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**Issue 201**

**October 2010**



**INSIDE THIS ISSUE**

**Squirrel  
HUNT**

**FLW  
News**

**DNR  
Updates**

**Outdoor Photos**

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## Magazine

**Volume 1 Issue 201**

Publisher and Editor  
**Mark A. Goudy**

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## Cover Photo

Randy Timmons, from Harrisville, hooked and released this musky. He was using a Hughes River bait to land this quality 50 inch musky.

Hunting seasons have started. Mail in your big game photos to this magazine. Either mail in or e-mail. Form is on page 38.

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## Squirrel Hunting Advice

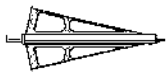
Squirrels are the second most hunted small game animal in North America, falling only slightly behind rabbits. Squirrel hunting provides young and old hunters alike the chance to learn and practice the basic principles of hunting; from marksmanship, technique, woods and terrain skills and the importance of remaining silent on a hunt.

Squirrels are everywhere and understanding their habits is important when planning your next squirrel hunt. One way to become more familiar with the daily habits and locations of squirrels is to do some scouting. Squirrels can normally be found around trees that produce nuts such as oak, hickory and walnut. When scouting these areas, keep your eyes open for pieces of these nut shells on the ground, as this is a sign that squirrels have been in the

area and more often than not, they will return as long as there are still some nuts in the tree. If there aren't many nuts left or if you live in an area that isn't populated with many trees, look for squirrels in populated areas as squirrels often feed on birdfeeders, corn, garden foods and even cat and dog food.

When you have finished scouting and have found the area you plan to hunt, your next step is selecting the perfect firearm for your squirrel hunt. The two most popular firearms for squirrel hunting are the 12 gauge shotgun and .22 LR rifle. Either of these firearms, especially when paired with a quality scope, are highly efficient for squirrel hunting. Both the 12 gauge shotgun and .22 LR rifle are preferred for squirrel hunting because they don't produce as loud a blast after firing as other firearms. Additionally, both firearms inflict minimal

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**Game Check**



Rob Ciarapica, from Leona, landed a nice bass from a farm pond.

Oct. 2010 ~ Page 4

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damage to the body of the squirrel, which is ideal if you intend to eat your prey.

While squirrel hunting can be done in a number of ways, the most common form of squirrel hunting is known as still hunting. When still hunting, a hunter simply locates a promising area and of trees and waits for a squirrel to come into the

continue to the next page

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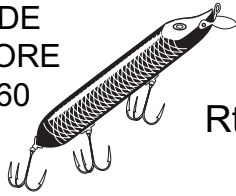
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line of fire. Still hunting is ideal for hunters who prefer to hunt alone.

Another method of hunting squirrels involves walking quietly through the woods in search of squirrels. This can be done either alone or with a partner and requires the hunter to slowly walk through the woods, making sure to stop every so often to see if a squirrel will emerge. If walking through the woods with a partner have one hunter move around slowly and try to stir the squirrels out of hiding. Once a squirrel has exposed itself, the other hunter will be open to take a shot.

Many squirrel hunters choose to hunt with the help of a hunting dog. The dog is used to sniff out the scent of the squirrel and track the squirrel towards the hunter. In most cases, the dog will either tree the squirrel or lead the squirrel to an open area near the hunter, providing the hunter with a shot.

After you take a shot at a squirrel, the resounding noise from your firearm will send most squirrels into hiding. This doesn't mean you should leave your spot immediately after shooting. In many cases, squirrels may hide for only a few minutes before coming out of hiding. However, if you find yourself waiting for a long time, it may be wise to move to a new feeding area to look for more squirrels. If you are still having problems locating squirrels, a squirrel call can be used to help coax squirrels out of hiding.

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Pics From 2010  
• Form On Page 38**

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## Small Game Seasons Open

SOUTH CHARLESTON, W.Va. – Hunting for small game in West Virginia begins Oct. 9 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 I. Taylor, Chief of the Wildlife Resources Section of the Division of Natural Resources (DNR).

Squirrel – Hard mast production was very poor across the entire

continue to the next page

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state last year. The poor mast conditions, along with a harsh winter, resulted in low overwinter survival and decreased litter production. These factors have caused squirrel numbers to be lower than in previous years. A recent mast survey conducted by the DNR indicates that mast production for oak and hickory is above the 40-year average while walnut and beech production is slightly lower. Abundant mast and lower squirrel numbers will likely cause "bushytails" to be more scattered and may contribute to more challenging hunts this season. The daily bag limit for squirrels is six. The season runs from Oct. 9 through Jan. 31.

**Ruffed Grouse** – The ruffed grouse season opens Oct. 16 and closes on Feb. 28, 2011. Statewide, brood counts for ruffed grouse are lower this year than in previous years. However, grouse numbers may still be at levels similar to recent years. Harvest rates for grouse were lower last season because of harsh weather conditions. Grouse hunters should look for areas that provide ample cover and soft mast species such as grape, hawthorn, dogwood and greenbrier. Mast survey results indicate that these species did not produce as well this summer as last. The daily bag limit for grouse is four.


**Raccoon** – Hunting season for raccoons opens Oct. 16 at 6 p.m. and continues through Feb. 28. Raccoon populations appear to be similar or slightly higher than previous years. Food sources are plentiful this year. Hunters and their hounds should have a very successful season. Raccoon hunters are reminded that the daily bag limit is four.

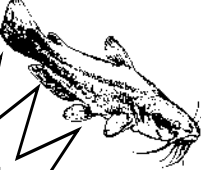


**Rabbit** and other small game – Opening day of cottontail rabbit season is Nov. 6. Rabbit popula-

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tions are expected to be similar or marginally lower than last year. Old fields and brushy pastures are the best habitat types in which to rabbit hunt. Snowshoe hare, bobwhite quail, bobcat, red fox and gray fox hunting seasons also open Nov. 6. Hunters should be aware of daily bag limits and season possession

continue to the next page

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limits for each species.

Trapping – Nov. 6 marks the opening of trapping season for fur-bearing animals in West Virginia. Populations of beaver, bobcat, fox, mink and raccoon are good, and trappers should be very successful. Trappers are reminded that season closing dates vary for the various species. For more complete information on season dates and bag limits, consult the 2010-2011 Hunting and Trap-

ping Regulations available at all hunting and fishing license agents, DNR District Offices and the DNR website ([www.wvdnr.gov](http://www.wvdnr.gov)).

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Eleven year old Matt Ciarapica hooked a nice bass.

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## WV DNR's Calendar Wins Award

SOUTH CHARLESTON, W.Va. – The 2010 award-winning full-color calendar published by the West Virginia Division of Natural Resources has been recognized for excellence by receiving the 2010 Silver Award in a national calendar contest.

The annual contest, sponsored by the Calendar Marketing Association, featured hundreds of calendars from all over the country competing in a variety of categories. Awards were based on the superiority of the artwork, readability and information quality and originality. The DNR's calendar received a Silver Award in the “most informative wall calendar, retail” division.

According to Curtis I. Taylor, Chief of the DNT Wildlife Resources Section, the calendar's combination of original, creative artwork and well-written information earned it this prestigious award. “Besides the beautiful paintings by West Virginians and other nationally acclaimed artists, our calendar contains informative articles, best fishing days and times, and daily facts along with hunting, fishing and trapping regulations,” he said.

The W.Va. DNR Wildlife Calendar has been published since 1985 and is sold throughout the state, country and internationally. It can be purchased at all DNR district offices, newsstands, convenience

markets and food stores statewide.

The new 2011 Wildlife Calendar, featuring a majestic Bald eagle on the cover, promises to be even better with more extraordinary artwork and informative articles. It will be available for sale this fall. The price is \$10 each, plus \$4 shipping and handling. (W.Va. residents add \$.60 sales tax.)

For more information on the Wildlife Calendar or to order, please contact the West Virginia Division of Natural Resources, Wildlife Calendar, P.O. Box 67, Elkins, WV 26241: phone 304- 637-0245.

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Tim Rhodes landed a 7 pound, 1 oz. smallmouth and another over 5 pounds in the Ohio River above Ravenswood. *Photo courtesy of Old and New Sports in Ravenswood.*

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Cameron Roberts hooked a big New River smallmouth. *Photo courtesy of PC Bait & Tackle in Hinton.*

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Stella Elgie hooked a real nice smallmouth bass in the Greenbrier River. Photo courtesy of Waterfront Sporting Goods in Hinton.

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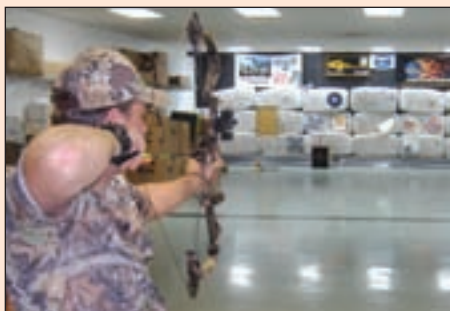
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# Night Walleyes

By Dave Csanda

I used to kid one of my friends, a night-fishing devotee, that fishing at night was only for people who couldn't catch walleyes during the day. He'd say, "Just try it. The biggest walleyes in the lake go on the prowl after dark. Don't you want to be out there when they're biting?"

That makes sense except for the part about sacrificing sleep when we have life aspects like jobs, families and normal daytime activities to pursue. Yet there's no doubt that whenever fishing and boating pressure takes its toll on midday angling productivity, big walleyes have likely shifted a good portion of their feeding toward nocturnal pursuits. After all, they can see



Danny Frazier hooked a 43 pound catfish. *Photo courtesy of PC Bait in Hinton.*



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much better than you and I can under the light of a full moon. They can also out-see, out-sense and out-manuever any baitfish in the darkness. Their eyes gather and magnify the slightest bit of ambient light, and their lateral lines detect vibrations smaller fish miss. No fair. No wonder walleyes like dining on the night shift.

Great Lakes giants  
All across North America, big walleyes feed aggressively once the sun goes down. Nowhere is this more evident than on the Great Lakes, where spring and fall migrations toward and into river mouths bring millions of monster walleyes within easy casting distance of millions of fishermen, even anglers fishing from shore – at least for brief periods of time.

“All around the Great Lakes, major rivers draw big walleyes up and into the current flow at night,” said walleye pro Rich Mealey of Westerville, Ohio. “Spring and fall are the main events for night fishing

because baitfish also make similar runs into rivers and harbors, pulling walleyes upstream right along with them. In summer, night movements tend to be more shoreline-oriented, particularly where deep

continue to the next page

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water swings in close to shore near islands, rock points, jetties and such. Walleyes tend not to cross expansive shallow sand flats to reach ankle-deep beaches, but they sure don't mind moving the length of a football field to feed along rip-rap, concrete breakwalls, or natural rock shorelines where the water is 6 to 15 feet deep. Heck, you can drive to and catch them right off the lakeside concrete sidewalk in downtown Cleveland under the right conditions. How can you beat that?"

Where jetties or manmade structures jutting into the lake are absent, try rocky shoreline points extending out to deep water. The best areas have a deep-water swing-in running close to shore that leads walleyes right up to the bank. If you can find a good place to stand and put your time in, you're going to get bit, big time. You could blank two nights in a row, and on the third, catch 10-pounders on consecutive casts. It all depends if you're in the right place at the right time.

During the summer, offshore winds tend to pull cooler subsurface water in toward shore, which is likely to draw walleyes shallow. Everyone knows it's easier to cast lures with a following wind than into the teeth of an incoming gale. But in spring and fall, the water's already cool to cold. So the fish

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could be tight to shore just about any time. If big waves are rolling in, put on a bigger, heavier lure, grit your teeth and heave-ho.

Most Great Lakes night patrollers fish off piers, breakwalls, jetties, bridges, riprap etc. During the peak of a run when the word is out, fishing might be shoulder-to-shoulder in popular spots. At other times, you could have even the prime areas pretty much to yourself.

If it's crowded, you could don waders and venture a bit farther away from easy access, given safe wind and wave conditions. But be careful. Algae-covered boulders, shifting big-water currents and darkness

make for a slippery slope. Wading is more of an option for inland waters with less precarious conditions. Even there, it's a good idea to carry a wading staff, or use the handle of your landing net to test unfamiliar depths in your path. Be patient, and probe before you leap. It's better to be safe than soggy.

continue to the next page

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While all night walleye fishing is similar, the Great Lakes conditions are a bit different than most. First off, the fish are bigger on average and there's always the potential for multiple giants. Second, the water is usually a bit deeper than the shoreline wading conditions you find on inland waters. So a couple of accommodations are in order.

Your lures don't have to run in the top 2 or 3 feet of water. Diving crankbaits can get down 5 to 10 feet. You'll be casting offshore into relatively deep water, and the water a few yards offshore will likely be at least 5 or 6 feet deep. So you don't necessarily have to

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use the shallowest-diving model of your favorite minnow-imitating crankbait. Consider the next-deepest running model.

Next, think about using a sizeable lure. On inland waters, a size 14 (14 centimeters, 5 1/2 inches) Husky Jerk would be appropriate. On the Great Lakes, something the size of a No. 18 Rapala (pushing 7 inches, give or take) might be more appropriate. This is one of those cases where bigger can actually be better.

Neutrally buoyant or sinking lures are internally weighted to a

greater degree than floating models, making them easier to cast long distances, particularly if there's an inshore wind. So they're top candidates in any night-fishing situation. A large Countdown Rapala, one of the few true sinking crankbaits on the market, casts like a bullet, and you can experiment with how deep it runs just by letting it sink to different depths before beginning your retrieve. This is a great way to strain the water column without having to switch lures and retie knots in the dark.

continue to the next page



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On the Great lakes, we also add rattle baits like the largest Frenzy Rattl'rs, Rattlin' Rapalas, Cordell Spots or Rat-L-Traps. You'll probably face some incoming wind and waves at times, and these heavy baits will cast far and make some commotion. If it's calm, however, they might spook the fish. Switch to something subtler.

In general, try to avoid getting fancy. You're operating in the dark, out of your league, and in the walleyes' domain. The best thing you can do is cast out and retrieve back at a slow, steady pace. OK, go ahead and instill the occasional pause to help trigger a following fish, but don't put lots of jerks and erratic speed changes on the bait. That's counterproductive.

#### Inland waters

On inland waters, reservoir anglers witness a similar phenomenon as walleyes move shallow along the faces of dams and causeways come nightfall. Since most manmade boulder structures have fairly steep slopes to deep water, reaching suitable depths with a cast is seldom a problem. The main trick is to fish areas with irregularities that focus fish activity in a limited area. An unusual projection of rocks, a steeper section of the causeway, a creek channel brushing against the riprap, etc. – all some form of high-percentage area likely to lead fish in to you. Bridges with current

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flow entering the lake are obvious hotspots. The current draws wall-eyes like a magnet after dark.

Natural-lake anglers typically catch nighttime walleyes in one of several areas. It might be along a rocky shoreline where boulders drop quickly into 3 or 4 feet of water. Shallower, sloping sand flats are simply too skinny to allow walleyes to corner prey – the minnows dash to safety in inches of water. But where a rock wall occurs along shore, baitfish have nowhere to hide.

Narrows between lake sections are obvious fish attractors, whether they have a predominant current flow in one direction or fluctuating flow direction caused by wind-generated currents. Wind from one direction pushes water through the narrows for a time, with the down-current exit from the narrows likely to draw fish after dark. Once the wind subsides, the water pushed into the downwind section of the

continue to the next page



Barbara Bird hooked a 37 pound catfish in Jackson County

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has a chance to flow back again, reversing the current through the narrows. In this situation, wall-eyes are likely to be at the opposite exit from the narrows compared to where they were the previous evening. Very simply, baitfish go with the flow and so do the predators that feed on them.

While we tend to equate the better fall areas with being main-lake oriented and having immediate access to deep water, there can be exceptions. One good example occurs on fertile prairie waters where the lakes are bowl-shaped, shallow and have few distinctive structures to concentrate fish. Windblown shoreline rock points, reedbeds or weeds tend to draw fish at night, often in as little as 2 feet of water.

“You can’t fish too shallow at night,” said Mina, S.D., pro Rick Olson. “Waders are great, but a lot of the time you can stop the car and cast right from the edge of the roadbed at night. You don’t even have to get your boots wet.”

In the fall, there’s also a migration of frogs and waterdogs from surrounding swamps back into the bays. Walleyes know this occurs, and it’s not unusual for them to move at least to the mouths of shallow bays to intercept the amphibian parade. Some rainy night this fall, if you notice a flock of squiggly critters crossing the highway trying to run the gauntlet on their way from a marsh back into the lake, it’s time to grab a fishing rod and do a little nighttime prospecting where the water meets the road.

From foot patrol to boat brigade

There are indeed so many fall options for an adventurous soul carrying a pair of waders, a fishing rod and a couple of crankbaits tucked into the back of the truck. But if you insist on not getting your feet

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wet, the good news is that you can fish from your boat as well. The main challenge will be to be keeping quiet and stealthy and reaching out to ultra-shallow walleyes without spooking them.

Enter the long cast with a weighted minnow bait. A neutrally buoyant Husky Jerk, a Rapala Longcast Minnow, or another skinny minnow lure of similar design is ideal for casting to shorelines, riprap, creek mouths – just about anywhere walleyes swim. In this case, however, you’re casting to shore rather than away from it. So you need to select a bait that will run quite shallow during the first few cranks of the reel. Once it digs down to running depth, slowly crawl it along at a fairly steady pace, adding the occasional pause or pump-and-pause to help trigger a following walleye. But don’t overdo it. Don’t make it hard for the walleyes to locate and catch the lure.

Rather than casting directly in

toward shore, slant your casts at an angle to the bank as you move slowly along with your electric trolling motor. As the night goes on, you’ll hopefully establish a depth range where fish are most active, be it hugging shoreline rocks, 30 feet offshore where the water deep-

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ens slightly or light weed growth occurs, or along some other feature that concentrates fish.

If your explorations indicate that walleyes aren't particularly reachable near shore but lie a bit deeper out across a flat, then you need to switch tactics. The simplest adjustment is to fancast ahead of the boat as you drift or creep along with your electric motor. Try to establish a productive depth level or an area of fish concentration. A subtle depth change, a transition in bottom type from sand to rock, an inside weedline, a change in weed type – something should be out there in the darkness that draws fish into a particular area.

If the flat is too large to effectively cast, switch to a slow forward-trolling approach with the electric motor. Try longline trolling with Rapala Minnows – long, thin, shallow-lipped balsa minnow imitators with a subtle wobble. On calm, quiet nights, subtler lures seem to perform best in extremely shallow water. If the opposite occurs and the wind is really pounding in, your lure needs to make some noise in

order to help fish locate it. Switch to a rattling bait.

Troll minnow imitators on about 100 feet of 8- to 10-pound-test line, using either spinning or casting gear, according to your comfort level. Trolled at speeds just fast enough to impart a subtle wiggle to the lures, mono should take your baits down 1 to 2 feet; no-strech FireLine will increase it to 3 or 4 feet. Point your rod tip straight off one side of the boat and have your partner fish off the opposite side to maintain lure separation and avoid tangles. And yes, every so often, give the rod tip a pump forward then drop it back to make the lure surge and pause, exciting a follower to become a biter. But again, don't overdo it. Excessive action minimizes fish action.

If you need to get deeper, to run lures just above the tops of boulders or across a sand flat, try adding a couple of split-shot sinkers to the line about three feet ahead of the lure. That should take a No. 13 Rapala down to about 7 feet. In most nighttime conditions, you shouldn't need to fish any deeper

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for walleyes that penetrate the shallows.

"When folks think about night fishing on Mille Lacs in Minnesota," said walleye pro Paul Meleen, a Mille Lacs veteran living in Isle along the shore of the lake, "they assume it's all about fishing with lighted bobbers and leeches, casting to rock piles from an anchored position. Not so. Many anglers longline-troll minnow imitators in the shallows after dark up near shore when local regulations allow. In fall, however, when the ciscoes that big walleyes feed on move back toward shoreline drop-offs to spawn in the shallows at night, some of the largest walleyes of the year are caught by longline trollers. The fall night bite, particularly around the full moons in October and November, is trophy time."

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## Fall Trout Stocking

SOUTH CHARLESTON, W.Va.  
– The West Virginia Division of Natural Resources 2010 fall trout stocking will take place during the weeks of Oct. 12 (Oct. 11 is a state holiday) and Oct. 18, according to Curtis I. Taylor, Chief of the DNR's Wildlife Resources Section. Approximately 37,000 pounds of trout will be stocked during the two-week period in 25 streams and nine lakes as indicated in the 2010 Fishing Regulations booklet. Brood trout will make up about 25 percent of the total poundage.

“Stream flows have been very low again this fall, but recent rains have increased flows in many of the stocked streams, and we plan to stock all waters with trout as scheduled,” said Taylor. “While stocking the lakes is generally not a problem under low flow conditions, getting the trout spread out in the streams can be a challenge.” However, according to Taylor, “Our dedicated hatchery personnel are very knowledgeable of the streams, and know where the trout can be stocked safely.”

Without additional rainfall over the next couple weeks, flows may once again become low and clear, and anglers may have to use their best angling skills to be successful.

Anglers can call the Fishing Hotline at 304-558-3399 or visit the website at [www.wvdnr.gov](http://www.wvdnr.gov) to find out which streams and lakes have been stocked each day.

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Mike Oglesby hooked a 4.45 pound smallmouth bass in the New River.  
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Marshall Wood caught a big carp.  
Photo courtesy of PC Bait & Tackle in Hinton.



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The fall king salmon are biting at Lake Ontario. *Photo courtesy of Hawg Master Charters in Lyndonville, New York.*

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Mark & Daniel Jackson landed several catfish... *Photo courtesy of jarrett's Bait in Elizabeth.*

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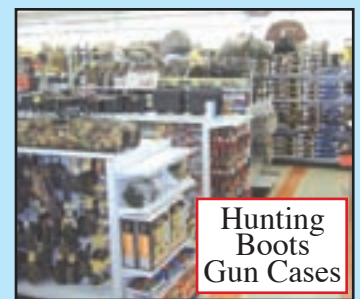
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John Bonnell caught a couple of nice bass. Photo courtesy of Wabash Trading Post in West Union.



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Robert Lane hooked a nice bass at Bluestone Lake. Photo courtesy of PC Bait & Tackle in Hinton.

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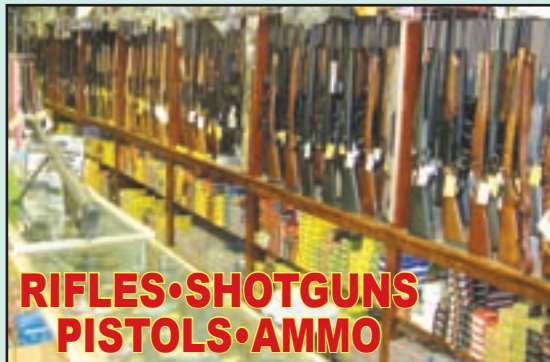
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# Squirrel Hunting Guns

Squirrels are known for being cute, frisky, intelligent, and curious. (They are also cannibalistic, which is not as well known.) Their curiosity sometimes works to their disadvantage, as they will often watch hunters to see what they are doing. And if they can see the hunter, the hunter may well be able to see them!

I enjoy watching squirrels in the park, and feeding them nuts by hand in campgrounds. In the woods, however, they are game animals. I have always enjoyed the heck out of squirrel hunting, and where I live they are open all year long, so I have done a lot of it.

Shotguns, rifles, and handguns are all used to hunt squirrels. Having used all three to harvest a great many squirrels over the years, I can confidently state that rifles and/or handguns are the sporting way to go.

Squirrel hunting is primarily the province of rimfire calibers. The cartridges to seriously consider include .17 M2, .17 HMR, .22 LR, and possibly .22 WMR.

Squirrels as varmints

Ground squirrels are generally considered to be a pest and can

represent a significant crop loss to farmers. These little rodents are therefore commonly classed as varmints rather than small game. The distinction seems to be that ground squirrels are usually shot to thin the population, rather than for the dinner table.

If you don't care about preserving an edible carcass, then varmint rifles and frangible varmint bullets are appropriate. Any rimfire or centerfire varmint rifle from .17 M2 to 6mm Remington is adequate for shooting ground squirrels. The best caliber will depend on the range

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and conditions, especially wind.

The .17 M2 delivers 88 ft. lbs. of energy at 100 yards, and shoots flat enough to be useful at that range. The .22 LR in hyper-velocity varmint shooting form with 32-33

continue to the next page



Suzanne Winters hooked a nice largemouth at Upper Mud River Lake.

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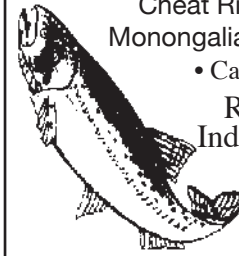


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more specialized varmint rifles. The little cartridge heats barrels very slowly, meaning that a heavy barrel is much less important than on a centerfire rifle.

Nor are specialized, high powered scopes necessary for shooting ground squirrels. My Anschutz 1717 D KL rifle wears a Leupold VX-II 3-9x33mm AO rimfire EFR scope. Load up any good .17 HMR scoped rifle with cartridges using 17 grain varmint bullets and have at 'em.

Squirrels as small game

Tree squirrels are generally classified as small game animals, and regulated as such by most state game departments. Since the animals harvested are to become table fare, varmint cartridges and varmint bullets are generally inappropriate. Squirrels are small creatures, and a frangible varmint bullet, continue to the next page

grain HP bullets, such as the CCI Stinger and Remington Yellow Jacket loads, delivers a similar amount of energy, but is limited by its more curved trajectory to a MPBR of around 90 yards. These cartridges are cheaper to shoot but more sensitive to wind drift than the other popular ground squirrel cartridges.

The .17 HMR and .22 WMR rimfires are popular choices and both do a good job, killing squirrels as far as they can be hit. In the case of the .22 WMR that is probably on the order of 125 yards, based on the maximum point blank range (+/- 1.5") of the cartridge. But in the case of the .17 HMR that is all the way out to about 165 yards, where it delivers more energy than the .17 Mach 2 does at 100 yards.

That makes the .17 HMR, hands down, my favorite ground squirrel

cartridge. Its mild report and absence of recoil make it a real pleasure to shoot. And the accuracy of the .17 HMR varmint rifles we have tested for Guns and Shooting Online has been superb. The .17 HMR cartridge and the varmint rifles chambered for it are among the most accurate rifle/cartridge combinations available.

Actually, for most ground squirrel shooting a heavy barrel varmint rifle is unnecessary. Many standard .17 HMR hunting rifles seem to shoot about as accurately as the

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appropriate. Squirrels are small creatures, and a frangible varmint bullet, including those fired by .17 M2, .17 HMR and .22 WMR arms, are too destructive if the bullet strikes the animal's body, particularly at the short ranges at which tree squirrels are commonly shot.

I always endeavor to make a head shot on any squirrel I intend to eat, as that way no meat is destroyed and cleaning is simplified. And I have found that the .22 LR High Velocity cartridge with a 36-37 grain copper-plated, hollow point bullet is the ammunition of choice, whether fired from rifle or handgun. This load seems to have been designed for squirrel hunting, and perhaps it was. It normally expands well enough to kill quickly with a chest shot, without tearing up the little animal any more than necessary.

The .22 LR HVHP kills faster and more certainly than the .17 HMR or .22 WMR using FMJ bullets. The latter drill a very small hole through a squirrel, and frequently allow fatally hit rodents to escape recovery, only to die a painful death soon after. The greater energy of the rimfire magnum JHP bullets is wasted on the landscape behind the squirrel.

**Shotguns**

There is no more sport in shooting a squirrel with a shotgun than there is in ground sluicing birds. I

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consider it to be simple killing, not hunting. Shotguns are an efficient way to bag squirrels, but not very sporting. Besides, shot pellets are inevitably left in the meat. Biting down on one is not fun.

If you must shoot squirrels with a scattergun, low brass field loads in any gauge from 28-12 are all that is required. I like #6 shot in 12 or 16 gauge guns (fewer pellets in the meat), and #7 1/2 shot in 20 and 28 gauge guns.

**Rifles**

My all time favorite squirrel rifle is a Marlin Model 39A lever action carbine with a 4 power scope, but any accurate .22 hunting rifle will serve. Accurate is the operative word, since the head of a squirrel is a small mark. A good .22 hunting rifle should be able to shoot 1.5" groups at 75 yards from a bench rest.

Iron sights will seriously limit the range at which reliable head shots can be made, so I strongly recommend a scope for any squirrel rifle.

A fixed 4 power rimfire scope provides an adequate field of view and has all the magnification required. One of the 3-9x power rimfire scopes will also suffice. A scoped rifle should be zeroed to hit dead

continue to the next page



A big musky was landed. Photo courtesy of PC Bait & Tackle in Hinton.

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on at about 75 yards. That way the midrange rise is no greater than 1.5".

The .22 LR rifle cartridge is usually sufficient for a squirrel rifle, as not many hunters can hit a 1" target beyond 75 yards from field positions, anyway. Nor are squirrels easy to spot at long ranges, since they live around trees and brush and are usually obscured from distant observers by foliage. I would estimate that most of the squirrels I have killed fell between 15 and 50 yards from where I stood.

For those who have the skill and opportunity to push the range envelope, an accurate .17 HMR hunting rifle shooting the 20 grain Hornady XTP small game hunting bullet can be zeroed to hit 1.3" high at 100 yards (or dead-on at 134 yards), yielding a MPBR (+/- 1.5") of 154 yards. I have a .17 HMR Henry Golden Boy rifle that performs superbly if set up that way. Most of its long range potential is wasted however, because I lack the skill to consistently make head shots on squirrels at 150 yards. 100 yards is a very long shot at a squirrel head!

**Handguns**

My favorite way to hunt squirrels is with an accurate .22 LR handgun. Since squirrel hunting is basically a

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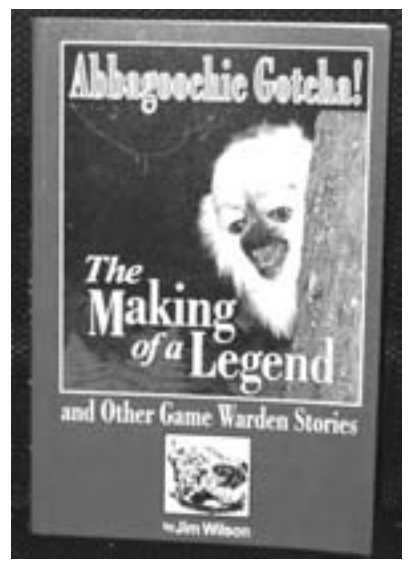
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short range proposition anyway, a handgun is not as big a handicap as it might seem, provided the shooter has developed the skill required to use it effectively.

My favorite squirrel hunting handguns are a High Standard Trophy II target pistol that wears a red dot sight, and a Colt Diamondback target revolver with a 6" barrel. On the latter I use the supplied (fully adjustable) iron sights. Either is a fine squirrel gun out to around 25 yards--that being is far as I can reasonably attempt head shots from field positions with any sort of handgun.

The .22 Diamondback, probably the best medium frame revolver ever produced, and can be carried comfortably in an ordinary belt holster, a real advantage. Another revolver that I particularly like for squirrel hunting is the 6.5" Ruger Super Single Six. These almost al-

ways require a reduction in spring tension to achieve a decent trigger pull, but that is about a 2 minute job.

Other .22 revolvers, autoloading pistols (Browning and Ruger are names that come to mind), and single shot pistols such as the T/C can also be perfectly satisfactory as long as they have the requisite intrinsic accuracy. Not all .22 pistols will shoot 1.5" groups at 25 yards, even from a bench rest, so accuracy is a priority for any handgun to be used for squirrel hunting.

In addition to the aforementioned red dot optical sight, I have also tried various handgun scopes from 1.3x to 5x. Unfortunately, since my skill (or lack of it) limits me to 25 yard head shots, I find that the more powerful optical sights are far less advantageous on a handgun than on a rifle, and their field of view is quite tiny, a definite drawback.

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## New Wildlife Management Area

FAIRMONT, W.Va. – Hunters, anglers and other outdoors enthusiasts in the northern part of the state soon will have a place to enjoy their activities closer to home. The Wildlife Resources Section of the West Virginia Division of Natural Resources (WVDNR) has announced the establishment of a new wildlife management area in Marion County, according to Frank Jezioro, director of the WVDNR. “The Dents Run Wildlife Management Area (WMA) has been leased to the WVDNR by CONSOL Energy Inc. for the public’s enjoyment and benefit,” said Jezioro.

Dents Run WMA is the first such publicly accessible area managed for wildlife-associated recreation to be established in Marion County.

“Because of the large number of hunters and anglers who reside in this region of the state and the scar-



A whole bunch of catfish were caught. Photo courtesy of PC Bait & Tackle in Hinton.


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city of public lands in Harrison, Marion and western Monongalia counties, this lease arrangement will be an important component of our agency’s wildlife management area system,” Jezioro said. “The opportunity provided by CONSOL Energy Inc. for hunters, anglers and other outdoor enthusiasts to enjoy this land through this lease arrangement is commendable.”

“Such a project illustrates that a private/public partnership can be a showcase for wildlife habitat enhancement and environmental stewardship,” said J. Brett Harvey, CONSOL Energy Chairman, President and CEO. “CONSOL Energy’s involvement in this project

with the State of West Virginia is but another example of the beneficial use of surplus property for recreational and outdoor sports activity on land that once supported an underground coal mine. CONSOL is very gratified to be a part of this and prior such efforts to ensure that our surplus assets are put to good use and for the benefit of the local community.”

The Dents Run WMA lies in western Marion County and consists of 1,226 acres. Access to the Dents Run WMA is by way of County Route 1 (Buffalo Road) and County Route 5 (Dents Run Road), with the WMA lying approximate-

continue to the next page

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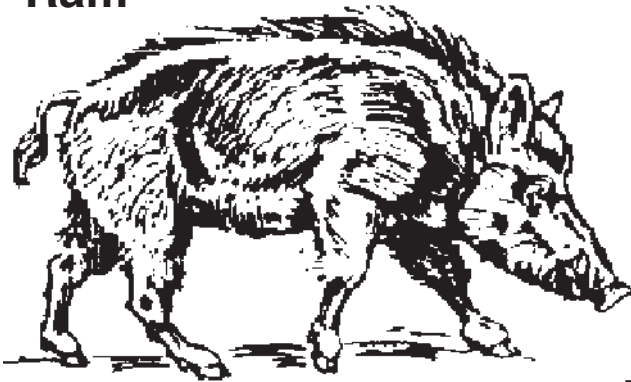
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ely 1.5 miles from Mannington. The WMA, which is primarily forested, will provide hunting opportunities for deer, wild turkey, squirrel, waterfowl and other game species. In addition, a 30-acre impoundment will provide the public with warm-water fishing opportunities.

A special dedication recognizing this generous lease by CONSOL Energy Inc. to the State of West Virginia is scheduled for Friday,

Sept. 24, at 10 a.m. The dedication site is located along County Route 5 (Dents Run Road), approximately 1.8 miles from its intersection with County Route 1 (Buffalo Road). The dedication will be held on the lake side of the dam, approximately 0.25 miles from Dents Run Road, along the access road (Hibbs Run

Road). A WVDNR vehicle will be parked along County Route 5 on the morning of September 24th to offer further directions, if necessary. To obtain additional information and/or maps of the Dents Run WMA, contact the WVDNR District 1 Office in Farmington at 304-825-6787.

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## Archery Seasons Begin

SOUTH CHARLESTON, W.Va. – The 2010 West Virginia big game archery seasons open Oct. 16, 2010, offering some of the best deer and bear hunting opportunities in the eastern United States, according to Curtis I. Taylor, Chief of the Wildlife Resources Section of the West Virginia Division of Natural Resources.

Deer – The statewide traditional

deer archery season opens on Saturday, Oct. 16, and runs through Dec. 31. Bowhunters are reminded that they have until Oct. 15 to purchase the additional archery stamps (Class RB/RRB). Up to three deer may be taken statewide during this season.

Bear – The statewide bear archery season also opens on Oct.   
continue to the next page

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16, and runs through Nov. 20. Bear hunters are reminded that they are required to purchase a Bear Damage Stamp (Class DS) in addition to their base hunting license, in order to hunt. Two bear may be taken per year, provided that at least one bear is taken from Boone, Fayette, Kanawha or Raleigh counties. The use of dogs and bait 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 bear research project. Successful hunters should contact their local DNR district office to make arrangements to have teeth and/or reproductive tracts picked up.

continue to the next page

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Boar – Wild boar archery season opens Oct. 16 and runs through Dec. 31. Hunters are reminded that the wild boar population remains low, as is reflected in the 20 wild boar taken by bowhunters in 2009. Hunters (resident only) are reminded that they may take only one wild boar per year and that the season is only open in Boone, Logan, Raleigh and Wyoming counties.

All big game animals harvested must be field tagged and checked at an official game checking station. More information on the deer, bear and wild boar archery seasons can be found in the 2010-2011 West Virginia Hunting and Trapping Regulations which are available at DNR offices, license agents and on the DNR website [www.wvdnr.gov](http://www.wvdnr.gov).



Ron Louhon hooked a nice bass at Beech Fork Lake. *Photo courtesy of Adkins Bait in Huntington.*



Matt McClanahan caught a big smallmouth. *Photo courtesy of PC Bait & Tackle in Hinton.*

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Matt Bonnell hooked and released a big musky. Photo courtesy of Wabash Trading Post in West Union.

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# New Shooting Range

The Wildlife Resources Section of the West Virginia Division of Natural Resources (WVDNR) has completed construction of a shooting range at Chief Logan Wildlife Management Area (WMA) in Logan County. "The development of a shooting range in this region of Southern West Virginia has been one of our agency's top priorities for several years," noted WVDNR Director Frank Jezioro. "I'm confident this public shooting range facility will receive a great deal of use by the citizens of Logan and the surrounding counties."

A special dedication of the Chief Logan Shooting Range is scheduled for Wednesday, Sept. 8, 2010, at 10 a.m. The ceremony will be held at the Chief Logan Recreation Center located .5 miles off U.S. Route 119.

The completed range has eight shooting benches with a covered shelter. Target frames are located at 25, 50 and 100 yards. Approximately one mile of access road was upgraded, and a parking area for 10 vehicles was constructed adjacent to the range. "This range will provide a safe and convenient location for hunters to 'zero in' their rifles," Jezioro said. "Other shooting enthusiasts will enjoy these public facilities as well." The range complex has a parking space and bench accessible for physically challenged shooters. The total cost

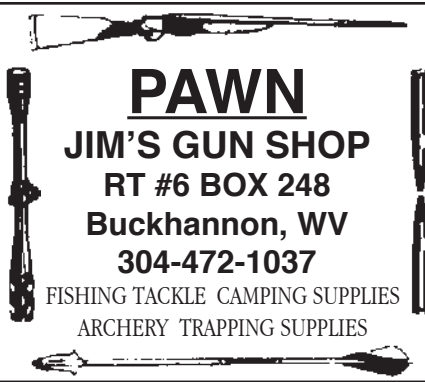
for the construction of the shooting range complex was approximately \$70,000, and the range was constructed with assistance from the following businesses and organizations:

The National Rifle Association of America (NRA) provided the WVDNR with a \$25,000 grant to support construction of the shooting range.

The Logan Area Chapter of the National Wild Turkey Federation (NWTF) provided a \$1,000 grant to support construction of the range. Mine Lifeline, LLC donated equipment and an operator to assist in the grading of the access road and the shooting range site.

Jaunt, Inc. donated equipment and stone for construction purposes.

continue to the next page



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Logan County Mine Service, a subsidiary of Massey Energy, donated hydro-seeding services to re-vegetate sites disturbed during construction.

West Virginia Paving donated pavement millings that were used to help stabilize the access road leading to the range.

The WVDNR also has entered into an agreement with the Coalfield Archery Club, Inc. to construct and maintain a 3-D bow range and a 50-yard bow practice range on the Chief Logan WMA. The archery complex will be located off the access road leading to the shooting range. The 3-D archery range will have 30 targets located along a trail through the woods and provide bow hunters with archery practice that simulates actual hunting situations. The range will be operated and maintained by the Coalfield Archery Club, and the facility will be open to the public.

“The development of this shooting and archery range complex in Logan County is an excellent example of cooperation among local businesses, local conservation organizations, the NRA and the

WVDNR to provide area shooters with a safe place to shoot their guns and bows,” said Jezioro. “I would like to thank the NRA, Logan Area Chapter of the NWTF, Coalfield Archery Club, Mine Lifeline, Jaunt, Logan County Mine Service and West Virginia Paving for their assistance in making this project a reality for the citizens of Southern West Virginia.”

The new shooting and archery range complex is located on the Chief Logan WMA in Logan County. Access to the WMA is off of U.S. Route 119 between Logan and Chapmanville and at the same exit used for the Chief Logan State Park Lodge. The access road to the shooting range is approximately a quarter mile off of Route 119 on the road leading to the lodge. To access the shooting range, turn left off the lodge road at the bottom of the hill and go approximately one mile to the end of the road.

God luck hunting in 2010.

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Sydney Bailey, from Williamstown, caught her first musky.

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## Venison - Low Fat Alternative

SOUTH CHARLESTON, W.Va.  
– As West Virginia hunters take to the field this fall, they will benefit from more than just an enjoyable day with friends and family. Many of these sportsmen and women will successfully harvest a deer and fill their freezer with an ample supply of venison (deer meat).

Venison provides an excellent alternative to beef for those concerned with healthier choices in their diet. “Venison is a healthy source of protein for many West Virginia families,” said Curtis I. Taylor, chief of the Wildlife Resources Section of the West Virginia Division of Natural Resources (DNR). “Venison has fewer calories and nearly five times less fat than an equivalent serving of beef.”

Immediately after the harvest, hunters can ensure their selected venison cuts retain the best quality and flavor if they take a few simple steps in caring for their game. Meat should not be exposed to excessive heat and moisture, and it should be cooled as quickly as possible to avoid spoilage.

Hunters are not the only West Virginians that benefit from deer harvested in the state. During the past 18 years, the DNR has sponsored the Hunters Helping the Hungry Program (HHH). Since its inception in 1992, hunter-donated venison has provided over 975,000 meals for needy West Virginia fam-

ilies.

For more information about the HHH program or West Virginia’s various deer hunting seasons and regulations, consult the 2010-2011 West Virginia Hunting and Trapping Regulations Summary available at all DNR Offices and license agents or visit the DNR website at [www.wvdnr.gov](http://www.wvdnr.gov).

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Lamont Smith hooked a 10 pound channel catfish. Photo courtesy of Three Rivers Edge in Hinton.



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**Optimistic Fall Turkey Season**

SOUTH CHARLESTON, W.Va. – “The West Virginia Division of Natural Resources predicts a higher harvest of wild turkeys during the 2010 fall hunting season,” said Paul Johansen, assistant chief in charge of game management for the West Virginia DNR Wildlife Resources Section,

This prediction is based on good second nesting of turkeys reported on brood sighting forms and the fact that 15 new counties will be open to fall hunting this year.

According to Johansen, “Good mast conditions will usually scatter wild turkey flocks and make them

less vulnerable to harvest. However, we expect that hunters taking advantage of the expanded fall turkey hunting opportunities across the state will help to increase the harvest above 2009 levels.”

Hunters should be aware of changes in counties that will be open for the 2010 fall turkey hunting season.

Fourteen traditional fall hunting counties will be open to a four-week season (October 23 – November 20, 2010).

Twelve counties will be open to a two-week season (October 23 – November 6, 2010).

Thirteen counties will have a one-week season (October 23 – October 30, 2010).

Thirty-nine of the 55 counties in West Virginia will be open for a fall turkey season.

Consult the 2010 West Virginia

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Josh Cross landed a 3 pound, 14 oz. smallmouth out of the Ohio River.

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## New Fishing Guide Available

SOUTH CHARLESTON, W.Va. – The District 2 Fishing Guide, the first in a series, is now available, according to Frank Jezioro, Director of the West Virginia Division of Natural Resources. The guide to public fishing and boating access sites and trout-stocked waters was produced by the DNR Wildlife Resources Section. District 2 includes eight counties in the Eastern Panhandle region.

“Outdoor enthusiasts have been asking for something like this for a while, and we are really excited to offer the first one now,” said Jezioro.

The large, color brochure features a map showing fishing and boating access sites on public lakes, rivers and streams. An icon at each site identifies whether the site has a boat ramp, carry-down boat access, or is just a fishing access site. Sections of streams stocked with trout are highlighted. Tables provide valuable information on each access site, including GPS coordinates, type of access and parking area, and handicapped accessibility. Lists of float trips on the Cacapon and South Branch rivers are included, and trout stocking information is detailed.

“The remaining five district guides are on the drawing board, and anglers and boaters can expect them over the next two years,” said Jezioro.

The District 2 Fishing Guide is free and available at DNR District Offices, the DNR Elkins office, and the DNR main office in South Charleston. To find your nearest district office, check the Hunting or Fishing Regulations brochure, or go to [www.wvdnr.gov](http://www.wvdnr.gov).



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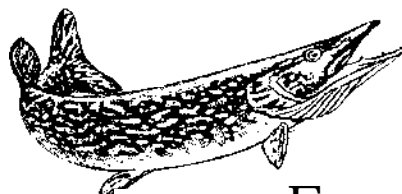
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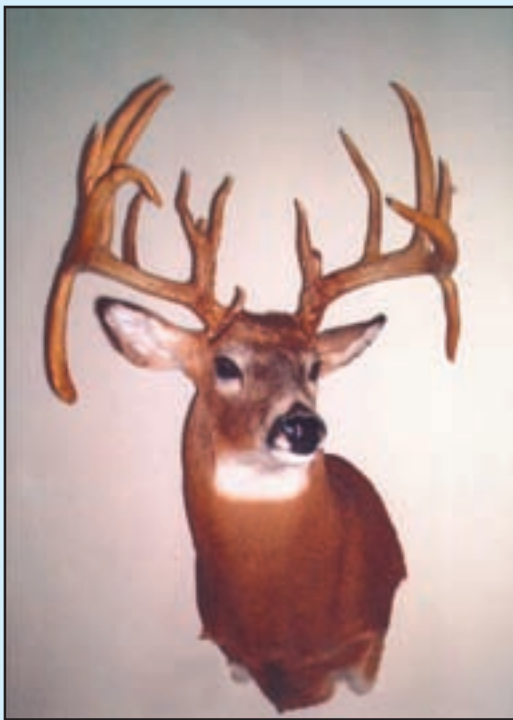
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A Whitetail taken by Andy Border, owner of the Great Outdoors in Ripley, shows the deer taking a drink of water. Just under the lilly pads is a small green frog. The piece was finished with ripples created from the water dripping from the deer's mouth. We added a crayfish claw for good measure.



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