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Vol. 1 Issue 161

August 2006



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THE BIG CATFISH ARE BITING!



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Cover Photo

A number of catch and release lakes for bass are in West Virginia. Most are horsepower restricted -9.9HP.

Bart Seese was fishing with Fred Hess when he landed and released this largemouth. They were at Elk Fork Lake outside of Ripley. Bart's big bass weighed 6 pounds, 14 oz. The two of them estimated that they caught over 30 pounds of largemouth bass. Photo courtesy of Hess Fish and Tackle in Harrisville.

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Boating Education Course

The West Virginia Division of Natural Resources Law Enforcement Section's Boating Education program is entering its third year, and the program is staring to prove its value to the state.

In 2001, the West Virginia legislature, at the DNR's urging, passed a law making it mandatory that any person born after December 31, 1986 hold certification of completion of a recognized boating safety course. The DNR began making the course available shortly afterwards.

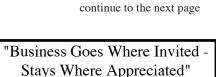
"We saw the need for boating education because of the number of accidents we were having," stated Sgt. Jim Vance of the DNR's second division.

After three years, the program is coming of age, and those who use the state's waterways are beginning to reap the benefits.

"We're getting to a point now that the ones that have to take the course will be the ones buying boats in the next couple of years," said Vance, By Chad Samples pointing out that those affected by the requirement have or will soon be entering the workforce.

Since the program began, attendance of scheduled courses has steadily climbed. According to Vance, many of the early classes were comprised of five ore fewer students. Since, however, he has seen much larger classes, with the largest comprising of nearly 40 students.

As the program has evolved, the faces of the instructors have changed somewhat. DNR officers taught early courses. Now, a network of trained volunteer instructors is largely handling the course. "Our volunteer instructors are starting to take over teaching the classes," he said, adding that Lewis County currently has the largest number of volunteer instructors, many of whom also work with the section's Hunter Education program.



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An angry snapping turtle was caught by Justin Beeler. *Photo courtesy of Starcher's Sport Shop in Lubeck*.

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Currently, the DNR is making plans to begin introducing the course into the public school system, in much the same way as they have the Hunter Education course in past years.

The seven-hour course is presented through the use of videos, presentations by certified instructors and the use of a book that it recognized nationally.

When students sit through the course, they learn a number of aspects of boating. Topics discussed in the course include the classification of vessels, required safety equipment, and safe operation of vessels.

"One of the main things they are going to learn is the navigation system," stated Vance, adding that the recognition of buoys, channel markers and other regulatory markings. "Very few boaters know the 'rules of the road' or what some of the buoys mean."

Vance added that the understanding 'rules of the road' is one of the most important aspects of safe boating, as many accidents could be prevented by boaters following a number of simple rules and showing courtesy to others.

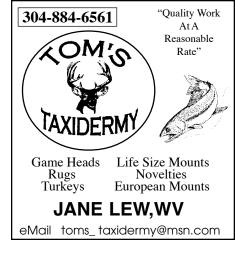
Those required to hold the certification have a number of alternatives to taking the course at a scheduled time. They can take the challenge the test through the DNR after studying the course materials provided. They can also take online courses and exams, as approved by the DNR and Coast Guard.

"I've never had anybody pass the test without studying the book first," warned Vance.

Taking the course on location offers some benefit—both tangible and intangible—over taking a course online or challenging the exam. While, both the online and on-site



Wayne Arvai caught a 13 pound hybrid bass. *Photo courtesy of Amish Country Store in Marmet.*





Hannah Bailey, from Ravenswood, reeld in a 29" carp that weighed 16 pounds, 4 oz.



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courses can be taken for free, it costs \$15 to be certified through the online provider. Additionally, those who choose to certify online or by challenging the exam miss out on the many first-hand experience that are shared by instructors.

"If I had a young boater, I think I'd have them take the course," said Vance. "There have been a lot of personal experiences that we've had that we pass on in class."

"The course gives you such a tremendous wealth of knowledge to draw from, and it's all free," said Randy Chapman, a volunteer instructor for the program in Lewis County.

Chapman points out that, while the course is intended for beginners, it can be enjoyable and beneficial even for those who are far from taking the helm of a vessel for the first time. He also stressed that experienced students are afforded the opportunity to share their experiences with new boaters.

"For the veteran, it's an excellent refresher," he said, adding that the course reminds veteran boaters of safety routines and the fact that most accidents are the result of carelessness. "Though it's geared for beginners, we can convey the information to everybody."

According to Vance, the course has received good reviews by students, both beginning boaters and veterans.

"I haven't had any complaints on the course," he said. "I've had all positive feedback. Many experienced boaters have said that they've learned something new during the course."

In addition to the fact that they can learn something new about a sport they enjoy, boaters not affected by the requirement have plenty of reason to consider taking the course. Many insurance companies offer discounts on boating insurance to customers who hold certification. Likewise, similar courses are required in all fifty states and by the Coast Guard. The West Virginia course is recognized across the country and will fulfill these requirements.

It is hoped that the requirement will have far-reaching benefits for the state in making the waterways safer.

"I think it will make boating safer and more enjoyable for everybody," stated Vance noting that, even before the Memorial Day start of the unofficial boating season there had been three fatal accidents on West Virginia waterways this year.

Boating Education courses are offered periodically by the DNR across the state. These courses are usually announced in local news-

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papers ahead of each course. Organizations or individuals can contact the DNR to arrange courses. To check the availability of courses in your area or to arrange a course, contact your local DNR district or call toll-free at 1-800-243-9968.



A catfish was hooked by young Ezra Carder. *Photo courtesy of Jarrett's Bait in Elizabeth.*

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DNR Expands Wildlife Management

The West Virginia Division of Natural Resources (DNR) has purchased 512 acres of property from New Allegheny, Inc. in Mineral County. These lands will be used to expand and enhance the existing Allegheny Wildlife Management Area, according to DNR Director Frank Jezioro.

The price for this property was \$384,000, and these lands were acquired using money provided by the state's hunters and anglers through their purchase of hunting and fishing licenses, including the Conservation Stamp. These new lands, which will be available for public, wildlife-associated recreation, lie adjacent to the Allegheny WMA and bring the total size of this area to 6,345 acres. This additional property possesses good habitat for forest game species, including deer, bear and grouse, and contains a native trout fishery in Howell Run and its tributaries.

"Once again, the dollars of our state's hunters and anglers are being put to good use for the benefit of everyone who enjoys the outdoors," said DNR Director Frank Jezioro . "This is the latest example of DNR's continuing efforts to



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provide more land for public use, so that we can continue to keep the great West Virginia traditions of hunting and fishing alive for future generations. It's an effort we will continue as money and land become available."

Noting that increased outdoor sporting recreation opportunities are a boost for tourism, Jezioro said



Young Avery Berga was with his dad, Brad, and caught his first smallmouth. Photo courtesy of Backwater Bait in Newport, Ohio

that providing more public land, including stream access, gives both residents and non-residents a better opportunity to enjoy the great hunting, fishing, hiking and wildlife watching opportunities that people have come to expect from West Virginia.



Tis fellow caught a real large flathead catfish. Photo courtesy of Outdoor Specailties in Winfield.



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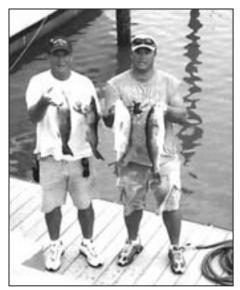
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Ten-year-old Austin Alatorre landed a 21 1/2" largemouth. *Photo courtesy of Johnny's Outdoor World in Boaz.*



Fishing in North Carolina, Tom and Brad Berga caught some nice redfish. *Photo courtesy of Backwater Bait in Newport, Ohio.*



Jessica Riddle reeled in drum. Photo courtesy of Jarrett's Biat in Elizabeth.

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State Record Bowfin Caught

A state record bowfin was caught by Matt Stender of Barboursville, according to Frank Jezioro, Director of the Division of Natural Resources. Stender caught the 28.43inch, 9-pound, 4-ounce fish from the backwater areas of the Ohio at Green Bottom Wildlife Management Area in Cabell County on July 5, 2006 using fresh shad for bait. Stender's catch establishes a new West Virginia record for weight. The previous weight record for bowfin was a 7.66-pound fish caught by Carl A. Jaegar, III from a pond in Berkeley County. The previous length record of 32.25 inches caught by Donald E. Newcomb, III still stands as the West Virginia bowfin length record.

"The backwater areas of the Ohio



A 24 pound flathead catfish was caught by Josh Murray. *Photo courtesy of Starcher's Sport Shop in Lubeck.*

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at Green Bottom, major embayments, and major tributaries of the Ohio are all good spots to try for bowfin during the late spring and summer," according to Jeff Hansbarger, Assistant District Fisheries Biologist.

Anglers who believe that they

have caught a state record fish should check the record listing in the 2006 Fishing Regulations brochure. The brochure also outlines the procedure to follow for reporting their catch. This information is also available online at www. wvdnr.gov.



Steve House, from Elkins, caught a 6 pound, 2 oz. largemouth bass.



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A 38 pound catfish was hooked by Bobby Oliver. Photo courtesy of Backwater Bait in Newport, Ohio





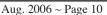
Dusty Wolverton & Eric McCumbers caught a 43 1/2 flathead. Photo courtesy of Holbert's Store in Big Bend.



A 10 pound drum was reeled in by Jeff Miller. Photo courtesy of Jarrett's Bait in Elizabeth.

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76 year old Glen Wells landed this 6 3/4 pound largemouth. Photo courtesy of Martin Brothers in McMechen.

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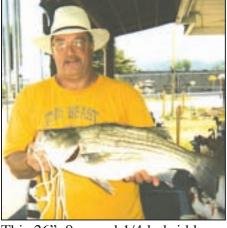
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A 21 1/2 pound flathead was reeled iin by Larry Cales. Photo courtesy of Richmond's Store in Sandstone.



This 26", 9 pound 1/4 hybrid bass, was caught by Keith Jones. Photo courtesy of Amish Country Store in Marmet

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An unusual white catfish hooked by Mason Roush.. to courtesy of Amish Country Store in Marmet.



A 11 3/4 pound channel catfish was landed by Michael Lyton. Photo courtesy of Three Rivers Edge in Hinton.



A big Ohio River carp was caughtby Dillon Metheny. Photo courtesy of Backwater Bait in Newport, Ohio

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West Virginia Archery In The Schools Program

When the school year begins this fall, students from 100 schools around the state will be participating in the West Virginia Archery in the Schools Program, according to Scott Warner, Program Coordinator for the West Virginia Division of Natural Resources.

DNR began its pilot program in the fall of 2004 with only 19 schools. Since then the program has experienced a tremendous amount of interest from teachers around the state. In fact, this interest has allowed DNR to host trainings in every region of the state, reaching 156 teachers from 100 schools. Because of the success of this program, last May the DNR hosted its first State Archery Tournament at Capital High School where 300 students from 23 schools around the state participated.

"The Archery in the Schools Program has become one of DNR's largest and fastest growing educational programs, reaching thousands of kids within the first two years," Warner said. "Working with the Department of Education, wildlife organizations, and teachers, we've been able to bring an activity into the physical education class that anyone can participate in (no matter their size) and teach a skill that can be enjoyed throughout a lifetime."

West Virginia is one of 38 states that are participating in this national program, with similar success being experienced by state wildlife agencies throughout the country. However, West Virginia's DNR received national attention when the West Virginia Schools for the Deaf and Blind became the first school in the nation for the hearing and sight impaired to participate in this program. "We have had archery as part of our curriculum in the past, but not at this level, and the opportunity for our students to participate side-by-side with other students at a statewide archery tournament was terrific," said Bob Haines, Physical Education instructor for the West Virginia Schools for the Deaf and continue to the next page



Cody Bailey, from Ravenswood, caught a 33" flathead that weighed 16 1/2 pounds.

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Young hunter Brown, from Washington, hooked a big bass.



Blind. "In fact, two of our girls finished first and second place in their division and my students are already excited about participating in next year's tournament."

"We knew that this program was going to be a success when we started two years ago," Warner said. "However, we didn't expect to reach this many schools so fast. A lot of work has gone into reaching this point and a lot of credit needs to be given to the teachers and volunteers who believe in this program. Special thanks also need to be given to wildlife organizations such as the West Virginia Bowhunters Association, the National Wild Turkey Federation and the West Virginia Trophy Hunters Association for their financial donations: without them we wouldn't have been able to reach as many schools."

"Seeing the excitement in a kid when he or she shoots a bow for the first time, though the arrow may not have hit anywhere near the center of the target, then seeing them win their division at a State archery tournament a few months later, you understand why this program has grown so fast," Warner concluded.

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organizations wanting to make a donation are encouraged to visit DNR's Web site at www.wvdnr. gov or call (304) 558-2771.



Joe Goots hooked a giant bluegill recently in a farm pond. He was fishing with his daughter. *Photo courtesy of Johnny's Ooutdoor World in Boaz.*



A 38" musky was caught and released by John Murray. Many musky fishermen practice catch and release. *Photo courtesy of Starcher's Sport shop in in Lubeck.*







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TROUT

Pet Permits Not Issued

Based upon the serious public health and wildlife disease concerns associated with the raccoon rabies virus, the West Virginia Division of Natural Resources (DNR) has determined it will no longer issue new Wildlife Pet Permits for raccoon, fox and skunk. NR has not issued Wildlife Importation Permits for these same species since 2001. "The decision to deny new applications for Wildlife Pet Permits for raccoon, fox and skunk has been made following careful deliberation and with concurrence from the West Virginia Department of Agriculture and West Virginia Bureau for Public Health," said DNR Director Frank Jezioro.

While all mammals are susceptible to infection by the rabies virus, raccoon, fox and skunks are considered high risk wildlife species for this disease. Furthermore, there is no licensed vaccine currently approved for veterinary use to protect these species from this disease.

The mid-Atlantic raccoon ra-

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bies 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 participating in a regional oral rabies vaccine (Raboral V-RG) barrier program for the past six 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.

Current Wildlife Pet Permits for raccoon, fox and skunk will remain in effect and these permits will be renewed until the individual wild-

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Aug. 2006 ~ Page 16

Ohio River Stocking Completed

The West Virginia Division of Natural Resources has completed the spring stocking of largemouth bass, smallmouth bass, blue catfish, hybrid striped bass, and native walleye into the Ohio River, according to Bret Preston, Assistant Chief of the Wildlife Resources Section. These stockings are components of the DNR's Ohio River Fisheries Management Plan implemented in the spring of 2005. All fish were reared at the Apple Grove or Palestine state fish hatcheries and stocked during April, May and June.

A total of 96,090 largemouth bass fingerlings were stocked into the Racine, Belleville, and Willow pools. Smallmouth bass Island fingerlings (13,401), native walleye fingerlings (3,200), and hybrid striped bass fingerlings (15,834) were stocked into the Hannibal Pool. The Pike Island Pool received 3,300 native walleye fingerlings, as well as 15,920 hybrid striped bass fingerlings. Hybrid striped bass fingerlings were also stocked into the Willow Island Pool (15,107) and the R.C. Byrd Pool (4,126). In addition, 2,588 blue catfish advancedsized fingerlings were stocked into

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the R.C. Byrd, Racine, and Belleville pools in April.

"Fish stocking is one task involved with the management of the multispecies Ohio River fisheries," said Chris O'Bara, fisheries biologist. "A complimentary task currently ongoing is the enhancement of fish habitat."

Anglers interested in participating in habitat-enhancing activities can contact the Chris O'Bara at the DNR Parkersburg office at (304) 420-4550 to volunteer. Additional stockings will be conducted in the summer and fall of 2006 for largemouth bass, blue catfish, and paddlefish. WVDNR fishery staff will continue to conduct tasks outlined in the Ohio River Fishery Management Plan to enhance a diversity of angling opportunities.

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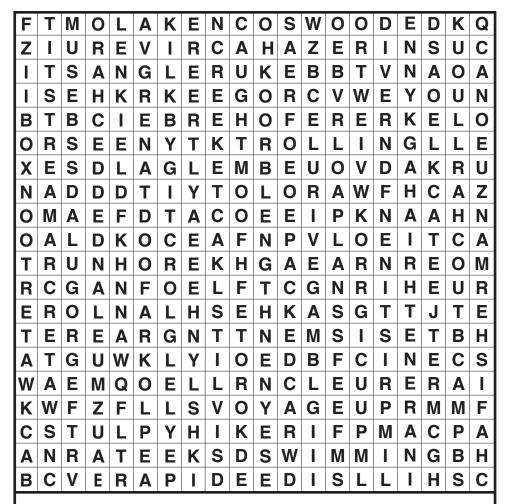


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Special Hunting Permits For Hampshire County

Hunters are reminded they must apply prior to August 18 th for a permit to hunt during the Special Class N/NN Antlerless Deer Season on October 27-28, 2006 in Hampshire County, West Virginia. Both residents and nonresidents may apply for one of the 4,500 permits that are available. Applications may be obtained from West Virginia hunting and fishing license agents, DNR district offices, Elkins Operations Center, Charleston Office or may be downloaded from the DNR Web page www.wvdnr.gov, according to Curtis I. Taylor, Chief of the Division of Natural Resources' Wildlife Resources Section. These applications are for hunting opportunities in Hampshire County where wildlife biologists will be monitoring for Chronic Wasting Disease (CWD).

Resident landowners, their resident children and resident tenants who permanently live on the property are not required to apply for a permit if hunting on their own property.

"The purpose of this special Class N/NN antlerless deer season in

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Hampshire County is to continue surveillance for CWD and to determine its prevalence and distribution within the county," said Taylor. "Selected deer checking stations in the county will be staffed by DNR-Wildlife personnel, and biological data along with tissue samples will be collected and sent to a certified laboratory for CWD testing."

Similar to the process used during last year's buck season in Hamp-

shire County, hunters will be able to check the DNR Web site for CWD test results of those deer from which samples were collected.

For complete information on this special Class N/NN antlerless deer season in Hampshire County, consult the 2006-2007 Hunting and Trapping Regulations Summary, now available at license agents, DNR offices, or visit online at www.wvdnr.gov.

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Jack Rowe landed a 4 pound, 6 oz. smallmouth. *Photo courtesy of Richmond's Store in Sandstone*

State Park Resumes

Bluestone State Park and Bluestone Wildlife Management Area in Summers County are beginning to resume normal operations after heavy rain and flooding on June 27 and 28, according to Robert Beanblossom, district administrator for the Parks and Recreation Section of the Division of Natural Resources.

Currently, all facilities are open at Bluestone State Park and all camping areas are open at Bluestone Wildlife Management Area except portions of Indian Creek and all of Bertha camping areas, which will remain closed. The closed camping areas at Bluestone Wildlife



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Management Area are tentatively scheduled to reopen by July 10, 2006.

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A 4 pound, 11 oz. smallmouth was hooked by Mitchell Howell. *Photo courtesy of Three Rivers Edge in Hinton*.

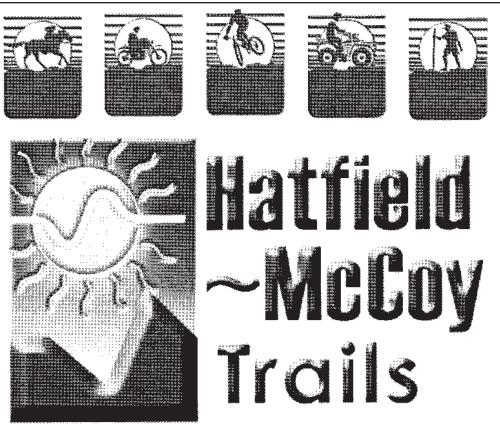


Harold Mill's state record striped bass - 37.75". Photo courtesy of Grandpa's General Store in Hinton.



A 5 1/2 pound smallmouth was reeled in by Corey McGuire. *Photo courtesy of Three Rivers Edge in Hinton*.





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FLW WInner Receives \$500,000

BIRMINGHAM, Ala. (Aug. 5, 2006) - Standing before an arena filled with cheering bass-fishing fans, Brent Ehrler of Redlands, Calif., brought in a winning catch of five bass weighing 15 pounds, 1 ounce to pocket \$500,000 in the Wal-Mart FLW Tour Championship presented by Castrol on Lake Logan Martin. The half-million dollar check is the largest first-place award in professional bass fishing.

Ehrler entered the event as the No. 40 seed and dispatched No. 9 seed Clifford Pirch of Payson, Ariz., at the end of the first round with a two-day total of 10 bass weighing 20 pounds, 11 ounces compared to Pirch's catch of 10 bass weighing 15 pounds, 4 ounces. During Friday's semifinal round, Ehrler was paired against No. 33 seed National Guard pro Ramie Colson Jr. of Cadiz, Ky., and he again brought in a five-bass limit to defeat Colson and advance to the final round where he ultimately claimed the half-million dollar prize. His semifinal round catch weighed 13 pounds, 4 ounces compared to Colson's limit weighing 7 pounds, 10 ounces.

"It's pretty amazing and I really don't know how I feel right now," Ehrler said. "I told myself at the beginning of the year, 'I don't care if I finish first or 100th, I just want to make the championship."

He fished a finesse worm on a jig head around docks and cranked a Lucky Craft RC 1.5 between the docks to catch the heaviest weight Saturday.

Ehrler qualified for the 2005 FLW Tour through the Stren Series Western Division after earning continue to the next page

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A nice hybrid was caught at the Marmet locks. Photo courtesy of Amish Country Store in Marmet..



Jay Ray brought in two nice crappie from North Bend Lake. This lake also has great musky and bass fishing. *Photo courtesy of Reese's Country Store near Mountwood Park.*



six top-10 finishes in the 2003 and 2004 seasons. In 2004, one of those top-10s was a win at the Stren Series Championship. He earned \$25,000 in his rookie year on the FLW Tour and finished 73rd in the Land O'Lakes Angler of the Year Points race. With his championship win in Birmingham on Saturday, he has earned more than \$612,000 since 2003.

Weed Eater pro Ray Scheide of Russellville, Ark., caught a five-bass limit weighing 14 pounds, 6 ounces to claim second place and \$50,000 cash.

"Man, it's bittersweet. I truly believe when it's your time, it's your time," Scheide said. "Today wasn't my time. It was Brent's."

Scheide fished two patterns through the entirety of the championship. When current was present, he focused on deep offshore structure with crankbaits and finesse

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gear. When the current was absent, he fished banks in the backs of creeks and pockets with wood and other submerged cover. His lures of choice were jigs, crankbaits and finesse gear.

Scheide entered the event as the No. 4 seed and displaced No. 45 seed Fujifilm pro Wesley Strader of Spring City, Tenn., at the end of the first round. During Friday's semifinal round, Scheide was paired against No. 28 seed Sirius pro Chip Harrison of Bremen, Ind. He again brought in a limit of bass to defeat Harrison and advance to the final round where he ultimately finished in second place.

The top 48 anglers from the six-event 2006 Wal-Mart FLW Tour advanced to the champion-



Steve House, From Elkins, caught a nice 43" musky.

ship. Anglers were seeded according to their year-end ranking, with the No. 1 pro fishing head-to-head against the No. 48 seed, the No. 2 seed fishing against the No. 47 seed, and so on. The twelve anglers who advanced to the final round fished for the heaviest weight of the day. Overall, 28 states and Japan were represented in Birmingham.

Rounding out the top five pros were Clark Wendlandt of Leancontinued to the next page







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der, Texas (five bass, 13 pounds, 9 ounces, \$40,000); Shinichi Fukae of Mineola, Texas (five bass, 13 pounds, 5 ounces, \$35,000); and Jay Yelas of Tyler, Texas (five bass, 13 pounds, 2 ounces, \$30,000).

Friday's action saw the conclusion of the co-angler competition after the co-angler field was cut from 48 to 24 on Thursday. Matt Arey of Shelby, N.C., walked away with a check for \$25,000 thanks to his tournament-winning catch of five bass weighing 11 pounds, 15 ounces.

FLW Tour Championship anglers were not the only big winners Saturday, as Toby Hartsell of Livingston, Texas, won a new Ranger Z-20 Comanche worth \$47,500. The boat is powered by Yamaha and



A citation crappie, 1.63 pounds, was hooked by Tyler Turner. *Photo courtesy of Crossroads General Store near Newark*.

equipped with EverStart Batteries, Lowrance electronics and a Minn Kota trolling motor. The names of three lucky contestants were drawn during each day's weigh-in.

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Wal-Mart FLW Tour, Aug. 5, 2006

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A 34", 23 3/4 pound carp was reeled in by Jeremy Lilly. *Photo courtesy of Three Rivers Edge in Hinton.*



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Pet Friendly Cabins At Parks

Effective August 1, 2006, West Virginia State Parks and Forests will begin taking reservations for designated pet-friendly cabins or cottages at Babcock, Beech Fork, Blackwater Falls, Bluestone, Cacapon Resort, Canaan Resort, Cass Scenic Railroad, Holly River, Lost River, North Bend, Pipestem Resort, Twin Falls Resort, Tygart Lake and Watoga state parks and Cabwaylingo, Greenbrier, Kumbrabow and Seneca state forests.

"In an effort to make stays more enjoyable for guests who travel with pets and with the support and encouragement of the WV Legislature and the Administration, West Virginia State Parks and Forests has implemented this new pet program at some of our most popular parks," says Acting State Parks Chief Ken Caplinger.

Under a new rule passed by the legislature and signed by Governor Manchin the following pet policy was approved by DNR Director Frank Jezioro and Commerce Secretary Thomas Bulla to ensure the safety and enjoyment of all guests.

- Dogs and cats are the only pets permitted in designated pet-friendly cabins or cottages. These petfriendly cabins or cottages are selected by the area superintendent.
- There is a \$40 charge per pet for

the first night of the stay and \$5 for each additional night. A \$50 security deposit, payable by credit card only is required. All or any portion of this deposit may be forfeited for any violations of this policy and damages in excess of the deposit will be charged to your credit card. Repairs and replacement costs charged for damages will be assessed from a standard statewide fee schedule.

- A maximum of two (2) pets permitted per cabin or cottage.
- Pets shall not be left unattended in cabins or cottages unless securely crated.
- Pets shall be restrained in public areas at all items on a sturdy leash not to exceed ten (10) feet in length and in accordance with general park pet rules.
- Guests must clean up after their pet(s) including the yard around the cabin or cottage. If there is a designated walking area in or near the cabin area, it must be used.
- Pet food cannot be kept outside as this could attract unwanted wildlife.
- Pets cannot be tied up or chained in the cabin or cottage yard or porch.
- Pets must be current on vaccinations and in good health. Certification from a veterinarian of vaccinations is required.



• All pet owners must sign a pet policy liability form upon checkin.

Park and forest staff reserves the right to terminate a stay without refund of any guest whose pet(s) are considered a nuisance. Violation of this policy or damage to the facility may prevent further participation in the pet program at West Virginia State Parks and Forests.

For more information about the new pet program, please call (304) 558-2764 or visit the WV State Parks Web site at www.wvstate-parks.com/petpolicy.htm .



Gary Bragg reeled in a 26 1/2 pound catfish. *Photo courtesy of Waterfront Sporting Goods in Alderson*



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Young Brady McMaster, form Core, caught this 3 pound 5 oz. brook trout. He was fishing at Lower Shavers Fork



Fishing on the Ohio River, Frank Smith, from Foster, caught a real nice hybrid striped bass. Large fish like these are near the dams.



Fishing on the Ohio River, Dayton Knapp II caught a 39 1/2" gar.



Wanted: Trophy Buck Mounts

The West Virginia Wildlife Federation and the West Virginia Division of Natural Resources are seeking hunters who own trophy white-tailed bucks that were legally taken in West Virginia with either bow or gun and have a Pope & Young or Boone and Crockett score of 150 or greater. The purpose of this search is to establish a West Virginia Big Buck Display at West Virginia 's Celebration of National Hunting and Fishing Day, September 23 - 24, 2006 at Stonewall Jackson Lake Resort State Park near Weston in Lewis County. This is the largest event held at a West Virginia state park, attracting 13,000 to 18,000 visitors annually.

Interested hunters who have qualifying head or antler mounts should contact Keith Krantz at (304) 637-0245 between 9 a.m. and 4 p.m. or Keithkrantz@wvdnr.gov, for additional information or a registration form. Additional information and registration forms may also be

Mike Kibbee, formerly from Parkersburg, landed a huge 53" flathead that weighed 60 pounds.

found at www.wvdnr.gov . Look under "Special Opportunities, National Hunting & Fishing Days."

Participation will be limited to the first 30 qualifying trophy entries received. As an incentive for participation, hunters who display their trophy deer at the two-day event will receive a hunting knife and event-specific, limited production hat. They will also be entered into an exclusive drawing for two Knight muzzleloaders and two Custom Shooting Systems (CSS) compound bows valued at \$600 each.

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Shawn Martin & Danille Little landed a 45" cat. *Photo courtesdy of Crossroads General Store near Newark.*

www.hawgmastercharters.com



Tommy Ferrebee caught a 4 1/2 pound smallie. *Photo courtesy of Re-ese's Cuntry Store near Mountwood Park.*



A 40" musky was hooked by Carl McDowell. *Photo courtesy of Jarrett's Bait in Elizabeth.*



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NRA And NWTF Donate To Celebration

The National Rifle Association has made a donation of \$3,500 and the National Wild Turkey Federation has made a donation of \$2,500 to support the Division of Natural Resources' efforts in hosting this year's National Hunting and Fishing Days Celebration, according to Frank Jezioro, Director of the Division of Natural Resources.

"The National Rifle Association and the National Wild Turkey Federation are to be commended for supporting the DNR's efforts in the coordination of this event," Jezioro



Rodney Starcher and John Murray brought in a big flathead. *Photo courtesy of Starcher's Sport Shop in Lubeck*



Jim Forshey reeled in a 40 pound flathead. *Photo courtesy of Reese's Country Store near Mountwood Park.*

said. "Their donation demonstrates their commitment and will go a long way to promote our state's strong hunting and fishing heritage."

National Hunting and Fishing Days is like no other event held in West Virginia with hands-on learning opportunities for youngsters and families in the area of wildlife and outdoor recreation. In fact, the objective of the event is to educate the non-hunting/fishing public on the benefits of these recreational activities and how they support the DNR's efforts in wildlife conservation. Nearly 20,000 wildlife enthusiasts will be in attendance to try their hand at everything from archery, shooting, fly-fishing, and kids fishing derby, to list only a few. In addition, attendees will also have the opportunities to sit in on several wildlife demonstrations or visit one of the hundred-plus vendors on hand.

"Again, the DNR thanks these two organizations for their donations," Jezioro said. "It takes the generosity of organizations like the NRA and the NWTF to allow us to host the nation's second largest National Hunting and Fishing Days Celebration, which is something we're proud of."

The 2006 National Hunting and Fishing Days Celebration will be held September 23 rd and 24 th at Stonewall Jackson Lake Resort State Park. For more information on this event and for a schedule of activities visit the DNR's Web site at www.wvdnr.gov and look under the "Special Opportunities" section.



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All American Bass Winner

HARTFORD, Conn. (July 8, 2006) - Boater Robert Walser, 46, of Lexington, N.C., caught a final-day limit of five bass that weighed 11 pounds, 11 ounces, bringing his three day total to 15 bass weighing 34 pounds, 10 ounces to grab his first All-American win and \$140,000. He climbed from third to second Friday then stepped up again Saturday to win the historic \$1 million Wal-Mart Bass Fishing League All-American on the Connecticut River.

"It was a big sigh of relief," said Walser, who entered the final day of competition 6 ounces off the lead with 10 bass weighing 22-15. "It was something I needed to change, I was tired of being in the middle of the pack. I had to adjust everyday to pull these limits of fish and today I adjusted the right way. It has been peaceful all week. It's about

time and absolutely perfect."

Walser said he was fishing mainly banks with rocks, wood and other submerged structure. "I was throwing a Weapon Jig head with a homemade skirt I've named my magic cricket."

The jig was also tipped with a green-pumpkin Zoom Super Chunk trailer.

This was Walser's 31st top-10 appearance in FLW Outdoors competition and his third straight All-American. He qualified for the All-American by finishing the season ranked third in the North Carolina Division then finishing fifth at the Clarks Hill Regional in Georgia. When he is not chasing bass, Walser works has a plumber. In addition to his \$140,000 payday Saturday, Walser also earned a new Ranger boat as the highest finishing Ranger Cup participant in the All-American.

Rounding out the top-five boaters are Chad Dorland of Dunnellon, Fla. (15 bass, 32-7, \$25,000); Kip Carter of Oxford, Ga. (15 bass, 30-7, \$14,000 plus \$9,000 Ranger bonus and \$9,000 Yamaha bonus); Mark Mauldin of Cleveland, Tenn. (15 bass, 27-9, \$13,000 plus \$8,000 Stratos bonus and \$8,000 Evinrude bonus); and Mike McDonald of Randleman, N.C. (14 bass, 27-6, \$12,000 plus \$7,000 Ranger bonus and \$7,000 Evinrude bonus).

continue to the next page

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Game Check

Joe Hunt of Lincoln University, Pa., earned \$10,000 as the Yamaha "Be the Best" points champion. He finished 20th Friday with seven bass weighing 13-14 after winning the Northeast Division points race en route to qualifying for the All-American.

The tournament began Thursday with 48 boaters and 48 co-angler representing 22 states, but only the top-10 boaters advanced to Saturday's final round.

Co-angler competition ended Friday afternoon with William Redmond of Sciotoville, Ohio, claiming the win and \$60,000 with a two-day total of nine bass weighing 14-4. He was fishing a Texasrigged Senko over grass behind boater Todd Hollowell of Fishers, Ind., and managed to jump from 11th to first with five bass weighing 8-1.

"It's a dream come true, and I hope to be back next year," Redmond said.

In fact fishing the All-American was a dream come true for every qualifier as even the boater finishing in last place earned \$3,500 in the no-entry-fee championship. The last place co-angler earned \$2,500.

The All-American was also a dream come true for one lucky spectator who won a new Ranger 175VS bass boat powered by a 115-horsepower Yamaha outboard

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during the final weigh-in. This year's lucky winner was Mike Hall of Southington, Conn.

Ten All-American qualifiers who did not advance to the final round were paired with 10 anglers representing the New England Paralyzed Veterans of America for a one-day memorial tournament on the Concontinue to the next page



Curtis Jones caught a 30" walleye. Photo courtesy of Three Rivers Edge.

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necticut River Saturday. The veterans and All-American anglers were escorted to and from the launch ramp by the Nam Knights of America, a Harley Davidson motorcycle club comprised of military personnel and law enforcement officers dedicated to honoring the memory of all veterans. Representatives of the Nam Knights also assisted NEPVA anglers during their weighin at the convention center. Taking first place in the memorial tournament was Larry Harris of Wilbraham, Mass., who was fishing with Michael McAtee of Waverly, Ky. The pair landed five bass weighing 8 pounds, 10 ounces.

This year's championship marks the 22nd anniversary of the first \$100,000 award in competitive bass fishing. That historic award was presented to 1984 All-American champion Shaw Grigsby of Gainesville, Fla., for his victory on the Kissimmee Chain of Lakes in Florida. All-American qualifiers represent the best of more than 30,000 BFL participants nationwide.

The All-American and its lucrative cash awards present a unique opportunity for qualifiers looking to launch a professional bass-fishing career. Former All-American contenders who have become fish-



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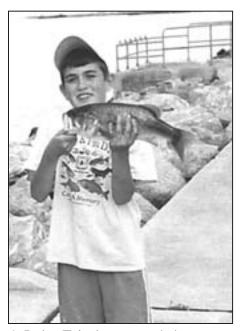
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ing superstars on the Wal-Mart FLW Tour include Kellogg's pro Clark Wendlandt and four-time FLW Tour champion David Fritts.

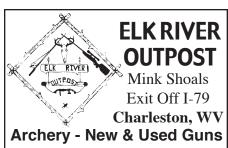


A Lake Erie largemouth bass was hooked by Damon Metheny. Photo courtesy of Backwater Bait in Newport, Ohio.

Walleye Stocked

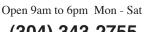
West Virginia Division of Natural Resources has recently completed stocking of more than 51,000 native walleye fingerlings in the Ohio, Kanawha, New, and Cheat rivers, according to Bret Preston, Assistant Chief of the Wildlife Resources Section. These stockings are part of a walleye enhancement program implemented in the spring of 2005.

This strain of walleye was initially detected through research efforts conducted by the DNR, Ohio University, and the Virginia Department of Game and Inland Fisheries. Biologists collected adult walleye from rivers known to have this unique strain and genetically assessed the adults. All walleye were spawned and reared at either the Apple Grove or Palestine state fish hatcheries. The strain is better adapted to river conditions.



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20 Years As A Bass Pro: Danny Correia

2006 Wal-Mart FLW Tour contender Danny Correia recounts 20 years of professional fishing as he prepares for season-ending tour event on Logan Martin Lake

BIRMINGHAM, Ala. As 48 of the nation's best professional anglers take off from the Pell City Landing on Lake Logan Martin Wednesday morning for the start of the Wal-Mart FLW Tour Championship, Danny Correia of Marlborough, Mass., will be one of the hopeful competitors with his eye on the \$500,000 payday.

This is not Correia's first championship experience, though. Twenty years ago this month, Correia competed in the 1986 Bassmaster Classic on the Tennessee River at the age of 24.

Since then, the affable angler has lived the ups and downs of a bass pro and has enjoyed a front row seat to the myriad changes that have swept over the sport along the way.

Recently, while practicing for the FLW Tour Championship, Correia recounted some of his more memorable experiences during his early days on tour and made some astute observations about the modern state of the sport he loves.

The 1986 Classic In many ways, Danny Correia





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was an anomaly to professional bass fishing in 1986.

Given bass fishing's rich Southern tradition, "the kid with the funny accent," as he was dubbed, stuck out like a Cape Cod saltbox on an Alabama farm at the Classic in 1986.

But his big grin and risible personality quickly earned him favor with his peers south of the Mason-Dixon Line, and to this day, Correia is still a sought-after character when a little comic relief is needed on tour.

Correia qualified for the 1986 Classic as a Federation Angler through his hometown club called the Greenwater Wizards, which is still in existence today. And he almost pulled off the unthinkable by nearly winning that very Classic as a rank novice from New England, finishing second to Charlie Reed by 13 ounces and winning \$13,000.

"I was so clueless back then," Correia laughed, looking back on the

experience." I literally read about this new technique called "flipping" in a magazine about two weeks before that Classic. I had never flipped before and didnâ€TMt even own a flipping stick. So I ordered a few flipping sticks from Berkley just before the tournament and finished second by basically dunking a Gator-Tail worm with a 3/16-ounce weight on 14-pound-test line along edges of matted grass. But, hey, in my mind I was flipping.

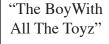
"These days, I couldn't imagine fishing a professional tournament with a technique that I had absolutely no experience with."

First bass boat

In 1982, Correia was one of the first anglers in his area to own a bass boat.

"It was a sparkly, metal-flake Ranger 350V with a 150 H.P., with two flashers and a paper graph," he said. "When folks around home saw me at a gas station they would ask,

continue to the next page





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Hard times

Correia hit the BASS Tournament Trail in 1987. He quit his job as a computer instructor with Prime Computers and took up "banging nails" for his uncle's construction business to make ends meet between tournaments.

His carpentry skills came in handy as he traveled the country on tour. "I was probably the only guy on the circuit who carried a hammer and a complete set of power tools,"he said. "had friends across the country who owned real estate or were building houses, and in between tournaments, I'd do odd carpentry jobs to make enough money to get to the next tournament.

"I never really made any good money in fishing until the last few years. I scraped by tournament to tournament for 15 years. Those were hard times, but looking back on it, it was a blast. I've fished all over the country and had some great times with some great people."

Cost cutting and cockroaches

In order to afford tournament bass fishing in the early days, Correia and about a half-dozen fellow competitors would share a single hotel room to cut costs.

"We'd drive around until we found the rattiest place around," he said. "Then we'd pack all of us into one room. It was brutal, but if you divide \$29.95 a night by six people,

we could stay in a place all week for about 30 bucks." It was through this cost-cutting process that "the kid with the funny accent" learned about roaches.

"Some of us " actually, most of us would have to sleep on the floor,"he explained. "Where I'm from, we don't have those giant cockroaches like they have in the South. The first night one of those gigantic bugs crawled across my face, it freaked me out so bad I had an absolute seizure.

"From that point on, I 'd take a bed sheet and make a kind of hammock by tucking it into the mattresses around me, the nightstand or whatever was up off the ground to keep those huge bugs from crawling on me." Electrical hazard

The biggest issue Correia and his clan faced when sleeping so many to a room was charging boat batteries. Most roadside "roach coaches" didn't have outside electrical outlets, so the crew would run five or six extension cords through the

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"Needless to say, we didn't watch much TV or have much light in the room at night because we had to use every outlet in a room to charge batteries.

continue to the next page



Starcher, from Spencer, Jesse caught a couple of nice fish at the Belleville Dam..

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Payouts, costs and sponsors

One of the most obvious changes in the sport of professional bass fishing in the last 20 years has been the extreme increase in payouts.

While 50th place paying \$10,000 has become the new standard in professional events, Correia remembers a time when fifth place in a pro event didn't pay that much.

"There's no doubt that payouts in bass fishing are the best they've ever been,"Correia acknowledged. "But traveling the tours is also much more expensive than it was 20 years ago, too.

"Gas used to be a dollar and a half a gallon, an entry fee into a BASS Invitational was around \$400 and, like I said, lodging was virtually free. I can remember several years in my early days where I fished the entire BASS season for about \$6,000 total.

"So it's all relative, but the winnings-to-cost ratio has improved drastically for me over the last five years, much of which is due to the



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FLW Tour's \$10,000-to-50th payout. And much of that is due to the healthy influx of nonendemic sponsors that have entered the pro fishing scene over the last decade.

"Twenty years ago, pros were all competing for the same 15 sponsors "the major manufacturers of boats, motors and tackle were always tapped out.

"Nowadays, there are gas companies, candy companies, drink companies" you name it "getting on board. And fortunately for all of us, it's had a collective effect more companies have wanted in to see what this is all about.

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A 9 pound bass was caught and released by Rob Hamric. He was fishing at Big Ditch Lake. *Photo courtesy of Friendly Bass & Buck in Summersville.*

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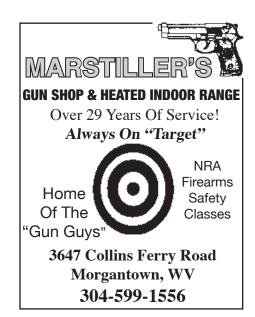
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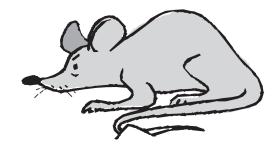


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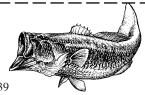
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