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Vol. 1 Issue 190

August 2009



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LOGAN MOTORCYCLE SALES

INVOICE Sale!



'09 HONDA RECON MSRP \$4,099 PLUS 200 HBB LMCS - \$365 \$3,734	'09 HONDA RANCHER TRX420FM MSRP \$5,799 PLUS 200 HBB LMCS - \$620 \$5,179	'09 HONDA FOREMAN TRX500FM MSRP \$6,799 PLUS 400 HBB LMCS - \$770 \$6,029	'09 HONDA RINCON TRX680FA MSRP \$8,299 PLUS 300 HBB LMCS - \$950 \$7,349	'08 HONDA TRX450ER MSRP \$6,999 PLUS 500 HBB LMCS - \$800 \$6,199	'08 HONDA TRX 700XX MSRP \$7,899 PLUS 1000 HBB LMCS - \$935 \$6,964
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'09 HONDA CRF230M MSRP \$5,399 LMCS - \$630 \$4,769	'09 HONDA REBEL CMX230C MSRP \$3,999 \$3,140	'09 HONDA SHADOW SPIRIT MSRP \$7,699 \$6,499	'09 HONDA SHADOW AERO MSRP \$7,699 \$6,499	'09 HONDA CRF230L MSRP \$4,999 LMCS - \$950 \$4,049
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Cover Photo

Musky fishing at Stonewall Jackson Lake, in Weston, gets better all the time. Other lakes in the area for outstanding musky fishing include Burnsville Lake and Stonecoal Lake. Robin Clegg landed this impressive 50 1/2 inch fish at Stonewall Jackson Lake. In addition, excellent bass fishing is offered at tis lake, too. Try it out this season.

Photo courtesy of Backwater Bait in Newport, Ohio.

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Ask The Pro - Mike Wurm

Q & A with MIKE WURM

Q: Since turning pro, what fishing-related question have you been asked most often? How do you typically respond?

- OperationBass.com staff, Conn.

A: The one question that seems to come up most often is: "How do you approach all the different lakes and new locations and still catch fish?" This question often is asked by individuals who have fished most of the time on one lake and are now faced with traveling to other bodies of water.

The best answer I can think of is to try to first reduce the size of this new body of water so that you can cover a smaller area. Look at a map of the lake or river and choose a single creek arm or bay or maybe a bend of river or area of main bank to begin your trip. Being intimidated by the sheer size of some of

these lakes is easy to understand.

Next, after remembering the time of year, type of water (lake, river, etc.) and weather, approach the general location of fish accordingly. Try to fit the area to the style or kind of fishing that you like to do. You will be more confident and receptive to the information you discover as well as what is going on with the body of water in general.

And finally, take the information learned from that small segment of the lake (or river) and, looking at the maps, find other sections with the same characteristics and apply what you learned from the first area to the new area. Hopefully, a pat-



Darren Howell got a tremendous buck. Photo courtesy of Crooked Creek Archery in Williamstown.

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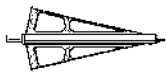
tern will emerge. If not, remember that eliminating stretches of water can also be very helpful for your future fishing experience.

Q: I'm overwhelmed with the number of spinnerbaits available on the market. What do the different sizes do differently and when should I use one over another?

- J. Fickbohm, Clearwater, Fla.

continue to the next page

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A: In regard to spinnerbaits, generally try to match the size of the spinnerbait, especially the blades, to the size of the baitfish. The blades present the flash and vibration to the fish and are usually the first the fish sees and relates to.

The three main styles - Colorado, Indiana and willow leaf - each have distinct vibrations and flash. Colorado and Indiana styles give the most vibration while the willow leaf presents the most flash. Colorado and Indiana blades are better used under conditions when the water is off-colored and stained or

muddy. The willow leaf is better in clear water.

The different weights of a spinnerbait not only relate to the size of the lure but also relate to how deep you need the lure to get down in the water. The smaller sizes, one-eighth and one-quarter ounce, are better suited for shallow water or for situations where the baitfish are small. The larger lures, three-eighths, one-half and three-quarter ounce, are for larger applications such as deeper water presentation and larger baitfish.

Spinnerbaits can be very effective from the surface to very deep water to fishing on the extreme bottom. The three-eighth and one-half ounce sizes are probably the most common because of the size and ease of casting. One thing to remember when fishing the spinnerbait is to vary the retrieve until the fish tell you which one is the right retrieve. A cast around any type of cover is usually better.

Q: I've been fishing southern California waters for several years without much luck. There's plenty of vegetation, but not much struc-

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ture. What can I do?
- Chris Baade, Rancho Santa Fe,
continue to the next page



Corry Vales hooked a 46 pound flathead. Photo courtesy of Riverside Bait & Tackle in Hockingport, OH.



Mike Meadows caught a big smallmouth. Photo courtesy of PC Bait & Tackle in Hinton.

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A: It's important to remember that vegetation, oftentimes, is the structure that bass are relating to. Many lakes and rivers throughout the country probably could use a little more vegetation; however, lakes with too much vegetation can also present some problems for anglers.

When fishing vegetation, or any type of structure, always watch for anything different or irregular. This could be a change of grass type, a point of vegetation, an open hole in the grass or especially an isolated clump or mass. It is usually these irregularities where the bass locate to ambush their prey. A point comprised of grass can be every bit as effective as a land point or point of rocks. Also take notice where two types of vegetation come together or a log or rock is situated within a grass bed. Both can be very effective areas.

Lures and presentations should be of the shallow variety. Topwater lures can be very effective in this situation. However, the easiest lure and one of the most reliable is probably the plastic worm. Texas-




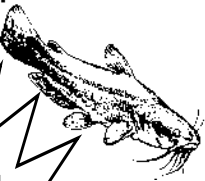

Derrick Taylor and Joe Hefner brought in a big Ohio River catfish. Photo courtesy of Backwater Bait in Newport, OH.

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rigged fishing works well here also because the components are extremely versatile in both color and use. Weedless spoons and spinnerbaits can be utilized to cover a lot of territory. Soft-body jerkbaits also can present a different profile to the fish.

Remember, always pay close attention to the next page

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ention to detail with each fish you catch and apply what you learn to catch another. When fishing vegetation, note exactly what type of vegetation, depth, location, point or hole, etc. and find other situations like that to catch other bass.

Q: I've been an avid bass angler for years and have become quite skilled at it. I'm thinking of hitting the tournament trail. What advice can you give me to make this transition?

- Bryan Sweet, Fairmont, Minn.

A: With professional bass fishing becoming more and more noticeable and visible on television and in other media, many individuals are beginning to think about tournaments. Making the transition from recreational fishing to tournaments can be very exciting and rewarding or very frustrating and costly.

If you are just beginning to fish tournaments, proceed in steps by first fishing local or weekly four-hour tournaments or their equivalent. Get a feel for fishing for a prescribed time and work on concentration and focus. There are many good team tournament series out there and pairing up with a friend with tournament experience helps a lot.

Proceed from the smaller tournaments to a more organized tournament trail, either draw or pro-am, with a championship at the end of the season so you can get used to accruing points and fishing more consistently. What should be happening now is that you will begin to gain more exposure to different types of water. Remember, fishing tournaments does not mean that you know it all. Keep learning every time you are on the water and also learn from every partner.

However, if you choose to begin fishing tournaments, do not forget

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to come up with a plan and a set of goals. This gives you a focus and a measuring stick for your success. And, one last thought: Always think positive, have confidence and believe in yourself.

Mike Wurm of Hot Springs, Ark., is a former medical technician turned professional fisherman. In 1998, he placed seventh in the Wal-Mart FLW Tour standings. His career is marked by three top-10 FLW tournament finishes, including a win at Lake Murray, S.C., in 1999. His FLW Tour sponsors include Coleman, Ranger Boats, and Stren fishing line.



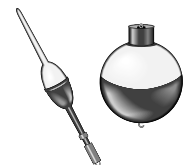
Kimberly Hoffman hooked a nice catfish. Photo courtesy of Riverside Bait & Tackle in Hockingport, OH.



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Isaac Cooley caught a 6 pound bass in Wood County.



Dave Starcher hooked a big largemouth in a private lake. Photo courtesy of Starcher's Sport Shop in Lubeck.



Freda Koehulein reeled in a big New York smallmouth. Photo courtesy of MAD Sporting Goods in Boaz.

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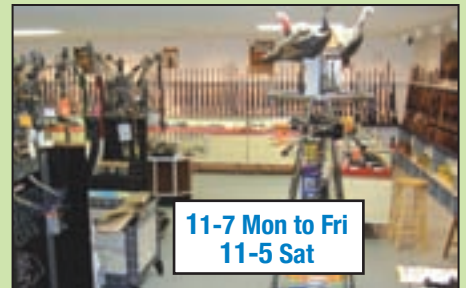
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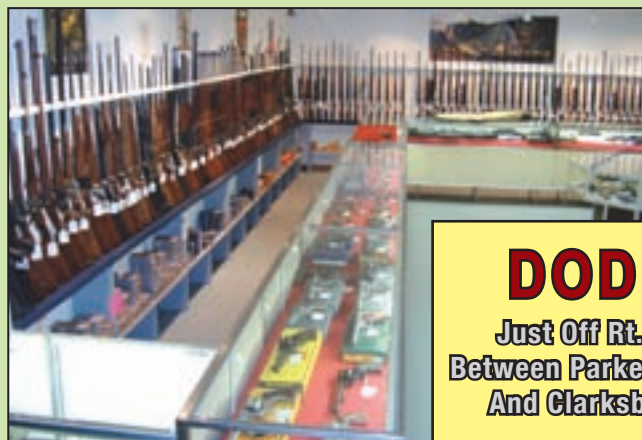
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An unusual 55" paddlefish was caught and released by Jon Bush.. Photo courtesy of Riverside Bait & Tackle in Hockingport, OH.



Andy Belt hooked two 20 pound plus flatheads.. Photo courtesy of Jarrett's Bait in Elizabeth.



Gary Bragg reeled in a 27" walleye. Photo courtesy of Waterfront Sporting Goods in Alderson.

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Jake Heflin hooked a 50 pound catfish. Photo courtesy of Family Fishing & Camping in Grafton.

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A decomposed musky was found at Stonewall Jackson Lake. The inside measurement of the mouth was nearly 10 inches. It more than likely would have been a state record.. Photo courtesy of Burnsville Docks in Burnsville.

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PITTSBURGH – At the 2005 Bassmaster Classic on the Three Rivers, pro Greg Hackney failed to catch a keeper bass in two days of competition. Four years later he arrived in Pittsburgh for the Forrest Wood Cup with a singular focus of targeting 12-inch fish. At the Classic, Hackney gambled on largemouths and came up empty-handed. This time around he fished for smallmouth bass, and the end result was a \$500,000 payday, the largest in his eight-year career.

Hackney began the four-day tournament in the Pittsburgh pool. On day one he limped in with just three bass weighing 3 pounds, 1 ounce. On day two he traveled through three locks, heading up the Allegheny River, and fished an area just below the dam. With perfect condi-

tions, he stunned the Mellon Arena crowd with an 11-pound, 12-ounce stringer, by far the heaviest of the entire championship event.

“My best day of practice was three pools up, but I wanted to lay off of it until I had to,” he said.


continue to the next page



Josh Lamp took this nice buck with a bow last season. Photo courtesy of Crooked Creek Archery in Williamstown




A nice smallmouth was caught at the dam. Photo courtesy of Amish Country Store in Marmet.



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This area had a mix of everything a river angler could want including drains, lay-downs, rocky banks and current seams. Flowing in from the east was the Kiskimintas River, and where the Kiski met the Allegheny was a perfect seam of clean and dirty water. With the heavy rains received early in the tournament, the water in the Allegheny had only a foot of clarity, whereas the Kiski still was offering 3 feet.

While the seams were a major part of his winning pattern, Hackney would cover water throughout the day – starting below the dam and venturing so far as a half-mile into the Kiski. On day two he actually sight-fished a smallmouth off a log in the Kiski.

As the Allegheny changed each day, so did Hackney's approach. It may sound like junk-fishing, but



Shawn Ramme hooked a big drum. Photo courtesy of Jarrett's Bait in Elizabeth.



Shannon McDade used a bow for this nice 8 point buck.



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there was some method to the madness.

"The fish were on a rock break behind the dam. On day two we finally got enough current where they pushed off the dam into the seams. My key bait that day was a 1/4-ounce Strike King spinnerbait in golden-shiner. The golden shiner seems to be a really good color for smallmouths."

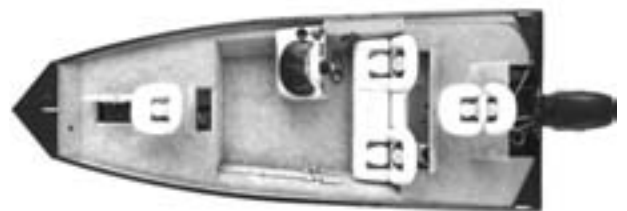
Hackney didn't just throw the 1/4-ounce spinnerbait. Round-

ing out his arsenal: an 1/8-ounce Aaron Martens Scrounger head jig with a 3-inch soft-plastic shad; an 1/8-ounce buzzbait; a 4-inch Ocho stick worm, which he rigged wacky; a jerkbait; a 4-inch Strike King 3X Finesse worm on a drop-shot; a Strike King Rodent (creature bait); and a 3/16-ounce Mini-King spinnerbait. On his reaction baits, he used 17-pound-test Cajun fluorocarbon line.

continue to the next page



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“All of my better fish today came off a hard break. This place had everything – current, mixing water and structure. And to sweeten the pot, there were mayflies in the overhanging trees. This all looked good, but it seemed wherever there was a hard bottom is where the better fish were. Where there was mud, there were short fish.”

To illustrate Hackney’s junk-fishing, consider this chain of events. While fishing a jerkbait under overhanging trees, Hackney hooked up with a small keeper. It came off, and the Gonzales, La., pro immediately threw out a drop-shot. The fish bit but came unbuttoned again, and Hackney subsequently pulled out a buzzbait. Amazingly, the aggressive smallmouth bit three times, and this time the pro winner got it in the boat.

In brutally tough conditions, Hackney calmly caught a 5-pound, 6-ounce limit Sunday, which brought his two-day total to 9 pounds, 9 ounces. The most nerve-wracking part of the week was day three when he caught his biggest fish with only five minutes remaining. Up until that fish, he felt his opportunity to win was slipping away.

Hackney won the Land O’Lakes Angler of the Year award on the FLW Tour in 2005. He also won the 2008 FLW Series East-West Fish-

continue to the next page

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Mr. Jamison reeled in a nice flathead catfish at Burnsville Lake. Photo courtesy of Burnsville Docks in Burnsville.

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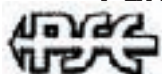
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Off on Falcon Lake, which earned him his Forrest Wood Cup berth.

“This is the best day of my professional life. It’s been awhile since I won Angler of the Year, and at the time I thought that was the best (accomplishment). Now I don’t know. This is one of those deals where it takes awhile to sink in. This is not about the money though – it never has been.”

Hackney then pointed to the Cup and said, “That’s what it’s all about.”

Iaconelli comes up ounces short

Michael Iaconelli had the winning fish stuck twice at the 2005 Classic on the Three Rivers. Ironically, he also had the winning fish stuck twice at the 2009 Forrest

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Wood Cup. Together, those missed fish have cost Iaconelli somewhere in the neighborhood of \$600,000. The difference between 2005 and this year is that Iaconelli lost the winning fish on day three this time out, not the final day.

On day four he caught a limit weighing 4 pounds, 10 ounces, continue to the next page



In memory of Cody Priestly. He caught this big catfish. *Photo courtesy of Catsih Cove in Hurricane.*



Terry Martin reeled in this NY smallmouth. *Photo courtesy of MAD Sporting Goods in Boaz.*

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and on day three he caught only four that went 4-12. Yesterday he lost two small fish, but fish that would have met the minimum 12-inch length requirement. While they only would have weighed 11 or 12 ounces, they would have easily made up the 3-ounce difference between Iaconelli and his fellow BASS Elite Series pro Hackney.

“That was worth \$400,000, and it makes me sick,” he said.

While Iaconelli agonized over that missed opportunity, he acknowledged that, for the most part, he fished a clean tournament. He started the event two locks up in the Allegheny. He switched to the Ohio during the final round in an effort to target less-pressured fish.

“The first two days my key baits were a Jackall jerkbait and a Berkley Gulp Alive Minnow on a drop-shot. The last two days the best



Carl Frye, from Moundsville, caught several crappie.

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bait was a green-pumpkin 5-inch Gulp Sinking Minnow. I would cut off about a half-inch, make a blunt end and put it on a 1/4-ounce Ikey Head jig.”

The 2003 Bassmaster Angler of the Year fished these lures primarily on 10-pound Trilene 100% Fluorocarbon line. Of all the pro finalists, he probably had the steadiest pattern.

“I basically ran around and tried to fish 100 eddies a day. I would cast upstream and bounce the bait over rocks. Anywhere where there was a backswirl, I stopped and fished it. The current was heavy in the Ohio, so the bait had to be bulky for the fish to be able to find it.”

For nine bass over two days that weighed 9 pounds, 6 ounces, the Runnemedede, N.J., pro earned \$100,000. He noted that the two Pittsburgh events are the toughest

tournaments in which he’s ever competed.

“It was just a grind, and I was mentally prepared for that coming in.”

Iaconelli’s journey that began at the Lake Champlain Stren Series tournament last July ended by the slimmest margin of defeat in Forrest Wood Cup history. Iaconelli fans will want to know that his popular “City Limits Fishing” show on the VERSUS network will be filming in Pittsburgh at the end of August.

“I don’t think I’ve ever felt this
continue to the next page



Derrick Shott used a bow for this buck. Photo courtesy of Crooked Creek Archery in Williamstown.

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Meyer third

While it's surprising to see no full-time Walmart FLW Tour pros in the top three, it isn't surprising to see a young Western angler do well at the Forrest Wood Cup. This year Cody Meyer did his best impersonation of Brent Ehrler and Michael Bennett, finishing with a two-day total of 7 pounds, 15 ounces worth \$75,000.

Meyer fished a drop-shot with a 4-inch Jackall Crosstail shad and an 1/8-ounce Mass Menu jig and 4-inch single-tail Yamamoto grub. The drop-shot was effective early in the tournament, but the grub caught most of the fish the last two days. Tied on to these baits was 8-pound Trilene 100% Fluorocarbon line.

Meyer's primary area was located three locks up the Allegheny, just behind the two islands. He skipped his baits along the rocky bank, focusing on shady, overhanging trees. On day one he fished in the Monongahela.

"I would pitch the grub up under the shade lines and then bring it back down to about 6 feet," said the

26-year-old from Redding, Calif.

Although he caught 40 bass Sunday, only three were keepers.

"I had more bites today than I had all week, but I knew I had to get a limit to win. To me, it's more fun to fish a tough tournament like this than a slugfest. A keeper means so much."

This is Meyer's fifth top-10 finish of the season. His previous four came in the Stren Series Western Division and the FLW Series National Guard Western Division. His next tournament is a Walmart FLW Series tilt at the California Delta the third week in September.



Jake Torisva shot his 1st buck. Photo courtesy of Justins Hunting & Fishing in Huntington.



Pat O'Conner hooked a big trout. Photo courtesy of Amish Country Store in Marmet.



Dakota Miller & Avery Berga like to fish. Photo courtesy of Backwater Bait in Newport, OH.

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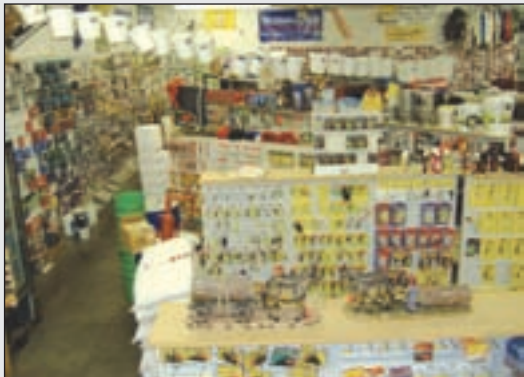
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Carol Wigal & Ron Abbott have two turtles that weigh 28 and 29 pounds. *Photo courtesy of Starcher's Sport Shop in Lubeck.*



Jeanne Hughes hooked a 21 1/2" bass at a private lake. *Photo courtesy of Starcher's Sport Shop in Lubeck.*

**Mail In Your BIG FISH Pictures
From The 2009 Season.
Form Is On Page 38**



Wyatt Smith caught a nice large-mouth bass. *Photo courtesy of Starcher's Sport Shop in Lubeck.*

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Eric McCumbers caught a nice smallmouth bass. Photo courtesy of Parson's One Stop in Grantsville.



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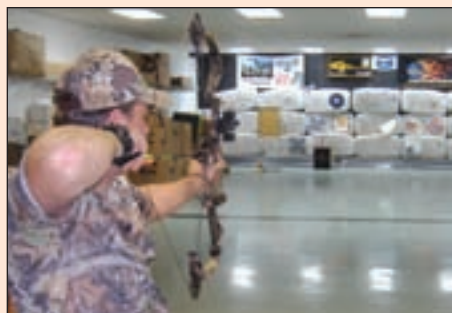
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Neva Thompson hooked a big crappie. Photo courtesy of Burnsville Docks in Burnsville.



Young Dalton Beaver caught a 38 pound catfish. Photo courtesy of Backwater Bait in Newport, OH.



A nice 41" musky was caught. Photo courtesy of Crossroads General Store near Newark.

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Bassmaster Classic Chance

The Bass Master Classic is to bass fishing what the Daytona 500 is to Nascar race fans. Simply put, it is huge, and in being the showcase event in bass fishing, it is anxiously awaited, and viewed by millions of avid fishermen all waiting to see who is the newest addition to the Bass Master Classic trophy! To make it to the Classic is a life long dream of every competitive bass fisherman, and why not?

To be invited to compete in the

By Mark A. Garner

Bass Master Classic means that your have reached the zenith of bass fishing, and win or lose, your fishing career is certainly on the fast track.

This year, the Classic was held on the Red River in the bass rich waters of Louisiana, and was won by elite series pro Skeet Reese of California. Skeet caught over 54 pounds of bass over the three days

continue to the next page

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Marcus Forren caught a nice musky this spring. Photo courtesy of Waterfront Sporting Goods in Alderson.



Ed Hupp hooked a New York smallmouth. Photo courtesy of MAD Sporting Goods in Boaz.

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of competition to edge out another well known angler by the name of Mike Iconelli, who also has a Classic win to his credit.

Aside from the big guns that did well in the Classic, I was pleased to see that for the second year in a row, a Federation Nation angler made it to the final day of competition, and almost put himself in a position to win! This is huge!, and should serve notice to all amateur bass fishermen that for in two years in a row, both Federation Nation members have proven that they have what it takes to compete on a national level. In addition to serving notice that the talent level in the Federation nation ranks is high, it also states that fishermen can start out fishing at a local club, and through a series of tournaments, find themselves heading to the Classic!

Last spring, at the Morgantown hunting and fishing show, as I was

talking to fellow fishermen, I overheard a fellow fisherman inquire as to how a Federation Nation angler made it to the classic, and if it was possible for him to someday make it to the classic. Not wanting to let a good opportunity slip by, I asked the fisherman if he belong to a WV Bass Federation Nation club. He responded that he did, and fished the buddy trail. I told him that all he needed to do is to qualify for the state championship tournament, and if he did that, and finished in

continue to the next page



Carlos Taylor, from Robson, caught a 20 inch rainbow trout.



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An 18 pound, 10 oz. walleye was caught at the Elk River. *Photo courtesy of Johnson's Sporting Goods in Summersville.*

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SUPPLIES**



the top 12 positions, then he had accomplished the first step in getting on the road to the classic. I went on to explain the in order to make it all of the way to the classic, that he would have to fish two more qualifying event, and in the end, if he was the highest finisher from our region, then his ticket was punched to compete in the Bass Master Classic!

After our talk, he said, "Boy, would that be a hoot", and I agreed, it would! As I thought about our conversation, I realized how important our organization truly is. I know that for most fishermen, the dream of going to the classic is just that, a dream, and they really just want to fish their club tournaments, and local events. Most of the guys I know feel this way. They just want to join a local club, and fish local tournaments, and have fun competing against their fellow club members for bragging rights on a given day. For the most part, I am

also that guy. I love to meet our club members at Cheat, or Tygart Lake for a club tournament, and compete against them, but also to share the day with them, and win, lose or draw, we enjoy each other company and camaraderie on the water.

That is what the grass roots level of BASS is all about! It is about fishing club tournaments, and teaching others about the sport while having friendly competition. It's also about promoting good sportsmanship, and ethics, and teaching these aspects of fishing to youth programs in our organizations.



Jerry Myers landed and released this musky. *Photo courtesy of JM Outdoors in Buckhannon.*



Owen McClelland hooked a 19 1/2" smallmouth bass. *Photocourtesy of Three Rivers Edge in Hinton.*

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Bass Have Hearing & Senses

In water, sound is transmitted as waves of changing water pressure. Thus, a perfectly silent step on the bottom of a carpeted boat can make a sound (a pressure wave) that is "heard" by a bass.

Your boat is constantly acting as an underwater, sound transmitting antenna, and it is amazing how well a bass can hear what is going on in a boat.

Much to our benefit, not all the things bass hear spook them.

Bass hear through four separate organs, two inner ears and two lateral lines. A bass's sense of hearing is much better than man's, and water transmits sounds five times better than does air. Never doubt that a bass can hear the noises you make in your boat. But we need to differentiate between two entirely different types of fisherman sound.

Two fishermen talking are making sounds in the air that might bother other fisherman, but their talk will not bother the bass. Why? because air sounds are poorly coupled into water through the air/water interface.

Sounds that occur entirely in the air seldom spook fish

On the other hand, sounds made by striking the boat are transmitted extremely efficiently into the water

and often spook fish, even quiet events that go unnoticed by boat occupants.

Digging around in a tackle box, opening and closing rod box lids, dropping pliers on the floor, and the like, are all sounds that alert bass to your presence.

These are also sounds that may or may not spook the fish depending on how deep they are, how wary they are and what types of sounds they have become accustomed to.

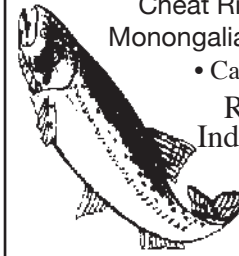
The shallower the fish, the more apt they are to spook from a sound. A lot of fishermen catch fewer shall-



Ron Cunnigham hooked a 21" rainbow trout. *Photo courtesy of Cheat Trout Trips in Independence.*

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low bass than they should because of noises made in the boat.

continue to the next page



Janet Taylor, from Robson, caught 2 smallmouth bass.

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Therefore, when approaching a shallow fishing area, you should shut down the big motor about 100 feet from your fishing spot. Then get organized; do all the digging that needs to be done in tackle or rod boxes. And finally when you are ready to be quiet and start fishing use a low setting on the trolling motor to close the final 100 feet.

Trolling motors do not spook bass, but they can certainly hear them. And pressured bass have learned that trolling motor sounds mean there are fishermen nearby. Experience has taught us that a trolling motor does not spook a bass, but more recently we have learned that trolling motors tend to alert the bass to our presence. Therefore we try to keep our trolling motors on lows and we pulse them as little as possible.

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3. Pull the tag end to form a snug knot tight around the line.



4. Use the loose end of the overlapped line to tie another Uni-Knot as shown above and pull snug.

5. Pull the two standing lines in opposite directions to slide the knots together. Pull as tightly as possible and snip ends close to nearest coil.

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Rachael Gant caught a largemouth bu Belleville Dam. *Photo courtesy of Starcher's Sport Shop in Lubeck.*



Matt Stoddard hooked a 20" small-mouth bass. *Photo courtesy of Three Rivers Edge in Hinton.*



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Hope Britton landed a nice 32" Ohio River catfish. Photo courtesy of Riverside Bait in Hockingport, OH.



A nice rainbow trout was caught earlier this season. Photo courtesy of Amish Country Store in Marmet.



Dillon Shumates hooked a 28" hybrid bass. Photo courtesy of Jarrett's Bait in Elizabeth.

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Tylor Plumley hooked a 31 pound flathead catfish at this popular pay lake.
 Photo courtesy of Catfish Cove in Hurricane.

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 FISH PHOTOS
 Info Is On
 Page 38**

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**Details On Page 3
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Yong Dalton Law shot a gobbler. Photo courtesy of Willie's Sport Shop in Glenville.



YoungBrayden Cutler hooked a 34 pound catfish. Photo courtesy of Family Fishing & Camping in Grafton.

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Pictures - Form On
Page 38**

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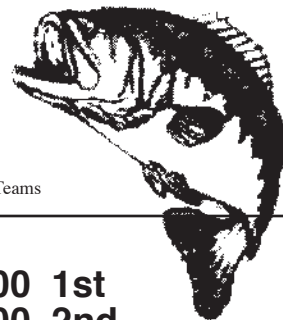
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Catfish Bait Tip

Most Fisherman have their on catfish bait list like, chicken twivers, various cut baits and other common catfish baits that are widely used. Now don't get me wrong, these are good. But are they the best type to use in order to catch the big one?

First, let's look at the type and size of catfish bait you may use. For small catfish, use small catfish bait such as tiny shrimp soaked overnight in oyster oil. This is one of the best catfish baits you can ever use because of the shrimps texture it will stay on the hook for longer periods of time. You can find tiny or small cooked shrimp at most grocery stores in the frozen fish section.

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Now for my next catfish bait secret: You will need a zip lock sandwich bag, (1) or (2) packages of raw hotdogs any type cut into (1) inch lengths. Get (4) cans of tuna in oil, place the cut hotdogs in your zip lock bag, open the can tuna then drain the oil onto the hotdogs, then seal the bag. Place the bag into the refrigerator over night. The next day you're ready to go fishing. Remember you didn't use the tuna

fish just the oil. Well make some tuna sandwiches to take along on your trip, it's a good snack.

Now that you know what to use lets discuss time. You should continue to the next page



Kevin Adkins landed a 45 pound catfish at this pay lake. Photo courtesy of Catfish Cove in Hurricane.



Rodney Brown hooked a 38" catfish. Photo courtesy of Riverside Bait & Tackle in Hockingport, OH.

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change your catfish bait about every five minutes. This is important because of the waters current. With the water moving chances are your catfish bait won't hold its scent pass (5) five minutes. So be patient and change your catfish bait.

If you really want to catch over your limit try biscuit dough dipped in vanilla extract and air dried for (1) hour. Make sure you let it stand (1) hour as this will insure the catfish bait absorbs the vanilla thoroughly. Use the dough as draw catfish bait. Just throw a hand full of favored dough into water and hold on to your rod. Catfish go crazy for this bait.

The key here is (Bait Scent) catfish are smell sensitive fish, they smell their prey more than they hunt by sight for their prey. Your catfish bait must have a scent the stronger the better!



Elizabeth Gordon caught some channel catfish. *Photo courtesy of Crossroads General Store near Newark.*

Trophy Fish Display

Just how big are the fish in West Virginia? If you've ever seen the trophy fish display at West Virginia's National Hunting and Fishing Day event, you'd know there are some real monsters swimming in Mountain State waters. The West Virginia Wildlife Federation and the West Virginia Division of Natural Resources are currently seeking anglers who own trophy fish legally caught from West Virginia waters.

This will be the third year that a West Virginia trophy fish display of mounted specimens has been exhibited in conjunction with West Virginia's Celebration of National Hunting and Fishing Day, and each year the display has added a tremendous attraction to the event. This year's event is September 26 - 27, 2009, at Stonewall Resort State Park near Weston in Lewis County.

Interested anglers who have qualifying fish mounts should contact Kevin Yokum at 304-924-6211 between 9 a.m. and 4 p.m. or kevin yokum@wvdnr.gov, for additional information or a registration form. This information can also be found on the West Virginia DNR Web site at www.wvdnr.gov. Look under "Special Opportunities, National Hunting & Fishing Days."

Participation will be limited to 25

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



Dan McFee has a mess of catfish.. *Photo courtesy of Jarrett's Bait in Elizabeth.*

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Hunting Season Changes

Several important changes in the state's fall hunting seasons for white-tailed deer and black bear are included in the new 2009-2010 West Virginia Hunting and Trapping Regulations Summary brochure, according to Division of Natural Resources Director Frank Jezioro. The publication is now available at all West Virginia hunting and fishing license agents, DNR District Offices, Elkins Operation Center and South Charleston Headquarters

Hunters and trappers are encouraged to carefully review these

regulations due to the numerous changes in hunting seasons, especially for deer and bear hunting, which will be in place this fall. The 2009-2010 West Virginia Hunting and Trapping Regulations Summary is also available online at www.wvdnr.gov.

Black bear hunting seasons are less liberal than last year with only four counties open September 21-26; five counties open November 23 - December 5 during the Buck Season, and 44 counties open December 7-31. The daily bag and season limit is one bear this year.

There will be a one-week Special Antlerless Deer Archery Season on private land only in selected counties September 14-19, 2009. Hunters may kill one additional antlerless deer that must be checked on a Class RB or Class RRB stamp.

There will be a one-week Special Antlerless Deer Muzzleloader Season on private land only in selected counties September 21-26, 2009. Hunters make kill one additional antlerless deer that must be checked on a Class RM or Class RRM stamp.



Joe Parcell, form WInfield, hooked a 45 pound flathead catfish..

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John Jansinko hooked a 32 1/2" striped bass. Photo courtesy of Three Rivers Edge in Hinton.



David Marple caught a nice blue. Photo courtesy of Family Fishing & Camping in Grafton.

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Trial Date Set In Shooting Case

The Pennsylvania man charged in the April 27 shooting death of Lewis County hunter Shawn Stewart has been arraigned in the circuit court of Lewis County and will face trial beginning October 30.

After a non-stop investigation by West Virginia Division of Natural Resources conservation officers and the Weston Detachment of the West Virginia State Police, Robert L. Tobias, 59, of Millersburg, Pa., was identified as a suspect in the case. Tobias was indicted by the Lewis County Grand Jury on July 14 on charges of wanton endangerment, negligent shooting, failure to render aid, and involuntary manslaughter. Lewis County Conservation Officer Mike Spangler and State Police Cpl. D.L. Cayton appeared before the grand jury and offered testimony that led grand jurors to determine that there was enough evidence to try Tobias in connection with Stewart's death.

Tobias was arraigned on the charges July 17 and was released after posting \$30,000 cash bond and a \$20,000 personal recognizance bond on the charges. A trial date of October 30 has been set before Lewis County Circuit Judge Thomas Keadle. A special prosecutor from Kanawha County will be assigned to present the state's evidence in the case.



Junior Rooker caught a 42" New River musky. Photo courtesy of Waterfront Sporting Goods in Alderson.

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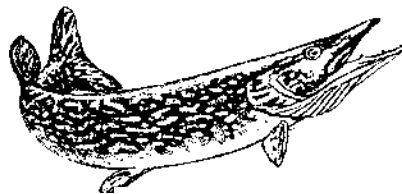
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