



A BOBBY WARNER CHARITABLE YOUTH FOUNDATION

# Summer 2019

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## *DNR Releases 2019 Spring Gobbler Harvest Figures*

Preliminary data indicates spring turkey hunters harvested 11,210 gobblers this year. Youth hunters harvested 357 turkeys during the one-day youth season on April 13.

We would love to see your harvests from this year. Send us your pictures for a chance to be featured on our Facebook page and in our next newsletter. Pictures can be sent to [tbartlett@beyondthebackyard.org](mailto:tbartlett@beyondthebackyard.org).



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## Six West Virginia State Parks to have Controlled Hunts in 2019

The West Virginia State Park system will conduct controlled hunts in six state parks this fall. State Parks Chief Sam England recently unveiled plans for the hunts, five of which will be bow hunting only and the sixth park will allow for hunting with a bow or muzzleloader. "They'll be on the last Monday, Tuesday, and Wednesday of October through the second week of November," England said. "There will be three date opportunities to apply at six parks."

The parks will be Beech Fork, Canaan Valley, Cacapon, North Bend, Pipestem, and Twin Falls State Parks. Park officials evaluate each park annually to determine deer densities. Then, along with district game biologist from the DNR, officials examine whether a reduction in the number is needed. The hunts are aimed at reducing the herd, so they are largely antlerless hunts only. In some cases there will be a special drawing on the day of the hunt which allow for a minimal number of bucks to be harvested as well.

Several changes were made to the controlled hunts last year. One required a non-refundable application fee to put in for a tag. The charge, according to England, insured those who apply are serious about coming. Historically a high number of no-shows on the day of hunt negated the intended purpose of the hunt.

"I understand if a person puts in for a hunt and then all of the sudden their schedule changes and they have to work or a family issue comes up," he said. "But what we said are let's make sure you really want to do this because we had a lot of people who really want to do this and it wasn't fair. So the charge did help quite a bit."

Hunters who are selected to participate in the State Park controlled hunts now also have a little more freedom in choosing their stand location. Previously park officials dictated exactly where a hunter was to set up, but restrictions were loosened last year. Now designated sections of a park are clearly marked and a hunter may hunt within that selected area. Those chosen can scout the area ahead of time and move around in the area on the day of the hunt.

An application portal to enter the lottery for the one of the State Park hunts is expected to be on the DNR website by July.

Source: WV Metro News

## Member Spotlight

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

Sign up at:  
[beyondthebackyard.org](http://beyondthebackyard.org)



Kailyn McQuain

**Name:** Kailyn McQuain  
**Age:** 8  
**Lives in:** Charleston, WV  
**Parents:** Steve and Kim McQuain  
**Activities:** Hiking with her dad  
**Favorite Food:** Mexican  
**Favorite TV Show:** The Loud House



## 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](http://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](https://twitter.com/beyond_backyard) and [instagram.com/beyondthebackyard](https://instagram.com/beyondthebackyard)





# Fishing Poppers for Bass: The Finer Points

Topwater fishing is one of the most exciting ways to fish for bass. Nothing really compares to a big fish blowing up your lure on an early summer day at the lake.

Used properly, fishing poppers can be one of the deadliest fishing lures for both smallmouth bass and largemouth bass.

## CHOOSING A BASS POPPER

There are many different types of popper lures out there and new ones are being designed all the time. But keep in my mind, you can't go wrong with the classics when you're staring at the never-ending shelves in the fishing section.

Remember, you're trying to play into the instincts of these predatory fish. Used properly, a popper closely resembles a wounded or dying baitfish. Many bass just can't help themselves when they see this type of action on the surface, they've just got to take a swipe at it.

## ROD AND TACKLE

Most experts agree, you're probably going to want a medium-action rod for this type of fishing. You want the rod to have some play in it, not just for working the bait, but also for setting the hooks and fighting the fish. If the fishing rod you choose is too stiff, you'll be more likely to rip the hooks out of the fish's mouth.

As for line, you're going to want monofilament or braid. Fluorocarbon lines are nice and stretchy, but these lines sink and that could adversely affect the action of the popper, so you'll want to avoid them. This is a good rule of thumb for all floating topwater lures and not just bass fishing poppers.

You'll want sharp hooks that have a better chance of digging in on a fish that's just taking a random potshot at a popper. Sometimes you can get the fish to strike again if you miss, but

that isn't always a guarantee, so make sure your treble hooks are up to the task.

## WHEN AND WHERE TO FISH POPPERS

The best time to fish any sort of topwater is in calm conditions. Early morning and evening in post spawn conditions seem to be ideal times. Overcast days and even rainy days can also provide great opportunities for topwater fishing.

Sometimes you just know the conditions are ripe when you can hear the bass smacking the surface, either for bugs or small baitfish. If you're really lucky, you might happen into a school of bass feeding on baitfish near the surface. This sort of thing doesn't happen too often, but when it does, you can catch a lot of fish in a hurry.

For a different change of pace, try fishing a popper at night. When the summer heat starts bearing down, the bite can go stagnant during the day. But at night, largemouth bass will often start feeding.

As for where to fish topwaters, that's pretty simple. Pretty much anywhere shallow where you can find bass relating to cover.

## RETRIEVAL

The most common way to present a popper is with short, quick twitches that splash a lot of water out and makes a huge disturbance on the surface of the water. Some anglers like to work a pause in between jerks. A retrieval might be twitch, twitch, pause, twitch, twitch pause. Often, the strike comes on the pauses.

So, if you've never tried it before, this is the year to do it. You'll quickly find you have a new spring and summertime fishing tradition!

## Make Your Own Rainbow Bubble Snake

### MATERIALS NEEDED:

- Empty plastic water bottle
- Duck tape
- Sock
- Dish soap
- Food coloring

**STEP 1:** Start by cutting the bottom of the water bottle off

**STEP 2:** Slide the sock over the bottom of the bottle

**STEP 3:** Use the duck tape to secure the sock to the bottle

**STEP 4:** Pour some dish soap into a shallow container with a little bit of water and mix

**STEP 5:** Dip the sock covered bubble blower into the solution

**STEP 6:** Add drops of food coloring to end of the sock

**STEP 7:** Gently blow on the top of the water bottle



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# Word Find

Can you find them all?

Using the list below, find the words that are hidden in the jumble.

BEACH  
CAMPING  
FISHING  
HOT  
SHORTS  
SUN  
SWIM  
VACATION  
TOWEL  
WARM

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

*Clues may run forwards, backwards, diagonally, up or down. Some may overlap or even be backwards!*

*Thank you to all who attended our Adventure Camp in June!*



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