but advance registration and reservation is required. The cost per per-

son sharing a room is \$158. Single occupancy and day-only rates are available. Additional information, event rates, and reservation forms are available online at www.northbendsp.com, Special Events, or by calling 304-558-2754.

Wanted: Big Fish

ROANOKE, W.Va. - If you have a trophy fish caught from West Virginia waters, it's wanted for the trophy fish display at this year's West Virginia's National Hunting and Fishing Day event, scheduled Sept. 24 and 25 at Stonewall Resort State Park near Weston in Lewis County.

"There are some real monster fish swimming in Mountain State waters, and each year the West Virginia Wildlife Federation and the West Virginia Division of Natural Resources showcases trophy fish legally caught from West Virginia waters at the National Hunting and Fishing Day event," explained WVDNR Fisheries Biologist James Walker, who is organizing the display. "This will be the fifth year that a West Virginia trophy fish display of mounted specimens has been exhibited in conjunction

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with West Virginia's Celebration of National Hunting and Fishing Day, and every year the display has added a tremendous attraction to

continue to the next page



Dale Pitzer, from Elkins, hooked a carp in the Tygart River.

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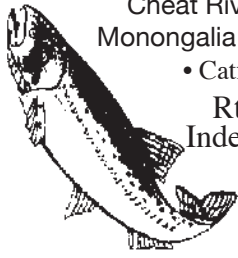
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the two day event.”

Interested anglers who have qualifying fish mounts should contact James Walker at 304-924-6211 between 9 a.m. and 4 p.m. or email James.A.Walker@wv.gov for additional information or a registration form. This information can also be found on the West Virginia Division of Natural Resources website at www.wvdnr.gov. Look under “Special Opportunities, National Hunting & Fishing Days.”

Participation will be limited to 25 qualifying trophy entries to be determined by the selection committee. No more than five individuals of any species will be accepted. As an incentive for participation, each angler who displays a trophy fish mount at the two-day event will be eligible to win one of four \$200 gift certificates. Prizes will be randomly picked, giving each entrant an equal opportunity to win.

Mail Pics - Form On Page 38

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Fishing Safety

Fishing isn't a dangerous sport, but you should prepare to be safe and comfortable in the outdoors. It is possible to get caught unexpectedly in bad weather, encounter insects, spend too much time in the sun, or get caught on a fish hook.

Wearing the proper clothing helps to protect you from injury. It also keeps you warm in cold weather and cool in hot weather. Rainwear and other gear keep you from getting wet and chilled.

Safety Around Water

Anglers should learn how to swim and use caution around water at all times. You should always use the “buddy system” and have a friend or an adult with you in case something goes wrong.

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Personal Flotation Devices (PFDs),

also called life jackets and life vests, are not just for wearing in boats. Anytime you are on or around deep or fast moving water, you should wear a PFD. U.S. Coast Guard and/or state laws require you to have an approved PFD when you are in a boat, and that a boat must carry one PFD for each passenger on board. Certain types of boats must also have a cushion or ring that can be thrown to a person in the water.

Wading

There are several rules you should
continue to the next page



Luke Keener, from Ransom hooked a 27" citation channel catfish.

follow for safe wading.

1. Always wade with another person.
2. Always wear your PFD.
3. Know how deep the water is.
4. Know how strong the current is.
5. Know what the bottom is like by checking with a stick or staff. Shuffle your feet along the bottom to avoid holes.

While wading you can protect your ankles by wearing high-top shoes or wading boots. Long, lightweight pants can protect you from jellyfish and sea nettles in saltwater and from snags and rocks in freshwater.

Reach-Throw-Row-Go

Reach-throw-row-go is a method of rescuing a person who falls overboard or an angler or swimmer in trouble.

The first safety step is to REACH out with an oar, tree limb or other long object if the person is close to you. If you can't reach the person, THROW them a life-saving device. This can be a boat cushion or ring. Tie it to the end of a line so that it helps you pull the person to safety.

If a cushion or ring isn't available,

throw in anything that floats: plastic coolers, ski belts or even beach balls can be used in an emergency.

If there is nothing to throw, ROW a boat to the person in trouble. Ideally, take someone else with you



J.R. O'Brien caught and released his 1st musky at Stonecoal Lake.

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to help pull the person out of the water. The person should be pulled in over the stern, or back, of the boat. If the boat has a motor, shut it off before you attempt any water rescue. Don't let the person try to climb in over the side of a small boat, it can tip the boat over. Instead, pull the victim over the stern, or back, of the boat. If the boat is small, you can also have the victim hang onto the gunwales, and tow him to shore.

Swim out to save the person in trouble ONLY as a last resort and ONLY if you are an experienced lifeguard or have had life-saving training. Going into the water after someone is in trouble is dangerous. People who are drowning often panic and injure or even drown someone trying to rescue them. Going quickly for help is often the best choice.

Swimming

If you fish, you should know how to swim for your own safety. Many young anglers like to go for a swim during a fishing trip just for fun or to cool off. Don't swim if there is any doubt about your ability. Never dive into the water of an unknown area and don't swim in cold water

or after a heavy meal. Finally swim only when an experienced swimming partner is with you.

Safety with Fishing Equipment

Handle your fishing equipment responsibly. Look behind you before you cast to make sure your hook will not get caught on a power line, tree or person. To avoid accidents, don't leave your tackle lying on the ground. Someone can trip on it, step on a hook or break your equipment.

Have an enjoyable experience on the water. Fish safely.

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Fishing Glossary

Bait

Natural attractant added to a hooks to catch fish. bait includes live and dead baitfish, crabs, crayfish, worms, eels, insects, mussels, clams, cut bait (fish), chicken livers, corn kernels, dough balls, squid, and shrimp.

Blade Bait

A weighted, fish-shaped blade made with a swinging hook and designed for fishing deep.

Buzz Bait

These "safety pin" wire lures for surface fishing have a propeller blade on one wire and a weighted body, skirt and hook on the other.

Casting Spoon

A spoon-shaped metal or hard plastic lure that wobbles to attract fish. They can be fitted with a fixed (solid) hook or swinging hook, that has a single, double or treble points.

Chumming

A fishing technique by which bait or scent is released into the water to attract fish to take a lure or baited hook. Chum consists of live, dead, ground-up or prepared baits and scents and is used in fresh and saltwater.



Dalton Schpbach, from Paden City, hooked a real large bass.

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Crank Bait

A fish-like hard lure or plug designed to swim under the surface, often made of plastic or wood. Some are combined

Float

Also called a "bobber", these suspend hooked bait off of the bottom, and signal hits by "bobbing" when a fish takes the bait.

Hook

A metal wire device shaped like a "J" with an opening or "eye" at one end to which the line is tied and a point at the other end to catch the fish. Circle hooks have an angled point. Double and treble hooks have two or three points, respectively.

Jig

Sometimes called "bucktails", these weighted-body (often lead) lures are molded on special hooks and rigged with a hair tail or soft plastic skirt or worm.

Jigging

continue to the next page



David Lane, from Mullens, caught a citation brook trout - 15 1/2".

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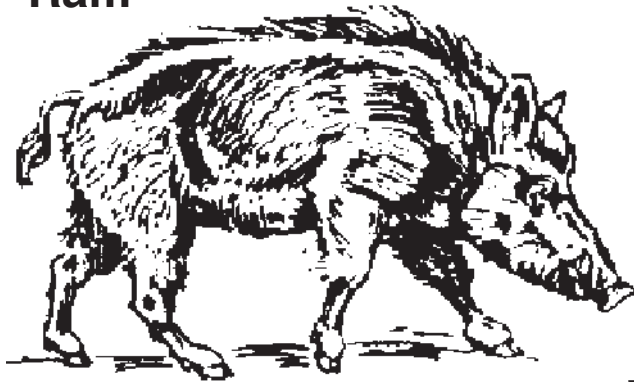
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Leader

A length of monofilament, wire or other stranded material tied between the end of the line and the lure or hook. Leaders provide extra strength or abrasion resistance from the rough mouth and teeth of fish (pike, barracuda, sharks), scales (sharks), gill covers (tarpon and snook), blows from tails (tuna).

Line

Specialized "string" used for fishing. Nylon monofilament line is the most popular. Other lines are made of different materials, including braided fibers and wire. FLY LINE is a specialized line made of a plastic coating on a core, and

often made tapered (changing diameter) to make fly casting easier. (To preserve good fishing, take any discarded line with you when you leave. Discarded line can snag and harm wildlife, and kill fish, turtles, frogs, birds and small mammals.)

Lure

Any artificial item designed to attract fish and fitted with hooks. These include flies, hard plastic or wood lures (or plugs), soft plastic imitations, large offshore skirted baits, metal spoons, lead-head lures (jigs), bladed lures, spinners, spinnerbaits.

Reel

A mechanical device for holding and spooling fishing line. Reels have a line spool, brake to slow running fish, handle to retrieve line and foot for clamping to a rod. Reel styles include CASTING (revolving

spool), SPINNING (line coiling off stationary spool); SPINCAST, (like spinning but with a nose cone), and FLY (storing thick fly line/backing and to fight big fish).

Rod

A long lever, usually made of fiberglass, graphite or composite materials and used to catch fish. Different types are available, such as rods for spinning, fly fishing, spincast, bait casting, boat fishing offshore trolling, surf fishing, jetty/pier fishing, etc. Most rods have a reel-holding clamp and guides through which the line runs.

Sinker

A weight of lead or other metals designed to sink a hooked bait or lure.

Snap

A small device similar to a dog leash snap, tied to the line.

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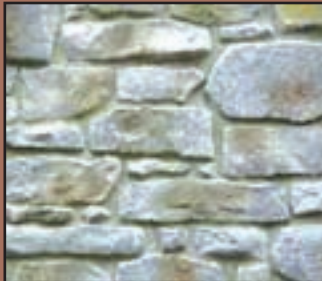
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John Cordery, from Powhatan Point, Ohio, landed a 55 pound Ohio River flathead.

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Jim Varney landed a 33.6 pound Ohio River flathead near the Belleville Dam.

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Don & Dave Cottrell won the 2 day Kings of the Lakes bass tournament at Sutton & Burnsville Lake. They won \$2,750 with a 21-2 weight.

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 Form On Page 38



Clinton Hudkins landed the day 1 big bass (4 pound, 9 oz.) at the Kings of the Lakes tournament.

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Mark Binegar, from Bridgeport, went to Alaska for this huge king salmon.



Jeff Wallace caught a very large gar. Looks like a handful.

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September Camping At State Parks

SOUTH CHARLESTON, W.Va. – Camping in September is cooler than during the hot summer months, and West Virginia State Parks are making it even more attractive by offering half-off discounts at participating campgrounds.

“When school starts, the camping season mellows, but just a little,” according to Jon Teets, superintendent at Audra State Park in Barbour County. “Audra is hoppin’ in the summertime, particularly on weekends. In September we find the pace a little slower and that’s when park superintendents get creative and offer rate reductions to encourage campers to visit.” Audra State Park campground is all first-come, first-served sites and is open from April 15 to mid-October.

“When the kids are back in school, camping decreases and the need for reservations also vanishes,” according to Scott Durham, superintendent at Twin Falls Resort State Park in Wyoming County. “It would be a record day to have all 50 sites at Twin Falls full in September, so there’s no waiting.”

Several parks, including Twin Falls, reduce campsite fees from Sept. 6 – 30 by 50 percent. State parks and forests offer two September campsite rate reductions: areas that are Sunday-Thursday only and areas for any two consecutive days.

Sunday through Thursday – Eight parks extend the 50 percent off camping rates for Sunday through Thursday nights only with a minimum two night stay. “These areas are still heavily used in September and weekends are still like summertime – busy,” said Brad Reed, district administrator with West Vir-

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GAME CHECKING

ginia State Parks. “Reduced rates for mid-week camping encourage campers to use our campgrounds when demand is lower. Many campers prefer mid-week stays regardless.” Parks offering 50 percent off Sunday through Thursdays from Sept. 6 – 30, 2011, include: Bluestone (Summers County), Beech Fork (Cabell County), Watoga (Pocahontas County), Pipestem Resort (Summers County) and Canaan Valley Resort and Blackwater Falls (Tucker County) state parks,

continue to the next page



Jonathan Williams got his first deer.
Photo courtesy of Bow-Listic Archery in Chelyan.

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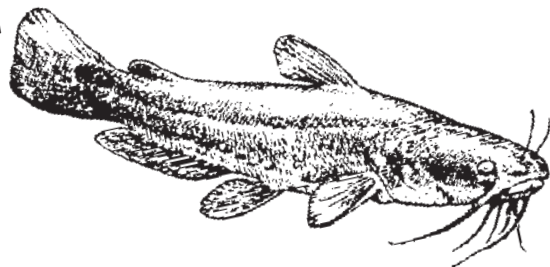
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and Tygart Lake (Taylor County) state parks, and Kumbrabow State Forest (Randolph County).

Two consecutive days – Parks and forests offering 50 percent off campsite fees any two or more days from Sept. 6-30, 2011, include Plum Orchard (Fayette County) and Bluestone (Summers) wildlife management areas, Kanawha (Kanawha County), Greenbrier (Greenbrier County) and Cabwaylingo (Wayne County) state forests, Holly River (Webster County), Audra (Barbour/Upshur counties), Twin Falls (Wyoming County), and Moncove Lake (Monroe County) state parks.

“Campers will see foliage begin the color change in mid-September at some parks. If autumn color is early, it’s an added bonus at Canaan Valley and Blackwater Falls, two parks that recognize the mid-week September rate,” Reed advised.

“Campgrounds operated by the state park system are all first-come, first-served after Labor Day,” Reed said. Reservable sites are available from Memorial – Labor Day weekends at West Virginia’s state parks. Stonewall, Canaan Valley and Tygart Lake campgrounds are the exceptions, with year-round reservations available, as weather

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For more information about West Virginia’s state parks, visit www.wvstateparks.com.



Cameron Ross caught a bass musky fishing. *Photo courtesy of Husky Musky Guides in Jan Lew.*

Antlerless Permits

SOUTH CHARLESTON, W.Va. – Applications for the 2011 Antlerless Deer Season are now available at all West Virginia Division of Natural Resources (DNR) district offices, Elkins Operations Center and Charleston Headquarters, according to Curtis I. Taylor, chief of the DNR Wildlife Resources Section. These applications also may be downloaded from the DNR’s website at www.wvdnr.gov in the “Hunting” section.

These limited permit areas provide antlerless deer hunting opportunities in counties or areas of

continue to the next page

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the state where wildlife biologists have determined that limited numbers of antlerless deer permits are necessary to meet management objectives.

Five wildlife management areas (Bluestone, Elk River, Stonewall, Stonewall Jackson Lake, and Teter Creek Lake) and public lands in two counties (Grant and Tucker) will have a limited number of Class N licenses for West Virginia residents to hunt antlerless deer from Nov. 23 through Dec. 10 and Dec. 28 through Dec. 31.

Applications must be received by the DNR before the close of business on Aug. 19, 2011.

The 2011 limited resident antlerless deer season will provide an opportunity for 1,010 residents to participate on the five WMAs. An additional 250 residents will be selected to hunt antlerless deer on public land in the two counties (Grant and Tucker) that are restricted to resident hunters.

For complete information on antlerless deer season dates and bag limits, consult the 2011-2012

Hunting and Trapping Regulations Summary, which is available at West Virginia hunting and fishing license agents, DNR offices and online at www.wvdnr.gov.

Fall Nature Walks

CHARLESTON, W.Va.—Say goodbye to summer and hello to fall during the annual Margaret Denison Fall Nature Walks at Kanawha State Forest Sept.10, 2011.

“Registration begins at 8:30 a.m. at the swimming pool area with walks beginning at 9 a.m.,” according to Kevin Dials, assistant superintendent. End-of-summer walks focus on a variety of nature topics and identifications, including wildflower, fungi, birds, pond and aquatic life, trees and photography.

“There’s an auto tour also planned for attendees with limited ability to walk trail distances,” said Dials. “The road edges and parking areas in the forest yield a huge number of interesting flowers and other vegetation as well as birds. Drive and stops are a way to enjoy and learn about nature.”


The fall walks are sponsored by the Kanawha State Forest Foundation and are assisted by the Mary Ingles Trailblazers, the Division of Natural Resources, the Handlan Chapter of the Brooks Bird Club and Master Naturalists. There is a fee of \$5 for adults and \$2 for children to participate. The fee covers

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drinks, door prizes and leaders. Barbeque sandwiches are available for purchase. All proceeds go to the
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Jeff Montgomery, from Sand Fork, landed a 46” musky at Stonewall.


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About Margaret L. Denison

Margaret Denison taught science and botany in Kanawha County schools for a number of years and was well known in the forest community. From the beginning of the Spring Walk, she was one of the most knowledgeable and dependable leaders. Davis Creek was her favorite trail and she always had a large following. She did not concentrate on botanical terminology but rather on the flora including ferns, grasses and sedges. These were identified by their common names and origins and further elaborated with delightful folklore. Margaret was a Life Member of the Kanawha State Forest Foundation and a generous monetary donor to Forest projects.

Margaret spent countless hours in the 1960s identifying and cataloging the flora of Kanawha State Forest in collaboration with Superintendent Osbra Eye. They compiled the booklet, "Flowering Plants of Kanawha State Forest," published

in 1967.

In 1975, she received an award from the West Virginia Department of Natural Resources for the listing of 710 flowering plants, 42 ferns and their allies, and 138 grasses and sedges in the Forest. Margaret suffered a debilitating stroke in 2002 and moved to Arizona to be near her family. Sadly, she died on January 2, 2003. As a tribute to Margaret, in recognition of her outstanding contribution to the Forest and the Foundation, the Fall Nature Walks were renamed in 2003 in her honor.

"Flora of Kanawha State Forest: Wildflowers, Trees, Shrubs, Ferns and Grasses" has been reprinted, with permission of the Denison and Eye families, and are available for sale at the Kanawha State Forest office.

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GAME CHECKING



Set In The Hook

Setting The Hook

When you get right down to it, you have to be able to set the hook in order to catch fish. It takes time and practice. It also takes patience. In a given situation, several factors may affect how you go about setting the hook – like fish species, the mood of the fish on a particular day, and your bait presentation. But here are some of the basics.

continue to the next page



Jeremy Simon had a coyote trailing after he shot this buck .

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Get to know the species you're targeting – is it aggressive or more cautious? Is it a soft-mouthed species (such as crappie, shad, sea trout) or hard-mouthed (such as pike, musky, yellowfin tuna)? This will determine how hard you need to set the hook.

Stand in a stable position for balance and stability – knees slightly bent, legs roughly shoulder-width apart. Be relaxed but ready to react.

A good rule of thumb is to wait and feel the weight of the fish before setting the hook.

When targeting aggressive fish, set the hook hard and fast.

If the fish is cautious and just hitting your bait lightly, it's best to wait, let the fish take the bait, and then set the hook after you feel its weight. But some fish, such as walleye, are known for being light biters, so be ready to respond quickly. Again – know the species you're targeting.

Reel in slack and keep your line taut to increase sensitivity so you can feel the strike and be in a better position to set the hook powerfully.



Tyler Ganley, from Spencer, hooked a 9 & 6 pound rainbow trout

Set the hook by giving your rod (and consequently the fishing line) a quick jerk backward and up. If you have a fish on line, it will fight back and your line will follow the movements of the fish.

If you're targeting a soft-mouthed fish, setting the hook too hard or re-

peatedly can pull the hook through its mouth.

The motion of setting the hook is relatively simple. But it can sometimes be difficult to tell if you have a bite or if you're just feeling the current or a fish bumping into the bait.



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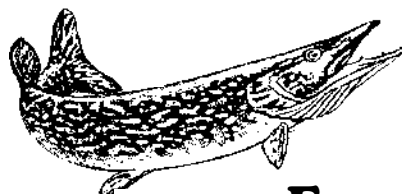
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