



A BOBBY WARNER CHARITABLE YOUTH FOUNDATION

Winter 2018

Do You Want More Information
on Beyond The Backyard?

Contact us at 866-WV-WOODS or
visit BEYONDTHEBACKYARD.ORG

Congratulations, Austin High!

**Austin was the recent winner of
our 2018 Bear Hunt Give-Away.**

This December he will
be traveling to the Nicholas and
Clay county areas with his hunting
guides for his first bear hunt. This trip
was made possible by the generous
donations of Dale Nottingham, Jake
Pierson, Jody Pierson, Jason Rusnik,
Jason Truman and Jesse Truman.

*Be sure to check out the Beyond
The Backyard Facebook page to see
pictures from Austin's adventure.*

Save The Date for Events in 2019!

January 25, 26 and 27, 2019

West Virginia Hunting and Fishing Show

Spring 2019 • BeyondThe Backyard 5K

June 2019 • 7th Annual Outdoor Adventure Camp

Visit us at BeyondTheBackyard.org

Kanawha County Teen Makes Bass Fishing History



It's been quite a year for Nitro High School Senior Dylan Fitzgerald. Dylan is a longtime competitor in the youth events for the B.A.S.S. Federation Nation in West Virginia. However, he's also the two time reigning high school champion for B.A.S.S. in West Virginia.

In early October, he extended his impressive fishing resume when he made the rest of the state's adult anglers stand up and take notice. Dylan, at age 17, won the B.A.S.S. Federation Nation State Championship Tourney on Sutton Lake.

"You can't beat catching fish on a moving bait or on topwater," Fitzgerald told Chris Lawrence on West Virginia Outdoors. "But if I had to pick a style, I'd have to go with finesse fishing because that's what you need to do around here where our waters are so heavily pressured."

During the state championship Dylan qualified as a non-boater, meaning he was somewhat at the mercy of his boating partner. Although the rules of the tournament give each angler control of the boat half the day, Dylan wisely chose to let his adult partner lead the way.

"I was content to fish in the back of the boat and we were fishing 30 feet of water," he explained. "I generally don't fish in water that deep."

He started with a drop shot rig, but soon switched over to a jig and saw immediate success.

"I caught two fish really fast," he said. "I didn't put it down for the rest of the day."

Honed in on the jig bite from day one, Fitzgerald's confidence was soaring. However, one of the key factors in the tournament trail is how quickly you can adapt to change. His partner on Day 2 had a radically different plan. He was on fish in the upper reaches of the lake where the water was dirty and the fish were more shallow.

"I expected to go back and fish deep on the second day," Dylan explained. "He said we were going up to fish dirty water. I was nervous, in fourth place against a bunch of adults, I never thought I'd be in this position and I had no idea what to do."

He started out throwing the jig on day two—but the water conditions were completely different. Dylan was getting no bites, but he's not too proud to take some help and some advice. His boating partner, Steve Marks, offered him a spinner bait...and suddenly Dylan was back in the fish.

"I give him big props. I didn't even have a spinner bait, but he gave me one," said Dylan. "I caught all of those fish the second day on that spinner bait. The first day I caught everything in clear water, the second day we chased dirty water as the lake was clearing up. Muddy water is where we were getting bitten on those spinner baits."

Dylan put together a stringer to push him over the top for the two day event and became the youngest State Champion ever and also the first to win both the High School Championship and Adult State Championship in the same year.

He'll join the top 12 from the state tournament as part of West Virginia's state B.A.S.S. Team at the regional hosted by the Maine B.A.S.S. Federation Nation.

Source: WV Metro News

Five Life Lessons That Hunting Teaches Us



1. Nothing worthwhile ever comes easy

If it were easy, it would be called killing. Not hunting. In this day in age, it seems that we are constantly looking for the quickest and most efficient way to get what we want, but it's different with hunting. You start by picking up a gun and getting good at the whole target shooting thing. Then, you face a whole new list of challenges. Learning to how to scout and where to sit. You spend countless hours in the woods, and wake up crazy early (even on the weekends). When you are finally successful, all of the hard work and dedication gives you a feeling of accomplishment that is difficult to match in today's world of instant gratification.

2. It's okay to fail

We all know that not 100 percent of hunts will be successful. Ninety-eight percent of the time we will come home empty handed. But the moment we get the chance to be successful, it makes the wait worthwhile. Even with the chance to be successful, we fail sometimes. We are human! We miss, we forget to flip the safety, we lose a blood trail, we spook the deer before we shoot. It happens! Life goes on and regardless we don't quit hunting. You learn to move past your failures, and continue to strive for success.

3. Love the natural world around you

In a world consumed in technology and social media, we sometimes forget how beautiful this Earth really is! There is nothing quite like watching the sun come up and nature happening around you. The wind blowing through the trees. The birds chirping and swooping

through the sky. Watching young deer move through the woods or feed in a field. And of course, those pesky squirrels playing in the leaves below your stand. This time spent in the woods gives us an appreciation and greater understanding of how the world works.

4. Family is everything

Hunting can be a great way to connect family. It connects us to our fathers, sons, daughters, sisters, brothers, mothers, grandparents, aunts, uncles, cousins, or anyone really! Family can be your biggest support system in teaching you to hunt, as well as, people to share those memories with.

5. Accountability is key

No excuses! Hunting is an individual sport. You call the shots (literally)! Not every decision you make in life is going to be the right one but, what matters is taking accountability for your actions! It's easy to get caught up in everyday life and play "the blame game." It doesn't work that way in hunting. You may see a deer moving through the woods quickly and think "I haven't seen a deer all year so, I'm going to take this one." You pull up on the deer and shoot to later find out that you wounded the deer because the deer was moving quickly. In this case, you need to take accountability for your actions. You could have waited for the deer to stop or just passed up on this opportunity for a better shot next time. If you make the wrong decision, you are ultimately responsible and it's important that we learn from these decisions.

Did You Know?

According to preliminary harvest data for the opening day of the 2018 traditional buck firearms season, hunters in West Virginia took approximately 13,000 bucks.

Make Your Own Slime!

INGREDIENTS

- 1/2 cup clear Elmer's glue
- 1/2 cup warm water
- 1/2 cup Sta-Flo liquid starch (find this in the laundry detergent section of most stores)
- Your choice of confetti, sequins or glitter

DIRECTIONS

1. Start by mixing the glue with the water in a bowl.
2. Add in the confetti, sequins or glitter and stir.
3. Then slowly pour the liquid starch in while stirring. It will begin to form into slime once the liquid starch is added.
4. Store slime in an airtight container when not in use.



Be sure to fan our Facebook page, where you can receive news and enter contests too!

Check us out online at beyondthebackyard.org to volunteer, donate, join, or tell a friend!



Become a Fan To Stay Up-To-Date

Beyond The Backyard is asking all of its members to become a fan of our organization at www.facebook.com/beyondthebackyard. This is a great way for us to share stories and photographs of our outdoor adventures. This also allows us to keep all of our members up-to-date on events around the Mountain State. We also post all of our hunting and fishing adventures on Twitter and Instagram. Find us at twitter.com/beyond_backyard and [instagram.com/beyondthebackyard](https://www.instagram.com/beyondthebackyard)

Member Spotlight

Would you like to be the next kid featured in our member spotlight?

Sign up at: beyondthebackyard.org



Zailee Roberts

Name: Zailee Roberts
Age: 11
Lives in: Charleston, WV
Siblings: Sailor and Scout
Parents: Josh and Tracy Roberts
Activities: Soccer
Favorite Food: Fried Chicken
Favorite Hobby: Turkey Hunting
Favorite TV Show: North Woods Law



Visit Us At BeyondTheBackyard.org



P.O. Box 3327
Charleston, WV 25333