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**Issue 222**

**September 2012**



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Hunt**

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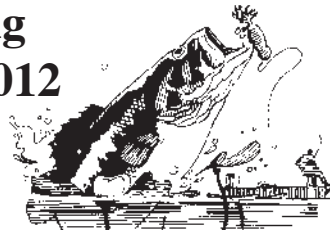
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## Cover Photo

Thad Duvall used a bow & arrow to take this 57 pound grass carp. He found this fish in the Ohio River near Williamstown.

Carp are not native to the United States. They were introduced in the 1930's from Asia as a food source during the depression. Grass carp are not able to breed in most instances.

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## Elkwater Fork Dam

By Jim Wilson

About a dozen elected state officials and dozens of others gathered at the site of the new Elkwater Fork Dam in southern Randolph Co. on Wednesday, August 22, in order to dedicate the facility.

The impoundment is now full and covers 54 acres. Two native brook trout spring fed streams converge and form Elkwater Fork Stream to supply this fresh, coldwater lake. The depth near the dam is about 150 feet.

The dam's main purpose is to supply rural water service to customers in the Upper Tygart Valley River Watershed from Elkins to Valley Head. Senator Joe Manchin said, "It's a great time to be a West Virginian. When we come together on projects like this, we are preparing for the next generation."

U S Rep. Shelly Moore Capito emphasized, "This dam is not just for holding water. It will offer recreational opportunities for families and the economy." Unfortunately, these recreational ops are way down the road. Access to the lake

from the dam site is not a feasible option, as no roads go to the lake. On the opposite end, accessed from Monterville, the road is narrow and steep and a challenge even for a four-wheel drive vehicle.

This is not to say that there is no interest in providing viable access to this pristine body of water. DNR fish biologist, Aaron Yeager, works out of the French Creek DNR office. "One of my goals is to make this lake into a first class fishery," he says. "The coldwater impoundment is conducive to holding trout and smallmouth bass."

Yeager goes on to say that there would be no problem stocking the lake, even now, but on a cost-effective basis with the aforementioned limited access, "There's just no way we (DNR) could justify it."

Yeager says he will work with the powers that be in order to complete the plans of a fishing pier, better access and anything else necessary to justify stocking the lake. This will

continue to the next page

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Troy Hawkins, from Elkview, hooked a 21" rainbow trout.

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an electric motor only impoundment.

Once the access problem is solved, this will be one of the most scenic small lakes in the state. From any 360 degree view on the lake there will be no sign of civilization whatsoever. Camping and lodging in the immediate area abounds. Kumbrow State Forest is nearby. The 9000 plus acre forest offers dozens of camping sites and CCC build log cabins. Elk Springs Resort on the Elk is just minutes away and offers lodging and restaurant facilities.

Plans also call for a handicapped fishing area at the dam site. This is a top spillway dam and a pond already exists at the bottom which could be used for that purpose. On the lake side there is a boom stretched across the lake near the dam in order to protect boaters from harms way.

The dam site is located off US Rte. 219 about four miles north of Valley Head. The lake access road is located, as mentioned, in Mon-



Brenda Bush hooked a nice Burnsville Lake bass. *Photo courtesy of Burnsville Docks on the lake.*



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terville, just off Rte. 15, otherwise known as Point Mountain Road.

To sum it up, the main purpose of the dam is complete, but for us

fishermen the best is yet to come. Check out some great photos of the lake and dam at: Elkwater Fork Dam



Bill Looney hooked & released a 42" Stonewall Jackson Lake musky.



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## State Park Cabin Discounts

SOUTH CHARLESTON, W.Va. – The idyllic cabin in the woods is as close as a state park or forest in West Virginia, and September is a great month to make an early fall getaway. Several state parks traditionally offer mid-week September discounts for cabin rentals to make your stay even better.

From the four-bedroom cabins at Blackwater Falls, complete with a dishwasher, washer/dryer and other amenities such as flat screen television and microwave, to the simplistic lifestyle of a pioneer cabin at Kumbrabow State Forest, inclusive of gas lights, a water pump, and a privy outback, “there is a cabin style at state parks for every personality,” said Brad Reed, a district administrator with West Virginia’s state parks. “It all depends on your wants and needs. We have people seeking cabins with just the basics and to get away from it all, and visitors who require full-service options. From Blackwater and Stonewall, to Holly River and Watoga, to Cabwaylingo and Kumbrabow you can find your cabin preference.”

Cabins and cottages at Twin Falls Resort, Bluestone, Holly River, Cass Scenic Railroad, Pipestem Re-



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sort, Beech Fork, and Watoga state parks and also at Cabwaylingo, Kumbrabow and Greenbrier state forests are extending 20 percent off the standard rate for rentals of two or more nights, Sunday – Thursday in September 2012.

Cabin stays at Lost River State Park lengthen a visit with the popular “retreat to relax” option. “Stay two nights at regular rate and the third night is fee free,” said Mike Foster, superintendent at Lost River. “We’re quite a distance from most folks in West Virginia, so when anyone makes the trek to Lost River, they will want to spend an extra night or check out later than the normal time.” Lost River, located in Hardy County, offers the third night free option from September 17 – November 22 and again from January 2 – May 23 in 2013. Advance reservations are required. The park features horseback riding stables, hiking, and

CCC structures. [www.lostriversp.com](http://www.lostriversp.com)

North Bend State Park, near Cairo and Harrisville, changes things a bit with a “cozy cabin getaway” that includes bike riding and boat-

continue to the next page



Ben Masters caught a nice channel catfish. Photo courtesy of Backwater Bait in Newport, Ohio.

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ing. From September 17-27, 2012, stay two nights, Sunday – Thursday in a cabin for up to four people, get bike rentals or kayak rentals for four hours of outdoor fun, box lunches for four for a day, and a \$25 gift shop voucher, for a \$299 cost which includes taxes. “We see couples and friends that travel together looking for less busy times for travel in the middle of a week. They find greater savings and a more relaxed visit,” said Steve Jones, park superintendent. North Bend creates and offers a wide range of lodge and cabin packages and special event weekends throughout the year. [www.northbendsp.com](http://www.northbendsp.com)

Bluestone State Park recently rolled out a pontoon boat use that’s included with cabin rentals in September and October in addition to the September mid-week discount offer. The “Pontoon/Cabin” pack-

age varies based on cabin type and days selected, but the rate package includes a four-hour pontoon boat rental with gas and oil costs included. “Our customers have asked for packaged rates that include cabins and pontoon use and available on weekends or weekdays, and we’re happy to provide them,” said Brett McMillion, Bluestone State Park superintendent. [www.bluestonesp.com](http://www.bluestonesp.com)

Cacapon Resort State Park is celebrating a 75-year anniversary in 2012. “The park opened to the public July 1, 1937,” said Dave Pruitt, assistant superintendent at Cacapon Resort in West Virginia’s eastern panhandle. Our cabins range from bungalows to deluxe vacation units.” Cacapon has a Diamond Jubilee promotion that takes \$75 off the total rental cost of a three or more night stay. [www.cacaponresort.com](http://www.cacaponresort.com)

[cacaponresort.com](http://cacaponresort.com)

Cass Scenic Railroad is not typically considered as having cabins, but the state park does have company houses. “Twenty-two of the original houses are restored and

continue to the next page



A nice catfish was reeled in at this pay lake. Photo courtesy of Catfish Paradise near Marietta, Ohio.



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and rented as overnight options,” said Rob Sovine, park superintendent at Cass Scenic Railroad. Like other state parks, Cass extends a 20 percent off rate on Sunday – Thursday rental of two or more nights. Three or more daily train trips up Cheat Mountain continue through October 28, with the exception of September 4, 5, 6, 10, 11, 12, 13, 17, 18, 19, and 20, when train trips are not scheduled at Cass Scenic Railroad. Train trips resume Memorial Day weekend, but the company houses are rented year-round. [www.cassrailroad.com](http://www.cassrailroad.com)

West Virginia’s state parks that feature lodges and restaurants and also have cabins onsite are open year round. Cabins at Lost River and Watoga state parks are also available for year-round travel destinations. Visit [www.wvstateparks.com](http://www.wvstateparks.com) for information, events and travel accommodations.

## Senior Hunting License Clarification

SOUTH CHARLESTON, W.Va. – West Virginia hunters and anglers who buy a license in 2012 before their 65th birthday do not have to buy the Class XS Senior Lifetime Hunting, Trapping and Fishing License until January 1, 2013, according to Frank Jezioro, Division of Natural Resources director.



John Thompson, from Hinton, hooked a caiton smallmouth.

“When you purchase an annual hunting or fishing license, that license is good for the entire year, regardless of age,” Jezioro said. “The new Senior Lifetime License law does not require a resident hunter, trapper or angler to buy two licenses in one year.”

The one exception is that, if a hunter who is at least 65 years of age wants to participate in the Special Split Youth/Class Q/ Class XS deer season, that person would need to buy the Class XS Senior Lifetime License. “The Class XS License, however, does not qualify a senior to participate in other youth hunting seasons,” Jezioro said.

The Senior Lifetime License includes the Conservation, Bear Damage and Trout stamps. All lifetime license holders have to buy the additional deer stamps and the antlerless deer stamp.

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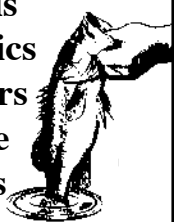
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Matt Given - Marine - left California on leave to catch this 5 pound, 2 oz. Burnsville Lake largemouth at the Kings of the Lakes bass tournament. He also landed a 3 pound, 7 oz. on the day one at Sutton Lake. Along with his dad, they finished 3rd overall with the 2 lunkers.

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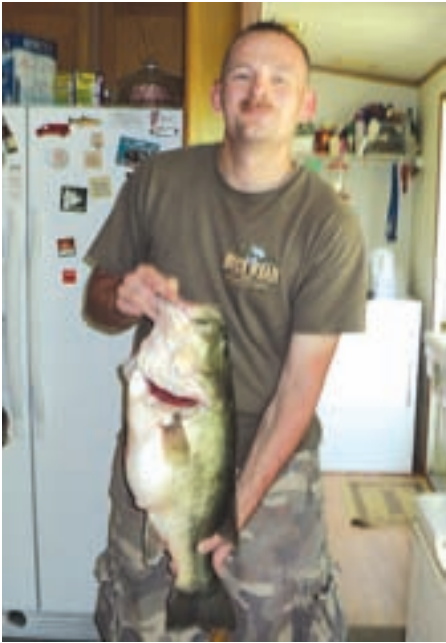
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Sgt. Matt Butler, on leave, landed a 10 1/4 pound bass at Charles Fork.

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 Details On Page 3



Charles Carpenter landed a huge Tygart River musky recently.

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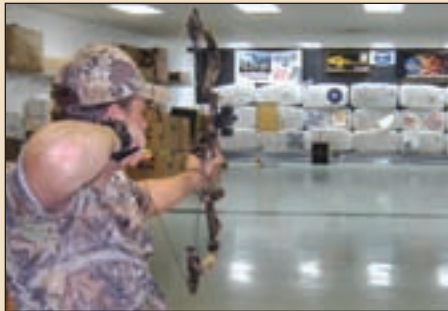




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## How To Hunt Squirrels

Be aware of local laws involving squirrel hunting. One thing to be aware of is that squirrel is considered a game animal, so there are regulations, bag limits, and seasons. In some states, so long as the animal is within so many yards of your home (50 in the case of South Carolina), and you are far enough away from a populated area (discharging a firearm in city limits is highly illegal), you may kill it. You will just have to familiarize yourself with the laws, and your local Department of Natural Resources will be glad to answer any questions you may have. It is as simple as calling them or checking their website.

Choose your weapon. There are

several different choices that will work. Here are a few options to get you started:

**Bow and Arrow:** Archery is the hunting technique that involves the most skill. Learning to shoot a bow is not an easy task, and mastering it takes a very large amount of dedication and practice. Archery may be tough, but it is also one of the best ways to hunt squirrel. It is virtually silent, even quieter than air guns, so you can often hunt an entire family of squirrels without them realizing it. And the arrows are usually reusable unless you break them, and are very modular as far as the tips go. There are several different types of arrows you can use. Straight limb

is a low power type of bow usually found homemade or in youth archery departments. Recurve is a higher power type of bow that is  
continue to the next page



Gary Carpenter, from Hedgesville, hooked a 31” carp

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very accurate but is harder to draw and hold back. Compound bows are very high powered, easy to hold back, and their accuracy can be punishing, but are very expensive, require a lot of maintenance, and are very sensitive to shock damage (they don't take kindly to being manhandled).

**Air Rifle:** Air rifles are inexpensive and effective if fired with good accuracy. They are also very quiet, making it the weapon of choice for suburban squirrel haters. A simple .177 daisy pellet rifle can be bought from Wal-Mart or some gun stores for around \$50.00, and higher quality ones can set you back a lot more. Either way you go, you should experiment to find the the type of pellet your gun shoots most accurately since precise pellet placement is more important than minor differences in pellet penetration or expansion. Pellet rifles require top notch shooting on the part of the hunter, because a wounded squirrel can usually still climb a tree.

**.22 caliber firearm:** The .22 caliber is probably the most commonly used cartridge used in squirrel hunting. It's small size prevents overkill that destroys a lot of meat. Its long range and high accuracy gives it the ability to hit squirrels from much further away than air rifles, shotguns, and archery. And it is typically not used in single shot weapons, giving you the ability to

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get that quick follow up shot that you always seem to need with air guns. However, like any firearm (or any projectile flinging apparatus for that matter) it is only as good as the shooter behind the sights. The point of impact is only .22 in. Accuracy counts in a very big way, but that is part of the challenge that draws people to this sport.

**Shotgun:** If what you desire is a larger spread, look no farther than the shotgun, although you will have to be closer to your quarry than the .22 can get you. Even if you do only wound the target, it will be knocked silly enough that

*continue to the next page*



Paul Foley landed a 36" flathead catfish. *Photo courtesy of Three Rivers Edge in Hinton.*



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it is too confused to run up a tree. Any gauge of shotgun works, but the best size shot is number 7 1/2, as it is large enough to kill while still being small enough to do minimal damage to the meat. The pellets usually only get under the skin leaving the muscle meat unharmed, but bones are often shattered and organs are swollen, resulting in almost instant death in most cases, which also makes this the most humane manner of killing. However, 7 1/2 shot is extremely unreliable past 40 yards, and virtually harmless at 100. The shells are also expensive, take up a lot of space in your gear, and the large recoil may limit some smaller built hunters in endurance. It is also louder and meaner sounding than .22's and air rifles, meaning that you are more likely to spook squirrels in the area.

3Choose a good time to hunt. Hunting will be best when food is scarce, such as the early winter, because more squirrels will congregate in one area.

4Use ground camouflage. Camouflage clothing is very useful. If you can afford or make a ghillie suit, even better. But a blind of  
continue to the next page



Marlon Henry, from Montrose, used a gun for this nice 10 point last season.

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some sort is invaluable, even if it is just a log you are hiding behind. Squirrels that live in the forest are extremely shy, and if you can get within 15 yards of one, you are doing extremely well. So, to get close to the squirrels, you will have to set up in an area that you can easily camouflage. You will want to be able to move to a shooting position with as little disturbance to the area



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around you as possible. If you have a hunting buddy, you should have them stand a few yards out to see if they can spot you lying in wait, as well as moving to a shooting position.

5Set a trap for the squirrel. The following steps show a humane way to relocate the squirrel.

Gather together a good-sized box, some nuts, a stick, and a long string. Tie the string around the middle of the stick. You may want to camouflage the outside of the box by gluing on dried leaves, dirt, and twigs.

Place the nuts on the ground with the box over it, facing down. Prop up the box with the stick and wait behind a blind, holding the end of the string.

Once the squirrel enters the trap, pull on the string, making the box fall over the squirrel. Slide a piece of cardboard underneath it to move the squirrel.

6Be patient. Take your time waiting for the squirrels and setting up the shot, especially if you are a new hunter. Moving too quickly may make more noise and shooting too quickly may cause you to miss your shot. Missed shots, as well as any noise you make, can scare the squirrel away. After a shot, you may have to wait as long as half an hour before a squirrel comes out of hiding.

Good luck this season.



Rodney Hardbarger, from Elizabeth, bagged a big gobbler with a 10 3/4" beard last spring.

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## Photograph Our State Event

SOUTH CHARLESTON, W.Va. – You and your digital camera can help celebrate West Virginia’s 150th anniversary by taking and contributing photographs of the state for possible publication in a special issue of Wonderful West Virginia magazine. The special issue will be published in June 2013, West Virginia’s sesquicentennial.

The theme of the issue will be “A Day in the Life of West Virginia.” All photos must be taken on the same day, September 15, 2012, from dawn until twilight, within the state borders.


“We’re asking photographers, professional and amateur, to head for the hills, the valleys, the rivers, the farms, the small towns, and the cities to capture images that speak eloquently of life in our Mountain State,” said Wonderful West Virginia publisher Bryan Hoffman. “West Virginia’s state parks are good examples of special places to



Jon Bennett brought in a big gobbler this spring. *Photo courtesy of Wabash Trading Post in West Union.*

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take photos that show off the beauty of nature, but we also want participants to bring us common and unusual scenes, including landscapes, events and people – slices of Mountain State life on this one day.”

Rules: Photographs must be taken in the state of West Virginia on September 15, 2012, and submitted to Wonderful West Virginia no later than September 30, 2012. Each contributor may submit up to

five photographs from throughout the day. Only digital photographs may be accepted (no photographic paper or inkjet prints). Photographs must be submitted electronically to [photos@cannographicsinc.com](mailto:photos@cannographicsinc.com). Include your email address and telephone number, as well as the precise time of day and place (including county) where the photograph was taken. If there are any identifiable persons in the photo,

continue to the next page

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please send the names(s) and a model release, if applicable (contact Bryan Hoffman at DNR if you have questions or need a model release form). Photographs for the tribute issue will be selected by the staff of Wonderful West Virginia magazine and will be for use only in the June 2013 issue.

Technical: Photographs must be sent as full-size resolution images (recommended size is at least an 8 x 10 at 300 ppi).

For additional information about this special photographic tribute to West Virginia, please contact Bryan Hoffman at 304-558-5546 or Bryan.M.Hoffman@wv.gov .

Wonderful West Virginia is the premier magazine about the Mountain State, published monthly by the West Virginia Division of Natural Resources. Subscriptions are available for two years for \$36 and one year for \$18. Gift subscriptions are available. Call 1-800-CALL-WVA to subscribe or submit the online form at [www.wonderfulwv.com](http://www.wonderfulwv.com) .

## State Spotlight Survey Conducted

SOUTH CHARLESTON, W.Va. – Over the next several weeks, the Wildlife Resources Section of the West Virginia Division of Natural Resources will be conducting spot-

light surveys throughout 41 counties of the state to evaluate deer population densities.

“Monitoring deer population levels is an important component of the 2011-2015 West Virginia White-tailed Deer Operational Plan” said Gary Foster, supervisor of WVD-NR game management. “We will be using a method called ‘spotlight distance sampling.’ It has been used by numerous state fish and wildlife agencies throughout the country to help determine deer population densities and recruitment.”

Surveys will involve sighting deer along randomly selected roads by searching adjacent fields and woods with spotlights. Surveys will not involve the collection of live or dead animals and will not involve personnel entering onto private

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For additional information, please contact a wildlife biologist at your local DNR district office or at the DNR Elkins Operations Center.



Bill Stokely hooked a 38 pound flathead in the Ohio River. Photo courtesy of Backwater Bait in Newport, Ohio.

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Jay Johnson and Fred Lucas won the Kings of the Lakes bass event. These large bass were part of their day 2 bag. They weighed in 25-11 for the event. 7-12 at Sutton Lake and 17-15 at Burnsville Lake.



Young Josh Reveal reeled in a nice largemouth bass.



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Young Dalton Fields hooked a nice bass. Photo courtesy of Sutton Lake Marina on the lake.



Brandon McKnight, from Leon, caught a nice Kanawha River bass.



These fellows landed a mess of channel catfish. Photo courtesy of Jarrett's Bait in Elizabeth.

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Melanie Miller, from Harrisville, caught 2 real large crappie recently.

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# September Bass'n

September is a transition month, when summer temperatures finally begin to give way to the coolness of fall. This break from the sauna sounds like great news, but it's a time when many bass fishing anglers struggle.

The problem is that as bass leave



Shane Nelson landed a nice Jackson County bass.

deep-water summer haunts, they move around and become difficult to find.

"Historically speaking, if you look back at records of bass fishing tournaments, weights are way down during September," Bassmaster Open pro Sammy Burks told B.A.S.S. Times. "Bass start moving shallower and shallower, and they disperse."

"It's a crazy situation: Where you find them in the morning, they won't be in the afternoon."

Burks said these challenges were highlighted during a September tournament some years back on Texas' Lake Amistad.

"I weighed in 27 pounds the first day, and I caught them in the first two hours," he said. "On the second day, I went back to the same

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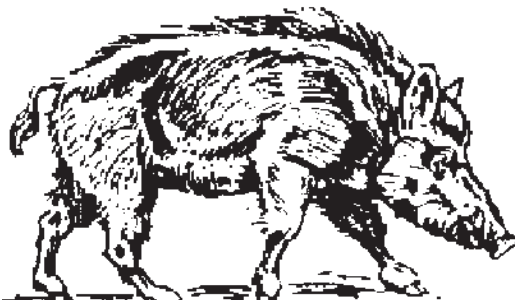
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went from first place to 16th. The third day I weighed 17 pounds, and finished 10th.”

The problem is that baitfish haven't committed to any one location.

“It's all about the bait,” Burks said. “They're moving around, and the bass move with them.”

The solution to this unpredictability is throwing out the rule book.

“Basically, don't stop practicing,” Burks said. “You can find them, and two hours later they can be gone.

“Pattern fishing is almost out the window.”

A key to making the most of opportunities is being prepared to make quick lure changes.

“I keep 20 rods on my deck,” Burks explained. “I'm going to have a variety of lures ready to go that will cover the whole water column, from topwaters to bottom structure-fishing baits.

“I might have four different crank-baits tied on, but I'm still prepared to change to other baits because I know the reputation of fish in September.”

Often anglers can take advantage of schools feeding on the surface, but Burks said electronics become a huge part of his strategy.

“The shad are still balled up, and

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without a doubt that's the main search,” he said. “Whether you're on a flat or a ledge or a brushpile, you want to find the shad.”

Burks said the transient nature of baitfish and bass demands a willingness to make regular moves.

“It's run and gun,” he said. “You have to keep an open mind and be willing to move when the fish disappear.”

However, Burks said moving doesn't mean running long distances. Instead, he covers all water depths within a given area to make sure he hasn't overlooked nearby pods of bass.

“If I'm fishing a creek, I'm zigzagging in and out,” he said. “I'm starting deep, and then I might move to 15 feet of water. Then I move up to shallow water.”

Wind also is an important factor

because it allows anglers to focus their search.

“If you get a fairly windy day, those baitfish are subject to getting hung up on a bank or a ledge or on the edge of grass on the windy side of the lake,” Burks said.



Tony Crumbliss, from Bridgeport, reeled in a big largemouth..

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SOUTH CHARLESTON, W.Va. – Campers at West Virginia State Parks and Forests can enjoy cooler weather, beautiful fall foliage, and substantial discounts during most of September.

“This summer was so hot that many of our patrons didn’t want to stray far from home, so they are looking for fall trips when they can enjoy the cooler weather,” said Sissie Summers, programming coordinator for West Virginia State Parks. “Camping seems to top the list of shorter visits to get outdoors with family and friends.”

Nineteen of the state’s parks and forests are offering 50 percent off camping rates from September 4 through 30. The discount kicks in for a minimum of two nights up to 14 nights when campers simply ask for the September camping discount at the participating parks.

Parks that offer the half off rate on

any two consecutive nights are: Audra, Bluestone, Holly River, Moncove Lake, and Twin Falls Resort state parks; Cabwaylingo, Greenbrier, and Kanawha state forests, and Bluestone and Plum Orchard Wildlife Management Areas.

Areas offering 50 percent off from Sunday through Thursday camping stays are: Beech Fork, Blackwater Falls, Bluestone, Canaan Valley, Cedar Creek, Pipestem Resort, Tygart Lake and Watoga state parks. Kumbrabow State Forest also offers the rate discount for Sunday through Thursday camping.

Camping at state parks and forests is on a first-come, first-served basis after Labor Day weekend. Camping, lodge and cabin offers are posted online at [www.wvstateparks.com](http://www.wvstateparks.com). An electronic information letter is distributed with current offers and events. Anyone can subscribe for this service by click-

ing “Join Our Newsletter” tab on the state park website.

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## BIG GAME - FISH

Photos from 2012  
Form is on page 38



These 2 fellows caught striped bass. Photo courtesy of Three Rivers Edge in Hinton.

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## Squirrel Season Opens Early

SOUTH CHARLESTON, W.Va. – West Virginia’s statewide squirrel season opens on September 8, 2012, and runs through January 31, 2013, according to Curtis I. Taylor, Chief of the Wildlife Resources Section of the West Virginia Division of Natural Resources (DNR). This is the second year in a row that the season opens in early September, providing hunters with more time to pursue the state’s most popular small game species.

“Mild weather conditions in September and longer days offer a great opportunity to take a youngster hunting,” said Taylor.

Poor hard mast crops in 2011 reduced squirrel production this year, so hunters will find fewer during the fall hunting season. Mast conditions during the previous year influence the survival and productivity of current year squirrel populations.

“Despite last year’s poor mast conditions, squirrel hunters should not get discouraged because the state’s squirrel population remains strong,” said Taylor.



Woody Ray, from New Martinsville, went to New Mexico for this 6x5 elk.

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Early season squirrel hunters should find success with proper scouting and by focusing their attention on mast-producing species such as hickory.

The daily bag limit for squirrel is six, with a possession limit of 24. Hunters should check the 2012-2013 West Virginia Hunting and Trapping Regulations Brochure for additional information or visit the DNR’s website at [www.wvdnr.gov](http://www.wvdnr.gov).

Advertise In The  
**W. Va. Sportsman**  
Details On Page 3

## Canada Goose In September

SOUTH CHARLESTON, W.Va. – West Virginia’s 2012–2013 waterfowl seasons begin statewide on September 1, 2012, with the opening of the early Canada goose season, according to Curtis I. Taylor, Chief of the West Virginia Division of Natural Resources (DNR) Wildlife Resources Section.

The early Canada goose season will end September 15. Shooting hours are one-half hour before sunrise until sunset. All other general waterfowl hunting regulations apply to the September season.

continue to the next page

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Hunters must possess a federal waterfowl stamp and a free Migratory Bird Harvest Information Program (HIP) registration card in addition to their regular hunting license. The HIP card is available free from DNR offices and all hunting license agents.

“Every county in the state has the potential to provide a goose hunt or two, but the better hunting opportunities will be found in areas with an abundance of open land,” said Taylor.

Recently harvested crop fields or mowed hayfields in the vicinity of a lake or river are obvious choices, but less typical habitats should not be overlooked by hunters.

“Just about any place that has a little water and some open ground, such as a small pond on a reclaimed strip mine, can harbor a flock of geese,” Taylor said. “These out-of-the way places become more important later in the season after the obvious places get some hunting pressure.”

Most goose hunting is found on private lands; therefore, it is important for hunters to maintain good relationships with landowners. Several wildlife management areas also offer goose hunting opportunities, and hunters should contact their appropriate DNR district office for additional information.

Waterfowl hunters are reminded of two important toll free numbers. Federal waterfowl stamps may be purchased with a credit card by

calling 1-800-782-6724. In addition, hunters who harvest a banded bird may call 1-800-327-2263 to report the bird and find out when and where it was banded. Banded birds also may be reported online at [www.reportband.gov](http://www.reportband.gov).



Mike Lusk, from Kistler, went to Ohio for last years 10 point.

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Brian Thomas reeled in a 26 3/4" citation channel catfish.

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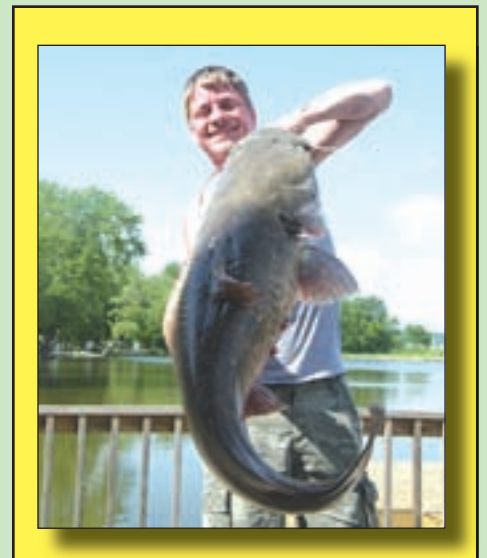
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Christian Heller, from NC, landed a 21 3/4" New River smallmouth.



Matt Romine hooked a 26" fresh-water drum. *Photo courtesy of Jarrett's Bait in Elizabeth.*

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Alex Weber, from PA, caught a citation brook trout. It measured 19" and was taken At Shavers Fork.



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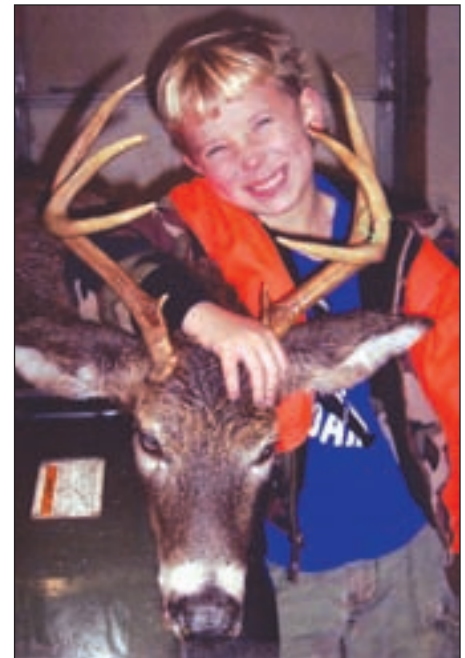
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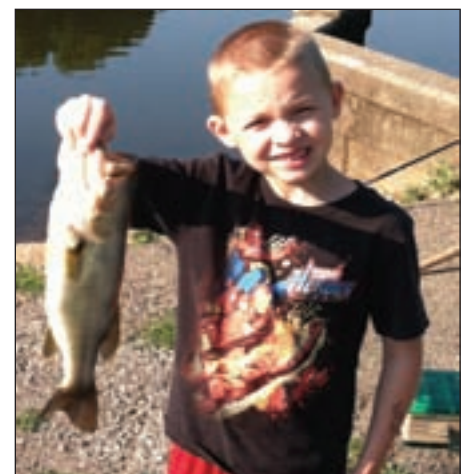
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Bob Burchfield landed a nice hybrid in the Ohio River. *Photo courtesy of Backwater Bait in Newport, OH.*



Young Luke Davisson bagged his 1st deer last year. *Photo courtesy of Broken Wheel Campground in Weston.*



Young Jordan Varney has fishing fever already - nice bass.

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Brayden Palmer hooked a rainbow

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## Civil War Campfire Program

PIPESTEM, W.Va. – The 35th state, West Virginia, was created on June 20, 1863, a result of the Civil War that forced neighbors and families to make decisions and take actions that would forever change history. Luke Stevens, a Concord University student, performs a fire-side-style program devoted to life, religion, convictions, and resulting stories and music of the Civil War at Pipestem State Park September 8, 15, and 29 and October 20 and 27 at 7 p.m.

Stevens' apparel reflects what a southern soldier would have worn in the Civil War. He encourages attendees to join him in song as he moves through the time frame of the Civil War.

Stevens has entertained visitors and guests at Pipestem State Park throughout the summer of 2012.

"He gives a polished performance," said Emily Grafton of Parkersburg, W.Va., who attended a recent presentation. "He has a relaxed energy that draws you into the songs and the stories. You want to ask questions and he welcomes conversation and provides answers. The evening that I attended had about

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50 people and everyone came away knowing more about West Virginia. It was great."

The evening of Civil War era songs and stories is staged at the fire pit across from the bathhouse at Pipestem State Park's campground. The Civil War Campfire is open to the public at no charge.

The Civil War Campfire at Pipestem State Park ushers in West Virginia's sesquicentennial celebration that begins in 2013.

Activities offered at Pipestem are posted on the park website under

"Things to Do," Weekly Activities. Other activities offered include bird walks, naturalist-led hikes, a nature center, and reptile talks. For information about Pipestem Resort State park visit [www.pipestemresort.com](http://www.pipestemresort.com).

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### BIG GAME - FISH

Photos From 2012  
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## Hunting & Fishing Days Show

ROANOKE, W.Va. – The West Virginia Division of Natural Resources (DNR), together with the West Virginia Wildlife Federation, will be hosting West Virginia's Annual Celebration of National Hunting and Fishing Day (NH&FD) on Sept. 22 and 23. The event will again be held at Stonewall Resort State Park near Weston, conveniently located off Exit 91 of Interstate 79.

“National Hunting and Fishing Day is designed to appeal to outdoor enthusiasts of any age – and is especially beneficial to young hunters and anglers, as well as those who enjoy non-consumptive outdoor pursuits,” said DNR Director Frank Jezioro. “NH&FD is the largest, single-weekend outdoor-oriented event in the state, and is something not to be missed!”

“We are very excited about the line-up of seminars and activities for this year,” stated NH&FD Event Coordinator Krista Snodgrass. “Of course, we are very happy to bring back the outstanding archery showman Byron Ferguson. Byron's unparalleled archery performances

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leave audiences speechless as he shoots aspirins and other aerial targets. We'll also have an exciting shotgun shooting exhibition by Tom Knapp. We're proud to have both of these outstanding and famous shooters at the same location for the first time.”

Visitors also can check out displays including the West Virginia Big Buck Display and West Virginia Trophy Fish Display, which showcase some of the largest deer and fish taken in the state.

“Our celebration is especially beneficial to young people, and we encourage youth attendance by keeping prices low and by providing two action-packed days of youth activities,” said Snodgrass. “The Outdoor Youth Challenge, which is a youth expo and competition relating to wildlife, hunting, fishing, firearms safety and outdoor recreation, has expanded even more this year. The Outdoor Youth Challenge is perhaps the most im-

portant event at National Hunting and Fishing Day, because for some youngsters this may be the only opportunity they will have to be exposed to these fun and exciting outdoor activities.”

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continue to the next page



Bob Epler, from Reedy, landed and released a musky.

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hery, muzzleloader shooting, .22 caliber shooting, skeet (shotgun) shooting, fly casting, and many other activities.

The popular wild game cooking event will illustrate how wild game is prepared from the woodlot to the dinner table. In addition to demonstrations of proper techniques for field dressing and skinning deer, skilled professionals will demonstrate how to cut and prepare the wild game while professional chefs prepare their favorite recipes.

Visitors don't have to leave the premises to satisfy their hunger as vendors will be selling a variety of food. They can also taste free samples of game from on-site cooking demonstrations.

For more information on NH&FD, including a complete schedule, description of activities, and an event map, go to the website at: [www.wvdnr.gov/hunting/nathuntfish.shtm](http://www.wvdnr.gov/hunting/nathuntfish.shtm).

**Squirrel Dog Hunt**

Most youngsters who grew up in the rural Ozarks learned to hunt by searching the branches of an oak-hickory woodlot or creek bottom for squirrels. Bushytails are efficient teachers.

And when the leaves are only hinting of the upcoming fall season, squirrels have little trouble finding a place to hide.

Squirrel hunting in the early fall is a challenge, but it is made easier when squirrels begin to work the hickories. On a crisp, still morning in the Ozarks you can hear the grating of teeth on hickory nuts and the sound of small bits of hickory hulls falling to the forest floor.

As the weather cools a bit more squirrels stay out later in the morning and come out earlier in the afternoon.

When it's hot, their activity is lessened. But find a supply of hickory nuts this time of year and

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you'll usually find squirrels. Bits and pieces of gnawed hickory nuts beneath the tree give away their presence.

There are four methods of squirrel hunting that work all over the Ozarks.

continue to the next page



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The first one of course is "still hunting." When I was a youngster I'd take my old Iver Johnson shotgun down to the Tweed bottoms just off the Big Piney River and walk an old logging trail where gray squirrels were abundant. Occasionally I'd spot one by moving slowly along, but when I'd reach a certain spot on a rocky hillside, I'd find a comfortable boulder and sit still enough to be taken for a part of the rock.

I learned if you stayed put, marking your downed quarry, that in 10 or 15 minutes things would return to normal again and squirrels would begin to scurry about. A still hunter could sometimes take three or four squirrels in less than an hour from one spot.

And there was always much more to see, as other wildlife passed through and birds flitted through the nearby branches. When things were slow, I laid back on the big flat rock and went to sleep, dreaming of hunting moose and bear in Canada someday. Still hunting had many rewards.

Then I learned that two hunters could effectively find squirrels if one hunter became the eyes and the other became the feet. Hunter number one moves slowly along, watching the branches as best he can, but traveling at a quiet snails pace.

Usually he won't see squirrels that have already heard him. When he's well down the trail, he stops and waits and hunter number two advances in the same manner moving on past his partner to take a new position. Squirrels react to a moving hunter by moving themselves, well-concealed by a tree trunk or branch.

And while they are concentrating on the moving hunter they expose themselves to the hunter who is still, and watching.

When two hunters hunt together, it is the best way to find squirrels in early fall, a perfect method for a father teaching a youngster to hunt.

A third method of squirrel hunting involves a real rarity -- a squirrel dog. Squirrel dogs are trained or developed, they are just born, small

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terriers and feists that have no pedigrees but learn quickly to pick up the trail of a squirrel on the ground and tree him. The best squirrel dogs have to stay close to the hunters or  
continue to the next page

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they are less efficient.

I've known some that were prone to leave the country on the trail of something.

Some squirrel dogs hunt by sight, actually looking for squirrels as well as scenting them. If things work as planned a squirrel dog may tree a number of squirrels in a morning or evening hunt. Unfortunately, many of those squirrels will find refuge in a hole or hollow tree.

A hunter who hunts squirrels with a shotgun has to try for good clean head shots in order to reduce the chance of damaging the meat with too many shot pellets in the body. Almost all hunters use No. 6 or No. 4 Shot.

The latter will give you cleaner kills with less shot in the body. Medium-powered shells are best. Don't use extremely light loads or you'll cripple and lose too many squirrels.

I like to hunt squirrels with a .22 rifle, but only in areas where I know there aren't any farms or livestock nearby.

The gun made just for squirrel hunter is the combination .22/.410 or .22/20 gauge. With such a firearm, sitting squirrels can be taken with a .22, and head shots insure undamaged meat for the skillet. But the shotgun barrel is always there when needed.

Good luck and happy hunting.



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