HOW TO:

TRICK BROWNS ALL DAY LONG
FINE-TUNE YOUR WALLEYE SPREAD
LAND SMALLIES ON SALT FLIES
COOK PERFECT FISH AT CAMP

CATCH GIANT FISH!

14 SUMMER TACTICS FOR TROUT, BASS, PANFISH, CATS, AND MORE
Fish On! We’ve collected 14 expert fishing skills and tactics for trout, largemouth bass, catfish, crappies, bluegills, walleyes, and more. Now all you have to do is get on the water.
THE WEATHER IS WARMING UP, the kids are wrapping up another school year, and soon families across the country will be packing up for outdoor adventures. This summer, visitors to a number of parks and recreational areas in Texas, Tennessee, Georgia, Virginia, Illinois, Wisconsin, California and South Dakota will be better able to see and experience the outdoors thanks to the union volunteers who donated their time and skills for conservation initiatives through USA’s Work Boots on the Ground and Adopt-A-Park programs.

The outdoors is an inherent part of American culture, and its impact is felt in so many ways, from the $850 billion in annual spending in count- less communities across the country, to improved physical and mental health, to our ability to attract international tourists. Despite the many benefits they provide, America’s parks have been hit hard with budget cuts in the last few years, and that’s why the USA launched Adopt-A-Park to provide skilled volunteer labor through USA’s Work Boots on the Ground and Adopt-A-Park programs.

As word about Adopt-A-Park spreads, we are getting more and more calls from parks inquiring about how they can take advantage of the program, and that’s great news because it means it’s having a positive impact. President Obama’s 2014 budget brings more good news for America’s parks and recreation areas because it contains full and dedicated funding of the Land and Water Conservation Fund (LWCF), restoring the promise that a small portion of the revenues from offshore oil and gas development are used to make investments to protect America’s irreplaceable natural, historic and recreational outdoor places.

The LWCF was established in 1965, at an authorized level of $900 million annually. It was meant to provide matching grants to state and local governments for the acquisition and development of public outdoor recreation areas and facilities to assist in preserving, developing, and assuring accessibility to outdoor recre- ational resources for all U.S. citizens. While the fund has conserved land in every state and enabled more than 41,000 state and local conservation projects, the $900 million level has only been met twice during the program’s 49-year history and, during that time, the government has diverted $18 billion from the fund to unrelated purposes.

The President’s budget, therefore, marks a turning point for the conservation of our nation’s greatest outdoor treasures. Funds from the Land and Water Conservation Fund for land acquisition and materials, combined with volunteer labor through USA’s Work Boots on the Ground and Adopt-A-Park programs, may change the tide for many of America’s parks and recreation areas that have faced a back- log of repairs and potential closures. As America’s most famous and influential naturalist and conservationist, John Muir, once said, “Everybody needs beauty as well as bread, places where Nature may heal and cheer and give strength to body and soul alike.”

President’s Obama’s budget is a big step toward making the outdoors more accessible for all, and the USA is proud to organize skilled volunteers to help stretch the much-needed LWCF funding even further.

—John Muir

“Everybody needs beauty as well as bread, places where Nature may heal and cheer and give strength to body and soul alike.”

FRED MYERS
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR/CEO

UNION SPORTSMEN’S ALLIANCE PARTNER LOCAL SWEEPSTAKES

Raise money for your Local and the Union Sportsmen’s Alliance with a Remington 870 Wingmaster

Proudly manufactured by the United Mine Workers of America, Local 717

How It Works
1. Union Locals may purchase this firearm for $850.00 + $125 (Shipping and Handling) = $975.00.
2. Orders must be placed by July 1, 2014. Firearms are available on a first-come, first-served basis.
3. USA will ship the firearm to your selected firearms dealer by September 1, 2014. Payment for firearm must be received before firearm is shipped.
4. USA will send sweepstakes tickets no later than August 1, 2014 and local can begin immediately selling tickets.
5. Locals sell tickets for the sweepstakes. Each Local will receive 200 consecutively numbered tickets to be sold for $20 each.
6. Local conducts drawing by November 18, 2014 and awards the winner a certificate. The gun winner will take his/her certificate to claim gun at their selected firearms dealer. All local, state, and federal gun laws apply.
7. Local deducts the cost of the firearm from the proceeds and sends half of the proceeds, any unsold tickets and ticket stubs to the USA by December 1, 2014.

For more information, please contact Becky McIntosh at 615-831-6770 or beckym@unionsportsmen.org.

Mail/Fax/Email completed form to: Union Sportsmen’s Alliance
3340 Perimeter Hill Dr., Nashville, TN 37211
Fax (615) 781-4996 / Ph. (615) 831-6770
Email: beckym@unionsportsmen.org

Remington 870 Wingmaster

KEY FEATURES
12 Gauge
Custom Designed
Gold Enhancements

Only 100 Limited Editions Available!

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USA PARTNER TARGETS YOUTH

BY LAURA TINGO

Lincoln Electric Company helps Boy Scouts of America earn welding merit badge

WHEN YOU HEAR THE NAME Lincoln Electric Company, thoughts of state-of-the-art welding, cutting and joining products are probably what first come to mind. After all, the 118-year-old company has earned its name as a global leader in the industry. The Cleveland-based company is equally committed to supporting youth programs with the goal of getting young minds interested in the skilled trades early on.

Going on 65 years, the company has served roughly 500,000 students involved in youth organizations like 4-H and the FFA, with mentoring initiatives aimed at cultivating and recruiting the next generation of welders.

"There’s no secret that there is a shortage in the skilled trades," said Dan Klingman, Customer Training Instructor with Lincoln Electric. "Almost every-thing you touch or feel is welding related. It’s in the car you drive, the building you are in... It’s a large part of our everyday... our infrastructure."

A little more than a year ago, Lincoln Electric reached out to the Boy Scouts of America to offer hands-on welding training to help interested scouts earn a welding merit badge. When the Scouts said, ‘yes,’ Lincoln Electric even donated enough welders to back the project. That’s roughly 1,300 welders to support 287 Boy Scout councils all over the country, to the tune of about $200,000.

The program, spearheaded by Lincoln Electric, offers an extremely hands-on welding training curriculum with safety at the forefront that incorporates components of science, technology, engineering and math. Kids in the training program are encouraged to think about challenges that arise throughout the welding process and ask questions like: “What happens to this metal if I heat it up and cool it?” and ‘what does carbon or nickel do when mixed into the process?’

“The skilled trades are really making a comeback,” said Barry Norris, Scout Executive and CEO of the Greater Cleveland Council of Boy Scouts of America, adding that a scout is likely to find his life’s work or hobby based on some of the merit badges he earns through scouting. The welding merit badge is one of 120 offered as a specific skills set by the scouts, and one of the newest.

“Welding makes sense,” said Norris, who has made scouting his life’s work for 36 years. “It’s a skill that fits in nicely with what scouting is all about.”

To Norris, the partnership with Lincoln Electric speaks to the core of the organization’s value-based mission to prepare people for life and help foster a good sense of self-esteem among young men.

“We instill values using a contemporary program,” he said. “It builds such confidence in them. Welding is one more way to do that.”

Built into the program is a “Train-the-Trainer” component with how-to videos to educate instructors on how to teach the criteria required by the Boy Scouts of America for scouts to earn the welding merit badge.

“Our goal is to reach out to youth at a young age and get them involved and interested in welding, in an effort to help recruit the next generation of welders,” Klingman said.

Lincoln Electric offers hands-on training to help scouts earn a welding merit badge.

WHERE IN THE WORLD IS THE USA LOGO?

Summer Facebook contest invites you to show & tell to win cool prizes

USA MEMBERS. Here’s your chance to win cool, USA-branded prizes by showing your pride in being a union sportman or woman and your enjoyment of the great outdoors.

HERE’S HOW IT WORKS:

1. LIKE the USA Facebook page at www.Facebook.com/UnionSportmen.
2. Request a USA auto or hard hat sticker (if you don’t already have one) by filling out the contest form at www.UnionSportmen.org/USAlogo or e-mailing your request to USAmembers@UnionSportmen.org with “USA Logo” in the subject line.
3. Get creative! Place your decal on something (car, cooler, gun stock, tent, etc.) and snap a pic! Top entries will be posted on the USA Facebook page throughout the contest!

Not a USA Member yet? Join today at www.UnionSportmen.org

The contest runs from Memorial Day, May 26, through August 1, 2014. Winners will be notified by phone or e-mail. Winners will be subject to a committee vote made up of USA staff members. Good luck!

For More Details, visit www.UnionSportmen.org/USAlogo

SOMETIMES OUR BEST shots are taken with a gun, but with a camera. Those shots could earn you a 50th anniversary edition of Buck’s iconic 110 Folding Hunter knife etched with the USA logo in USA’s Photo of the Week contest. Plus, your photo just might be selected for our 2015 Gun-A-Week calendar.

Whether it’s a photo of your trophy deer, biggest catch, the squirrel that keeps climbing your bird feeder or a group of friends around a campfire—We’ll take it! Photos are judged on quality, creativity, content and composition. Submit as many photos as you’d like.

WAYS TO ENTER YOUR PHOTO:

1. E-mail it to USA members@UnionSportmen.org–include your name/union/address/phone
2. Use the entry form at UnionSportmen.org
3. Mail it with your name/union/address/phone to: USA Best Shot Photo Contest 3340 Perimeter Hill Dr. Nashville, TN 37211

AROUND THE USA

WHERE IN THE WORLD IS THE USA LOGO?

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A CLEAR VIEW IN GEORGIA

BY KATE CYTWINSKI

Union volunteers restore views at Georgia’s Little Grand Canyon

A PICTURESQUE 550 FOOT CANYON made up of chasms, plateaus and pinnacles painted in hues of pink, orange, red and purple is something you might expect to see out West—not in southwest Georgia. Yet that’s what visitors find at Providence Canyon State Park in Lumpkin, Georgia and why the area is known to locals as Georgia’s Little Grand Canyon.

Though formed by erosion resulting from poor farming practices in the 1800s, the canyon is an icon in a region blessed with a little of everything. The area is known to locals as Georgia’s Little Grand Canyon.

Not surprisingly, a hiking trail with scenic canyon views is the key draw to Providence Canyon State Park, but until recently, it was severely overgrown with vegetation and dotted with downed trees and limbs. As Park Manager Tracy Yearta, who has managed both Providence Canyon State Park and Florence Marina since the parks were restructured a few years ago, was deciding how to address the trail, he got a call from Dave Hall, Recording Secretary for CUWLocal 515, UA Local 52, IAMAW Local 653, both in San Antonio, Texas on January 17, when approximately 35 union workers from the local community and across the country refurbished trails at Government Canyon State Natural Area during the city-wide Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. honorary observance.

Members of United Association of Plumbers and Pipefitters Local 142 and the Painters Local 653, both in San Antonio, teamed up with union members from across the country who were in town for the AFL-CIO 2014 Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Civil and Human Rights Conference to clean up a 150-foot stretch of trail leading to the campgrounds at Government Canyon State Natural Area. The project was identified as a priority by the State Parks because most of the trail had been washed away by recent rains. Volunteers spent much of the day installing wood-frame barriers to help prevent future trail erosion.

Gerry Showers, a business representative with IUPAT District Council 78 in Miami, Florida, teamed up with union members from across the country to refurbish trails at Government Canyon State Natural Area. The project was identified as a priority by the State Parks because most of the trail had been washed away by recent rains. Volunteers spent much of the day installing wood-frame barriers to help prevent future trail erosion.

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Union volunteers rebuild a trail that had been nearly washed away by rains.

By Lauren Tingo

Union values at work

Work Boots on the Ground heads to San Antonio, TX by Laura Ting0

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GIRL’S DREAM TO HUNT FULFILLED

Union members help a dream come true in KATE CYNOW/Photograph

In Texas, hunting is a time-honored tradition—a rite of passage for many youths—and after watching her parents prepare to go hunting, 8-year-old Kaylie Gaines dreamed of going herself. Born with spina bifida, a disease affecting the vertebral, Kaylie got around with a wheelchair that weighs several hundred pounds, so getting her to a hunting lease far from home presented a challenge for her parents, Nakoda and Jerry. Last January, a group of union members and avid hunters stepped in to overcome those obstacles and help Kaylie fulfill her dream.

When Kaylie was showered with attention both at the hotel and at the ranch, she couldn’t believe it was all about her. Despite chilly temperatures, she remained very enthusiastic about getting to hunt. And thanks to everyone who helped her get to and from a ground blind.

“People pay thousands to hunt in the good brush country in Texas, and it’s hard for families to afford. It’s just real fun to be able to give something back.”

Inspired by the Union Sportsman’s Alliance’s Ohio Special Needs Youth Whitetail Hunt, Jordan Ritenour, Director of Market Development with the United Union of Roofers, Waterproofers and Allied Workers, got the ball rolling on a youth hunt in Texas by first contacting Joe Hall, President of the Dallas Building Trades Council, and Mike Shelton, an attorney with Shelton Law Firm and holder of a 3,500-acre deer lease near Falfurrias, Texas. “It’s just the right thing to do,” Ritenour responded when asked why he initiated the hunt. “I think hunting is a great way to bond with your children.”

Shelton, who loves interacting with children and hosted a group of union members and their kids on a hunt in 2013, jumped at the opportunity to open the ranch, which shares a 3-mile border with the nearly one-million-acre King Ranch, to provide a youth with special needs the opportunity to experience the thrill of hunting.

“I’m just really happy to be able to do this for this family,” Shelton said. “People pay thousands to hunt in the good brush country in Texas, and it’s hard for families to afford. It’s just real fun to be able to give something back.”

Once the special guest and the dates of January 18 and 19 were nailed down, Weldon Cabaniss, ranch manager at the Shelton Law Firm Ranch, began scouting the property for trophy bucks and the best placement for a blind.

The Roofers International generously covered all transportation costs for Kaylie and her family and for their comfortable stay in an adaptable room at the Holiday Inn Express in nearby Falfurrias. Roofers International President Kinsey Robinson and his wife, Mona, also made the trip down to Texas to assist in Kaylie’s adventure.

When Kaylie was showered with attention both at the hotel and at the ranch, she couldn’t believe it was all about her. Despite chilly temperatures, she remained very enthusiastic about getting to hunt. And thanks to everyone who helped her get to and from a ground blind on the first day and a pop-up blind on the second, Kaylie not only got to share a blind with her mom and dad, but she finally got to be the one to go hunting.

A 3-year drought in the area took a considerable toll on the deer population in the area, and despite the best efforts of everyone involved, Kaylie didn’t see a deer close enough to take a shot. But that’s the nature of hunting, and Kaylie left excited to tell her brothers and schoolmates about the experience. “She enjoyed meeting everyone and getting to be outdoors with her parents,” said President Robinson. “The family learned about unions, so they were very impressed that the unions would reach out to them. I think this is just the start for them.”
The idea behind a portage pack is really quite simple: It’s a large pack that can sit low in the canoe, but offers straps that allow it to be hoisted up on your back. By design, most of these packs utilize a single large opening. The double-bottom Grand Portage Pack from Battle Lake Outdoors features an expandable, sealable top closure as well as two bottle/tent pole pockets, six side compression straps, and wide, contour-cut shoulder pads. A vertical adjustable sternum strap, a removable, padded waist belt, and a removable, padded back help make that portage a lot more comfortable. Total volume is 5,050 cubic inches, which is more than enough room for the weekend canoeist and camper.

Hiking and fishing can work up a big appetite, and come evening you deserve a great meal. At just 23 ounces, the Summit grill from SlatGrills is just the ticket. Made from lightweight titanium, the Summit assembles in seconds to provide a stable cooking or grilling structure. It works with any commercial fuel—white gas, propane or butane, alcohol, gel, or charcoal—as well as found fuel like wood or pine cones. By focusing heat and protecting the fire from wind, the Summit speeds up cooking and reduces fuel use. It folds up for easy carry, and its carrying case slips easily into a backpack. It delivers a versatile cooking surface as well, and comes with lightweight lifting chains for moving the grill on or off a fire or hanging it above a fire.

No question, fiberglass bass boats rule the fishing world. Trouble is, by the time the boat is optioned out, it can get more than a bit pricey. That’s why Triton Boats developed a line of more-affordable aluminum boats, and the 1862 SC is a perfect example. It offers three-across bench seating with under-seat storage and a matching fold-down fishing seat. It comes in official Mossy Oak Bottomland camo, so you duck hunters might want to take a closer look as well. Other features include no-feedback steering, an aerated livewell with timer, with a custom fiberglass console with tachometer, a fuel gauge, and a easy-touch switching, as well as all aluminum floors and decks. Overall length is 18 foot 4 inches with a beam of 90 inches. A wide variety of matched, factory-rigged outboard motors are available, including a Mercury 25 ELPT four stroke.

The Rail Master Pro Universal Red Laser Sight & Tactical Light combines two tactical tools in a single compact unit. The versatile unit is designed to fit most modern pistols, rifles, and shotguns outfitted with a M1913 Picatinny or Weaver-style accessory rail. A powerful laser (red or green) anchors the unit and provides up to two hours of continuous use on a single CR2 lithium battery. The Rail Master Pro also includes a powerful 100 Lumen white light for target identification. Activation is instant, with Tap On, Tap Off controls and a programmed Auto Shut Off at five minutes to conserve battery life. The waterproof unit features polymer construction with an aluminum body.

The Rail Master Pro is available for under $280, and the Summit grill is priced at $239. For more information, visit SlatGrills.com or TritonBoats.com.

Made in the USA
Top equipment picks to enjoy in the American outdoors
FISH ON!

SUMMER'S HERE, SO SAVOR EVERY SECOND. BECAUSE IF THERE ARE TWO THINGS THAT ARE CERTAIN THIS SEASON, IT'S THIS: TIME FLIES, AND THE FISHING DOESN'T GET MORE EXCITING THAN IT IS RIGHT NOW.
Summer-time, and the fishing is easy....

Well, maybe not “easy,” but on some days it sure can feel that way. Think about all there is to choose from: crappies and cats, bass and bluegills, and trout of all kinds bingeein on bugs morning, noon, and night. Plus, there are few things more satisfying than wet-wading on a hot summer day. These fishing skills will help keep you hooked up all season long. We’ve also included tips on how to cook your catch—and how to toast a great catch—and how to cook your catch—and how to toast a great catch.

There is a lot of work involved in the process you’re involved in the process. Think about all the rigging, drifting weighted nymphs. This dictates where you’ll find trout is food. Here’s how to adjust to those movements that dictates where you’ll find trout is food.

**Fish the same river run morning, noon, and night**

**BY KIRK DEETER**

**TROUT MARATHON**

**SCORE SLABS WITH SWIMBAITS**

**LONG-LINE TROLLING**

**A FEW SUMMERS AGO, I spent a weekend hunting muskies in Hayward, Wis., with guide Scott Kieper. We cast jerkbaits for as long as we had daylight, then prepared the trolling spread for the night. I learned several tricks from Kieper, but one of my favorites came as I watched him rig the spread. By the time the baits were ready, night had fallen. It was pitch black. I wondered how he’d be able to set his planer boards at the proper distances because you couldn’t see a thing out there. Then I saw the light. See, Kieper kept a small lamp aboard to use as a light source for filming anglers fighting big muskies at night. He also used the lamp to deliver a quick, bright charge to the strips of heavy-duty, glow-in-the-dark tape (glow-in-the-dark tape (glow outdoors.com) that he stuck on his boards. After a few seconds under the light, the tape radiated—allowing Kieper to track the boards in the water and run them precisely where he wanted. Even in the dark, he could see exactly what he was doing.**

**GLOWING RESULTS**

**BY COLIN KEARNS**

**THE LIGHT STUFF**

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**SUMMER 2014**

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**FISH ON!**

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**1 MORNING**

**2 NOON**

**3 NIGHT**

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**PREVIOUS SPREAD: BRIAN GROSSENBACHER; THIS PAGE, FROM TOP: BRIAN GROSSENBACHER; LUKE NILSSON**
A SHORE THING
When hunger strikes on the water, cook a classic shore lunch BY DAVID DRAPER

Shore lunch, the fisherman’s feast cooked and eaten lakeside, is the epitome of outdoor dining, and any angler worth his weight in cast iron has his own idea of what makes the best midday meal. A true shore lunch is fish and fried, crispy potatoes. Add a side of corn or beans, and you have a hearty meal that provides the perfect break during a long day on the water. Here are a few tips to help you enjoy the shore lunch at its finest.

TRAVELING KITCHEN
Keep a milk crate packed with skillet, spatula, fire grate, can opener, paper towels, and garbage bags.

GOOD OIL
While lard is the traditional (and tastier) frying medium, canola oil is a (slightly) heart-healthier alternative.

SIDES & SAUCE
Cook your beans in the opened can. Meanwhile, dial up a fiery sauce by mixing ketchup and horseradish.

HOT STUFF
As you cook the fish, heavy leather gloves, like those used by welders, make great hot pads.

DISH DUTY
Heat water in a small pot or kettle for easy cleanup. Afterward, don’t forget dessert: a post-lunch nap.

CATCH SMALLIES WITH SALTY FLIES
WHEN RIVERS HEAT UP
In late summer, smallmouths can get downright lazy. The same fish that charged fast-moving streamers and poppers earlier in the season often take to feeding at night, and if your river is loaded with late-summer shad or herring fry, getting bass to eat fur and feathers becomes even harder.

Delaware River smallmouth guide Joe Demalderis (crosscurrentguideservice.com) gets around this by leaning on bugs tied with synthetic fur and fiber for the salt, such as a Zonker or Clouser.

While the generators crank, trout will sail in deep holes along undercut banks and snatch passing prey.

BE LEVEL-HEADED
Nischan lets the water level dictate his fishing. In low water, tailrace trout can be spooky, so he’ll approach them by casting downstream (B), causing fewer ripples and less bottom disturbance. “Once I’m within a long cast of my target, I’ll make several presentations from different angles before going to another spot.”

The trout bite can be fast within the first 30 minutes after the dam’s turbines kick in. The rising water sweeps insects off the bank and churns up bottom debris, exposing sow bugs and crayfish. “I try to be on my best spot when they start generating. This is when it’s possible to nail a trout on every cast.” (Note: A tailrace can rise very quickly. Return to shore on the shallow side.)

High water can mean a shot at a trophy trout for anglers who can get there first. “As you cook the fish, heavy leather gloves, like those used by welders, make great hot pads.”

THE ‘RACE IS ON
Cool tailrace rivers provide hot trout fishing right now BY DON WIRTH

Mid to late summer is the perfect time to fish for trout in the tailraces below dams. “Even though the air temp may hit 100 degrees,” says Nashville guide Chris Nischan, “the tailrace often stays below 60 degrees, providing ideal habitat for rainbows and browns.” And the perfect spot to catch them.

HIGHS AND LOWS
The location of tailrace trout is dictated by the rate of flow from the upstream dam (A). “When the river is low, trout behave like stream trout and will locate in riffles, behind rocks, and around submerged moss beds,” says Nischan (indangunguide.com), a former Tot Outdoorman Challenge winner. “They range further from cover now when foraging for minnows and crayfish and will rise to take insects off the surface.”

When the water rises, trout gravitate to the bank and stick tighter to larger pieces of cover. “They fad in beneath undercut banks and sit on the bottom in deep holes. From here, they’ll rush out to grab passing prey.”

BEST HIGH-LOW BETS
Our guide’s go-to tailrace baits and flies

In high water, trout hold tight to big submerged trees.

In low water, trout sneak easily. Wade lightly and make long casts.
BURN AFTER EATING

Leave the frying pan at home. Grill your fish on a willow skillet.

BY T. EDWARD NICKENS

1 In 60 minutes you can build a fire, clean your catch, weave a grill, and burn the dishes. Oh yeah, and eat the freshest fish you’ve ever tasted. These instructions are for a couple of eating-size fish for two people. But there’s no limit to how big a grill you can weave from branches, so supersize this model for larger fish or cuts of game.

NONSTICK SKILLET

1 From a pliable willow sapling, cut the following: a Y stick with a foot-long stub and forks 3 feet long, two 20-inch branches, and six 14-inch branches. Snap off all twigs. Soak pieces in warm water.

2 Twist the fork branches into the shape of a racket. Start at the thick ends and move toward the tips, working them back and forth a bit at a time, being careful not to split the wood.

3 Lay a 20-inch branch across the center of the racket, then weave in the other 20-inch stick so they cross in the middle. Pre-bend the others so they can be woven in with enough tension to stay in place.

FINE-TUNED WALLEYES

Go inside the mind of a top pro as he dissects his long-line tricks.

WHY DO PROS LIKE TOMMY SKARLIS MOP UP ON THE TROLLING GROUNDS WHEN YOU STRUGGLE FOR JUST A COUPLE OF BITES?

Because they’re perfectionists, down to the smallest of details.

SECOND CHANCES

When an in-line board hesitates, that’s usually a sign that a walleye has just nabbed and spit out the bait. Snatch the rod from its holder and let the board drop back to trigger a solid bite.

THE STING

Hook short-striking fish with a No. 4 light-wire treble stinger on 3 inches of 12-pound monofilament. Knot it to the rear eye of a long-minnow crankbait or the rear hook of a spinner rig.

SMALL STUFF

If bigger crankbait isn’t catching fish, Skarlis recommends downsizing to a No. 4 Sabo Hornet or No. 4 Berkley Flicker Shad to score bites.

GET TOUGH

When nuisance species, such as perch and white bass, rob crawlers from Skarlis’ spinner rigs, he switches to more durable bait, such as Berkley Gulp! Crawlers.

BOARD GAMES

Run in-line boards closer to the boat in clear water. Dirty water and farther from the boat in clear water.

CHART TOPPER

Purchase some crankbait dive-curve charts (humanscale.tv) that adhere to downrigger tackle boxes so you’ll know exactly the depth at which your lures will run.

TAKE MEASURE

Put the same amount of line on each line-counter reel. Otherwise, the line distance will vary at the same settings.

FRESH START

After a hard day of tournament fishing or trolling for trophy walleyes, strip 20 yards of line from your reels so you’ll start with fresh line for the next trip.

CONTROL SAMPLE

When you catch a walleye, note every detail of the trolling setup and duplicate it exactly—all the best pits have similar characteristics.

PUSH WHAT YOU SEE

Strip-mine lakes are long, slender, and usually deep. Cover abounds in the form of aquatic vegetation, laydowns, and beaver lodges. This is basic bass fishing. Drag a boat from pit to pit, cast to what you can see, and hang on.

GO EARLY

Many pits are gin clear, and the shallows warm fast in summer. As a result, there’s often a pronounced early-morning and late-evening bite for bass cruising the bank. My buddies and I used to start walking in the dark to catch that morning bite. We never tried it after dark, but we always wanted to.

GEAR UP

The mere chance of an 8-pounder blowing up on a Pop-R makes it worth throwing early and late. Plus given that you’re targeting cover and the water is clear, soft plastics and light tackle rule the day. Try a weightless jerkbait or Senko around the laydowns, and a Texas-rigged worm in the deeper cover.

—Will Brantley
SUMMERTIME BLUES

Don’t give up on slab bluegills once summer heat drives them from the shallows. Here, a panfish guru shares three killer tactics to catch big bulbs in deep water.

1 MATCH A MAYFLY HATCH
With the exception of the spawn, mayfly hatches trigger the best opportunities to catch big bluegills. Cruise the lake and check any place where the wind blows the larvae into areas near deep water. “Target high banks with a black 1⁄8-ounce Rooster Tail and use a slow, steady retrieve,” says Ron Lappin, a retired Kentucky guide and fish doctor. “The higher the bank, the better the hatch is. Look for places where the wind can blow across a large area.” Cast to the bank and use a slow retrieve, occasionally pausing to let a spinner or jig glide slowly along. You’ll likely see bluegills swimming near the line as they feed near the surface. In these spots, Lappin suspends a Brim Reaper bug (blueburrborelures.com) on a No. 6 long-shank cricket hook 12 to 18 inches above a No. 6-ounce cylinder weight. He suspends a “9-foot float-and-fly rod, and suggests keeping the line length no longer than the rod. “A lot of pilings have steel cross members between them,” he says. “That’s where you’ll get the biggest concentrations of bluegills.”

2 PITCH AROUND PILINGS
Bridge pilings across deep areas near deep water. “Target high banks with a black 1⁄8-ounce Rooster Tail and use a slow, steady retrieve.”

3 CAST IN CURRENTS
Most reservoirs have sources of man-made current, such as a dam and its turbines, culverts, and locks. These attract bluegills and are best if they are in deeper spots or have a large concrete structure like a dock piling nearby. “A lot of times you’ll see bluegills almost swimming in these areas after the spawn,” says Lappin. He floats a live cricket, rigged on a No. 6 straight-armed bobber. “Pinch two split shot onto the line below the hook,” says Lappin. “This is quillback: They’re fun to catch and up to 3 pounds are best. My favorite is quillback. They’re fun to catch and easy to scale, with tough hook-hold- ing skin.”

USE YOUR NOODLE

Catch big cats using a new twist on a classic summer tactic. By T. EDWARD NICKENS

Your kids have finally outgrown the swim noodles gathering dust in the basement? Good. That means they’re at the perfect age for jugging catfish. Here’s how to recycle those noodles into a simple variation on this summer pastime. Just keep a noodle or two intact—you’ll need something to grab should you sink your boat with whiskerfish.

NOODLE NINJA
Cut one 5-foot pool noodle into five 1-foot sections. (You’ll be able to store five noodle-jugs upright in a 5-gallon bucket—enough to keep you plenty busy.) Wrap one end of each with three overlapping wraps of duct tape. Tie off one end to a washer or bead, pull it snug, and tie a three-way swivel to the other end. Keep the noodle as straight as possible when wrapping. Slit a hole in the middle of each noodle and slip onto a large concrete structure like a dock piling. Cast to the edge of logjams and holes, letting the rod. “A lot of pilings have steel cross members between them,” he says. “That’s where you’ll get the biggest concentrations of bluegills.”

BANK ON IT
Target high banks with a black 1⁄8-ounce Rooster Tail and use a slow, steady retrieve.

MATCH A MAYFLY HATCH
Pitch a blue- gill-bug lure just beyond bridge pilings, then let it swing back past the structure.

GLOWING RESULTS
If you fish at night, run a strip of reflective tape around the noodle on the opposite end from the sinker. CAT CHAOS
For a total blast, use a 4-ounce weight on the bottom and free float the noodles as you monitor the action from the boat. Nothing says summer like chasing down a bunch of noodles gone wild.

Note: Some states require identification on jug lines, and use a slow, steady retrieve.

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MAKE YOUR OWN CATFISH CANDY

To catch picky channel cats this month, try a hunk of freshly caught (and slightly stinky) cutbait. By M.D. JOHNSON

GONE (TRASH) FISHIN’
Spend a morning catching some carp, quillbacks, or suckers. Small fish up to 3 pounds are best. My favorite is quillback. They’re fun to catch and easy to scale, with tough hook-holding skin.

A DASH OF STINK
Scale the fish, leaving the skin on. Cut the fillets into 1-inch-square chunks. Fill a jar two-thirds full of fish chunks, and add either shad-flavor Smelly Jelly ($5.49; cabelas.com) or a mixture of cod liver oil and powdered garlic. Shake gently, and refrigerate.

SWEET RIG
Fish the chunks straight from the jar, juiced with a squirt of Smelly Jelly. Spear the bait on a No. 1 Dace’s circle hook tied to an 18-inch monofil mono leader below a barrel swivel, plastic bead, and 1⁄4-ounce bank-sinker. Cast to the edge of logjams and holes, letting the current sweep the scents into play.

IT EVEN LOOKS like the perfect summer drink. Tall, cold, and bubbly with a slice of lime, gin and tonic is a tropical tradition dating back more than a century. British colonials in India and beyond mixed quinine with carbonated water as an antimalarial medication. Adding gin helped disguise quinine’s bitter taste. Modern tonic waf- ter still contain quinine, but much smaller medicin- nal amounts. It still works magic, though, when mixed with a proper London gin in an ice-filled glass. Then as now, a gin and tonic doesn’t actually repel mosquitoes. But after a couple you won’t mind the bites so much.—John Merwin

THE PERFECT POST-FISHING COCKTAIL
Celebrate a memorable day on the water.

How to make...

BY CURTIS NIEDERMIER

Illustration by Mike Sudal
ILLUSTRATION BY MIKE SUDAL; PETE SUCHESKI (RIG ILLUSTRATION); JAN FINGER/WINDIGO IMAGES (CATFISH)

Nothing says summer like noodles gone wild. Nothing says summer like noodles gone wild.

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2 PITCH AROUND PILINGS
Bridge pilings across deep areas and large tributaries offer vertical current breaks where bluegills can ride cooler water to feed near the surface. In these spots, Lappin uses a 9-foot float-and-fly rod, and suggests keeping the line length no longer than the rod. “A lot of pilings have steel cross members between them,” he says. “That’s where you’ll get the biggest concentrations of bluegills.”

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Illustration by Mike Sudal
ILLUSTRATION BY MIKE SUDAL; PETE SUCHESKI (RIG ILLUSTRATION); JAN FINGER/WINDIGO IMAGES (CATFISH)
TAKE YOUR BEST SHOT

Share your best shots with your brothers and sisters of the USA. Visit UnionSportsmen.org/photos to check out additional photos and to submit your own for a chance to win a Buck Knife.

Shawn Lewis, Jr., a member of Steelworkers Local 12934 from Rhodes, MI, shows off his harvest to 13-month-old Rylee Lewis.

Joseph Garland, a member of Electrical Workers Local 1837 from Yarmouth, ME, finally caught up with this buck in November 2013 after two years of being teased with trail-cam photos and sightings.

Dan Tolomay, a member of Electrical Workers Local 723 from New Haven, IN, and his son, Nicholas, harvested this 13-point buck with a crossbow. They knew the buck was roaming the woods, so they passed on some other bucks. It was a good lesson for Nicholas that patience pays off.

George Battise, a member of Sprinkler Fitters Local 669 from Rimrock, AZ, poses proudly with his son who caught this hefty fish on a ultra-light rod with a 6 pound test line at Lake Mary in Flagstaff.

Jake Ganz, son of Bricklayers Local 1 member Mike Ganz, keeps his eyes to the sky while duck hunting.

Cale W. Fuller, Sr., a member of Elevator Constructors Local 10 and his union brothers brought home a mixed bag of bufflehead, old-square and scoter, black, surf and white-winged waterfowl after a hunt in Solomon, Maryland. (L-R): Steve Harbold, Douglas Harbold, Fuller and Ramiro “Butch” Ramos.

Bill Shaffer, a member of Electrical Workers Local 77 from Dalton Gardens, ID, caught this 28-pound salmon on the Columbia River.

Peter Guarino, a member of Laborers Local 79 from New York City, harvested this handsome waterbuck in South Africa in September 2013.

Michael Superson, a retired member of Electrical Workers Local 21, shot this lion from 10 yards on a safari in November 2013 in the Kalahari on the South African-Botswana border. It weighed 350 pounds and measured 10 feet long.

Brian Neville, a member of Electrical Workers Local 98, along with some union hunting buddies show off some pheasants they bagged in the hills of East Pennsylvania.

Travis Sadler, a member of Laborers Local 773, enjoyed a great day in the field with his brother’s stepchildren (R-L), Parker, Skylar and Logan.

Randy Scott, Executive Secretary Treasurer of the Washington State Association of the United Association, harvested this 4x4 muley on public land in Okanogan County in North Central Washington. He’s been hunting the area for 12 years.

Cale W. Fuller, Sr., a member of Elevator Constructors Local 10 and his union brothers brought home a mixed bag of bufflehead, old-square and scoter, black, surf and white-winged waterfowl after a hunt in Solomon, Maryland. (L-R): Steve Harbold, Douglas Harbold, Fuller and Ramiro “Butch” Ramos.

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MEMBERS
SUPPORT
USA EVENTS

USA events yield long-lasting and mutually rewarding relationships by Laura Tingo

UNION PRIDE IN THE ranks of the International Union of Elevator Constructors comes in many packages. Whether wrapped in a sporting clays shoot, local fishing tournament or conservation project, the message is clear when it comes to the camaraderie demonstrated by members of the IUEC brotherhood.

Cale Fuller, a dedicated member of the USA and IUEC Local 10, is all over it when it comes to supporting outdoor sporting events and volunteering in his community. He’s hard to attend a USA event without running into Fuller. Last year, he followed USA’s shooting tour up and down the East Coast and has even made the cross-country trip from his home in Beltsville, Maryland to attend USA’s annual Las Vegas Shoot.

While coordinating a fishing challenge for his fellow union brothers and sisters last fall, Fuller called the USA for help in lining up some nice prizes for the anglers who would turn out for his fishing challenge in Virginia’s Pohick Bay Regional Park. We were happy to assist one of our avid members in getting union members engaged in the outdoors. With help from dedicated corporate partners, we provided a nice prize set-up that included a host of USA materials and giveaway items like DVDs of the USA’s Brotherhood Outdoors TV series and Buck fillet knives.

“You support... allowed us to make it an event to remember,” said Fuller, adding that the weather made it a picture-perfect day. “Everyone said the event was great and that USA did a great job and supported us beyond anything we could have foretold.”

A personal highlight for Fuller was seeing his 4-year-old son, Cale W. Fuller, Jr., catch his first catfish—the boy’s favorite fish. “He did cry as we released the 16 1/8 inch catfish, but the smile on his face said it all,” said Fuller. “Knowing the work we put behind these events could provide this type of experience for one of our members is the most satisfying feeling any sportsman could ask for.”

Passing on a love of the outdoors to the next generation is vital to the future of our outdoor heritage, which is why the USA holds a number of youth-focused events and conservation projects, like the USA’s Baltimore Area Trap Shoot, which was held recently.

Top: Cale W. Fuller, Jr. catches his first catfish at the IUEC Local 10 fishing tournament. Above: Cale Fuller (far left) with his team at USA’s Baltimore Area Trap Shoot

For a complete list of events and to register, visit unionsportsmen.org/events

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