

Upcoming events:

1- Wreaths Across America will be placing wreaths on service members graves at the Grafton National Cemetery. I will pass along the date when I know it.

2- Wreath collection will be in January, 2021. It is typically 4 weeks after Christmas on a Saturday, and the wreaths will go to Tygart Lake for fish habitat.

3- Until COVID is under control, I do not plan on large gatherings of volunteers. The WVDNR is being very careful about projects with volunteers as well. Hopefully, we will see things back to normal before the wreath habitat installation. Otherwise, we may have a few small groups assemble new wreath structures on pallets at Tygart Lake. The WVDNR could install them in the lake with their tractor (forks on the loader).

BNWV Conservation News

1- Navigable River Study (Kanawha, Mon, Ohio) is moving forward. The initial data collection has been going on this year and should be completed this fall. This is a multi-year project.

Electrofishing is a key source for initial data collection to determine the quality and quantity of different fish and forage are in the rivers. While the samples are being collected, they are targeting specific species. This includes catfish, walleye and sauger, panfish, paddlefish, musky, bass, baitfish, and other forage sources. **I have recently found out that the targeted species has a specific and unique electronic frequency that they react to through electrofishing. In other words, the DNR can target catfish, or another species, through new electrofishing technology and not really have any effect on bass or many other species.**

Earlier this year, I received some negative feedback from the WVDNR about an angler or two that had heated discussions with them during river sampling. I would strongly urge anglers to stay away from the electrofishing boats. If the anglers have questions, respectfully talk with the DNR biologists after they have returned to the boat ramp. Please, talk to me about it. I need to know what they are seeing on the water, too. My cell is 304-613-9099.

If someone needs to discuss it further or complain, refrain from any confrontation or phone calls to the DNR. Let those discussions come from BNWV Conservation. We have developed a strong and trusted relationship with the WVDNR and that relationship has reciprocal respect from both partners.

And please remember, they are not always electrofishing for black bass. There are many different types of fish swimming in the river, and they are working to improve fishing for us. This is key for us to understand what they are doing to help our navigable rivers get on the path to recovery.

2- Throughout 2020, WVDNR crews have been working with the new habitat barge to install tons of new cover. The WVDNR would like to purchase or construct a second barge in the near future to keep busy on habitat improvements. This is definitely making a difference!

3- At the national level, some important legislation has passed the test of the US Congress. We have secured funding to maintain and enhance the outdoors. Our WV congressional representative did vote in favor of the sportsmen. I do not know how many of our members sent in emails, but if you are one that did, THANK YOU! It is working and great to get a win for sportsmen of today and the future.

Jerod Harman
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B.A.S.S Nation of WV