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Vol. 1 Issue 180

July 2008



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Cover Photo

Fishing at Stonewall Jackson Lake in Weston, Jason Zirkle-caught and released this large bass. This 2,650 acre lake gives anglers the opportunity to catch very large bass. Try it this year.

Tim Truman, from Elk River Outfitters in Mink Shoals, caught and released a 16 pound large-mouth bass (29") that would have been a state record. *Photo courtesy of Middle Mountain Sporting Goods in Elkins.*

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Fishing Line Basics

Most lines used in bass fishing are nylon monofilaments, although co-filament, braided and "fused" lines such as "Fireline" are becoming more popular. Buy only "premium" fishing line, which is more uniform and durable. Fishing line can be matched to conditions according to the following criteria:

Strength

This is measured in pounds of force required to break the line. Most lines break at a much higher "pound test" than their labels state. "World-record" lines are deigned to break at or just below the labeled pound test.

Abrasion Resistance

For fishing around cover such as rocks or brush, use a line that will not break easily when it is rubbed against the cover.

Diameter

Line diameter affects castabil-

ity, running depths of your lures, stretch and visibility. Thinner lines are harder for fish to see, and they impart a more lifelike action to certain lures such as crankbaits and grubs. Thicker lines are more resistant to abrasion.

Stretch

Lines that stretch somewhat are more "forgiving" and do not break as easily when a fish pulls against them. Low-stretch lines aid in detecting strikes and setting hooks.

Stiffness

This quality is closely related to line stretch. A stiff line generally is harder to cast than a flexible line, but it often is more sensitive and

continue to the next page

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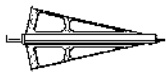
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Junior Johnson hooked a bass. Photo courtesy of Three Rivers Edge in Hinton.

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**Game
Check**



Lindsey Goddard, with sister Mackenzi, caught a largemouth.

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abrasion resistant.

Visibility

In clear water, it is important to have line that is not very visible to fish. But when fishing lures on which strikes are likely to be subtle--such as jigs, worms, and grubs--a fluorescent, highly visible line makes it easier to detect line movement that may indicate a strike.

Tips on Lines

- Store line in a dark place under moderate temperatures.
- Do not expose line to chemicals such as gasoline, which may cause it to deteriorate.
- While fishing, check frequently for nicks and abrasion by running the last several feet of line between your thumb and fingers.
- Clip off several inches of line and retie to the lure frequently, especially when fishing heavy cover or catching fish.
- If a knot forms in the line, clip off the line above the knot and discard the line.
- Replace the line on each reel when it shows signs of wear. (Buying line in bulk spools will avoid waste of excess line left on "filler" spools.)
- Some use Spiderwire Fusion 12 pound test, and love it. The line is actually only 8 pound test size, so I




Young Ben Masters landed two bass. Photo courtesy of Backwater Bait in Newport, Ohio.



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get that bonus 4 pounds without the added thickness. Also, people love the sensitivity of the line and feel every bite..

- Use P-Line CXX. It is stronger, more abrasion resistant, and has a higher knot strength than any other line going. Try it, you won't be sorry.

continue to the next page

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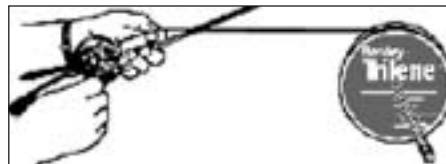
get that bonus 4 pounds without the added thickness. Also, I love the sensitivity of the line. I feel every bite.

- Use P-Line CXX. It is stronger, more abrasion resistant, and has a higher knot strength than any other line going. Try it, you won't be sorry.

How to Spool Line Onto Reels Baitcasting:

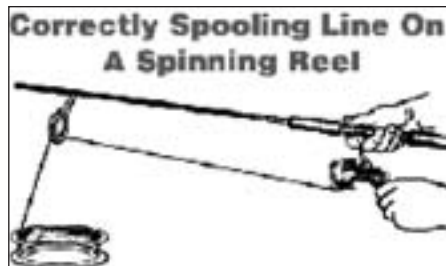
Run line through the rod guides and the level-wind device on the reel, then attach to the reel spool with an arbor knot. The line spool should turn as line is fed onto the reel. Hang the line spool vertically on a nail or insert a pencil through the hole in the center of the spool and have someone hold the pencil as line is wound off the spool and onto the reel. Or drop the line spool into water, it will float and the spool will turn as line is wound onto the reel. Add tension to the line by squeezing it between the thumb and a finger as you wind it onto the reel. Fill the reel to within 1/8 inch

of the lip of the spool.



Spinning & Spincast:

Since the reel spool does not rotate, the line spool should not rotate either. Lay the line spool flat on the floor with the label side pointing up. Uncoil line from the line spool and run it through the rod guides and tie to the reel spool with an arbor knot. Add tension to the line with the thumb and a finger as you wind it onto the reel. After 10 or 15 turns of the reel handle, lower the tip to give slack to the line. If the line lays in relatively neat coils, continue filling the reel. If it twists or kinks, turn the line spool over and wind on line. Fill the reel to within 1/8 inch of the lip of the spool.



Tom Bishop hooked a 15" crappie. Photo courtesy of Riverside Bait in Hockingport, Ohio.

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Mike Moses, from Lost Creek, took a nice 8 point with a bow.

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Deer Applications

Applications for the 2008 Antlerless Deer Season are now available at all West Virginia hunting and fishing license agents, Division of Natural Resources (DNR) District Offices, Elkins Operations Center and Charleston Headquarters, according to Curtis I. Taylor, Chief of the DNR's Wildlife Resources Section. These applications may also be downloaded from the DNR's Web page at www.wvdnr.gov. These limited permit areas provide antlerless deer hunting opportunities in areas of the state where wildlife biologists have determined that limited numbers of antlerless deer permits are necessary to meet management objectives.

Six Wildlife Management Areas (WMAs) will have a limited number of Class N licenses for resident antlerless deer hunting from November 26 through December 13 and December 24 through December 27. Applications must be received by the DNR before the close of business on August 23,



Phil Cosner hooked a big catfish. Photo courtesy of Family Fishing in Graf-ton.

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2008. The 2008 limited resident antlerless deer season will provide an opportunity for 650 residents to participate on the six WMAs.

For complete information on antlerless deer season dates and bag limits, consult the 2008-2009 Hunting and Trapping Regulations Summary, which is available at West Virginia hunting and fishing license agents, DNR offices and online at www.wvdnr.gov.



Travis Godfrey hunted in Texas for this buck..

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Gary Webb hooked 2 big hybrids.
Photo courtesy of Grandpa's General Store in Hinton.



TC Freeman caught a 5 pound smallmouth. *Photo courtesy of Waterfront Sporting Goods in Alderson.*



Rick Beaver, from Sistersville, landed a 27 pound catfish.

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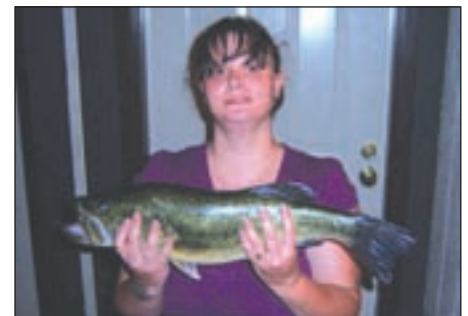
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Aly Blankenship caught some catfish at O'Brian Lake.



Adam Williams, from Bolt, took an 8 point with a gun.

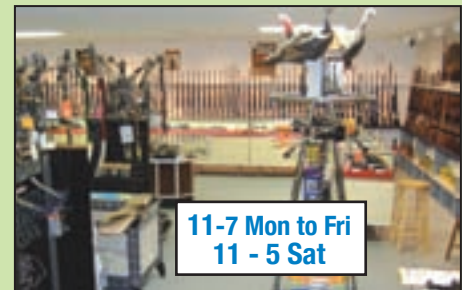


Debra Moran, from Dellslow, got a 4 pound Cheat Lake bass.

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Tim Barnes hooked a big Stone-wall Jackson bass. *Photo courtesy of Wright's Riverside Marine.*



Jeremy Hescht went to Stonewall Jackson for this bass. *Photo courtesy of Backwater Bait in Newport, Ohio.*



Joe Young landed a nice brown trout. *Photo courtesy of Stacher's Sport Shop in Lubeck.*

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A 20 pound striper was caught by Christina Trippet on a trip. *Photo courtesy of Jarrett's Bait in Elizabeth.*

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Young Eric Gilbert bagged a youth day gobbler. *Photo courtesy of Boone's Bow Shop in Parkersburg.*



Leon Hardman hooked a big rainbow trout. *Photo courtesy of Middle Mountain Sporting Goods in Elkins.*

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Playing The 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
 continue to the next page

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Rob Hickman shot a huge 24 1/8 pound gobbler. *Photo courtesy of Jarrett's Bait in Elizabeth.*



Young Dakota Miller hooked a smallmouth bass. *Photo courtesy of Backwater Bait in Newport, Ohio.*



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technique. Upon feeling the strike, 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 slippage. 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



Danile McFee hooked a nice musky and some bass. *Photo courtesy of Jarrett's Bait in Elizabeth.*



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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.

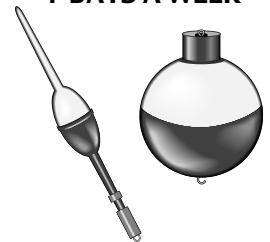
Landing a Fish

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

continue to the next page

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Lip-Landing Method

1. When the fish is ready to come in, use the rod to draw it close to the boat. Do not reel up a lot of line. The rod's spring action will act as a shock absorber should the fish decide to make one last run at the boat.

2. Draw the rod back over one shoulder and extend your arm. Maintain pressure on your line. Slowly pull the bass toward your grasp.

3. Carefully press your thumb against the tip of the jaws if the mouth is shut. This will cause it to open. Then firmly clench the lower jaw between thumb and forefinger.

4. On a big bass, wait one second. Put down your rod and use your other hand to grasp the jaw also.

5. Lift the bass aboard.

Net Method

Many bass are lost at the landing net. Net your fish carefully but remember that landing nets will damage the scales, fins and slime coating of a bass.

1. Bring the bass alongside the boat.

2. Put the net into the water, making sure the netting is not tangled.

3. Draw the fish toward the net; the fish will usually swim into it.

4. Scoop the fish up, using a single, smooth motion. Don't try to net the bass downward and do not swipe at a bass that is not ready to come

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Preventing Problems

• Remember, the harder you fight, the harder the fish fights. Once you pull him from the cover, let up and let the bass tire out before bringing him to the boat.

• If a bass swims under the boat, extend your arms as far as they will go with rod in hand, thereby giving you extra leverage. Maintain pressure and you can usually draw the fish out into the open again. Avoid hitting the trolling motor start button while the bass is under the boat, you can cut your line.

• Don't fight or pull the fish in the

continue to the next page



Steve Soulsby and friend caught a couple of 30 pound + catfish. Photo courtesy of River-Side Bait in Hockingport, Ohio.



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opposite direction it's heading. Turn him by guiding his head.

- Don't panic. Use the tools at hand: your rod, reel, line and brain. Horsing a big fish to the boat usually means losing it.

- Don't try to pull a bass out that's buried in weeds or other heavy cover. You'll usually tear out or straighten the hook. It's wiser to move toward the bass with the boat.

- Long rods are an asset when playing a big fish. They provide more shock-absorbing power, move more line when setting the hook and give you more control over the bass.

- Even a professional fisherman loses some fish. Learn from your mistakes, but don't let them ruin your fishing trip.

- Whatever you do when landing the bass, DO NOT grab the line, especially on a big fish. I have lost a 6 pound largemouth and a 4 pound smallmouth in the last year, because I did not have the patience to wait until the time was right to lip the bass. It is a hard habit to break, but it is worth the effort. -- Joe

- When fishing early in the morning, try using a Yellow Sally on the weed beds and work it fast. I have found this produces a lot of strikes and usually bigger fish. Other popular morning lures are buzzbaits and surface plugs like the Rapala or A.C. Shiner. Other people choose a TIny Torpedo which seems to do real well on rivers like the New or Greenbrier,

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Invasive Algae Problem

The invasive algae known as Didymo have been found in the Elk River in the Webster Springs area, according to Bret Preston, Assistant Chief, West Virginia Division of Natural Resources Wildlife Resources Section. Following reports from anglers that heavy algal mats were seen in the Elk River, DNR staff collected samples

from three locations near Webster Springs. The samples were sent to the Maryland Department of Natural Resources for confirmation. All three samples contained Didymo.

Didymo is a common name for Didymosphenia geminata, a freshwater diatom species that can form extensive mats on stream beds. The thick mats can cover native algae and aquatic insects, and make fishing very difficult. These thick mats appear slimy, but feel more like cotton or wool fabric. The algal mats are also called "rock snot" and can be white, yellow or brown in color. The algae form stalks that attach to rocks. While the algae eventually die and break off, the stalks persist and may impact stream habitats and aquatic organisms for weeks or months.

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Young Brett Reed, from Buckhannon, caught a 27 pound carp.

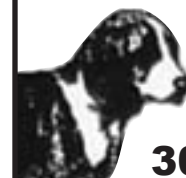
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Didymo is native to the northern latitudes of North America, Europe and Asia. Its range has expanded and it now can be found in rivers in the western United States and more recently in Maryland, New York, New Hampshire, Pennsylvania and Vermont. It has also been found in three western Virginia rivers (Jackson, Pound and Smith). "In West Virginia, the DNR will work with other state and federal agencies, and anglers to monitor Didymo in the Elk River and other locations," said Preston.

This range expansion is largely attributed to anglers and boaters. Didymo can be attached to waders, paddles and boats. Felt-soled boots and waders are likely the worst culprit in the spread of these algae. The porous material stays damp and the



Gary Bragg shot a 20 pound turkey. Photo courtesy of Waterfront Sporting Goods in Alderson.

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algae cells can remain alive in the damp felt bottoms. "We encourage anglers to take precautions against moving Didymo and other potential invasive species from one waterbody to another," said Preston. While anglers and boaters may be responsible for the introduction of some unwanted species, they also are the most important line of defense in minimizing the spread of

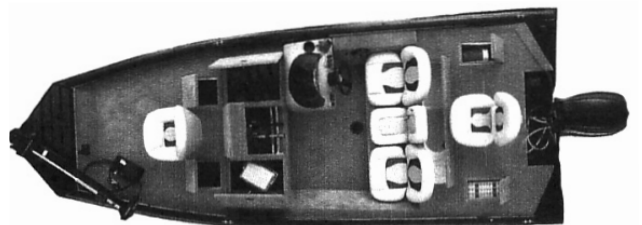
aquatic invasive species by following a few simple steps.

- Before leaving a stream, scrub mud and debris off of boots and fishing gear.
- Disinfect boots and equipment by scrubbing or soaking in 5 percent salt solution (2 cups of salt in 2.5 gallons of water) for one minute and then let dry completely. You

continue to the next page



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may also scrub equipment with dishwashing detergent and rinse well.

- Allowing equipment to completely dry for at least 48 hours will also kill Didymo, but realize that felt bottoms of boots may require longer drying times.
- Soak items in very hot water (140° F).

Anglers are encouraged to report unusual algal mats that may be Didymo to DNR district offices and the Elkins and Charleston offices.



92 years old Chuck Om caught a catfish. *Photo courtesy of Family Fishing in Grafton.*

Women In The Outdoors Event

It's time to register for the fifth annual Women in the Outdoors Event to be held at Kanawha State Forest on July 26, according to Frank Jezioro, Director of the West Virginia Division of Natural Resources.

"The focus of the event is to provide women an opportunity to learn outdoor activities with a hands-on experience," Jezioro said. "Although women make up half the population in West Virginia, they make up a much smaller percentage of those who take the time enjoy outdoor activities."

During this one day event, which is being co-sponsored by the National Wild Turkey Federation's Women in the Outdoors program, women will have the opportunity to participate in four 90 minute classes throughout the day: archery, birding, biking, camping, first aid, fishing, fly tying, outdoor cooking, outdoor crafts, outdoor survival, shooting, stream ecology, talkin' turkey, and what's in the woods.

If you've ever wanted to learn an

outdoor skill, but were unsure of the equipment needed or what's all involved, this field day is a wonderful opportunity to explore these areas. Experienced volunteer instructors will provide hands-on training throughout the day. In addition, women participating in the event will be eligible for door prizes, various raffles, and a silent auction that will include various items such as wildlife prints, sculptures and quilts.

A registration fee of \$40 (if post-marked by June 1) or \$45 is required to cover the cost of training, materials, lunch, one year subscription to the Women in the Outdoors Magazine, and a gift. Ages 14-17 must attend with a parent or legal guardian.

For more information concerning this event or to register, visit the DNR's Web site at www.wvdnr.gov, call 304-558-2771 or e-mail billieshearer@wvdnr.gov.

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Brad Workman took a bird with a 10" beard. Photo courtesy of Crossroads General Store near Newark.



Dave Starcher hooked a big large-mouth. Photo courtesy of Three Rivers Edge in Hinton.

**Mail In Your BIG FISH Pictures
From The 2008 Season.
Form Is On Page 38**

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Austin Brown, from Belva, had success during deer season with this Fayette County 10 point buck.



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Pete Kellar, from Creston, caught and released a 48" musky.



Hunting in Wyoming County with a bow, Patrick Toler took this buck.



Eddie Rudisill caught 2 nice New River walleye. Photo courtesy Water-front Sporting Goods in Alderson.

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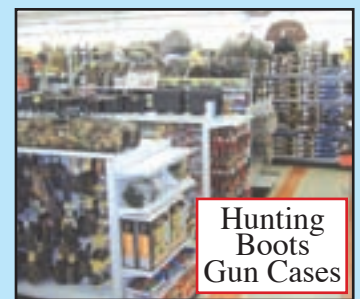


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Reel Chat - David Dudley

Welcome to FLW Live Reel Chat. Today we're joined by FLW Tour pro David Dudley of Lynchburg, Va. With over \$2.3 million in earnings over the course of his FLW Outdoors career, Dudley is one of the true giants of the FLW Tour. As the all-time leading money winner, the "Manteo Machine" boasts 25 top-10 finishes as well as five major victories (2008 FLW Tour at Fort Loudoun, 2007 FLW Series at Lake Okeechobee, 2003 FLW Tour event on the James River, 2003 Stren victory at Lake Vermillion and the 2002 Ranger M1 event



AJ Rhodes and Shawn Ramme caught a gar and a carp. *Photo courtesy of Jarrett's Bait in Elizabeth.*

at the Mobile Delta) at FLW Outdoors-related events.

- MODERATOR COMMENT -

Currently, Dudley is ranked fifth overall in the 2008 FLW Tour Angler of the Year race with just one regular-season Tour event remaining. Today, David Dudley is here to take questions from you, the fans. So, without further delay, let's get started.

Q: How does your recent win feel, and what is your next goal?

-- Montae (Lynchburg, S.C.)

A: Anytime you win, it feels good. My next goal would be to win the Bassmaster Classic because that would complete my grand-slam list - I've won a lot of different trails, but that's the one major event I've never won.

Q: Do you think you or anyone else has a chance at catching Andy Morgan in the Angler of the Year race?

-- Tony R. (Mooresville, N.C.)

A: I'm never going to count myself out, but the only person I think has a shot realistically is Glenn Browne. I'm not saying Andy isn't going to catch them, but on those big bodies of water (like the upcoming event on lakes Erie and St. Clair via the

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Detroit River), you can have a lot of boat problems. If you miss one day of catching weight, it can really hurt you.

Q: David, who do you think are the top pros to watch at the Detroit River?

-- Jason (Bowling Green, Ky.)

A: There are a lot of good locals who should be fishing Detroit. Steve Clapper is going to be someone to watch. Joe Balog, Kevin Long and me. Last year, I had the best practice I've ever had before a tournament. And I've been looking forward to this event all year long.

Q: I have just recently won my first BFL as a nonboater. I am very much hoping to keep up my streak. Can you give me any advice on what to do as a nonboater to fill my limit with any boater I might draw and be successful?

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-- Wilby (Hickory, Ky.)

A: You put a shaky head in your hand, and you'll be able to catch fish consistently. It's the best non-boater bait in the world. You can catch fish with a shaky head behind any pro and in any conditions. (Editor's note: A shaky head is a specially designed jighead usually fished with a finesse worm.)

Q: David, if you had to pick one line and size to fish with, what would it be?

-- Steve Meadows (Milton, Fla.)



Dakota Hornbeck hooked a White Amur. Photo courtesy of the Starcher's Sport Shop in Lubeck.

A: That is a tough one. I'll say this: I'd probably go with 10-pound line, because today, the way things are going, more fishing is done with finesse than power. I'd also use Berkley 100 % fluorocarbon line.

Q: What do you think of the 2009 FLW Tour schedule? Can you believe no Knoxville?

-- Mike (Maryville, Tenn.)

A: We're going to be able to use "manly" sticks instead of "sissy" sticks in many of the tournaments in 2009. What I mean by that is we'll be able to use big, heavy bait-casting rods and reels instead of light tackle and little shaky heads.

Q: What was the hardest thing about becoming a pro?

-- Jason (Ashlank, Ky.)

A: Probably money. In order to go

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play, you have to pay your entry fees. You can go to a farm pond and fish. But if you want to practice all the time, you need the resources. You need to have time off from work to be able to get enough practice time in. So, I'd say in the beginning, it was the money.

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Austin Adkin's 1st buck was this massive 11 point taken in Lincoln County. Poor picture - great buck!



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play, you have to pay your entry fees. You can go to a farm pond and fish. But if you want to practice all the time, you need the resources. You need to have time off from work to be able to get enough practice time in. So, I'd say in the beginning, it was the money.

Q: How do you feel about bass pros that have a bad day and then say they are "swinging for the fences" the next day?

-- Brett (Roseville, Minn.)

A: I think that's a cop-out answer. They say that because they didn't

adjust properly. They're basically saying that they went for a sacrifice bunt the first day instead of swinging for the fences. You should be swinging for the fences every day. It's just an excuse.

Q: Do you think being an average racquetball player has helped you focus more on fishing tournaments? Do you think other pros would benefit psychologically if they had a second sport that was harder for them to achieve a level of prominence?

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- Zam (Omaha, Neb.)

A: Anytime you compete, the better prepared you are for pressure situations. You really learn how to handle different situations, and that helps your fishing. When we get done with our jobs, racquetball really helps take our mind off of fishing for a while and relieve some of the pressure that comes with our sport.

Q: David, great job. On your main hole (at Loudoun-Tellico), was it directly across from a marina? And did current change the way you fished it? Thanks.

-- Kevin Campbell (Knoxville, Tenn.)

A: No, it wasn't across from a marina. Current didn't affect the way I fished it, but it affected the layout of the hole. The reason that spot was so good was that the current cleaned off a certain spot on the ledge. But overall, they didn't pull too much current throughout the tournament.

Q: Hey, David, with the dead of summer upon us in the South, what tips can you give on catching larger bass on lakes and reservoirs during the heat of the day? Thanks, and God bless.

-- Trevor (Roanoke, Va.)

A: If you're in areas with a lot of grass, you should go to the thickest

grass you can find. If you're in a lake that doesn't have grass, go to the deepest water you can find.

Q: What is the most important tip for a beginning co-angler?

-- Jeremy Robertson (Waycross, Ga.)

A: Pay attention to details. Don't just go out on the water and go through the motions of fishing. Every bite should tell you a story. You should be able to write a one-page report on each bite. Every time you go out there, try to learn something.

Q: What is your favorite deep summertime crankbait? What colors?

-- Jason (Bowling Green, Ky.)

A: Probably a Fat-Free Shad in a "sexy shad" color.

Q: How did you go about finding fish on Fort Loudoun Lake?

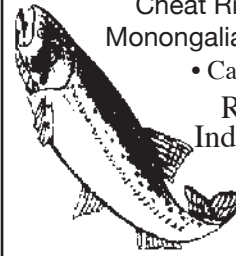
-- Bo Cross (Knoxville, Tenn.)

A: I used my Lowrance system and studied maps. I was looking for areas where fish were migrating to. Deep-water fishing takes a lot of time and a lot of casts to find one hole. Even though you look on the

continue to the next page

CHEAT TROUT TRIPS

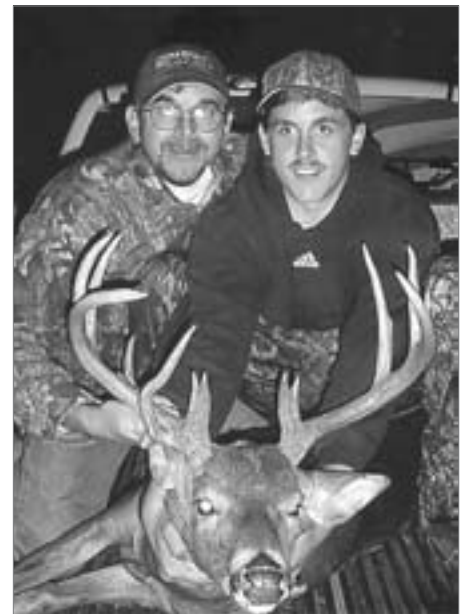
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Michael Crowell, from Harpers Ferry bagged a big Jefferson County buck..

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map and think an area looks good, it still takes a lot of casts to cover that area you're targeting.

Q: On average, how many hours a week do you spend on the water as you are preparing to fish for a tournament?

-- Russ Nixon (Lynchburg, Va.)

A: It depends on whether it's a shallow-water bite or a deep-water bite. If it's a shallow-water bite, I don't spend as much time practicing because you use your instincts a lot more. If I'm preparing for a deep-water tournament, it's the opposite: I'll stay out from morning to dark, because it takes a lot of time to find the areas that are holding fish. Put it this way, the last FLW Tour event, I was on the water at 6:30 a.m. every day and didn't come in until 9 p.m. every night.

Q: Hello, David. I would like to know if gas prices affected your thoughts of making long runs during practice time or during tournaments. Also, have you tried using All Pro Rods?

-- Scott Towry (Lawrenceburg, Tenn.)

A: Without a doubt, gas prices are in my mind. If I have to run to the back of a creek, I know it's going to



Danny Frazier caught a 36" catfish. Photo courtesy of Three Rivers Edge in Hinton.

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cost me \$10 to check out that spot. But with the level of competition on the FLW Tour, I pretty much block it out, because you can't let factors like that change your decision-making process.

Q: Do you think consistency counts? Some anglers that have been mentioned a lot for this upcoming event, I noticed they have not fished well in the last several tournaments. If you're in a rut, is it hard to get out and start putting together better finishes?

-- Jason (Bowling Green, Ky.)

A: In general, people who get in a rut are usually one-dimensional anglers. So, consistency does count. If you do get in a dry spell, the best way to get out of it is to keep fighting and learn from your mistakes. When you're in a rut, it always helps to get back to the basics. Don't overthink it.

Q: Is the Gulp goby that good of a bait on the Great Lakes, and why does it not work on Southern lakes?

-- Kenneth Shaw (Caledonia, Miss.)



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A: The Gulp bait is that good and represents a goby very well. But in the Southern lakes, there aren't any gobies there, so it's not as effective.

Q: I'm fishing the BFL tournaments, and I'm trying to become a pro. Can you give me some good advice?

-- Montae (Lynchburg, S.C.)

A: BFL tournaments are the best training ground there is. So, you're on the right path. As you progress as an angler, you can progress in the level of competitions you enter. you can start to enter Stren Series



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Dakota Booth caught a nice flat-head catfish. *Photo courtesy of Cross-roads General Store near Newark.*



Becky Stalnaker shot a Roane County wild hog. *Photo courtesy of Jarrett's Bait in Elizabeth.*



Robert Kemp caught an 8 pound trout. *Photo courtesy of Backwater Bait in Newport, Ohio.*

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- 8 Stevens 200 22-250 Bolt
- 9 Savage 22 Mag Single Shot Camo
- 10 Mossberg Mod. 8-17 HMR Bolt
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- 22 Stevens 200 7mm 08 Camo Bolt
- 23 Mag-Tech 12 Ga. Single
- 24 NEF 50 Cal M/L Wood
- 25 Stoeger 20 Ga. Semi Camo
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Heath Dalton, from Pt. Pleasant, caught an Ohio River hybrid bass.



Jake McClelland reeled in a 42" New River musky. *Photo courtesy of Three Rivers Edge in Hinton.*



JP Webb hooked a 20" smallmouth. *Photo courtesy of Grandpa's General Store in Hinton..*

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Known hybrid expert, Dannie Warden, usually fishes at Kanawha Falls for nice hybrid bass like this.

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Megan Taylor, from Parkersburg, hunted in Jackson County for this nice 9 point buck



Danny Frazier caught a 5 pound, 2 oz. smallmouth. Photo courtesy of Three Rivers Edge in Hinton.



Jim Carpenter reeled in a nice hybrid bass. Photo courtesy of Jarrett's Bait in Elizabeth.

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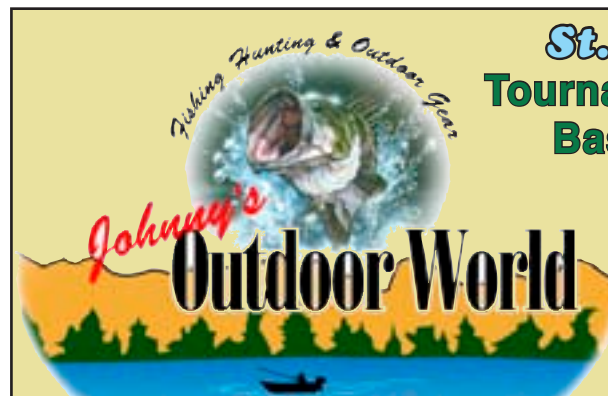
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Mike Tolley, from Landisburg, shot a bear with his bow.



Mackenzi Goddard hooked a hybrid with her Uncle Butch Fulks.

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Tommy Cogar caught a big trout. Photo courtesy of Middle Mountain Sporting Goods in Elkins.



John Bryant used a bow on this nice gobbler. Photo courtesy of Boones Bow Shop in Parkersburg.



Jackie Shively landed a big New River smallmouth. Photo courtesy of Cardinal Pawnbrokers in Beckley.

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Young Hunter Hissom, from Sissonville, hooked an 8 pound, 1 oz. largemouth bass..

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How to Fish Tube Baits

1. Insert a light (1/16 to 1/8 ounce)



Brett Turner used a bow for this 12 point. Photo courtesy of Fred's Country Store in Normantown.

lead head jig with a 2/0 hook into the hollow body (push the jig eye through the plastic), cast it on light line and allow it to spiral down to the bass, like a dying baitfish.

2. You must let the bait fall on total slack line for the proper presentation.

3. Let it sit on the bottom, then gently raise your rod tip until you feel the bait. If it feels "funny" (i.e. spongy, weighs a little more or less), set the hook!

4. Lift and drop once or twice, then reel back.

Tips

- A popular rigging method is to use a 2/0 Shaw Grisby High Performance hook or a 2/0 offset shank hook with a (Glider) weight inserted in the body. This weedless rig is best used in cover.
- Use a heavier weight (1/8 - 1/4 ounce) in vegetation.
- Tighten your drag down for better hooksets, then loosen during the fight.
- Once the fish is away from cover, stop reeling and let the fish tire out. The line and rod will absorb the fight, reducing the risk of line

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breakage once the fish gets close to the boat.

- To eliminate loops and knots in your line, manually close the bail continue to the next page



Jacob Bucy, from New Martinsville, landed a 5 pound smallmouth.

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on your reel and pull the line taught in front of the reel. Then reel up loose line.

- When using a tube with a weight, try to use two small bullet-style weights pinched on the line. This will make it fall erratically and the weight will not have to be pegged.

-- Anonymous

- Use a worm saver hook and hook the tube near the back legs, giving it a curve. The curve gives the tube a lively action when the rod tip is jerked about 1 foot every 2-3 seconds. -- Madison O'kelley

- When I go for the big ones I use my tube as an extension of the rod and retrieve. Once the worm is down and the line slack, count to 10 and give two easy twitches. This allows the worm to do as it pleases and you're not retrieving line. If there are no hits on the first time, try two more twitches and I guarantee lunkers will fly. -- Johnny Canuck

- Try using Gambler's Florida rig weights. They screw into the tip of the tube and stay put. They also make one that rattles and can be deadly!! I usually use 1/8- to 1/4-ounce depending on the cover I am trying to get through. They also make a 1/32-ounce that is great when you want a much slower fall. These work great in winter and very early spring when you need a very slow presentation. -- NM

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This is the sixth 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 September 27-28, 2008, at Stonewall Resort State Park near Weston in Lewis County. This is the largest event held at a West Virginia state park, with an attendance of 19,000 in 2007.

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

found on the West Virginia Division of Natural Resources Web site at www.wvdnr.gov. Look under "Special opportunities, National Hunting & Fishing Days."

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



Matthew Clinton, from Ripley, took a Jackson County buck.

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Archery In The Schools

The West Virginia Division of Natural Resources Wildlife Resources Section will host an Archery in the Schools (AIS) Program training on August 12 and 13 at the Summersville Armory in Summersville, West Virginia, according to Jerry Westfall, Program Coordinator.

“We have tried for some time to arrange AIS training in the central part of the state, and we are happy to have succeeded,” said Westfall. “This training will allow area schools to participate in DNR’s largest and fastest growing educational program. Since its inception in 2004, more than 30,000 students have been introduced to archery as part of their physical education classes in 140 West Virginia schools. We wanted to show our appreciation to Summersville, which hosted the successful 2008 AIS State Tournament and will be hosting the 2009 AIS State Tour-

ament, by holding this training in Summersville. Of course, since this is a state-wide program, teachers from around the state may participate in any of our trainings.”

Teachers interested in attending this free training in Summersville have until July 15 to register. Since classroom size is limited to only 25 teachers and slots are available on a first come, first served basis, teachers are encouraged to register as soon as possible. Also, more than one teacher may consider enrolling from individual schools, especially if schools are interested in having AIS in multiple PE classes and/or after-hours training for tournament competition.

“I encourage all interested educators in the area to sign up and introduce this tremendously popular program to their schools,” said Westfall. “As added incentives, the training is free to school employees, and teachers may be eligible

to receive Continuing Education Hours.”

For additional information on the West Virginia Archery in the Schools Program or to attend training, visit the DNR’s AIS website at www.wvdnr.gov/archery or call (304) 558-2771.



Michael Wolfe caught a 4 pound, 2 oz. largemouth. *Photo courtesy of Backwater Bait in Newport, Ohio.*

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Waylon Kincaid, from Drennen, used a bow for this bear.

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Based On Entered Teams	200	7th	200
Pro-rated Less Or More	150	8th	
Than 50 Teams	125	9th	

Clip Out & Mail 5 Days Prior To Event- Send \$25 Advance Fee

Boater _____

Partner _____

One Address _____

City _____

St _____ Zip _____ Phone# _____

July 16 _____

Send In \$25 This Event
To Pre-Register _____

Pay The CASH Balance
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Mail To:
Bass Sportsman
P.O. Box 5521
Vienna, WV 26105
304-295-8450

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

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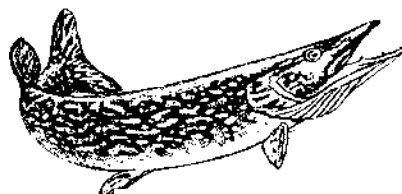
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45669
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Fish _____ Pound _____ Oz _____

We are looking for citation fish
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