



FREE

"The where to and how to magazine for the outdoor enthusiast."

Issue 267

February/March 2018

INSIDE THIS ISSUE



**Early
TROUT**

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

**DNR
Updates**

Outdoor Photos

WV Classic Giveaway & Outdoor Expo

TAYLOR COUNTY FAIRGROUNDS, GRAFTON WV

A TWO DAY CHARITY RAFFLE & TRADE SHOW.

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WV CLASSIC GIVEAWAY RAFFLE

SATURDAY, AUGUST 25TH AT 12:00 PM

12:00 2018 TOYOTA TACOMA TRD OFF-ROAD	1:10 HARLEY DAVIDSON IRON 833	2:20 BASS & QUAIL HUNT, KY	3:30 \$500 COLD HARD CASH	4:40 2018 CAN-AM WAVERICK SIDE X SIDE	6:00 2018 JEEP WRANGLER
12:02 SAUSAGE 10 BA STEALTH RIFLE	1:12 RUGER AMERICAN BOLT ACTION RIFLE	2:22 SPRINGFIELD 10M45 PISTOL	3:32 GLOCK 42 PISTOL	4:42 BROWNING BPS 16GA	6:02 HENRY 45-70 RIFLE
12:0 \$500 COLD HARD CASH	1:14 \$500 COLD HARD CASH	2:24 \$500 COLD HARD CASH	3:34 \$500 COLD HARD CASH	4:44 \$500 COLD HARD CASH	6:04 \$500 COLD HARD CASH
12:06 YETI TUNDRA 105/HOPPER TWO 20 PKG	1:16 OLD TOWN PREDATOR MK FISH KAYAK	2:26 SIG SAUER OSCAR 3 SPOTTING SCOPE	3:36 RECONVX HYPERFIRE HC 600 TRAIL CAM	4:46 OLD TOWN TWIN HERON ANGLER KAYAK	6:06 YETI TUNDRA 105/HOPPER TWO 20 PKG
12:08 SNAPPER 48" ZERO TURN MOWER	1:18 SUNBRITE OUTDOOR 55" TV	2:28 DEWALT 6-TOOL 20 VOLT COMBO	3:38 \$2000 COLD HARD CASH	4:48 GENERAC 102000 PORTABLE GENERATOR	6:08 WINCHESTER TREASURY 48 GUN SAFE
12:10 2018 POLARIS SPORTSMAN TOUR	1:20 WHITTALE HUNT CAST & BLAST OH	2:30 \$5000 COLD HARD CASH	3:40 TRACKER PRO 170 BASS BOAT	4:50 YAMAHA VX DELUXE WAVERUNNER	6:10 2018 YAMAHA WOLVERINE SIDE X SIDE
12:12 RUGER M77 HAWKEYE RIFLE	1:22 S&W BODGUARD PISTOL W/LASER	2:32 MOSSBERG 500 410 GA	3:42 MOSSBERG 500 12GA	4:52 GLOCK 23 PISTOL	6:12 REMINGTON 700 LR 7MM
12:14 \$500 COLD HARD CASH	1:24 \$500 COLD HARD CASH	2:34 \$500 COLD HARD CASH	3:44 \$500 COLD HARD CASH	4:54 \$500 COLD HARD CASH	6:14 \$500 COLD HARD CASH
12:16 ULTRASKIFF 360 FISHING KAYAK	1:26 BRADLEY 6-RACK DIGITAL SMOKER	2:36 BARNETT WHITETAIL HUNT CROSSBOW	3:46 OLD TOWN VAPOR 12 ANGLER KAYAK	4:56 GOPRO HERO5 4K ACTION CAMERA	6:16 ULTRASKIFF 360 FISHING KAYAK
12:18 GENERAC 102000 PORTABLE GENERATOR	1:28 SUN DOLPHIN PRO 120 FISHING BOAT	2:38 \$2000 COLD HARD CASH	3:48 KOBALT 18 DRAWER STAINLESS TOOL CABIN	4:58 FAMILY VACATION- WYRTLE BEACH, SC	6:18 7X12 ENCLOSED BOX TRAILER
12:20 RAM HUNT W/BUCK & BOARD, SC	1:30 \$5000 COLD HARD CASH	2:40 SEA DOO SPARK	3:50 SNAPPER 61" ZERO TURN	5:00 KUBOTA COMPACT UTILITY TRACTOR	6:20 ELK HUNT W/BEAVER CK OUTFITTERS, CO
12:22 REMINGTON WINGMASTER 20 GA	1:32 THOMPSON CENTER MUZZLELOADER	2:42 REMINGTON R1-191 PISTOL	3:52 WINCHESTER M70 FEATHERLIGHT	5:02 RUGER GP100 357MAG PISTOL	6:22 BERETTA TIKKA 25-06
12:24 \$500 COLD HARD CASH	1:34 \$500 COLD HARD CASH	2:44 \$500 COLD HARD CASH	3:54 \$500 COLD HARD CASH	5:04 \$500 COLD HARD CASH	6:24 \$500 COLD HARD CASH
12:26 SPYPOINT SOLAR CELL TRAIL CAM	1:36 TENPOINT TURBO GT CROSSBOW	2:46 OLD TOWN PENOBSCOT 164 CANOE	3:56 SUMMIT TREESTAND/ TRAIL CAMERA PKG	5:06 YETI TUNDRA 105/HOPPER TWO 20 PKG	6:26 LIBERTY 18 GUN PROVAULT SAFE
12:28 SKI OPEN TRAILER	1:38 \$2000 COLD HARD CASH	2:48 ECHO PRO SAW/BLOWER/TRIMMER PKG	3:58 ELK SPRINGS FISHING PACKAGE FOR 2	5:08 WEBER GENESIS II STAINLESS GRILL	6:28 ECHO PRO SAW/BLOWER/TRIMMER PKG
12:30 \$5000 COLD HARD CASH	1:40 CALDERA 5 PERSON HOT TUB	2:50 SUZUKI KINGQUAD 400 4X4	4:00 HARLEY DAVIDSON SOFTTAIL FATBOY	5:10 2018 HONDA FOURTRAX BANCHER 4X4	6:30 \$5000 COLD HARD CASH
12:32 WEATHERBY VANGUARD 257 RIFLE	1:42 RUGER AMERICAN 204 RIFLE	2:52 SIG SAUER P938 PISTOL	4:02 RUGER HAWKEYE 7MM RIFLE	5:12 RUGER SR-40	6:32 SAUSAGE 25V 17 HORNET
12:34 \$500 COLD HARD CASH	1:44 \$500 COLD HARD CASH	2:54 \$500 COLD HARD CASH	4:04 \$500 COLD HARD CASH	5:14 \$500 COLD HARD CASH	6:34 \$500 COLD HARD CASH
12:36 ENCALUBUR 325 CROSSBOW	1:46 OLD TOWN NEXT CANOE	2:56 MATHEWS HALON COMPOUND BOW	4:06 YETI TUNDRA 105/HOPPER TWO 20 PKG	5:16 OLD TOWN VAPOR 10 ANGLER KAYAK	6:36 TENPOINT RENEGADE CROSSBOW
12:38 \$2000 COLD HARD CASH	1:48 WEBER GENESIS II STAINLESS GRILL	2:58 FAMILY VACATION- PIGEON FORGE, TN	4:08 STIHL PRO SAW/BLOWER/TRIMMER PKG	5:18 WINCHESTER TREASURY 48 GUN SAFE	6:38 \$2000 COLD HARD CASH
12:40 GENERAC WHOLE HOUSE GENERATOR	1:50 CUSTOM HART RIFLE	3:00 2018 FORD EXPLORER	4:10 2018 POP UP CAMPER	5:20 \$5000 COLD HARD CASH	6:40 SEA DOO SPARK
12:42 RUGER LC9 PISTOL	1:52 ROCK ISLAND M1911 PISTOL	3:02 FNK-40 PISTOL	4:12 RUGER AMERICAN 6.5 CREEDMOORE	5:22 S&W SHIELD 9MM PISTOL	6:42 BROWNING X-BOLT 28 NOSLER
12:44 \$500 COLD HARD CASH	1:54 \$500 COLD HARD CASH	3:04 \$500 COLD HARD CASH	4:14 \$500 COLD HARD CASH	5:24 \$500 COLD HARD CASH	6:44 \$500 COLD HARD CASH
12:46 OLD TOWN VAPOR 10 ANGLER KAYAK	1:56 GOPRO HERO5 4K ACTION CAMERA	3:06 YETI TUNDRA 105/HOPPER TWO 20 PKG	4:16 OLD TOWN DIRIGO 106 KAYAK	5:26 BARNETT GHOST 375 CROSSBOW	6:46 OLD TOWN PREDATOR PDL FISHING KAYAK
12:48 STIHL PRO SAW/BLOWER/TRIMMER PKG	1:58 CAST & BLAST TURKEY HUNT	3:08 WINCHESTER TREASURY 48 GUN SAFE	4:18 LAS VEGAS GETAWAY FOR 2	5:28 \$2000 COLD HARD CASH	6:48 HUSQV PRO SAW/BLOWER/TRIMMER PKG
12:50 15' TRACKER JON BOAT W/MOTOR	2:00 2018 SUN TRACKER PONTOON	3:10 2018 HONDA FOURTRAX FOREMAN	4:20 D&B SPORT FISHING WALLEYE TRIP	5:30 2018 POLARIS BANGER SIDE X SIDE	6:50 2018 SLINGSHOT ROADSTER
12:52 SAUSAGE 555 O/USHOTGUN	2:02 S&W H&P 10	3:12 RUGER MINI-14 RIFLE	4:22 MOSSBERG PATRIOT RIFLE	5:32 SAUSAGE 17MMR RIFLE	6:52 REMINGTON 700 COL 270
12:54 \$500 COLD HARD CASH	2:04 \$500 COLD HARD CASH	3:14 \$500 COLD HARD CASH	4:24 \$500 COLD HARD CASH	5:34 \$500 COLD HARD CASH	6:54 \$500 COLD HARD CASH
12:56 INDULTRIE TRAIL CAMERA, FEEDER PKG	2:06 YETI TUNDRA 105/HOPPER TWO 20 PKG	3:16 OLD TOWN PREDATOR XL FISHING KAYAK	4:26 PRIMOS BLIND / TRAIL CAMERA PKG	5:36 OLD TOWN DISCOVERY 133 CANOE	6:56 MATHEWS HALON COMPOUND BOW
1:00 YAMAHA VX DELUXE WAVERUNNER	2:08 BOSS BUCK BLIND W/10' TOWER	3:18 SUNBRITE OUTDOOR 55" TV	4:28 MILWAUKEE 15 TOOL 18 VOLT KIT	5:38 HUSQV PRO SAW/BLOWER/TRIMMER PKG	6:58 REDNECK 616 BUCK BLIND W/ TOWER
1:02 REMINGTON 380 PISTOL	2:10 2018 YAMAHA KODIAK 700	3:20 WHITTALE HUNT PIKE CO. ILLINOIS	4:30 \$5000 COLD HARD CASH	5:40 HARLEY DAVIDSON DYNA STREET BOB	
1:04 \$500 COLD HARD CASH	2:12 RUGER SR1911 PISTOL	3:22 TAURUS 809 PISTOL	4:32 RUGER BLACKHAWK 41 MAG	5:42 S&W SHIELD 45 PISTOL	
1:06 YETI TUNDRA 105/HOPPER TWO 20 PKG	2:14 \$500 COLD HARD CASH	3:24 \$500 COLD HARD CASH	4:34 \$500 COLD HARD CASH	5:44 \$500 COLD HARD CASH	
1:08 MEC 2006 SPORTER CLAY TARGET INC.	2:16 OLD TOWN LOON 106 ANGLER KAYAK	3:26 ENCALUBUR MATRIX 330 CROSSBOW	4:36 TENPOINT TITANK XTREME ROSSBOW	5:46 LEUPOLD BX-3 MOJAVE 12X50 BINOCULARS	
	2:18 GENERAC 102000 PORTABLE GENERATOR	3:28 MUDDY BULL BOX BLIND W/ TOWER	4:38 \$2000 COLD HARD CASH	5:48 3 DAY LAKE ERIE FISHING TRIP	

7:00 \$50,000 CASH

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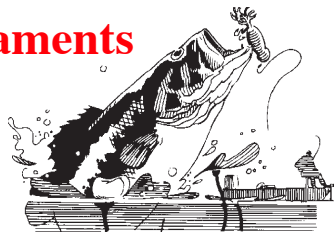
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Cover Photo

While deer hunting, Chelsea Mullins ran into this 489 pound black bear. This Clay native was hunting in Nicholas County at the time. The black bear of a lifetime was harvested by her. Congratulations!

Send in your large game pics from 2017. Notice the forms on pages 38 and page 22.

Hope you have had a great season. Pictures can be mailed in, texted or sent by email.

10 Astounding Fishing Facts

Wherever anglers gather, there is likely to be talk about the extreme aspects of fishing. Someone will mention the biggest this or most expensive that, and suddenly the place is abuzz with discussion. Those with conflicting opinions may engage in light-hearted arguments, bets will probably be made, and, sooner or later, someone will access the Internet from their smartphone to settle the dispute.

To motivate such lively discourses, I present the following tidbits about fish and fishing that are sure to nurture your knowledge of our favorite sport and allow you to amaze your fishing friends with the amount of trivia that clogs your

brain. These fascinating facts may also provide some new benchmarks the hardier among you can try to achieve.

Biggest Record Fish

So you think that marlin you had mounted for the wall was big, huh? Well, it probably was for its species, but chances are good it wasn't a third the size of the heaviest fish in the record books.

On April 21, 1959, Alfred Dean of Irymple, Victoria caught a 2,664-pound great white shark off the coast of his native Australia. Amazingly, he subdued this monster—the heaviest record fish ever listed by the International Game Fish Association—in only 50 minutes on 130-pound line. Dean also caught great whites weighing 2,333 and 2,536 pounds.

A replica of Dean's biggest catch can be seen at Bass Pro Shops Outdoor World in Grapevine, Texas.

Biggest Fish Ever Hooked and Landed

Another giant catch was described in *Fishes and Fishing in Louisiana* by James Gowanloch. In 1933, Captain Jay Gould of Hollywood, Florida captured a manta ray that measured 19 feet, 9 inches from wing-tip to wing-tip. The ray

continue to the next page



Charlena Salisbury got a 7 point with her crossbow. Photo courtesy of Crossroads General Store near Newark.

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was hooked on a large shark hook on 1,200 feet of 1/2-inch rope, and when it had been subdued and towed back to Ft. Lauderdale, Florida, the city's 20-ton crane had to be used to

lift the fish from the water, after the chain hoists on three smaller cranes were stripped while trying to bring it up. The manta ray's weight was estimated at 5,500 pounds.

Dottie, perhaps the largest ever recorded, was caught at least twice by anglers fishing 72-acre Dixon Lake near Escondido, California. (The fish was recognizable because of a unique black mark on the underside of the right gill plate.) When

continue to the next page



Jim Dunlap has a nice 8 point buck. Photo courtesy of Crossroads General Store near Newark.

Oldest Fishing Record

The 22-pound, 4-ounce world-record largemouth bass caught by George Perry in Georgia's Montgomery Lake was unmatched from June 2, 1932 until Manabu Kurita caught an equally big largemouth on July 2, 2009 in Japan's Lake Biwa. That's a long-standing record by anyone's measure. But one fish record has stood almost twice as long and remains unbroken—a 4-pound, 3-ounce IGFA all-tackle record yellow perch caught in New Jersey by Dr. C.C. Abbot in May 1865, 150 years ago!

Biggest Bass Ever Caught and Released Twice

A largemouth bass nicknamed



Tiffanie Perry bagged a 7 point in Wirt County.

STONEWALL JACKSON LAKE TEAM BASS TOURNAMENTS

April 15 - Sunday

May 26 - Saturday

September 30 - Sunday

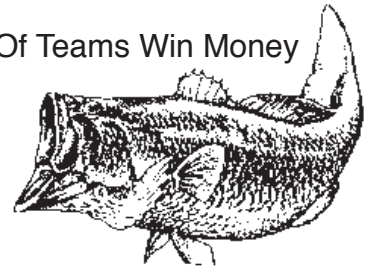
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Jed Dickerson caught it in 2003, it weighed an astounding 21 pounds. He released the fish healthy and alive. When Dickerson's friend Mac Weakley caught it again in 2006, it weighed 25 pounds, 1 ounce on a hand-held digital scale, making it a potential new world record. Weakley decided to release the bass, however, because he had unintentionally foul-hooked it. The bucketmouth turned up dead in the lake two years later, never having been caught again.

Fastest Fish

It's difficult to determine how fast some fish can swim, but some an-

glers at Florida's Long Key Fishing Camp came up with a simple method for accurately measuring a fish's swimming speed. A fish is hooked. It makes a run. You measure how

much line the fish took off the spool in a certain number of seconds, and you can calculate the fish's speed. The fastest fish in these speed tri-
continue to the page 8



Jacob Hawkins had success with a nice buck..



Bernard Drennen got an 8 point with a crossbow in Gilmer County.



Chantz Williams shot a 9 point in Tyler County.

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als, perhaps the fastest fish in the world, was a sailfish that took out 300 feet of line in three seconds, a velocity of 68 mph. That's zero to 60 mph in 2.6 seconds!
Fastest-traveling Fish

A tagged great white shark became the quickest recorded oceanic traveler after it swam from South Africa to Australia and back in under a year. The female shark



Tom Berga landed a 21" brook trout while ice fishing.

was tagged with a data transmitter off South Africa in November 2003. The unit detached automatically and was recovered off western Australia four months later, but that wasn't the end of the story. In August 2004, five months after the transmitter bobbed to the surface, project research scientists spotted the shark—identifiable by a pattern of notches in its dorsal fin—back in its old haunt off South Africa. It had completed a round trip of some 12,500 miles in just nine months.

Biggest Fly Rod and Reel

On June 12, 1999, Tiney Mitch-

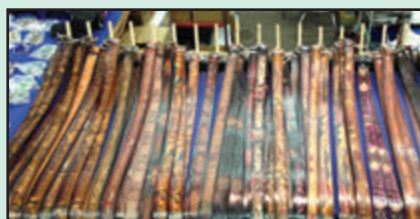
ell of Port Isabel, Texas, finished constructing the world's largest fly fishing rod and reel. The rod is a whopping 71 feet, 4.5 inches long. The reel measures 4 feet in diameter and 10 inches in width. You can see it at the end of Maxan Street in Port Isabel.

Oldest Fish

For many years, the oldest fish on record was female European eel named Putte. She was kept in an aquarium all her adult life, and when she died at Hälsingborg Museum, Sweden in 1948, that slimy

continue to the page 13

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Kohen Mossor used a bow for a nice 8 point Wood Co. buck.



Karl Rine brought in a nice buck.
Photo courtesy of Tyler Outdoor Supply in Middlebourne.



Pat Casey used a recurve bow to get an 8 point in Lewis Co.

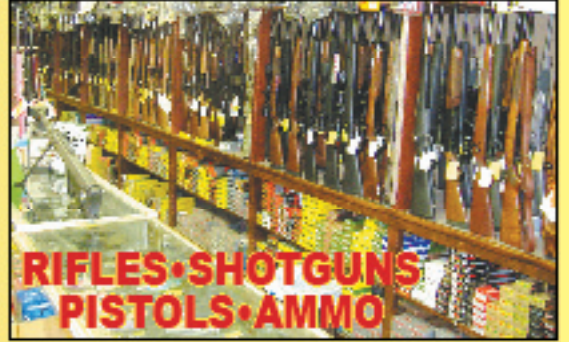
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Cheston Haynes, from Charleston, used a crossbow for a nice 8 point.



RJ Carr got a nice 9 point in Raleigh County.



Austin Light, from Hewitt, brought in a nice Boone County buck.

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Eric Wickline used a gun for a great Greenbrier County buck.

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ol' gal was reported to be 88 years old.

That record is old news, though. A 32-inch-long rougheye rockfish caught in Alaska was determined by scientists to be an amazing 205 years old. Biologists used growth rings in the fish's ear bone to estimate the age of the fish that started life 50 years before the Civil War! Researchers are studying the genetic code of rockfish, but it's unclear for now why the rougheye, which matures and reproduces late in life, lives so long.

Priciest Lure Ever Made

If you're like me, you find it pretty upsetting when you snag a \$5 or \$10 fishing lure and lose it. But a loss like that is nothing compared to the chance one would take fishing with the Million Dollar Lure from MacDaddy Fishing Lures. This 12-inch trolling lure, designed to catch marlin, was crafted with

just over 3 pounds of glimmering gold and platinum, and encrusted with 100 carats of diamonds and rubies (4,753 stones to be exact). Cost? Just as the name says—a cool \$1 million.

According to Sport Fishing magazine, the lure's owner insured it through Lloyd's of London and actually trolled it behind a boat inside the bay at Cabo San Lucas using 130-pound-test mono and a 500-pound steel leader. Fortunately for him, perhaps, the sparkly bait didn't draw any strikes. Most Consecutive Casts

So you thought you made a lot of casts during the last tournament you fished, huh? Check this out. In July 1999, Brent Olgers of Macon, Georgia established a world record for the longest period of consecutive casting. Using a Zebco 33 Classic reel, Olgers cast 6,501 times in just over 24 hours, aver-

aging 270 casts per hour. Each cast had to be at least 45 feet in length. Amazing!



Chet Davis got a big coyote in Wirt County.

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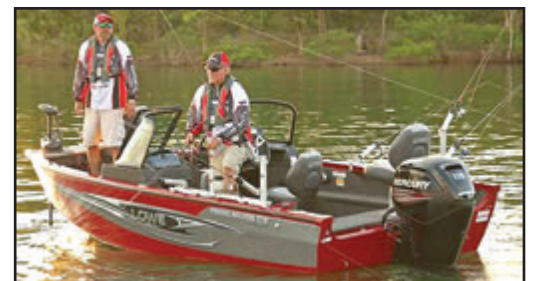


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Sportsmen enjoyed last years WV Fishing, Hunting & Outdoor Show in Morgantown last year.

March Outdoor Show In Morgantown

The 17th annual WV Fishing, Hunting & Outdoor Sports Show will be held March 3-4, 2018 at the Ruby Community Center at MYLAN PARK in Morgantown. Recognized as the largest outdoors show in northern WV, the event sells out annually with over 150 vendor booths representing outdoor businesses from all over the US and Canada.



Randy Moore, from Clarksburg, bagged a nice 9 point buck.

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“We are so excited for this year’s show,” says Labeth Hall owner of PR Plus Events, organizer of the event. “We have the largest show ever with over 53,000 square feet full of everything you need to go fishing, hunting or enjoy the great outdoors, in addition to boats,

campers, ATV’s, trucks, trailers, tractors and much more. There are thousands of products and services related to the outdoors and we have added a lot of new vendors also.”

For those who are serious fisherman, they will find a variety of
continue to the next page



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fishing trips in the US and Canada, bait, tackle, reels, area fishing guides, as well as charter boat captains from the Great Lakes. Professional anglers and fishing enthusiast will find everything they need to catch the Big One.

The avid hunter can browse through lots of guns, archery equipment, knives, ammo, beef jerky, hunting associations, DNR, taxidermists, camo gear and lots of new gadgets. There will be turkey calls, tree stands, scents and a variety of new hunting products. Hunting outfitters will be there to book your favorite destinations.

Thousands of outdoorsman are expected to attend the show and families are welcome. You will find something for everyone. Women can shop for camo purses, marinades and spices, unique jewelry and decorative items with an outdoors theme. Children can enjoy the mountain climbing wall, panning for gold, archery games, face painting and learning about a variety of animals with the Wild World of Animals Show on Sunday at 1:00pm..

Show hours are Saturday from 10am-7pm and Sunday 10am-4pm. Tickets can be purchased at the door and admission is \$9 for adults, children 7-12 are \$1, and there is no charge for kids under 6 years. The first 50 people each day will receive a FREE gift. Guests can register at

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Robert Johson had good luck and harvested a black bear.

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Elk Restoraton Project Announced

CHARLESTON, WV — Gov. Jim Justice announced today that the West Virginia Division of Natural Resources has reached an agreement with the United States Department of Agriculture, the U.S. Forest Service and the Land Between the Lakes National Recreation Area (LBL) to acquire 17 additional elk next month as part of the state's elk restoration effort.

This will be the second group of elk to come from LBL, which is located in Kentucky. In late 2016, 24 elk were captured and transported to the Tomblin Wildlife Management area in southern West Virginia.

“As a lifelong sportsman, I am proud to work with our state and federal partners to make elk restoration in West Virginia a success

story,” said Gov. Justice. “This is great news for all West Virginians as we continue to restore this magnificent native species to our state.”

The new additions to West Virginia's elk herd should arrive by mid-February and be released before the anticipated arrival of 70 additional elk from Arizona later this year.

“Combined with the previous elk

we received from LBL and the elk we are in the process of acquiring from Arizona later this year, West Virginia sportsmen and women will see increased wildlife recreation opportunities and economic growth well into the future,” said DNR Director Stephen McDaniel. “We want to thank all of the agencies involved for their work in making this happen.”

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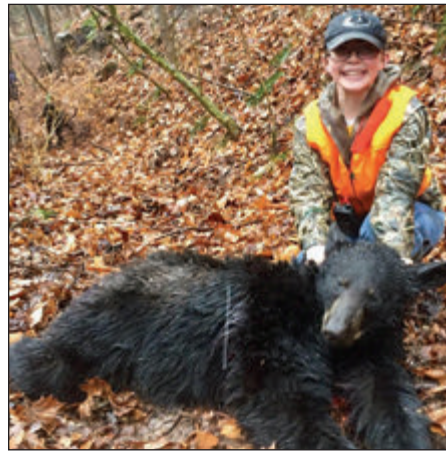
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Scott Light has a great 11 point Logan County bow buck.



Caleb Smith, from Clothier, has a Logan County black bear.



Angie Starkey harvested her 1st bear in Upshur County.

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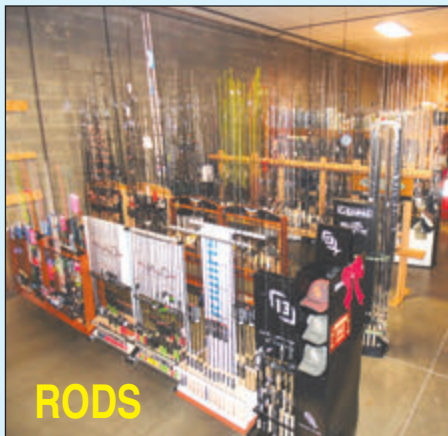


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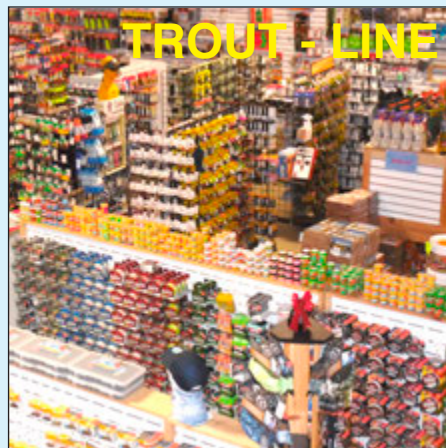
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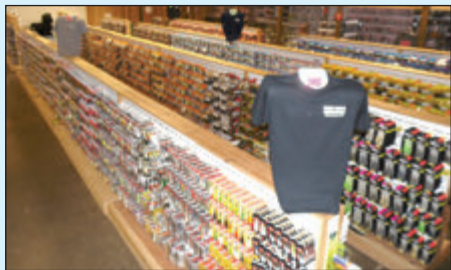
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Fill your tackle box with these trout lures and you'll be rippin' lips this season.

Rapala Original Floating Minnow

Some lures stand the test of time. This plug has been catching fish for generations. I've had luck with the silver, gold and rainbow trout colors. I've had success with sizes F03, F05, F07 and F09. A tried and true contender, this lure catches fish.

Blue Fox Vibrax

These are great when you need to keep the lure down in the water column. The UV colors are particularly productive for trout.

Joe's Flies Short Striker

I went fishing on my home waters and wasn't having much luck. My dad's buddy was yanking rainbows out of the water left and right. I finally asked him what he was using. It was a Joe's Flies Short Striker in

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Potamac Coachman with a #2 gold blade. On my first cast, I caught one. Make sure you get a bunch of these.

Panther Martin

Get one of these in the Classic Teardrop Spinner model. My go-to is a Classic Gold with a #2 blade. If I'm on bigger water, I'll move up to the same model, but with a #4 blade. The Classic Silver and
continue to the next page



Gary Cottril landed a nice trout at Tracy Lake.



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Acme Phoebe

Worden's Rooster Tail

You have to have a few of these ready. There are so many options, that it can get intimidating. I've had my best luck with some sort of white or black, and yellow. The light, single hook options are unique Worden's Rooster Tail

You have to have a few of these ready. There are so many options, that it can get intimidating. I've had my best luck with some sort of white or black, and yellow. The light, single hook options are unique as well.

Acme Kastmaster

These cast a mile! When you're in open water, these are a great option. It's very easy to cover a lot of water with this lure. Use silver and the silve/blue options in 1/12 oz., 1/8 oz. and 1/4 oz. If you're fishing for steelhead, or trophies, up to the 3/8 oz. option.

Mepps Aglia Spinnerbait

You can't go wrong with this one. Use sizes 0, 1, 2 and 3. I've always had luck with the gold blades. Also, the #3 size has always gotten more strikes for me than the other sizes.



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Rebel Tracdown

Monster trout love this one. This lure has a similar action to the Rapala, but it's weighted. This makes the nose dive on the pause and really can give the action of a dying bait fish that will drive trout wild. Wade upstream and cast this along banks to lure in a big brown.

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Mark Work came in from Michigan to take this buck.

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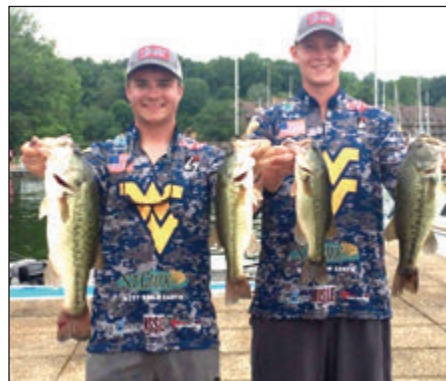
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Dewey Sloan landed a 7 pound largemouth at Anderson Lake.



Kirk Price & Dailey Gordon are on the WVU bass fishing team.



Ohio River angler, Larry Vucelich, hooked a 10 lb. 4 oz Florida bass.

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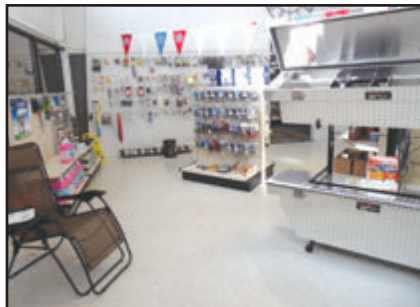
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Spring Trout Fishing

Trout stocking has been well underway in the Berkshires and throughout the rest of the Northeast for several weeks now which means that it's time for you to get out there and do a little trout fishing! These tips for trout fishing in the early spring will help to ensure that you go home with a full creel. Use An Ultralight Rod And Reel Combo

Although trout in the early spring are a little less "finicky" than they will be in the forthcoming weeks it is still important to understand that you can't just throw any old lure or live bait out there and expect to get a bite. Water temperatures are often not much warmer than 40 F and visibility is often very poor due to rapid spring currents. Knowing

this, you'll want to equip yourself with an ultralight rod and reel combo and use 4-6 lb test monofilament. Lighter weight test monofilament is more difficult for trout to see and helps to reduce drag in rapidly moving water. As far as rod and reel are concerned, I personally use a 5 foot long Ugly Stick with an Orvis No. 1 Spin reel. The ultra light action Ugly Stick is sensitive enough to feel even the most subtle of strikes from timid spring trout.

Spring Trout Bait

As far as using live bait to catch early spring trout is concerned, you can't go wrong with using either trout worms or small live minnows hooked to a single size 4 – 8 fishing hook. I've also had a great deal of success using Berkley Powerbait to catch trout in the early spring as well as throughout the entirety of the trout fishing season. I have found that the Chartreuse Power Nuggets seem to work the best. You'll want to use just enough split-shot sinkers to submerge your bait between 12 – 18 inches above the bottom of the water body in which you are fishing. Don't use too much weight however as you want to allow your bait to have as much natural move-

continue to the next page



Tanner Sprouse caught a 5 lb. 4 oz. golden trout. *Photo courtesy of Middle Mountain Sporting Goods in Elkins.*

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ment as possible.
Spring Trout Lures

You'll want to be sure that you have a wide variety of shiny and brightly colored trout fishing lures on hand before you head out. Ice melts and rainstorms cause spring water to move rapidly and appear murky so the shinier the lure the better. I am mostly familiar with trout fishing in the Berkshires as well as trout fishing in the Farmington Valley area of Connecticut so I am going to tell you what lures work best in these particular areas. It could very well be that these fishing lures will work well for you throughout the rest of the country, when in doubt, just go down to your local tackle shop and ask around! I have had the best luck by far when

using the following trout lures;
1/32 – 1/8 Ounce chartreuse Rooster Tail

1/4 Ounce gold Thomas Buoyant
1/4 Ounce Daredevil, the original red and white one

I have also had some degree of luck with different colored variations of the above mentioned lures and before you throw stones at me for not mentioning the Panther Martin, let me just say that although the Panther Martin trout lure has worked well for others, it has not worked well for me!

When fishing for trout in the early spring using lures I tend to cast and then reel in the lure at a medium to somewhat slow pace. If I'm using a spoon such as the Thomas Buoyant or Daredevil then I will gently pulling back the rod tip as I reel in the lure in order to produce a wounded minnow-like effect.



Vance Hart enjoyed harvesting this fine gobbler last spring.

I've just shared with you some tips that I have used to successfully catch trout in the early spring. If you have any additional tips or suggestions then I would encourage you to become a member of

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Aly Blankenship harvested a 9 point buck.

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Swim Jig Fishing

Folks in Wisconsin seem to have an affinity for swim jigs. While Tom Monsoor is pretty much the world authority on the method, that doesn't mean there aren't other ways to do it. Matt Stefan has made the Forrest Wood Cup three of the last four years, and each year he's put at least a few in the boat on a swim jig no matter where the season has taken him.

"The swim jig would definitely be my go-to bait if I could choose one bait," says Stefan. "That's because it's such a versatile bait that you can really use it through any level of the water column. You can use it in a foot of water through thick grass. You can use a heavy swim jig on ledges. You can fish suspended fish with it around docks and over deep water. It's really a bait you can utilize at all different levels of the water column and through all different types of cover."

Through his love of the bait Stefan has formed several opinions about it, from what makes a good swim jig to the best times to put one into action.

BAIT SPECIFICS

Before signing on with Dirty Jigs, Stefan made most of his own swim jigs, and would probably still do so if he weren't satisfied with what is commercially available.

For the actual jig, the meticulous

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pro likes a bullet-shaped head and a vertical line tie – one that is in line with the hook. He believes that combination produces the most weedless jig possible. Stefan also likes to thin out the brush guard, sometimes taking out as many as one-third of the strands. He often thins the skirt as well, both shortening and removing some of the strands. Finally, Stefan prefers a jig with a good trailer keeper, be it a nice molded-in barb or a wire keeper. Though he sometimes uses

continue to the next page



Brandon Turner reeled in a nice largemouth bass.

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Super Glue to lock trailers in place, he doesn't like the buildup that can occur overtime.

"The majority of the time I'm throwing a 3/8-ounce jig," Stefan says. "If I'm in super shallow water I'll switch to a 1/4-ounce, and up north here we have a lot of deep weedlines, and I'll switch to a 3/4-ounce in that respect. That can really be a killer in the summer when fish are grouped up in like 14 feet of water."

Stefan throws the Dirty Jigs Swim Jig or the Finesse Swim Jig 95 percent of the time, relying mostly on the standard model. He also occasionally uses the No-Jack Swim Jig.

"I utilize the finesse one when I'm fishing smallmouths, which is usually in rivers," says Stefan. "I do that because the hook is substantially smaller on it. It's still extremely stout. You don't have to worry about bending it on a fish, but they get it in their mouths better. The smallmouths have a bad habit of just coming up and grabbing the



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tail, and I think that a bigger hook has prevented some fish in my past from getting the bait.

"For the most part I don't feel like I need to throw the No-Jack too much, but if I'm down in Florida and using braid I will switch over. It's such a stout hook that you need something to drive the hook home, and you'll be using it in cover that's so thick that you need braid anyway."

Stefan usually opts for 15-pound-test Seaguar InvizX line and sometimes drops down to 10-pound test in wicked-clear water. He sticks with a high-speed reel and usually uses a custom-built rod made on a St. Croix Legend Tournament finesse swim jig rod blank. The

blank is a 7-foot, 1-inch, medium-heavy power with an extra-fast action – heavy enough to manage around cover but light-duty enough to present and work some fairly small baits.

For his trailers, Stefan prefers a swimbait.

"I'm a big fan of boot tails," he says. "I feel like the bait wobbles side to side, and it allows the bait to have more action."

Most of the time his swimbait of choice is a Reaction Innovations Skinny Dipper, and he starts the process by cutting the head off. Then, he trims up from the bottom to make the bait a little more streamlined before rigging it on he

continue to page 31

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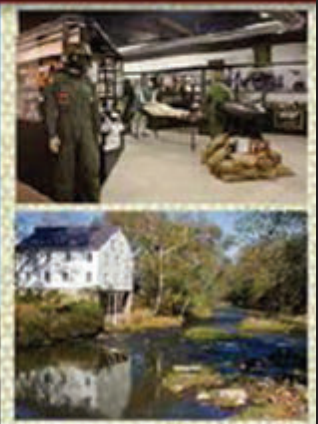
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Black Bear Harvest For 2017

SOUTH CHARLESTON, W.Va. — Hunters in West Virginia harvested 3,160 black bears during the combined 2017 archery and firearms seasons, which is the second highest recorded bear kill in state history.

Due to more abundant mast production in 2017, the Division of Natural Resources expected a decrease in the archery harvest and an increase in the December firearms harvest compared to 2016. While both predictions held true, the harvest count for the 2017 seasons increased 5 percent over the 3,012 bears killed in 2016. This is the third straight year the black bear harvest has topped 3,000.

“Historically, an abundance of mast makes bears harder for archers to target, yet leads to a large December firearms harvest,” said Colin Carpenter, DNR’s Black Bear Project leader. “Mast abundance delays denning and keeps bears available to hunters for both the buck-gun and December firearms seasons.”

Hunters killed 612 bears during the first segment of the 2017 ar-

chery season (Sept. 30 – Nov. 19). Hunters harvested 327 bears with vertical bows and 285 with crossbows. The top five counties for archery harvest were Nicholas (53), Randolph (45), Fayette (43), Mercer (38) and Preston (38).

Firearms hunters harvested 2,548 bears in 2017. Hunters took 623 bears in September and October, 678 during the concurrent buck-gun bear season, and 1,247 during the traditional December season. The top five counties for firearms harvest were Randolph (224), Webster (210), Pocahontas (204), Pendleton (193) and Nicholas (187).

“The addition of early bear seasons and the buck-gun season over the past 10 years has helped decrease the influence of mast crops on total harvest,” Carpenter said.



Mike Arbogast got a fine 10 point buck. Photo courtesy of Middle Mountain Sporting Goods in Elkins.

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jig. When finished, the process creates a really nice package that will come through grass very easily.

TWO NORTHERN APPLICATIONS

Chucking and winding a swim jig through shallow vegetation is probably the most common way to fish one. It's also one of the simplest techniques because once you have a good swim jig combo you're basically set to start winding it back through the grass.

Two ways that Stefan likes to make use of the swim jig's versatility are in shallow river situations and on deep weed edges. Both require a bit more refined technique.

1. Cut bank swimming

One of Stefan's favorite times to fish a swim jig is when he's keying up shallow in rivers such as the Mississippi and the Wolf in Wisconsin and Minnesota.

2. Deep weedline swimming

Another of Stefan's more Northern techniques is tossing a swim jig on deeper weed edges in the summertime. It's a great way to go for numbers and size, and makes for a good excuse to get some 3/4-ounce swim jigs.

Though a swim jig is a good tool to cover water, finding the right types of places is key.

"Up north it's all natural lakes with deeper water," says Stefan. "So, main-lake points and submerged islands are probably the two areas I would start on, rather than being back in a spawning bay. I want deep water, and I'm usually looking for more defined breaklines."

Once he has a rough starting spot, Stefan typically concentrates on irregularities in the weeds.

"If you have a straight weedline for a while and you have a nice de-

finied point or a stretch where some sparse weeds taper out deeper or even an indentation, that's good. Probably my favorite is where I can find some rock mixed in or a harder bottom."

Give swim baits a try this season.



Luke Harper brought in a Ritchie Co. 10 point buck. Photo courtesy of Crossroads General Store near Newark.



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10 Essential Fishing Facts

Fish are broadly divided into three classes. The Osteichthys, or bony fish, include both ray-finned and lobe-finned fish, accounting for over 30,000 species in all, ranging from familiar food fish like salmon and tuna to more exotic lungfish and electric eels. The Chondrichthyes, or cartilaginous fish, include sharks, rays and skates, and the Agnatha, or jawless fish, include hagfish and lampreys. (A fourth class, Placodermes, or armored fish, has

long since gone extinct, and most experts lump Acanthodes, or spiny sharks, under the Osteichthys umbrella.)

All Fish Are Equipped With Gills

Like all animals, fish need oxygen in order to fuel their metabolism: the difference is that terrestrial vertebrates breathe air, while fish rely on oxygen dissolved in water.

continue to the next page

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Josh Keller brought in a fine buck this season.



Jodie Hinkle harvested an 8 point buck in Upshur County.

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To this end, fish have evolved gills, complex, efficient, multi-layered organs that absorb oxygen from the water and excrete carbon dioxide. Gills only work when oxygenated water is constantly streaming through them, which is why fish and sharks are always moving—and why they expire so quickly when they're plucked from the water by human fishermen. (Some

fish, like lungfish and catfish, possess rudimentary lungs in addition to their gills, and can breathe air when circumstances demand.)

Before there were vertebrates, there were chordates—small marine animals possessing bilateral symmetry, heads distinct from their tails, and nerve cords running down the length of their bodies. A little over 500 million years

ago, during the Cambrian period, a population of chordates evolved into the first true vertebrates, which then went on to spawn all the reptiles, birds, amphibians and mammals we know and love today. (A sixth animal group, invertebrates, never subscribed to this backbone trend, yet today they account for a whopping 97 percent of all animal species!)

Like the amphibians and reptiles to which they're distantly related, the vast majority of fish are ectothermic, or cold-blooded: they rely on the ambient temperature of the water to fuel their internal metabolisms. Surprisingly, though, barracudas, tunas, mackerels and swordfish—which belong to the fish suborder Scombroidei—all have warm-blooded metabolisms, albeit using a system quite different from that of mammals and birds; a tuna can maintain an internal body temperature of 90 degrees Fahrenheit even when swimming in 45-degree water! Mako sharks are also endothermic, an adaptation that endows them with added energy when pursuing prey.

Fish Are Oviparous Rather Than Viviparous

continue to the next page

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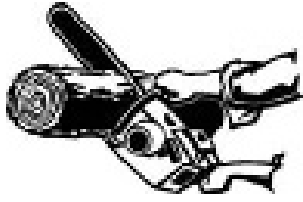
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Noble Echols, from Clarksburg, brought in a nice 10 point buck.

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Oviparous vertebrates lay eggs; viviparous vertebrates gestate their young (for at least a brief period of time) in the mother's womb. Unlike other vertebrates, most fish species fertilize their eggs externally: the female expels hundreds or thousands of small, unfertilized eggs, at which point the male releases its sperm into the water, at least some of which find their mark. (A few fish engage in internal fertilization, males using a penis-like organ to impregnate the female.) There are some exceptions that prove the rule, though: in "ovoviviparous" fish, the eggs hatch while still in the mother's body, and there are even a few viviparous fish like lemon sharks, the females of which have organs very similar to mammalian placentas.

Many Fish Are Equipped With Swim Bladders

Fish live in stratified ecosystems: the food chain is very different 20

feet below the surface than it is one or two miles deep. For this reason, it's in a fish's best interests to maintain a constant depth, which many species accomplish with the aid of a swim bladder: a gas-filled organ inside their bodies that maintains the fish's buoyancy and removes the need to swim at maximum speed. It's widely believed, though not yet proven, that the primitive lungs of the first tetrapods ("fish out of water") evolved from swim bladders, which were "co-opted" for this secondary purpose to allow vertebrate animals to colonize land.

Even people who advocate more humane treatment of "higher" vertebrates like cows and chickens don't have much of an opinion when it comes to fish. But there are a handful of (somewhat controversial) studies showing that fish are capable of feeling pain, even



Jason Wilson, from Coxs Mill, got a 9 point in Gilmer County.



Cari Weekley, from St. Marys, brought in a nice 10 point buck.

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though these vertebrates lack the brain structure, called the neocortex, that's associated with pain in mammals. In England, the Royal Society for the Protection of Animals has adopted a stance against cruelty to fish, which presumably applies more to gruesomely disfiguring fish hooks than to industrial fish farms.

Fish Are Incapable of Blinking

continue to the next page



Crystal Dalton, from Morgantown, hooked a 44 pound wahoo.

BRUSHY FORK MART

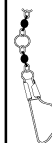
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One of the traits that makes fish seem so alien is their lack of eyelids, and hence their inability to blink: a mackerel will maintain the same glassy stare whether it's relaxed or alarmed, or, for that matter, whether it's alive or dead. This raises the related question of how, or even whether, fish sleep. Their wide-open eyes notwithstanding, there is some evidence that fish do sleep, or at least engage in restorative behavior similar to human sleep: some fish float slowly in place or wedge themselves into rocks or corals, which may indicate a reduced amount of metabolic activity. (Even when a fish appears motionless, ocean currents still keep its gills supplied with oxygen.)

Although many fish have excellent vision, they don't quite measure up when it comes to hearing and smell. However, these marine vertebrates are equipped with a sense that terrestrial vertebrates

completely lack: a "lateral line" across the length of their bodies that senses the motion of water, or even, in some species, electrical currents. A fish's lateral line is especially important for maintaining its place in the food chain: predators use this "sixth sense" to home in on prey, and prey use it to avoid predators. Fish also use their lateral

lines to congregate in schools, and to choose the right direction for their periodic migrations.

The world's oceans are so huge and deep, and the fish that inhabit them are so populous and prolific, that you can excuse many people for believing that tuna, salmon, and the like are inexhaustible food sources. Nothing could be further from the truth: overfishing can easily render a fish population extinct, as humans harvest a species their dinner tables faster than it can reproduce and replenish its own stock. Unfortunately, despite the proven risk of species collapse, commercial fishing of certain fish species continues unabated; if the trend persists, some of our favorite food fish may vanish from the world's oceans within 50 years.



Jason Allen, from St. Marys, took an 8 point in Pleasants County.

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Jeff Copen, from Munday, harvested a nice 8 point buck.

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Fish have gills that extract oxygen from the water around them.

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Some flatfish use camouflage to hide themselves on the ocean floor.

Tuna can swim at speeds of up to 70 kph (43 mph).

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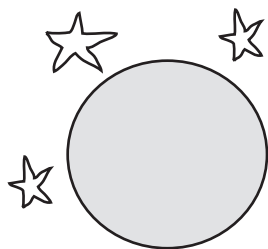
Mermaids are mythological creatures with the tail of a fish and the upper half of a woman.



Nathan Eddy brought in an Upshur County 8 point buck.



Eric Adkins used a bow in Wyoming County for a big 10 point.



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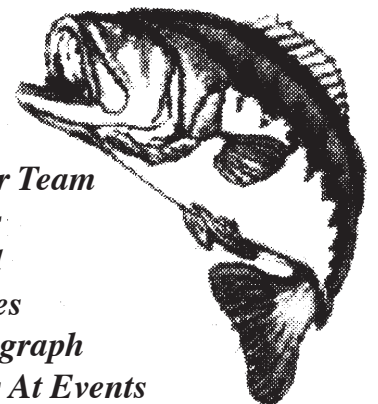
Bass Sportsman
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wwasport@yahoo.com

7:30pm to 7am

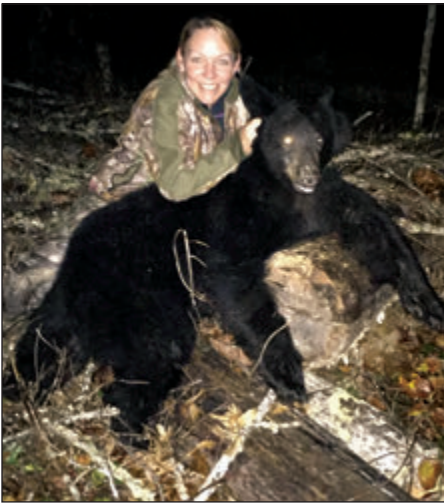
REGISTRATION
BEGINS AT 6PM

- 6 Fish Limit per Team
- 6 oz. Dead Bass
- Courtesy Board
- Obey DNR Rules
- Subject To Polygraph
- Complete Rules At Events
- No Off-Limits Before Events
- Open To All Teams



20% Of Teams
Win Money

July 28 - Tygart Lake
August 25 - Sutton Lake



Paige Powers harvested a black bear with a bow in McDowell Co.



Matt Pitcock, from Sutton, has a nice 10 point buck.

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Kirk Price, from Boone Co., used a bow for this Logan Co. 13 point.

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

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Jacob Davis had success with a nice 8 point buck.

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Devin Bokey landed a nice brook trout. Photo courtesy of Middle Mountain Sporting Goods in Elkins



Ed & Blake Taylor are pleased with Blakes' youth hunt gobbler

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