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Angler Breaks 32-year Hybrid-Bass Record

JUNE 13TH 2019 BY DEE LOFLIN

Angler Breaks 32-year Hybrid-Bass Record

Jasper County angler breaks 32-year hybrid-bass record
MDC congratulates Cesar Rodriguez on catching a 21-pound, 11-ounce striped hybrid bass at Lake of the Ozarks.

The Missouri Department of Conservation (MDC) announces that Cesar Rodriguez of Carthage is now the state record-holder for hybrid-striped-bass after catching a 21-pound, 11-ounce fish at Lake of the Ozarks May 19. Rodriguez used the pole-and-line method.

Though the fish breaks Missouri's previous hybrid-striped-bass record of a 20-pound, 8-ounce fish, set in 1986 at the Lake of the Ozarks, Rodriguez wasn't that surprised when he reeled in the bass.

"It was just a normal day out fishing," Rodriguez said. "Last year I caught a 24-pound hybrid in Oklahoma, but I couldn't find a game warden to confirm it. So, this catch didn't come as a surprise that it was a record-breaker."

The fish's weight was verified on a certified scale at MDC's Roaring River Hatchery in Cassville. The hybrid-striped-bass is the sixth state-record fish caught this year.

Rodriguez mounted his prize fish, and said he is planning to catch another that will top his even-larger Oklahoma catch.

Missouri state-record fish are recognized in two categories: pole-and-line and alternative methods. Alternative methods include: throwlines, trotlines, limb lines, bank lines, jug lines, spearfishing, snagging, snaring, gigging, grabbing, archery, and atlatl.

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Stoner Selected to 2019 All-Scholastic Team

JUNE 12TH 2019 BY DEE LOFLIN

Stoner Selected to 2019 All-Scholastic Team

Austin Stoner, upcoming Sophomore, at Poplar Bluff High School, was recently selected to be a member of the 2019 All-Scholastic Team, by the Scholastic Sports Foundation (SSSF).

Over 230 student athletes from 24 states, have been named to the team this year and will be recognized at the opening ceremonies of the SSSF/SCTP/SASP Team Championship event on July 17th in Marengo, Ohio.

The All-Scholastic Team recognizes the top student athletes in the SSSF's Scholastic Clay Target and Scholastic Action Shooting Program for their achievements in the classroom, on the range and in their communities. Through an application process, the team members had to submit a copy of their school transcript and post a 3.0 or better GPA, certified shooting scores with a 190 or better out of 200 clays, letters of recommendation, demonstrating outstanding community involvement and write a brief essay to explain how the sport has improved and effected their lives.

Austin states: It has taught me self-discipline, as well as team building skills. How to work together as a team and build each other up and encourage one another to do and be better. As an individual, I have learned self-control and that even if you miss a clay, there is another one coming. You have to always be prepared. I've learned that my actions on and off the field are being watched by other individuals and I want to be the person that my fellow team mates look to for advice and encouragement.

Stoner was also awarded to the AIM (Academics, Integrity and Marksmanship) All-State team for 2019.

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Snapping Turtles Begin Laying their Eggs in June

JUNE 06TH 2019 BY DEE LOFLIN

Snapping Turtles Begin Laying their Eggs in June

Snapping turtles begin laying their eggs in June

Though intimidating to people, snapping turtles play an important role in nature.

The Missouri Department of Conservation (MDC) says snapping turtles begin laying their eggs this month in sandy areas. Though many Missourians may be intimidated by their hard, spiny shells, large size and “snappy” demeanor, naturalists say these amphibians play an important role in nature and deserve to be left alone.

“These turtles help keep the populations of many aquatic plants and animals in check,” said Alex Holmes, a MDC naturalist. “Their nests are also preyed upon by hungry predators such as skunks, raccoons, and mink.”

Holmes said snapping turtles have earned a reputation for their strong jaws and ability to snap, but if people don’t try to handle them, they’re a beneficial wildlife species. They live in farm ponds, marshes, swamps, sloughs, rivers, and reservoirs — anywhere there is permanent water.

“Snappers prefer bodies of water with a mud bottom, abundant aquatic vegetation, and submerged logs,” Holmes said. “But now is the time females often travel over land during their egg-laying season and often are killed by cars.”

Female turtles are particular about where they lay and bury their eggs and might travel long distances to find a suitable location, Holmes said. Most female snappers select well-drained, sandy or loose soil to deposit their eggs.

“Snapping turtles are careful to lay their eggs deep in the sand,” he said. “If you find snapping turtle eggs, simply cover them back up and let them be.”

Courtship and mating can take place between April and November, but mostly in late spring and early summer. June is the usual month for egg-laying, though two clutches may be laid per season. The female digs a nest in deep sand or loose soil and deposits usually 20–30 eggs. The eggs hatch 55–125 days later, depending on environmental conditions.

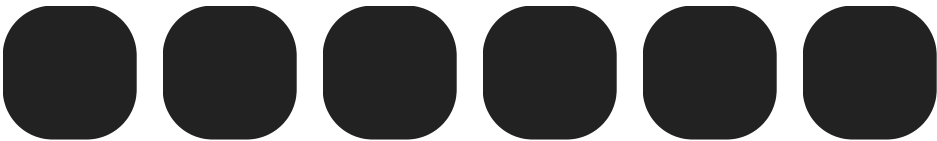
Holmes said snapping turtles aren’t detrimental to fish and wildlife as generally supposed, even though they do eat some small fishes, very young ducks, and goslings. Common snappers are basically lazy and are more apt to feed on slower moving, sick, less desirable fish. By doing this, they provide a valuable clean-up service by eating diseased or weakened fish and by devouring any dead or decaying fish or other animals.

Snapping turtles can be harvested, with some people preferring to eat the meat in a stew. However, anyone harvesting a snapping turtle should ensure it’s not an alligator snapping turtle. Alligator snapping turtles live only in the few natural aquatic habitats remaining in Missouri’s Bootheel. It’s the largest species of freshwater turtle in the world. The alligator snapping turtle is rare in our state due to habitat loss and illegal harvesting. There is no open season for the alligator snapping turtle.

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Class 2, District 3 All District Baseball Team Announced

JUNE 04TH 2019 BY DEE LOFLIN

Class 2, District 3 All District Baseball Team Announced

Class 2, District 3 All District Team has been announced for the Spring 2019 highs school baseball season.

Advance had five players. Augustus Garner, Hunter Curtis, Ridley Bailey and Noah Saucedo each earned honors on the all district team.

Layton Keith of Advance received Honor Mention.

Here is the list of the 2019 Spring Baseball All District Team

Advance: Augustus Garner, Hunter Curtis, Ridley Bailey and Noah Saucedo

Bloomfield: Ethan Hutchison

Chaffee: Landon Tenkhoff, Breven Yarbrough, Brennan Fowler, Kade Sullivan, and Andrew Brown

Meadow Heights: Wyatt Lincoln and Kade Lindgren

Puxico: Kasen Barnfield

St. Vincent: John WibbenMeyer and Nick Lappe

Honorable Mention

Advance: Layton Keith

Bloomfield: Gage McNeil

Chaffee: Cole Dannenmueller

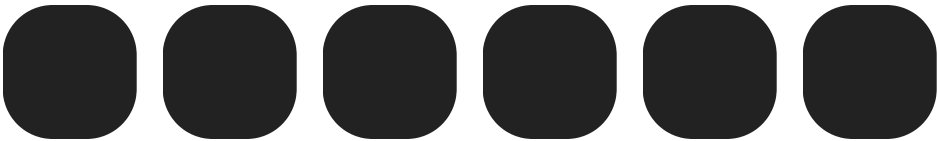
Puxico: Jordan Armstrong

St. Vincent: Garrett Dobbelare

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Two Bernie Lady Mules Named to the 2019 All-State Softball Team

JUNE 03RD 2019 BY DEE LOFLIN

Two Bernie Lady Mules Named to the 2019 All-State Softball Team

Missouri - The 2019 Spring Softball All-State Teams were announced for the 2019 Season. Alyson Marcum a junior and Bernie High School earned 1st Team recognition as a pitcher.

Marcum helped her team go 23 - 4 and win their District 3 championship.

She went 14-3 with one save. She also earned 0.814 ERA, 192 strikeouts and 21 walks in 103 + innings pitched.

Taylor Anthony was named a second-team catcher. She hit .453 with 14 doubles. She also had two home runs and 42 RBIs.

Here is the list of the teams:

Pitchers

Kaileigh Dirden Sr. Scott City

Sami Huck Fr. Potosi

Alyson Marcum Jr. Bernie

Aleah Paxton Sr. Lincoln

(T) Katelyn Kotlarz Jr. Mt. Vernon

(T) Ayden Shannon Fr. Wellington Napoleon

Catcher

Rylee Venable Sr. Scott City

Emily Shipman Jr. Forsyth

Bree Shannon Fr. Wellington Napoleon

Infielder

Kyra Jaco Fr. Kennett

Kennedy Coleman Jr. Potosi

Hayley Frank Sr. Strafford

Mallory Gazaway Sr. Liberal

Brooke Conner Sr. Sweet Springs

(T) Lauren Eagle Sr. Sweet Springs

(T) Abby Henson Sr. Pleasant Hope

Outfielder

Lyndsey Hood Sr. Mt. Vernon

Tommi Gardner Sr. Mtn. Grove

Katie Shuffler So. Malden

Madison Bolten So. Wellington Napoleon

Utility

Emma Eaton So. Potosi

Designated Player (DP)

Anell Harris Fr. Kennett

Spring All State

2019

2nd team

Pitcher

Kaitlin Garrett Sr. Plato

Lauren Schallert So. Purdy

Madi Bentley Fr. Diamond

Kylee Winfrey Sr. Sweet Springs

(T) Jaydin Lee Jr. Pleasant Hope

(T) Sydney Litton So. Potosi

Catcher

Taylor Anthony Jr. Bernie

Maleiah Parker Sr. La Monte

Ella Dougherty So Skyline

Infielder

Emerson Bates Jr. Wellington Napoleon

Kennady Keating Sr. Adrian

Kaylee Payne Jr. Oran

Jess Hulsey So. Park Hills Central

Danielle Cutbirth Fr. Crane

Michaela McChesney Sr. Mt. Vernon

Outfielder

Katie Robinson Sr. Crane

Lindey Oehrke Sr. La Monte

Ally Kelly Fr. Park Hills Central

Katelyn Stewart Sr. Pleasant Hope

Utility

Sydney Vaught Sr. Sweet Springs

Designated Player (DP)

(T) Rachel Essary So. Forsyth

(T) Haley Mackey Jr. Lincoln

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