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Issue 211

September 2011



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Magazine

Volume 1 Issue 211

Publisher and Editor
Mark A. Goudy

Contributing Editors
West Virginia Division Of
Natural Resources

No Subscriptions Offered

W.Va. Sportsman is a monthly publication.

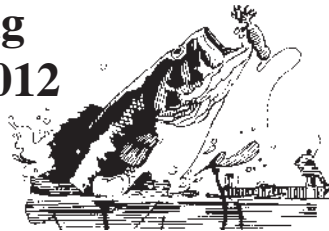
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Cover Photo

While fishing with his dad Bill and neighbor Brain Galloway, Billy Pringle landed this 51" musky. He was at Stonecoal Lake, home of the weight and length musky records. This fish weighed an impressive 41 pounds and had a 36" girth. Try this lake for a chance at a whopper musky.

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Master Archer Demonstration

ROANOKE, W.Va. – The West Virginia Division of Natural Resources and the West Virginia Wildlife Federation are proud to announce the return of Byron Ferguson to the 2011 lineup during West Virginia's Celebration of National Hunting and Fishing Day at Stonewall Resort State Park on Sept. 24-25, 2011.

Ferguson will present his hour-long show at 11 a.m. and 4 p.m. on Saturday, Sept. 24, and at 11 a.m. and 3 p.m. on Sunday.

Ferguson took an interest in the longbow at the age of 12, first shooting out candles in the pitch-dark night to develop his skill. He is able to shoot coins out of the air, split playing cards, and even shoot an arrow through a wedding ring in mid-air. Ferguson has performed in

eight foreign countries and on dozens of television programs. He visited Austria to shoot for the German version of "MythBusters," History Channel's "Extreme Marksmen," and he performed all of the trick shots in the last "Robin Hood" movie. Additional information is available from Ferguson's website at www.byronferguson.com.

In addition to Ferguson's jaw-dropping show, dozens of demonstrations and hands-on activities, as well as close to 100 vendors, will be available to visitors during

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Small Game Hunting & Trapping Seasons

SOUTH CHARLESTON, W.Va. – Hunting for small game in West Virginia begins early this year on Sept. 10, 2011 with the opening of squirrel season. “Squirrel season is very popular with many West Virginia sportsmen. It is a time when hunters can participate in one of their favorite sports and also enjoy the fall beauty of the Mountain State,” said Curtis Taylor, Chief of the Division of Natural Resources Wildlife Resources Section.

Squirrel – The season runs from Sept. 10, 2011 through Jan. 31, 2012. It is expected that hunters will enjoy this earlier opening date and may take the opportunity to introduce a novice hunter to the joys of squirrel hunting. Hard mast production was excellent across the entire state last year which should

produce a bumper crop of “bushy-tails” this fall. The daily bag limit for squirrels is six.

Ruffed Grouse – The ruffed grouse season opens Oct. 15, 2011 and closes Feb 29, 2012. Statewide brood reports for ruffed grouse are higher this year than the last two years and average chick counts are also higher, indicating a better recruitment year. Grouse hunters

should look for areas that provide ample cover and soft mast species such as grape, hawthorn, dogwood and greenbrier. The daily bag limit for grouse is four.

Raccoon – Hunting season for raccoons opens Oct. 15, 2011 and continues through Feb. 29, 2012. With the abundant mast crop from last year, reproduction should have

continue to the next page



This 43 1/2 pound catfish was a weekly jackpot winner. Photo courtesy of Catfish Paradise in Marietta.

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a very successful year. The daily bag limit is four.

Rabbit and other small game – Opening day of cottontail rabbit season is Nov. 5, 2011 and continues through Feb. 29, 2012. With the wet spring and early summer rains, herbaceous growth was excellent, providing good food and cover for rabbits. With good early reproductive success, fall numbers should be similar or better than last year. Old fields and brushy pastures are the best habitat types in which to hunt rabbits. Snowshoe hare, bobwhite quail, bobcat, red fox and gray fox seasons also open on Nov. 5, 2011. Hunters should be aware of daily bag limits and season possession limits for each species before taking to the field. Trapping – Nov. 5, 2011 marks the opening of trapping season for furbearing animals in West Virginia. Almost all species benefitted from the abundant mast crop last year, including many of West Virginia furbearers such as bobcat, fox, coyote, mink and raccoon. Mast and increased numbers of prey species that rely on mast translated into an excellent food supply for furbearers. Trappers are reminded that season closing dates vary for the various species.

For more complete information on season dates and bag limits, consult the 2011-2012 Hunting and Trapping Regulations available at all hunting and fishing license agents, DNR District Offices and the DNR website (www.wvdnr.gov).

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Dave Lancaster went with his son to South Africa and took this wildebeest with his G-5 bow. Photo courtesy of Crokked Creek Archery in Williamstown..

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B.A.S.S. Endorses Key Bill

B.A.S.S. joined key conservation organizations in signing a Sept. 7 letter in support of a bill that would protect hunting, fishing and recreational shooting rights in national forests and on public lands administered by the U.S. Forest Service and the Bureau of Land Management.

“Unfortunately, existing law does not expressly recognize or provide for the continuation of these activities which make material contributions to fish and wildlife conservation,” the letter reads.

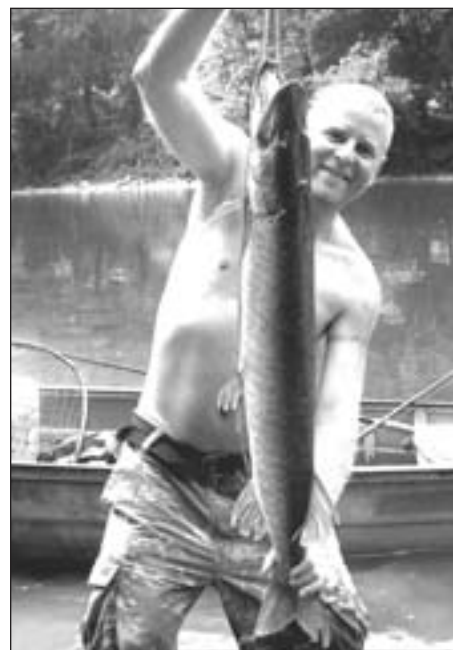
The letter was addressed to the chairman and ranking member of the U.S. House of Representatives Committee on Natural Resources as it considered H.R. 2834, the Recreational Fishing and Hunting Heritage Opportunities Act. On Sept. 12, testimony by Bill Horn of

the U.S. Sportsmen’s Alliance underlined the concerns of the sporting community.


“Continued silence in the law regarding the legitimacy and contributory role of fishing and hunting on Forest and Bureau of Land Management lands will ultimately cause the loss of these activities on over 400 million acres of our public lands,” Horn testified. “This silence must be corrected, and H.R. 2834 does precisely that.”

The bill seeks to mirror the sportsmen’s rights granted by passage of the 1997 Refuge Improvement Act. That law recognizes the legitimacy of hunting, fishing and recreational shooting on National Wildlife Refuge System lands, and designates fishing and hunting as priority public uses of the Refuge System. Key fishing & hunting area are affected

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Details On Page 3



Robert Thaxton, from Charleston, got a citation for this 41” musky.





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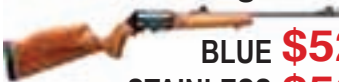


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Jim Carpenter, with grandson Ethan Miller, captured a live 50 inch rattler in Logan County. *Photo courtesy of Jarrett's Bait in Elizabeth.*

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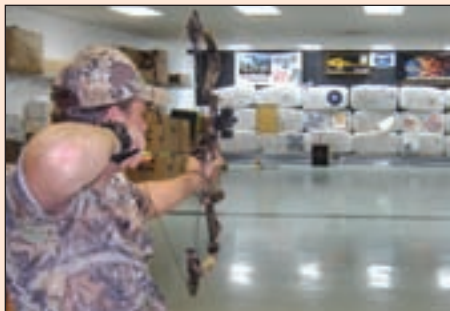
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Warbles In Squirrels - They Are Safe To Eat

Warbles appear usually as a bald lump or swollen area on and under the hide of a squirrel. The warble is actually the larva of the botfly or warblefly. The swollen lump increases in size as the warble grows under the hide.

Botflies, of which there are several types, initially deposit their eggs on vegetation used by squirrels. It is doubtful these eggs are ever laid directly on the squirrel's fur. The larvae hatch from the eggs in response to a quick temperature rise, which occurs when a squirrel pauses over the eggs. The larvae then enter the squirrel through its nose or mouth and migrate to a site under the skin, where they start to develop. They eventually become large, usually dark-colored grubs an inch or so long and one-half to three-quarters of an inch wide. As each warble starts development under the skin, it cuts an airhole through to the outside. It eventually will emerge from this hole, drop



The WV Waterfestival winners were Bert Lane and Paul Alford. They landed 9 1/2 pounds of bass. Photo courtesy of PC Bait & Tackle in Hinton.



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to the ground, and pupate until the adult fly emerges to reproduce.

Warbles are most prevalent on squirrels in Ohio from September through early October. Over a six-year period nearly 27 percent of the gray and fox squirrels sampled

in southeastern Ohio were infected with warbles in late September. By mid-October most of the warble sores are healed and the fur has regrown over the area.

Gray squirrels get more warbles
continue to the next page

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than fox squirrels, primarily because the gray squirrel's habitat of dense woods is also good botfly habitat.

Botflies do best in the temperature range of the southeastern United States; their northern-most range reaches into Ohio. Warbles are much more common in states such as North Carolina and Alabama. Many other small rodents such as white-footed mice and chipmunks also get these warbles.

Warbles seem to have little effect on the overall health of a squirrel. Squirrels can have as many as four or five warbles at one time. They are usually located on the front half of the squirrel's body – on the back, around the neck, or on the front legs.

Squirrels with warbles are frequently shot by hunters. These squirrels are fine to eat but some people find the sight of the warble offensive and unnecessarily discard the squirrels.

The skinned carcass of a warbled squirrel may show a lesion or callused area on the meat, although during the early stage of warble development there may be no scar at all. The scar can be trimmed off and the squirrel can be cooked like any other squirrel.

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Levi Price, age 7, landed a 42" musky. Photo courtesy of Friendly's Bass & Buck in Summersville.

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range, a solid shooting support and a few basic shooting techniques. A shooting range should have a safe backstop and be at least 500 feet from any residence or place where people gather. The West Virginia Division of Natural Resources (WVDNR) maintains many public shooting ranges statewide, and these facilities are excellent places to sight in a firearm. The location of these ranges can be found on the WVDNR website at www.wvdnr.gov.

Preparation Important for Upcoming Hunting Seasons

While sighting in a firearm, the firearm should be solidly supported on a sturdy shooting bench using sandbags or a commercial shooting rest. Always place the fore stock of the firearm, not the barrel, on the support. Stock and sight mounting screws should be checked for proper tightness. Be sure that the ammunition is the correct caliber for the firearm and sight in with the ammunition that will be used for hunting. Several different brands and types of ammunition may need to be tested to determine the one best suited for a particular firearm.

Always wear proper eye and ear protection when shooting and be sure other persons nearby are also wearing this protection. Try to



Giant catfish alert! *Photo courtesy of Catfish Paradise in Marietta, OH.*

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time your sighting-in sessions so the sun is not shining directly into your face or onto your sights. A sandbag placed between the rear of the stock and your shoulder will greatly reduce felt recoil of heavy recoiling firearms. Assume a comfortable shooting position so your muscles are relaxed. Position the firearm's sights on the target by adjusting the support so the support holds the firearm on target with little or no effort on your part.


Relax, take a deep breath, slowly let the breath out, and then smoothly pull the trigger with the pad of the shooting finger when the sights

are properly aligned on the target. Be careful not to use the joint area of the shooting finger and do not jerk the trigger in anticipation of the firearm firing. After firing the shot, follow through smoothly and relax before looking at the target or firing another shot.

Fire a three- or five-shot group, determine the center of the group, and make sight changes if necessary. Follow the firearm or scope manufacturer's instructions to make the necessary sight adjustments. Fire several more groups and allow the barrel to cool between groups to

continue to the next page

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Pre-season Scouting Aids In Hunting

SOUTH CHARLESTON, W.Va. – The fall hunting season is just a few days away, and now is a great time for hunters to scout favorite hunting areas and to sight in their firearms to ensure they are on target when they go afield, according to Paul Johansen, Assistant Chief of Game Management of the West Virginia Division of Natural Resources Wildlife Resources Section.

Most species of wildlife change their behavior and movement patterns in response to the availability of food. Hunters who take the time to scout their hunting areas and locate food sources before the season opens will greatly increase their chances of successfully harvesting game. As the highly nutritious acorns and other natural wildlife foods ripen, wildlife will concentrate where these food sources occur.

During the 2010 fall season, there was an abundant acorn crop, and deer, turkeys and bear left the fields to feed on acorns on the far ridges. Hunters who depended on watching fields or feeders did not have much success. Hunters that scout early and locate sources of natural wildlife food will have a much

greater chance of success. Pre-season scouting is an excellent way to spend days afield with a youth to teach him or her about the outdoor wonders of West Virginia.

“Early fall is a pleasant time to visit a shooting range, and public shooting ranges are normally less crowded during this time of year,”

said Johansen. “I encourage adults to use this time to introduce our youth to the enjoyment of shooting and to use this opportunity to instruct youngsters in the methods of safe gun handling.”

To properly sight in a firearm, hunters should use a safe shooting continue to the next page



Greg Schreckengost, from Leroy, caught a 23" citation smallmouth..

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cool between groups to determine if the firearm is properly sighted in. When you are confident that the firearm is properly sighted in, practice shooting several groups from the various unsupported field shooting positions (standing, kneeling, sitting, prone) that likely will be used when hunting.

“Proper pre-season scouting and going afield with a properly sighted-in firearm will enhance your enjoyment of hunting in the Mountain State,” Johansen said.

For more information about hunting seasons, visit www.wvdnr.gov.



Jessica Lilly caught a 15 pound carp on the New River. *Photo courtesy of Three Rivers Edge in Hinton.*



Ron Woods hooked a big bass at Big Ditch Lake. *Photo courtesy of Friendly's Bass & Buck in Summersville.*

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Big Game Season Dates

SOUTH CHARLESTON, W.Va.
– Deer, bear and boar archery seasons are scheduled to open in October according to Kem Shaw, Wildlife Biologist for the West Virginia Division of Natural Resources.

The traditional statewide archery deer season has been expanded for

this season and will be open from Oct. 1 through Dec. 31. The archery deer bag limit is either two or three deer depending upon the county. Hunters should check the regulations for the county where they will be hunting. Up to two

continue to the next page

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additional archery deer stamps (RB or RRB) stamps may be bought, which must be purchased before the season opens. Resident land-owners hunting on their own property are exempt from purchasing a license.

Bear archery season is held state-wide Oct. 15 through Nov. 19. Each hunter is required to purchase a Bear Damage Stamp. Two bear may be killed annually, provided at least one of the two is taken in Boone, Fayette, Kanawha, Logan, McDowell or Raleigh counties; however, only one bear may be harvested per day. It is important to note that the use of dogs while

bow hunting for bear is illegal. Hunters are requested to provide a tooth from every bear and female reproductive tracts as part of an ongoing DNR research project.

Boar archery season is open Oct. 15 through Dec. 31. Hunting is limited to Boone, Logan, Raleigh and Wyoming counties. Only residents may participate and no special boar stamp is required. The bag limit is one per year.

All big game animals harvested must be field tagged and then checked at an official game checking station. For additional details please consult the 2011-2012 West Virginia Hunting and Trapping Regulations which are available at License Agents, DNR district offices, or on the DNR website, www.wvdnr.gov.

Mail or Email
BIG GAME PICS
 Form On Page 38



This young fellow hooked a big catfish. *Photo courtesy of Catfish Paradise in Marietta..*

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A striped bass was caught on the New River. *Photo courtesy of Three Rivers Edge in Hinton.*



Reggie Smith caught a 5 pound smallmouth. *Photo courtesy of Three Rivers Edge in Hinton.*

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Ethan Bright, from Phillipi, hooked a 4 pound, 6 oz. brown trout.

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Mike Ols, from Cross Lanes, reeled in a 22 1/2" Elk River smallie.



Ronnie Huffman brought in a 4 pound largemouth. Photo courtesy of PC Bait & Tackle in Hinton..

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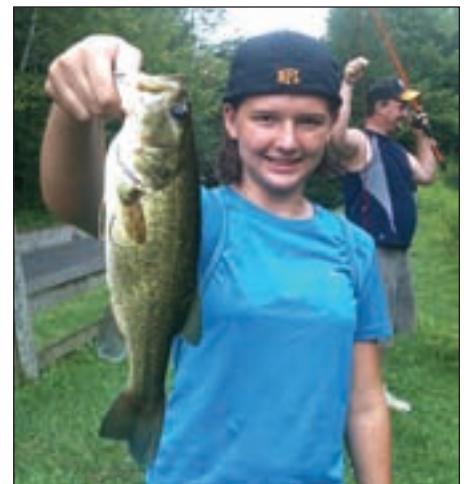
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Brett Wayts, from Rock Cave took a guided catfish trip, with Darrell Brown, for this 42" flathead. Photo courtesy of Burnsville Docks in Burnesville.



Holly Huffman hooked a nice largemouth. Photo courtesy of PC Bait & Tackle in Hinton.


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Ariel Reed, from Purgitsville, hooked a 30 3/8" channel catfish. This citation fish appears black.



Michelle Casada went to a game ranch for this Corsican ram. Photo courtesy of Jarrett's Bait in Elizabeth.

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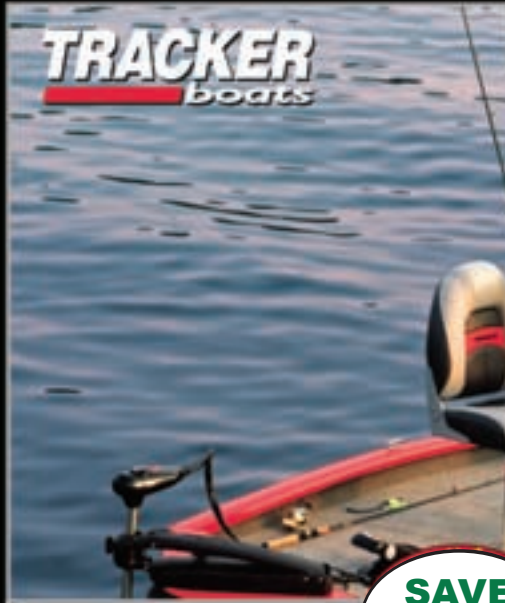
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Stream Restoration Project

SOUTH CHARLESTON, W.Va. – The West Virginia Division of Natural Resources and its partners have completed a major project to restore spawning access for brook trout in Beaver Creek of the Shavers Fork River above Cheat Bridge in Randolph County. “For the first time in 25 years, brook trout in the Shavers Fork mainstem can move upstream into Beaver Creek to their critical tributary spawning areas,” DNR Director Frank Jezioro said

Unique in West Virginia, Shavers Fork is a historic, high-elevation, big-river brook trout fishery. For more than a century, the river and its watershed have been impacted by activities such as logging and railroad construction that have reduced brook trout habitat and populations. Recently developed species restoration plans have

prioritized both habitat restoration and removal of fish passage barriers between the mainstem and the brook trout’s spawning tributaries.

The DNR Wildlife Resources Section has expanded its highly successful Acid Stream Restoration Program to include physical habitat restoration as well as stream liming, in which limestone pellets are added to streams to neutralize acid rain and mine drainage. Director Jezioro said “New grant funding for stream restoration became available to us through congressional appropriations and the Eastern Brook Trout Joint Venture. This has allowed us to tackle additional habitat problems such as fish passage restoration.”

To build the Beaver Creek project, biologists worked with key partners at West Virginia University’s Natural Resources Analysis Center and others, assembling a team of experts with unique expertise and skills. The team included DNR

continue to the next page

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Ariel Huffman hooked a large bluegill. Photo courtesy of PC Bait & Tackle in Hinton.

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biologists, WVU research scientists, stream restoration experts from Canaan Valley Institute, and railroad construction specialists from TrakSpec Railroad Corporation, based in Hurricane, W.Va. Because the project site is located on a remote section of railroad, all construction material such as logs and rocks and heavy equipment had to be transported to the site by rail. TrakSpec's expertise and equipment was critical.

In the end, the team built a new, fish-friendly section of stream and a sophisticated complex of culverts, the centerpiece of which is a partially-buried 10-foot culvert containing a simulated stream channel. The project also doubled the flood capacity of the Beaver Creek culverts.

Midway through the project, a major design change was required to meet a mandatory construction deadline and to provide a design that could be more readily used for additional streams.

"The most impressive thing for me was the way the team pivoted to an entirely new design and pulled together to build such a high-quality project," DNR Program Manager Steve Brown said. He added, "Major thanks go to the guys at

CONTECH Construction Products who located a 10-foot culvert for us in a matter of hours and had it on site in three days. I also want to thank State Rail Director Cindy Butler and the State Rail Authority, which owns the rail, for their help throughout the effort."

Looking to the future, Director Jezioro observed that the project is a good model for future transportation culvert replacements because it complies with all current and proposed Corps of Engineers requirements for fish passage through culverts.

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Chad Lancaster won a trip to Africa and took 4 animals. His impala had an impressive rack. *Photo courtesy of Crooked Creek Archery in Williamstown.*

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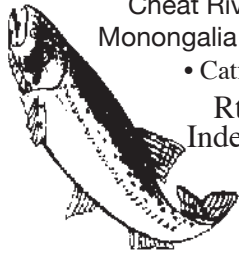
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Lady Angler Headed To Elite Series

Janet Parker has a clear shot at becoming the first woman to compete in the Bassmaster Elite Series.

From Little Elm, Texas, Parker said if she qualifies she won't hesitate to commit for the 2012 Elite Series season.

"I am on top of the world," she said. "I can't tell you how excited I am to have this chance."

Parker took a big step toward the Elite Series on Sept. 10 with a 10th-place finish on the Arkansas River in the Bass Pro Shops Bassmaster Central Open division. The high finish jumped her from sixth to second place in the points standings. If she can stay in the Top 5 through the end of the season, she'll be among the Open invitees for the 2012 Elite Series.

To be Elite, she figures she needs a 50th-place or better finish in the

one remaining tournament on the 2011 Central Open schedule, the Oct. 20-22 event on Table Rock Lake out of Branson, Mo.

"If I can get that eligibility, I want to fish the Elites. I want to make history as the first female," she

said.

Parker has 536 points to the Central Open leader's 567 points. (The No. 1 position is held by another Elite Series hopeful, Chris Zaldain, a pro who makes a long drive

continue to the next page



Timothy Stilwell, from Falling Waters, hooked a 47" citation musky.

Mail Pics - Form On Page 38

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from California to compete in the Central Opens.) Parker is 33 points ahead of the No. 5 angler.

A former Bassmaster Women's Tour (WBT) pro, Parker joined the 2010 Opens when the women's tour disbanded after the 2009 season. She had competed in all four seasons of the women's tour's existence, garnering a win on the Ouachita River in 2009 and qualifying for the championship.

"After the WBT, I decided that the Opens would tell me if I am ready to fish at the Elite level. With the last three tournaments in the Opens, I've had strong finishes, and I've been competing against Elite guys who have opted to fish the Opens too. I've got a lot to learn ... but I'm never going to improve if I don't continue to challenge myself."

"If I don't make it, I'll look on it as a sign that I wasn't ready, and I'll be happy with that too — but I'm really hoping that I'm ready."

Parker said that between her fishing career, sponsor and charity appearances, and a job with a compa-



JJ Bowman, from Fisher, landed a 24.92 pound carp..

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ny that organizes corporate fishing events, she's on the road 42 to 48 weeks a year, so a hectic Elite Series schedule would not be a lifestyle change. She has been running a wrapped rig for years sponsored by Aaron's, the rent-to-own retailer, so a wrap isn't an obstacle. She said she realizes that being under a microscope as the first Elite Series woman pro could be a heavy demand on her time.

"I'll just have to learn how to say 'no,'" she said. "I realize none of it will be easy — it's going to be grueling and exhausting — but it's something I want to do."

Parker isn't the only woman faring well in the 2011 season. Lisa Sternard of Clarksville, Tenn., was in 19th place in points after the Arkansas River event. Sternard, also a successful women's tour competitor, would have to make up some ground at Table Rock to get an Elite Series invitation; her standing at 434 points is 69 ticks away from the current fifth-place holder's 503 points.

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Cody Soliday, from Georgia, landed a citation Ohio River smallie.

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Squirrel Hunting

Squirrel hunting brings a great source of pleasure to some people and a look of disgust from others. They wonder how anyone could shoot such an adorable little creature.

Did you know that the squirrel belongs to the rodent family? In other words, it little more than a furry rat. Sounds yummy, doesn't it?

But people react differently to squirrels than they do rats. Does that furry tail really make such a difference? You bet it does! I've never seen children throwing nuts to a rat.

There are four types of squirrels, the black squirrel, brown squirrel, red squirrel, and white squirrel. Other than color and a slight variance in size, there is little difference between them. But while squirrels don't differ much in different parts of the country, the rules for hunting them do. Be sure to check with your local government to learn the rules and get a permit.

If you live in the city, you might think that finding a squirrel is as easy as looking in the trees. They



A 40 pound catfish is a handful. Photo courtesy of Catfish Paradise in Marietta.

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are all over the place. But squirrel hunting is illegal in most cities, so that's out.

City squirrels have grown up around people and have learned to co-exist. It's not uncommon for squirrels to take a nut right out of someone's hand. Rural squirrels, on the other hand, rarely see people and, like any other wild animals, remain a bit cautious.

Some squirrel hunters like to move through the woods hunting their prey. Others prefer to find a comfortable spot to sit and wait for their prey to come to them. The bigger question is what to do when you find them.

The best way to find squirrels is to look for a feeding area. Look for nut trees, such as walnut, oak, or hickories. Empty shells on the ground under the tree indicate that squirrels have most likely been feeding there and, unless the tree is bare, they will probably be back. It's a good place to start. When you spot your prey, sometimes you just have to outsmart it. You can be sure that if you are moving and spot a squirrel, he spotted you first. He will probably scurry up a tree, usually on the side opposite of where you are standing. You can wait him out or use some trickery.

continue to the next page

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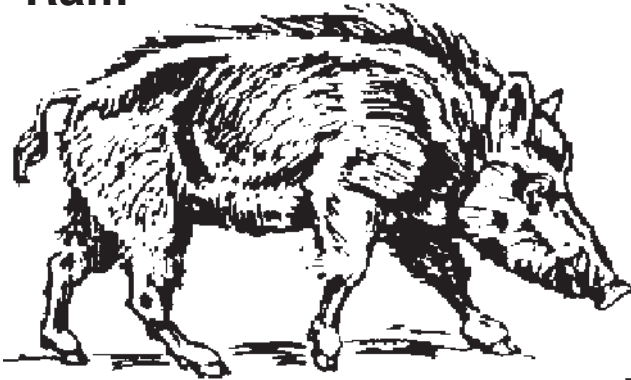
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If you are hunting alone, try tossing a stone or stick to the opposite side of the tree. Believing that you have followed him to that side, he may come around to your side.

The best weapon to hunt squirrels depends on the time of year. In early fall, while the leaves are still on the trees, it's more difficult to get a clear shot, so a shotgun is usually preferred. However, the spray of the pellets leaves greater potential to contaminate the meat.

For this reason, once the leaves have fallen, or if they just like the challenge, some hunters prefer us-

ing a rifle. Squirrels are small and don't give you much of a target, but if you have a steady hand, a rifle allows for a cleaner and surer kill.

Whichever gun you use, keep in mind that the squirrel's vital organs are contained in the upper body and head, so you should always aim for this area. This could mean the difference between a clean kill and

a wounded animal. The last thing any reputable hunter wants is to leave an animal wounded for other animals to prey upon.

Once you've made the kill, find your prey as soon as possible and enclose it in a plastic bag. The scent of a dead squirrel may frighten the other squirrels away, but is sure to invite some unwanted predators.



Kenneth Lake, from Romney, caught a 9 pound, 12 oz. channel cat.

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Chris Hall hooked a 24 pound flat-head. Photo courtesy of Jarrett's Bait in Elizabeth..



Jon McLaughlin, from Gassaway, bagged a big buck last season.



Michael Angelo caught a big 27 pound flathead. Photo courtesy of PC Bait & Tackle in Hinton.

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Donnie Shantoltz, from Salem, went to Stonewall Jackson on a guided trip and landed his 1st musky. Photo courtesy of Husky Musky Guides in Jane Lew.

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Five year old Cody Adams, from Fayetteville, bagged his 1st bird.



Postie Postalwait, from Chloe, got a pic of a blonde raccoon.

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Creating A Mock Scrape For Hunting

Creating mock scrapes is a tactic that is highly under-stated and under-used in the majority of the hunting community. Although this tends to work best during pre-rut situations, it can provide results right through the rut as bucks travel in search of receptive does and work scrapes along the way.

Scrapes vs. Rubs

The first consideration is of course whether or not your hunting area holds any sizable bucks to begin with. By sizable we don't mean large antlers. Simply put we mean anything you would shoot that meets your own standards according to your own personal code of ethics. For some a forkhorn is a true trophy. For others nothing less than a record book is suitable. You hunt according to your ability and the deer in your hunting area harvesting those which you consider sizable or suitable for shooting.

Scrapes will work on all deer but predominantly work better on larger class older deer that have laid claim to one particular area. A scrape is considered a calling card much like a rub on a tree but is a bit more in-depth once you take a closer look. When a buck works the ground he is leaving a visual sign that he considers this area his, much like a rub. You also find that

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they leave their scent in the scrape as they do when making a rub via their pre-orbital glands. So how do scrapes and rubs differ? For one it is seldom that rub will be worked again later in the year. A certain tree may be rubbed in consecutive years but seldom is it ever worked again during that same year. Not so when speaking in terms of scrapes. Although not all scrapes are re-worked, a percentage of them are visited throughout the season and freshened when needed. You will also find a licking branch above a scrape where the deer has chewed the end of a small branch and worked his pre-orbital glands as well as the glands found around his tear ducts to leave an added scent. This is where scrapes and rubs differ the most besides the fact of re-visitation on occasion.

Finding A Scrape

Scouting and finding a scrape or scrape line is a definite plus. I would much rather find a scrape or two than a rubline. Many times you find that rubs were a relief for

continue to the next page



A large freshwater drum was caught. *Photo courtesy of Jarrett's Bait in Elizabeth.*

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pent up aggression due to growing testosterone in the buck while the scrapes are a definite sign that a buck likes what he has seen in the area. Scrapes are normally found on higher ground that is dry enough to hold scent and wont be washed out in the even it rains heavily. Areas that repeatedly encounter boggy or swamp-like conditions hold less scrapes than the edges of that same area where the ground is slightly elevated. Any edge of a field, especially those that contain row crops or food plots are high percentage areas to find scrapes. Main trails entering swamps are also likely places for a scrape or scrape-line. But is finding a scrape a call to set up your equipment and start hunting? Not exactly. The percentage of scrapes that actually get re-worked is low in most places but there are a few tactics for increasing the odds and finding out just what scrapes are still active.

Activity

One method for revealing an active scrape is to cover it with leaves and re-check it again in a few days. This is the most basic approach in finding out whether the buck is still in the area and visiting his scrapes but we'll look at more indepth

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techniques in a moment. If you find the scrape has been freshened upon returning you might want to set up and have a look at what class of buck you're dealing with. It's not unheard of for a smaller, or larger, deer to come by and leave his own stamp directly over another bucks scrape. Set up downwind of the scrape as most bucks wont approach directly and prefer to use the wind to check their scrape.

The main objective here isn't so much the visibility of any scrape but the scent that's contained within. If you objectively look at a scrape on the ground, it isn't going

continue to the next page



Kevin Ross caught a bass musky while fishing. Photo courtesy of Husky Musky Guides in Jan Lew..

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to draw much attention visually, as a rub does. The secret to the scrape lies within the earth itself discernable mainly through scent. That's how you concentrate your efforts when creating a mock scrape.

The Mock Scrape

You've found an active scrape but hunting the area has proved fruitless. Chances are that the buck is checking them during hours of darkness. So how the heck do I lure the buck out without alerting him? There are a number of ways to tackle this situation. First you want to make the buck believe that another buck has taken over his area. You can do this by either working his active scrape or creating a mock scrape. Both can be perceived as the same technique but when creating a mock scrape you start from scratch, just as the deer did. We'll discuss that first.

To create a mock scrape you need to be very careful about leaving any human scent. Rubber boots and gloves are not an option. They are a necessity! Begin with choosing an area similar to the scrapes you've

found. Be sure there is a licking branch located roughly 40 inches above the area to be worked. Start out by working the ground with the heel of your boot to reveal some fresh dirt. Typically this would be done is a somewhat circular or oval pattern. This does not have to be a hole in the ground! Simply removing the top layer of grasses or moss will work fine. Because a buck urinates in his scrape you will need some scent. Code Blue provides a whitetail buck urine formula in both a liquid and a gel. I recommend the liquid formula for this application. Vigorously douse the fresh dirt you opened up with the urine. No need to mix it in the dirt. Just let it soak naturally as the buck would. Alternatively you can use a commercial product called Primetime Magic Scrape. This is advertised as weatherproof scent dispersing soil. Personally I have never used it but others who have claim great results with less hassle.

Next you need to work the licking branch. Just gnarl the end of the branch by twisting the limb in all directions until you can remove a small portion. A manufacturers preorbital gland scent can then be applied to the end of the branch to complete the scenario. Some hunters prefer to use a drip bag or other means to ensure the scrape remains fresh with their scent but that is a personal preference. I prefer to create the scrape as described then walk away. Check the scrape

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every few days for activity. If you find that a buck has come by and continue to the next page



Mr Gillespie landed a 31" freshwater drum. Photo courtesy of Jarrett's Bait in Elizabeth.

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worked the mock scrape, freshen it and hang your stand. Chances are you might get a look at the buck if he's actively patrolling the area.

Drive 'Em Wild

To really set a buck into a frenzy you have a number of options but here's my favorite. If you've done any scouting throughout the year chances are you have a few places to set up and hunt from for various weather conditions. Hopefully those places also contain a high volume of deer sign including some scrapes. If so, here's an extreme trick to really throw a dominant buck into hyperdrive. Take two different scrapes from different areas preferably a minimum of 1 mile apart or more to avoid the possibility of using the same buck's scent from his home-range.

With your scent-free gear and a hand trowel or small shovel dig up the dirt from the first scrape down to a depth of at least 6 inches and put it directly into a plastic bag. A small trash bag works well in most cases. Return to your other hunting area with the dirt you've just dug

up and do the same. Pour the dirt from the first scrape into the second scrape and pat down to a fairly firm consistency. Now re-visit the first scrape and fill in the hole with the dirt from the other scrape in the same manner. Because you should be well out of any overlapping home-range of either buck, they will perceive this as an intrusion. This should bring at least one of the bucks back to actively begin working that scrape again. Keep in mind that unless the 2 bucks are fairly evenly matched, you will probably chase the smaller one away, which in this extreme case, you want to know which is the bigger or dominant buck to begin with.

Now in most cases this technique will work to some degree but not all. I have seen a spikehorn work a scrape that was made by a large 6 point buck. In the same breath I have seen much larger bucks approach the new scrape very tentatively. Given that information it's hard to justify whether the buck picks up small traces of the human scent in the new scrape or he's just

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cautious for the fact that he's not the dominant buck in the area. In any event, realizing what scrapes are and how they provide a means of communication in the world of deer will only boost your knowledge to a higher level. Experimenting and taking notes will increase not only your knowledge level but also your confidence. The next time you're out scouting and come across a scrape take advantage of the situation by first examining the situation, then putting this information to work.



Kaleb Enochs, from Williamstown, landed a citation smallmouth.

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SOUTH CHARLESTON, W.Va. – Reporting poaching and other fish and wildlife law violations just got easier. The Law Enforcement Section of the West Virginia Division of Natural Resources (DNR) has added a new website option for reporting activity that threatens fish, wildlife and critical habitat. Submitting a tip sends a message to DNR district office staff for response. The website can be found at www.wvdnr.gov/LEnforce/Poachers.shtm.

“We have a limited number of Natural Resources Police Officers in the field, so the public plays a critical role in protecting our natural resources by reporting violations,” said Lt. Col. Jerry Jenkins of the DNR Law Enforcement Section. “Submitting a report is a quick and easy way to report violations.”

DNR law enforcement officers ask anyone who witnesses a potential violation to collect as much information as possible without confronting the individual under suspicion. Jenkins said helpful information includes license plate numbers, vehicle color and make, the type of violation, the time it occurred and a description of the individual or individuals involved.



Tanner Holstein, from Sandyville, hooked a large carp.

“Reporting a crime with this form is anonymous,” Jenkins said. “The Division of Natural Resources does not obtain any information that will identify the user of this system unless you are willing to give us your

name and contact information.”

Go to www.wvdnr.gov/LEnforce/Poachers.shtm for more information about how to report emergency and non-emergency fish and wildlife violations.



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YEAR ROUND Hunting Season

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WILD BOAR



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Mouflon * Texas Dall
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Aoudad * Oryx

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www.wvsafaris.com

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304-397-4226

Large Fish & Game Pictures Wanted

We are looking for large fish & game
animal pictures from 2011.

Name _____

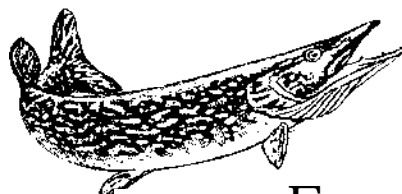
Address _____

City _____

State _____ Zip _____

Fish _____ Pound _____ Oz _____

Game _____ Bow _____ Gun _____ Points _____



Photos Will Be Returned

E-mail wvsport@wirefire.com

Send Photo To:
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Vienna, WV
26105

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