

Notes to Consider...

Woodcraft: Fire (Magnesium Blocks)

By G.S. Morris — 08 October 2018



As a boy, I puzzled over the small silver blocks with a round, black strip molded into one edge and a short length of dog tag chain through a hole in one corner (it's for securing to your kit) sold at all Army surplus stores as, "Survival Fire Starters." It wasn't until recent years with the boom of the bushcrafter movement that I took the time to learn, what I believe, is the superiority of the old magnesium "survival" fire starters versus the (now) popular ferrocium rods.

Both materials are capable of producing very hot sparks/flames (some 3,000 degrees).

However, the good old Army surplus magnesium blocks (Doan Mach. and Equip. Co. blocks are Ohio made) have both a sparking device and tinder combined while the trendy ferrocium rods require separate tinder material to reliably produce a flame.

All that is necessary to produce a white hot flame source from a Doan magnesium block is the sharp, square spine of your fixed blade belt knife. Don't assume your knife has a truly square spine. If your knife won't reliably throw sparks from a sparking source, simply put it into your shop vice edge down and square up the spine flat with as many strokes as necessary from a square file.

To produce a fire with your Doan magnesium block, use your knife's spine to shave off a quarter-sized pile of magnesium shavings from the plain edge of the silver block; and produce sparks from the round strip of black "sparking material" (ferrocium) again with the square spine of your fixed blade field knife. When the magnesium shavings ignite, they burn white hot making it relatively simple to ignite the larger dry tinder you've gathered to get a fire going.

Genuine Department of Defense issued Doan magnesium fire starters are available directly from the manufacturer, large hunting/camping outfitter stores, and various third-party online retailers. Though not as trendy as plain ferrocium rods, I would advise the all-in-one magnesium fire starter blocks are the picture of space saving, fire starting efficiency.

Next Week: Char Cloth

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Kentucky Fish and Wildlife Commission Recommends New Catfish and Pay Lake Regulations



FRANKFORT, Ky. (Oct. 4, 2018) — The Kentucky Fish and Wildlife Commission has proposed new regulations establishing statewide limits on trophy catfish, and proposed tightening existing regulations on the commercial harvest of large catfish and their use by pay lakes. Commission members, at their Sept. 28 quarterly meeting, also approved three wildlife studies of bears, bobcats and otters.

Most commission actions must be approved by legislators before they become law.

A proposal approved by the commission would limit anglers to one trophy catfish of each species a day. This trophy regulation, already in place on the Ohio River, would expand statewide. Anglers could keep one blue and one flathead catfish 35 inches or longer, and one channel catfish 28 inches or longer each day. Anglers could still keep an unlimited number of catfish shorter than trophy length, except on waters with special regulations for catfish.

The new trophy fish limits would also apply to anglers who hand grab, or "noodle" catfish, except where special regulations apply.

The proposals are part of an effort to provide greater protection for trophy catfish by restricting their harvest. A 2013 survey of catfish anglers in the state showed that 75 percent would not oppose stricter regulations on trophy catfish.

As part of the protective effort, commission members also proposed revising several regulations governing the commercial harvest of catfish from the Ohio River. These include:

Commercial fishing vessels on the Ohio River shall not have more than the daily harvest limit of trophy catfish in possession while on the water or trailering their boat on a ramp.

If more than two commercial anglers are on board a vessel, that vessel may only have a maximum of two daily creel limits for trophy catfish.

The number of free trophy catfish harvest permits for the Ohio River from Cannelton Lock and Dam (upstream of Owensboro in Hancock County) to the confluence of the Mississippi River will be lowered to 15 permits annually.

New regulations proposed for pay lakes include:

Signs posted at all pay lakes informing anglers of where the catfish were obtained and any associated consumptive warnings.

Requiring pay lakes to keep purchase records on fish received from private hatcheries for three years.

Requiring pay lakes to keep detailed records on catfish obtained from public waters, including fish origin, for three years. Pay lakes could stock trophy catfish three times a year, but limit stocking to no more than 750 pounds of fish per acre.

Capping the number of pay lakes that receive catfish from public waters at 35. Existing pay lakes beyond this number could continue operations as long as they continued buying their license.

In other business before the commission, members approved studies to gauge the abundance of river otters and bobcats in Kentucky; and one to determine the density of black bears around the Big South Fork National River and Recreation Area in southern Kentucky.

Inspirational Thoughts Into God's Word

By Lynetta Hunter

(Ec. 12:7 then shall the dust return to the earth as it was: and the spirit shall return unto God who gave it.) An affliction in the physical body is different than brokenness of human spirit. When a heart is broken, a mind is shattered, and a spirit is weakened, it causes an emotional disturbance that changes everything else in life, usually in a negative way. Often children follow in the footsteps of parental abuse, personal bitterness becomes spitefulness, and self-hatred becomes full blown hate toward everyone else. People hurting each other is often a never-ending cycle, until someone finds a way to end it.

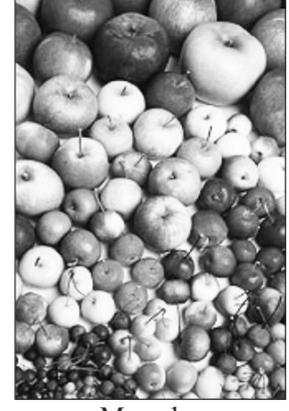
Jesus (Isaiah 61:1) binds up the brokenhearted, and gives freedom to prisoners who are bound by the whirlwind of emotional brokenness. (Psalm 34:18) says the LORD is near to the brokenhearted and saves those who are crushed in spirit. Because the spirit was given by God, only He knows how to mend it, restructure it, and make it whole.

It's kind of like when a person has a physical break in their body and still continues to do normal everyday movements. They give to, or surrender to, the part that is broke, which in turn will lead to having pain in other parts because of the extra pressure that makes up for the other weakness. In spiritual brokenness, one weakness leads to another unless it is contradicted by the strength of God and one hurt leads to another unless circumstances are changed by the power of God. But one touch from Him can end the cycle of brokenness and hurt forever.

Yards to Paradise Landscaping

National Apple Month (October)

By Max Phelps



October is National Apple Month in the United States. This generic promotion celebrates something as American as apples. Well, no, apples came with colonial settlers to the U.S. and Canada, but we still celebrate apples and use the exclamation "as American as apple pie".

Official statistics for apples: 7,500 producer/farmers, grow 240 million bushels in an average year, on 322,000 acres of orchard. The value at retail is around \$20 billion. The United States is second behind China in apple production worldwide.

Many homeowners have a few apple trees and are not counted in the farm census. It is with these folks in mind I will continue today's column.

Apple trees do not usually reproduce true from seed; so, you get a new kind from seed, and most of the time they will be inferior to the apple from which the seed was planted. Many of our old-fashioned or "antique" apple varieties resulted from luck or good fortune when a seed grew into a tree and all the community raved about it. John Chapman ("Johnny Appleseed") is a famous apple distributor. His work was both seed planting as well as grafting and selling trees. If you have plenty of space, and pies, cider or juice or jelly or apple butter is what you want then the seedling apples may work just fine for you. But for fresh eating, most of what comes up from seeds won't come close to the apples from the store.

Most homeowners, as well as small orchardists, will purchase grafted trees. They will have a tree of the apple they desire, growing up from a rootstock to give the size of tree they want or have room for. Fruit tree nurseries may offer three or five or more root options for the trees they sell. Most "big box" stores have very limited choices, and may not be labeled correctly at that.

Personally, I grafted more than two dozen different apple varieties last spring, many of them being red both on the outside as well as inside. And the root onto which these grafts were made will produce many different sized trees. Some will be full sized trees. Some simi-dwarf, and some dwarf or very dwarf. The Bud-9 and some of the new Geneva roots produce a tree which can be grown in a container on the patio if so desired. Some small trees don't have good root systems and require a stake or a fence or trellis or something to hold them up straight.

Apple month is a super time to visit a farm stand, and maybe try at least one cultivar (cultivated variety) you've never tasted from the super-market. Farmers Markets can be a great place to find odd varieties and also visit with local farm neighbors. It is also an ideal time to start planning and ordering your new apple trees for either fall or next spring planting. There are several small growers around the nation, and lots of old fashioned or antique apples can still be obtained by those who seek them out and shop early. There are also large nurseries and the chain stores who will have trees for sale in the spring; selling Red or Yellow Delicious, Granny Smith, Gala, Fuji, and perhaps a few other popular varieties.

How to plant or grow apples will have to be a topic for another day. I'll sum this up by saying you could be growing a hundred or more different apples that you'll never see at the grocery, and even as many as a thousand or two if you really search. Sweet, sour, bitter, hard, soft, early, late, big, little, shiny or ugly warty and russeted. Yes, even with red flesh, as I've been experimenting with. You might be surprised what you could grow at your place. National Apple Month is a reminder to appreciate some local grown options, rather than those stored in warehouses and sold year around at the grocery store, and possibly to grow a few for yourselves.

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