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Issue 286

July/August 2020



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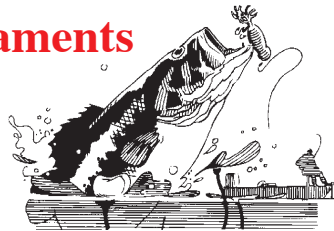
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Cover Photo

Jason Brewer caught and re-
leased a 42 pound blue catfish that
measured 42 inches. He caught
this big one out of the Kanawha
River. Blue catfish can grow to
over 100 pounds.

Covid 19 concerns has resulted
in a HUGE increase of West Vir-
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Text or email your pics - Page 38

Catfish Stocked Around State

SOUTH CHARLESTON, W.VA. — Leading up to West Virginia's annual free fishing weekend, the state Division of Natural Resources has stocked nearly 6,000 pounds of channel catfish in 41 ponds and lakes around the state.

"Summer catfish stockings have become really popular over the last few years and we're excited to be giving anglers and their families another chance to catch a fish and enjoy our state's natural beauty," said DNR Director Stephen McDaniel. "Whether it's trout in the spring or catfish in the summer, our stocking program provides incredible fishing opportunities for West

Virginians throughout the year."

Catfish stocking starts each year as the spring trout season winds down. It also coincides with the state's free fishing weekend, which will be June 13-14 this year. During this annual event, anglers may fish in state waters without having to first buy a fishing license, trout stamp or national forest stamp.

"There are a good number of trophy-sized channel catfish in the mix this year," said Jim Hedrick, DNR hatchery program manager. "We even have a few albinos out there, so anglers have a really unique opportunity to catch a white catfish."

Catfish Stocking Locations

Catfish have been stocked in ponds and lakes in each of the DNR's six districts. Stocked waters include: District 1

Coopers Rocks Lake, Dunkard Fork Lake, Hinkle Lake, Mason
continue to the next page



David Booth, from Bridgeport, got a gobbler in Barbour County.

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Emma Raynes - 11 years old - went to Fayette County for her turkey.

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Lake, Pendleton Lake, Teter Creek Lake, Tomlinson Run Lake and Deegan Lake.

District 2

Cacapon State Park, Edwards Run Pond, Fort Ashby Lake, Parker Hollow Lake, Poorhouse Lake and South Mill Creek Lake.

District 3

Big Ditch Lake, Camp Caesar Lake, French Creek Pond, Handley Pond, Indian Rock Lake, Seneca Lake, Wallback Lake and Watoga Lake.

District 4

Anawalt Lake, Babcock Lake, Berwind Lake, Little Beaver State Park, Moncove Lake, Pipestem Lake and Plum Orchard Lake.

District 5

Barboursville Lake, Chief Logan State Park, Coonskin Pond, Hur-

ricane Lake, Krodel Lake, Laurel Lake, Lick Creek Pond and Miller Fork Pond.

District 6

Cedar Creek State Park, Conaway Run Lake, Mountwood Lake and North Bend State Park pond.

Good luck and catch a big one.



5 year old Beckett Grogg had help with dad for a youth day turkey.



Madison Greenwood, from Newport, OH, shot a gobbler.

Hunter Education Classes Cancelled For Now

SOUTH CHARLESTON, W.VA. — In accordance with the most recent guidelines and best practices recommended by both the CDC and West Virginia Department of Health and Human Resources regarding COVID-19 and in the interest of social distancing, the West Virginia Division of Natural Resources has decided to cancel all hunter education courses until further notice.

Safety is the WVDNR's top priority for West Virginia's hunters. For more information on COVID-19 and the West Virginia Department of Health and Human Resources recommendations on prevention and preparation, please visit coronavirus.wv.gov.

The WVDNR reminds all West Virginians that online courses are available for a fee. Click one of the links below to access these courses:

<http://www.hunter-ed.com/westvirginia>

<http://www.huntercourse.com/usa/westvirginia>

<http://www.hunteredcourse.com/westvirginia>

<http://www.beasafehunter.org>

<http://www.NRAHE.org>

Once you pass the course from one of the links provided, immediately print your certificate and contact a local district office or WVDNR headquarters to schedule your Alternative Delivery exam, which includes both written and "hands-on" elements, as well as a portion on the proper handling of a firearm. We can schedule these individuals in one-hour increments. To schedule your Alternative Delivery exam, please call:

District 1 304-825-6787 Farmington

District 2 304-822-3551 Romney

District 3 304-924-6211 French Creek

District 4 304-256-6945 Beckley

District 5 304-756-1023 Alum Creek

District 6 304-420-4550 Parkersburg

HQ 304-558-2784 South Charleston



Dominic Goodnight caught a big drum in the Hughes River.



Young Riley Marklegot his first gobbler in Braxton County.



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WV Wildlife Center Open Again

FRENCH CREEK, W.VA. — The West Virginia Division of Natural Resources announces that the West Virginia Wildlife Center in French Creek has resumed regular hours of operation and admission rates.


The Wildlife Center features native and introduced animals and is open daily from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. The looping trail around the facility has been changed to one-way and visitors are required to follow all social distancing guidelines. The gift shop and snack bar are open, but the picnic pavilion remains closed.

"The Wildlife Center has plenty of open space and folks can be assured we're going the extra mile to make sure they can feel safe during their visit," said Zack Brown, assistant chief of operations for DNR's

Wildlife Resources Section. "With summer here, now is a great time to get outside, enjoy some fresh air and see West Virginia's wildlife in a natural habitat with your family."

Starting June 15 and continuing until Oct. 31, admission for adults 16 and older is \$4 and \$2 for children ages 6-15. Kids 5 and younger get in for free.

Earlier this year, a New York zoo reported that a tiger contracted the COVID-19 virus. Since then, the Animal and Health Inspection Service of the United States Department of Agriculture has issued guidelines for limiting contact between the public and non-domestic cats at wildlife facilities. Visitors to the Wildlife Center are advised that mountain lions and other large cats may not be visible at all times.



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For more information about the wildlife center or for help planning your trip, call the DNR District 3 office at 304-924-6003.



Abby McDonough, from Woodsfield, OH, bagged a nice gobbler.



Tristan Bentley is relaxing after his good turkey hunt in Cabbel Co.

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Issiah Border harvested a turkey in Jackson County.



Trey McDonough, from Woods-filled, OH, shot a large gobbler.

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Andy Godwin caught a couple of large crappie.



Zach Richards, from Fairmont, reeled in a nice largemouth bass..



Luke and Mike Long doubled on wild turkeys this season.

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Controlled Hunt Permits

SOUTH CHARLESTON, W.VA. — The West Virginia Division of Natural Resources is now accepting applications to participate in controlled deer hunts at six state parks.

Controlled hunts are scheduled for the fall at Beech Fork, Cacapon Resort, Canaan Valley Resort, North Bend, Pipestem Resort and Twin Falls Resort state parks. Hunters have until Aug. 30 to apply. Drawings for the hunts will start on Aug. 31 and successful applicants will

be notified in early-September.

“Previous controlled hunts are one of the ways we manage deer populations at our parks,” said West Virginia State Parks Chief Brad Reed. “Past hunts have proven that this is an effective and efficient way to maintain a biologically and socially balanced deer herd in areas experiencing overpopulation.”

Applications for the hunt must be submitted online at www.wvhunt.com. Hunters must use their exist-

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ting Electronic Licensing and Game Checking System account or create one in order to apply. Once logged in, applicants must select “State Park Lottery Hunts” and choose one of the hunting options. There is a \$15 application fee. Each application can be for one or two people.

Each application is for a three-day harvest opportunity using a compound bow or crossbow or muzzleloader rifle, depending on the selected date, hunt type and designated area. Rather than specified hunting stands for each hunter, as used in past controlled hunts, all hunters will be given a map and will be able to hunt within the designated hunting zones. Deer harvested during a controlled hunt do not count against a hunter’s annual deer season bag limit.

Hunter Requirements

If chosen, each hunter will be required to confirm their intent to participate in the hunt. They must also possess a valid West Virginia Hunting License (or be legally exempt from purchasing a license) within one week of being contacted. Successful applicants will be contacted with more detailed information regarding the controlled hunt. West Virginia hunting regulations apply to all controlled hunts. Specific Hunting Dates and Methods

Specific rules, hunting dates and hunting methods are available on the electronic licensing system, at www.wvhunt.com. For additional information about a specific park hunt, call the state park of interest and indicate the call is regarding controlled hunt information.

Controlled Hunts Benefits

When deer populations reach lev-

els that become detrimental to the landscape, over-browsing can lead to loss of native vegetation, prevent forest regeneration and alter habitat for all wildlife species living in the park. Controlled hunts help reduce deer numbers to levels that prevent habitat loss, property damage, vehicle collisions and potential human injuries.

Controlled hunts help the DNR maintain a healthy deer herd population while still allowing visitors the opportunity to view deer and other wildlife throughout the state park.

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Show Cancelled

SOUTH CHARLESTON, W.VA.
 — Due to the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic, the West Virginia Division of Natural Resources and West Virginia Wildlife Federation are cancelling the state's 2020 National Hunting and Fishing Days celebration.

This year's event was originally scheduled for Sept. 19-20. Registered vendors will be contacted and issued a refund.

"We are extremely saddened to cancel this event, but we are prioritizing the health and safety of our visitors, staff and volunteers," said Kayla Donathan, the DNR's event coordinator. "While we won't be able to celebrate in person this year, like we're used to, we want to encourage West Virginians to spend that weekend honoring our state's outdoor heritage by participating in an outdoor activity or visiting a state park."

West Virginia's National Hunting and Fishing Days is the state's largest hunting and fishing show. In addition to big buck and trophy fish displays and hundreds of hunting and fishing vendors, the event provides family friendly activities, such as the outdoor youth challenge. The next National Hunting and Fishing Days celebration is tentatively scheduled Sept. 18-19, 2021.

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New Changes In WV Hunting & Trapping

SOUTH CHARLESTON, W.VA. — Several important changes to the state's fall hunting seasons for white-tailed deer, wild turkey and black bear are outlined in the 2020-2021 West Virginia Hunting and Trapping Regulations, which went into effect July 1.

The publication can be downloaded at www.wvdnr.gov and is available at all West Virginia hunting and fishing license agents.

DNR district offices, the Elkins Operation Center and South Charleston headquarters are currently closed to the public due to the COVID-19 pandemic. However, printed copies of the 2020-2021 West Virginia Hunting and Trapping Regulations are available for pick-up by appointment at these locations. To schedule an appointment, please call the office in your area. Contact information can be found at www.wvdnr.gov/contact.shtm.

"Great things are happening in the outdoors of West Virginia and these changes to our regulations



Dalton Schneider brought in a quality buck last season.



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are going to improve the experience for hunters and trappers," said DNR Director Stephen McDaniel. "Because there are numerous changes that will take effect during the turkey, bear and deer seasons, I want to encourage folks to careful-

ly review these new regulations as they get ready for their fall hunting adventures."

Major changes to regulations for the 2020-2021 seasons include:

- Leashed dogs may now be used to

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track and locate mortally wounded deer or bear.

- The youth squirrel season has been extended to include Sunday, Sept. 6, 2020.

- A special youth/Class Q/Class XS bear season will be open Oct. 17-18 on public and private lands in counties open to a firearms deer season. The use of dogs is prohibited during this season except to



Levi Kessler bagged several grey squirrels last season.

track a mortally wounded bear.

- Black bear, buck firearms and fall wild turkey seasons now include Sunday closing days.

- Antlerless deer season dates and open counties have changed.

Fall wild turkey season dates and open counties have changed.

- Black bear season dates and open counties have changed.

- All adult deer harvested on Nov. 23-24, 2020 in Hardy County are required to be taken to a designated CWD sampling station for carcass examination and sampling. See regulations summary for designated sampling station locations.

- Beginning Jan.1, 2021, hunting coyotes at night using artificial light or night vision technology, including image intensification, thermal imaging, or active illumination, has been extended and is legal through Aug. 31, 2021.

- In addition to shotguns and cross-bows, the use of bows with arrows equipped with a point having at

continue to the next page

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Kenny Stewart harvested a fine racked buck.

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least two sharp-cutting edges measuring in excess of three-quarters of an inch wide are now legal during the youth spring gobbler season.

- The spring gobbler season has been extended an additional eight days and will close on Sunday, May 23, 2021.
- Bolts and arrows at least 16 inches long, including the insert and the nock, are legal for use with a crossbow.
- The limitation on the number of apprentice hunting and trapping licensed a person may purchase has been removed.
- A West Virginia resident child under 12 years of age and who has been legally adopted is eligible for



Travis Wyatt used his bow In Wyoming County for this great buck.

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an infant lifetime license, provided that the license is purchased within two years of the adoption order or decree.

- It is illegal to bait or feed any wildlife on public lands at any time.

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Roy Payne landed a big rainbow trout. Photo courtesy of Middle Mountain Sporting Goods in Elkins.

Rattlesnake Study

SOUTH CHARLESTON, W.VA. — West Virginia Division of Natural Resources biologists and Marshall University graduate students are monitoring the movement of timber rattlesnakes to help develop a method for moving the reptiles away from high-use recreation areas.

The project is part of a three-year long study in Kanawha and Coopers Rock state forests and will help researchers come up with a way to relocate rattlesnakes found in parks and other areas frequented by people without causing harm to the snake.

“We have three groups of snakes that we’re watching and what we learn is going to be very beneficial to our understanding of how movement affects rattlesnakes,” said Elizabeth Johnson, Marshall University graduate student. “So,

continue to the next page

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if you're at Kanawha or Coopers Rock state forests and see a rattlesnake, let park employees know and they will do their best to catch that snake."

Understanding West Virginia's state reptile

The timber rattlesnake is West Virginia's state reptile and the only rattlesnake species native to the Mountain State. Because the rattle-

snake population is declining in the eastern United States, DNR biologists conducted surveys over the last few years to determine where snakes are located around the state and find out where they are most likely to cross paths with humans. That research prompted Marshall students to start the translocation study.

During the study's first year, about

30 rattlesnakes were outfitted with radio transmitters and data collected by monitoring their movement was used to establish a home range. Over the next two years, two groups of rattlesnakes will be relocated in and outside those home ranges and then studied and compared to a control group. The goal is to see if snakes, removed from their home range, will return and if relocation can harm them in any way.

"Every snake you see in your yard, in the woods or in a park fills a role in our ecosystem," Johnson said. "I know a lot of people are afraid of snakes, but I promise they don't want to hurt you or your family. If you see a rattlesnake, it's best to just leave them alone."

To learn more about the timber rattlesnake and other wildlife research projects conducted by the DNR, visit www.wvdnr.gov.



Rick Henthorne harvested a wide raked buck last season..

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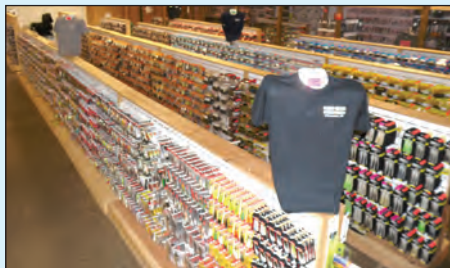
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Summer Catfishing

It seems most people fish for catfish in warm weather during the summertime months. If you want to catch more and larger summertime or hot weather catfish, you need to observe a few specific principles regarding how catfish move and position themselves in these conditions. You also should be fishing during the optimum times of the day.

How do you catch catfish in hot weather and during the summer? To catch hot weather or summer catfish, it is best to locate shallow water feeding zones adjacent to deeper holes where catfish will head to every night to feed on bluegill and shad. Using live or dead bait, it is best to hit these zones from sunset until sunrise for best results. Catfish can be a pretty predictable fish once you understand their movement patterns and behavior in response to hot weather.

Let's take a much closer look at how to have success for warm weather catfish. Since the summertime is when most people target catfish, having this knowledge will help you maximize your time on the water and result in better catch-

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es. The tips in this article will make you a better catfisherman overall and help you become a more informed angler.

Catfish & Hot Weather

During the day in summer, catfish will rest down deep in water that is cooler and contains structure such as logs and fallen trees. Down here, they will be feeding on shad and bluegill that are hiding among the

continue to the next page



11 year old Dalton Meyer downed an Ohio County turkey.



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logs.

You can catch catfish during the day but you will need to fish deep and it may be tough to access these deep spots without a boat. At night, catfish move into shallower water following the bluegill and shad.

They also become a lot more



Matt Summers brought in a late season wild turkey.

active feeding and will wander in search of food. You can catch catfish all day long but I would recommend fishing from sunset until sunrise as catfish will be easier to reach and easier to catch.

Best Time to Catch Hot Weather Catfish

During the summer and in warm weather, the best time of day to catch catfish at and around the nighttime hours of darkness. About an hour before sunset all the way until an hour after sunrise tends to be the best time window for these hot weather catfish.

During this time frame, catfish are actively hunting following prey like shad and bluegill into shallower water. Because catfish don't rely so much on vision to find and catch food, they can operate ideally in dark or near-dark conditions better than vision-oriented fish like bass

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and pike can.

Catfish rely heavily on their senses of feel and smell to find prey in the dark hours. The middle of the
continue to the next page



Cliff Jones, from Mineralwells, caught a 41 1/2" New River musky.



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day can be decent too but you need to fish much deeper water and catfish will be less eager to feed than they will at night.

The first few and last few hours of darkness can be awesome times to intercept catfish moving into and out of shallow water for their nighttime feeding sessions. This is a great time to set up along specific chokepoints between deep water and shallow areas where catfish will be moving in and out of every night.

Where to Setup to Catch Warm

Water Fish

The best place to set up for hot water catfish is at chokepoints where you can intercept catfish heading to and from shallow water. Find shallow water lagoons and bays adjacent to deep water.

Catfish will spend all day down deep in deeper water especially if it has sunken logs. In the late afternoon, catfish will move into shallow water lagoons and bays to hunt shad and bluegill.

If you want a great place to set

continue to page 25



Shawn Riddle harvested a Lewis County gobbler.

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COVID 19

Obviously the current virus situation is not as bad in West Virginia as in other states.

This magazine encourages all of the readers of this magazine to stay safe and abide by any current state guidelines.

We all want to enjoy nature and the great outdoors. West Virginia offers numerous tourist destinations. Take advantage of what this wonderful state has to offer. Whether it is the mountains and streams. Rivers and lakes. Valleys or hills.

VISIT WEST VIRGINIA



Samuela Arbogast brought in a nice buck from the Elkins area.



Autumn Yoakum took a trip to the mountains for a quality buck.



Kyndra Rose enjoyed a hunt in West Virginia for her 8 point buck.

up, cast your lines along the choke point where catfish will pass through en route to the shallow water. This is a great place to fish all night long and guaranteed to see plenty of hungry cat passing through.

Be Patient & Soak Baits Longer

In hot weather, the key to catching catfish is patience. In the summer months, catfish become very active and will scour and search for food over a wide swath of water. This is in stark contrast to what occurs during the winter months when catfish all bunch up in deep holes and hardly move around. In winter, I would recommend moving every 15 to 20 minutes until you get bites.

As I said, all the catfish will be in only a few deep spots in winter so if your baits go that long without being bit, you need to move because catfish aren't there.

But in the summer, be more patient. Catfish will a lot more active and will move through the lake in search of food. I would recommend letting your baits soak at least 2 hours before relocating.

Because the catfish will be more active, you are better off picking a good location and waiting for fish to come to you rather than you hunting them down. You won't catch as many catfish as you can during the winter if you find the right wintering holes, but summer

continue to page 27

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TJ Summers caught & released a 5 lb., 14 oz. bass.



Young Wyant Gain brought in his 1st wild turkey.

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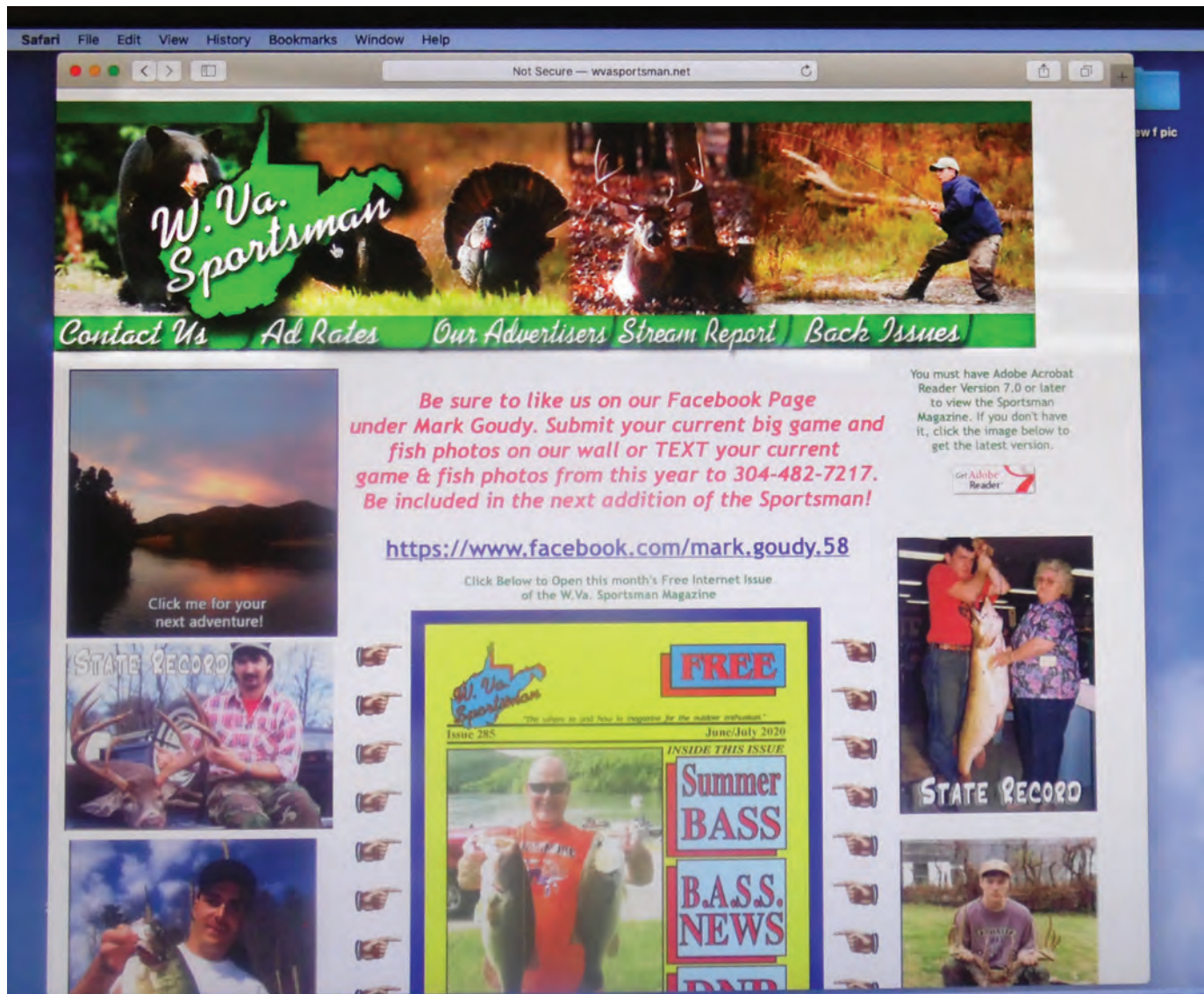
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fishing for catfish will require a lot less work and moving around.

Best Bait to Use

Shad and bluegills are the best fresh bait to catch monster flat-head, blue, and channel cats. The best bait to use for hot weather catfish is whatever natural bait they are feeding on. In some bodies of water that can be shad, shiners, bluegills, suckers, carp, or clams.

Don't fall for the marketing nonsense of all these blood, cheese, or liver-based catfish baits that line the aisles of bait shops. Do not waste your money or your sanity dealing with messy nasty stink baits.

The reality is that catfish almost always prefer natural bait to something concocted in a lab or stuffed with crazy rotten smells and preservatives.

I'm not saying that stuff won't catch fish because they definitely can and do. You can catch a ton of small and medium-sized channel cats using "catfish baits" bought from the store.

But for big catfish, they can really only be caught using natural bait they are already feeding on. Under most circumstances, the best bait to



Steve Johnson, from the Charleston area, landed a 54 1/2" musky but never had it measured by the DNR for the length record.

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use for big catfish are bluegill and shad. Channel cats and blue catfish prey shad and since they have smaller mouths, they prefer medium-sized shad cut in half.


Big flatheads prefer live bait and bluegill are their food of choice. There is definitely overlap as blue and channel cats will eat live small bluegill and big flatheads will feed on both living and cut shad but it's not their preference.

For a complete breakdown of the best gear, baits, hooks, rods, and
continue to page 29



Jeremy Blake used a bow in Doddridge County for a nice buck.

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electronics to catch more and bigger catfish, check out my recommended catfish gear list.

Catching & Prepping Bait

Shad typically swim around in loose pockets during the summer. This means you can pretty much cast a casting net anywhere and catch at least some shad. It is vital you use bait that is bite-sized and will fit easily inside a catfish's mouth.

Flathead catfish have large mouths capable to grabbing onto larger prey. As a result, they prefer live bluegill and shad. Blue cats

and channel catfish have smaller mouths and prefer cut shad. If you are going to cut your shad, cut them in half.

The tail half Of the cut shad, cut off the tail fin. If you don't, the fin can be something catfish can grab onto to rip the bait off the hook. To hook a living or dead whole shad or bluegill, run the circle hook through the flesh under the backbone behind the dorsal fin. For large catfish, use a 7/0 or 8/0 sized circle hook. For smaller catfish, use a size 5/0 or 6/0 circle hook.

Can You Catch Summertime Cats in Midday?

You can catch catfish during the middle of the day when it's warm out but you need to fish deep water. Catfish will rest in deeper water anywhere there is a steep bank. Bluegill and shad will congregate here which catfish love eating.

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If you find deep water like this near shallow lagoons or bays, fish here with live shad and bluegill or cut bait. You can certainly catch catfish during the middle of the day as long as you fish deep in the right spot.

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• Details On Page 3**



Rider Seyoc caught a big rainbow trout. Photo courtesy of Middle Mountain Sporting Goods in Elkins.



Bill Neff trapped a river otter. Photo courtesy of Middle Mountain Sporting Goods in Elkins.

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Fishing & Covid

The great outdoors has been a respite for many during the COVID-19 pandemic, and the fishing industry is poised to take advantage. The main thrust of the ICAST show-opening State of the Industry welcome was to gain those anglers for life.

“There’s been very few positives from this pandemic, but getting out and fishing and connecting with the outdoors is one,” said Chris Megan, board chairman of the American Sportfishing Association, which puts on ICAST. “It’s where our country and the world have gone in solace from the pandemic. Never have so many turned off the evening news, put down the cell-phone and instead went for a walk ... or made their first cast. While much of the country was closed for business, the outdoors was always open.”

Megan, publisher of the On the Water Media Group, said fishing is in a unique position, kind of a worst-of-times, best-of-times scenario. An influx of 8 million anglers have joined the 50 million people who fish regularly, and keeping them is mission No. 1.

“We have to embrace these new

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anglers. We have to provide them with entry level opportunities so they can meet with success,” Me-

gan said. “It’s simply the bend of a rod and a photo to go with it that continue to the next page



Brinkley Currence - 14 - got her 1st buck in Webster County..



John Jacob had success last season with this buck.

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says, 'Look at me, I caught something.' Today those 8 million new anglers can become consumers. More importantly, they can become voices if we reach out and show them the way."

The ASA's Take Me Fishing campaign to Get On Board has proven a great success, said Stephanie Vatalaro, marketing and communications VP for the Recreational Boating and Fishing Foundation. She said angling participation is the highest since 1991, continuing a 12-year upward trajectory. Interest in fishing has created a 270 percent increase in state license sales.

"We went into the pandemic with some uncertainty with how fishing would fare," Vatalaro said. "After



Richard Jenkins harvested a buck during gun season.



Terry Turley bagged a nice turkey in Cabell County.

a few weeks of sheltering in place, we started to see a huge interest in boating and fishing. Visits to the Take Me Fishing digital properties is at an all-time high. I believe we have a tremendous opportunity this summer to recruit newcomers and lapsed anglers alike."

The industry has the ear of Secretary of the interior David Bernhardt, who spoke of how the administration is working through the excise taxes to improve fishing

access and conserve habitat.

"President Trump and I know that America's anglers are among our greatest conservationists. Every time you purchase a rod, reel or tackle, you help fund wildlife conservation," Bernhardt said, adding that last year more than \$1 billion was granted toward those efforts.

Keynote speaker Brian Mast, a U.S. Congressman from Florida's Treasure Coast, said he well knows

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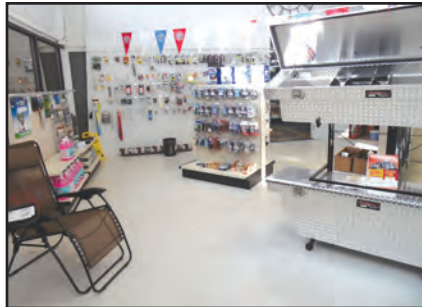
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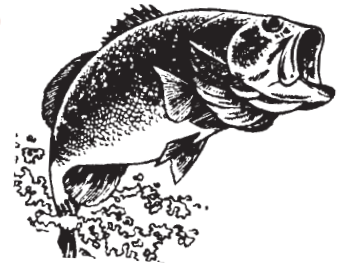


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the value of fishing. The former Army technician, who lost both legs in Afghanistan, said he focuses on veteran issues and water quality, like stopping toxic runoff from farming and having clean water going into the Everglades. Mast enumerated the importance of fishing, with 100,000 anglers in his district contributing \$349 million to the economy each year.

“My standard is simple, if I wouldn’t put something in the bathtub with one of my four children ... it definitely doesn’t belong in our waterways,” he said. “Fishing is more than a business, it’s a way of life. The sport fishing industry is a catalyst that drives our recreation and tourist economy.”

Eyeball challenge

One cool feature on the ICAST website comes from the Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission. Coinciding with its popular lunger program, the Tro-

phyCatch Eyeball Challenge asks viewers to click through a handful of bass photos and guess the weight, with immediate responses.

The Daily Limit was proud to be only .1 of a pound off the first guess, but we won’t talk about the rest. It’s kinda fun, and a bit tricky. Do note the possible size of the angler, if you can. Yeah, one of those guys, or gals, must be rather large, or really small, and a couple might have held it far away from their body.

Depending on how you fare, you can be ranked a Bass King, a Hawg
continue to the next page



Cameron Tenney shot a nice 10 point buck last season.

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tamer, Back-Seat Angler or last and least, a Bent Rod. No, we won't discuss that either. That's why I'm a writer.

Look for the TrophyCatch Eye-ball Challenge on icastfishing.org. Good luck.

Coverage from across the pond How media members are covering this virtual ICAST is a curious question. Some might enjoy sitting home in their PJs while others are heavily lamenting not being able to physically be there.

Mel Bagnall, consultant editor for Angling International magazine, was introduced to the Daily Limit a few years back on one of his team's dozen or so British Invasion forays at ICAST. He offered his take from Peterborough, England.

"We're going to miss being in Orlando — particularly the opportunity to savour some of those Florida ales!" he wrote. "We'll all be engaging with the online format as much as possible to try to dig out

some good industry stories."

They will feature some key new product stories in the industry magazine, although most of their product content will be published on tacklstream.com to get manufacturers' products in front of retailers.

"We've written some copy up front to try to give us a head start and to anticipate the complexities of accessing what we want online," he said. "It's going to be harder on-line and on the telephone than face-

to-face, but it's the same for everyone and we'll make the best of it."

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Details On Page 3



Dave Starcher went to Roane County for his buck.



Noah Morales used a bow for his buck.

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Fun Fish Facts

Male anglerfish are much smaller than the female. While the female can reach up to 24 inches long, the males barely reach 1.6 inches long and live as parasites on their mates. They stay together for life. As the male ages, he gets smaller and smaller. The female anglerfish's light is always "on."

Scientists have explored only 1% of the ocean depths. They believe millions of new kinds of animals and fish are down there, waiting to be discovered.

Empty dogfish egg cases sometimes wash up onto the beach.

Some people call them mermaid purses.[7]

Interesting Catfish Fact

The entire body of a catfish is covered with taste buds

Catfish have over 27,000 taste buds. Humans have around 7,000.

Humans have been amazed for centuries that salmon, after journeying across the ocean, can find the river where they were born. In the Yukon River in Alaska and in Canada, certain tagged Chinook salmon covered nearly 2,000 miles in 60 days. Salmon also have adapted to live in a variety of aquatic environments, including rivers, lakes, estuaries, coral reefs, and the open sea.

Fish were the first vertebrates with bony skeletons to appear on Earth. Unlike today's fish, early fish had no scales, fins, or jawbone, but they did have a dorsal fin.

Hagfish are some of the slimiest animals on earth. An Atlantic hagfish can make enough slime in one

continue to the next page



Thomas Moore shot a 10 point buck in Harrison County.



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to fill a bucket. Unlike bony fish, sharks and rays do not have swim bladders. They have to swim all the time, even when they are sleeping. Otherwise, they will sink to the bottom of the ocean.

A seahorse can move each of its eyes separately. One eye can look forward while the other looks backward. Seahorses can also change their color to match their surroundings.

The term “fish” is used when referring to one species of fish (e.g., 10 salmon are 10 fish). The term “fishes” is used when referring to more than one species (e.g., 10 salmon, 3 trout, and 1 angel fish are 14 fishes).



JD Lilly used a bow for a 10 point in Wyoming County.



Chase Freeman caught a 20 1/2” smallmouth in Lewis County.



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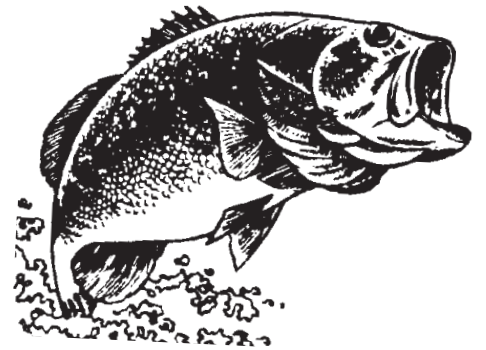
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