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Issue 262

June/July 2017

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**TRACKER**  
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## Magazine

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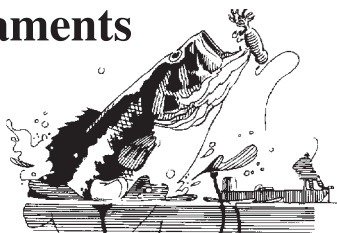
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## Cover Photo

Joe Wilfong, 23 years old from Burnsville, landed a new length state record musky. His Little Kanawha River fish weighed 34.58 pounds and broke the length record measuring 53 1/2 inches. He kept the fish alive for 4 hours in the river and the DNR measured it and put a chip in the fish to identify it if was later caught. The fish was released and can never be a new record. Joe was using a brownish spinner and used 80 pound test braided line.



# Summer Crappie Fishing

Summer crappie fishing is known to be quite tough by most fishermen standards.

As the weather heats up, so do water temperatures. And when the water temperatures rise, crappie play hide and seek from the warmer water temps and head to deeper water.

There aren't a whole lot of fishermen who are great at fishing for crappies down deep in the water column. It's especially unfortunate for those without a boat and are restricted to fishing from the shoreline.

As you may already know, the best times to fish for crappie are during the winter...



Larry Cunningham had trout success this spring.

But, with just a little ingenuity, summer crappie fishing can be just as exciting and rewarding.

How?

If and when all else fails, you have two options...

- 1) Continue with the same techniques that are failing you in hopes of catching crappie, or
- 2) Incorporate the following three tactics into your game plan and go home with a stringer full of panfish and a smile on your face.

## 3 Innovative Summertime Crappie Fishing Tactics

### 1.) Target Different Locations To Find Elusive Crappie

It's most common to target crappies around brush piles and other types of structure in deep water during those hot days of summer. However, there are good times in the summer when big crappies can be corralled from shallow water flats too.

Shad normally spawn continuously in those shallow flats, and of course, mister crappie will sure be around looking for an easy meal. Look for crappie to be holding on any one piece of cover, at any given time and day. The less cover, the better, and the easier your chances might be at ringing them up.

### 2.) Select Different Baits And Lures To Entice Crappie To Bite

The normal every day crappie fisherman will often stick to us-  
continue to the next page

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ing just one or two of their favorite crappie baits, such as the ever-so-popular crappie jigs, and the all time faithful minnows.

Don't be afraid to try something different or completely new. Drop something else out there, especially if what you're using isn't working. Try small spinner baits, little crankbaits, or switch from a minnow to some freshwater shrimp, or even just a night crawler.



Walter Stalnaker landed a nice Florida snook. *Photo courtesy of Walt's Pawn Shop in Weston.*

### 3.) Offer Different Presentations For Finicky Crappie

The crappie summer bite can be a little on the light and finicky side. So, you may have to use a more tactical approach with your presentations.

A super sensitive float, such as a Thill's Shy Bite float, properly paired together with ultra-light

tackle rigged with 2 to 4 pound test fishing line, is one way to detect those little ticky tack nibbles. Add just enough weight below the float to allow no more than half an inch to appear above the water. Awareness and patience is key here. Set the hook immediately at the first sign of the float rising above the

continue to the next psge



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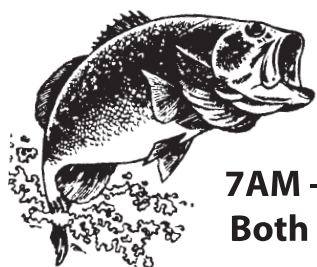


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water.

You may also want to try an un-weighted bait on your hook. I've had quite a bit of success with this presentation, especially in slow moving to stagnant waters. And it's about as easy as it can get. Simply toss it out there into the water around your preferred target area. The minnow will thrash around on the surface for a couple minutes before it begins to settle below. Then wait until you feel anything unusual and set the hook.

Don't let the hot weather discourage you from getting after those fun fighting panfish. Enjoy summer crappie fishing by trying out new tactics and techniques that the average angler wouldn't dare to. Keep an open mind, open your tackle box, experiment with unconventional stuff, have fun, and slay some big slabs of crappie!

## Limited Bear Applications

SOUTH CHARLESTON, W.Va. — The West Virginia Division of Natural Resources is now accepting applications for a limited number of permits for black bear hunting during the traditional deer gun season in eight counties. The application deadline is midnight Aug. 13.

Hunters with these permits will be allowed to hunt bear without dogs on public and private land in Cabell, Doddridge, Harrison, Lincoln, Marion, Marshall, Mineral and Wetzel counties, from Nov. 20 through Dec. 2, 2017. Resident landowners, their resident children or resident tenants who live on the land are not required to apply for a limited bear firearms season permit

continue to the next page



Scott Durst bagged a nine point in Mason County.



Scott Kull got an eight point in Belmont County.

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it or purchase a class DS bear hunting stamp to hunt on their own land.

“Counties open for bear hunting during the buck-gun season are above their management objective and need additional bears harvested to achieve their goal,” said Colin Carpenter, DNR black bear project leader. “Timing is critical when setting bear hunting seasons, and the limited bear firearms season will occur when the maximum number of hunters are in the woods. This is the fifth year with expanded bear hunting opportunities during the buck-gun season, and we hope hunters will continue to take advantage of them.”

Hunters must apply for a limited bear firearms permit by using the Electronic Licensing System at [www.wvhunt.com](http://www.wvhunt.com). To apply, licensed hunters must log in to their account and click on “Enter Lottery” on the home screen, select “2017 Black Bear Hunt” and select

the desired county. Hunters also may call their local DNR district office for help with the application process.

Successful applicants will be notified by mail by the first week of October. Applicants can see if they received a permit, starting Sept. 1, by logging into their account. Neither the permit, nor the class DS stamp, is transferrable, and the county of hunt cannot be changed.

Hunters are also reminded that 31 counties in West Virginia do not require permits to hunt black bears during the buck-gun season. Details concerning bear hunting seasons can be found in the 2017-2018 Hunting and Trapping Regulations Summary, available soon at license agents and online at [www.wvdnr.gov](http://www.wvdnr.gov).

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## Go Catfishing At State Parks

SOUTH CHARLESTON, W.Va. — Ten West Virginia state parks waters were stocked with nearly 2,000 pounds of catchable-sized channel catfish the first week of June as part of a West Virginia Division of Natural Resources stocking program designed to enhance

fishing opportunities for individuals and families at state parks.

“Catfishing is an activity people of any age can enjoy, and it is especially suitable for families,” said Brad Reed, deputy state parks chief. “Catching a catfish can create a lasting memory, especially for a first-time angler.”

State park areas included in the early June stocking program are Babcock State Park in Fayette County; Cacapon State Park in Morgan County; Cedar Creek State Park in Gilmer County; Chief Lo-

gan State Park in Logan County; Little Beaver State Park in Raleigh County; Moncove Lake State Park in Monroe County; Pipestem State Park in Summers County; Tomlinson Run State Park in Hancock County; and Watoga State Park in Pocahontas County.

In addition to fishing, overnight and day-use visitors can take advantage of hiking, biking and camping. Areas with lakes typically offer kayaks, canoes and other water-based rental services. Learn more at [www.wvstateparks.com](http://www.wvstateparks.com).



Zak Casto, from Ravenswood, brought in a gobbler.



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Charlene Martin landed a hybrid striped bass on the Ohio River.



Herb Harkness caught several white bass.



Kayli Curry got her 1st turkey in Upshur County.

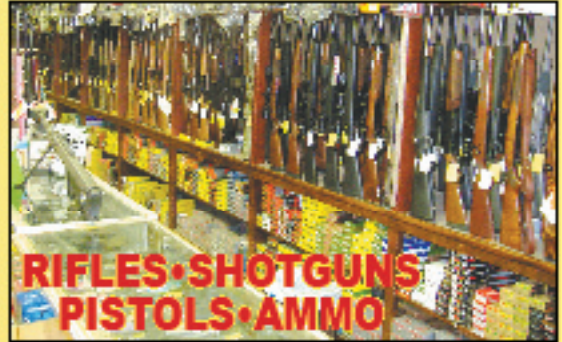
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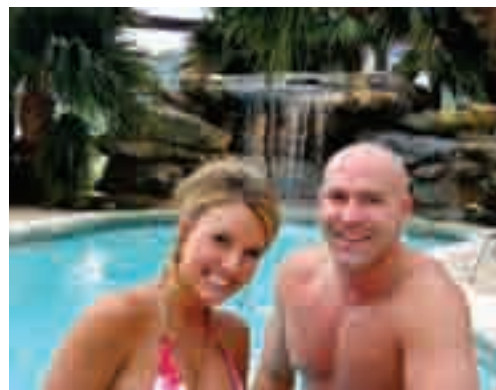
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Devon Johnson, from Buckhannon, went to Texas for a big wild hog.



Pat Cheuvront went to O'Brien Lake for a 9 1/2 pound bass.



Levi Kessler & Garret Edwards caught several channel catfish.

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Timothy Bevil reeled in a huge flathead catfish from the Little Kanawha River. *Photo courtesy of Holbert's Store in Big Bend.*

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## **Sun Exposure and SPF Information**

Most every time products are number rated, it brings thoughts of This is Spinal Tap and Nigel Tufnel's amplifier knobs going to 11.

"It's one louder, isn't it?" actor Christopher Guest said playing the dimwitted lead guitarist. When asked why the 10 setting is not simply set to be louder, Tufnel,

dumbfounded, pauses before giving his oblivious answer, "These go to 11."

Nigel's take is similar to that of some sunscreen producers, which might make claims their product is better because its SPF "goes to 111." But those high numbers don't always live up to their expectations, said Sonya Lunder, lead author of EWG's 2017 Guide to Sunscreens.

"The vast majority of sunscreens available to Americans aren't as good as they should be," she said. "Sunscreens will not improve until the Food and Drug Administration sets stronger rules, reviews harmful chemicals and allows the use of new ingredients that offer stronger UVA protection."

With summer here and plenty of sunny fishing days ahead, Lunder was asked what are the best prac-

tices anglers should be taking to protect themselves from the sun.

**HIGHER NUMBER NOT NECESSARILY BETTER**

Many people think the higher  
continue to the next page



A large catfish was caught at this pay lake. *Photo courtesy of Catfish Paradise in Marietta, Ohio.*

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the number, the better the protection. SPF (sun protection factor) numbers labeled on sunscreens is just a relative measure of how long a product will protect the user from ultraviolet (UV) B rays. Those are the ones that damage the skin's outer layer and cause sunburn. The epidermis is where the most common form of skin cancers occur, and they are linked to an accumulation of exposure through the years.

Everyone's skin is different, but let's say with no protection your skin begins to burn after 15 minutes. A sunscreen of 30 SPF is supposed to give you 30 times the protection of none, or 450 minutes. Lunder said consumers thinking they'd be protected anywhere close to that long is ludicrous, because products break down or wear off at different intervals.

"Most all products, you need to put on every two hours," she said.

Skincancer.org said that an SPF 15 product will "screen 93 percent of the sun's UVB rays, while SPF 30 protects against 97 percent; and SPF 50, 98 percent." Consumer Reports has tested sunscreens and found many do not give the ad-



vertised protection, and, no matter how high the SPF, some rays get through.

"High SPF is a marketing gimmick," scientist David Andrews said in the EWG report. "SPF values over 50 mislead people into thinking they are completely protected from sunburn and long-term

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**May 21 - Powhatan Point**

**June 25 - Wheeling Island**

**July 23 - Powhatan Point**

**Aug. 27 - Wheeling Island**

**Sept. 24 - Powhatan Point**

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Dustin Barker caught a rare rainbow trout at Burnsville Docks.  
*Photo courtesy of Burnsville Docks.*

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skin damage. But instead, they may encourage people to spend more time in the sun, exposing themselves to more, not less, ultraviolet rays."

The other rays to be considered are UVA, which are more harmful because they can reach the dermal layer and damage collagen and elastic tissue. They are the cause of melanomas and other dangerous types of skin cancer, which are believed to be brought on by blistering sunburns.

The skin layer affected by UVA rays is also where the cells that darken skin are found. (It's why UVA rays are used in tanning beds.) Tan skin may be thought to look healthy, but it is really DNA damaged – an attempt by the skin to prevent further injury, which can lead to cell mutation and cancer.

For sunscreens to be effective, they need to provide both UVB and UVA protection, which is sometimes labeled multi-spectrum or

broad spectrum.

#### **CLOTHING HELPS MINIMIZE EXPOSURE**

Sunscreen is just one strategy. Covering up, seeking shade and staying out of peak sun hours from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. are also recommended, but anglers can't really do all that.

Lunder said the tactical clothing most anglers wear is a great start. Many of the high-tech fishing shirts and jerseys that anglers wear provide UPF (ultraviolet protection factor) of 50 or so. Anglers also fight exposure by sporting sun-protective gloves and buffs. Hats are critical, and pros like Rick Clunn and Randy Howell are covered better in their larger bucket hats with wide brims all the way around.

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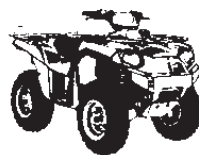
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"Covering up is the best way to protect yourself, and remember that sun reflects off the water, so it comes up under the hat," she said, noting the U.S. has experienced higher incidences of sunburns, UV exposures and skin-related cancers in the past two decades. "You also really do need a good sunscreen and must remember to reapply every two hours."

continue to the next page

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Mike Hawkins landed an 8 pound rainbow. *Photo courtesy of Middle Mountain Sporting Goods in Elkins.*



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Getting the right sunscreen is just as important. The EWG study found that about 73 percent of products rate poorly for skin protection or have worrisome ingredients. Europe has stricter standards and better sunscreens, but the FDA has yet to approve them.

In general, sunscreens should be applied 15-30 minutes before going outside, and that you should use at least a teaspoon for each body part. Many people don't apply enough to do the job.

"Sunscreen products aren't really

communicating their limitations," Lunder said. "The big numbers are really misleading, and the brands really vary. There are some good products.

"For fishing, you would want SPF from 30 to 50, the broad spectrum ... and you need to remember to re-cover every two hours." (She harped on that several times, so it must be important.)

**TOP PRODUCTS NOT ALWAYS TOP DOLLAR**

Consumer Reports released its annual list of top sunscreen prod-

ucts in May, and of the 58 products they tested, 20 were proven to provide less than half the SPF protection than the number advertised on their labels.

The nonprofit organization, which provides unbiased product testing, did offer a list of its top-rated sunscreens.

Although La Roche-Posay's Anthesios 60 Melt-In Sunscreen Milk rated well, its \$36 price for 5 ounces puts it off my shopping list. Walmart's Equate Sport Lo-

continue to the next page



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ion SPF 50 was right alongside the fancy stuff but cost only \$5.

Some others that rated well were Pure's Sun Defense Disney Frozen Lotion SPF 50 for about \$6, Coppertone's WaterBabies Lotion SPF 50 for \$12 and Equate Ultra Protection Lotion SPF 50 for \$8.

If you can't find any of those, Consumer Reports said get one with an SPF of at least 50, and it should contain ingredients like avobenzone rather than "natural" ingredients.

And as we'd have to teach Tufnel, remember that higher numbers don't mean louder, or, better protection.

## Gobbler Results

SOUTH CHARLESTON, W.Va.-Spring turkey hunters harvested 11,539 gobblers this year, an increase of more than 11 percent from 2016, according to preliminary numbers provided by the West Virginia Division of Natural Resources. The harvest is the largest since 2006 when 11,735 birds were harvested, and is more than 18 percent above the 10-year average.

"Weather conditions were variable across the state during this year's spring gobbler season, so it's nice to see hunters were able to get out and enjoy some successful hunting, which is reflected in the harvest numbers," said Mike Peters, DNR game bird biologist.

Five of the six DNR districts reported increased harvests over last year. District 4 was the only district in which fewer birds were harvested than in 2016. District 1 again recorded the most birds harvested this year (2,578), followed by District 6 (2,250), District 5 (2,090), District 4 (1,858), District 3 (1,733) and District 2 (1,030).

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largest harvests were Preston (475), which was up more than 100 birds from last year, Mason (448), Jackson (408), Wood (380), and Harrison (327).

Youth hunters harvested 458 turkeys during the one-day youth season on April 15. Those numbers are included on the accompanying table.



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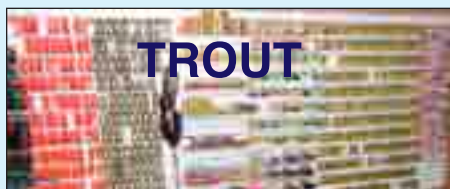
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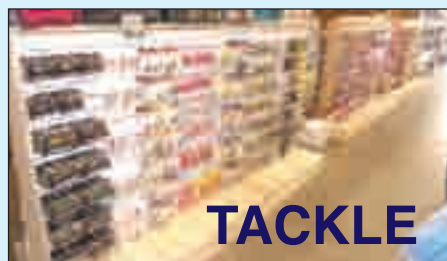
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Regis Wenzel, from Wheeling, landed an 8 pound, 3 oz rainbow.



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Chris Grose hooked a 32 pound flakehead on the Ohio River.



Drew Johnson, from Summersville, caught a huge largemouth bass.



Mike Spencer got a nice gobbler in Greenbrier County.



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Mark Goudy, owner of this magazine, caught a 5 pound, 2 oz. large-mouth at Burnsville Lake on a wacky rigged pearl/blue Senko.



Jimmy Luke, from Powhatan Point, landed a 5 -12 bass on the Ohio.

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Rob Ciarapica, from Leon, hooked a 28 pound catfish at Winfield Dam.



Dan Selmon reeled in the second big bass at the spring Bass Sportsman tournament at Stonewall Jackson Lake. It weighed 5 pounds, 10 oz. The Stonewall Classic entry form is in this issue. The dates are Sept. 9 & 10. Look on page 6.

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Jennifer Fazenbaker, from Nettie, caught a 16 1/2" crappie. Photo courtesy of Burnsville Docks.



Joe Ginnani landed a nice large-mouth bass at North Bend Lake



Ryan Hickman caught a 41" flat-head on the Ohio River.



David Rose reeled in a nice large-mouth bass.

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## 9 Summer Catfishing Methods

Here's the 9 tips to get you started on the path to success for later summer catfishing. Whether you fish for blues, channels or flatheads there are some good tips to up your game and start putting more fish on the end of your line. To get even more tips to help you catch catfish be sure to check out The Ultimate List Of Catfishing Tips.

### Leverage The Heat For Channel Catfish

Catching channels in the late summer usually offers some excellent action. You can catch a lot of fish in a short time period and catching larger channel catfish is an option as well. The trick to consistency in the heat of the summer is to leverage the heat, the behavior of channel catfish in the heat of the summer.

These fish will flock to areas with high oxygen levels and also "safe harbor" from the heat. Pay close attention to when and where you catch fish and put the patterns together when you are fishing in the heat.

Finding cooler water, cover or even areas with higher oxygen concentration can make all of the difference when targeting summer channel catfish.

### Punch The Channel Catfish

Fishing the summer heat provides

many opportunities and learning to leverage opportunities in any weather pattern or season is one of the main keys to being a great anglers.

Scent travels farther in warm than it does colder water. The scent of any bait is "amplified" and has

continue to the next page

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Herbert Weaver, from Tunnelton, caught & released a 35 pound musky.

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a further reach. When using something for catfish bait with a very strong scent you simply have that much more “power” in drawing in fish.

This makes the late summer a great time for catching channel catfish with prepared baits or what many anglers call “stink bait”. Prepared baits work very well for catching numbers of channel catfish in no time at all.

My preference is “punch” style baits like CJ’s Catfish Punch Bait but there are other good options as



Jeff Ford landed a 7 pound trout.  
*Photo courtesy of Middle Mountain Sporting Goods in Elkins.*

well.

Rigging up with a slip bobber rig or my preference, the Secret Catfish Rig and a #6 treble hook and finesse fishing summer channel catfish haunts provides some quick action to keep you busy in the heat of the summer.

## Chum Them Up

With the scent carrying further in warmer water this makes chumming or baiting a hole for catfish very effective. It’s not a technique that usually brings in monster catfish, but for fast action in the hot summer it’s a great option.

Use some soured wheat, milo or range cubes and chum a few areas to fish and one of them will usually produce. Experiment with cover, structure and locations to learn what works best and then rinse and repeat.

Baiting a hole or repeatedly throwing chum in an area for an extended period of time is a good

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option during this time as well. Baiting a hole for channel catfish will produce excellent fishing as long as you keep baiting.

Fishing baited catfish holes during the end of the summer is a trick used by catfish guides throughout the south to help deal with the challenges of the summer.

## Time The Flathead Catfish

The late summer bite for flathead catfish can be very good. Like all fishing for flathead catfish it can be slow at times as well with a lot of sitting and waiting. The rewards are great when you do hook one though and the fight more than pays off for the waiting.

Fishing live bait with a variety of catfish rigs at night offers a break from the heat and some excellent flathead catfish action.

Pay close attention to when you  
continue to the next page

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catch your flathead catfish and keep good records. Savvy flathead catfish anglers learn that there is usually a "peak" time each night that produces the best action.

Once they key in on that peak time they narrow their fishing down to that timeframe. Just keep in mind that the fish will change and can even change from one area of a lake or river to another.

Get The Blues – Blue Catfish That Is

Blue catfish action can be excellent in some areas of the country in the summer months. The heat and warmer water temperatures have much less impact on blue catfish in rivers than they do in lakes and reservoirs.

In lakes and reservoirs the blue



Rosia Richardson, from Sutton, bagged an 8 point buck

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catfish will often move often and fast chasing schools of thread fin and gizzard shad. These shad schools are often moving quickly and water bodies that have striped bass, hybrid striped bass and white bass populations can make this even more of a challenge.

Anglers that target blue catfish often end up scratching their heads during the dog days of summer but the blue catfish can be caught with some patience involved. Keep in mind with rising water temperatures, dropping water levels and fish that are often scattered you might have to really spend some time to locate good numbers of

blues and when you do, they might move quickly.

Targeting scattered fish can be a challenge, it's not impossible to do but it certainly can be frustrating.

A common approach to targeting fish that are scattered or moving quickly is to drift fish.

If you can locate active feeding fish that are in an area with good concentration that staying in that area and fishing them will pay off in excellent numbers of blue cats. Using sonar from a boat is the quickest route to locating and catching blue catfish any time of the year, even in the summer. If you are fishing from

continue to the next page

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 \$20 Big Bass  
 Enter At the Ramp



the shore or a boat without sonar then apply the basic fundamentals of locating and catching blue catfish and you will catch fish.

Bait up with fresh cut shad and you'll almost always catch fish but don't be afraid to mix in some live shad also during the late summer. Just make sure to avoid using frozen shad for bait you'll almost always have more success fishing

with fresh shad.

Drift Fish For Scattered Fish

When targeting blue and channel catfish drift fishing can be an effective way of catching fish in the summer months (or any time). Whether you're targeting blues or channels, finding scattered fish or concentrations of fish drift fishing can be a great approach. Drift fishing is also a great way for you to

locate and catch blues and channels if you are just getting started or are having trouble finding and catching fish.

Drifting allows you to cover a lot of water and can increase your potential of locating and catching fish. When you key in on a specific area or depth that is producing then you can continue to focus on that

continue to the page 33

*14th Annual*



**\$8,000**  
**Estimated**  
**Payout\***

*\*Based On 60 Entries*

**Door Prizes & Gifts**

- No Alcohol or Drugs
- Open to 1 or 2 Men Teams
- Obey DNR Rules
- Artificial Baits Only
- No Dead Fish
- Cull After 6th Fish
- All Fish Must Be Caught By Boat - No Bank Fishing
- Must Meet BIA Rating
- Numbers Based On Entry Date Received
- **Entering At The Ramp Must Be Before 6am 8/1**

# WV State Water Festival Bluestone Bassin'

**Bass Fishing Tournament**

**NO PRE-FISHING!**

**Monday 7-25 After 6PM**  
**To Blast-off On July 30**

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**\$150 Per Team**  
**Sat. July 29**  
**Bluestone Lake**

**\$10 Big Bass**  
**\$10 Late Fee**  
**Entering At Ramp**

**6am to 3pm 1st**  
**6:30 to 3:30 2nd**  
**6 Fish Limit**  
**Over 10 Inches**

**Email Or Call**  
**For A Complete**  
**Entry Form**  
**pcbaits@frontier.com**  
**304-466-1444**

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Ron Bolyard bagged a Preston County gobbler this spring.



The McClean - McClean team landed a 5 - 11 big bass at the spring Stonewall Jackson tournament.

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**Back Issues Are There From 2006 On Too**



Tom Haddox, from Ritchie County, reeled in a large paddlefish on the Ohio River. These fish must be released after catching one.



Connie Townsend, from Sand Fork caught a 17" Burnsille Lake bass.



Kensi Plumley landed a new River smallmouth bass.



# ANDERSON OUTDOORS

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**\$25 Buy-in + Ticket**

**5 Biggest Fish Winners**

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*Weekend Tournaments:*

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**\$15.00 For 12 Hours Of Fishing (2 Poles)**

***Includes Some Jackpots***

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Bill & Tucker Dalrymple caught 2 big crappie in Pleasants County.



Cory Boothe reeled in a dandy carp.

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depth and area while drifting or use your sonar to narrow down the target area and anchor up.

Drifting for channel catfish at night can be very productive in the summer. This was our "go to" method of catching channel catfish in the summer when I was a kid and we did very well. Like anything else the more you practice, the more time you spend on the water and the more you learn the more fish you will catch.

Drift fishing for channel catfish also has tendency to produce larger channel catfish than fishing prepared bait or fishing over baited holes. Set up with your preferred catfish rig like a slip sinker rig or santee rig with a 5/0 circle hook and some cut bait or preferred channel catfish bait and start fishing.

When drifting for blues use a 5/0 or 7/0 circle hook and a slip sinker rig or santee rig. Bait up with fresh caught shad or your preferred cut bait and it's pretty hard to not catch fish.

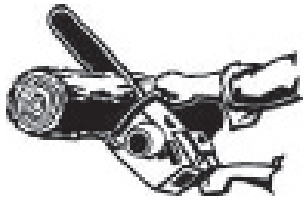
Remember when targeting blue  
continue to the next page



Harley Ryan, from Buckhannon, bagged a spring gobbler.



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catfish that fresh caught bait is going to catch more fish than frozen. Night Patterns and Success

Night fishing for catfish in the late summer is a great option. Targeting catfish at night not only allows you to target fish on the move and feeding in different areas but allows you to beat the heat and stay comfortable.

Flathead fishing is usually great at night in the summer. The fish will be larger but you'll generally catch fewer fish.

Blue catfish offer the opportunity to catch big fish and numbers

of fish as well and usually faster action.

Channel catfish fishing at night can produce larger channel catfish and numbers of fish as well.

The same general principles apply when night fishing and fishing in the day as far as techniques, catfish rigs, baits and catching fish. The big difference is that when the sun sets bait fish will often move into areas where you won't find them during the day and there are good numbers of fish in these areas.

Pay close attention as the sun begins to set and watch for activity in the water. Look for active bait fish and fish feeding on them and you'll quickly be able to narrow down a target area to start fishing.

Drifting for blues or channels at

Convenience Store • Movie Rentals  
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night is a great way to fish, is very relaxing and produces fish. Adding a lantern or light in your boat provides light to see. You can also use small chemical glow sticks and attach them to your rod tips to monitor for activity in the dark.

Chumming shallow areas with soured wheat at night is a great way to fire up some fast channel catfish action.

Using the Secret Catfish Rig with punch bait and a #6 treble hook in areas you chum is best. Follow the instructions on using the Secret Catfish Rig at night for easy visibility. This is a great technique when fishing from the shore at night as well.

continue to the next page

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Jansen McCloy got a 23 pound gobbler with 3 beards.

June/July 2017 ~ Page 34

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To keep the bugs away when night fishing try to keep lights to a minimum. Using a goober light helps, you can switch it off and on as needed.

Having a Thermacell also does wonders to keep the bugs away when night fishing.

Fishing at night helps to beat the heat but you don't have to fish at night to catch catfish, that's a common myth. Savvy catfish anglers know that the fish are just as active during the day as they are at night. No Jug Fishing and No Trotlines

If you live in a hot climate and water temperatures are warm and enjoy jug fishing or trotlines, put them away until water tempera-

tures start to drop.

When water temperatures get really warm the water loses oxygen. Using jug lines or trotlines in these situations causes the fish to die quickly on the lines in a low oxygen environment.

It's best to go ahead and put the set lines away until the water temperatures drop. If you insist on fishing with these methods in the heat of the summer with warm water temperatures then you need to follow a few simple rules.

First, make sure that you keep your baits well above the thermocline. Fish that are hooked near or slightly above the thermocline will die very quickly. Staying out of this area is best.

Second, if you do set jug lines or trotlines run them often. Make sure you check them at least every two hours, especially during the day. You need to actively work them to keep fish from being killed on the lines from lack of oxygen.

Learn, Know and Find The Thermocline

I've talked about thermoclines extensively in the past. The "thermocline 101 version is that when



Jake Sprouse hooked a large catfish from the Ohio River.

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water temperatures rise a layer of water forms at the bottom of lakes and reservoirs that has little to no oxygen. Lakes and reservoirs will separate in three layers based on water temperature and the bottom layer is what I like to call the "dead zone".

The "dead zone" is an area that fish cannot remain in for extended periods of time because of lack of oxygen. They can and will move in and out of this area but they can't stay there.

It's possible to catch fish in these areas but generally not going to be the most productive technique to

continue to the next page



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Great for family reunions, picnics, birthday parties!

*Google: Sago Valley River Retreat*





use or area to fish.

Rule number one of fishing is to trust your sonar (when fishing from a boat). If you see fish in the “dead zone” then by all means, try to fish it. If you are fishing from a boat with no sonar, don’t know how to read sonar, or fishing from the shore than just stay in depths that are above the thermocline, you’ll catch more fish.

Use a topographic map that shows depths and contours like the Navionics Hotmaps for iPhone to easily find these areas and rule out areas to fish.

Lakes and reservoirs will have a thermocline when water temperatures heat up. Rivers or areas with moving water will not.

Finding the thermocline is done with sonar, adjust your settings correctly and you will see a distinct line on the screen around 21–23 feet of water. It may be slightly deeper but looking in 21–23 feet is a good general rule of thumb for finding the depth of the thermocline.

There’s Hope For Better Catfishing

Catching catfish in the heat of the summer can be uncomfortable because of the warm days and hot summer sun. If you don’t use the correct techniques and target the best locations you’ll end up frustrated and not catching fish.

Making a few minor tweaks to your normal approach to catfish

**WALT'S MART** Near WalMart

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fishing and following these 9 simple tips will make not only help you catch more fish but all help you be a better angler as well.

In a matter of weeks water temperatures will be begin to drop, and fishing will change for the better. These changes require a change in tactics and target locations like any other time of the year. You have to adjust what you do to the fish patterns and preference for each season, weather pattern or specific set of conditions.

In many areas of the country fall and winter offer some of the best catfish action of the year.

Get On The Fast Track To Success

To get more in depth information on locating and catching catfish in the summer check out the Summer Channel Catfish Techniques book. This is an in depth step by step guide on locating and catching channel catfish in the summer

**Advertise In The  
W. Va. Sportsman  
Details On Page 3**

months.

Using these techniques with the Secret Catfish Rig is an easy way to catch catfish in the heat of the summer.

Drift Fishing for Catfish will help you learn the techniques essential to catching catfish when drift fishing as well.

## Wings Of Wonder Birds Of Prey

SOUTH CHARLESTON, W.Va. – Three Rivers Avian Center will return to West Virginia State Parks this summer with their popular “Wings of Wonder – Birds of Prey” program. The presentation includes live birds of prey, information about the incredible abilities of raptors, their differences and how birds are connected with their ecosystems.

“Wendy and Ron Perrone have been summer presenters at our state parks since 1993 and they are always happy to share their stories of rehabilitating injured owls, hawks and eagles,” said Sissie Summers

continue to the next page



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of the Parks and Recreation Section of the West Virginia Division of Natural Resources. "Attendees learn about the habitat, diet and behavior of each bird, the most common causes of injury to each species and the laws protecting these special birds."

The program is free for anyone to attend at the following state parks and forests:

About Three Rivers Avian Center

Three Rivers Avian Center is a private nonprofit organization dedicated to wild bird conservation and educating and involving people in ecosystem stewardship. Founded in 1990, the 103-acre facility is located in the southern portion of the New River Gorge National River between Sandstone and Hinton in Summers County.

Public tour days at Three Rivers Avian Center are the first Saturday of each month, May through October, from 1 to 5 p.m. Other tours are scheduled by appointment only. The center is located near Bluestone and Pipestem Resort state parks. For more information about Three Rivers Avian Center, call 304-466-4683 or visit [www.tracwv.org](http://www.tracwv.org).



Danny Harper caught a couple of nice Burnsville Lake bass.



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

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Fish \_\_\_\_\_ Pound \_\_\_\_\_ Oz \_\_\_\_\_

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