

Man Has Record Day on Ohio River

Mark A. Foster of St. Albans, W.Va. recently caught a state record blue catfish from the Ohio River. Foster used cut bait to catch the 43.9-inch, 44.5-pound fish from the R.C. Byrd pool on the Ohio River.

Foster's catch establishes a new West Virginia record for length and weight. His catch breaks his own 2011 record catch of a 32.28-pound blue catfish. The previous length record was a 42.25-inch blue catfish caught by Lynn Lange in 2009.

Foster also caught a 52.25-inch, 15-pound longnose gar that ties the current length record held by Shelby Searls. Foster caught the gar on the same day he caught the blue catfish from the Ohio River using cut bait. The longnose gar weight record of 19.08 pounds held by Michael Casey from 1993 still stands.



WMA Topographical Maps Online

Topographical maps of 23 West Virginia Wildlife Management Areas are now available online. The maps, featuring boundaries, contour lines, water features, roads and trails were produced by the DNR Wildlife Resources Section.



"These maps should be a great help to hunters this fall when they head out into the woods," said DNR Director Frank Jezioro. "Anglers and those just interested in getting outdoors and exploring one of the areas should also find them useful."

Maps for areas around the state are available in different formats and resolutions to accommodate different Internet speeds. To view or print a map, go to the DNR website www.wvdnr.gov and click on "New WMA Topo Maps" under "Hunting."

Correction to a big fish tale

You've heard many stories about the big fish that got away. Well, we had our own version in the summer issue of *West Virginia Wildlife*. In the *Wildlife Diversity Notebook* article it was stated that in West Virginia, bluegills have reached lengths of 31 inches. More than one reader called us on that big fish tale. In the last draft of the magazine before it went to print, the numbers were accidentally transposed. The real length measurement should have been 13 inches. I apologize to anyone who has been out there searching for the really big one.

Editor

New Fishing Opportunities at Edwards Run

When Edwards Run Pond had to be drained in 2002 due to continuing dam problems, public lake fishing in Hampshire County was significantly limited.

Several ponds on the other side of the stream at the Edwards Run Wildlife Management Area had been built to rear fish. Over time, the ponds weren't needed as newer production facilities were developed, but the ponds continued to hold water. District Fisheries Biologists Jim Hedrick and Brandon Keplinger proposed combining four small fish-rearing ponds to create a new one-acre impoundment that would replace the previous Edwards Run Pond.

The new impoundment, completed by the end of 2011, provides anglers with a trout-stocked impoundment in Hampshire County and provides improved water management options for the pond. The existing water supply is still operational and the flow can be controlled, preventing excessive sedimentation and reducing the likelihood of problems with the dam during flooding.

DNR Wildlife Resources Section personnel built several types of fish habitat structures in the new pond during the construction phase. The habitat enhancements provide spawning areas, fish-attracting structures, and refuge for juvenile fish. Spawning benches, which consist of a slab of wood held up with concrete blocks, were installed to provide overhead fish cover and spawning areas for bass and sunfish. DNR personnel also installed spawning boxes to provide a cavity area required for channel catfish spawning.

Wildlife Resources personnel stock the pond with trout once during the month of February and once every two weeks



between March and May. Warmwater game fish, including smallmouth bass, redbreast sunfish and channel catfish, provide anglers with fishing opportunities throughout the year. The new pond has excellent shoreline fishing access and is a great location for kids to fish. Boats will not be permitted on the new pond because of its small size. Access improvements are also being planned for installation in the near future.



Sport Fish Poster Available

SOUTH CHARLESTON, W.Va. – A new West Virginia Sport Fish Identification Poster is now available either as a printed poster or online at the Division of Natural Resources website. The poster, featuring paintings by Duane Raver of game fish found in the Mountain State, was produced by the DNR Wildlife Resources Section.

“We’ve published this poster in response to many outdoor enthusiasts who have been asking for something like this for a while,” said DNR Director Frank Jezioro. “The fish illustrations have been printed on the back of our fishing regulations for years, but the images on this poster are much larger and clearer.

The color poster features warmwater and coldwater fish species. Fish enthusiasts can go to the DNR website and print the poster in either letter size or 11-by-17-inch sizes. To print a copy, go to www.wvdnr.gov and click on “Sport Fish Identification Poster” under the Fishing heading.

Printed 18-by-24-inch flat posters are available for pick-up at DNR district offices and many West Virginia state parks. In addition, folded 11-by-17-inch posters can be mailed from the DNR South Charleston office by calling 304-558-2771 or writing to WVDNR, 324 Fourth Avenue, South Charleston WV 25303.