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**Issue 256**

**September/October 2016**



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TIPS**

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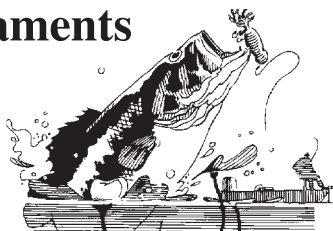
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## Cover Photo

Fishing at the New Martinsville dam on the Ohio River, Bill Starkey landed a paddlefish. It was 52" long and weighed 26 pounds. These fish must be released after being caught.

Send in your 2016 game and fish TEXT pics. Send to 304-482-7217. Bucks only - no does.

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.

# Crossbow Do's and Don'ts

When I first started shooting modern crossbows several years ago, I had no idea what to expect. Like many who had never played with them, these tools confused me. I had seen them on TV, but without ever handling one, I wasn't sure about a lot of things. How do you load one? How do you pull the string back? What's the trigger like? Do they kick, like a rifle? Are they noisy? Are they accurate? How far away can you accurately

By Bob Robb

shoot one? Do they have enough power to kill a deer?

Was I in for a surprise! Modern crossbows are fast, accurate, and plenty powerful enough to cleanly take the largest big-game animals in North America. They are also a pleasure to shoot. To get the most out of your crossbow, you need to understand the basics of how to set one up for hunting and how to shoot it. Here are 12 tips to make you a crossbow-shooting machine, using a crossbow-and-arrow set-up designed specifically for hunting big game.

1) Buy the Best You Can Afford  
There's a big difference between an el cheapo, bargain-basement crossbow and a top-of-the-line model. Sure, the bargain model costs a lot less, but it will not be built as well, be as accurate or reliable, and sooner or later it will fail you when the moment of truth arrives. You can buy crossbow packages that include everything you need to get out shooting and hunting—crossbow, a few arrows and arrow points, a scope sight, cocking device and quiver—from anywhere between about \$800 to \$1,500.

As in all things in life, here you get what you pay for. Spend a few more dollars and get the best you

continue to the next page



Tim Miller caught a 45 1/4 inch musky on the Monongahela River.

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Chris Grose landed a 33 pound flat-head on the Kanawha River.

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#### 2) Use Enough Draw Weight

The principle specification that distinguishes a hunting crossbow from a target model is draw weight. Fortunately, most states have taken the guesswork out of determining what is sufficient by establishing a regulatory minimum. While those regulations vary considerably from state to state, the overall range runs from 75 to 125 pounds of draw weight.



Brian Burns caught a musky on the Elk River.

With little exception, any crossbow in that range should be adequate to kill a whitetail deer at moderate ranges. That said, most of the better hunting crossbows are in the 150 to 175 pounds range, with a few topping out over 200 pounds. In general, bigger is better—or in this case, faster. Keep in mind that you can go too heavy, too, as

at least one state—Ohio—has a maximum allowable draw weight of 200 pounds.

#### 3) Shoot a Fast Enough Arrow

Both crossbow and compound bow makers continually strive to push the speed envelope. You make a crossbow faster by increasing the draw weight. That's why the above

continue to the next psge



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point is so important. How fast is fast enough? I like my crossbows to shoot a hunting-weight arrow with an initial velocity of at least 300 feet per second (fps.) That will both give your arrow enough kinetic energy (K.E.) to cleanly take any big-game animal, and reduce arrow trajectory at longer ranges, which makes accurate shooting easier. Some crossbows are beginning to push the 400 fps envelope, so look for improvements in this number across the board in coming years.

#### 4) Use a Scope Sight

Though some crossbows still come with open sights, you will be much better served using some sort of scope sight. These optical sighting devices make accurate shooting much easier. For magnification, you can choose from just about anything between zero power and 5X. Inside the scope is the reticle, defined as some configuration of horizontal and vertical crosshairs—though for crossbows, it also includes any object projected or suspended across the field of view. Choices begin with a simple, single red dot or crosshair. With them you sight in for a fixed distance, typically 20 yards, then have to compensate for longer shots by holding higher. Multi-reticle scopes are the



Dana Dean, from Beckley, caught a 42" musky on the New River.

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most popular, particularly those with three to four dots or horizontal crosshairs. The top one is sighted in for 20 yards and the next two are fixed at intervals that will be dead-on at 30, 40 and 50 yards, respectively, on most bows.

#### 5) Use Quality Arrows

Unless your arrows (or bolts) fly like

laser beams, you'll never be able to precisely hit your target. Cheap arrows manufactured to sloppy tolerances will fly like a knuckleball. That's why you should use only the very best arrows, designed specifically for crossbow shooting, you can afford. Many crossbow compa-

continue to the next page

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anies sell arrows, but they're made for them by arrow manufacturers like Gold Tip, Carbon Express and Easton. Make sure they have a nock designed for crossbows, not compound bows, are cut to the proper length and have the proper fletches. Both carbon and aluminum arrows work well, but by far the most rugged and high-tech are made from carbon.

#### 6) Use Quality Broadheads

The business end of a hunting arrow is the broadhead. There are more makes, models and styles of hunting broadheads available than you can shake a stick at. Here again, the most expensive are generally those built to the tightest tolerances, with the sharpest blades, that fly straight and true, and have a long track record of success. Both replaceable-blade and mechanical broadhead designs will work well

for crossbow shooters, with the mechanical design becoming more and more popular each year. The most common weight for a hunting broadhead is 100 grains, with 125 grains a distant second.

#### 7) Take a Rest

A crossbow is somewhat heavy and clunky, making it almost impossible to accurately shoot without using some sort of rest. That can be everything from using standard rifle shooting positions like kneeling and sitting, to using a set of shooting sticks or monopod, to using a shooting rail in a tree stand or shooting house. I never, ever turn an arrow loose from my crossbows without taking a rest of some kind.

When using a rest, try padding the crossbow's forearm with something soft—your hand, a rolled-up jacket, a day pack, something—  
continue to the next page

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Mitch Hughes got a musky.



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soft—your hand, a rolled-up jacket, a day pack, something—which will help absorb recoil and make precise sighting easier than if you shoot off a hard surface.

#### 8) Learn Arrow Trajectory

All arrows fired from a crossbow travel downrange in a large parabolic arc. Your crosshairs are set to hit dead-on at specific distances,



Peyton Henninger, from Lowell - OH, caught a nice channel catfish.

but often you'll be shooting at a deer or other animal between these distances. When you practice you'll soon learn where you have to place your crosshairs relative to the animal to hit the "tweener" ranges.

#### 9) Use a Rangefinder

With the click of a button, a modern laser rangefinder can instantaneously give you the exact distance from you to the target—a critical bit of information in accurate shooting when you are lobbing an arrow at the target. The best laser rangefinders are as reliable as the sunrise. My Nikon Archer's Choice model even tells me exactly where to aim

when shooting at steep uphill and downhill angles. Costing somewhere between \$250 and \$400, they're a lifetime investment worth every penny.

#### 10) Get a 'Feel' For the Trigger

Every crossbow has a trigger unique unto itself. You need to shoot your crossbow enough so that you know exactly when the trigger will send the arrow on its way. Shoot both with and without gloves so you know how both feel (it will be different).

#### 11) Practice in the Field

The old axiom, "practice makes

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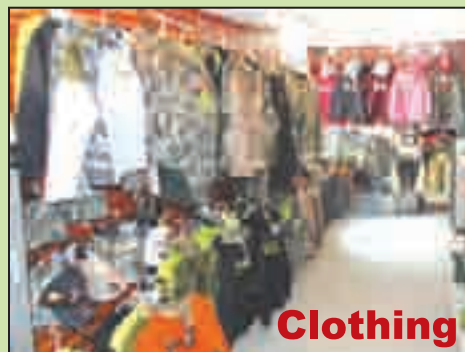


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Trent Parker caught a nice flathead.  
Photo courtesy of PC Bait & Tackle in Hinton.



Richard Osbourne, from Logan, caught RD Bailey largemouth.



Casey Watts hooked a 10 pound hybrid bass from the Ohio River.

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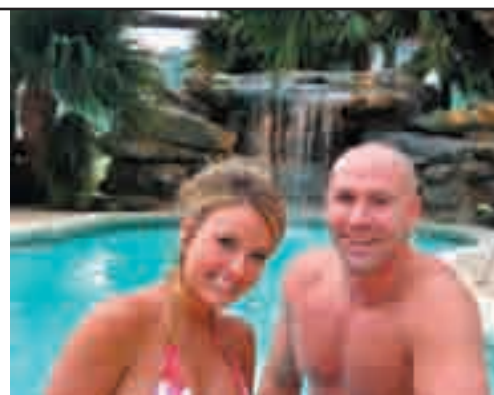
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Andy & Mark Godwin won the 7th Annual Kings of the Lakes 2 day event held at Burnsville & Sutton Lakes. Their winning weight was 21 pounds, 1 oz. Fleshman/Fleshman 2nd, Long/Johnson 3rd, Summers/Waldron 4th and Warner/Warner - 5th.



Josh Murray landed a 43" musky with a fly rod.



CJ Hayes caught a nice carp at the Putnam Reservoir.



Gavin Price hooked a 7 pound Ohio River drum.

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perfect,” certainly applies to shooting your crossbow. Once you get it set up and sighted in, spend some time shooting off a bench rest. Use these sessions to precisely set your sights and get a feel for the trigger. However, you then need to move away from the bench and practice taking shots that simulate actual hunting conditions. Shoot from the kneeling and sitting positions. Climb into your tree stand or ground blind and take shots at the same angles and distances you anticipate you’ll be taking during hunting season. Learn to use your shooting sticks or monopod quickly, quietly and efficiently.

12) Maintain String, Rail, Trigger  
A crossbow is a machine, which means it will need regular maintenance if it is to keep on ticking like a fine Swiss watch. That means you should always check the string and cables for wear. This is very im-

portant on a crossbow because you have direct string-to-rail contact, which creates friction and abrasion, with every shot. At the first sign of fraying or abnormal wear, replace them. You can reduce the need for replacement with regular maintenance. Keep the string, cables and center serving clean and well maintained after each practice session, and especially after each trip to the field. Make sure you lubricate the center serving, and the rails should also be regularly lubed per the manufacturer’s instructions.

## Don’t Do This!

There are some real mistakes that can cost you accuracy and/or lead to injury if you are not careful when shooting a crossbow. Here are the three most common:

### 1) Watch Fingers & Thumb

Many shooters used to shooting rifles have a tendency to stick the fingers of the hand that holds the

rifle’s forearm straight up in the air when they cradle the rifle. If you continue to the next page



Lynn Mace caught a 37 pound, 5 oz. Wood County flathead.

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**3rd 700**  
**4th 600**  
**5th 500**  
**6th 350**  
**7th 250**  
**8th 200**

### Big Bass Each Day

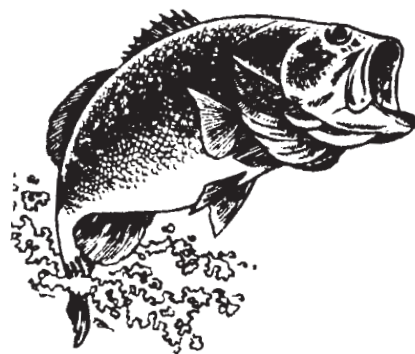
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Boater \_\_\_\_\_

Partner \_\_\_\_\_

Send In \$20 To Hold Your Number By 9/27  
Pay The Balance At The Ramp  
\$5 Late Fee Entering At The Ramp

do this with a crossbow, you risk placing your digits in the path of a bowstring that is rocketing down the rail and will slice the fingers and/or thumb to the bone. Never, ever do this!

### 2) Don't Shoot Off-Hand

The construction of a crossbow puts a lot of weight in its front end, making it very difficult to balance when trying to shoot from the off-hand position. Even the very best rifle shooters only shoot off-hand as a last resort. You'll be much better off learning to shoot quickly from the kneeling and sitting positions, and when using shooting sticks or a rail for a rock-solid rest.

### 3) Shoot Outside Your Own

### MESR

Many years ago, I coined a phrase for bowhunters, Maximum Effective Shooting Range, or MESR. Your MESR is the maximum distance you can consistently place a hunting arrow into the bullseye. For some crossbow hunters that's 20 yards; for others it is 60 yards. For most of us, it is somewhere in between.

You will learn your own MESR as you practice. At some point, you just won't be plunking that arrow into the bullseye on a regular basis. When that happens, it's time to back off a few yards until you are once again placing at least 90 percent of your shots into the center

of the target. At the same time, you should try and push the envelope and stretch your MESR in small (say, 5 yard) increments. But once I get into the field and I know my own MESR is, say, 40 yards, I will not take a shot at a game animal any further than that.



Young Mason White got a nice buck last season.



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## **Small Game Opportunities Open**

SOUTH CHARLESTON, W.Va. – West Virginia's various small game hunting seasons are soon to be underway, and wildlife biologists from the West Virginia Division of Natural Resources are predicting good opportunities for success.

Youth squirrel season is set for Sept. 3, 2016, with a bag limit of six. The statewide squirrel season opens Sept. 10, 2016, and runs through Feb. 28, 2017, with a daily bag limit of six. This season, hunters should find good numbers of squirrels due to a 57 percent increase in beech and a 73 percent increase in hickory during the fall of 2015. That increase should result in good squirrel reproduction in 2016. Areas where beech or hickory occur are the areas to hunt early in the season because they are a favored food source. White and red oak stands may also be good

choices for hunters.

Cottontail rabbit numbers should be stable where there is suitable habitat. Rabbit season will run from Nov. 5, 2016, to Feb. 28, 2017, with a daily bag limit of five.

Ruffed grouse season begins Oct. 15, 2016, and ends Feb. 28, 2017. Look for grouse in 5- to 10-year-old timber cuts, preferably with soft mast producing trees and vines such as grape, dogwood and sassa-  
 continue to the next page



Harper/Harper caught a 5 lb. 4 oz. bass at the Kings of the Lakes.



MON, TUE, THU 10-5, WED 12-6, FRI 10-6, SAT. 10-NOON

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afra. The daily bag limit is four.

Raccoon hunting season begins Oct. 15, 2016, and ends Feb. 28, 2017. Hunters with hounds should experience success near favored food sources. The daily bag limit is four per hunter or group of hunters.

Snowshoe hare, bobwhite quail, bobcat, red fox and gray fox hunting seasons will open Nov. 5, 2016. Red and gray fox night hunting season (with artificial light) begins Jan. 1, 2017, runs through Feb. 28, 2017. Hunters should check the 2016-2017 West Virginia Hunting and Trapping Regulation Summary for specific opening and closing dates and bag limits for each species.

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## North Bend Park Offers Theme Buffets

CAIRO, W.Va. – North Bend State Park's popular buffets are taking a new approach now through the end of the year. In addition to traditional home-cooked entrees and sides, the park will now offer special themed buffets to support special days.

The themes will include Grandparents Day, Sept. 11, featuring music by Scott Cain in the lodge lobby; Autumn Harvest Day, Oct. 2; Mother-In-Law Day, Oct. 23, Thanksgiving Day, Nov. 24, and Christmas Day, Dec. 25.

"North Bend buffets are always popular," said Kristi Steed, pro-

grammer for North Bend. "We're proud that restaurant manager Angie Richards has added themes for the buffets

The North Bend Dining Room features three full-wall glass windows that allow diners to frequently see deer, birds and other wildlife. The restaurant is open year-round and caters to groups and weddings as well as to travelers visiting the park to hike, fish, bike, kayak, canoe or bird watch. Learn more about North Bend State Park at [www.northbendsp.com](http://www.northbendsp.com) or call 304-643-2931.

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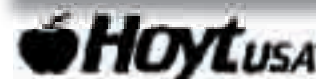
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## Got Purple Paint?

SOUTH CHARLESTON, W.Va. - The West Virginia Division of Natural Resources (DNR) reminds hunters to always get written landowner permission before entering private property.

"It is important to remember that once you have obtained permission, you are an invited guest and you should always respect the rights and property of the landowner," said Paul Johansen, chief of the DNR Wildlife Resources Section. "A little respect and a simple 'thank you' will go a long way in obtaining permission to hunt there for years to come."

According to state code, "It is unlawful for any person to shoot, hunt, fish or trap upon the fenced, enclosed or posted lands of another person; or to peel trees or timber, build fires or do any other act in connection with shooting, hunting, fishing or trapping on the lands without written permission in his or her possession from the owner, tenant or agent of the owner."

Beginning this year, posted lands include those properties with boundaries clearly marked with purple paint. Purple marks must be a single vertical line at least 8 inches in length, at least 2 inches in width, and be between 3 to 6 feet above the ground. The marks should be no more than 100 feet apart and easily seen by any person approaching the property boundary.

Although 90 percent of West Virginia is owned by private landowners, there is still more than 1.4 million acres of public land open to hunting. Hunters in need of help locating a place to hunt can contact any DNR district office, the Elkins Operation Center, or go to the

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DNR's website [www.wvdnr.gov](http://www.wvdnr.gov) to obtain information about wildlife management areas, state forests and national forests that are open to public hunting.

**TEXT**  
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**BIG BUCK**  
**Photos From 2016**  
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Matt Sloan reeled in a large flat-head catfish..

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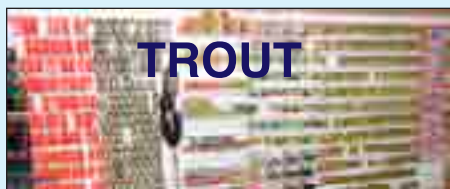
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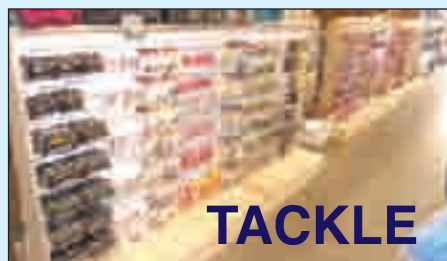
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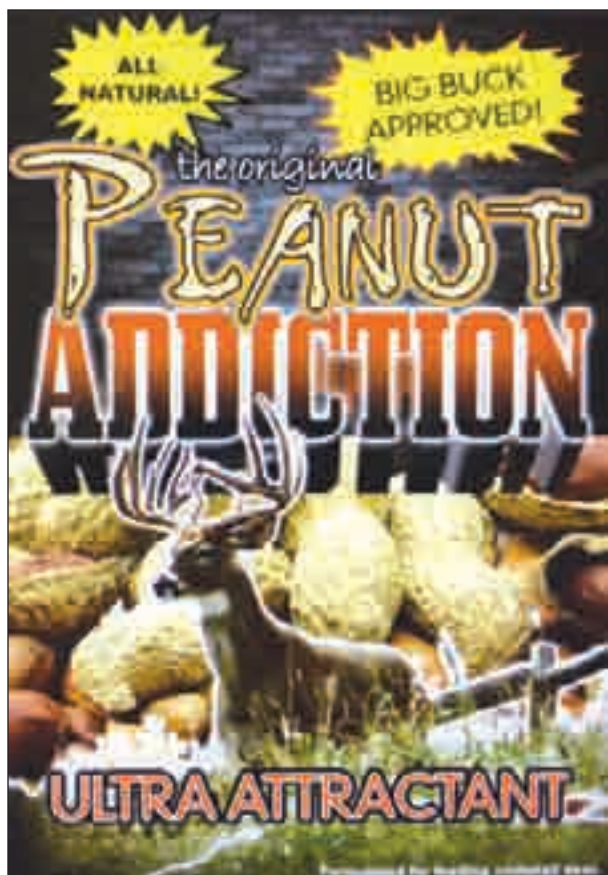
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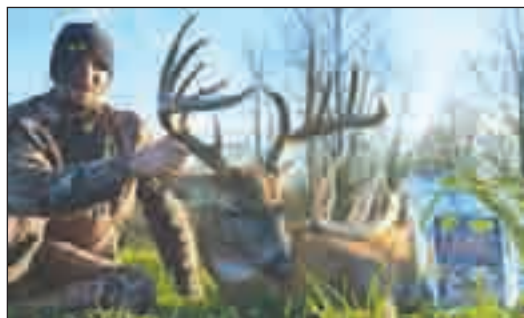
[www.peanutaddiction.com](http://www.peanutaddiction.com)



These 2 big smallmouth moved James Warner's team to 5th place at the Kings of the Lakes event.



Leonard Cales hooked a 50 pound blue catfish at Sandstone Falls.



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Hayden Ryan caught a big bass at a kids event. *Photo courtesy of Broken Wheel Campground in Weston.*



Brian Woods landed a 22 pound catfish at Burnsville Lake..



Mark Young, from Ripley, hooked a 21" largemouth bass.

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# New Electronic Game Checking

SOUTH CHARLESTON, W.Va. - With the opening of big game hunting seasons quickly approaching, the West Virginia Division of Natural Resources (DNR) reminds successful hunters that they must field tag and electronically check in their harvest. Field tags must be completed before moving the carcass, and the tag must remain with the carcass until it is electronically checked.

Hunters are no longer required to transport their harvest to a check station; they can check their game by phone at 1-844-WVCheck (1-844-982-4325), on a computer at wvhunt.com, or by visiting a license agent, with or without the animal.

To check game in by phone, hunters must know their unique lifetime DNR ID number. That number will be printed on the top of the license for hunters who buy one each year. Lifetime license holders can obtain

their DNR ID number, which has already been assigned to them, by visiting wvhunt.com or a local license agent. Landowners and those who don't need a license, such as residents under the age of 15, resident hunters who turned 65 before Jan. 1, 2012, and former Prisoners of War, also can log on to wvhunt.com or visit a license agent to obtain their number.

To game check by computer, the hunter must log on to wvhunt.com. Those logging in for the first time can set up an account, get their DNR ID number if they don't already have one, and then check in their game.

When a hunter has completed the electronic game check process, a 13-digit number will be assigned that confirms the game has been checked in properly. The game check confirmation number must be written down on a field tag or a

continue to the next page

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A big smallmouth was caught Photo courtesy PC Bait & Tackle in Hinton..



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Remington Wright bagged a nice buck last season. Photo courtesy of Trappers Den in Cowen.

13-digit number will be assigned that confirms the game has been checked in properly. The game check confirmation number must be written down on a field tag or a sheet of paper along with the hunter's name and address. This number must remain with the carcass until it is dressed for consumption.

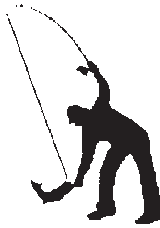
A summary of the checking re-



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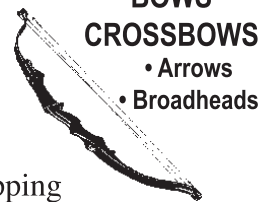
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quirements follows, but hunters should check the 2016-2017 Hunting and Trapping Regulations brochure for complete details.

Deer: Each deer shall be electronically checked and the 13-digit confirmation number, along with the hunter's name and address, shall be attached to the deer before it is

transported beyond the county adjacent to the county in which it was killed within 72 hours from when it was killed or 24 hours from the close of the respective season, whichever comes first.

Bear: Harvested bear shall be electronically checked and the 13-digit

continue to the next page

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confirmation number, along with the hunter's name and address, shall be attached to the bear within 24 hours after the kill and before any part of the bear is transported more than 75 miles from the point of kill.

**Turkey:** Each turkey shall be electronically checked and the 13-digit confirmation number, along with the hunter's name and address, shall be attached to the carcass before it is skinned or transported beyond the county adjacent to the county in which it was killed, and within 72 hours from when it was killed or 24 hours from the close of the respective season, whichever comes first.

**Boar:** Boar harvest must be electronically checked within 24 hours after kill. The 13-digit confirmation number, along with the hunter's name and address, shall be attached to the carcass and remain with it until it is dressed for consumption.

**BIG BUCK PICS  
From 2016**

**TEXT**

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## Hunters With Disabilities Areas

SOUTH CHARLESTON, W.Va.  
— Hunters with disabilities possessing a Class Q/QQ hunting permit may hunt on designated roads throughout the Monongahela National Forest, portions of the George Washington/Jefferson National Forest in West Virginia and on selected wildlife management areas, according to Paul Johansen, chief of the West Virginia Division of Natural Resources (DNR) Wildlife Resources Section.

“The designation of these Class Q/QQ roads on national forest lands in West Virginia is a cooperative effort between the U.S. Forest Service and the DNR,” Johansen said. “This highly successful program provides hunting access for sportsmen and women who need accommodations. For the past 20

years, these areas have been well received by hunters.”

To participate in this program, hunters must possess either a Class Q (resident) or Class QQ (nonresi-  
continue to the next page



Long & Poling landed a big bass at the Kings of the Lakes event.

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dent) permit issued by the DNR. Applications for these permits may be obtained at any DNR office or hunting and fishing license agent. In addition to the Class Q/QQ hunting permit, both resident and nonresident hunters must possess all applicable hunting licenses and stamps. Nonresidents hunting on national forest lands also must possess a National Forest Stamp (Class I).

Hunters with a Class Q/QQ permit must apply in person at the appropriate national forest district office or DNR district office and receive a letter of authorization. This documentation must be in the hunter's possession while hunting on the designated roads in the program.

The Class Q/QQ permit holders may be accompanied by no more than one assistant, at least 16 years of age, when hunting within a designated area. The assistant cannot hunt while accompanying the Class Q/QQ permit holder.

Authorized hunters will have access to specific gates via a special lock. While behind the gate, hunters must observe all national forest and/or state wildlife management area regulations and all state hunting regulations.

In addition to the special access areas, Class Q/QQ permit holders may participate in special Class Q/QQ antlerless deer hunts Oct. 15 and Dec. 26 and 27, 2016. This special split, antlerless deer season for Youth, Class Q/QQ and Class XS (Lifetime Senior Citizen) hunters will be held on private land in all counties having a firearms deer hunting season and on all public lands within these counties. The bag limit of one antlerless deer per day will not count toward the hunter's annual deer season bag limit.

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ers with disabilities and welcome comments and suggestions from participants. For more information concerning access to national forest or wildlife management area Class Q/QQ roads, contact the U.S. Forest Service (304-636-1800) or DNR (304-637-0245). Information is also available on the DNR's website ([www.wvdnr.gov](http://www.wvdnr.gov)). Specific areas with designated Class Q/QQ roads are listed below.

Class Q/QQ roads available:

Go online or review the areas in the new hunting regulations. Review more at [wvdnr.gov](http://wvdnr.gov)

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## Migratory Hunting

SOUTH CHARLESTON, W.Va. – West Virginia's 2016-2017 hunting season dates and bag limits for mourning dove, woodcock, common snipe, and sora and Virginia rails have been set, according to Paul Johansen, chief of the Wildlife Resources Section of the Division of Natural Resources (DNR). These seasons are set within the annual guidelines established by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service.

Shooting hours for dove are from noon to sunset Sept. 1, 2016 (opening day of the first segment) and from a half-hour before sunrise until sunset for the remainder of season. Shooting hours for rails, woodcock and snipe are from a half-hour before sunrise to sunset. The possession limits for doves and woodcock are three times the daily bag limit.

Johansen also noted that the woodcock season is split into two segments this year. Typically, the season runs continuously; however, because it goes through the buck gun season, bird hunters were losing three days. State law prohibits small game hunting during the first three days of the buck gun season.

"We hope that this will provide additional opportunities for hunters to harvest more birds before their southern migration," Johansen said.

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All licensed migratory bird hunters, including lifetime license holders and senior citizens, must also have a valid Migratory Bird Harvest Information Program (HIP) registration card. HIP cards are available at [www.wvhunt.com](http://www.wvhunt.com), license agents and DNR offices.

Banded birds should be reported at [www.reportband.gov](http://www.reportband.gov) or by calling 1-800-327-2263.

West Virginia's 2016-2017 Migratory Bird Hunting Regulations brochure is available online at [www.wvdnr.gov](http://www.wvdnr.gov), at license agents and at DNR offices. Dates for species are online.

Good luck this season.



Maria Ruble, from Williamstown, landed a salmon in Canada.

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Alex Herrick bagged a great 11" bearded gobbler in Wetzel County.

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Denny Kerns, from Fairmont, hooked an 8 pound largemouth.

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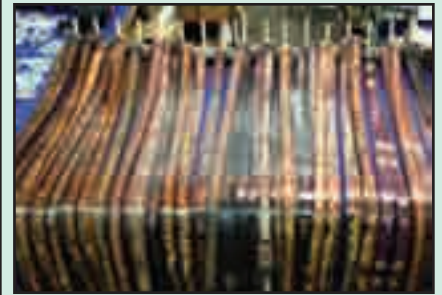


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## Archery Tips

Almost everyone can participate in the sport of archery. It can be done for hunting, for competition or just for fun. It can be done by the young and the old, male and female, the disabled and the capable. Adapting to the sport is fairly easy, while the thrill of hitting a bull's eye is unforgettable. Below are some archery practice tips for shooting better in archery.

Archery Tips 1: Archery can be fun!

Getting uptight? Want to do bet-

ter? Did you just shoot a lousy shot? If you can't get over mistakes, the next arrow is going to be another one. If you can't adopt the right attitude when you're doing archery, how do you think you can be shooting at top form? Do not lose faith after some bad shoot. Just think shooting as a mental and physical practice. This is major advice to all people doing archery: ease up and have a good time! Relaxing and 'getting over it' will help you prepare yourself for the next shot. Relax and clear your mind before you

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take a shot. A great way to do this is to inhale deeply as you're about to aim, followed by one last big breath, and let it out gradually right before releasing the bowstring. A deep breath will calm your nerves and allow you to aim better.

continue to the next page



Seth Cutright reeled in a nice musky. Photo courtesy of Brushy Fork Mart in Buckhannon.

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Archery Tips 2: Achieve balance for proper follow through.

People usually forget that the bow arm needs to counter the pulling arm. Everyone is focusing on pulling the string back and forgetting that you need to have a similar tension on the other arm or the forces on your skeletal structure will not equate. Without the proper balance, when you release that shot, you jerk and you flinch. What you need to do is achieve balance by working both your pulling and pushing arms. Understand that without balance, additional forces will show themselves when you release that string. If you're doing it right, the bow falls toward the target and the drawing fingers slide across your neck EFFORTLESSLY. Don't hurry or hasten this process. It comes when everything falls in place and follows a natural rhythm.

Archery Tips 3: Work on strong mental visualization.

All high level national athletes engage in mental visualization. No one who doesn't do it will be able to achieve that similar standard.

The summary of that is that visualization starts with the decision to do whatever it takes to reach your outcome. You then use tools to recreate a mental space for top performance. This archery accuracy tips helps to ground your performance to the form you have set out for yourself. After some perfect shots, you can choose a physical stimulant to associate that perfect shot feeling with. For example, touch your thumb, index, and middle fingers together (sort of how you would hold a pencil) after each of these



Christian Carter, from Cross Lanes, caught a lunker largemouth bass.

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perfect shots as a physical trigger to help associate and anchor that feeling. It may need one month for you to achieve the mental visualization.

Archery Tips 4: Know when to call it a day.

Your bow is a high performance machine. You are not. It's better to know how to call it a day when you've had enough. When your muscles flag, when you're dis-

continue to the next page



Derek Williams landed a large carp

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tractable, when you're grumpy or hungry. Stop shooting! Practice is only good if you're practicing with good form, and able to replicate the exact form again and again.

#### Archery Tips 5: Treestand Technique

When people miss from a treestand, they often miss high. There are two reasons. First, the deer itself may "jump the string." Almost all of them drop at least a little, some drop a lot. Second, some archers lower their bow arm instead of bending at the waist to create the downward shot angle. This also tends to produce high hits because it changes the relationship between the bow arm and the upper body and thus between the bow and the eye. Looking for more archery shooting tips? Keep on reading.

#### Archery Tips 6: Focus on your own archery.

Archery is about preparation. It is about helping you achieve what you

need for best performance. Getting distracted will not help you. Caring for others will not help anyone. Is your equipment in order? Have you checked the straightness of all your arrows? Do you know exactly what is in your case? Any spares? Rain gear? Hat? Sunblock? You basically owe it to yourself to manage everything pertinent to YOUR archery. Not to do so is to be irresponsible.

#### Archery Tips 7: Practice

Practice is exceptionally important because it allows you to put in use everything you learned to perfect your technique. You can search for all the tips you want, but if you don't practice them, and you don't consistently do it, then your abilities will not advance. There is much more to archery form and technique, and there are more aspects of archery that come into play when in the field, but these archery practice tips will go a long way in helping you improve your skills and precision.

#### Archery Tips 8: Decide to win.



Michael Lough hooked a Monongahela River flathead.

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That should be the only thing driving you. I read somewhere about how the shot is influenced by the stakes. Shoot for nothing, and you shoot properly. Introduce money into the game, and you're shooting for small change. Put a million dol-

continue to the next page

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ars and then you're clamping your mind around that dollar figure. No. When you shoot, you should just shoot to win. It doesn't matter if you have just been placed last and have lost. Your attitude must be a winning attitude. Like I mentioned before, all the other archers are dying to win. They want to be number one. If you don't have that hunger, what chance do you have? Don't aim for second place. Go for the top spot. Believe in yourself!

Archery Tips 9: There is no big secret to archery. There is no killer app.

Don't obsess about any one thing. There is no one secret to a great archery: it is a combination of everything. Good equipment. Good training. Good coaching. Good mindset. Good conditions. Talk to good archers. You'll find they'll tell you different things. Why? Because what works for someone will not work for you. Think about the best basketball player, they're all different. Kobe is different with Jordan, and O'Neal is different with Nowitzki. The only same secret is that they know they're unique, and they learn from others.



Nikki Snyder, from Bethany, landed a quality largemouth bass.



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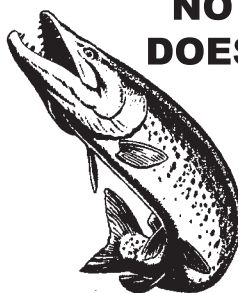
Address \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_

State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_

Fish \_\_\_\_\_ Pound \_\_\_\_\_ Oz \_\_\_\_\_

Animal \_\_\_\_\_ Gun \_\_\_\_\_ Bow \_\_\_\_\_ Pts. \_\_\_\_\_



**NO DOES** We are looking for large fish  
& game pics from 2016

**TEXT  
PIC**

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Photos Will Be Returned

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