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Vol. 1 Issue 188

June 2009



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Shawn**

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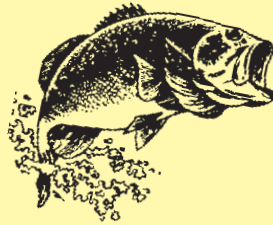
Outdoor Photos

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Ohio River Events

April 5 St. Marys
 May 17 Moundsville
 June 21 St. Marys
 July 19 Moundsville
 Aug. 23 St. Marys
 Sept. 20 Moundsville



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Cover Photo

Fishing at a private lake, John Murray landed a 45 pound flathead catfish. Catfishing is probably one of the most enjoyed types of fishing in the state. These large fish offer a challenge to land and provide an exceptional fight.

On another note, bass fishing in the Ohio River has been exceptional this season. Tournaments on the river have provided numerous limits. *Photo courtesy of Starcher's Sport Shop in Lubeck.*

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Tragic Hunting Accident

By Mark A. Garner

Today is May 1st, and the first week of Spring Gobbler season is behind us, and usually, I am writing articles about individuals who had success this year, or perhaps a youngster who called in his first bird, but this year I'm sharing a story with a sad ending. If perhaps you listened to the news, you may have heard that a Lewis county man was reported missing on Monday morning when failed to return after a morning doing what he loved to do....hunt spring gobblers. A search was assembled, and throughout the day, individuals combed the woods searching for Shawn Stewart. The search continued throughout the night, and was concluded with the discovery of his body on Tuesday morning. He had been shot, and left in the woods.

The news of this tragic event

quickly spread through the hunting and fishing community, and I for one was shocked, stunned, and deeply saddened by the event. I spoke with dozens of fellow bass fishermen, and hunters alike, and everyone spoke of how the event affected them personally, and likewise for me.

I knew Shawn Stewart personally, and marveled at his skills as a hunter and fishermen. Shawn was only 32 years old, successful, talented, when a individual made a rash decision, and prematurely ended the life of a great individual. But it goes much deeper than that. Shawn lived life right. His

continue to the next page

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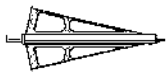
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Justin Beeler brought in a nice gobbler. Photo courtesy of Starcher's Sport Shop in Lubeck.

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accomplishments were many, and he gained the respect of his peers not by besting them, which he and his brother accomplished with regularity on the TBF trail, but by being a good, respectful individual. He lived by a simple code centered around respect, and good deeds. He was a good husband, father, fisherman and hunter. He handled his life with a degree of professionalism that went well beyond his years. Several examples of what Shawn was made of was in the method in which he conducted himself at tournaments. In a world where respect among competitors is often secondary to catching fish, Shawn held himself above the fray,



Dennis Young used a bow for this Pope & Young black bear that weighed over 400 pounds. Photo courtesy of Amish Country Store in Marmet.

and would not crowd a competitor. If a competitor's boat on one of his spots, he would respect that persons' right to fish, and choose a different location. That was just the way he was. He often said that he would not like it if people crowded him, and he was not going to crowd other fishermen as well. Last year, while I was at his home on Stonewall Lake, he told me of a hunting story where he and his hunting buddy, Bobby went bear hunting in Cranberry. The day was typical for winter in the Glades. It was cold with a rain/snow mixture falling steadily creating a dense fog that blanketed the ground. Suddenly, he spotted a bear, and took his shot. The bear ran off and headed into the dense laurel thickets that is common in this part of the state. He tracked the bear for the remainder of the day, and crossed the Cranberry three times while tracking the bear. Night fall came, and after a long night, he went back the next day to try again to find the bear. After a day and 1/2 of searching, wet, cold and exhausted, they conceded the

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they conceded the fact that the bear was lost. This incident had a profound effect upon him. He felt that the bear was only wounded, but hated the thought that he did not find the bear. Shawn did everything possible to find the bear, and in this case, the weather, and terrain prevented him from finishing the hunt. I consoled him with the fact that the bear is a tough animal, and perhaps the animal would survive, and he said, I truly hope so, and I knew he meant it.

That was what made Shawn Stewart a great individual. He always gave 100 per cent to everything that he did. He was well liked, and respected, and will be missed. This incident should have never happened. I know that I am stating the obvious, but for a hunter to mistake a person for a turkey is inexcusable. To leave the scene without giving aid is criminal. Shawn deserved better than this. Every person deserves better than this. Shawn will not be forgotten. His deeds on this earth set a good example for others, and I can vouch that the world was a better place with Shawn in it. In closing, Shawn is survived by his wife, and young son Zane. Shawn spoke of his hopes that Zane would love the outdoors



These fellows landed several nice fish. Photo courtesy of Jarrett's Bait in ELizabeth.

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as much as he did, and with your help, Zane can achieve the goals that his father wanted for him. . Please take a moment, and pray for his family, and also perhaps send a donation to the Zane Stewart Fund, Citizens National Bank, PO Box 310, Weston, WV 26452 c/o Lisa Wilson. Thank You in advance for your prayers, and generocity. .

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Crappie Tagged

More than 700 Stonewall Jackson Lake crappie have been tagged by West Virginia Division of Natural Resources fisheries biologists as part of a research project to determine angler catch and harvest in this valuable Lewis County fishery, according to DNR Director Frank Jezioro.

Fish were collected with boat-mounted electro-fishing units and tagged in March 2009 with green tags at the base of the fish's dorsal fin. Each tag is uniquely numbered and has the DNR address noted.

Anglers are asked to clip the tag at the insertion into the fish and provide the DNR either the tag or tag number, and information on the date the fish was caught and if the fish was harvested or released. Information can be mailed to the WVDNR, 2311 Ohio Ave, Parkersburg, WV 26101, e-mailed to fishtags@wvdnr.gov or by calling (304) 420-4550. A small reward is provided for returned tags.

Funds for this study and other ongoing studies are provided from the Federal Aid for Sport Fish Restoration and West Virginia fishing license revenues, according to Bret Preston, Assistant Chief of Warmwater Fisheries for DNR. "Results from these and all DNR-conducted

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studies are useful in the wise management of the state's fishery resources, as well as providing quality-fishing opportunities statewide," Preston said.



Tom Bishop caught a 14 1/2" crappie. Photo courtesy of Riverside Bait in Hockingport, Ohio.



Corbis Parsons hooked a 42" musky. Photo courtesy of Holbert's Store in Big Bend.



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Deer Pictures From 2008 That Were Emailed. Hunters Names Were Inadvertently Deleted. Sorry For The Loss Of Information.



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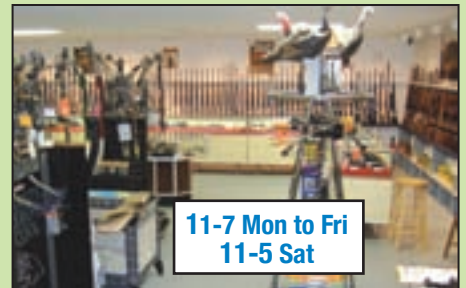
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Marc Packard landed a 7 pound, 5 oz. farm pond bass. *Photo courtesy of Stacher's Sport Shop in Lubeck.*



Danny Frazier caught a 4 1/4 and a 5 pound smallmouth bass. *Photo courtesy of PC Bait & Tackle in Hnton.*



Jason Putnam hooked a 17 pound catfish. *Photo courtesy of Riverside Bait & Tackle in Hockingport.*

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Doug Koehnlein hooked a big Ohio River catfish. *Photo courtesy of Mad Sporting Goods in Boaz.*

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Never Too Young To Learn Fishing

I have read many times, in many publications, that the number of licenses for outdoor activities such as hunting and fishing, has been dropping. The statistics are certainly an indicator of something that is going on in our society, something that I will leave to the trained minds to figure out. The one thing that I do know is that the outdoors is not any less fun now than it was when I was growing up!

I make this statement based on the countless hours in the outdoors that I have been spending with my now three year old son. If he is



Rachael Rosalia, age 7, hooked her 1st fish. *Photo courtesy of Amish Country Store in Marmet.*

By Les Weimer

awake, his preference would be to be outside turning over every rotten log behind our house in search of something that moves.

Is this a genetic trait, or is he a product of his environment? Once again I will leave this up to the minds.

There is one thing that I can say with certainty and that is that my wife and I have gone out of our way to make sure that our son gets to experience the wonders of mother nature, and it seems to be taking.

Tally one for the "product of his environment" group.

With that being said, anyone that knows this family, and the love we have for all of nature, one could say that the "genetic tendencies" folks have a powerful argument for their side. And, they would be correct.

Even though it could be said that our son is destined to be someone who purchases hunting and fishing license in the future, it is not



Les Weimer shows his 6 month old son a fish he had just caught.

a given. Many things will change between now and then. It is our responsibility to give him as many different opportunities as we can so that he can have a chance to choose his path.

It should also be noted that his mother and I are always a few feet further down the path pointing the direction we would like to see him travel. However, if he does not have fun once he arrives I know that the

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trip was all for not. So, when we head out for a little farm pond action, it may or may not be what I had in mind, but it will be interesting and generally fun.

While fun to us may be hauling in a 5 pound bass, fun to a youngster may be cutting up your Gulp minnows and throwing them in the water. It will almost never be totally about the fishing, however when it does turn to fishing, this must be when the fun kicks in.

It has been my finding that somewhere between two and three years of age, children learn the phrase "I'll do myself". Now if you do not believe them and would like to see a melt down of gigantic proportions, just try and take the rod from the hands of a toddler who wants to make their own casts but does not have the mechanics to do so..

When my son was about two and a half years old, and this phrase was uttered I handed him a rod and reel that looked identical to the one we were using.... minus the hook. He would smash the water, play sword fight with the cattails and from time to time to time actually make a very short cast. He would be delighted! While he was doing his thing, I would be trying to hook a bluegill for him to reel in, helping to reinforce what fishing is all about. When I was greeted with success, once again he would be delighted.

All of this time invested at the early age of two started showing signs of paying off this past January when we started "fishing" in the house.

It all started one Saturday morning when I was watching some fishing show while waiting for the family to rise and shine. My little fellow came down from his room, climbed onto my lap and started

continue to the next page



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watching the show with me. After a little time had passed, and a few fish caught and released, my little man turned to me and said that he wanted to go fishing.

It was at this point I told him that we could fish in the house, and that fishing outside would have to wait for a few more months. With time not being on my side, I rushed to the basement, grabbed his rod a drywall screw and a thick plastic

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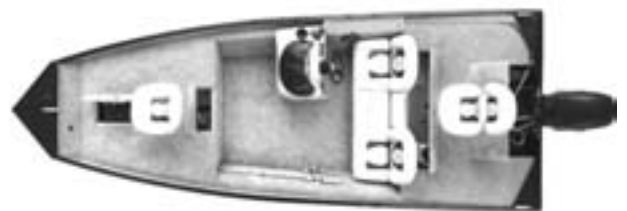
Mike Mueller went to Ohio for this big 10 point buck.



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I sunk the screw into the worm and secured the rig onto his line. When I got back upstairs I was praying that I did not miss my moment. As luck would have it, he was still pumped up and ready to learn.

After a brief reintroduction to the equipment, he was off and running.

As with most children in this age group he picked up the basics fairly quickly, and it wasn't long before he was banging his lure off of the walls, windows and anything else that got in the way. Another trait usually associated with tots in their third year of life is that of attention deficit, and I was a bit concerned that it was about to kick in. Thank goodness for cats, because it was about this time when he made a nice cast from the living room to the top of the stairs leading into the basement. Unbeknown to us we had a audience two steps down, and about the time the bait hit the floor it was pounced on by one of our feline family members. The cat grabbed the worm and jumped back down the steps yanking on his rod.

Now I know that there are many anglers who take the time to take youngsters fishing that do not have the opportunity to help them practice the skills of let's say ,casting, in a non-aquatic arena. I personally know many Grandparents, Aunts, Uncles, and friends of the family who take kids on their first trips to

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the water, without any practice, and are greeted with great success. I applaud them!

I also know that there will be parents, and others who will be taking an eager mind to the water for their first trip fishing, who probably would not be going fishing if it weren't for the child wanting to go.

There is one common factor linking these two groups of adults to-
continue to the next page

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Details On Page 3



Mike Sutton went to NY for this nice largemouth bass. *Photo courtesy of Mad Sporting Goods in Boaz.*



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gether, we all had to, or have to have a starting point. As in all of life's endeavors, there will be those who shoot from the hip, taking on problems as they arrive, and those who put some thought time into the process.

My wife's favorite say "prior planning prevents poor performance", certainly applies here. It is with this in mind I offer these ideas to ponder prior to making that first trip to the water.

1) PRACTICE:

I have found that prior to actually heading to the water, if one takes 10 minutes to go over the basics of the equipment, and making a few casts in an open area, you will find the little ones are more apt to pay attention. Getting a few casts in on dry land will help the little one understand what is about to take place, all the while adding time to the allotted time on the water.

2)EQUIPMENT:

When it comes to equipment there are three basic reels to be considered. The one most people purchase for a new angler is the push button Spin Cast style like a Zebco 33.

Since this reel has been the starting reel for millions of people, I can not speak out against them. I just do not prefer them. My reel of choice for youngsters in the three to five year class is an underspin like the ABU Garcia 276UI or a Pflueger PFL 1810. These reels have everything it takes to help a child become successful in short order. The underspin style reel offers ease of

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operation, dependability, durability and a start in the right direction toward my next reel of choice, the spinning reel.

For youngsters over five, I do not have a problem teaching them how to use a spinning reel. To me spinning reels are a step up. The things that spinning reels offer that underspins do not are a much better drag system, a higher retrieve ratio, and once mastered, better control of ones casting accuracy.

No matter which type of reel chosen, it is critical that we have fresh line that has been placed on the spool correctly.


Without going into great detail about line properties, I will say that the best line for the three reels listed is 8 lb. Test Berkley Trilene XL. As for getting the line on correctly, I will lay the filler spool with the label up and wind the reel handle about 20 turns, all the while holding the line tightly between my index finger and thumb just ahead of the reel. After 20 turns of the handle I

will stop reeling, drop my rod tip slowly and watch my line near the tip of the rod. If it is going on correctly the line will coil back down
continue to the next page



Kit Vucelich, age 8, went to Lake Erie with his Grandfather, Larry, from Powhatan Point, Ohio.

continue to the next page



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to the filler spool. If not, it will coil up around the tip of the rod. If the line coils around the tip just flip the filler spool over and repeat the process, checking by dropping the rod tip after 30 or so cranks of the handle.

When it comes to choosing a rod to hang a reel from, the spin cast reel will be matched up with a casting style rod. The beauty of using an underspin reel is that this style reel uses the same rod style as a spinning reel.

Which ever one you choose to use, I suggest staying with something heavier than an extreme ultra-light, but not so large the little tike can not handle it.

A good starter rod for the under hanging reels would be an Ugly Stick model SPL 1100.

We need to make sure that we get our little ones into some action as quickly as possible. The easiest way to do this is by keeping an eye on the weather. If you only have one day in a week to make a trip, it now becomes tougher. By keeping an eye on the weather, we will know when it has, or should stabilize, say two or three days in a row. Try make plans to get out then. Even though the first day after a cold front feels nice to us, the fish are a little slower to bounce back and may not be in the biting mood.

I have found that planning a trip

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is best kept in my head, just in case the weather or something else makes us have to abort. One great thing about tots is that they do not need a lot of time to get ready to do something. When the time is right, and you say "do ya wanna go" they are usually already ready.

As for time of the year, this month (June) is a great time to get into a hot bluegill bite, and as far as I am concerned there isn't a better starter fish than the bluegill.

One last aspect on timing is that plan on making your trips short. If you can get an hour on the water, you have probably pushed the limit. Leave it up to the new angler to let you know when it is time to go.
4)EVERYTHING ELSE:

This list could be very long, so I will go with the basics. A very important factor in how the day ends up is, how comfortable the day was.

continue to the next page



Luke Beall shot a 10 point in Gilmer County with a muzzleloader.



Mike Panas, from Wheeling, landed this 70 pound range flaehead catfish at Tappan Lake in Ohio..

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Items to consider are bug spray, sun screen, cold drinks some snacks and maybe a change of cloths and shoes.

On the fishing side, we will need some bait (I prefer the gulp line of baits, because they are always ready), hooks (a snelled #8 or 10 for bluegill), bobbers and maybe a pair of needle nose pliers for hook removal.

An item that most people would not consider, or just might forget , would be a camera. If another adult will be along, a video recorder is a great way to keep the fishing trip alive. Kids love to watch their efforts, especially when they end in triumph.

One of the most important items you can take would be patients! Sometimes these trips will try even the kindest of souls, but if you loose it, you may loose the only chance you have.

Last but not least, we need a place to fish that has enough fish to keep it interesting. This may be the hardest part of the puzzle to find.

My first choice would be to locate a farm pond that has easy access,

and permission granted to be there. Sometimes friends, or friends of the family may know of just the place. If you do obtain the right to fish a pond, leave it better than when you arrived. If you see trash, pick it up. Any trash found by the owner, after you have left, will be associated with you.

Moving down the list would be state owned lakes, followed by the rivers and its tributaries. These bodies of water do have fish, it is just that they are very hard to find



Young Dylan Casto, from Ravenswood, landed his 1st trout.

in the short time you will have.

So much can be said when it comes to teaching a youngster about the outdoors, however words are hard to find that describes the feeling you get when a trip becomes a success, in the eyes of a child. With a little "prior planning" you just might create a fishing partner for life.



Jonathan Sorrell hunted in Fayette County for this 425 pound bear.

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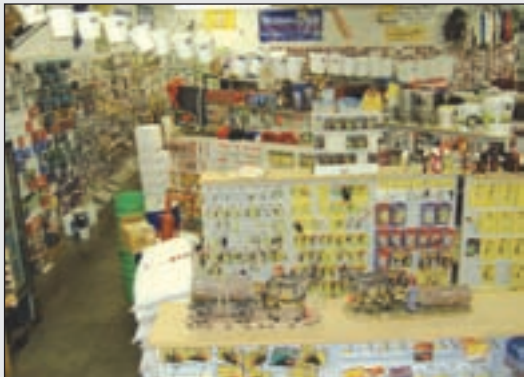
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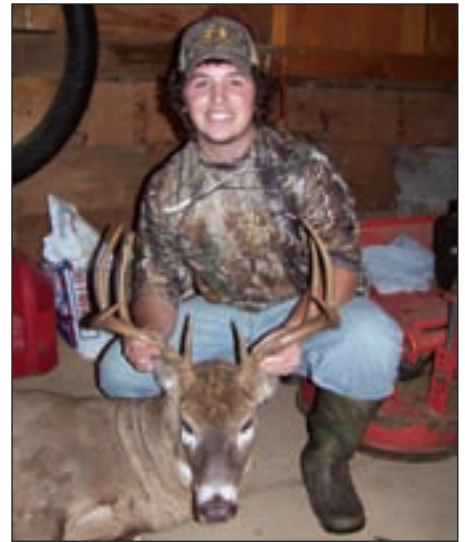
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Luke Cunningham, from Sandyville, shot a nice buck.



Greg Holliday shot a 20 1/2 pound turkey. *Photo courtesy of Waterfront Sporting Goods in Alderson*

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



Rodney Starcher got hot on his day one turkey hunt. *Photo courtesy of Starcher's Sport Shop in Lubeck.*

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Terry Sampson landed a nice small-mouth in NY. Photo courtesy of Mad Sporting Goods in Boaz.



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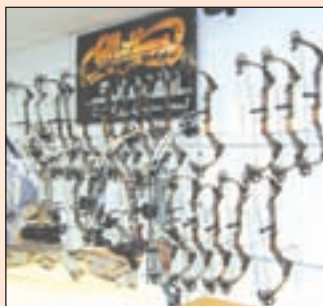
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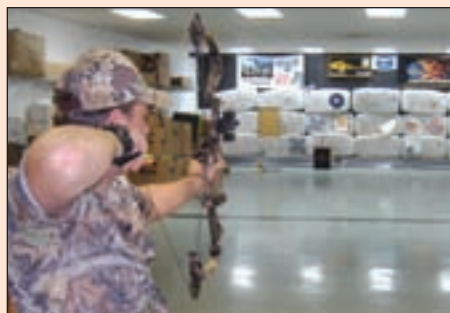
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Heath Myers used his bow in Wyoming County. Photo courtesy of Cardinal Pawnbrokers in Beckley.



Gerald Harshbarger hooked a 17" crappie. Photo courtesy of Backwater Bait in Newport, Ohio.



Bob Harkness brought in a nice gobbler. Photo courtesy of Crossroads general Store near Newark.

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You don't have to go to Canada to wear your arms out catching freshwater fish. As a matter of fact, us West Virginians need drive no further than about 10 miles west of Moundsville to accomplish this.

Just outside Powhatan Point, Ohio, is located Lake Shawn. This private resort offers about 30 acres of crystal clear water on over 100 acres of pristine land. The lakes (two) are chock full of huge hybrid stripers, brown trout and black bass. Not to mention carp, perch, crappie, brim and catfish. There is one albino (or near) catfish that swims around the smaller lake that is as long as my body. I couldn't guess what it weighs.

There are several rearing ponds



The cozy cabin at Lake Shawn features a comfortable living room.

on the property. All species are raised in these ponds and stocked when they reach mature size. They are fed daily by the employees, even after they are stocked into the lakes.

The mini-resort was started in 1962 by Ray "Bull" Brubaker. At least part of the lakes and ponds on the property are a result of an old abandoned strip pit. It is rumored Ray won the 100 plus acres in a poker game. He passed away two years ago and his widow, Ida, does not dispute this rumor. Nor does she confirm it, but will bring out scrapbooks for visitors to gawk at featuring dozens of newspaper clippings about Ray being arrested for one form of gambling or another. Mostly cock fighting, but he was never convicted nor ever spent one night in jail. In its heyday, Powhatan Point was known as Little Las Vegas, with Ray being the designated mayor. Ray was a fun loving man who just loved to ramble and gamble.

After Ray's passing the business enterprise was taken over by Ray's nephews, Bob, Ted and Anthony
 continue to the next page

By Jim Wilson

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Mike Mace hooked a 45" musky.
 Photo courtesy of Jarrett's Bait in Elizabeth.

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Togliatti along with Ida's brother Bob. Ida Brubaker still owns and operates a gas station - convenience - fishing supply store on the way to the lake. Ray's daughter, Tina, just recently won the title of Ms. World over 50 in bodybuilding. Ray's other daughter, Lynda, lives in a beautiful home high overlooking Lake Shawn. She now takes after her father and raises fish in her spare time

I'll bet by now you're getting the jest of things. That you have a captive population of huge fish at your disposal. Well, things just get better. The management only allows four (4) boats on the two (2) lakes per day. The fee for fishing all day includes the use of 15 ft. extra-wide Jon boats with electric motors. Life vests and cushions are included. No bank fishing is allowed unless you have rented a boat and paid the fee to fish. In other words, you will probably never see another fishing

party.

Another plus for us hillbillies is NO out-of-state fishing license is required. This is because it is a private lake. The fee for fishing all day is \$100 per adult person. Much less if you bring a kid.

The economy trip would be to get up very early, drive to the lake, fish all day and return home. A full day on the water with true tales to tell. Probably should bring a camcorder or camera to back up your tall tales. You can't bring 'em home as it's a catch-and-release lake.

This past May 9th, I returned to Lake Shawn after a 10 year hiatus. I brought my fishin' buddy, Huck Raines, from Huntington, with me. Huck and I went to high school together and if either, or both, of us reach our next birthday, we will hit a big zero with a 7 in front of it. Our days of fighting raging mountain streams are behind us, but we both love to catch fish, so Lake



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Shawn is a natural.

The economy trips are also now taboo. We made arrangements to continue to the next page



Darin Cale shot a 21 pound bird with an 11" beard. *Photo courtesy of Jarrett's Bait in Elizabeth.*



Justin Burnside, from Clarksburg, got his 1st turkey.

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stay at one of the two cabins on the premises. Both overlook the lake and are well appointed. We arrived well before dark on that Friday. We stayed in the smaller cabin which could sleep five. To our delight, there was Direct TV, a gas fireplace and AC. All linens and utensils were included, along with two bedrooms. We were in Hog Heaven. Lake manager, Terry Carr made sure we were settled in and comfortable. We signed waivers and Terry went over the rules of the lake. The setting of the whole complex is idealistic for those desiring privacy. The property adjoins beautiful Captina Creek and is isolated by tall pines from the road.

The next morning we hit the larger



Author Jim Wilson and Huck Raines are enjoying a trip to "the aquarium", Lake Shawn. Jim's book *Abbagoochie* has an ad featured on page 28.

lake. Even with all the rain in early May, the lake was crystal clear. The lakes are spring fed, so they never muddy up. But the wind that Saturday was strong and swirling. We had trouble handling our boat. The lake is 40 feet deep in many places, so anchors aren't used. But by noon we had caught and released a couple dozen nice largemouth and a couple stripers.

We had lunch at the cabin and moved to the smaller lake afterwards. The wind was so strong



Bob Kemp hooked a nice brook trout at Mountwood Lake. *Photo courtesy of Backwater Bait in Newport, Ohio.*

we fished from the dock rather than take the boat out. Dark black clouds were forming and the wind swirled and alternated in 180 degrees arcs. It felt like tornado weather but it never rained. Terry brought us some fish food (pellets) on his 4-wheeler. We chummed from the dock and got into the 10-15 pound stripers. We caught several but lost more. What a blast! This species is so strong it's at least a 10-15 minute battle between fish and fisherman, in order to see which species prevails. One should never get on the lakes without at least 12 pound test line, and your drag set just right (medium tight).

Later that afternoon we returned
continue to the next page

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to the larger lake. The wind never relented and the only way we could fish and maintain control of the boat was to troll. We used crank baits and picked up several nice largemouth. On normal days you can catch fish casting using about anything in your tackle box. By the end of the day we were wind-blown and tired. We talked on the phone to Bob Togliatti, and made arrangements to spend Saturday night in the cabin. Neither of us wanted to drive and we still had T-bones in the fridge. Like I said, the heck with economy. We had our happy hour, relived the day, had our T-bones and went back to high school after over a half-century. All the stuff of which memories are made.

Neither of us had been to the new Cabelas store near Wheeling. This was to be a planned side trip. We arrived on Sunday at the opening time of 10 AM. The parking lot was near full even then. I have not the time or space or talent to write about this experience. For those outdoorsmen out there, it is a must trip if you haven't been there. It's 175,000 sq. ft. of outdoor heaven, indoors. Aside from the merchandise you will drool over; it's the aquariums and display of stuffed animals that will make your visit

worthwhile. The stuffed animals are not just standing there, they are poised in action mode, leaping fences and every other mode you can imagine. There are dozens of different display areas, and all are themed. Virtually indescribable - just go!

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A nice New River smallmouth weighed 6 pounds, 2 oz. *Photo courtesy of Cardinal Pawnbrokers in Beckley.*

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Cory Vales hooked a 46 1/2 pound flathead. *Photo courtesy of Riverside-Bait in Hockingport, Ohio.*

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2008 Big Buck Contest Winners

The winners of the 2008 West Virginia Big Buck Contest have been announced by the West Virginia Division of Natural Resources (DNR), according to DNR Wildlife Biologist Gene Thorn, Chairman of the West Virginia Big Buck Contest Review Committee.

The contest is sponsored by Toyota and administered by the DNR. Support was also provided by the

Izaak Walton League of West Virginia, West Virginia Bowhunters Association, West Virginia Muzzleloaders Association, and the West Virginia Physically Challenged Advisory Board.

The contest's purpose is to recognize sportsmen who take an extraordinarily large antlered buck in West Virginia. This past year, 251 hunters had their deer antlers scored at one of the six DNR District Offices, Field Offices, or the West Virginia Hunting and Fishing Show in Charleston. Seventy-eight (78) hunters participated in the 2008 West Virginia Big Buck Contest by entering their legally harvested bucks into one of three categories (i.e., gun, bow or cross-bow). Contestants were required to meet certain conditions to participate: deer antlers needed to meet or exceed a minimum score established for the respective category, an Official Game Check Tag had



Branchen Lilly got a 34 pound coyote. *Photo courtesy of Cardinal Pawnbrokers in Beckley.*



William Basham hooked a 5 pound, 4 oz. smallmouth. *Photo courtesy of PC Bait & Tackle in Hinton.*

to be presented, and a Fair Chase Statement had to be signed.

Nineteen (19) bucks killed by gun hunters scored at least 140 typical or 165 non-typical. In the Typical-Gun category, the winner was Ronald Myers from Charleston with a 10-point buck killed in Kanawha County that scored 165

continue to the next page

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6/8. A huge 19-point buck taken in Brooke County, harvested by Donald Stroud Jr. from Weirton, scored 176 2/8 and won the Non-Typical Gun category.

Muzzleloader hunters needed to score at least 140 typical or 165 non-typical to qualify. There were no typical or non-typical bucks taken with a muzzleloader in 2008 that met the minimum score.

Bowhunters killed 57 deer that scored at least 125 typical or 155 non-typical. The winner of the Typical-Bow category was Bobby Kelly of Cumberland, Kentucky, with a 10-point buck from Logan County that scored 157 0/8. The Non-Typical Bow category winner was Patrick Donahue of Mallory, who took a big 16-point buck in Logan County that scored 176 1/8.

Two bucks, killed by physically challenged crossbow hunters, met the minimum typical score of 125. The Typical-Crossbow category winner was Don England of Iaeger with an 11-point Wyoming County buck that scored 159 2/8. There was no non-typical buck taken with a crossbow in 2008 that met the minimum non-typical score of 155.

The Boone and Crockett Club or Pope and Young Club rating systems are used to score bucks,

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depending upon the method of harvest. Boone and Crockett Club guidelines are used to score deer harvested with a firearm, muzzleloader, or crossbow (used by physically challenged hunters with a Class Y Permit). Certificates are presented for racks scoring at least 140 typical or 165 non-typical for firearms and muzzleloaders, and scoring at least 125 typical or 155 non-typical for crossbows. Deer harvested with a bow are measured according to Pope and Young Club standards and are recognized with a certificate for racks scoring at least 125 typical or 155 non-typical.

The winner in each category will receive a plaque during the 2009 National Hunting and Fishing Day Celebration, held the fourth weekend of September at Stonewall Resort State Park. A complete list of all bucks meeting minimum qualifications will be posted on the DNR

Web site at <http://www.wvdnr.gov/hunting/BigBuckContest.shtm>.

"The West Virginia Big Buck Contest Review Committee offers their congratulations to all hunters who took bucks that qualified for the 2008 contest," said Thorn. "In addition, the committee wishes to extend their thanks to all hunters who participated by having their antlers scored."



JP McCullough used a bow for this 9 point Wayne County buck.

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Josh Murray called in 16 gobblers over this season. Photo courtesy of Starcher's Sport Shop in Lubeck.



Mark Burns bagged a gobbler with a nice beard. Photo courtesy of Water-front Sporting Goods in Alderson.



Mercedes & Chris Ferrell are shown with his musky. Photo courtesy of Holbert's Store in Big Bend.

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Jerry Hallman had success in landing this nice 6 pound, 3 oz. Kanawha River walleye. Photo courtesy of Amish Country Store in Marmet.

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 Page 13**

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Eric Bradley went to Turkey Run for this brook trout. *Photo courtesy of Starcher's Sport Shop in Lubeck.*

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JD Haile, from Evans, used a side-hammer for this 8 point buck.

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Braxton Huffman hooked a 20 pound New River striper. *Photo courtesy of PC Bait & Tackle in Hinton.*

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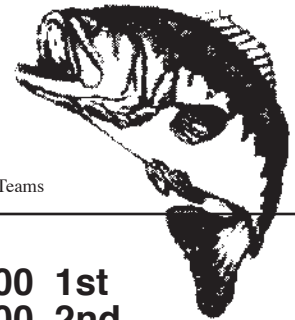
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New Online Courses For Boating And Hunter Education

New and updated online courses will be available for both Boating Safety Education and Hunter Education classes beginning June 1, making it easier for outdoor sportsmen to take the required classes.

"The online courses will feature new and animated graphics as well as narration," said Lt. Tim Coleman, Statewide Safety Coordinator for the Law Enforcement Section of the West Virginia Division of Natural Resources.

The new courses can be found at www.wvdnr.gov under the "Hunter Education" and "Boating Education" links beginning June 1. There is a fee to take the courses online, but traditional classroom courses are still offered free through WVDNR.

Anyone who takes the online Hunter Education courses must still attend a practical test day and take a written exam; however, instead of printing out 12 pages as is required now, students will receive a one-page "ticket" and instructions for contacting WVDNR to

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All boaters born on or after December 31, 1986, must have the West Virginia boating license on board when the vessel is underway



Maggie Bonar, age 12, got her 1st turkey during the special yout hunt. *Picture courtesy of Holmes Market in Moundsville.*

to satisfy the West Virginia boating regulations. For information about local Boating Education classes, call the nearest WVDNR District Office or the Charleston office at 304-558-2784.



Kurt Starcher shot a 22 pound bird with a 11 1/4" beard. *Photo courtesy of Jarrett's Bait in Elizabeth.*

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Training For Archery Program

An Archery in the Schools (AIS) training session for instructors will be hosted by the Wildlife Resources Section of the West Virginia Division of Natural Resources (DNR) July 21-22, 2009, at the Cabela's store near Wheeling, W.Va., according to Jerry Westfall, DNR's AIS Program Coordinator.

"Cabela's has always expressed an interest in assisting the DNR with getting more schools involved in the AIS Program, especially those in the northern panhandle," said Westfall. "The support we've received from Cabela's has been tremendous and I can't think of a better place to host this training.

Incidentally, instructors may also find Cabela's a fascinating place to shop for gift ideas after the training – considering it is one of the largest sporting goods stores in the state."

The AIS Program is DNR's largest and fastest growing educational program. Since its inception in 2004, more than 35,000 students have been introduced to archery as part of their physical education (PE) classes in 183 West Virginia schools. The program teaches Olympic-style, target archery in both public and private schools Grade 4-12 physical education classes.

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to have the AIS Program, they must first have a certified instructor – preferably a PE instructor or coach who will introduce as many kids as possible to the joys of target

continue to the next page



Katie Cottle enjoyed fishing at this pay lake. She hooked a 31 pounder. Photo courtesy of Catfish Cove in Hurricane.



Gary Wilson, from Salem, caught an 8 pound, 2 oz rainbow trout.

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archery,” said Westfall. “DNR has about four trainings a year; and, because class size is limited to 25, training slots are highly sought after. As an added incentive, teachers taking this training may be eligible to receive Continuing Education Hours (CEHs) – provided they submit their paperwork to their principal before the end of the school year.”

“Cabela’s is looking forward to hosting this training and being part of this nationally recognized program,” said Matt Leary, Cabela’s department manager. “Cabela’s West Virginia store was the first in the nation to host a similar training, and we are excited to continue to be a part of this quickly growing program. A lot of credit also needs to be given to local officials and the DNR for bringing this training back to our store. However, it’s about the kids; and, I’m excited to get youth involved in an activity they can enjoy for a lifetime.”



Kevin Harris, from Raveswood, hooked a 39” musky, his 2nd ever.

Please note this training will cost \$25 for all school employees and \$50 for non-school employees. This fee will be paid to WVDNR – Archery in the Schools Program (via check, money order, or exact currency only) during the first morning of the training.

To register for the AIS training at Cabela’s, please call Billie Shearer at (304) 558-2771 or e-mail billieshearer@wvdnr.gov. For more information on the AIS Program, you can visit DNR’s AIS Web site at www.wvdnr.gov/archery or call DNR’s AIS Program Coordinator Jerry Westfall at (304) 558-2771; e-mail jerrywestfall@wvdnr.gov.



Justin Conner reeled in a 38 1/2 pound catfish at this pay lake. Photo courtesy of Catfish Cove in Hurricane.

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Jeff Adkins, from Fayetteville, used a bow for this 8 point buck.

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Kristen Wallace caught a 15" bass.
 Photo courtesy of Backwater Bait in Newport, Ohio.



Mrs. Koehnlein hooked a catfish.
 Photo courtesy of Mad Sporting Goods in Boaz.



Andy Belt caught 2 catfish - a 22 & 21 pounder. Photo courtesy of Jarrett's Bait in Elizabeth.

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