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Issue 255

Aug./Sept. 2016



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Magazine

Volume 1 Issue 255

Publisher and Editor Mark A. Goudy

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304-482-7217

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Cover Photo

Nina Brumfield, from the Logan area, landed and released this huge largemouth bass. It was caught at Upper Mud River Lake. It may have been in the 12 pound range.

Send in your 2015 game & 2016game and fish TEXT pics. Send to 304-482-7217.

There have been numerous text pics sent in this year. If you are not in the last couple of issues, look in future issues for your pic.

Plastic Bass Lures

Plastic baits look simple enough. But like a lot of simple looking things there's a ton of work behind every good one. Understanding a little about that work will help you pick the right bait for the conditions at hand and will result in more bass in your livewell.

In addition to fishing the Bassmaster Elite Series I own and operate Missile Baits, a soft plastics focused company. We use injection molding exclusively. That's a process by which liquid plastic is injected under pressure into an aluminum, multi-cavity mold.

You can also hand-pour soft plastics. Some of them are really good,



Nick Hill landed a big bass at North Bend Lake. Photo courtesy of Biat Shack in Harrisville

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Musky Baits - Tackle **HUNTING SEASON IS HERE!** By John Crews

some not so much. I'm not going to say any more about them than that because they're not how we make our baits. I will say, however, that some hand-poured baits can do things injected baits can't do. Overall, injected baits can have many more options and are the way to go for mass producing baits.

One of the first things to consider when choosing a plastic bait is whether it's harder or softer. Harder plastics have their place. They work well in saltwater and in high heat environments like the tropics. That said, I can't think of a situation in bass fishing when I'd use one.

For our purposes, softer baits have much better action and they have better function. Too soft can be a problem, but they need to be soft enough to function properly. Function is how they fish. How do they move in the water? Can you rig them so that they don't hang on every cast and, at the same time, allow you the opportunity to get a good hook set?

Before we get any deeper into function let's talk about action. Creature baits illustrate its importance about as well as anything.

There has to be at least a thousand of those critters on the market, but only a handful of them actually look like something that lives where the bass lives. What the good ones re-



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ally look like is something that's alive and that's vulnerable. Bass are predators. They attack creatures continue to the next page



Courtney Rogers hooked a 19" largemouth in Harrison County.

SAGO VALLEY RIVER RETREAT

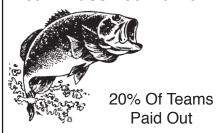
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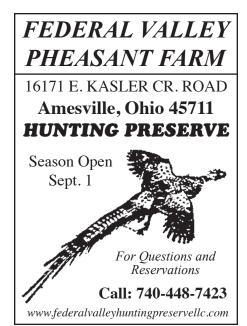
that act like prey.

Look at our D Stroyer, a popular bait in this category. You can say that it looks like any number of things. Some guys say it's a dead ringer for a big crayfish. It might be. But for my money it looks like a frog swimming in the water, a frog that's going to be easy prey. In all honesty, none of us knows what a bass thinks when it sees one. All we know is that they want to eat it. That's enough for me, and for the other anglers who fish it.

You'll hear a lot of talk about color around the dock. Color can be added to injected plastics in a number of ways to create a number of looks. The most common are solids, two layer laminates, three layer laminates, swirls and contrasting tails. With only a few exceptions, color choices and combinations in plastic baits are unlimited.

My preference in most situations is a two layer laminate. Most creatures in nature, especially those that live in the water, have two basic colors to their body, one darker on top and another lighter on the bottom.

Despite what I just said keep something in mind. Action is 100 times more important than color — in any lure. Color might get them to look, but it's action that'll get



them to bite. Remember that.

continue to the next psge



Alex Herrick took this nice gobbler in Wetzel County.



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Function is really nothing more than a way of saying that a lure does what it's supposed to do—catch fish. We can break function into three parts. The first is that any good plastic bait has to have the right action. Without it nothing else much matters. It's a hard thing to define because it's as much art as it is science. But we do know that some lures have it, and some don't.

One bait that has the right action is a Zoom Trick Worm. It is a tried and true bait that is and has been a real fish catcher for many years on many traditional techniques like the shaky head, Carolina rig, drop shot and wacky rig. Zoom nailed it with that one.

The Yamamoto Senko is different, but is in the same department. There's something about the way it moves on the fall that makes it one of a kind. It is one of the most imitated baits on the market but the Senko is just the Senko.

Here at Missile Baits we don't make competing lures for either of those baits. The reason is that if we made a super great trick worm or plastic stickbait it'd be just like the



Jackson Holden got his first gobbler.



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Zoom Trick Worm and the Yamamoto Senko. There's no point in reinventing the wheel unless you can make it better. As of this writing we haven't been able to do that so I buy them like everyone else.

The next thing that's necessary to make a plastic bait functional is that we must be able to rig it so that it'll work its way through cover without getting hung, but at the same time we must be able to get a secure hookset when a bass grabs it.

As the owner and one of the designers of baits here at Missile Baits I can tell you that's not as easy as it sounds. If the bait's too hard you can drive a hook in it so that it's perfectly weedless but you won't be able to drive the hook through

continue to the next page



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it and into the fish's mouth. It's just the opposite if it's too soft. The hook point will work through or fall out and it'll hang on practically every cast.

And, in many cases we have to design the body so that there's a place on it for the hook. You'll see that with a lot of creature baits. Maybe there's a narrow place along the body for the hook that'll make the hookset more efficient or a slit that'll do the same thing. Those design features are not there just to make a bait look realistic. They're there to make it functional. On some baits, it just makes them hang up more.

The third part of function is that a bait must be versatile. An angler has to be able to rig it in different ways. Let's go back to Trick Worms and Senkos. They can each be rigged at least six or eight different way depending upon what look and presentation you want to create. That kind of function makes a lure that stays in your tackle box year round.

The same thing is true with my creature baits. Some of them can be rigged from the head. That'll give them a traditional look. But a lot of anglers will rig them backwards. They can also be fished weightless, weedless like a worm, on a Carolina rig or they can be used as a jig trailer.

Think about these things before you purchase your next bag of plastics. Go beyond color and realism. Pick a bait that's functional. You'll catch more bass.

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Doug Sigman got a nice gobbler.





New Five Day Fishing License Available

SOUTH CHARLESTON, W.Va. – West Virginia resident anglers have another fishing license option to choose from beginning this month, according to Division of Natural Resources Director Bob Fala. A five-day fishing license is available for residents online at www.wvfish. com or at license agents across the state.

Dustin Wilkinson, from Boaz, hooked a 7 pound largemouth.

The new fishing license costs \$8 and is good for five consecutive days chosen by the buyer and specified on the license. It is a base license and will require the Conservation Stamp, and if fishing for trout, a Trout Stamp.

"The new license is intended to allow fishing opportunities for resi-



Dwayne Bowman reeled in a 6 1/2 pound largemouth bass.

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dents who may be on vacation, fishing for the first time, or returning to the sport," said Fala. "It also may encourage them to purchase a \$19 annual license in the future so they can enjoy angling in our state's waters all year long."



Ed Larabee, from Charleston, got a nice gobbler.

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Tyler Webb and Jackson Tolliver won the Waterfestival tournament at Bluestone Lake. They had 6 fish that weighed 18.95 pounds. They also had the lunker that was 4 1/4 pounds. *Photo courtesy of PC Bait and Tackle in Hinton*.



Sheila Rogers reeled in a 19 1/2" largemouth at Lake Champlain.



Josh Russell landed a 10 pound class bass at Stonewall Jackson Lake. *Photo courtesy of Triple Custom Bait and Tackle in Shinnston.*

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Leroy Lafever, from Strange Creek, hooked a big catfish.



Todd Billeter caught a 4 lb 15 oz largemouth at Stonewall Jackson..

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Chris Grose landed an unusual fish out of the Kanawha River. This is a large spoonbill catfish.





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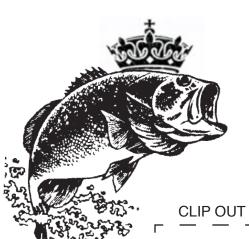
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Becoming An Outdoorswoman

CAIRO, W.Va. – The Becoming an Outdoors-Woman (BOW) program invites women to give new outdoor interests a try with a little help from knowledgeable instructors. This year's fall event is scheduled at North Bend State

Park Aug. 26–28, 2016. BOW is an outdoor initiative organized by the West Virginia Division of Natural Resources (DNR).

"This fall workshop will give par-

ticipants a wide choice of outdoors activities," said Holly Morris, the BOW event coordinator. "We will have half-hour topics as well as 3-

continue to the next page



Chris Grose reeled in a a 32 pound river blue catfish.



Cayden Barnard, from Tyler Co., caught a big bluegill.



Bob & Hunter Lamp are shown with a youth day gobbler.







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Popular classes include canning of vegetables, fish and meat; survival skills; trail biking; road trip planning; lake fishing; map and compass; kayaking; and water navigation. Classes are taught by volunteers from wildlife organizations and DNR staff. Participants may sign up for three classes when they arrive at North Bend State Park between 4 and 6 p.m., Aug. 26.

"Our goal is to introduce women to outdoor activities they can enjoy just about any time of year," said Morris. "It's great to go to class and learn a lot, but it's also important to have fun and engage in conversation over meals or relax on the deck after dark. It's all part of enjoying and becoming outdoors-women."

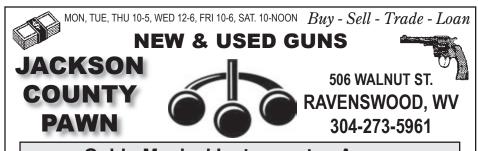
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Easton Birchfield caught a catfish fishing out of his kayake.



Jeremy Perrine reeled in a big North Bend Lake catfish.



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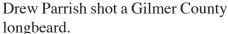


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Brian White got a 23 pound gobbler in Kanawha County.



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Emily Hagerman, from Weston, hooked a largemouth bass.



McKenzie Belknap got a Braxton Co. buck with her crossbow.



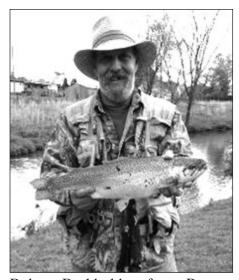
Logan White got a buck with his crossbow.



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Ryan Taylor, from Rupert, brought in a quality turkey.



Robert Burkholder, from Rupert, caught a large rainbow trout.



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Zak Koontz caught a big rainbow trout in the mountains.



Gracie Johnson hooked a North Bend Lake yellow perch. courtesy of Bait Shack in Harrisville.



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Steve Cain caught a huge crappie and nice largemouth at Sutton Lake. Photo courtesy of Broken Wheel Campground in Weston.



Jeff Johnson, from Mt. Clare, reeled in a 10 pound plus hybrid bass.



Lynn Proctor landed a huge blue catfish out of the Ohio River.

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Brook Trout & Bluebird License Plates

SOUTH CHARLESTON, W.Va. – Two new wildlife license plates are now available to West Virginia motorists, one featuring a native brook trout and the other an Eastern bluebird. The plates are a joint offering by the Division of Natural Resources (DNR) and Division of Motor Vehicles (DMV).

Previous wildlife license plates have featured a rose-breasted grosbeak, a white-tailed deer buck, and a black bear with a cub. All have been popular with car owners in West Virginia.

"The wildlife plates are a won-

derful opportunity for West Virginians to showcase their pride in our state's wildlife," said Scott Warner, DNR Wildlife Diversity Program assistant chief. "The artwork is truly amazing, and like the other wildlife plates, these two were done by the late Tom Allen, who worked as a DNR wildlife biologist for 33 years."

The license plates are more than just decorative. In 1996, West Virginia voters approved a constitutional amendment which earmarked a portion of the proceeds from the wildlife license plate sales to fund

West Virginia's Wildlife Diversity Program.

The cost of each plate is \$55 for the first year, with renewal costs for subsequent years at \$45. Fifteen continue to the next page



TJ Smith hooked a big carp. *Photo courtesy PC Bait & Tackle in Hinton..*

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Seth Leedom got a coyote in Mineral County.

dollars of each purchase go toward the DNR Wildlife Diversity Program to help conserve the state's nongame animal species and rare plants, provide educational materials to schools and libraries, develop wildlife viewing areas, and support other programs designed to educate the public about the state's wildlife resources.

Customers may exchange their current license plates at any DMV regional office or by mail at the time of renewal. Additional in-

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formation about the new wildlife plates is available by calling the DMV at 1-800-642-9066 or by visiting the DMV web site at www. dmv.wv.gov and clicking the special plate's link.

"It's been a pleasure working with the DNR in putting these two plates together," said Pat Reed, DMV Commissioner. I may be a little biased, but I truly believe that the brook trout and the bluebird plates are the most detailed plates we have ever done. I couldn't be more pleased with the way they turned out and the cooperation we have had between our two agencies."

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Hunting Season Changes

SOUTH CHARLESTON, W.Va. - Several important changes in the state's fall hunting seasons for squirrel, white-tailed deer, black bear and wild turkey are included in the new 2016–2017 West Virginia Hunting and Trapping Regulations Summary brochure.

The publication is now available at all West Virginia hunting and fishing license agents, DNR district offices, the Elkins Operation Center and the South Charleston Headquarters. The 2016–2017 West Virginia Hunting and Trapping Regulations Summary also is available at www.wvdnr.gov.

Hunters and trappers are encouraged to carefully review these regulations due to the numerous changes in hunting seasons. Major changes for 2016–2017 include:

The statewide squirrel season will open Sept. 10, 2016, and will close a month later than last year on Feb. 28, 2017.

The posting of private lands has expanded to include the use of purple paint as a method of posting private land.

Changes for Chronic Wasting Disease (CWD) management will be in effect Nov. 21 and 22, 2016, in Hampshire and Hardy counties.



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August 13 7am to 4pm Sept. 3 7am to 4pm Oct. 29 7:30am to 4:30pm

Ohio River & North Bend Catfish Tournaments

August 9 7pm to 7am

August 27 6pm to 8am OHR Corning

Sept. 10 6pm to 8am OHR Corning

All adult deer harvested by hunters Nov. 21–22 within the CWD Containment Area of Hampshire and Hardy counties will be required to be brought to a designated CWD sampling station.

Hunters killing a black bear are now required to submit a first premolar tooth by Jan. 31, 2017.

The black bear Archery and Crossbow Seasons in Logan, McDowell, Mingo and Wyoming counties will not close during the buck firearms season and will be open Sept. 24–Dec. 31, 2016.

continue to the next page



Emerin Walton caught a 6 pound channel catfish from New River.

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The definition of baiting for the purposes of black bear hunting has been expanded.

Starting \$150

Fall wild turkey hunting season has been expanded this year with all 55 counties open Oct. 8–15; seven counties open Oct. 24–29; and 14 counties open Oct. 24– Nov. 12.



Old dudes have all the fun! 93 year old Robert Epler, from Reedy, bagged a nice gobbler.

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ROANOKE, W.Va. – Owners of trophy bucks and fish displays may apply for an opportunity to show-case them during West Virginia's Celebration of National Hunting and Fishing Day0 Sept. 17-18, 2016, at Stonewall Resort State Park in Lewis County.

The West Virginia Wildlife Federation, the West Virginia Division of Natural Resources (DNR) and Toyota are seeking hunters who own trophy white-tailed bucks that were legally taken in West Virginia with either bow or gun and have a Pope & Young or Boone and Crockett score of 140 or greater. They are also seeking fish that qualified for a trophy fish citation under the DNR guidelines.

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Fishing Day celebration, attracting thousands of visitors during the two-day event," said DNR Wild-continue to the next page



Brian Galloway, from Mt. Clare, caught & released a 50" musky.





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1220 Stewart Street SHINNSTON, WV 26431 ife Biologist Rob Silvester, who will work with fellow Wildlife Biologist James Walker to review the entries and set up the displays.

Participation for trophy bucks will be limited to the first 30 qualifying trophy entries received. As an incentive for participation, hunters who display their trophy deer will be entered into exclusive prize drawings.

Participation for trophy fish will be limited to 25 qualifying trophy entries to be determined by the selection committee. No more than five entries of any species will be accepted. As an incentive for participation, each angler who displays his or her trophy fish mount will be eligible to win one of several gift certificates. Prizes will be picked randomly.



Nathan Wallace caught a nice smallmouth bass. *Photo courtesy of PC Bait & Tackle in Hinton.*



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Interested hunters and anglers who have qualifying mounts should contact display organizer James Walker for fish or Rob Silvester for bucks at 304-924-6211 between 9 a.m. and 4 p.m. or email James.A.Walker@wv.gov or Rob. A.Silvester@wv.gov for additional information.

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Details On Page 3



Austin Love, from Proctor, got a nice gobbler on youth day.

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Mica Walker caught a large carp at Bluestone Lake.

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Details On Page 3
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James Calloway landed a 4 lb, 8 oz smallmouth at Summersville Lake.



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Doris Anderson landed a huge musky at Burnsville Lake. *Photo courtesy of Hillbilly Haven Log Cabins in Wesston*.

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Dianne Wigal, from Elizabeth, caught & released a 24 1/4 " largemouth bass from a farm pond.



Bert Collins won the Top Gun tournament at Burnsville with 13 lbs, 4 oz for 5 fish..

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Limited Bear Applications

SOUTH CHARLESTON, W.Va. – Hunters are reminded that a concurrent bear season without dogs will occur Nov. 21 – Dec. 3 on public and private land in 17 counties, according to Colin Carpenter, black bear project leader for the West Virginia Division of Natural Resources.

Barbour, Braxton, Calhoun, Clay, Gilmer, Grant, Greenbrier, Hardy, Harrison, Lincoln, Pendleton, Pocahontas, Randolph, Tucker, Upshur, Webster and Wirt counties will be open for concurrent bear hunting during the traditional buck-gun season by permit only. Resident landowners, their resident children or resident tenants who live on the land are not required to apply for a limited bear firearms season permit or purchase a class DS bear hunting stamp to hunt on their own land.

"Timing is critical when setting bear hunting seasons, and the limited bear firearms season will occur when most hunters are in the woods," said Carpenter. Hunters also must apply for a limited bear

continue to the next page



Austin Proctor caught his first Ohio River catfish..

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BUCKHANNON, WV

ited bear firearms permit using the Electronic Licensing System at www.wvhunt.com. To apply, log in and select "Enter Lottery." Choose "2016 Black Bear Hunt" and select the county where you want to hunt. Hunters also may call their local DNR district office for help with the application process.

The deadline for applications is Aug. 15, 2016. Successful applicants will be notified by mail by the first week of October. Successful applicants can see whether they received a permit starting Aug. 22, 2016, on their online account.

Neither the permit nor the class DS stamp is transferrable, and the county of hunt cannot be changed.

Hunters also are reminded that there are 16 counties in West Virginia where prior application is not required to hunt black bears during the buck-gun season. Details concerning bear hunting seasons can be found on pages 35-39 of the 2016-2017 Hunting and Trapping Regulations Summary brochure online at www.wvdnr.gov or available soon at all license agents.



Brody Eades, from Ripley, hooked a huge largemouth bass.



Mark Malone, from Vienna, reeled in a musky.

Aug/Sept 2016 ~ Page 34

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Controlled Deer Hunt At Pipestem

PIPESTEM, W.Va. - Applications are being accepted for the controlled deer hunt at Pipestem Resort State Park scheduled for Nov. 3, 4 and 5, 2016.

Applications must be submitted by going to www.wvhunt. com. Applicants must use an existing account or create one on the Electronic Licensing and Game Checking System. Once logged in, applicants must select "Enter Lottery" and then choose one of three options: Archery, Rifle or Class Q (Class Q license holders only).

Applications must be completed by midnight, Aug. 15, 2016. Forty hunters will be selected randomly continue to the next page

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randomly for each day of the hunt. Successful applicants will be assigned one hunting day and will be notified after Oct. 1.

For additional information about the controlled deer hunt at Pipestem Resort State Park, call 304-466-2804. DNR hunting regulations will apply. More information is available at www.wvdnr.gov and www.wvhunt.com.

Benefits of controlled hunts Without controlled hunting, deer



Blake Sperry landed a 20" inch bass at Upper Mud River Lake.



herds can reach levels that become detrimental to the landscape, according to DNR wildlife biologists. Overbrowsing by deer can lead to the loss of native vegetation, pre-



Brian White caught a large crappie.

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Dalton Cutright, owner

vent forest regeneration and alter habitat for all wildlife species living in the park. The primary goal of controlled hunts is to reduce deer numbers to levels that prevent habitat loss, property damage, vehicle collisions and potential human injuries, yet allow visitors the opportunity to view deer throughout the state park. Hunting contributes to wildlife conservation while maintaining a healthy deer herd.

"Previous controlled hunts on selected state parks property have proven to be very effective in reducing the deer population to bio-

continue to the next page

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logically and socially acceptable levels," said DNR Director Bob Fala. "The Parks and Recreation, Wildlife and Law Enforcement sections of DNR are to be commended for their cooperative efforts in organizing these managed hunts."

General information about the Pipestem Resort State Park controlled hunt

All applicants must designate whether they want to hunt with a firearm or bow/crossbow.

Successful applicants will be contacted with more detailed information. Those applying but who are not selected will be eligible for a lottery draw the morning of the hunt to fill "no show" sites. Those wishing to enter the morning lottery must arrive and register between 5 and 5:45 a.m.

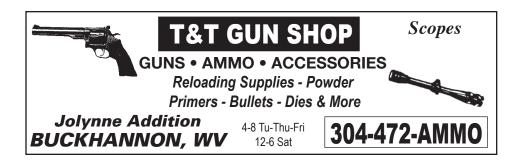
Each hunter must possess a valid West Virginia hunting license (or be legally exempt from purchasing a license) on the day of the hunt.

One antlerless deer may be taken by each hunter. Deer harvested do not count against a hunter's annual deer season bag limit.

Only antlerless deer may be taken during this hunt, except that each day of the hunt an on-site lottery will be held which will allow up to five hunters to hunt a deer of either sex.

Hunters must hunt from the designated trees to which they are assigned. Agency personnel will provide transportation from the registration area to the stand locations.

Each hunter must provide his or her own climbing tree stand. Ladder stands will not be permitted due to limited room on the transportation vehicles. Lock-on stands will be permitted as long as strapon style steps or ladder sticks are used. Screw-in steps will not be not



permitted. Tree stands must be able to adjust to trees up to 18 inches in diameter.

All hunters must provide and wear a safety harness while in the tree stand. All hunters, even those hunting with bows/crossbows, must wear a minimum of 400 square inches of blaze orange.

Hunting Season
Is COming.
Good Luck This Year
Hunt Safely!
Text Your Pics

Controlled Waterfowl Hunt Scheduled

SOUTH CHARLESTON, W.Va. – Applications are now being accepted for the controlled waterfowl hunting zone of McClintic Wildlife Management Area (WMA) located near Point Pleasant. Waterfowl hunters who wish to hunt from a shooting station must submit their applications by Aug. 15, 2016, according to Kem Shaw, wildlife biologist for the Division of Natural Resources Wildlife Resources Sec-

continue to the next page

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ion (DNR).

Hunting is by permit only on a portion of McClintic. Hunters successful in the lottery draw will be assigned an area at no cost and may bring one guest.

Hunters must apply for the limited waterfowl hunt using the Electronic Licensing System at www. wvhunt.com. To apply, log in and select "Enter Lottery" and then choose "2016 McClintic Duck Hunt." Hunters also may call their local DNR district office for help with the application process. Successful applicants will be notified by mail by the second week of September.

Hunters successful in the draw will randomly be assigned a day to hunt and must report to the Mc-Clintic WMA office before 6 a.m. that day. Applicants not selected may come to the McClintic office on the morning of each day's hunt to sign up for an opportunity to hunt in shooting stations not filled by selected hunters. Consult the 2016-2017 West Virginia Migratory Bird Hunting Regulations for season dates and additional information.



Tommy Richards caught an 8 lb, 14 oz largemouth bass at Cedar Lakes in Ripley.



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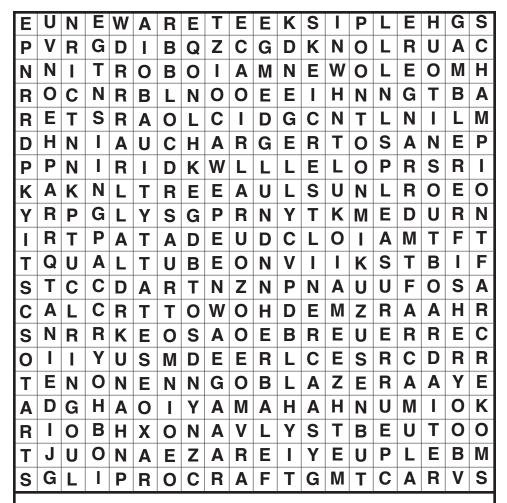
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