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*"The where to and how to magazine for the outdoor enthusiast."*

**Issue 224**

**November 2012**



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**Deer  
HUNT**

**B.A.S.S.  
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Updates**

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**Volume 1 Issue 224**

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**Mark A. Goudy**

Contributing Editors  
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## Cover Photo

Austin Slack used a bow in  
Wirt County for this high racked  
12 point buck.

Bow hunters need to be extra  
careful in their tree stands. There  
have been 9 cases of hunters fall-  
ing down and one fatality.

Mail or email your big buck  
photos from the 2012 season.  
There is a form on page 13.

Gun season for deer opens on  
November 19. Hunt safely!  
*Photo courtesy of Crossroads General  
Store near Newark.*

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## Calling All Deer

I am going to explain a variety of whitetail deer calls that are used in today's modern hunting world. When deer calls are used correctly it can improve your hunting experience. Research has shown when you are able to speak the deer language they may react and move in for a closer look. However a deer call will not be your solution if you have bad hunting skills. They are simply an aid to help increase your

chances when other tactics fail. Be very careful in blind calling (when no deer are visible). Deer will approach from a downwind position to increase their chances of catching the scent of the noise maker. I also included a deer decoy with the descriptions of the deer calls. Though technically speaking a decoy is not a call, I think it works best when used as a combination tactic with a grunt tube or rattling techniques.

### The Grunt Tube

When using a grunt tube you are trying to reproduce a communication sound all deer make. Usually the deer makes soft contact grunt to tell another deer "Hey come check this out".

A heavier, louder grunt can be made by bucks when fighting over an estrus doe, or when fighting over their territorial rights. Most hunters use a grunt tube to try and bring in a dominant buck in the area. Be careful. The deer will move in looking

continue to the next page



Shawn Talbert arrowed a ten point.  
*Photo courtesy of Mr. Clean in Glenville.*

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Larry Reed used his bow for this great 12 point buck. *Photo courtesy of Uncle Tom's in Oceanna.*

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will do life like actions such as tail and head movements. For safety reasons cover your deer in blaze orange when carrying your decoy to and from your hunting area. The decoy is used to distract the incoming deer to focus on the fake deer instead of you. You can also place various scents on the deer. For example doe-in-heat or a dominant buck scent to further entice the deer to move closer to the decoy. If you're a blind caller that rattles and grunts it will possibly increase your chances because the incoming deer can relate to where the deer language was coming from.



Zach Howard, from Gerrardstown, landed a 23 1/4" bass.

## Hunters Helping The Hungry

FRENCH CREEK, W.Va. - The West Virginia Division of Natural Resources (DNR) invites all West Virginia hunters, churches, and the general public to help support DNR's charitable Hunters Helping the Hungry (HHH) Program, according to DNR's HHH Program Coordinator Gene Thorn. The HHH Program allows hunters to donate legally-harvested deer to certified processors so the meat can be distributed to soup kitchens, food pantries, shelters, senior centers, missions, churches, and community centers around the state.

"The HHH program has been highly successful since it began in 1992, providing more than 1.2 million meals to the neediest West Virginians. However, the program also requires cash donations to pay for processing and distribution costs," Thorn said.

Since 1999, the West Virginia Council of Churches has sponsored the Share the Harvest Sunday to

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### BIG BUCK CONTEST

raise funds for the HHH Program. This year, on Sunday, Nov. 4, approximately 3,000 churches will be asking members of their congregations to continue to the next page



Clarence Kendrick, from St. Albans, hooked a 28 1/2 " drum.

# ~ LOOKING FOR VENDORS!! ~

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tion to contribute \$1, \$5, or whatever they can afford to the HHH Program.

“Many churches around the state have received a personalized letter asking them for voluntary donations from their congregation during this Sunday,” noted Thorn. “However because our database does not include every church in the state, we ask any church not receiving this solicitation letter to consider taking up an offering for the HHH Program. This donation can be mailed directly to the HHH Program.” Churches can take up an offering any time, not just Share the Harvest Sunday, and submit this at a later date.

“The general public can also submit monetary donations to HHH Program at any time,” Thorn said. “Without the continued financial assistance of churches, hunters, the general public, and the Governor’s

One-Shot Deer Hunt, this program cannot continue.” Because state and federal laws prohibit the HHH Program from using sportsmen’s license dollars to pay for processing and distribution costs, it is entirely dependent on monetary donations, together with some grant funding.

To make a monetary donation to

the HHH Program, visit [www.wvdnr.gov/Hunting/HHH.shtm](http://www.wvdnr.gov/Hunting/HHH.shtm). Hunters also can consult the website for certified processor locations around the state. For HHH Program general information consult the website or contact HHH Program Coordinator Gene Thorn at 304-924-6211; [Eugene.R.Thorn@wv.gov](mailto:Eugene.R.Thorn@wv.gov).



Clarence Kendrick, from St. Albans, got another DNR citation for this 27” channel catfish.

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## Trappers Must Tag Furbearers

SOUTH CHARLESTON, W.Va. – Trapping season in West Virginia will open this year on November 3, 2012. Trappers harvesting beaver, bobcat, fisher and otter are reminded that they must present the whole animal or pelt to a game checking station or Division of Natural Resources representative within 30 days after the close of the respective season. A tag provided by the checking station shall be attached to the whole animal or pelt until it has been sold, tanned or mounted.

Information provided by hunters or trappers on the checking tag is

used to monitor the harvest and assist in future management of these furbearer species in West Virginia. Decisions regarding season length, opening and closing dates, and bag limits rely on accurate data obtained from these tags.

The law no longer requires bobcat hunters and trappers to field tag each bobcat before moving the animal from the location where it was killed. Hunters and trappers are to present the unskinned bobcat when

checking the animal.

The state's second otter trapping season will soon be underway. Trappers are once again being asked to deliver skinned carcasses to any of the six West Virginia DNR district offices or the Elkins Operations Center. The biological samples collected at these facilities will provide important data and assist wildlife biologists in their efforts to make informed decisions regarding future trapping seasons.



Bill Fritzman, from Moundsville, reeled in a whopper 48 " Ohio River flathead catfish.

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A "wild" 6 1/2 pound brown trout was reeled in The tail fin has not been damaged like run raised trout are. Photo courtesy of Middle Mountain Sporting Goods in Elkins.

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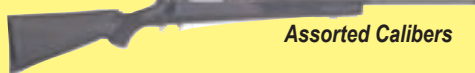
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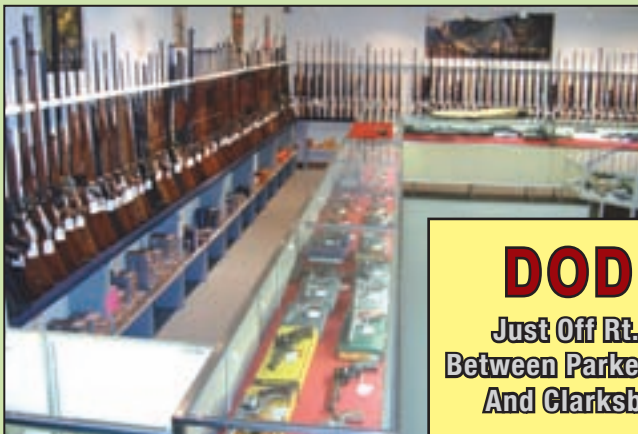


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Tiffany Godfrey arrowed a nice 8 point buck. Photo courtesy of Mr. Clean in Glenville.

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Travis Ashley got a 9 point archery buck. Photo courtesy of Crossroads General Store near Newark.



Young Landon Williams hooked a big rainbow trout. Photo courtesy of PC Bait & Tackle in Hinton.

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 Details On Page 3

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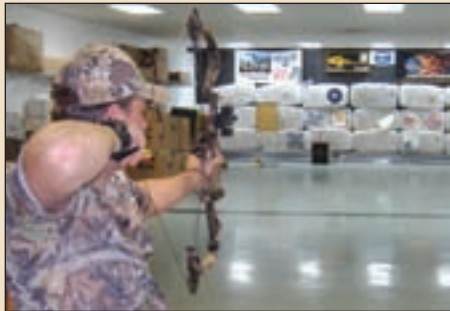
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## Fishing Line Confusion

The other day I was at my local Wal-Mart stores sporting goods dept. and a gentleman was standing by the fishing line rack and he had this confused look on his face. He looked my way and read the logo on my hat and said, are you a guide? I said yes. Would you mind me asking you what line you use.

I said to him, sure but before you buy any line, there are some questions I'd like to ask you. I ask my clients this as well, just to see how they choose the line they are using.

He looked even more puzzled

now. Well, tell me what kind of rod and reel do you use, and what species of fish do you generally fish for. You mean I need different line for different species he said. I said not necessarily. He said he fishes for Bass and Walleye and Pan fish, and he has St Croix rods and Shimano spinning reels. I said, good choice of rods and reels as you will not have problems with your choice, brand name equipment normally lasts a long time, and if you have the right line, you'll be satisfied with that as well.

I said, did you know that fishing line in the early 1900's was made  
continue to the next page



Randall Hyde landed a Hughes River musky and released it.

## ~ WANTED ~ Game Photos From 2012



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from linen, silk and cotton. These lines had to be carefully cared for by un-spooling the line, washing it, and spreading the line out, and drying it thoroughly to prevent dry rot. I could see by the look on his face that I should just get to the point and not give a history lesson on fishing line. I proceeded to tell this gentleman what line I would recommend for his type of fishing.

For fishing heavy cover and rough conditions like rocks, pick a monofilament designed for it, usually designated tough, extreme or extra tough. Also try braids and fusion line. For fishing clear water, choose a thin, clear line. Fluorocarbon lines disappear underwater as they refract little light. Others are usually called extra limp, extra thin and other names that designate it as small diameter. For fishing vegetation like lily pads, moss and grass,



Nicole Walker, from Morgantown, hooked a nice largemouth bass.

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try a thin, tough line. It can be a braid or a fused line. Names like Fireline, Spiderwire and Power Pro are all good.

For spinning and spin cast reels, choose a thin, limp line for better casting. It can be mono, fusion or braid. Bait casting reels handle most any kind of line, but stiffer line works well on them, much better than on a spinning reel.

continue to the next page

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Jake Kennedy hooked a 5.71 pound smallmouth bass. Photo courtesy of Three Rivers Edge in Hinton.



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So I said, decide what kind of line you need. Change it often, learn to tie good knots, then you won't be able to blame your line if you lose the "Big One". He thanked me and was gone. As I walked to the checkout with my items I thought, this would make an interesting article for my readers. So, here I am doing just that. So where do I start. Well, I guess I'll start by talking about each type of line, and how the manufactures test it.

Lets start with "Monofilament". Mono is a word that means single. In fishing line that means a single strand of line, but in sport fishing it has become know as nylon fishing line. Nylon Monofilament is a single-component product, that



Dennis Brewster got his 1st bear with a bow in Logan County.



Casie Brown caught a 22" walleye at the Belleville Dam.

is formed through an extrusion process in which molten plastic is formed into a strand through a die. Nylon Monofilament line is a polymetric by-product of crude oil processing. Premium grade Nylon Monofilament line receives more quality-control attention, more additives, and more attention in the finishing process than normal line

to make it abrasion resistant, that is why the cost is more.

Then we have the "Co-filament line" which adds more resistance to the line and yet keeps the line sensitivity, and strength. This design uses an inner and an outer wrap of nylon to help insure the lines ability to resist wear and tear.

continue to the next page

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Next, "Braided lines" consist of inter-wined strands of nylon material, making them a multifilament line called Dacron. Dacron was once the primary line for fishing before the discovery of Nylon. Nylon proved to be so superior to braided Dacron which had poor knot strength, low abrasion resistance, and little stretch, that Dacron almost disappeared from the market. Today it is used primarily as a backing material on fly fishing reels.

The synthetic fiber that is added is 10 times stronger than steel, and has been used in industrial, aerospace, and military applications, and is very strong yet very thin. Due to its non-stretch properties it is a super sensitive line. For example, a 15# test braid line has the diameter of a 6# test monofilament line. There are some drawbacks to this line however. You must use the knot the manufacture tells you



Randall Kenneda used a bow for this 8 point buck. *Photo courtesy of Uncle Tom's in Oceanna.*

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to use or the line will come untied. Some you need to use a super-glue on the knot to prevent it from coming untied as some of the braided lines have a coating applied to the line that makes it extremely slippery and the glue assures you the knot will stay tied. This line does nick, and you will need to watch for broken, or frayed strands often. I don't recommend you use this line on a spinning reel as it is so limp it is tough to cast.



David Fields, from Delbarton, hooked a 16 1/4" spotted bass.

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## Concurrent Bear & Deer

SOUTH CHARLESTON, W.Va. – Deer hunters are reminded that a concurrent bear season without dogs will occur from November 19 through December 1 in eight counties, according to Colin Carpenter, Black Bear Project Leader for the West Virginia Division of Natural Resources. Boone, Fayette, Hampshire, Kanawha, Monongalia, Morgan, Preston and Raleigh counties will be open for concurrent bear hunting during the traditional buck gun season. This is an increase from the seven counties that were open for concurrent bear hunting during the buck gun season in 2011.

“Counties that will be open for bear hunting during the buck gun

season are above their management objective and need to have additional bears harvested to achieve their management goal,” said Carpenter. “In addition, timing is critical when setting bear hunting seasons, and the concurrent buck gun and bear seasons will occur when the maximum number of hunters are in the woods. The larger-than-average hard mast crop of 2012 will mean that hunters will have to find specific areas where bears are feeding to be successful. These special seasons offer a unique opportunity for hunters who may have never hunted for bear before to harvest a bear.”

Bear hunting opportunities abound after the buck gun season as well. All or parts of 24 counties will be open for bear hunting with or without hounds December 3–31. In addition, all or parts of 37 counties will be open for bear hunting without hounds December 3–31.

continue to the next page

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**Info On Page 3**

November 2012 ~ Page 17

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Christopher Schafer, from Charleston, caught a 22" largemouth.

Successful hunters are encouraged to submit a premolar tooth from each harvested bear. In addition, hunters who harvest a female black bear are encouraged to save the reproductive tract or all the entrails. Hunters can get a bear tooth envelope at all official game checking stations. Hunters with reproductive tracts or entrails should keep them cool or freeze them and contact their nearest DNR District Wildlife Office to arrange pick-up. Data obtained from tooth samples and reproductive tracts are used for black bear population monitoring.

Hunters are reminded to purchase a bear damage stamp as well as an appropriate hunting license. Details concerning bear hunting seasons can be found on pages 36-39 of the 2012-2013 Hunting and Trapping Regulations Summary, available at license agents and at [www.wvdnr.gov](http://www.wvdnr.gov).



Noah Hamrick, from Buckhannon, shot his 1st squirrel.

## Venison Is Low Fat And Healthy For You

SOUTH CHARLESTON, W.Va. –As West Virginia’s sportsmen and women take to the field for the various fall deer hunting seasons, they gain more than just an enjoyable day outdoors with family and friends and some exercise. Many will successfully harvest a deer and fill their freezer with an ample amount of “heart-healthy” venison. Venison is 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 as an equivalent serving of beef.”

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

Hunters are not the only West Virginians who benefit from deer harvested in the state. Over the past 20 years, the DNR has sponsored the Hunters Helping the Hungry (HHH) program. Hunter-donated venison has provided more than 1

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For more information about the HHH program or West Virginia’s various deer hunting seasons and regulations, consult the 2012-2013 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)



Young Eli Morgan got his 1st bow kill. Photo courtesy of JBC Archery in Shady Spring.

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James Byrge hooked a 21 1/4" smallmouth bass. Photo courtesy of PC Bait & Tackle in Hinton.



Ronald Davis arrowed this impressive 15 point. Photo courtesy of Reese's Country Store in Deerwalk.



Bob Haught, from Grafton, used a muzzleloader for this nice bear.

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Dan Holdren, with Wright's Riverside Marine, landed a 4 pound, 7 oz. smallmouth for big bass. He and his partner, Cec Schnieder, won the last Ohio River Team Tournament with a bag weighing 13-5.



Allen Lee, from Gallipolis Ferry, hooked a 25 pound blue catfish.



Jacob James used a bow for an albino doe. Photo courtesy of Uncle Tom's in Oceana.

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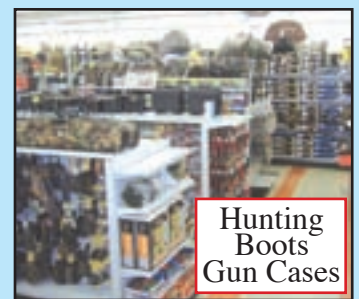
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Jonathan Caltrider used his bow for this 10 point. Photo courtesy of Crooked Creek Archery in Williamstown,



Pat Hart brought in a huge black bear. Photo courtesy of Middle Mountain Sporting Goods in Elkins.



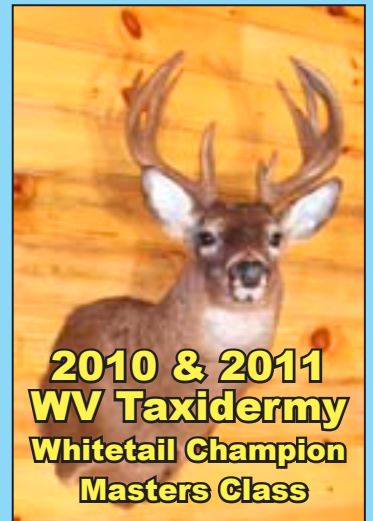
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# Cool New Bass Rigging

Tricking bass to bite on heavily pressured lakes often requires a break from traditional tactics. Pros say it all the time: "When following other anglers down a productive bank, show the fish something different." A different lure might be the answer, but a different presentation with a proven lure might work even better. Not that every-

day or traditional presentations aren't worthy, but there are some lesser-known rigging tricks that are pretty cool when you need a subtle, strategic change. Here are some we found to be worthy.

## Dangle Berry Rig

Want a unique, free-falling action on your soft stickbaits, swimbaits or stickworms? Try Lee Sisson's Dangle Berry rig ([www.sissonsdesigns.com](http://www.sissonsdesigns.com)). The former Elite Series pro and lure designer says his creation is what helped him get into the Elite Series before he retired from professional tournament fishing a couple years ago. "I was making it for myself and a few friends, but it caught on and I took it to full production," says Sisson. "It's a great way to catch a nice limit."

The rig consists of a 4/0 offset



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weight on the hook shank. The uniquely molded weight has a hole in which the sinker can slide up and down the shank, and the hook has a spring-like bait keeper on the eyelet for securing plastics.

“One advantage this has over weighted hooks is it doesn’t dampen the action,” explains Sisson. “The free swinging weight allows the bait to roll side-to-side during the retrieve.”

Perhaps a bigger advantage is the action it imparts in a lure when it falls. The weight moves to the center/bottom of the hook and keeps the bait horizontal while the lure exhibits a flutter-like swimming action.

Because it’s a visible presentation, Dangle Berry rigs work best in clear water 6 feet deep or less. “The secret is to fish it slow and let it settle to the bottom,” he says. “It fishes great over grass because the weight doesn’t dig in like other weighted rigs.” When twitching it with a Fluke-style bait, the lure darts erratically because the weight slides to the end of the hook and enhances the pivoting action.

“Sometimes I’ll just pull it and let



Joseph Skidmore took a great bow buck. Photo courtesy of PC Bait & Tackle in Hinton.

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it dart a few times, then kill it to let it flutter down,” Sisson describes. The Dangle Berry is only offered in one weight size. “When I was experimenting, I discovered getting the precise weight is critical,” Sisson says. “I have no idea what it weighs; I just know the weight and hook are perfectly matched to achieve the action I desired.”



Gunner Parsons, from Givens, hooked a citation 11” bluegill.

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## Holly River State Park Closed For Now

CHARLESTON, W.Va. – Holly River State Park is closed for the year.

“Tropical Storm Sandy dropped several feet of snow on this Webster County vacation destination,” said Jim Schotsch, a project engineer with West Virginia’s state parks. Holly River remains without power, water, phone or Internet communication as of Monday, Nov. 5.

Approximately 95 percent of the electric lines are on the ground and more than 15 power poles snapped by downed trees and limbs lay under the heavy snowfall. Two transformers are smashed on the ground throughout the park. “The amount

continue to the next page

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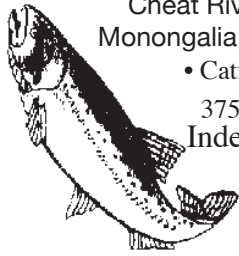
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of trees on the ground is a phenom-  
ena. It's almost unbelievable unless  
you see it for yourself,” Schotsch  
said.

Access to the park is open but  
the park facilities are not. “Fortu-



Cody Toler brought in a fall gob-  
bler. *Photo courtesy of JPC Bait & Tack-  
le in Hinton.*

nately, there was limited damage  
to buildings caused by falling trees  
and branches,” he said. DOH as-  
sisted with clearing a rock and mud  
slide that blocked the road to the  
cabin area. The slide occurred after  
a large tree on the slope above the  
road toppled at the roots. Clear-  
ing the access to the camping area  
has not started. A National Guard  
team, with a road grader and chain  
saws, is in the park and assisting  
clearing trees and snow from the  
park roads.

Contracting for power restoration  
will require assessment of damage  
and emergency purchase orders for  
repair work. Power lines at Holly  
River are owned by the park sys-  
tem. Schotsch is onsite assessing  
damages, along with Park Superin-  
tendent Ken McClintic, Assistant  
Superintendent Josh Hinchman,  
and others.

Cabin guests staying at Holly Riv-  
er prior to the storm were evacu-  
ated by Nov. 5. Cabin reservations

for the remainder of this season,  
including Thanksgiving week, are  
canceled and guests are being con-  
tacted. All park employees have  
been accounted for. Until power is  
restored, the water reservoirs are  
depleted.

Holly River State Park is located  
in Webster County in Hacker Val-  
ley, W.Va. It is the second [largest  
park in acreage in the West Virgini-  
a park system with a total of 8,101  
acres. Nestled in a narrow valley,  
the park is surrounded by heavily  
forested mountains, some reaching  
heights of over 2,800 feet.

To learn more about Holly River  
State Park, visit [www.hollyriver.com](http://www.hollyriver.com)  
For Holly River updates,  
email Jim Schotsch at [James.G.Schotsch@wv.gov](mailto:James.G.Schotsch@wv.gov)  
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## WV Gift Card

SOUTH CHARLESTON, W.Va. – It's a tradition with many. Gift cards as gifts are everywhere. "There is good reason," says Sissie Summers with West Virginia's state parks. "Gift cards convey to the recipient that a person knows you or your family interests. The card becomes an experience when redeemed." West Virginia State Parks gift card sales encourage recipients to visit a state park to camp, stay in a lodge, play golf or participate in an activity that requires some form of payment.

For the Christmas and holiday season, gift card purchases of \$100 or greater in value receive "extras."



Beauford Shell used a bow for this piebald deer. Photo courtesy of Reese's Country Store in Deerwalk.

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Purchases from Nov. 1 to Dec. 17, 2012 automatically have eight extras included that can stretch gift card value, according to Carol Stewart. "A purchase of \$250 would receive two sets of eight, a purchase of \$400 would receive four sets and so on." Stewart processes gift card orders and helps customers with suggestions for parks to visit or how to surprise family and friends.

"There is no magic word or code to ask for to receive the extras," Stewart explained. "It's a way to thank people for buying or giving the gift cards and to encourage them to enjoy the parks next year." Standard ground USPS shipping service is included in gift card sales.

The 'extras' included in card sales continue to the next page

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Christian Hellmer, from NC, hooked a 44" New River musky.

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\$15 off of Gift Shop purchase of \$100 or more at Blackwater Falls, Twin Falls, Cacapon, North Bend or Tygart Lake state parks in 2013. A ninth card is the “mystery gift” that when returned the customer will receive a State Park “something” in the mail. Stewart adds that while supplies last, each order will receive a State Park zipper pull.

“They were very popular last year and I’ve had people ask for them again this year. They are pretty and they tell the mission statement of the park system.”

The “extras” are included only with online gift card purchases or by calling 304-558-2764, ext. 51828. The online address is [www.wvstateparks.com](http://www.wvstateparks.com); click “Gift Card Purchase.”



Cameron Roberts landed 2 nice hybrid bass. Photo courtesy of PC Bait & Tackle in Hinton.

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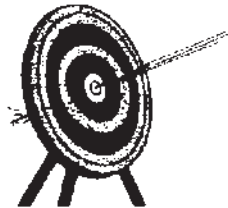


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Chris Talbot's bow buck had a 22" inside spread. Photo courtesy of Tri Lakes in Walkersville.



Kelsey Palmer arrowed a buck. Photo courtesy of Mr. Clean in Glenville.

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Mike Mussi bagged a big black bear. Photo courtesy of Middle Mountain Sporting Goods in Elkins.



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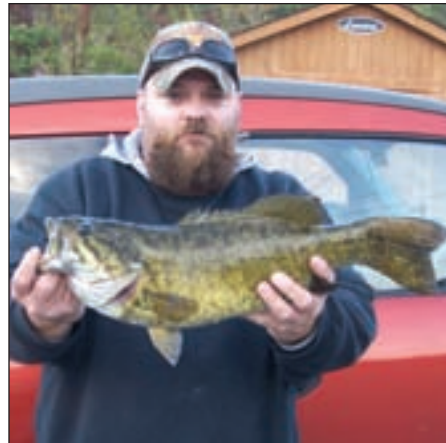
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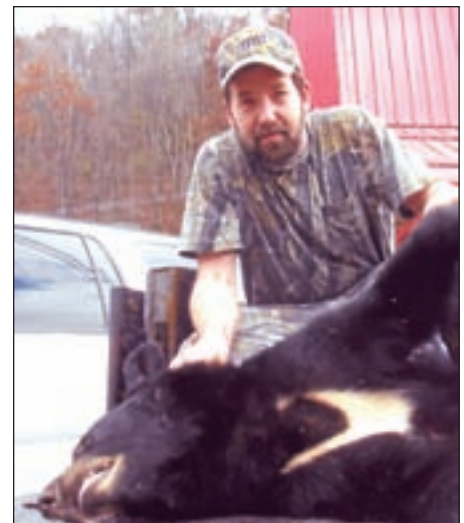
Scott Myers used a bow for this great 11 point. Photo courtesy of Reese's Country Store in Deerwalk.



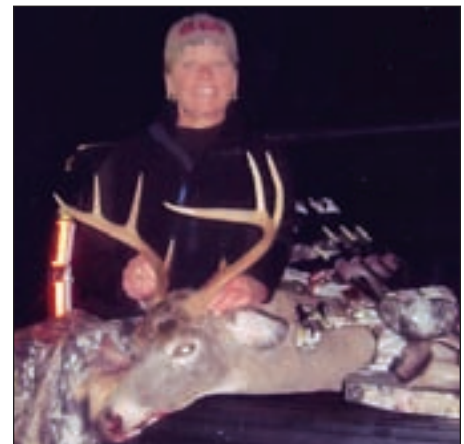
Tyler Kelly got a button buck on a youth hunt - his 1st. Photo courtesy of Old & New Sports in Raveswood.



Steve Perkins landed a 4.65 pound smallmouth recently. Photo courtesy of PC Bait & Tackle in Hinton.



An unusual white V bear was harvested. Photo courtesy of Middle Mountain Sporting Goods in Elkins.



Becky Stalnaker arrowed an 8 point buck. Photo courtesy of Crossroads General Store near Newark.

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Dan Cooley II caught a 35" catfish.

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## Hunting The Rut

A trophy whitetail deer's most vulnerable time is when you, the hunter, are deer hunting the rut. This is the time a trophy buck is actively seeking does to breed. Caution takes a back seat to their instinct for chasing does and breeding them.

### The Pre-Rut

There are three periods of the rut. The first is called "the pre-rut". Beginning in late summer or early autumn the blood flow to a buck's soft antlers stop; they then harden or calcify. The whitetail buck rubs small trees to remove the velvet on his antlers which is now drying up and beginning to shed. A buck is also scent marking trees by rubbing them with the pre-orbital glands located in his forehead, thus marking his home territory.

The rubbing of trees is also a means of strengthening a white-tail's neck. This prepares him for upcoming light sparring sessions with other buck's to establish a dominance order to the local deer herd. The dominant bucks are the older males, they are larger and have the best genetic make-up. These are the trophy deer that do most of the breeding. It's nature's way of ensuring survival of the fit-

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test and passing on the best genes. Hunting The Rut And Signs To Look For

Trophy deer also leave other signs besides tree rubs in and around your hunting land during the rut. They make scrapes on deer trails under trees or brush by pawing at the ground. Then they lick and rub over-hanging branches and limbs.

A buck will leave a scent from their inter-digital foot glands (note hair separation between the back dew claws) while scraping at the ground.

They urinate on the ground and on their own tarsal glands; scent  
continue to the next page



Nathan Eye used a bow for this quality buck. *Photo courtesy of Middle Mountain Sporting Goods in Elkins.*



Looking for tree rubs indicates the travel spots and size of bucks.

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marking the scrape as their own.

A buck will establish what's called a scrape line by deer hunters. The making of many scrapes on deer trails in a hunting area.

These are some of the major signs you will want to notice in scouting your hunting land and then plan your hunting trips to these hunting areas. Thereby taking advantage of the time of year and hunting the rut.

### The Main Breeding Period Of The Rut

It is during this phase of the rut that most trophy deer hunting is done. It doesn't matter if your archery hunting or on a guided deer hunt. This is the time of year that most trophy whitetail deer hunt-



Dany Frazier hooked a 4 1/2 pound smallmouth bass.. Photo courtesy of Three Rivers Edge in Hinton.

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ing takes place. During the second period of the rut a buck will periodically check his scrapes to see if a doe has visited his scrape line and may be approaching it's estrus cycle. The does during this period experience a hormonal change that prepares them for the whitetails breeding period. They also move about more leaving more areas scented by them. When they are approaching their estrus cycle they will visit a scrape, scent mark it themselves, sometimes by urinat-  
 continue to the next page



Russ Modesitt arrowed a big 10 point. Photo courtesy of Reese's Country Store in Deerwalk.

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ting. When the mature buck locates a doe on the verge of estrus he will chase after her and usually stay with her until she let's him tend her. When the does enters her estrus cycle and is ready to be breed she will urinate confirming to the buck that she is ready. The buck is now super stimulated and has only one thing on his mind.

**Tips For Hunting The Rut**

When hunting the rut, sometimes a deer hunter will see a doe travel by their hunting stand, tail out, sort of fanning the air, alert to something behind them. Be alert because a buck may not be far behind; with his neck outstretched and head low to the ground making low grunting sounds, in search of his afternoon delight. Once they mate, a buck will stay with that specific doe and they will mate often until her scent

confirms she is out of estrus and or bred. This peak estrus cycle lasts about 24-hours. This is where the term "The Peak Of The Rut" comes from, the date in which most breeding activity takes place. It is said to be triggered by the amount (hours of) of sunlight, in a day, entering the whitetails eyes. The timing of all this activity is nature's way of ensuring the gestation time-table for the fawn birthing in the spring. This way, a young fawn will have ample time to grow and get strong enough to survive the next year into adult-hood.

**The Last Phase Of The Rut**

The last period of the rut, termed the second rut, usually late autumn, is the time that the hormone levels of deer decrease, most female deer of age have been bred by now. There are a few doe who were not bred during the past estrus cycle who will now enter this breeding cycle again and probably be bred this time. Also; many female



Becky Reed used her bow for a nice 8 point buck. Photo courtesy of Uncle Tom's in Oceanna.

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yearlings will come into their first estrus cycle during this last phase of the rut and will be breed at this time.

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GAME CHECKING



## Helping Deer Hunting Tips

Start looking for antler sheds soon after the season is over. Some bucks may not drop their antlers until March, but others lose them sooner. Also, look for sign as clues that you must then put together like pieces of a puzzle to form a complete picture of a deer's movement pattern. Use a topographic map and mark the location of any sheds that you may find on the map. Also

take a small notebook with you to describe any rack you may find. You should also mark down trail locations, rub lines, beds, scrapes, and any deer sightings. Doing this type of research will give you a good idea of where to hunt the following season along with a better understanding of the deer's movements.

The best time to scout for next hunting season is from January through March. You can move freely through the woods without any worry of disturbing any deer that you wouldn't want to spook before the season begins. Even if you jump a buck and it runs off, it will have plenty of time to forget about you and return to the area before next fall. Sign also stands out more clearly now than in the thick, bright foliage of late summer and fall. Again, take plenty of notes. Old overgrown homesites are magnets for deer, particularly if they are not easy to find. brush and weeds will have grown up, offering plenty

of cover; saplings provide browse; overgrown fields harbor forbs and other food and there is often a fruit tree or two with just enough apples left to keep that old buck happy.

continue to the next page



Randall Harvey used an arrow to take down this huge bear. *Photo courtesy of Uncle Tom's in Oceanna.*

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When you are out in the woods doing your pre season scouting, carry a pair of shears with you and clip away any saplings and branches that might be in the way once you decide on a stand site. Also, snip any brush or remove brittle branches that might make noise as you hike to your stand location. Since you will probably be entering the woods well before daylight the quieter your approach the better.

Never shoot the first buck you see entering a field or passing along a trail if you hope to tag a deer with a good sized rack. Smaller, younger animals will often move into an area before the larger deer come out to feed. This is usually just before the end of legal shooting time. Patience is a virtue and it sometimes pays off.

If you plan to have your deer mounted, never drag it by the back legs. this will bend the hair against the grain and may damage it.

Many hunters know that deer move heavily in front of an approaching storm. Few realize that much of this activity takes place six to eighteen hours before the storm arrives. During the final few hours before the storm they'll often be bedded down in thick cover. The lesson here is: be out from half to a full day before the storm arrives.



Young Trey Leigh, from Buckhannon, caught his 1st musky.



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| A | O | R | D | A | Y | S | A | U | G | E | Y | E | U | M | O | T | O | R | N |
| L | G | O | L | L | I | G | E | U | L | B | S | I | O | M | U | R | D | O | T |
| B | V | L | P | S | T | U | R | G | E | O | N | D | E | I | G | U | R | H | G |
| A | H | I | I | E | B | T | H | S | I | F | L | L | A | F | S | T | R | Y | O |
| S | A | S | K | A | M | U | C | A | T | F | I | S | H | E | H | K | A | B | L |
| S | W | K | E | D | A | A | L | R | O | M | S | A | C | E | E | N | I | R | D |
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| O | T | C | A | W | F | C | A | P | E | N | L | D | I | N | K | H | I | S | E |
| R | O | K | C | H | I | N | K | E | K | A | U | U | E | S | C | T | T | Y | R |
| T | R | A | B | P | N | D | R | I | K | J | O | L | A | L | I | A | E | N | E |
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| U | E | L | A | A | O | O | E | E | P | E | A | S | I | E | L | F | K | N | O |
| D | R | G | G | C | A | W | N | G | D | E | F | K | H | A | K | D | F | K | R |
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| K | H | C | A | R | E | G | U | A | S | T | U | O | O | I | R | R | U | A | T |
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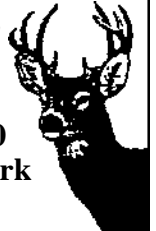
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Name \_\_\_\_\_

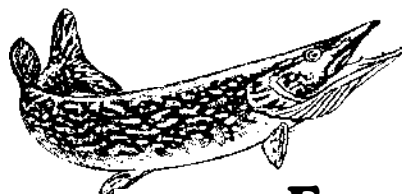
Address \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_

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

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

Game \_\_\_\_\_ Bow \_\_\_\_\_ Gun \_\_\_\_\_ Points \_\_\_\_\_



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