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Issue 271

August/September 2018



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**Summer
CATFISH**

**B.A.S.S.
NEWS**

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- 1: Coyote Calling and Hunting - Tom Bechdel
- 2: Hunt Waterfowl Like a Pro - Joe Austin
- 3: West Virginia Snakes - Jim Fregonara
- 4: Raptors in Flight - Raptors up Close
- 5: How to Film Your Hunts -
- 6: Brothers of the Woods Outdoors
- 6: WV University Archery Team Exhibition
- 7: Whitetail Deer Taxidermy Seminar - Jeremy Simon of Re-creations Taxidermy

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Magazine

Volume 1 Issue 271

Publisher and Editor
Mark A. Goudy

Contributing Editors
West Virginia Division Of
Natural Resources

No Subscriptions Offered

Printed Every Six Weeks.

W.Va. Sportsman

P.O. Box 5521
Vienna, WV 26105

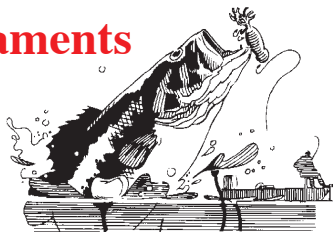
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Cover Photo

Fishing has been spotty on the Ohio River this year for bass. Mike Hogue, from Woodsfield, Ohio, landed a 5 pound, 11 ounce smallmouth bass in the Hannibal Pool during a bass event. It helped his team win the tournament.

Several upcoming bass tournament entry forms are in this issue. Hope you have fishing success.

TEXT, mail or email your large fish pictures. Info is on page 38.

Interesting Fishing Facts

1. Saugers See in the Dark

Walleyes are known for their marble-like eyes, which let them see well in dim light. Their retina has a layer of reflective pigment, called the tapetum lucidum, that intensifies any light the eye receives. (It's the same membrane that causes a cat's eyes to glow yellow.) But the walleye's close relative, the sauger, has even better night vision because the tapetum covers a much larger portion of its retinas.

2. Black, But Just Barely

Ever wonder where the term "black bass" came from? The fry of smallmouth bass turn coal black within a few days after they hatch. Even though the fry of largemouth and other bass species do not turn black, all members of the group (genus *Micropterus*) are referred to as black bass.



Dannie Warden hooked a 7 pound hybrid bass at Kanawha Falls,

3. Orange Delight

Researchers studying walleye vision found that orange is the color most visible to walleyes, followed by yellow and yellow green. Surprisingly, red is the least visible color. No wonder you find so many orange and chartreuse lures in the tackle boxes of savvy walleye anglers.

4. On the Cool Side

White and striped bass are members of the temperate bass family, as opposed to black bass, which belong to the sunfish family. The term "temperate bass" refers to the moderate water temperature preference of members of this family. As a rule, they prefer temperatures a little lower than those preferred by largemouth or smallmouth bass.

5. Lights Out? Let's Eat

Research has shown that a sudden decrease in light level triggers walleyes to bite. That explains why the fish usually turn on just as the sun is disappearing below the horizon and the light intensity is rapidly decreasing. It also accounts for the hot bite that starts when the dark clouds preceding a thunderstorm roll in.

6. Not So Special

Trout are the only kind of fish with

continue to the next page

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Riley McCloy bagged a 20 pound gobbler with her dad & brother.

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an adipose fin, right? Wrong. Several other fish species, including catfish, bullheads, madtoms, smelt, ciscoes and whitefish, also have an adipose fin (the small fin on the back just in front of the tail).

7. Tiny Teeth, But What a Bite

Flathead catfish have a tooth pad consisting of hundreds of tiny, recurved teeth on the roof of their mouth. The pad helps them hold their prey securely, so it can't wiggle around and escape. So if you're inclined to stick your hand into a flathead's mouth to dislodge your hook, forget it. You might pull your hand out minus the skin.

8. Mud Cats in Name Only

Flatheads are often called mud cats, giving anglers the impression that they scavenge dead food items off the bottom. But flatheads are more apt to eat live fish than any other catfish species. Channel cats

are most likely to consume dead, stinky food (and bait) and blue cats are intermediate in their food preference.

9. Hungry Mothers

The very best time to catch a trophy

walleye is five to seven weeks after the fish have completed spawning. That's when the big females, famished after not having eaten for nearly two months, go on the prowl

continue to the next page



Brothers Mark & Andy Godwin brought in 12 pounds, 8 oz. of bass at a Burnsville tournament. Look for an entry form for the 2 day Kings of the Lakes on page 34. First day is Burnsville & the second is Sutton Lake.

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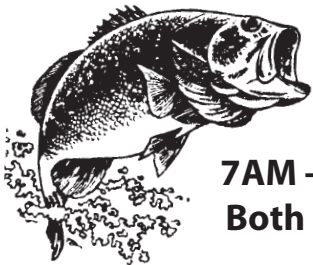
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for food. And with the natural supply of baitfish at its annual low, they're likely to hit almost anything you throw at them.


10. Sturgeons Big and Small
Members of the sturgeon family are the largest fish inhabiting the fresh waters of North America-and some are also among the smallest. The white sturgeon, which is found in rivers along the Pacific Coast, has been known to reach a weight of almost a ton, and today's anglers of the Pacific Northwest commonly catch whites in the 200- to 300-pound range. Shovel-noses, on the other hand, seldom exceed a few pounds in weight in their Mid-western home waters.

11. On the Edge

Ever wonder why the teeth of a pike or muskie easily shear your line,



Chris Evans caught a 9 pound channel catfish in Cunard.



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while those of an equally toothy walleye rarely do? In cross-section, the teeth of a walleye are round, but those of a pike or muskie have a razor-sharp edge. So don't forget
continue to page 8



Hannah Yoho, from Marietta, landed a large sauger.

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12. No Wonder It's So Skinny
 What freshwater fish found in North America makes the longest spawning migration? The winner, hands down, is the American eel. The females spend most of their

lives in big rivers like the Mississippi. When spawning time approaches, they swim downstream to join the males at the river mouth, then they swim to the Sargasso Sea (a portion of the North Atlantic) to spawn.

13. Bladder Control

You might have noticed that some fish pulled from deep water can be released and will swim right back down, but others have trouble descending. That's because some fish (physostomous species like trout) can "burp" air as they're being pulled up, relieving the gas build-

up in their swim bladders, while others (physoclistous species like walleyes) do not have a connection between the swim bladder and the gut, so their swim bladders expand, greatly increasing their buoyancy.

14. Kings of Crunch

Redear sunfish are called shell-
 continue to page 13



Danny Harper, from Burnsville, caught & released a couple of 6 pound bass at Stonewall Jackson.

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DNR Seeks Trophy Deer & Fish

ROANOKE, W.Va. — The West Virginia Division of Natural Resources is asking hunters and anglers to enter showcase pieces for the big buck and trophy fish display at the National Hunting and Fishing Day celebration at Stonewall Resort State Park on Sept. 22-23.

Mounted trophy white-tailed bucks with a Pope and Young or Boone and Crockett score of 140 or greater that were legally harvested with a bow or gun may be entered in the display. The DNR also is seeking fish that meet the DNR's trophy citation guidelines.

"This display is a tremendous draw at West Virginia's Celebration of National Hunting and Fishing Day and attracts thousands of visitors each year," said display organizers James Walker and Tyler Evans, DNR wildlife biologists. "This is a great opportunity to show off your big buck or trophy fish."

The display is limited to the first 30 qualifying trophy bucks, and only 25 qualifying trophy fish, chosen by a selection committee, will be displayed. No more than five fish of any species will be accepted
continue to the next page



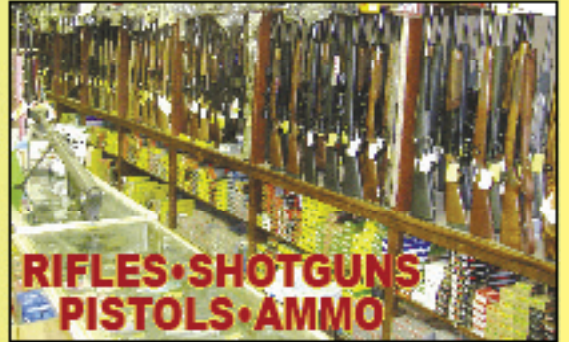
Joe Corder hooked a 46" musky at Stonewall Jackson Lake. Photo courtesy of Old & New Sports in Ravenswood.

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for the display. Each hunter and angler who displays their trophy deer or fish at the two-day event will be entered in a drawing for several valuable prizes.

For more information about entering a qualifying buck, email Tyler Evans at Tyler.S.Evans@wv.gov. For fish, email James Walker at James.A.Walker@wv.gov. Hunters and anglers also may call 304-924-6211 between 9 a.m. and 4 p.m.

In addition to the DNR, event sponsors include the West Virginia Wildlife Federation and Toyota.



Deek Worley landed a 4 1/2 pound smallmouth bass. Photo courtesy of PC Outdoors in Hinton.



Tim Wade caught a 4 pound, 14 oz. smallmouth in a bass event at Sutton Lake. His team had 16# -2 oz.

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Blake Bennett bagged a gobbler in Fayette Co. in the youth hunt.



Dillon Johnston, from Buckhannon, took a Texas wild boar.

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crackers in some parts of their range because of their habit of eating aquatic snails, which they crush with special grinding teeth in their throat. Where snails are scarce, redears will forage on various small crustaceans, insects and fish fry.

15. The Original Chamois Fly
One of the least known but most effective baits for trout is the water worm, which is the larval form of the crane fly (those big, slow-moving bugs that look like giant mosquitoes). You can often find water worms by digging through the mud and sticks of a beaver dam on your favorite trout stream.

16. Latch on to the Right Leech
Leeches are one of the top baits for walleyes, but make sure you're using the right leech species. Ribbon leeches, which have firm bodies and minimal suction, make excellent bait, but a walleye will turn up

its nose at a horseleech or medicine leech, which have soft, squishy bodies and strong suction.

17. Waterdogs as Puppies
Water dogs, which are the larval form of a tiger salamander, make good bait for bass, walleyes and pike. But once the young salamanders lose their gills and turn into adults, they don't work nearly as well. To

prevent water dogs intended for bait from developing into adults, keep them refrigerated in water at a temperature of no more than 50 degrees.

18. Yummy! A Worm Inside Out
Channel cats love catalpa worms, which can be found on the leaves of catalpa trees from late spring

continue to page 15



Joey Kinsley caught & released a five foot long Ohio River paddlefish.

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Alexis Vincent hunted in Ritchie County on youth day for a gobbler.



Mike Batten Jr. and dad Mike won the July 8th Burnsville tournament with 15 pounds, 14 oz. Look for the Kings of the Lakes entry form on page 34.



Jeremy Gross caught a Bluestone Lake channel catfish. Photo courtesy of PC Outdoors in Hinton.

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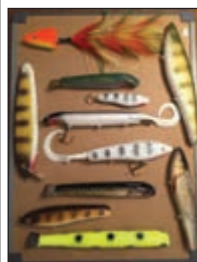
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through summer. To make a catalpa worm even more irresistible, cut off the head and then poke a matchstick through the body to turn the worm inside out. The extra scent helps cats find the bait more quickly.

19. Madtom Mealttime

One of the very best baits for wall-eye and smallmouth bass is the tadpole madtom, also known as the willow cat. These tiny catfish look a lot like bullheads, but the dorsal, caudal (tail) and anal fins are all connected. Be extremely careful when hooking a willow cat for bait. Their needle-sharp pectoral fins can prick you much worse than a bee sting.

20. Catfish in a Can

You might have trouble finding a bait shop that carries willow cats, but you can catch your own by stringing together some empty pop cans and then sinking them in a lake or river backwater inhabited by the tiny fish. Leave the cans overnight and pick them up the next morning; like other catfish, willow cats like to swim into holes, so the pop cans make an inexpensive trap.

21. Never Trust the Ice

You've probably heard that it's safe to walk on 3 inches of ice or drive a car on 10 inches. But is the ice



Bryan Sloan hooked a 4 pound, 10 oz. smallmouth bass. Photo courtesy of PC Outdoors in Hinton.

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ever really safe? No! Schools of carp can gather under the ice and wear it away, occasionally even opening a hole. And groundwater might well up from the depths and melt the ice, as famously happened on several Minnesota lakes during the winter of 2002-2003.

22. Salmon With Handle

Not sure if that big salmon you caught is a coho or a chinook? Just grab it around the base of the tail and try to lift it. If it slips through your fingers, it's probably a coho; if it doesn't, it's a chinook. The
continue to the next page

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bony structure of a chinook's tail is much more rigid, making it easier to "tail" the fish.

23. Take the Temperature

Pike and muskies are both classified as cool-water fish, but there is a definite difference in the water temperature they prefer, especially among the larger members of each species. Pike more than 30 inches long favor water temperatures from 50 to 55 degrees, while muskies prefer temperatures of 67 to 72 degrees. Another big difference: Pike feed actively throughout the year and are a popular target of ice fishermen. Muskies feed much more sporadically in winter and are rarely caught by ice anglers.

24. Picky Eaters

Although most anglers believe muskies are voracious feeders, consuming just about everything

in sight, they're actually much less aggressive than pike. Muskies are considerably more selective, and will examine your offering more closely. They'll often follow your bait for a distance and then turn away at the last second. A pike, on the other hand, will attack practically any kind of lure or bait that passes its way.

25. Muskies Gone Bad

Most of the stories of the muskie's voracious feeding habits are myth, but there are some notable exceptions, including documented cases of muskies taking small swimming dogs and even attacking humans splashing around in the shallows! In one Minnesota lake, a cordoned-off swimming area had to be closed after a rogue muskie found its way inside the netting and bit a small boy.

26. Teeth Spare

Many anglers believe that pike lose



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their teeth in the summer and don't bite. In fact, both pike and muskies continually shed old teeth and grow new ones. While it's true that pike fishing often gets tough during the summer months, the poor bite is probably related to a glut of baitfish or the fact that pike often move into deeper, cooler water as the summer progresses.



Sawyer Redman hooked a nice bass at Cedar lakes in Ripley.



Kevin Hubbard caught a 4 pound, 3 oz. Bluestone Lake bass.

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Antlerless Deer Permits

SOUTH CHARLESTON, W.Va. — Applications for the 2018 Antlerless Deer Season limited permit areas are now available online at www.wvhunt.com, and will be accepted until midnight, Aug. 14.

Hunters who apply for a limited antlerless firearms permit must use the Electronic Licensing System at www.wvhunt.com. Applicants must log on, select "Enter Lottery" on the home screen, select "2018 Antlerless Deer Hunt," then choose the county or wildlife man-

agement area for which they want to apply. Hunters also may select a secondary county or WMA. Hunters without accounts can create one at www.wvhunt.com.

"These limited permit areas provide antlerless deer hunting opportunities in counties or areas of the state where wildlife biologists have determined that issuing limited numbers of antlerless deer permits continue to the next page



Haley Wilkinson, from Parkersburg, hooked a largemouth bass.

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will help meet management objectives," said Chris Ryan, supervisor of game management services for the West Virginia Division of Natural Resources.

Successful applicants will be notified by mail by the first week of October. Starting Sept. 1, all applicants can see whether they received a permit by logging into their account.

The following wildlife management areas and counties are open for this drawing:

- Blackwater
- Bluestone
- Calvin Price State Forest
- Greenbrier State Forest
- Hillcrest
- Kumbrabow State Forest
- Little Canaan
- Seneca State Forest
- Boone

- Greenbrier
- Lincoln
- Mineral
- Pocahontas
- Raleigh
- Webster

A limited number Class N licenses for resident and Class NN licenses for nonresident hunters will be available. Successful applicants may hunt antlerless deer Oct. 25–28 on private land only, and Nov. 19–Dec. 1, Dec. 6–9 and Dec. 28–31 on private and public land.

Hunters who want to enter as a group must know the other hunters' DNR ID numbers to enter the lottery. Hunters also may call their local DNR district office for help with the application process.

For complete information on antlerless deer season dates and bag limits, consult the 2018–2019 Hunting and Trapping Regulations

Summary. It will be available online at www.wvdnr.gov and at West Virginia license agents and DNR offices in July.

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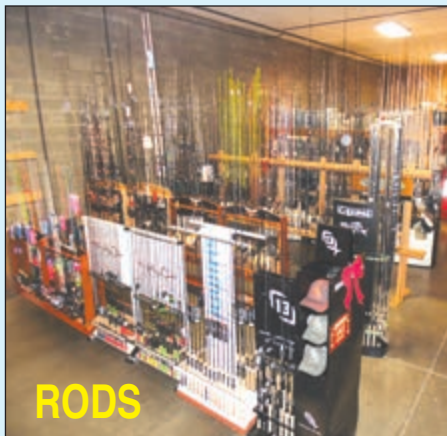


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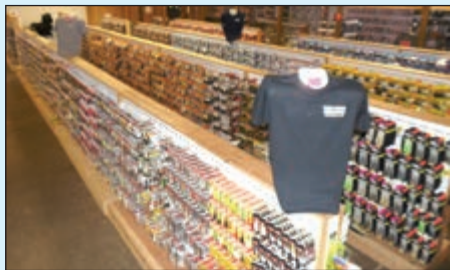
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Chronic Wasting Disease In WV

SOUTH CHARLESTON, W.Va. — Effective July 1, 2018, two eastern panhandle counties will be added to three that already have restrictions on the disposal and transport of deer carcasses. The restrictions are designed to combat the spread of chronic wasting disease (CWD). Berkeley and Mineral counties have been added to Hampshire, Hardy and Morgan counties as areas where restrictions apply.

Current research indicates that the abnormal protein which causes CWD, called a prion, is concentrated in the spinal cord and brain of infected deer. As a result, certain carcass parts have the potential to spread the disease.

“As part of our agency’s ongoing efforts to detect the presence of CWD and focus on disease management actions, a larger portion of West Virginia’s eastern panhandle has been added to the current area where restrictions apply,” said Stephen McDaniel, director of the West Virginia Division of Natural Resources.

This expansion is in response to

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the detection of CWD in two road-killed deer in Berkeley County and one sick deer in Mineral County. Since 2005, CWD has been detected in 340 deer in Hampshire County, six deer in Hardy County, two deer in Berkeley County, and one deer in Mineral County.

Hunters are reminded that dead deer or their parts may not be transported beyond the boundary
continue to the next page



Wes Lester hooked a 4 1/2 pound Burnsville Lake largemouth.



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of Berkeley, Hampshire, Hardy, Mineral, and Morgan counties except for the following: meat that has been boned out, quarters or other portions of meat with no part of the spinal column or head attached, cleaned hide with no head attached, clean skull plate (no meat or tissue attached) with antlers attached, antlers with no meat or tissue attached, and finished taxidermy mounts. Hunters may transport deer carcasses that were not killed inside the containment area through the containment area.

Research also indicates supplemental feeding and baiting of deer increases the chance of disease transmission far above the normal clustering of deer on natural and ag-



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ricultural feeding areas. Berkeley, Grant, Hampshire, Hardy, Jefferson, Mineral and Morgan counties have been under a ban on baiting or feeding deer since 2015. Reducing the number of times infected and non-infected animals congregate by prohibiting supplemental feeding and baiting are generally accepted management practices for slowing the spread of an infectious disease among wildlife.

The West Virginia DNR will continue to update management actions designed to control the spread of this disease and prevent further introduction to new areas as information from deer testing within West Virginia is gathered and scientists across the country provide more information on how to combat CWD in white-tailed deer.

For additional information on deer baiting and feeding prohibitions and deer carcass transport re-

strictions, please see the 2018-2019 Hunting and Trapping Regulations Summary, soon to be available at DNR offices and license agents and at ww.wvdnr.gov.



Andrew D'Angelo went to Barbour County for a 23# gobbler.

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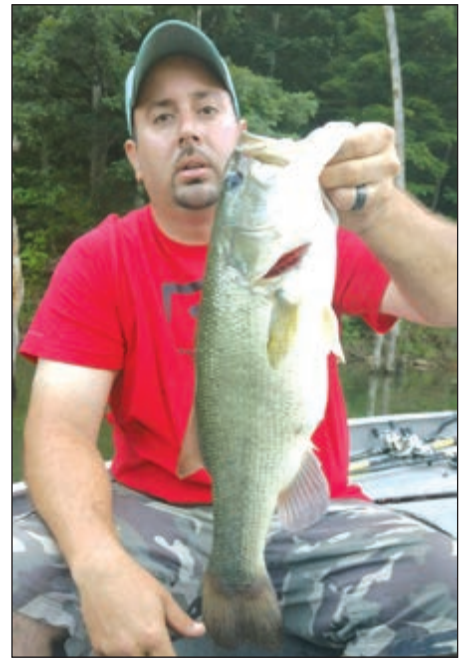
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Jim Pyles caught a 5 1/2 pound Stonewall Jackson Lake bass.



Oscar Keen, from Mingo Co., hooked a large striper at Smith Mountain Lake.



Levi Kessler hooked several channel catfish at a lake.



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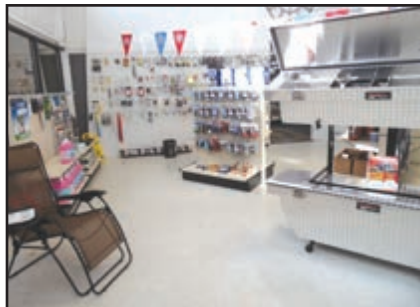
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Summer Catfishing

Leverage The Heat For Channel Catfish

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


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

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

Punch The Channel Catfish

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

Scent travels farther in warm than it does colder water. The scent of any bait is "amplified" and has a further reach. When using something for catfish bait with a very strong scent you simply have that

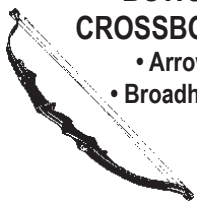



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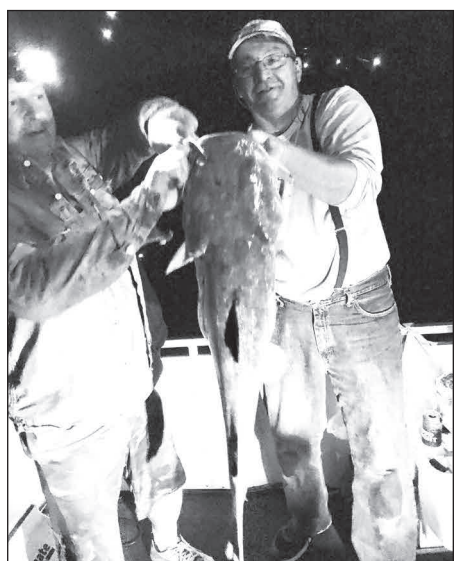
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much more "power" in drawing in fish.

This makes the late summer a great time for catching channel catfish with prepared baits or what many anglers call "stink bait". Prepared



Les Davis hooked a big flathead on the Monongahela River.

baits work very well for catching numbers of channel catfish in no time at all.

My preference is "punch" style baits like CJ's Catfish Punch Bait but there are other good options as well.

Rigging up with a slip bobber rig or my preference, the Secret Catfish Rig and a #6 treble hook and finesse fishing summer channel
continue to the next page

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catfish haunts provides some quick action to keep you busy in the heat of the summer.

Chum Them Up

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

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

Baiting a hole or repeatedly throwing chum in an area for an

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

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

Time The Flathead Catfish

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

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catfish rigs at night offers a break from the heat and some excellent flathead catfish action.

Pay close attention to when you catch your flathead catfish and keep good records. Savvy flathead catfish anglers learn that there is
continue to the next page

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Cody Bassett landed a nice rainbow trout.

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usually a “peak” time each night that produces the best action.

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

even more of a challenge.

.Drift Fish For Scattered Fish

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

Drifting allows you to cover a lot of water and can increase your

potential of locating and catching fish. When you key in on a specific area or depth that is producing then you can continue to focus on that depth and area while drifting or use your sonar to narrow down the target area and anchor up.

Drifting for channel catfish at night can be very productive in the summer. This was our “go to” method of catching channel catfish in the summer when I was a kid and we did very well. Like anything else the more you practice, continue to the next page



A large flathead catfish was landed at this pay lake. Photo courtesy of Sure Catch Fish Farm in Elkins.

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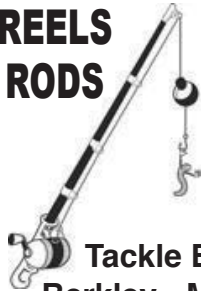


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the more time you spend on the water and the more you learn the more fish you will catch.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Pay close attention as the sun begins to set and watch for activity in the water. Look for active bait fish and fish feeding on them.

Good luck this summer fishing.

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Longstanding Record

By Cory Boothe

One of the most longstanding state record fish in West Virginia happens to be the flathead catfish. In 1956, L.L. McClung pulled a 52 inch, 70 pound giant out of the Little Kanawha River in the Wirt/Wood County area. For reference, the United States was recently out of the Korean War and transistor radios were first invented in that era of time. Fast forward sixty-two years and a larger flathead has yet to be caught and verified as the state record.

Is a state record flathead lurking the muddy bottom of our state's waters? In my opinion, there are probably multiple state record cats alive today in West Virginia. The Ohio, Kanawha, and Little

Kanawha can all have one sipping down hand size bluegills on their mud bottoms near a brush pile. Burnsville Lake has had flatheads caught and released that pushed the scales way past sixty pounds. It is even rumored that a state record was caught and released at Burnsville because the fisherman thought the record weight was more than 70 pounds.

Anyone targeting the state record flathead would need to use exceptionally large gear and bait. I know of forty pound catfish that have fallen victims to baits almost twenty inches long. If I was going after a state record flathead, I would be using a live channel cat or small-mouth bass in the right location.

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It is legal to use gamefish for flatheads if the gamefish was caught on rod and reel.

In conclusion, while the L.L. McClung fish is a very stately record, it is quite breakable. Grab yourself some heavy duty gear and head to your nearest deep hole or brush pile. Odds are that some whiskered beast is lurking below.

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Buddy Stalnaker caught an 8 1/4 pound largemouth at a farm pond. Photo courtesy of Middle Mountain Sporting Goods in Elkins.

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Finding Summer Smallmouth Bass

It's often said with much frustration that smallies disappear after they spawn and move off the beds. That's a little bit true, I suppose, but a more accurate description of what they do is roam out in deep water. It's more like they're everywhere than it is that they're nowhere. And, what they do is site specific.

In the deeper Great Lakes and some of the bigger, deep lakes in the North they tend to act almost like lake trout. By that I mean that they feed on smelt and are often found at extremely deep depths. Finding them between 40 and 60 feet is common, often over water that's between 80 and 100 feet deep.

It's tough to find them at those depths. That's why so many anglers

think they've disappeared or traveled to parts unknown. However, if you adjust your SONAR properly and spend the time it takes to find them you can catch them. They are feeding.

In shallower places, like the western end of Lake Erie they seem to relate more to structure. The offshore rock piles in Erie are legendary for producing large numbers of big smallmouth when the weather is miserably hot. My guess is that those fish are generally resident bass. They move into those places and stay until they've eaten everything in sight.

If you are lucky, and a mega school moves in, you'll know it immediately. You'll catch a bass on almost every single high spot, and they'll all look perfect — not a

mark on them.

At times, though, it looks like they continue to the next page



Robbie Gump hooked a 6 1/2 pound rainbow in Sutton.



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move from one rock pile or structure break to another. In my mind they're moving back and forth to take advantage of whatever's there to eat. In most cases that'll be gobies.

In the shallower, natural lakes — again, in the northern part of our country — it seems like they do the same thing except that they don't have the deep water available. They're likely to move with the forage but in water that's a lot shallower. The western part of Lake Erie may not be as deep as the eastern part but it's still deeper than many natural lakes. What all the movements I've described have in common is that summer smallmouth are forage related. I think that's just as true of the shallow, "rock pile" bass as it is of the deep, "smelt" bass or the shallow natural lake bass. And because they're relating to forage they are going to be moving. Don't expect to catch them two or three days in a row in



Sam Greenwood & Brody, from Newport Ohio, bagged a nice bird.

the same spot.

If you're looking for hot weather smallmouth, I suggest you start by analyzing the water you're fishing. You need to know its general depth, basic structure and what forage is available. Once you've done that you can start your open water search, and it's likely you'll spend more time staring at your SONAR screen than you will fishing. When you do find them, though, it'll be a time to remember.

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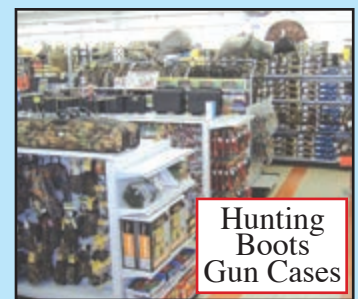
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Summer Bluegill Fishing

Outdoor types consider bluegill fishing as American as apple pie and baseball. Many anglers had their passion fired by first catching the ubiquitous bluegill, the most striking member of the sunfish family. Bluegill are plentiful, fun to catch and amazing on the dinner plate. Follow these steps to start your passion for bluegill fishing.

1. Start Simple Simple

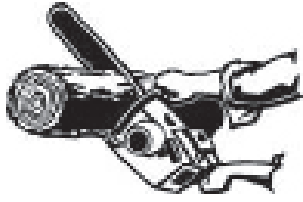
Bluegill fishing is as simple as it gets. For some real, old fashioned fishing fun, you'll need this equip-

continue to the next page



Sawyer Haskins, from Arnoldsburg, hooked a big catfish.

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Bobbers Round Plastic Floats

Small fishing hooks Baitholder

Hooks (size 6-8)

2. Research Spots that Hold Bluegill Populations

Bluegill fishing used to be as simple as going to the local pond or

creek. It still is if you live in a rural area. However, if you don't live in the country, begin your search close to home. City and county parks often maintain small ponds and lakes. Most of them will hold bluegill populations. If you want to travel farther from home, check the websites for your state park system and conservation department. Both agencies offer fishing sites and quite often, fishing instruction programs. Many loan equipment, too.

continue to the next page



Jerry Keen, from Mingo Co, caught a striper in Virginia.

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2012 Johnson - Lucas

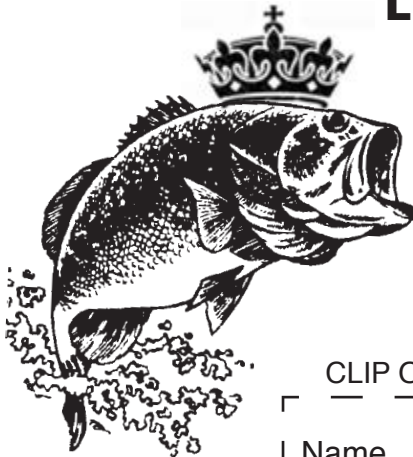
2013 Spurlock - Collins

2014 Cottrell - Cottrell

2015 Ray - Heater

2016 Godwin - Godwin

2017 - Long - Johnson



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3. Use Live Fishing Bait
 TipsSummerBluegill blog
 Kids love fishing for bluegill.

Bluegill are voracious eaters of small insects, crustaceans and worms. A wriggly worm or kicking cricket will attract bluegills quickly. Live baits are especially interesting to children. Kids will often spend more time playing with the bait than fishing. My 4-year-old granddaughter, Ally, once gave all 12 of my minnows names before we used them for bait. She asked dozens of questions about the minnows and the fish that would eat them. The enjoyable conversation gave grandpa the open door to teach simple conservation concepts.

4. For Bigger Fish, Go Deeper

Bluegill can be found in every sector of a pond or small lake. Kids like fast action and catching plenty of bluegill will not be a problem. On the other hand, to catch bigger

bluegill, you will often have to fish a little deeper to get away from the hordes of smaller fish. Dropping your bait a few feet down near a boat dock piling, or other structure, will do the trick.

5. Have Fun Fishing

Most serious bluegill fishermen will tell you that they fish for bluegills because it is so much fun. Bluegill are aggressive and

tremendous fighters for their size. They are a blast to catch on light tackle and have the habit of running perpendicular to the line, causing them to feel 10 times their size. Fishing memories, which will last a lifetime, are often the product of a simple bluegill fishing trip.



Bob O'Dell, from Parkersburg, hooked a 24" largemouth bass.



Cole Haynes landed a 44 1/2" blue catfish on the Kanawha River.

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Bass Fishing Tips

1. Save Shredded Worms

When your plastic worms get torn up, save 'em. Bass like to ambush wounded prey, so a beat-up worm is perfect to use, especially in shallow water.

Anthony Gagliardi, 2006 FLW Tour Land O'Lakes Angler of the Year

2. Red Fools the Fish

In shallow cover — wood, stumps, clumps of grass — I like to use a spinner bait with a red or pink head, and a crank bait with red hooks. The red makes the fish think the bait's injured, and they'll bite at it.

George Cochran, 2005 Wal-Mart FLW Tour Championship winner

3. Skip Your Bait

When you cast, stop halfway instead of following through, similar to a check swing in baseball. This makes the lure hit the surface of the water a few feet before your target, so the lure skitters over the water. It's a good way to get under docks and other structures.

Mike Iaconelli, 2004 CITGO Bassmaster Classic champion

4. Keep Your Hooks Sharp

I use a file to sharpen my hooks every time I catch a fish and before every trip. It takes 30 seconds. Bass have boney jaws, so a sharp hook is more apt to penetrate the fish.

Mark Zona, host of ESPN Outdoors

5. Look at Your Livewell Water

When you put a bass in the livewell, they're notorious for spitting up what they were feeding on. From there you can tell what color lure or kind of lure to throw the rest of the day.

Matt Herren, No. 2 ranked angler, 2006 Wal-Mart FLW Tour

6. Face the Wind

Sacrifice some distance in your casts and fish with the wind in

your face. Bass always swim with



Devon Johnston, from Buckhannon, went to Texas for a big boar.

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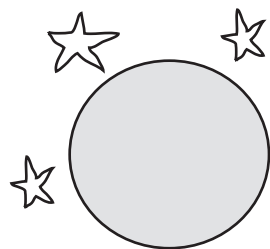
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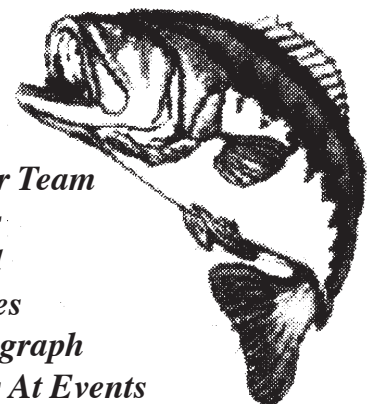
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Ish Monroe, winner of the 2006 Battle on the Border

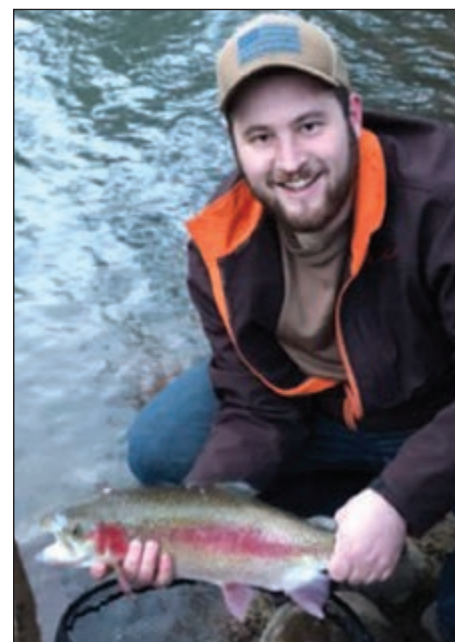
7. Fish Shallow in the Spring

In the spring bass hang out in spawning beds. Concentrate on shallow areas, especially in pockets and coves protected from the wind because this is where they like to guard their eggs. They'll bite as much out of irritation with the lure as they will out of hunger. Jay Yelas, 2003 Bassmaster Angler of the Year

8. Make Your Bait Seasonal

Bass eat different bait depending on the time of year. The general rule is early in the year they like crawfish, so use peach-colored patterns. In the summer and fall they like shad, so use chrome or silver baits.

Mike Hawkes, 2006 Wal-Mart FLW Series event winner, Lake Cumberland



Cody Bassett used a fly rod on Elk River for a nice rainbow trout.



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