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Issue 311

October/November 2023



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Bass**

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Mark A. Goudy

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Cover Photo

Mark Goudy, owner of this magazine, reeled in a 6 pound, 7 oz. largemouth bass at Burnsville Lake recently. It took a 5" white/green pumpkin wacky rigged Senko. It had an unusually large belly. Look for another pic of this fish on page 4. Belly Bass.

Have a great fish or archery deer or other big game animal from this year - 2023? Look on page 38 for a form & information.

Good Luck this season.

Archery Season Open

SOUTH CHARLESTON, W.Va. — The West Virginia Division of Natural Resources announced today that the state’s archery and crossbow seasons for white-tailed deer, black bear and wild boar will open on Sept. 30.

These popular seasons, which last through Dec. 31, coincide with the state’s fall foliage season and give hunters a unique opportunity to enjoy West Virginia’s scenic beauty. Hunters who want to get the most out of their hunting adventures are encouraged to purchase their license and stamps at WVhunt.com before the sea-

sons start and visit WVtourism.com/fall for trip inspiration.

“In just a few weeks, the thrill of our archery and crossbow seasons and the beauty of West Virginia’s fall color will come together and give everyone a chance to connect with nature and enjoy incredible outdoor adventures,” said WVD-NR Director Brett McMillion. “Whether you’re an experienced hunter or just starting out, I encourage you to get your license and stamps early so you don’t miss out on this season.”

White-Tailed Deer

Hunters may harvest one deer on their base license during the archery and crossbow season and may take up to two additional deer if they purchase a Class RB or RRB stamp before the season starts on Sept. 30. Depending on the county, one or two additional deer may be taken during the season. Resident landowners hunting on their own property and Class DT license holders are not required to purchase additional archery stamps.

Hunters may take up to two deer in one day, but may not take more than one antlered deer in a day. Hunters may not take more than three antlered deer during the reg-

continue to the next page



Mark Goudy is shown with another pic of the “belly bass” on this months cover. The bass weighed 6 lbs., 7 oz. from Burnsville Lake.

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Logan Martin used a bow for this huge 15 point from Greenbrier Co. It field dressed at 187 lbs.

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ular deer seasons and the following Mountaineer Heritage season combined.

In nine counties or portions thereof, hunters must take an antlerless deer in any regular deer season before harvesting a second antlered deer in that county. In West Virginia's four archery-only counties (Logan, McDowell, Mingo and Wyoming), hunters may not take more than two deer during the archery season and one deer must be antlerless.



Jolene Workman got her biggest buck ever in this archery season.

Hunters are reminded that all deer must be electronically registered and legally tagged, but the first deer doesn't need to be checked before harvesting a second deer on the same day.

Black Bear

Hunters may harvest two bears in a year if at least one bear is taken in Boone, Fayette, Kanawha, Logan, McDowell, Mingo, Nicholas, Raleigh or Wyoming county. The daily bag limit is one.

Unless they are exempt from having to purchase a license,



Colton Ravenscroft brought in an early season bow buck.

resident bear hunters are required to buy a base license and Bear Damage Stamp (Class DS) to hunt bear. Nonresident bear hunters are required to purchase a Bear Hunting License (Class EE), Conservation/Law Enforcement Stamp (CS/LE) and a Bear Damage Stamp (Class DS) or the Nonresident Lifetime License License (Class EE-L). Nonresidents hunting on National Forest land also need a National Forest Stamp (Class I).

Wild Boar

West Virginia's wild boar archery and crossbow seasons are open only in Boone, Logan, Raleigh and Wyoming counties. The

continue to the next page

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season bag limit is one. A second split of the wild boar archery and crossbow season will reopen on Feb. 2-4, 2024. To hunt in the February wild boar season, hunters will need to purchase a 2024 hunting license, which will go on sale in December.

Hunters are also reminded that they are required to check their game online at WVhunt.com, by calling 1-844-WVCheck or by visiting a license agent. Youth hunters, even if exempt from purchasing a license, are required to check their game on their own account. For more information about electronic game checking, visit WVdnr.gov/electronic-game-check-faq.

For more information about these seasons, hunters are encouraged to consult the 2023-24 West Virginia Hunting and Trapping Regulations Summary available at WVDNR offices, license agents or at WVdnr.gov.

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Cory Cleavenger caught two 4 lb., 11 oz. bass at Stonewall Jackson. Johnny Richards team won at Stonewall Jackson - 19 lb., 12 oz.

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Steve Casto & Monte Kreps are holding a 20 lb., 7 oz. bag that clinched the Stonewall Classic and had a 4 lb., 8 oz. 2nd Big Bass



John Christopher landed a 5 lb., 9 oz. at the Stonewall Classic. He and Sam Alvaro came in second with a 2 day 32 lb., 9 oz. total.



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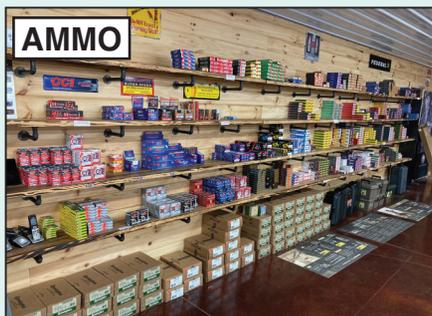


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Catching Fall Bass

Fall bass fishing gives anglers of all skill levels the opportunity to catch dozensometimes hundredsof bass in a single day. Unfortunately, many of us tend to make things a bit more complicated than they really need to be.

Pro Boyd Duckett makes a concerted effort to simplify his tackle selection throughout the autumn months. Instead of filling his boat with everything he owns, he focuses on 5 specific presentations that cover his bases in almost every stage of fall.

Crankbaits

Jerkbaits

Swimbait

Topwaters

Lipless Crankbaits

Shallow and mid-depth crankbaits

If the conditions line up well, you can certainly catch big fall bass by deep cranking creek ledges throughout the fall. A more consistent pattern, however, comes from utilizing shallow squarebills and mid-depth crankbaits.

Target shallow flats – “Most of the bass are going to be shallow this time of year,” Duckett said. “I like to primarily target the 3 to 6-foot range and focus on shallow flats very close to creek channels. These flats are natural stopping

Water clarity matters – “If the water is stained, I suggest targeting the 1 to 3-foot range with the Yamamoto Chikara 100 Series, which is an incredible squarebill,” Duckett said. “In dirty water, bass will get dirt-shallow and hold close to stumps and laydowns. For moderately clear water, I have more success on the Chikara continue to the next page

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Kasy McCumbers, from Spencer, reeled in her biggest largemouth.



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100 Series, which is an incredible squarebill,” Duckett said. “In dirty water, bass will get dirt-shallow and hold close to stumps and laydowns. For moderately clear water, I have more success on the Chikara 200 Series, which targets the 4 to 6-foot depth range.”

Cover water quickly – “The key to fall fishing is putting the trolling motor on high and keep moving until you find something worth making multiple casts to,” Duckett said. “The fish are going to be in groups, so it’s important to move quickly until you find a school of active fish. The quicker you eliminate dead water, the faster you can get on a big sack of fish.”

Magic water temperature – “You can catch hundreds of bass on these crankbaits throughout the fall, but your biggest fish will move shallow when the water temperature gets into the 50-degree range,” Duckett said.

Keep changing it up – “I use shad patterns almost exclusively in the fall, but the bass can get very peculiar when they school,” Duckett said. “If you’re getting



Wyatt Gabehart landed a big largemouth on the Kanawha.

short strikes, it’s probably not a color issue. More than likely, they want a different action. Make sure you keep switching between wide wobbling and flat-sided crankbaits for the best results because every school you find will be different.”

Shallow jerkbaits

Jerkbaits are extremely overlooked lures for catching schooling bass in the fall. Schooling fish aren’t difficult to locate this time of year, which means they get a lot of pressure from anglers. If you run across a wary school, a jerkbait is the way to go.

Force a reaction bite – “Jerkbaits are so effective right now because their aggressive, slashing action forces a bass to react,”

Stick with simple colors –

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“There’s no need to get too fancy with your jerkbait color selection,” Duckett said. “On cloudy days or in lowlight conditions, I stick with a matte shad pattern to allow the fish to get a better bead on it. When it’s sunny, you can’t continue to the next page




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Big swimbaits

Fishing with swimbaits is an excellent way to catch giant fall bass. While other reaction baits are used primarily for covering water, Duckett views a swimbait much like a cleanup hitter in a baseball lineup.

Important swimbait characteristics – “It’s absolutely essential to find a swimbait that does two primary things,” Duckett said. “You want the tail to produce a

lot of “thump” and you also need the body to rock side-to-side. I’ve fished with a lot of swimbaits and the Yamamoto Swimbait takes the cake. The fish just annihilate that



Joey Harper, from Glenville, reeled in largemouth bass.

thing.”

Use it as your heavy hitter – “I’ll use a crankbait, jerkbait, lipless crankbait and topwater plug to find schools, but when I find them I’ll use a swimbait to catch the larger fish,” Duckett said. “It’s an excellent way to cull through schools in the fall. 1 and 2-pounders can be busting on top and you can catch big 4-pounders from underneath them with a swimbait. You won’t get as many bites, but they’ll be big.”

Head size is essential. – “Each swimbait has a specific cadence that gives it the most action,” Duckett said. “In a sense, you’re trapped at a certain reel speed, so ‘reel slower’ isn’t the answer
continue to page 14



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to get deeper, you have to add weight so you don't change your retrieve speed. The Yamamoto Swimbait likes to be fished slowly, so I'll have three different head sizes rigged up a 1/8-ounce head for shallow cover, a 1/4-ounce head for mid-depth cover and a 1/2-ounce head for fishing deeper

structure."

Topwater

If you're seeing a lot of schooling bass break the surface, it's always a good idea to throw a topwater before leaving the area. Whether you're throwing a walking or popping topwater, it's important to make long casts and

fish quickly.

Catch larger fish with a walking bait. "My favorite walking bait is a Yamamoto Tate' 100 Series," Duckett said. "Walking topwater baits absolutely catch bigger fish in the fall and I think it's because they really trigger a bass' predatory instincts. That big bass thinks something is trying to get away and it can't help but attack it."

Tired of short strikes on your topwater lures? In order to hook more bass, Duckett suggests reeling in your lure when it gets half-way back to the boat. Most of his short strikes come while his lure is close to the boat, so he reels it in quickly to avoid missing any opportunities at a big bass.

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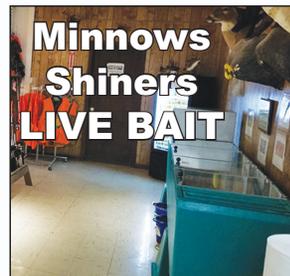


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Adam Uncapher arrowed a 10 point in Barbour County.



J.P. Hott got a fine buck with a bow in Hardy County.

Crossbow Tips

1. Buy the best you can. There is of course a big difference between an inexpensive entry-level crossbow and a high-end crossbow. The bargaining model costs less, but it's not as well built, accurate and reliable as the more expensive model.

For example, you can buy a complete crossbow package that contains everything you need. For example, a crossbow, a few arrows and arrowheads, a telescopic sight, a jig, and a quiver for as little as \$100 to \$200. But you should remember that a good entry-level crossbow comes with 200-\$300 only for starting.

2. Use a 120-pound crossbow to



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Manufacturers of crossbows and compound bows are always trying to improve their flight characteristics. They make their crossbow faster to increase the weight of the draw.

However, the crossbow should be able to accelerate the arrow to an initial speed of at least 300 feet per second so that you can hit your target precisely over long distances of over 90m.

4. Treat yourself to a good visor
continue to page 18



Triston Dobbins had a fun bow hunt with this Gilmer Co. buck. Photo courtesy of Tyler Outdoor Supply in Middlebourne.

the shooter's age.

There are crossbow models designed especially for children who want to improve their marksmanship while having fun.

Adults who want to learn crossbow shooting can make do with a 120-pound throwing weapon. This quality device offers good precision and is easy to use.

3. Choose a higher pull weight

model

The main difference between many crossbows is the draw weight. Better and more powerful crossbows usually start in the 175 lbs range, although one shouldn't generalize here either.

There are also excellent crossbows that are less than 150 lbs. In general, the bigger the better, or in this case faster.

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Many inexpensive crossbows have simple and basic sights or scopes that make aiming difficult for long range shooting. You are much better served with a multiple crosshair or multi-red dot sight because these make aiming a lot easier. They are also available in many different magnifications.

Within aiming the device, there are auxiliary lines or points for aiming when you want to shoot over greater distances. You start with a single red dot or crosshair for simple aiming devices. You can aim very well with them for a fixed distance, usually 20 meters.

For longer distances, you have to try to compensate for the ballistic

curve by holding it higher.

However, Multi-range cross-bow scopes are the most popular because they show you multiple illuminated points, each suitable for a specific distance.

5. Use arrows/bolts as good as possible

Very cheap price arrows are usually not really well made, which is why they can break faster and also fly badly. So you should purchase arrows that have already received good ratings and are specially designed for crossbow shooting, as the crossbow bolts or arrows are shorter than bow arrows.

Also make sure that the nocks continue to page 20

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Bill Basil had archery luck with a 10 point. Photo courtesy of Middle Mountain Sporting Goods in Elkins.

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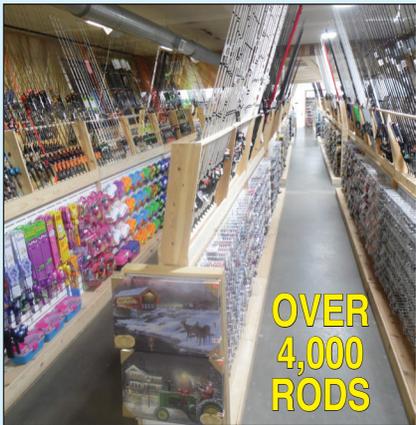
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are suitable for crossbow arrows and not designed for compound bows.

Arrows can be made of wood, aluminum, carbon or fiberglass, or a mixture of aluminum and carbon. Beginners are best to use aluminum arrows first, as these are cheap and robust.

If you want to invest a little more right away, you can get carbon arrows. Carbon arrow is the best seller among the crossbow arrows on the market. Because it is extremely light and flies surprisingly quickly.

6. Get the right accessories
Crossbow Essential Accessories

A good purchase allows you to get several additional accessories such as bolts, spare parts, carrying case, and more. A rope tensioning aid is essential for every crossbow hunter. Of course, you can also cock the crossbow by hand, but after 10-20 cocking times, you run out of the air and your hands hurt.

Most of the tensioning aids are available for around \$20 and up.



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Another important must-have is the quiver. The bolts can be transported in it, saving space, gently and safely.

The last thing you should do is find a suitable bag for your crossbow. There you have space for ev-

erything you need on the shooting range.

According to the Weapons Act, wielding a crossbow in public is allowed. But let's be honest, you'd also look weird if a guy

continue to the next page



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was sitting next to you on the tram with a crossbow. Do yourself and your fellow human beings a favor and get yourself a bag.

7. Only shoot where allowed

Remember, a crossbow is a weapon. Always be aware of this phenomenon and constantly keep in mind that such a bolt flies at over 300 km / h and can kill someone with ease.

It is therefore best ALWAYS go to the nearest shooting range or shooting club to train. Appropriate safety measures have already been taken there and you can concentrate fully on the shooting.

If you don't have this option, you should shoot where there are no people. Large hills that are easily visible are always suitable. You can then place your target directly on the slope so that arrows that are not hit disappear into the ground and do not injure anyone.

8. Take care of your fingers

Never grasp the guide rail when shooting. The jumping tendon could injure or even break your finger. In addition, you should al-

ways hold your crossbow by the handle and make sure that your fingers cannot get in the way of the arrow or the string.

Just as your fingers are less able to withstand an impact with the string, your crossbow cannot withstand a shot without an arrow very well. With this so-called dry shot, all the energy from the tendon goes back into the limbs, which in the worst case can lead

to the limbs breaking.

9. Get a feel for the trigger

Each crossbow has a unique trigger. You should have shot your crossbow enough times to know exactly when the arrow will be passed. You can also try shooting with and without gloves so that the difference can be clearly felt and you can find out what you like better.

continue to the next page



Krystle Morris bow hunted for a quality 10 point buck.

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10. Practice makes perfect

The saying “practice makes perfect” also applies to crossbow hunting. Shoot from a surface (table, trestle, sandbag, bipod, etc.) on which the crossbow rests. Use these exercises to practice shooting with precision and to get a feel for the trigger. When you know your crossbow well, you will get better results.

However, certain fundamentals remain unchanged.

11. Take care of your crossbow regularly

The crossbow is a mechanical device that requires regular maintenance to keep it working as it did on the first day. This means that you should check all moving parts like the CAM system and the tendons for wear. This is very important because enormous forces act on the individual parts with every shot.

At the first sign of tendon fraying or other unusual signs of wear and tear, the parts should be replaced.

With good care, of course, the repair effort is reduced, for example with the car.

After every workout, clean everything well and lubricate the tendons with wax so that they stay supple. The guide rail lubricates regularly with oil or special care

www.wvasportsman.net



Grayson Howell arrowed a 10 point. *Photo courtesy of Middle Mountain Sporting Goods in Elkins.*

products after every 100 to 150 shots.

12. Relax the crossbow

Always remember to relax the crossbow after a day of hunting. This can be accomplished by using equipment called a bandage or shooting a practice arrow at a target.

To prevent the string and the bow from breaking, it is imperative not to relax the bow manually by pulling the string dry without the arrow.

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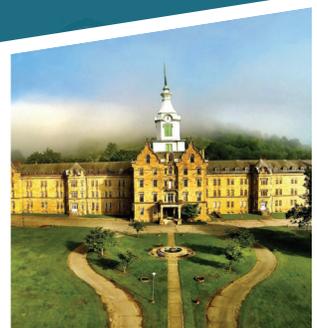
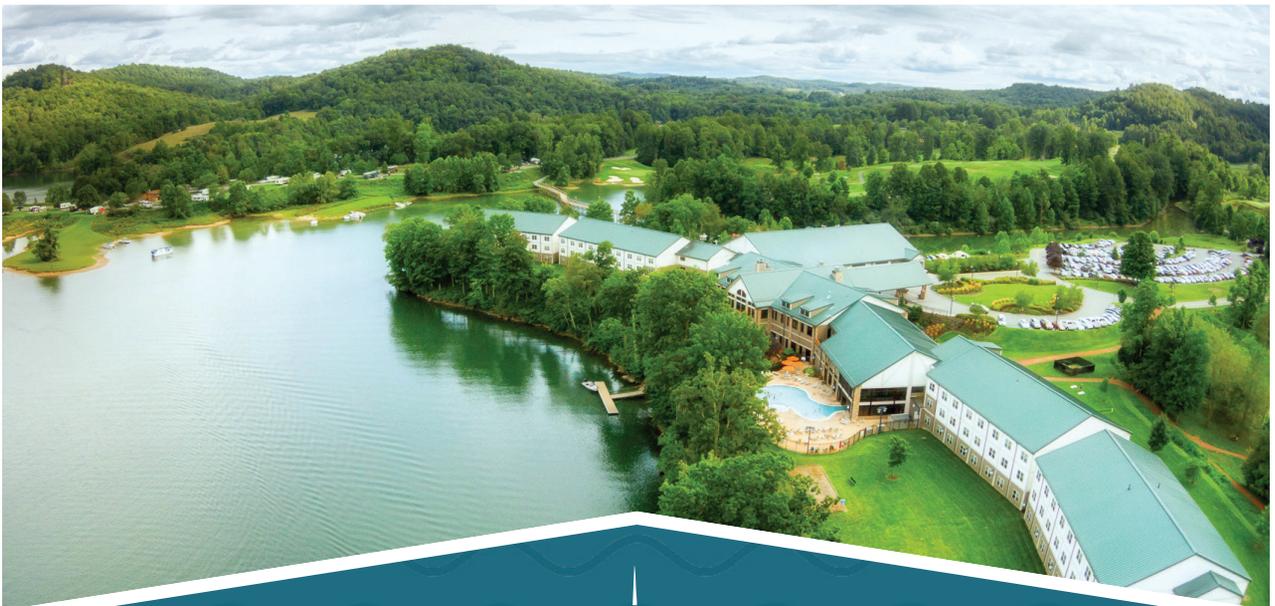


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Trenton Weaver used a kayak at North Bend Lake for his bass.

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lion for on-the-ground projects in every state, protecting our natural environment and our fish and wildlife.

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Alice Warden, from Fayetteville, landed a 27 1/2" hybrid striped bass at Kanawha Falls.

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Interesting Hunting Information

Archaic humans began hunting around 3 million years ago, and it has remained a part of our civilization since then.

When archeologists discovered early evidence of our human ancestors' hunting activities, it became clear that adding meat to the diet meant big changes for early Homo sapiens. For example, skeleton size increased soon after, suggesting meat was important for evolution.

Researchers believed early humans waited in trees for their prey to pass underneath, rather than chase after animals the way hunters in the classical and Renaissance periods generally did.

Bows and arrows were a universal method of hunting, except in Australia.

Hunting Men Facts

Weapon choices vary, but a bow and arrow are fairly traditional. Blowpipes, or blow guns, are some of the most dangerous weapons a hunter can use.

The Australian boomerang, now

a popular toy and tourist gift, was originally a tool used for hunting.

When early humans hunted bigger game, like antelopes, they chose to eat only adults, leaving behind younger and older animals in the herd.

Hunting may have helped establish traditional gender roles, as males were forced to learn to hunt more efficiently in order to feed their female mates and offspring.

When agriculture was introduced about 11,000 years ago, hunting became less important as people dedicated more time to cultivating crops.

Hunting is still important for people who live in areas where

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~ Info On Page 3 ~

farming is impossible or very difficult, such as rainforests in South America or jungles in Southeastern Asia.

Artemis, daughter of Zeus, was the virgin Greek goddess of the hunt.

Diana, the Roman equivalent of Artemis, guarded forests and the animals who lived there.

Mixcoatl was the Aztec god of the hunt.

continue to the next page



Macy Bland got her 1st black bear. Photo courtesy of Middle Mountain Sporting Goods in Elkins



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hunting. To ensure a prosperous hunting season, the Aztecs performed human sacrifices.

Aztec Hunting Sacrifice

Aztecs often made humans sacrifices to ensure the favor of the gods (we're curious about how they hunted those animals)

Dogs were most likely trained to hunt alongside humans in the early Neolithic era, and some breeds were developed to hunt specific animals.

Horses were raised to hunt starting in 2nd millennium.

In ancient Egypt, hunters were a separate class, often hunting for nobles and aristocrats as well as on their own.

The use of hunting dogs can be traced back to ancient Egypt, where greyhounds were used to track gazelles.

“Coursing” is the use of hounds in hunting.

“Gun dogs” are dogs that hunt by scent and sight, and both fetch birds after they have been killed as well as sighting them before. Setters, spaniels, and pointers are the most common "gun dog" breeds.

During the Middle Ages, hunting as a sport was reserved for the rich and done on private lands owned by aristocrats.

Some hunting techniques in the early modern era involved putting animals in an enclosed space and allowing them to be killed outright with little effort.

In many early Northern European tribes, slaves were forbidden from hunting since they were not allowed to own weapons or bear arms.

continue to page 29

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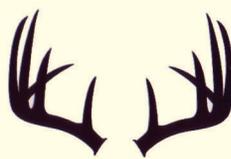
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Kyle Estep caught the big bass, 4 lbs., 8 oz., at the Kings of the Lakes bass tournament.



Kyle Estep & Bert Collins won the Kings of the Lakes. Their 2 day weight was 23 lbs., 5 oz.



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Hunting with firearms began in the 16th century.

The perils of duck hunting are great - especially for the duck.- Walter Cronkite

In 1515, the French government made hunting and poaching illegal for peasants.

Punishments for peasants who hunted on grounds owned by nobles included being sewn into a deerskin and chased by hunting dogs, who would kill the prey upon capture.

Kings would often demonstrate their hunting ability for an audience of nobles. To do so, kings would have game brought to closed arena before shooting and killing it, rather than hunting it in the wild.

Nobility in medieval England hunted several animals, including the stag, the boar, and even otters.

Queen Elizabeth I enjoyed hawking (where prey is killed by trained hawks) as well as hunting.

Royal feasts in medieval and renaissance Europe often included



Priscilla Carte went to Fayette Co. for her 9 point bow buck.

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wild boar and venison, sometimes killed by the king himself.

Red deer, fallow deer, and hares were hunted for their ability to lead a chase, an exciting change from waiting for prey to wander into range.

The French Revolution opened up lands for hunting, but the sudden free-reign of people on hunting grounds caused massive ani-

mal and ecosystem damage.

Foxes were initially hunted like vermin but were eventually hunted for sport.

continue to the next page

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PICTURES FROM 2023

~ Form on Page 38 ~

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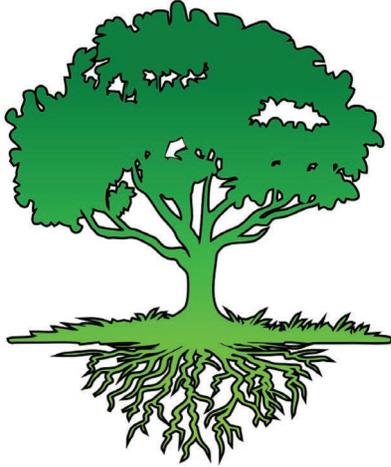
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Wolves were considered a type of vermin in early Europe. People were allowed to kill as many wolves as they could, whenever they could.

Hunting Fact Wolves

Wolves were hunted to extinction in the UK, but species still remain in North America and in continental Europe

By 1770, wolves had become extinct in the British isles due to



Aaron Hayes used a bow in Logan County for a quality whitetail.

overhunting.

In the 1800s, over-hunting had brought about the extinction of several species, prompting the introduction of the extensive game laws currently in place in Great Britain.

In the UK, nothing more deadly than a double-barreled shotgun is allowed as a hunting weapon, as the shooter can only unload two bullets before reloading, thus allowing prey the chance to escape.

It costs about \$20 and takes about 5 hours for the average deer hunter to secure one pound of venison.

The most common “trophy” animal (an animal meant to be killed

and then displayed) in the United States is the snow goose.

American hunters track and kill
continue to the next page



Melanie Johnson went to Mercer County for a nice bow 9 point.

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most of their trophy animals in Canada.

In Africa, the most common trophy animal is the lion, followed by the elephant and the leopard.

Samuel Colt, the man who created an empire selling hunting weapons, was said to have coined the phrase “new and improved.”

Only five percent of Americans participated in hunting during the past five years, meaning the sport is on the decline.

Non-violent natural activities, such as nature photography and bird watching, are replacing hunting in popularity.



Easton Billeter used his crossbow for his buck.. Photo courtesy of Tyler Outdoor Supply in Middlebourne.

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Hunting Conservation Fact

Somewhat ironically, money spent on hunting helps fund wildlife conservation efforts

Taxes on hunting licenses and equipment pay for 60% of wildlife agencies' expenses. Less hunting means less funding, which is a concern for many state-run wildlife and recreational departments.

President Theodore Roosevelt, himself an avid hunter, helped create the “conservation through wise use” principle and encouraged other hunters to donate to causes that would preserve the land they hunted on

New York sold its first deer hunting permit in 1864. President Roosevelt helped more states sell licenses, thus allowing for healthier revenue streams.[9]

In 1937, Congress passed legislation that required money earned from hunting licenses and products to be used for conservation efforts.

Almost a third of hunters in the United States are baby boomers. Most hunters retire from the sport by the age of 65.

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2024 Wildlife Calendar

SOUTH CHARLESTON, W.V.A. — The West Virginia Division of Natural Resources today announced that the 2024 West Virginia Wildlife Calendar is now available to purchase online at WVstateparks.com.

“If you’re a hunter, angler, outdoor enthusiast or someone who just loves the natural beauty and goodness of West Virginia, our award-winning wildlife calendar is the best calendar you can buy,” said WVDNR Director Brett McMillion. “Our staff has been working hard all year to make this year’s calendar extra special and we can’t wait for folks to get their hands on a copy.”

Buy Calendar

The popular calendar features

beautiful paintings of state animals, important hunting and fishing dates, peak wildlife activity times and articles that will help people get the most out of their outdoor adventures in 2024. Native animals featured in this year’s calendar include:

Spotted Skunks by Misty Murray-Walkup (January)

Bass by Randy Muir (February)

Ruffed Grouse by Roger Marsh (March)

Tiger Swallowtail Butterfly by Lee Ann Billups-Blevins (April)

Turkey by Shelby Oreolt (May)

River Otters by David Kiehm (June)

Red Eft Newt by Randy Muir (July)

Regal Moth by Karen Milnes (August)

Tufted Titmice by Lee Ann Billups-Blevins (September)

Raccoon in Tree by Dinah McCloud (October)

Barred Owl by David Kiehm (November)

Bobcat by Misty Murray-Walkup

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Calendars are \$15 each and usually sell out before Christmas, so those who want a copy are encouraged to buy one while supplies last. The easiest way to

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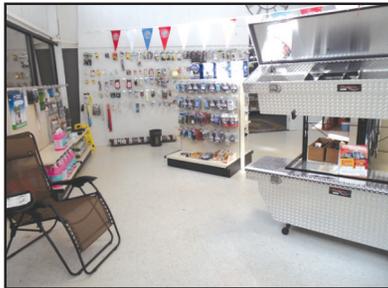
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purchase a calendar is to place an order online. Visit WVstateparks.com, click "Merchandise" at the top of the page and follow the on-screen prompts. Calendars also may be purchased at select stores around the state or ordered by mail. To order a calendar by mail, visit WVdnr.gov/wildlife-calendar, download and complete an online order form and mail it to the address listed on the form.

Sales of the calendar have helped fund WVDNR Wildlife Resources Section programs for more than 30 years. It has won either gold, silver or bronze national calendar awards in the categories of "Most Informative," "Most Educational" or "Best Subject" for more than 10 years.

Bulk orders of the wildlife calendar are available while supplies last. Those interested in placing a bulk order should call 304-637-0245 or send an email to San-ya.D.Zickefoose@wv.gov.

Enjoy your calendar this year.

Migratory Game Bird Seasons

FARMINGTON, W.Va. — The West Virginia Division of Natural Resources announced that new hunting regulations for migratory game birds will go into effect on Sept. 1 in accordance with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service's annual guidelines.

Most notably, the new regulations



Kyle Clevenger is pleased with his fine bow buck.

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include an increase in the mallard duck daily bag limit. Hunters may now harvest four mallards a day, with no more than two hens. For more information about this change, see the Atlantic Flyway Council's article on mallard harvest management, which has been made available to download at WVdnr.gov/waterfowl-hunting.

The 2023-2024 migratory game bird seasons are scheduled as follows:

Mourning dove: Sept. 1 to Oct. 8, Oct. 30 to Nov. 12, Dec. 18 to Jan. 24

Sora and Virginia rail: Sept. 1 to Nov. 9

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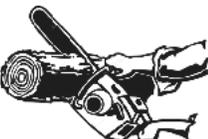
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Wilson's snipe: Sept. 1 to Dec. 16
Early Canada goose: Sept. 1-10
Canada goose, white-fronted geese, snow and blue goose: Oct. 1-21, Nov. 6-12, Dec. 11 to Jan. 31

Duck, coots and merganser: Oct. 1-14, Nov. 6-12, Dec. 24 to Jan. 31

Scaup: Oct. 1-14, Nov. 6-12, Dec. 24 to Jan. 11, Jan. 12-31

Gallinules: Oct. 1-14, Dec. 7 to Jan. 31

Woodcock: Oct. 14 to Nov. 18, Nov. 27 to Dec. 5

Brant: Jan. 2-31

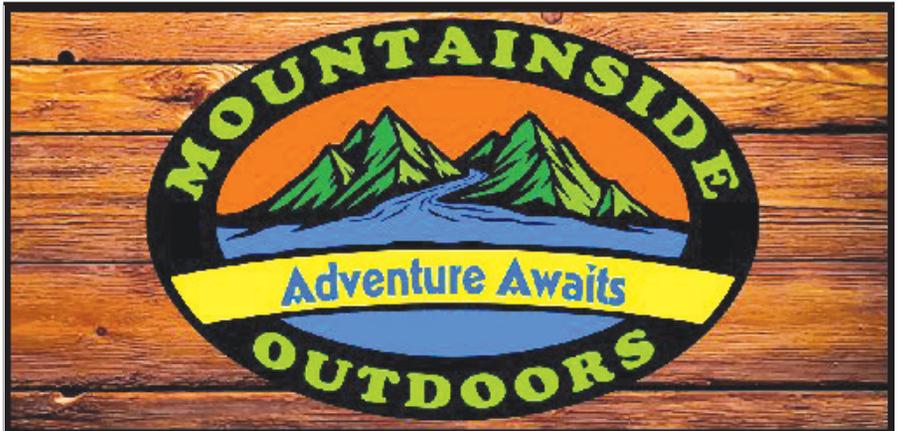
Hunters are also encouraged to take note of the two youth waterfowl season dates, scheduled for Sept. 16 and Nov. 4.

Federal regulations require all licensed migratory bird hunters, including lifetime license holders and senior citizens, to register with the Migratory Bird Harvest Information Program and carry proof of registration while hunting. HIP cards are free and available at all hunting license agents and online at WVhunt.com.

continue to the next page



Colt Fridley went to Mason County for his nice bow buck.



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Waterfowl hunters 16 years and older must also possess a federal Migratory Bird Hunting and Conservation Stamp, also known as a Duck Stamp, which must be signed by the hunter across the stamp's face. Duck Stamps can be purchased from your local post office, by calling 800-782-6724 or by going to [USPS.com/shop](https://usps.com/shop).

Hunters are reminded to report harvested banded birds online at reportband.gov. For more information about West Virginia's migratory game bird seasons, hunters should consult the 2023-24 West Virginia Migratory Bird Hunting Regulations summary, available at WVDNR district offices and at WVdnr.gov/hunting-regulations.



Tyler Griffith bow hunted in Putnam County for a quality buck.



Dana Brown caught an early fall smallmouth bass.



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Chris Davenport bow hunted in Braxton Co. for a great 12 point.
 Photo courtesy of Game Over Outdoors.

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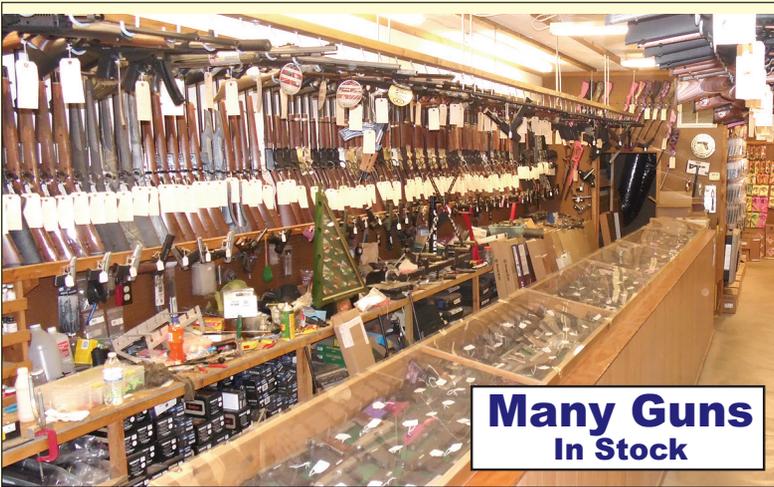
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