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Vol. 1 Issue 163

Fall 2006



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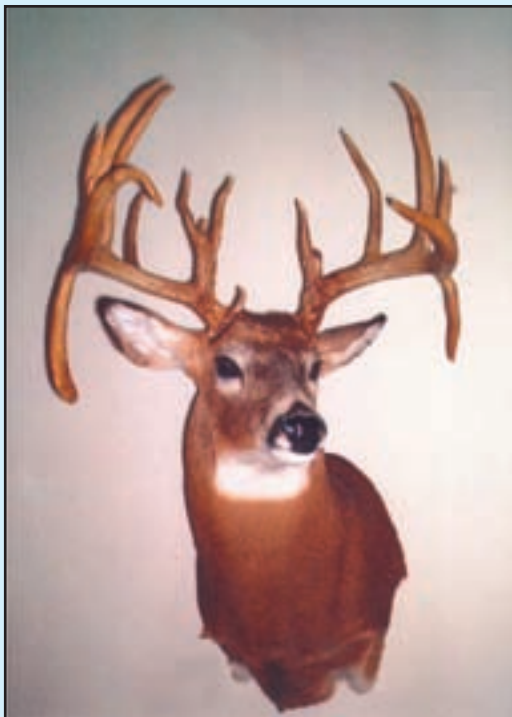
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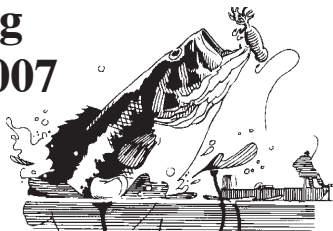
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Cover Photo

Fishing at the Belleville Dam on the Ohio River can sometimes be very productive. Rodney Starcher was fortunate with this large hybrid striped bass. His extra large fish weighed over 13 pounds.

A hybrid striped bass is a cross between a striped bass and a white bass. These fish are not fertile and cannot breed in the wild. The DNR has a stocking program for these fish. *Photo courtesy of Starcher's Sport Shop in*

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Scents Making Sense

When I heard the deliberate, marching steps coming through the leaves, I thought for sure it was another person. For one thing, it was early evening, at least two hours before dusk; for another, friends who hunted the same patch of land had told me that the deer had gone nocturnal. Plus, no one had seen anything better than a six-pointer.

But when I heard the grunts I immediately eased to my feet. Unless another person was walking along, blowing on a grunt tube as a warm up for a kazoo performance, the maker of the scrapes was on his way.

I'd hunted the property for the first time that year on the previous afternoon. Afternoons were best, and the standard modus operandi was to sneak in late afternoon, climb a tree near the edge of the field, and wait for a last-minute-of-daylight deer. The piece of land

was about 80 acres, with no bedding areas, and deer seemed only to trickle through it on the way to farm fields.

But I'd been encouraged by the scrape activity at the edge of the field just inside the woods, where two sizable areas had been thrashed to the mineral soil. I was also eager to try a new product I'd heard about, called MDR 24/Seven granular scents. It's one of those ideas, like camouflage duct tape, that once you hear about it, you wonder why it took so long for someone to do it. Mark Weiser, Pennsylvania, company owner, started out making deer repellants in a granular form. The repellants lasted for nearly a week.

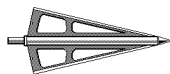
One day it was light bulb time. Why not make a long-lasting deer attractant in the granular form? And he developed MDR 24/Seven scents, which don't evaporate, sink in or freeze. As a matter of fact they were both time release and weatherproof.

It made sense to me. Most hunters try the same old scent technique. They find a good spot with lots of deer sign. When they hunt the area, they use scent to attract more deer. But here is the obvious flaw in that plan - the second you apply that liquid scent, it starts to diminish in potency.

continue to the next page

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Climb into a tree at 2 p.m., and you might wait for a deer for hours. As the minutes ticks past, the scent continues to evaporate and lessen. By the time a deer checks a scent area, such as a scrape, the effect of the liquid attractant is negligible.

The other problem is that human scent is always left when you walk over and pour the liquid on the ground usually exactly where you expect the buck to stand. Dahhh. Human scent can last up to 24 hours so you get busted when the buck almost gets into position. They have an excellent nose, you know!

With the time releases properties of 24/Seven I could scent it one day and hunt it the next day or two. So I'd juiced the two scrapes with the MDR 24/Seven estrus doe, shaking out the granules from a short distance. The first night I didn't. Now it was night number three, and the

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deer wasn't the six-pointer. I had not walked over to the scrape for three days but the granules were still working just like that pink bunny. It was a ten-pointer. The buck came in grunting, slightly bristled and headed right for the scrapes. As he passed behind hemlock trees I took a chance and drew.

It was the wrong guess. When he

came out of the hemlocks he was headed straight for me. He walked to a slight knoll and visually checked the field. I was still at full draw, and the constant grunts were frazzling me. I started to shake.

He headed back towards the scrapes and I saw a chance. I did my best deer grunt imitation, which

continue to the next page



A 10.2 pound channel catfish was caught by Donna Yochym. Photo courtesy of Broken Wheel Campground in Weston.

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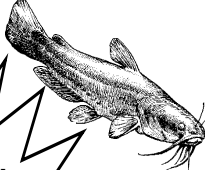

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stopped him, and I shot right over his back. He jumped off and my heart sank but soon, incredibly, I heard the grunts start up again.

I got another arrow on the string. This time the buck went to the far scrape, which I'd ranged at 30 yards. This time I made contact but skipped it over his back. The blood trail was promising at first, but soon clotted and came to an end. I looked hard for two days. I was pretty sure my friends were beginning to doubt my buck description, saying things like, "Are you sure it wasn't the six-pointer?" But weeks later, during a gun-season drive, the big buck again eluded hunters who then wanted to learn more about MDR 24/Seven. The time release granular scent. In a perfect world, the story ends with me getting the deer. Hunting is never a perfect world but I do know "this year he will be bigger and I'll be waiting for him over a 24/Seven scrape."

**Send In Your
Bow Buck Photos.
Form Is On Page 28**



Kristina Godbey landed a nice catfish. Photo courtesy of Starcher's Sport Shop in Lubeck

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Time To Sight In Your Gun

The fall hunting season is just a few weeks away, and now is a good time for hunters to sight in their firearms and be sure they are on target when they go afield, according to Paul Johansen, Assistant Chief of Game Management for the WV Division of Natural Resources Wildlife Resources Section.

"Early fall is a pleasant time to visit a shooting range, and public shooting ranges are normally less crowded during this time of year," said Johansen. "I encourage adults to use this time to introduce youngsters to the enjoyment of shooting, and use this opportunity to instruct

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Bud Boyce, from Waverly, caught a 1.10 pound bluegill at Canaan Valley.

them on safe gun handling.”

The proper sighting in of a firearm involves the use of a safe shooting range, a solid shooting support and a few basic shooting techniques. A shooting range should have a safe backstop and be at least 500 feet from any residence or place where people gather. DNR maintains many shooting ranges statewide, and these facilities are excellent places to sight in a firearm. The location of these ranges can be found on the DNR Web site at www.wvdnr.gov.

Sighting In Your Firearm

While sighting in a firearm, the rifle should be supported solidly





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on a sturdy shooting bench using sandbags or a commercial shooting rest. Always place the stock of the firearm, not the barrel, on the rest. Stock and sight mounting screws should be checked for proper tightness. Be sure the ammo is the correct caliber for the firearm, and

sight in with the ammo that will be used for hunting. Several different brands and types of ammo may need to be tested to determine the one best suited for a particular firearm.

Always wear proper eye and ear
continue to the next page

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protection when shooting, and be sure others nearby are also wearing this protection. Try to time your sighting in sessions so the sun is not shining directly into your face or onto your sights. A sandbag placed between the rear of the stock and your shoulder will greatly reduce felt recoil of heavy recoiling firearms. Assume a comfortable shooting position so your muscles are relaxed. Position the firearm's sights on the target by adjusting the rest so the rest holds the firearm on target and little or no support on your part is required.

Relax, take a deep breath, slowly let the breath out about halfway and then smoothly squeeze the trigger with the pad of the shooting finger when the sights are properly aligned on the target. Be careful not to use the joint area of the shooting finger, and do not jerk the trigger in anticipation of the firearm firing. After firing the shot, follow through smoothly and relax before looking at the target or firing another shot.

Fire a three to five shot group, de-



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termine the center of the group and make sight changes if necessary. Follow the firearm or scope manufacturer's instructions to make the



Denver Blake took a dandy buck with a bow last season. *Photo courtesy of Mountaineer Guns in White Sulphur Springs.*

necessary sight adjustments. Fire several more groups, allowing the barrel to cool between groups, and determine if the firearm is properly sighted in. When you are confident that the firearm is properly sighted in, practice shooting several groups from the various unsupported field shooting positions that likely will be used when hunting.

"Going afield with a properly sighted in firearm will enhance your enjoyment of hunting in the Mountain State," Johansen concluded.

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Christy Fumrow got a 21" small-mouth. *Photo courtesy of Richmond's Store in Sandstone.*



Young Dakota Miller hooked a white bass. *Photo courtesy of Backwater Bait in Newport, Ohio.*



Luann Lancaster caught a 50" musky. *Photo courtesy of Broken Wheel Campground in Weston.*

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Archery In The School Program

The West Virginia Division of Natural Resources Wildlife Resources Section will host its next training for the West Virginia Archery in the Schools Program at the new conference center at Chief Logan State Park on November 28 - 29, 2006, according to Scott Warner, Program Coordinator.

“From the beginning, there has been a tremendous amount of interest from schools located in southern West Virginia to participate in this program,” Warner said. “In fact, because of the interest, this will be the second time in less than a year that we’ll be hosting a training session in Logan County. A lot of credit needs to be given to the local school officials for their interest in allowing us to bring this program to southern West Virginia.”

DNR personnel implemented this program in the fall of 2004 in 19 schools as part of its pilot program to introduce physical education students to an activity that teaches a life skill. In two years there has been a phenomenal amount of interest with the program growing to 100 schools. Because of the success of this program the DNR was able to host its first State Archery tournament last spring at Capital High School in Charleston. Nearly 300 students from 23 schools from every region of the state participated in the tournament.

DNR officials encourage all schools, especially the ones that are not part of the program, to receive the free training. Teachers in-

terested in attending the training at Chief Logan State Park have until November 10 to sign up. However, due to the type of training and amount of time needed for hands-on-instructions, classroom size will be limited. Teachers interested in attending this training are en-

couraged to contact the DNR early. Classes typically fill up within a couple weeks.

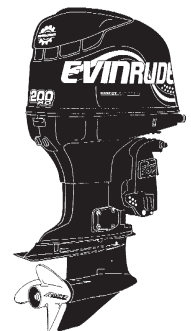
For additional information on the West Virginia Archery in the Schools Program or to attend training, visit the DNR Web site at www.wvdnr.gov or call (304) 558-2771.

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Details On Page Three**



Ed Brooks got a 42" catfish. *Photo courtesy of Jarrett's Bait in Elizabeth.*



A big catfish was landed by Adam Mounts. *Photo courtesy of Cardinal Pawn in Beckley.*



A 22 1/2" smallmouth was landed by Shane Thompson. *Photo courtesy of Outdoor Specialties in Winfield.*

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A 48" gar was hooked by Harold Stutler. Photo courtesy of Crossroads General Store near Newark.



A 42 3/4 pound flathead catfish was reeled in by Gary Bookman.. Photo courtesy of Backwater Bait in Newport, Ohio.

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Youth & Class Q Split Deer Season

A special split deer season for youth and Class Q permit hunters will be held October 28, 2006 and December 25-26, 2006, according to Frank Jezioro, Director of the West Virginia Division of Natural Resources. This season, for the taking of antlerless deer only, will be held on private land in counties or parts thereof open to antlerless (Class N) deer hunting and on 21 specified Wildlife Management Areas (WMAs) throughout the state.

Youth hunters, ages 8 through 14, may participate in the special season, but they must be accompanied by a licensed adult at least 21 years of age. The accompanying adult must remain near enough to the youth to render advice and assistance. The adult is not permitted to carry a firearm or bow. Resident youths do not need a license, but nonresident youth must possess a Class XXJ license and a Class CS stamp.

Resident Class Q hunters must possess a valid Class Q permit and a Class A license and CS stamp, or a Class X, XJ, A-L, or AB-L license. Nonresident adult hunters must qualify for, and obtain, a West Virginia Class Q permit along

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This 35" long striped bass was hooked by Brian Fry, from Princeton.

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- 154 acres m/l with free gas p/o. New cinder block home just needs siding. Various outbuildings. Would make great hunting camp or permanent home. 2BR/1BA. Only one mile from an 11,000 acre hunting club. Property is convenient to several local lakes and rivers. Calhoun Co. Property No.: 47053-00121 Price: \$235,000.00
- Cabin on 130 acres m/l. near Clendenin, Roane Co. Cabin sleeps 12 with 2 very large bedrooms and 1 bath, kitchen/dining/living area. Built-in gun rack. Lg. covered porch. Cabin is wired throughout for generator hook up and also has a gravity fed water storage tank. Property has locked gate. Beautiful views of the valley below from the back deck. Abundant wildlife, including deer, turkey, bobcat, coyote, bear, fox and squirrel. 130 acres m/l #112 \$139,000.
- TOTAL SELF SUFFICIENCY!! 61 acres with UNLIMITED FREE GAS (p/o) which owner is using to run a gas powered generator to supply electric to the house!! NO ELECTRIC BILLS AND NO GAS BILLS!! House was started in 1998 and most of the supplies are there to finish the home. Bring the gas refrigerator and stove and use them FREE!! 2 BR/1BA. Full basement with 2 car garage. Some equip. including a "Bobcat" that may convey at additional cost. House needs work and a good cleaning. Would make great hunting camp. Located in Gilmer Co. near Sand Fork. Property No.: 47053-00272 Price: \$134,000.00
- 110 acres m/l with free gas p/o. 2 story farmhouse with 4BR/1BA, new metal roof and Hurd windows. Owner has done some remodeling with some remaining to be done. 2 Lg. Barns, machine shed, cellar and cellar house. Fenced and cross fenced for livestock. Beautiful farm. Property No.: 47053-00472 Price: \$225,000.00 Roane County.
- 100 acres m/l with free gas p/o. 35 minutes from Charleston. 1-1/2 miles off of I-79 at exit 40. Arts and Crafts Movement home. Beautiful refinished, ornately patterned, hardwood floors throughout. All original hardwood trim has been refinished. Tongue and groove walls. Fireplace surrounded by built ins. 3-4 BR. 2 BA. One unique BR on entire upper floor with dormer sitting area. Lg. Living and dining. Wrap porch. In ground 20X40 heated pool. Cellar with finished cellar house. Huge yard. Organic garden area. Sm. Orchard. Creek. Rolling meadows. Pond. Garage. Outbuilding. Must see. Perfect farm. #108 \$285,000.
- 35 acres m/l located at Fairplain in Jackson Co. 2.4 miles from I-77. Development potential. Gently rolling land. FREE GAS p/o. Marketable timber p/o. Property No.: 47053-00129 Price: \$75,000.00
- Private and secluded 26 acres m/l. Great hunting property. Rugged. 4-wheel drive access only in winter months. Would be suitable for hunting property only. Near Annamoriah Calhoun Co. Property No.: 47053-00470 Price: \$21,000.00

with the Class E license and Class CS/LE stamp to participate in the hunt.

The bag limit during this special season is one antlerless deer per day, which does not count towards the hunter's annual deer season bag limit. A Class N or NN stamp is not required. Each deer taken must be field tagged and checked at an official game checking station within 24 hours of the close of each portion of this special split season and before hunting another deer. All hunters hunting on private land or on any of the 21 specified WMAs on the special Youth and Class Q



A 28 1/2 pound bobcat was taken by Matthew King, from Sandstone.

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deer hunt, with the exception of waterfowl hunters and persons engaged in farming activities on their own land, must wear at least 400 square inches of blaze orange as an outer garment.

Last year, youth and Class Q hunters harvested 2,631 antlerless deer throughout the state during the 3 day split season. Individuals interested in participating in the Special Youth/Class Q Deer Season should consult the 2006-2007 West

Virginia Hunting and Trapping Regulations for additional details and a list of WMAs. Regulations are available at all license agents, DNR offices, and at the DNR's Web site www.wvdnr.gov

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Tim Carpenter and Harold Sturms caught some nice flatheads. *Photo courtesy of Crossroads General Store near Newark.*

Teamsters Bass Tournament

By Donald Casto

The Teamster's Sixth Annual Big Bass Tournament was held on Saturday, August 26th, 2006 at the Daniel Boone Park launch ramp on the Kanawha River at the eastern end of Charleston. Twenty boats, each carrying 2 fishermen started at 6:45 AM in divisions of three boats per flight for a day in search of a big bass. Starting order for the tournament was determined by the date of registration, and only one fish per boat was allowed.

Some of the fishermen went up-river, some down – each to their own hot spot or special section of the river for what appeared to be a

good day to swim or ski, but not to fish. Since temperatures were forecast to be in the mid-nineties with bright bluebird skies, and water temperatures were running in the mid eighties the fishing would be very tough. The finish time of 4:00 in the afternoon gave the contestants a total of approximately nine hours to get the job done, including travel time to and from their chosen

fishing hole.

A large crowd was on hand for the weigh-in as fishermen carried their catch to the scales. As the fish were weighed their weights were announced to the audience and entered on a blackboard. When all was said and done, out of the twenty boats, sixteen keeper bass were weighed in. The team of Reg

continue to the next page

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Hoblitzel and Ed Long weighed in a Largemouth Bass weighing 4.8 pounds to capture first place. The team of Phillip Mullens and Michael Mullens took second place with their biggest fish weighing 2.6 pounds. Dave and Mark Young were the third place winners with their largest fish weighing 2.6 pounds also.

Since both second and third place fish were the same weight and length, placement was decided by the earliest entry.

First place paid \$490 second \$295 and third paid \$195. The Teamsters local 175 and the United Bass Masters Club jointly sponsored this tournament. Each entrant was awarded a high quality Tee Shirt with the Teamsters Logo on the front, and on the back a first-rate rendition of a leaping bass surrounded by the statement "6 th Annual Big Bass Tournament, Teamsters Local No. 175 Saturday August 6, 2006 Daniel Boone Park Charleston, WV.

According to the tournament director, Rodney Cordell, Ten Dollars per boat is donated to the Children's Home Society in Charleston;



J.W. Hamm reeled in a 5 pound, 9 oz. smallmouth.. Photo courtesy of Cardinal Pawnbrokers in Beckley.

this becomes a part of Local 175's charitable contribution to the Society. Every year at Christmas time a special event is held at the local Union Hall. A mountain of toys and the coming of Santa Claus, combined with a big party for the kids make this a very special event for these children, who would not ordinarily have much for Christmas.

The tournament was brought to a close with a cookout for the families and fishermen. In this tournament everyone wins, a fun day of fishing and fellowship, a tee shirt, and a good meal along with the opportunity to participate in a good cause, all for \$30 – that's a real bargain at today's prices.

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Bass Tournament held every year. If you would like to join in and you are not a Teamster, bring one with you. He will have the form to fill out. There must be one Teamster in each boat. So grab your Teamster and come along. Next one is in August 2007. See you there. Hope you catch a limit!

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Small Game Seasons Begin

Hunting for small game in West Virginia will begin October 7 th with the opening of squirrel season. "Squirrel hunting 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 Curt is Taylor, Chief of the Division of Natural Resources, Wildlife Resources Section.

Last year's mast production was good, which should have reduced



A 47" flathead catfish was hooked by Jeaniou Gregory, from Parkersburg..

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overwinter mortality and improved reproduction. A recent mast survey, conducted by the Division of Natural Resources (DNR) indicates that statewide oak, hickory, and walnut production this summer was better than the 36 year average. These factors should provide good hunting opportunities for gray and fox squirrels this fall. Some pre-season scouting to locate areas containing favored foods of squirrels will ensure successful hunting. The daily bag limit for squirrels is six.

The ruffed grouse season opens on October 14 and closes on February 28, 2007 . Brood counts for ruffed grouse are near the five-year average but are considerably lower than last year. The majority of the

brood counts were from the mountain counties. Soft mast crops are abundant statewide. Grouse hunters should look for areas that provide ample cover and soft mast species such as grape, hawthorn, dogwood, and greenbrier. The daily bag limit for grouse is four.

The hunting season for raccoons will open October 14 at 6:00 p.m. and continues through February 28, 2007 . Favorable mast conditions during the last two years have allowed raccoon populations to increase. Mast surveys indicate that food is again plentiful. Hunters, and their hounds, should have a very successful season. Raccoon hunters are reminded that the daily

continue to the next page



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bag limit is four.

Opening day of cottontail rabbit season is November 4. Rabbit populations should be similar to last year. Old fields and brushy pastures are the best habitat types in which to rabbit hunt. Snowshoe hare, bobwhite quail, ring-necked pheasant, bobcat, red fox, and gray fox hunting seasons also open November 4. Hunters should be aware of daily bag limits and season possession limits for each species.

November 4 marks the opening of trapping season for fur bearing animals in West Virginia. Populations of beaver, bobcat, fox, mink, muskrat, and raccoon are high, and trappers should be very successful. Trappers should be aware of season closing dates for each species.

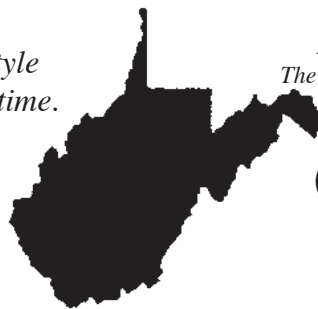
For more complete information on season dates and bag limits consult the 2006-2007 Hunting and Trapping Regulations available at all hunting and fishing license agents,

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Willis Long hooked a nice catfish.
*Photo courtesy of Starcher's Sport Shop in
Lubeck.*

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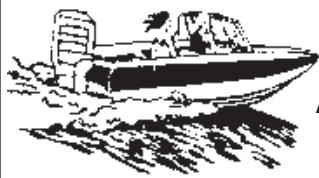
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Hunting Tips

Do you use a decoy? If you use scent along with your decoy don't spray the scent directly on the decoy, but instead place a sponge in a sealed plastic jar with scent applied to it. When hunting simply pull the sponge out of the jar and place it on the ground under the rear portion of the decoy, and when you are through simply place the sponge back in the bottle. Change of scent and sponge are recommended periodically.

Hunting Tip #2

Are the eyes looking dull on your deer mounts? Simply put a portion of Windex on a Qtip and wipe eyes off. This does a very good job on all eyes on taxidermy mounts.

Hunting Tips

Hunting white-tailed bucks from the ground has practically become a forgotten tactic. However, those exclusive tree stand hunters are missing out on a great way to get close to the biggest bucks. The



A 48" catfish was reeled in by Eric Walcutt. He was fishing in the Ohio River at the dam. Photo courtesy of Starcher's Sport Shop in Lubeck.

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monsters out there spend most of their time in the thickest, nastiest cover available places where you can't hang a stand. So I get right in there with them and hunt from a portable bowhunting blind. I'll lay

grass/branches/cover against the blind to really break up its outline and settle in for serious action. Its safer, more comfortable and can get you on bucks that tree stand hunters will never ever see.

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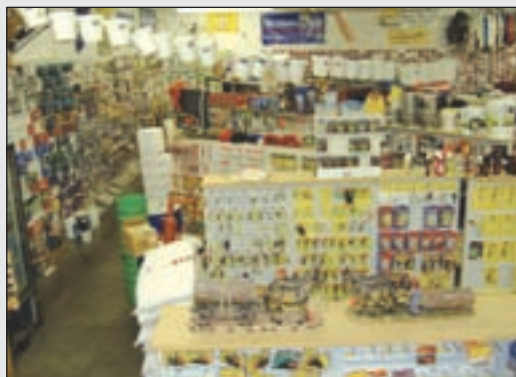
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A piranha was caught by Tom Cronin in the Ohio River. Sometimes aquarium owners release these fish. *Photo courtesy of Backwater Bait in Newport, Ohio.*



Amos Hicks reeled in a nice smallmouth. *Photo courtesy of Richmond's Store in Sandstone.*

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Trappers And Hunters Must Tag Furbearers

Hunters harvesting bobcats, and trappers harvesting bobcats, beaver and fisher must present the whole animal or pelt to an official game checking station or Division of Natural Resources representative within 30 days after the close of the respective season, according to Curtis Taylor, Chief of the Wildlife Resources Section. A tag provided by the checking station shall be attached and remain 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 the different species in West Virginia. Decisions regarding season length, opening and closing dates, and bag limits are reliant upon accurate data obtained from these tags. Hunters and trappers are reminded to consult the 2006-2007 Hunting and Trapping Regulations Summary which is available at all license agents, DNR offices and on the

DNR Web site at www.wvdnr.gov



Tony Crumbliss reeled in a nice 6.93 pound largemouth bass at Mountwood Park. *Photo courtesy of Reese's Country Store near the lake.*



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Fishing With Clarence

“Hey, Herfie! Wanna see a picture of a big largemouth?” I said. The picture was of Clarence with a six-pound plus bass that he’d caught on Stonewall Jackson on our latest trip. Herfie looked at the picture and said, “Ha! I see two big largemouths!” Herfie is short for Herf-Head, an affectionate appellation that Clarence had bestowed on him when he discovered that he had a head harder than a Hereford bull. Clarence and I had tried to recruit Herfie into the fishing ranks but considered it a futile effort when we realized that he wasn’t capable of telling a lie. Now who ever heard of a fisherman that didn’t stretch things a little?

I was really looking forward to this trip with Clarence to dear ol’ Stonewall. The big bass potential is more of a reality on this lake than any in the state, in my opinion. The catch-and-release program has been nothing but great in insuring

a population of lunkers. I figured that I was in for another lesson so I resigned myself to that fact early in the game.

We launched at one of the lesser used ramps and no more trailers were in the lot, good sign or bad sign, who knows? After the “Enterprise” was off the trailer,

By J. R. Sarrett

I parked the truck and ran back to the ramp like a kid on his first fishing trip. The anticipation is always high on Stonewall and when you’re with Clarence it’s twofold. He started up his warp drive engine but there would be no multi-G

continue to the next page



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force acceleration this time, stumps and stick-ups were everywhere. As we were idling downlake, Clarence began his analysis of the situation. "The tributaries are a little low on the pH scale and the barometer is on the ebb. There is no wind so we are devoid of a chop on the water. Water temperature is 72 degrees so I surmise that the majority of the fish will be suspended at the deep dropoffs." I said, "Huh?" Clarence being the kind soul he is began to interpret into Boonese, as he calls it, so I could understand. "The hollers are a little on the sour side and a bad weather spell may be coming. The wind ain't blowing so the fish will be a little deeper

than they normally would, so we gotta fish deep." I say, "Okay!"

At this slow speed Clarence began to get his tackle in order. "What are ya puttin' on?" I said. "Sinko" he said. "Oh, a split shot?" "No, ya big dummy! SinkO not sinker!" That was like priming a pump! The Appalachian diatribe commenced! Jeff Foxworthy would have been green with envy if he could have heard this dialogue. Like I said, laughing a lot is all a part of fishing with Clarence; the guy has a raper wit and I have been skewered many, many times.

He had been right, this was a day that a bite was hard to find. Occasionally, a small bass or crappie would hit but even they were few and far between. Every once in a while Clarence would open up "Wal-mart" in his many cargo

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bays and try something different. I noticed that he used his smallest spinning rod and a plain number six hook. He impaled what looked to me like a small garden slug and started gently casting it into the thickest, weedy, brushy spot on the lake. I watched intently as he started catching bass with this unorthodox combination. They weren't lunkers but they would definitely

continue to the next page



Kimberly Marvel, from Jane Lew, caught a nice bass..

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have been keepers in a tournament. Four or five visited his Ranger only to be returned no worse for the wear. I had caught only one bass all day and a few crappie so this entertainment was welcome. He finally depleted this little jungle of all the biters and pulled up the troll motor. On down the lake we went. The depth finder is a necessary tool in this section of the lake, especially with a 21 foot Ranger with two 200 lb plus fisherman and not to mention the Wal-mart in his cargo bays.

We popped around the bend and I noticed a beautiful bank of rip-rap;



A 7 pound, 3 oz. rainbow was reeled in by Morgan Watkins.. *Photo courtesy of Kile's Grocery in Upper Tract.*

this looked "bassie" so I rigged up a tube and waited for the short trip to bank and the flop of the troll motor. We stopped about 30 yards from the bank so I made a long cast into the rocks close to shore. This was the most potentially big bass spot we'd fished all day so anticipation was high. I noticed that the "Enterprise" wasn't paralleling the bank, instead she was heading back out into the lake. I turned to Clarence and noticed him intently watching the depth finder. He had a Carolina-rigged Sinko on dragging slowly behind the boat. I thought to myself, "Is he watching soap operas or fishing?" I was getting farther and farther away from the rip-rap and wondering if my big buddy was consumed with boredom. All of a sudden he said, "There it is!" and two seconds later he said, "There He is!" I thought a Polaris missile had been launched from beneath me. That bass exploded from the

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water not ten feet away from me. The splash was indicative of the heft of this bass, he was a lunker by all standards. When Clarence asks you to get the net you know it's a biggin'. Finally the big bass was boated, weighed, admired, photographed and released. I was tickled to have witnessed this example of tenacity of a fisherman intent on catching the big one. He had been watching for the drop-off on the depth finder and dropped the Sinko

continue to the next page

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right into this bruiser's mouth. What a fight! Clarence was using the right gear, bait caster and heavy line but it was still a great fight. He fought like a small-mouth!

I hated for this day to end but we were a long way from the trailer and we couldn't make much speed. We motored back to the ramp, cutting each other all the way. This was another great day fishing with Clarence, a hard bite day, but still as enjoyable as they come.

I offered to buy Clarence a good meal for the privilege I'd had that day so we stopped at a really nice restaurant. As we started in the door we noticed a sign saying jacket and tie only. Well, we both had jackets on all we needed was a tie. Clarence goes back to the Ranger, opens up one of his cargo bays and pulls out a clip-on tie. I wouldn't be surprised to find that he had an entire wardrobe in those catacombs of storage! I was still without a tie and all we could find was a set of jumper cables. Clarence said, "I guess you'll just have to wear these. Just don't start nothin'!"

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Jeff Wood reeled in a 21 1/2" rainbow. Photo courtesy of Christy's Trading Post in Mt. Nebo.

Tree Stand Safety


The leading cause of injury among deer hunters is treestand-related falls. The treestand industry has made considerable progress in this area through educating hunters about the need to always wear a full-body fall restraint harness. When used properly these harnesses can help prevent serious injury, continue to the next page

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and could save your life. However, many do not completely address some of the chief causes of injury.

The Jolt

Falling from a stand, even when wearing a harness is not a pleasant experience. Most harnesses are designed to break your fall, i.e. keep you from reaching the ground should you fall while in your tree-stand. When hunting however, you need to move around, stand and sit, or change positions to shoot. This requires a certain amount of slack in your harness tether, and a fall of even a foot or two can exert considerable shock to the body.

The situation becomes even more dangerous if you cannot recover (get back into your stand) quickly. Suspension trauma or blood pooling can occur when suspended motionless in a harness for periods of time, which can eventually lead to unconsciousness. Depending on the circumstances, you may have from a few minutes to a half-hour before it's too late. But that's not the worst of it.

The Freefall

Most accidents are not the result of falling directly from a treestand. According to the Kentucky Department of Fish & Wildlife 75 to 80 percent of falls occur while a hunter is in the act of either climbing to or from the stand, or getting into or out of it. This is a much more difficult situation to address.

Hunters using climbing style stands can be reasonably safe if they follow some basic guidelines. Begin by attaching your harness tether to the tree while still at ground level. As you climb, do not detach the tether. Instead, loosen it, move it up, then re-tighten. Similarly, keep it attached, sliding it down as you descend. This will ensure

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you are always securely attached to the tree. The situation becomes a bit more problematic when using ladder stands as you cannot keep a conventional harness attached to the tree as you climb. With a hang-on style you can use your lineman's style belt and attachment tether to

stay attached.

Fortunately there are products available that address all of these important safety issues. Stop by your local sporting goods store or bow shop. Many stands are available to insure your safety. Hunt safely this bow season.

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When photographing animals in the wild, camouflage your equipment as well as yourself. Tape your tripod's legs with camo tape. A camouflage t-shirt works well to cover the camera body and lens and gives you freedom to move your hands underneath.

Hunting Tips #2

Proper duck or goose calling relies on short blasts of air that come from the diaphragm. Forcing air into the call should feel more like a grunt or cough from deep in your chest than simple blowing or exhaling.

Hunting Tips #3

When hunting geese or ducks, al-



Charles Ray landed a 47 pound Ohio River catfish. *Photo courtesy of Starcher's Sport Shop in Lubeck.*

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Ducks and geese will be reluctant to come all the way to your decoys if they must make their final



A 41" tiger musky was hooked at Mountwood Park by Christine Hinkle. *Photo courtesy of Reese's Country Store near the park.*

approach over cover. Always set up your decoy spreads so that the birds can glide in over a safe area such as open water or a bare field. Ducks and geese must land into the wind, which means the wind should be blowing from the decoys toward the open approach area.

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A large coyote was taken by Gary Bragg. Photo courtesy of Water Front Sporting Goods in Alderson!



A 7 1/4 pound rainbow trout was caught by Jeremy See. Photo courtesy of Kile's Grocery in Upper Tract.



An early season Ohio bow kill (8 pt) was made by Nathan Wyer. Photo courtesy of Jarrett's Bait in Elizabeth.

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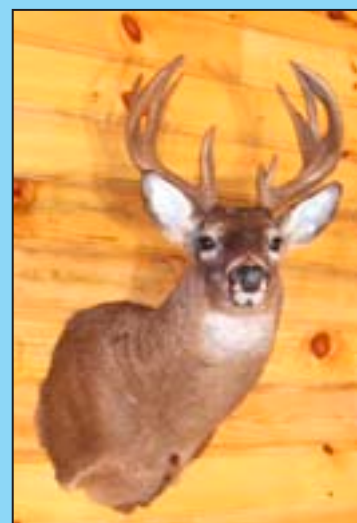
A quality Idaho Big Horn Sheep was taken recently by Aaron Jones. Photo courtesy of Outdoor Specialties in Winfield.



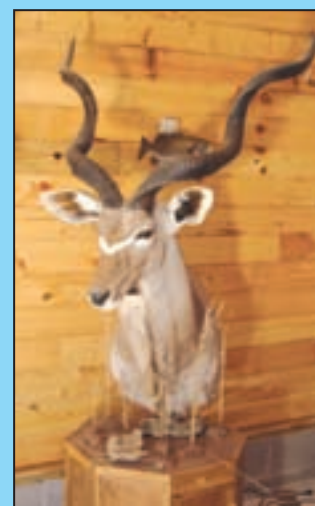
A nice musky was reeled in by Joe McFee. Photo courtesy of Jarrett's Bait in Elizabeth.



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As hunters take to the field for West Virginia's annual deer hunting seasons, their freezers will soon be filled with an ample amount of deer (venison) harvested from around the Mountain State. "Many West Virginia families supplement their diet with nutritious venison harvested in West Virginia," according to Curtis I. Taylor, Chief of the Division of Natural Resources Wildlife Resources Section. "Venison is a healthy low-fat alternative to beef." Venison has fewer calories and nearly five times less fat than an equivalent serving of beef.

Hunters are not the only West Virginians who benefit from deer harvested in the state. The Wild-



Fishing at Curry Beach, NC, Brandon Lilly had a couple of hours of fight for this big lemon shark. Photo courtesy of Cardinal Pawnbrokers in Beckley.

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life Resources Section sponsors the Hunters Helping the Hungry Program (HHH) which provides deer meat for low-income families. Since its inception in 1992, hunter-donated venison has provided more than 720,000 meals for needy West Virginians.

For more information about the HHH program or deer hunting seasons and regulations, consult the 2006-2007 West Virginia Hunting and Trapping Regulations booklet available at all DNR offices and license agents or visit the DNR Web site at www.wvdnr.gov.

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Performance Psychology

As I talk to different levels of tournament fishermen around the country, I frequently hear anglers negatively comparing themselves to top competitors. Co-anglers as well as second- and third-tier pros are inclined to make comments like, "I sure wish I could fish crankbaits like David Fritts" or "I'd like to be as confident as Larry Nixon, 'cause when he gets a couple of bites in practice, he thinks they were 6-ounders, while I figure my bites were probably bream or drum." These kinds of comments underscore a universal tension in competitors across many sports "the pull between being comfortable with yourself on the one hand and wanting to improve on the other. This month let's take a look at how these apparently competing pressures can work together.

Push-pull

In a number of life domains, and certainly in the world of fishing, we must balance opposing forces in order to be maximally success-

By J.T. McNamara

ful. Just recently, round two of the Stren Series tournament on Lake Champlain was canceled due to high winds. The thrill of catching champion-sized smallmouths and the importance of promoting our sport were weighed against the risks associated with competing in potentially unsafe conditions. As you know, Mother Nature won this one.

Similarly, in the psychological battle we wage with ourselves to be top performers, we need to take seriously both sides of the dilemma that is self-acceptance vs. self-improvement.

Hear this: Self-acceptance comes first. We have talked in other articles about how it is important to understand your temperament, your values and your competitive angling strengths and skills. However, let me suggest that if you haven't done so recently you would be wise to do a full psychological inventory.

continue to the next page

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Here's what I mean.

Dig out your Performance Psychology and Tournament Fishing notebook, the one you have been using since you first started reading these articles (if you don't have one, go to your local discount store and buy a three-subject notebook and label it Performance Psychology and Tournament Fishing). Fill the first page with words, phrases and sentences that describe you. You can use adjectives like competitive, intense, laid-back, intuitive, analytical and the like, or phrases like attentive father, dependable church member, reliable friend, and so forth. Also list your competitive-fishing skills.

Enlist the help of a friend or two, or perhaps a relative or significant other to make your inventory complete. On the first page, focus primarily on the positive facets of your knowledge, skills and characteristics.

Now, turn the page and write down those traits or dimensions where you are not particularly strong, or where you would like to improve. If you recognize the risks associated with being too competitive, for example, put that down.

Perhaps you are not as attentive to your loved ones as you would like to be, so candidly write this in your book. If you have a specific fishing skill you would like to improve, admit it by putting ink on paper. You don't Now set your notebook aside. After a few days, go back and review what you have written about yourself. See if you have painted an accurate picture. Feel free to revise your initial self-evaluation. Once you are satisfied that you have a reasonably full and accurate portrait, you should congratulate yourself on being candidly aware of exactly who and what you are.

Now comes the important part. Looking objectively at both pages, your strengths and your weaknesses, give yourself a pat on the back for being you. While there are a finite number of human talents and characteristics, there are infinite combinations, and clearly there is only one you. All of the worthwhile self-concept/self-confidence theories begin with a foundation of self-acceptance. You have to be able to look yourself in the mirror (or in this case in the notebook) and say something like, "Yep, this is me. I like who I am." After all, this

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is what your best friends and closest relatives would say about you, and it is what you would say about them. None of us is perfect, and still we must fundamentally accept and value ourselves and the people around us, in spite of our flaws.

continue to the next page



Brain Galloway caught a 4 1/2 pound bass at Mountwood Park .
Photo courtesy of Reese's Country Store in Deerwalk.

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Self-improvement
 Nevertheless, while self-acceptance is necessary as a foundation, it is not enough if we wish to become champion competitive anglers. Previous articles in this series on goal-setting, practice schedules, skill improvement and challenging yourself to realize your potential are all worth rereading at this point. Even the best anglers, including the guys we admire like Larry Nixon and David Fritts, never stop learning.
 However, at least once a month go back and review your inventory, and refamiliarize yourself with the guy who wears your shirt and drives your boat. He is your best ally, and he needs to be your friend. Emphasize self - acceptance never give up on self-development, and do your best to keep the two in balance. Stay ahead of the crowd.

Bear Lake Angler Access Improvements

The Division of Natural Resources has completed improvements to Bear Lake in Ohio County, making the lake accessible to physically challenged anglers, according to DNR Director Frank Jezioro. An asphalt walkway approximately 1,100 feet long and 8 feet wide was constructed. Two fishing jetties to allow anglers access to deeper water also were built. The parking area was paved with asphalt and parking spaces were designated for the physically challenged. Improvements were also made to the boat launching ramp, and curbs and guard posts were installed.

The improvements were a result of a recommendation from the DNR Physically Challenged Advisory Board. Members of the Board assisted in the design and layout of the new facilities to make them accessible to individuals with physical disabilities.

“Area anglers owe a special thanks to the Physically Challenged Advisory Board for their support of this project” said DNR Director Frank Jezioro. “These improvements not

only provide physically challenged anglers access to the lake, but also will allow all users, especially children, better access to the lake and make their fishing experience more enjoyable.” He added that the fish-
 continue to the next page



Isaac Null caught a white bass that weighed 1 1/2 pounds. Photo courtesy of Backwater Bait in Newport, Ohio

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that the fishing jetties and walkway will also allow physically challenged hunters the opportunity to hunt waterfowl on the lake.

DNR officials extend thanks to a local contractor, Shawn O'Brien of O'Brien's Rent-All, for his assistance on the construction. O'Brien donated the use of a dozer for site preparation of the improvements.

The total cost of the improvements was approximately \$88,000. Funding for this project came from the sale of hunting and fishing licenses, including the conservation stamp.

Bear Lake is located on the Bear Rocks Lake Wildlife Management Area in Ohio County. Bear Lake is one of four lakes located on the area. These lakes offer good fishing for bass, bluegills and catfish. DNR Wildlife Resources Section personnel stock the lakes with trout in the spring. The lakes are located three miles northeast of Dallas Pike in Ohio County. They are accessible from I-70 by using the Dallas Pike exit, north to county Route 41/3, then county routes 39/4 to 41/6

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John Suffen Jr. landed a 7 1/2 pound rainbow trout. *Photo courtesy of Kile's Grocery in Upper Tract.*



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5 Reasons To Go Squirrel Hunting

Most of my friends are in the field with antlers on their minds. Normally I would have the same outlook during this time of year, but Mom came for a visit and I suddenly reverted to my childhood passion.

My fondest memories are of squirrel hunting with Grandma Daisy, so when Mom got here from Arizona we dusted off the old Browning

22 rifle that Stan gave me for my birthday a few years ago, too many years ago in fact, and headed to the woods. I hate to admit that it had been about 10 years since I went squirrel hunting! The trip reminded me there are plenty of reasons to go squirrel hunting more often!

Reason #1: IT IS FUN. Many of us got introduced to hunting
 continue to the next page





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the pursuit of small game like squirrels and rabbits. We often forget how much fun it was, and still is. Plenty of youth hunts are focused on big game, like deer and turkey, but I often wonder why we don't just take the kids squirrel hunting. Game is plentiful, the weather is pretty good, and the squirrels are challenging quarry, but not so difficult that you come home empty handed more often than not.

Reason # 2: HONE YOUR SKILLS. Sneaking through the woods on a mini-spot and stalk can sharpen your hunting skills. Fine tuning your eyes to the slightest movement, like the flick of a squirrel tail, can get your mind ready to spot the deer you are after, whose only movement might be the flick of an ear. Sometimes the squirrels just sit there in plain sight, but many times you have to creep along silently, using the terrain to hide your movements, just to get in position for a shot. Once in a while you get spotted, receive a severe scolding, and have to wait them out.


Reason # 3: SCOUTING SIDEBAR: Once in awhile we overlook places where deer may be hiding, traveling or feeding. A rambling squirrel hunt can help you discover new clues that you might not have scouted previously. During our recent trip I found several scrapes and other sign that will help determine new deer stand locations.

Reason # 4: GREAT CUISINE: It had been a few years since I cleaned a squirrel, so our attempts to process the game were a little rusty, but quite functional. We managed to come home with all the re e skillet. One of the squirrels was an old male, so we decided to boil the meat prior to frying. It took two hours of boiling before the meat began to fall away from the bone, but it was worth the extra step. Next we soaked them in milk, rolled them in cracker crumbs and

fried them in butter. Delicious!


Reason # 5: MENTAL HEALTH: You really owe it to yourself to take a day off and go squirrel hunting. I'm just going to repeat reason number one.

Send In Your Big Fish & Bow Buck Photos. It's FREE Form On Page 28



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Hunting Tips

Hunting Tips

Want to make tight holding grouse a little more likely to fly? Get a hawk call and blow it periodically. This will cause the pheasants to get nervous and maybe bust out in flight more readily.

Hunting Tips #2

To keep your broadheads from rusting, apply a thin coat of Vaseline petroleum to the blades. To cut down on string slap noise, apply some moleskin to the back face of the bow. The moleskin, plus a string silencer, will keep your bow whisper quiet.

Hunting Tips #3

When muzzleloading always be conscious of the need for a second shot. Have a pre-measured vial of powder, bullet and cap tucked into an accessible pocket. Experienced muzzleloaders can reload in about 30 seconds.

Hunting Tips #4

While a shoulder shot will put most deer down, try behind the shoulder through the ribs. This spoils less meat and makes a good killing shot.

Hunting Tips #5

When you are shopping for a new bow sight with fiber optics, the durability of the fiber-optic pins becomes one of the greatest concerns. You should look for a sight that has the fiber enclosed to prevent damage and breakage.

Hunting Tips #6

Wear rubber boots to reduce ground scent. This will help prevent deer detecting your presence.

Hunting Tips #7

TREESTAND SAFETY - Anytime you are in an elevated hunting position you must consider safety. Don't wait until you are in the stand to fasten your safety belt or har-

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ness. Eighty percent of treestand falls occur when you are entering or leaving the stand, not while you are sitting in it.

Hunting Tips #7

Always walk on the inside of any curves in the trail. This will help prevent game from seeing you as you come around the turn.

North Bend Get-Away

CAIRO, W.Va.- In honor of those who have served or those currently serving in the Armed Forces, all guests are able to take advantage of the Red, White and Blue Romantic Getaway package from November until the end of December 2006 at North Bend State Park, according to Group Sales Coordinator Kristi Steed.

The special includes one night of lodging, breakfast for two de-



Young Raymond Rector, from Bridgeport, landed his 1st musky and then released it.

livered to the lodge room and a complimentary rose for the price of \$72.69.

A home -cooked breakfast by Chef Jim Ingel and his staff is included," Steed says.

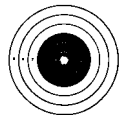
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Josh Clendenin caught a nice catfish. Photo courtesy of Crossroads General Store near Newark.



Brian Trunk hooked a nice bass. Photo courtesy of Backwater Bait in Newport, Ohio.



10 year old Travis Pesimor caught a nice rainbow. Photo courtesy of Justin's Hunting & Fishing in Huntington..

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