



**FREE**

*"The where to and how to magazine for the outdoor enthusiast."*

**Vol. 1 Issue 170**

**June 2007**



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Shawn**

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# 6TH ANNUAL SUMMER BASH 2007



## ELLENBORO VOLUNTEER FIRE DEPARTMENT

Additional chances to win any of twenty (20) \$500.00 cash prizes only to ticketholders who have returned their 2007 Summer Bash ticket stub(s) to the Ellenboro VFD by March 31, 2007.

Held at the Legendary Pennsboro Speedway  
in Pennsboro, West Virginia  
Drawings held on Saturday, July 28, 2007.  
Gates open on Thursday, July 26, 2007.  
(Subject To Sale Of 8,500 Tickets)



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The 7:00 P.M. Saturday Giveaway will be based on the WV Daily Lottery for Saturday, July 28, 2007.

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### TIME PRIZE

- NOON - 2007 GMC Canyon 4 x 4 Crew Cab
- 12:05 - \$2,500.00
- 12:10 - Ruger Red Label \* or COEV
- 12:15 - \$2,000.00
- 12:20 - Browning A-Bolt Medallion \* or COEV
- 12:25 - \$2,000.00
- 12:30 - 2007 Yamaha Grizzly 4 x 4 350
- 12:35 - Remington 700 BDL \* or COEV
- 12:40 - \$2,000.00
- 12:45 - \$2,500.00
- 12:50 - Tikki T-3 Laminated \* or COEV
- 12:55 - \$2,000.00
- 1:00 - 2007 Jeep Wrangler Unlimited
- 1:05 - Weatherby MARK V \* or COEV
- 1:10 - Ruger MK II \* or COEV
- 1:15 - \$2,500.00
- 1:20 - Browning A-Bolt Medallion \* or COEV
- 1:25 - \$2,000.00
- 1:30 - 2007 Harley-Davidson Road King
- 1:35 - Weatherby Orion Upland \* or COEV
- 1:40 - Remington 700 BDL \* or COEV
- 1:45 - \$2,000.00
- 1:50 - Ruger Red Label \* or COEV
- 1:55 - \$2,500.00
- 2:00 - 2007 Envoy 4 x 4 SLT
- 2:05 - Tikki T-3 Laminated \* or COEV
- 2:10 - \$2,000.00
- 2:15 - 2007 Camping Trailer
- 2:20 - Browning A-Bolt Medallion \* or COEV
- 2:25 - \$2,000.00
- 2:30 - 2007 Yamaha 450 Rhino 4 x 4
- 2:35 - Weatherby MARK V \* or COEV
- 2:40 - Remington 1187 12 ga Super Mag \* or COEV
- 2:45 - \$2,000.00
- 2:50 - Thompson/Center Encore 12 ga \* or COEV
- 2:55 - Ruger MARK II \* or COEV
- 3:00 - 2007 Hummer H-3
- 3:05 - Remington 700 BDL \* or COEV
- 3:10 - Weatherby MARK V \* or COEV
- 3:15 - \$2,500.00
- 3:20 - Tikki T-3 Laminated \* or COEV
- 3:25 - Weatherby Vanguard \* or COEV
- 3:30 - 2007 G-3 208 FC Pontoon Boat
- 3:35 - \$2,000.00
- 3:40 - Ruger Model 77 MK II Sporter \* or COEV

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**Must be a \$100.00 - 2007 Summer Bash ticket holder in order to attend Friday night's entertainment featuring Blackhawk.**  
**Must be at least 18 years of age to be in the campground or on the drawing grounds at any time. NO EXCEPTIONS!**

\*COEV=Cash Of Equal Value

### TIME PRIZE

- 3:45 - \$2,000.00
- 3:50 - Ruger Red Label \* or COEV
- 3:55 - Browning A-Bolt Medallion \* or COEV
- 4:00 - 2007 Corvette
- 4:05 - Remington 870 12 ga \* or COEV
- 4:10 - Remington 700 BDL \* or COEV
- 4:15 - \$2,500.00
- 4:20 - Weatherby Orion Upland \* or COEV
- 4:25 - \$2,000.00
- 4:30 - 2007 Harley-Davidson Softail Heritage
- 4:35 - Ruger MARK II \* or COEV
- 4:40 - Tikki T-3 Hunter \* or COEV
- 4:45 - \$2,500.00
- 4:50 - Weatherby MARK V \* or COEV
- 4:55 - \$2,000.00
- 5:00 - 2007 Ford Sport Trac Limited 4 x 4
- 5:05 - Remington 700 BDL \* or COEV
- 5:10 - Remington 870 12 ga \* or COEV
- 5:15 - \$2,000.00
- 5:20 - Browning A-Bolt Medallion \* or COEV
- 5:25 - \$2,000.00
- 5:30 - Polaris Hawkeye 300 4 x 4
- 5:35 - \$2,000.00
- 5:40 - Weatherby Vanguard \* or COEV
- 5:45 - \$2,000.00
- 5:50 - Ruger Model 77 MKII Sporter \* or COEV
- 5:55 - Remington 700 BDL \* or COEV
- 6:00 - 2007 Ford Mustang Shelby GT500 Coupe
- 6:05 - Browning A-Bolt \* or COEV
- 6:10 - Weatherby MARK V \* or COEV
- 6:15 - \$2,000.00
- 6:20 - Remington 700 BDL \* or COEV
- 6:25 - \$2,000.00
- 6:30 - 2007 Ranger Bass Boat
- 6:35 - \$2,000.00
- 6:40 - \$2,500.00
- 6:45 - 2007 Honda Goldwing GL 1800
- 6:50 - \$3,500.00
- 6:55 - \$4,000.00
- 7:00 - 10-\$1,000.00 Winners (Match WV Daily 3 Last Numbers)
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**Volume 1 Issue 170**

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**Mark A. Goudy**

Contributing Editors  
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Natural Resources

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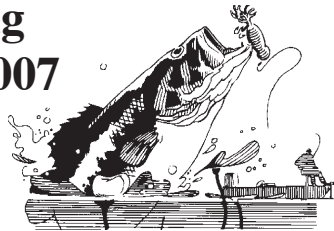
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## Cover Photo

A quality 6 pound, 2 ounce smallmouth bass was caught on the New River. The big fish measured 22 1/4" and was hooked by Burt Lane from Hinton.

The New River has always offered outstanding smallmouth fishing. Other species of fish are in abundance as well. Try the New River this season for an opportunity to land big fish.

Now on the internet [www.wvasportsman.net](http://www.wvasportsman.net) Photo courtesy of Grandpa's General Store in Hinton.



# 2007 Spring Gobbler Harvest

Hunters in West Virginia harvested 9,976 turkeys during the 2007 spring gobbler season, according to Curtis I. Taylor, Chief of the Wildlife Resources Section of the West Virginia Division of Natural Resources (DNR). Preliminary harvest figures indicate this year's spring turkey harvest was 15 percent lower than the 11,735 birds taken in 2006.

The top five counties this spring were Mason (403), Jackson (361), Wood (337), Preston (330) and

Summers (289). Forty-seven of the state's 55 counties had lower harvests this year, with much of the harvest decrease occurring in the southern counties. The highest harvests were reported in DNR District 1 (2,142), followed by District 6 (2,052), District 4 (1,906), District 5 (1,630), District 3 (1,326) and District 2 (920). District 6 (19 percent lower) and District 5 (18 percent lower) had the largest percentage decreases in harvest when compared to 2006.

The reduced gobbling activity and lower harvest rate this past spring were the result of a poor wild turkey brood production year in 2005. A population with fewer 2-year-old gobblers can greatly affect the spring gobbler harvest. Even

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though the state's turkey population is generally higher due to last year's good brood production, the low numbers of 2-year-old birds in the population affected the harvest this spring. Wildlife Biologists have determined the level of brood production accurately forecasts spring turkey harvests two years later, as these 2-year-old birds tend to gobble more and are more susceptible

continue to the next page



A large 23 pound bird was shot by Dean Enoch. Photo courtesy of Crossroads General Store near Newark.

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harvest. Field reports also indicated that hunting pressure in many areas of the state was lower than normal. Hunters can look forward to a better spring gobbler harvest next year, since brood production was good in 2006.

## Wanted: Owners Of WV Big Bucks

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 and Young or Boone and Crockett net score of 150 or greater. This is the fifth year that the West Virginia Big Buck Display has been held in conjunction with West Virginia's Celebration of National Hunting and Fishing Day. This year's event is scheduled for September 22 - 23, 2007 at Stonewall Resort State Park near Weston in Lewis County, and it is expected to attract 12,000 visitors.

Interested hunters who have qualifying head or antler mounts should contact Keith Krantz at the Elkins



Todd Carder shot a nice buck. Photo courtesy of Johnny's Outdoors in Boaz.



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Operations Center (304-637-0245) or Keithkrantz@wv.dnr.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.wv.dnr.gov](http://www.wv.dnr.gov). Look under "Special opportunities, Na-

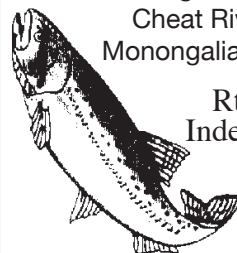
tional Hunting & Fishing Days." Participation will be limited to the first 30 qualifying trophy entries received. As an incentive for participation, each hunter who displays his/her trophy deer at the two-day event will receive a door prize, and four randomly-picked participants will receive substantial prizes.



Lewis Hudson caught an 8 1/2 pound carp. Photo courtesy of Three River's Edge in Hinton

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## Special Deer Hunt Permits Available

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

Submitting an application enters the hunter in a drawing for a maximum of two (2) days on the NRAO site. Applications for the drawing must be received by NRAO on or before August 3, 2007. Successful applicants will be notified by mail and issued a special NRAO letter of authorization to deer hunt. Only hunters who have made application and have received a letter for a particular day or days can hunt. "Walk-ons" will not be permitted to hunt.

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



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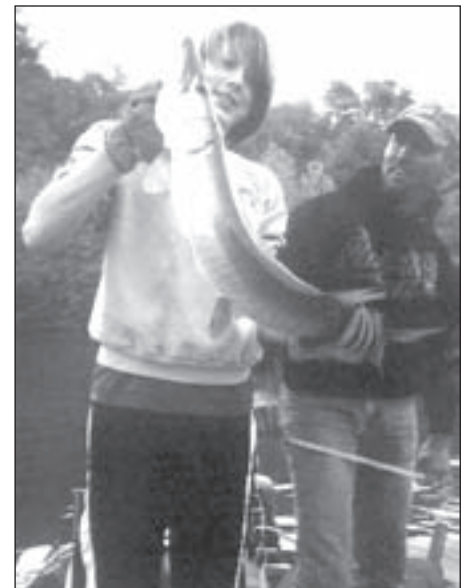
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of firearm they wish to use during the hunt on the application.

The maximum bag limit during the NRAO hunt is two antlerless deer (one per day), except that an on-site lottery will be held each day of the hunt which will allow five hunters to hunt an either sex deer. These are BONUS deer and do not count toward the hunters annual licensed deer bag limit. However, participating hunters must possess appropriate West Virginia hunting licenses. All deer harvested must be checked at the official game checking station located on the NRAO site.

continue to the next page



Cody Clayton reeled in a 32" Upper Mud River musky. *Photo courtesy of Dee's Sporting Goods in Hamlin.*

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

Applications may be picked up at any WVDNR District Office or may be requested by sending a self-addressed, stamped envelope to the National Radio Astronomy Observatory at PO Box 2, Green Bank, West Virginia 24944, Attention: Hunt Coordinator. An application and detailed instructions and regulations will be provided to each applicant. For information, call 304-456-2011 or 304-924-6211.

## New Foundation Director

Berkeley Springs, WV – James R. Michael, President of the West Virginia State Parks Foundation Board of Directors, has announced that Cordie O. Hudkins, a career employee with the West Virginia Division of Natural Resources' state parks system, has been appointed Executive Director of the West Virginia State Parks Foundation Inc. Hudkins, before his retirement, served 10 years as chief of State Parks and was the recipient of many national awards, including the coveted Cornelius Pugsley Award given by the National Parks Foundation and the Oshel Craigo Lifetime Achievement Award by



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the West Virginia Division of Tourism.

Hudkins will initially devote his energies to securing grants and gifts, which will be used to fund interpretative and entertainment programs to be presented at West Virginia State Parks and Forests. "These programs will suffer if they are not subsidized by the Foundation," said Hudkins. "I believe that historical and natural interpretations are some of the cornerstones of the park system and throughout

my career in Parks I have supported the employment of the cadre of interpretative rangers. "

To contribute to the West Virginia State Park Foundation's effort, contributions may be mailed to the West Virginia State Park Foundation, State Capitol Complex, Bldg. 3, Room 712, 1900 Kanawha Boulevard East, Charleston, WV 25305-0662.

Visit the Park Foundation's website at: <http://www.wvstateparks.com/foundation.htm>.

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Justin Beeler hooked a nice hybrid at the Belleville Dam. *Photo courtesy of Starcher's Sport Shop in Lubeck.*



2 Year old Tacey Kirkpatrick caught a bluegill. *Photo courtesy of Backwater Bait In Newport, Ohio.*



Jacob Persinger hooked a 7 1/2 pound carp. *Photo courtesy of Three River's Edge in Hinton.*

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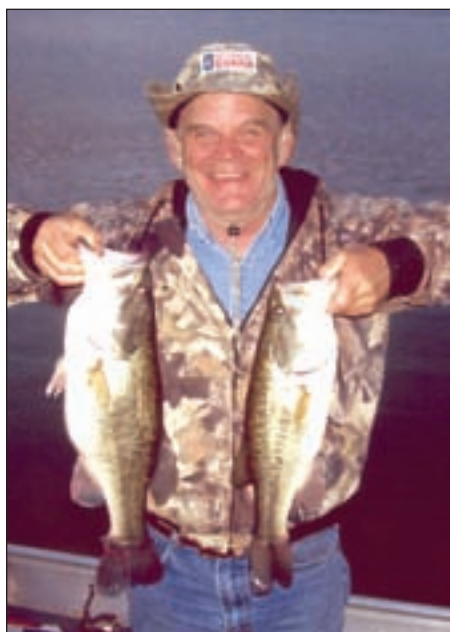
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Robert Friend Sr. landed two nice bass at Lake Moomaw in Virginia. Photo courtesy of Friendly's Bass and Buck in Summersville.

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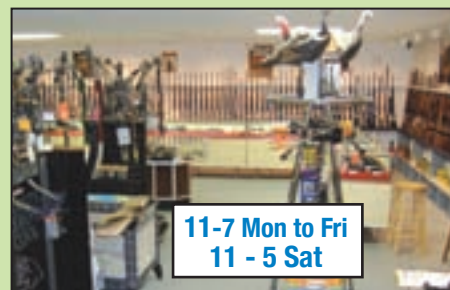
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Dean Newbaugh landed a nice catfish at this pay lake. *Photo courtesy of Family Fishing and Camping in Grafton.*



Cody Bailey, from Red House, caught a 20" sauger.



Brad Allen, from Shady Springs, hooked a 40" musky.



Two nice gobblers were taken by Bob Dowdy and Toby Blackburn. *Photo courtesy of Mountaineer Guns in White Sulphur Springs.*



Heath Adkins got a bird with a 10" beard. *Photo courtesy of Dee's Sporting Goods in Hamlin.*

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Roger Gray reeled in a nice catfish at this pay lake. *Photo courtesy of Family Fishing and Camping in Grafton.*



Jonathan Hardy, from Beaver, caught an 18" tagged walleye.



Nathan Meadows hooked a 26 1/2" rainbow. *Photo courtesy of Jerry's Sporting Goods near Weston.*

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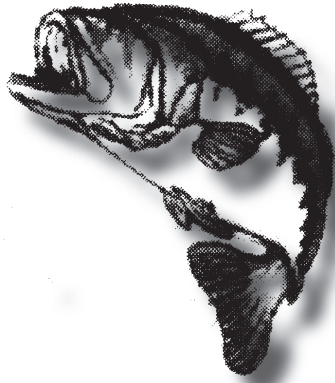
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- June 24 - Powhatan Point, OH**
- July 15 - St. Marys, WV**
- July 29 - Powhatan Point, OH**
- Aug. 12 - Belpre, OH**
- Aug. 26 - St. Marys, WV**
- Sept. 16 - Powhatan Point, OH**
- Sept 30 - St. Marys, WV**
- Oct. 21 - Powhatan Point, OH**

Check Mark Dates On  
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**\$100 Entry All Events**

\$5 Late Fee - Enter At Ramp

**\$10 Big Bass**

Pays 2 Places

**\$1,000 1st Place**

based on 30 teams

**Number of Places Paid Based On Amount of Teams**

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8/26 \_\_\_\_\_ 9/16 \_\_\_\_\_ 9/30 \_\_\_\_\_ 10/21 \_\_\_\_\_

Check Mark Tournament Date- Enclose \$20 For Each Event  
\$20 Adv. Fee Enclosed For Each Event Total \_\_\_\_\_



## Night Bassing

Night fishing for bass is most commonly practiced in the deep, clear highland reservoirs of the state, where daytime fishing during hot weather can be uncomfortable and unproductive. When bass go deep during the day. They can often be caught only by trolling in these lakes. However, at night, bass often move up shallower, where they feed on nocturnal forage such as crawfish. Night fishing is fun but requires extra safety precautions. Be aware of obstacles and always wear your life jacket after dark.

### When to Go

When the bass quit hitting during the daytime and when it becomes uncomfortably hot on the lake are good signals that it's time to start



Kirsten Long got her 1st turkey during the youth hunt. *Photo courtesy of Dee's Sporting Goods in Hamlin.*

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SAFES

night fishing. Night fishing is usually practiced when the water is in the mid-60s and warmer.

### Places to Fish

Where to fish at night is a question commonly asked by bass fishermen. In general, fish at night close to, but not on, the same places you caught fish earlier in the year. Bass don't move great distances in most situations. Smallmouth bass, especially, are proven stay-at-homes. If you found good fishing in a big creek arm during the spring, move to the first available deep water and look for structure such as a rock

continue to the next page



A big Ohio bird was taken by Bob Harkness. *Photo courtesy of Crossroads General Store near Newark.*

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pile, channel drop-off, weed bed, etc.

As the summer wears on, the bass tend to move deeper and won't come up shallow, even at night, in many lakes. Night fishing is productive when the bass are within the 20-foot zone. Deeper than that, many fishermen find it hard to maintain contact with the lure and to hook fish when they strike. Other places to try include:

- Points with a deep-water access.
- Shallow shorelines in natural lakes, especially close to weed-beds.
- Underwater roadbeds or other man-made structure in reservoirs.
- Gravel or rock banks where crawfish are abundant.
- Lighted boat docks.

**Lures and Tackle**

In general, many fishermen use heavier tackle at night than would be effective during the daytime in clear-water lakes. It's easier to "feel" a heavier lure at night than a light one, and it's easier to hook and land a big fish at night using stouter equipment. Here are some lures to try:

- Hair jigs and pork rind - 3/8 ounce (smallmouths)
- Rubber jigs and pork rind - 3/8 ounce or heavier (largemouths)
- Spinnerbaits - use pork rind if desired.
- Plastic worms.



Jack Rowe caught a 20 1/2" small-mouth. Photo courtesy of Richmond's Store in Sandstone.

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- Topwater lures, especially poppers and wobblers.

For subsurface lures, contrasting dark colors (purple spinnerbait/red pork frog, etc.) prove effective after dark. For topwaters, black is the best choice in most situations as it provides the most contrast to a fish looking upward. A constant retrieve is best for a topwater fished at night as it results in fewer missed strikes.

**Other Equipment**

Many bass anglers use "black lights" and fluorescent line when night fishing. Under the illumination of the black light, fluorescent line glows like neon and makes subtle strikes easy to detect.



Tyler King and his dad, both from Sandyville, landed a mess of trout.

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## Playing A Fish

Once you've coaxed that bass into striking your lure, it's time to get it into the boat. Here's how to do it.

### Setting the Hook

Treble-hook lures often cause the bass to hook itself upon striking - often, but not always. The jaws of a bass are tough. It takes a solid impact and a sharp hook point to penetrate.

On crankbaits, when the strike occurs, snap back the rod tip quickly and reel until the line is tight. The impact of the strike often sets the hooks, but by maintaining pressure on the fish you can usually bury them deeper.

With topwaters, it's important to wait a second before setting the hook. An overreaction often results in your pulling the lure from the mouth of the bass.

Single-hook lures (jigs, plastic worms, spinnerbaits) require a strong, deliberate hookset on your part. Often the bass inhales the lure completely. You must drive the hook point home with a solid strike.

### DON'T

Tighten down on the fish and then sweep back with the rod tip. This will only turn the head of a big bass.

### DO

Set the hook using the slack-line technique. Upon feeling the strike,

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turn to face the fish with rod between 10 and 11 o'clock. Then drop the rod top quickly and snap the slack out of the line with a fast overhead strike. This will pound home the hook point the same way a hammer pounds a nail into a board. Always set the hook with

a strong upward jerk. However, you don't need to tear the boat seat out of the boat on the hookset. If you're rigged right, the bass will practically hook itself.

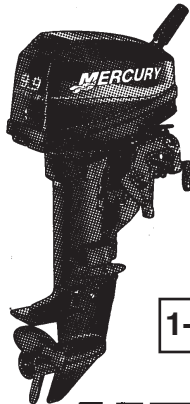
### Setting the Drag

Your reel's drag allows line slip-

continue to the next page



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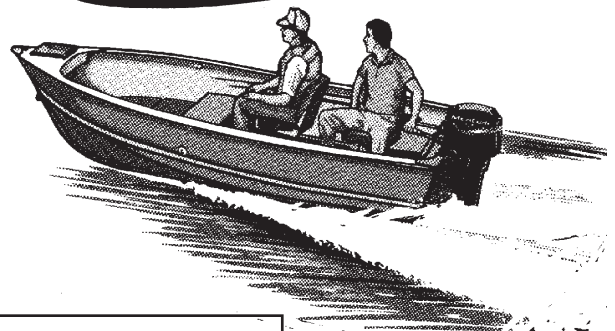
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page. It's a precaution against a big fish or obstacle breaking your line.  
**DON'T**

Set the drag by adjusting the drag setting, then pulling line from directly in front to the spool. This can bury line in the spool and gives an inaccurate reading of line pull exerted from the lure.

**DO**

Adjust the drag and then pull the line from past the rod tip, or tie a heavy object to the end of your line and adjust accordingly. A good rule of thumb is to set the drag to not exceed half that of the pound test of your line. A spring scale used in weighing fish can help set drag tension more accurately.

**Backreeling**

Backreeling is a method of playing a fish on a spinning reel that bypass the reel's drag system. The drag is tightened down and the fisherman uses the reel handle to either take-in or pay-out as the fish demands. With practice, the technique becomes easier, but beginners will

find this method difficult to master. The advantage of backreeling is that line twist is often greatly reduced because you aren't reeling while the bass is pulling line against the drag. On light line, you must try to second-guess the bass when backreeling-anticipate its next move - never an easy task.

**Landing a Fish**

Bass have no teeth, as do many other game fish; therefore they can be easily landed without the use of a net, with practice. Landing nets may damage fish you wish to release.



Young Owen McClelland caught a smallmouth. *Photo courtesy of Three Rivers Edge in Hinton.*

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Bob Acord and John Nugen hooked a couple of catfish.



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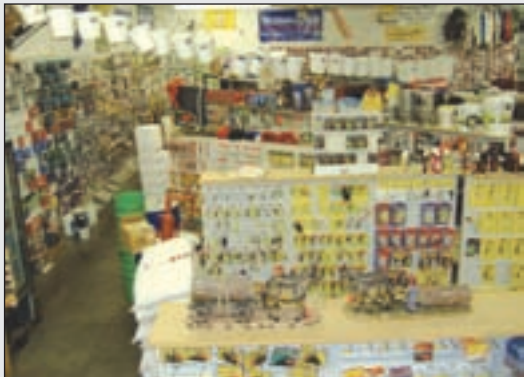
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Zach Lirkpatrick landed a 7 pound, 6 oz. Ohio River walleye. *Photo courtesy of Backwater Bait in Newport, Ohio.*



Johnny Richards and Josh Compton hooked some nice Little Kanawha River catfish. *Photo courtesy of Reese's Country Store near Mountwood Park.*

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



Josh Murray reeled in a big Belleville Dam hybrid. *Photo courtesy of Starcher's Sport Shop in Lubeck.*

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A 10 pound, 2 oz. flathead was landed by Fred Hess in a bass tournament on the Kanawha River. Photo courtesy of Hess Fish and Tackle in Ellenboro.



Landon Edgar, 4 years old, caught a big bluegill. Photo courtesy of Backwater Bait in Newport, Ohio.



These turkey hunters, Robert and Bobby Acord took a 21 and a 20 pound turkey in Fayette County. Both had 10" beards.



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Don Montgomery hooked a 44 1/2" musky at the Belleville Dam. Photo courtesy of Starcher's Sport Shop in Lubeck.



Robert Friend Jr. caught a nice Lake Moomaw bass. Photo courtesy Friendly's Bass and Buck in Summersville.

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Being involved in the hunting and fishing business, I've heard numerous stories about great fishing



A large hybrid striped bass was caught by Mark Goudy..

By Mark Goudy

adventures. Generally speaking, fantastic fishing opportunities near West Virginia are limited. Some of the catch-and-release lakes in West Virginia offer anglers the chance of hooking quality fish in some numbers. Large numbers of fish can be taken regularly from the New River. Anglers headed to Lake Erie often report fantastic catches. But if you're looking for a can't lose place to fish nearby, Lake Shawn is second to none.

Located 6 miles west of Powhatan Point, Ohio (across the river from Moundsville, WV), this lake rewards fishermen with numerous species of fish. Large and small-

mouth bass, crappie, giant hybrid bluegill, catfish, perch, trout and large hybrid striped bass can provide line-stretching fun. The two main lakes have a water area of around thirty acres. Another four rearing ponds are the secret to this lakes success.

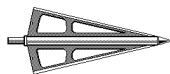
Started in 1962 by Ray Brubaker, Lake Shawn has evolved into one of the best sport fishing lakes in the surrounding states. I recently had the good fortune, along with my

continue to the next page



Rick Greathouse landed a whopper bluegill on a Zoom worm at Lake Shawn in Ohio.

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fishing buddy, Rick Greathouse, to take a fishing adventure.

Starting around 7:30 am, Rick and I pulled away from the dock to have a friendly fishing competition. I decided to go with a baby bass crankbait, a buzz bait - surface lure, and a Berkley 7" sour grape power worm. This worm is mainly junebug colored (purplish and green specked) with a chartreuse stripe. Rick's main offering was to be his favorite 4" Zoom junebug "C"-tail worm.

Having only been on the lake a couple of minutes, Rick boated a good two pound largemouth. I followed quickly with a buzzbait fish. I tried this lure for a while, but Rick was taking off catching fish with his worm.

My power worm offering started to catch fish with more regularity. I missed a four to five pounder within the first ten minutes. We were fishing a high wall that was created in Lake Shawn's prior life as a strip mine. All you had to do was drop your bait along the wall and wait for the pick-up. It seemed like we were hooking quality one-and-a-half to two pound largemouth on every two or three casts. After the



Tom and Brad Berga won the two day Pot of Gold bass tournament on the Ohio River. Dan Holdren and Cecil Schneider, sponsors from Wright's Riverside Marine, are flanking them..

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first hour, Rick had me down eleven to nine on twelve inch or bigger bass. In a competitive bass tournament, only twelve inch or bigger fish count.

We proceeded down the high wall bank and started to catch fish more frequently. After the first one-hour and- a- half, the two of us had boated twenty keepers. By

*continue to the next page*

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the way, this is a catch-and-release lake. Anyhow, we had also been supplied with another trick method to catch even more fish.

Earlier, the lake manager had provided us with a big bucket of fish food. It was in our fifteen foot jon boat when we arrived. I had been to this outstanding lake around twelve years ago and knew what to do. Although we were catching bass frequently already, I convinced Rick to take a break for another fishing treat. We used the trolling motor to move back to another area of the lake.

Stopping along the dam wall, we tied on small salmon hooks and a clear bobber. We applied a small fish pellet to the hook. Now the rapid action began! I reached into the bucket and scooped up some fish pellets. Slinging them away from the boat, the hoard of fish began to churn up the water. We both threw out our baits to the area of the fishing frenzy.

Many types of fish surfaced to feed on the pellets. There were giant hybrid bluegills, small and large mouth bass, brown trout and large hybrid bass all involved in gorging on fish pellets. We both hooked a couple of largemouth immediately.

We kept this up for some time until I hooked a real large hybrid

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striped bass. It pulled my drag on five different occasions. If you like to fish, you know how much fun it is to have a powerful fish fight like this. Rick finally grabbed it by the side of the boat. I'm guessing it was in the seven to eight pound range.

Soon after, Rick hooked a three pound or so largemouth bass that pulled him around the boat. Then he hooked a fish that he was not familiar with. He said he had a trout on and made the mistake to try to lip it. Turns out that it was a big

twenty inch brown trout with an unfriendly couple of rows of sharp teeth. We did not really count these fish on our informal tournament.

We started back to conventional artificial lure fishing. It was only a couple of minutes and we were hooking keeper fish again. Eventually by a beaver hut, Rick hooked the big bass of the day. His Zoom worm encountered a four pound large-

continue to the next page

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mouth. This strong fish pulled drag and went under the boat more than once during the fight.

One other side show to the day was the giant hybrid bluegills. They constantly were after Rick's worm and sometimes mine. Some of them must have been close to a couple of pounds. They fought as hard as the bass. I even had one at the end of the day bite on a 3/8 ounce buzzbait. I guess we probably landed close to fifty of these fish during the day.

Back to the fish story, we met the lake manager near the dock again around noon. He wanted to throw some pellets for us to catch more fish in that area. We obliged. Well, after about one-half hour of catching bass and big hybrids along with a big carp, I told him them that we were taking off to the other area to catch more bass on artificial lures. Basically I needed a little break from catching so many fish.

Along the high wall again, I noticed that my bite was getting a little slow. Rick had me down a couple of fish. I think on artificial baits

it was around twenty for him and eighteen for me. I reached for old faithful. I grabbed my Yum three inch wooly hog tails. I selected the pumpkin green speck color. The sun was a little brighter and the reflections from this lure entice bass to gobble it up.

I got into a rhythm and started to "smoke" Rick with keeper fish. He was hanging in there with his junebug but started to lose ground. I was catching twelve to sixteen inch bass rapidly. You could see bass swimming around all day long. The smallmouth were there, too, but never did bite.

Eventually we headed back to the dock. I had him down thirty-four to twenty-five. In a regular bass tournament, we would have had fifty-nine keepers. This does not include the twenty or so other keeper sized bass we landed on the "chum" trick. As I mentioned,

continue to the next page

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Larry Little shot a 21 pound gobbler. Photo courtesy of Crossroads General Store near Newark.

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we had countless big bluegills and numerous hybrid bass. I think we also caught around six big brown trout as well.

I'm telling you, I was tired by 4 pm when we left. I can't recall catching that many fish with the exception of my trip there several years ago.

We actually had hit a cold front that day. The temperature had dropped around fifteen degrees from the day before. I did notice that the surface fishing that day was poor. Top-water plugs did not work well as they did on my prior trip. Worm fishing action was red-hot. Usually I would have tried some stick baits or spinnerbaits. When you're having the action we had, you don't want to switch lures.

You don't have to be a fishing expert to catch numerous fish on this lake. With the chumming trick, numerous fish can be caught by anyone. Plus, this lake offers advanced fishermen an opportunity to practice their skills.

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back on the water at day break to 4 pm the next day. Good luck on that one. You would have to pace yourself to do that.

Does anyone know a better place to catch numbers of quality fish like this within three hundred miles? Probably not. If you want some arm jerking fun this year, contact Lake Shawn at 1-800-856-6098. Tell them that you read a big fishing story about the lake in this magazine. Believe me, this lake's

for REAL! Also check online for more info and fishing photos at [www.lakeshawn.com](http://www.lakeshawn.com)



Porter Bennett caught a 9 1/2 pound striper. Photo courtesy of Three River's Edge in Hinton.



Kerry Hatcher hooked two nice 4 pound smallmouth. Photo courtesy of Richmond's Store in Sandstone.

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## Celebrate WV Day

Gov. Joe Manchin invites West Virginians and visitors to the state to join in the celebration of West Virginia Day, the anniversary of the state's creation on June 20, 1863, at many of West Virginia's state parks and forests, which are offering swimming coupons, free entry to swimming pools or special events.

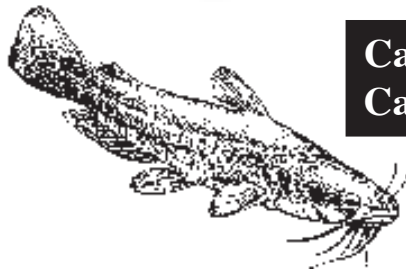
- Visitors to Beech Fork, Cacapon Resort, Cedar Creek, Lost River, Twin Falls Resort, Watoga and Watters Smith state parks and Cabwaylingo State Forest will be able to swim for free on June 20.

- Coupons for free swimming at a later date will be available to paying customers on June 20 at Audra, Babcock, Berkeley Springs, Bluestone, Chief Logan, Holly River, Moncove Lake, North Bend, Pipestem Resort and Tomlinson Run state parks and Greenbrier and Panther state forests. The coupon excludes July 4, 2007.

Blennerhassett Island Historical State Park, Kanawha State Forest and Prickett's Fort State Park will host events to celebrate this special occasion.

- Visitors are invited to enjoy a summer outing on the Ohio River and a stroll on Blennerhassett Island Historical State Park, near Parkersburg, on June 20. Cake will be served for this occasion at

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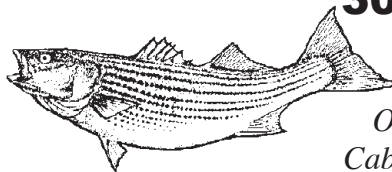
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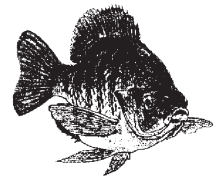
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- Kanawha State Forest in Charleston will host the Kanawha Valley Community Band on June 17 at 2 p.m. This concert is free to the public to honor West Virginia Day. For additional information, please call (304) 925-2771.

- Prickett's Fort State Park in Fairmont will offer \$1 park admission and free birthday cake and lemonade on June 20. For refreshment hours or more information, please call (304) 363-3030.

For any additional information regarding special programs offered throughout the state in celebration

of West Virginia's birthday, please call 1-800-CALL WVA and ask for the specific park.



Madison Linser got her 1st turkey. Photo courtesy of Outdoor Specialties in Winfield.



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Hayes Lusk caught a 4 pound, 4 oz. smallmouth. Photo courtesy of Waterfront Sporting Goods in Alderson.



Tyler Booth caught a 25" catfish. Photo courtesy of Crossroads General Store near Newark.



Richard Cale and Darin Cale bagged nice turkeys. Photo courtesy of jarrett's Bait in Elizabeth.

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Eddie Adams, from Rock, reeled in a real nice largemouth bass. It weighed 6 pounds, 3 oz.



A catfish was hooked at Summersville Lake. Photo courtesy of Johnson's Sporting Goods in Summersville.



David Johnson and Andrew Jones brought in a turkey. Photo courtesy of Parson's One Stop in Grantsville.

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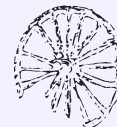
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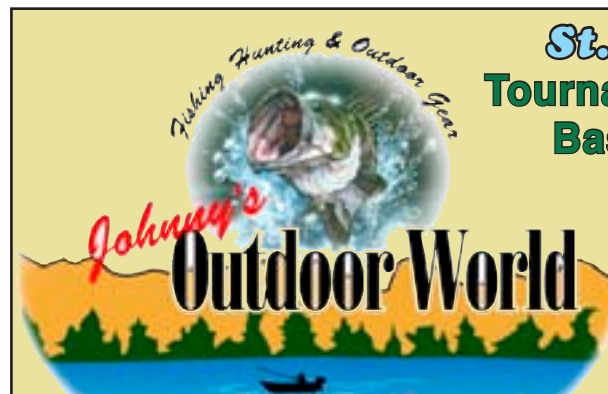
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Johnny Goots reeled in a quality 4 3/4 pound smallmouth at Lake Chataqua. Photo courtesy of Johnny's Outdoors in Boaz.



Darren Pettus caught a 15 1/4" crappie at Elk Fork. Photo courtesy of Reese's Country Store near Mountwood.



A big Devola Dam flathead. Photo courtesy of Starcher's Sports Shop in Lu-beck.

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Johnny Goots caught a 4 1/4 pound largemouth at Lake Chataqua. Photo courtesy of Johnny's Outdoors in Boaz.



Steve Carper shot a bird with a 1 1/2" beard. Photo courtesy of Dee's Sporting Goods in Hamlin.



Joe Squires killed a nice 21 1/2 pound gobbler with a 11" beard. Photo courtesy of Crossroads General Store near Newark.

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Michael Berry hooked several nice fish. Photo courtesy of Waterfront Sporting Goods in Alderson.



Connie Meade, from Gerradstown, used a purple worm for this 4 pound, 13 oz. largemouth bass.

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## Reel Chat With Andy Morgan

Welcome to FLW Live Reel Chat. This week we're joined by FLW Tour pro Andy Morgan of Dayton, Tenn. As the recent \$200,000 winner of the 2007 Wal-Mart Open at Beaver Lake, Morgan currently boasts more than \$800,000 in FLW Outdoors career earnings. In addition, Morgan has recorded a staggering 36 top-10 finishes at FLW Outdoors events, including 10 top-10 finishes on the FLW Tour since 1996.

Over the years, Morgan has amassed three BFL victories, two Stren Series first-place finishes as well as his first-ever FLW Tour win – which took place on Beaver Lake this May. In 2007, Morgan is off to a very strong start, finishing no worse than 48th place at any event all season. In addition, Morgan is currently second overall in the



Renee Miller and friend caught several catfish. *Photo courtesy of Jarrett's Bait in Elizabeth.*

Land O'Lakes Angler of the Year points race for the FLW Tour. Today Andy Morgan is here to take questions from you, the fans. Let's get started.

Q: Andy, what was it like to finally get your first-ever FLW Tour win?

-- Jon Pageler (Napa, Calif.)

A: Man, I'll tell you what, it was a load off my back. It's something I've been after for many, many years. It just makes me a lot more excited to get back out there and go fishing again.

Q: Congratulations on your win. I never thought I would see you with a spinning rod in your hand. Do you use the shaky head in local tournaments, or do you still power-fish on your local lakes you know well? Also, I know that you plant special cover in your local lakes. What type of area (depth, bottom contour, composition, etc.) works best for planting cover in your local area? Thanks.

-- A. Outlaw (Camden, S.C.)

: Very seldom do we use a shaky

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head around home. I still like to power-fish back home. The better I know a body of water, the more confidence I have in my power-fishing abilities. And you win more tournaments around here with that technique. At different times of the year, you target different bottom contours if you're planting cover, so it's hard to give you specifics regarding that question. Generally, we put cover back where cover was. So if some cover washes away due to natural conditions, I'll occasionally try to replace it. But we don't plant cover as much as other people think. I don't spend a lot of time on one particular lake - even my home lakes - so I just don't have a lot of spare time to do stuff like that. And in grass lakes, you almost never have to plant any additional cover.

Q: Heading into the Wal-Mart Open you had 35 top-10 appearances with no FLW Tour wins. Did you ever start to worry that you might never win an FLW Tour event?

*continue to the next page*

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A: Well, worried, no. Concerned, I guess you could say that. It takes a lot to win one of those. It takes a flawless tournament and a lot of luck to win these. So you start to get concerned: "Hey, when is my number going to roll around?" I've been close, but all it takes is one mistake. The funny thing is the one I won I never expected to win. Going into that last day, trailing Jay (Yelas), I thought there was no way I was going to win. So it just goes



Chase Booth caught a 22 1/2" catfish. Photo courtesy of Crossroads General Store near Newark.

to show you. If Jay catches three keeper largemouths, I was done.

Q: What made Beaver Lake so tough to fish during the Wal-Mart Open, as it seemed like most of the pros really struggled to find a successful pattern?

-- Titus Song (Minneapolis, Minn.)

A: I think it was just the postspawn aspect. Once the spawn is done on Beaver, most of the fish just go to the middle of the lake and suspend, and they're really hard to catch. I think at Beaver, more fish suspend than most other lakes. It's kind of weird. Those fish just go roaming around

: You had a real good tournament on Lake of the Ozarks last fall. Were you throwing finesse gear there too, or were you using football-head jigs?

-- Matt P. (Osage Beach, Mo.)

A: I caught some fish finesse-fishing on a shaky head and a drop-shot, and the rest of the time I caught fish on a buzzbait and a War Eagle jig. But the two days I went power-fishing, the conditions were nasty, which are the exact conditions to power-fish.

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Q: Is reaching the \$1 million mark a goal for you?

-- Robby S. (Buckhead, Ga.)

A: Actually, I haven't even looked at the stats. I take it a tournament at a time, a day at a time. You need to worry about what's in front of you, not what's behind you. If you don't take things one bite at a time, one step at a time and one day at a time, you really start to lose your focus. You better be able to go out there and tackle what's in front of you that day.

Q: Andy, what are your favorite baits and fishing techniques?

-- Jon Stebbins (San Diego, Calif.)

A: I'd say definitely fishing a jig

continue to the next page

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of a joke that both of us share.  
 Q: When you arrive at a new lake that you've never fished before, how do you go about prefishing for a tournament?  
 -- Eric Vrooman (New Orleans, La.)  
 A: I'll check out the conditions, the time of year, etc. There are a lot of different variables you have to consider. I'll go to the launch site first, put a hard day of fishing in and then make a decision as to whether I want to go up or down a lake. I try not to have too many preconceived ideas when I go fishing. It's really important to see what it's all about. You learn a lot when you spend 12 hours on the water about what you



Randy Weaver hooked a big catfish. Photo courtesy of Family Fishing and Camping in Grafton.

might need to change the next day. So time spent on the water is priceless. I just put the boat in the water and basically go down the bank, fishing, gathering information.  
 Q: Congratulations on the big win! How hard was it to stick with the "sissy stick"? I'm sure in the back of your mind you were thinking, "I bet I could get the flipping stick out and go get a good kicker fish out of a treetop somewhere."  
 -- Tim Kennedy (Hixson, Tenn.)  
 A: I never practiced with a flipping stick throughout my entire time at Beaver. So I didn't feel comfortable switching the last day. I told myself I was going to stay in my one area and try not to be a hero. But I do have to admit that I had a flipping stick in the boat. Those are the demons you fight right there. You have to stay focused and keep to the task at hand. You can't panic. Through experience, when you start to panic and change up on the fly, I've found it really doesn't usually work out.  
 Q: Which anglers did you grow up admiring, and who, if anyone, have you modeled your career after?  
 -- Rich Price (Oakland, Calif.)

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A: I always look at Larry Nixon and, of course, Kevin VanDam. Larry will sit back and beat you with a Texas-rigged worm, and VanDam will power-fish until the sun goes down - and I've really learned a lot from both of those guys.  
 Q: What is your all-time favorite lake, or body of water, to fish?  
 -- Patrick Zak (San Francisco, Calif.)  
 A: It would definitely be something on the Tennessee River with anything on the Coosa River being a close second. So I'd have to say something like Kentucky or Barkley lakes I'm really comfortable fishing.

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## Steam Engine Returns To Service

Shay No.4, a steam locomotive at Cass Scenic Railroad State Park, is steamed up again after a 9-year restoration project. The engine is now ready to take park visitors for an historic journey back in time as they travel through some of West Virginia's most beautiful scenery to the top of Cheat Mountain.

Shay No.4 was built in 1922 by the Lima Locomotive Works of Lima, Ohio, at a cost of \$17,534. It was purchased new by the Birch Valley Lumber Company of Tioga, West Virginia, and worked for that operation for 21 years. In 1943, the locomotive was purchased by the Mower Lumber Company for use on their logging railroad at Cass, WV. On June 30, 1960, Shay No. 4 had the distinction of pulling the last log train down Cheat Mountain before Mower shut down its operation. In 1962, Shay 4 was saved from the cutting torch by the State of West Virginia, and the locomotive became part of the world famous Cass Scenic Railroad State Park.

Antique steam locomotives like Shay No.4 must be maintained to exacting government standards. Occasionally, a locomotive will require a major rebuilding to ensure compliance with those standards.



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Over a period of 9 years, the skilled craftsmen at the Cass Locomotive Shop disassembled the engine and repaired or replaced many components. Upon completion of the restoration project, Shay 4 was given a thorough inspection and returned to service this spring.

"The rebuilding of Shay No. 4 is an example of the numerous preservation and restoration projects that are being undertaken at Cass, including both railroad equipment and historic structures in the Town of Cass," said Cass Scenic Railroad State Park Superintendent Dave Caplinger. "We are making certain that this part of West Virginia's industrial heritage is preserved for future generations and are proud to say that Shay No. 4 is back in ser-

vice."

For information about the Cass Scenic Railroad State Park, call 1-800-CALL WVA or visit the Web site at [www.cassrailroad.com](http://www.cassrailroad.com).



Larry Thompson hooked a 5 pound, 10 oz. largemouth. *Photo courtesy of Three River's Edge in Hinton*

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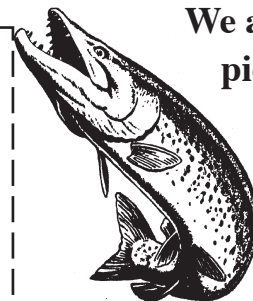
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Gary Murray bagged his first turkey. Photo courtesy of Starcher's Sports Shop in Lubeck.



Fishing at Salt Fork Lake, Johnny Goots caught a 5 pound large-mouth. Photo courtesy of Johnny's Outdoor World in Boaz.



Brad Berga landed a 6 pound Wolf Run bass. Photo courtesy of Backwater Bait in Newport, Ohio.

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