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Vol. 1 Issue 174

Fall 2007



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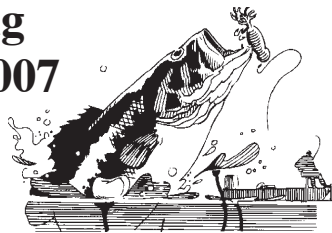
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Cover Photo

A summer fishing trip yielded a fifty-three pound flathead catfish for Darrell Brown, from Burnsville. He guides catfish trips on Burnsville Lake. For information on his guided trips - contact Burnsville Docks at 304-853-2822

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Shot Placement

The hunters oath

"I, as a hunter, have a responsibility to the sport of hunting to make quick harvests and recover all game animals."

Quick harvests and easy game recovery can be obtained with accurate shot placement.

The three main ingredients of a quick harvest are knowledge of how a hunting weapon harvests game, shooting only within one's own ability, and knowing the game animal's internal anatomy. The future of hunting and a hunter's own self-respect depends on his or her ability to efficiently harvest game.

Internal anatomy of deer

Bow hunters should choose a spot in the center of the lungs or slightly lower to be their target every time. An arrow in the lungs will bring down the largest game, and the advantage of this shot is that the lungs

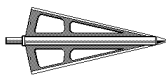
are relatively large and surrounded by other vital organs: the heart is below, the spine and aorta (a major artery) are above, and the liver and the spleen are behind.

Hunters using firearms have many more choices than bow hunters. A bullet striking either the heart, shoulder, head, spine or lungs is fatal to big game animals due to the massive shock and tissue destruction involved. Once again, the chest area offers the best lethal target.

Bullets

Bullets harvest game by massive shock and tissue destruction. Bullets have a tremendous amount of energy, and if fired from firearms adequate for deer hunting, can smash even heavy bone and enter

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Game Check



Dakota Miller, with uncle Brad Berga, are shown with his small-mouth. *Photo courtesy of Backwater Bait in Newport, Ohio.*

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the vital organs.

Arrows

Arrows harvest game with razor sharp broadheads that are designed to cut tissue. Arrows cut arteries and veins resulting in massive hemorrhaging. In addition to severe bleeding, arrows passing through both lungs cause the lungs to collapse, causing rapid death due to suffocation. Arrows can cut through softer bones like ribs, but rarely penetrate heavy bones found

continue to the next page

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in the shoulder, hips, head and neck. Both razor sharp broadheads and careful shot placement are crucial to game harvest.

Broadside shot

Bullet: A broadside Deer offers several excellent shots for the firearm hunter. The best target is the chest area. Find the best aiming point on a deer by picking a spot one third to halfway up the side of the animal and just behind the front shoulder. A bullet enter the lungs or heart will provide a good blood trail and a quick harvest. A head or neck shot will drop an animal instantly with little or no meat damage, but should only be used if you are proficient enough with your firearm.

Arrow: A broadside deer represents the best bow shot because it requires the least amount of penetration to reach the vital organs. The best target is the chest area. The broadside shot is also the best angle for accomplishing a double lung hit, resulting in the collapse of both lungs. Find the best aiming point on a deer by picking a spot one third to halfway up the side of the animal and just behind the front shoulder. This will put an arrow in the center of the vital area by enabling you to pick a spot rather than shooting at the whole animal. An arrow will penetrate the ribs, but be careful to avoid the shoulder bone. Wait until the near leg is forward and concentrate on a spot behind the shoulder. Avoid head and neck shots when bow hunting. Wait for the chest shot behind the front shoulder.

Quartering away shot

Bullet: The quartering away angle is a fine shot for the firearm hunter. Aim behind the front shoulder for an effective hit. The bullet will pass through both lungs and possibly the heart and into the far shoulder.

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Arrow: The quartering away angle is a fine shot for the bow hunter. Aim at the chest area just behind the front shoulder. The arrow should pass through both lungs.


Quartering toward shot

Bullet: The quartering toward angle is fine for the firearm hunter. Aim at the head, neck or center of

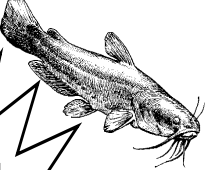


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the chest for an effective hit. Be aware of where your bullet will end up. If you shoot a deer in or behind the near front shoulder the bullet will likely pass through the stomach and intestines (gut shot) and into the hind quarters. Always avoid the "gut shot", because the contents of the stomach and intestines will taint the taste of the meat.

Arrow: This is one of the poorest bow shots and should be avoided. Heavy shoulder bones shield the majority of the vital organs from penetration by arrow. Wait for the animal to pass by and take a broad-side or quartering away shot.

Head on shot

Bullet: This is a fair shot for a skilled marksman. The head and neck are your only clean shots. The center of the chest should be avoided, because it would result in the "gut shot" (described above).

Arrow: This is a very poor shot for the bow hunter. The vital area is the chest between the shoulders, which is an extremely small target. Wait for a better shot.

Rear end shot

Bullet: The rear end shot is a poor shot for the firearm hunter. A shot to the body at this angle will probably ruin the best cuts of meat and will result in a "gut shot" (described above). A head or neck shot is possible if the animal has its head up. Wait for a better shot.

Arrow: This is a shot all respon-



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sible bow hunters will pass up. The hindquarters have very heavy muscle tissue and heavy bone structure which makes it very difficult for an arrow to get up front to the vital organs.

Elevated stand shot

Elevated stands and tree stands, are used by both firearm hunters and bow hunters. This elevated shot angle makes little difference to a firearm hunter, simply aim higher on the deer to compensate for the downward trajectory of the bullet. Lets say this slash (\) is your bullet trajectory and the parenthesis is the deer, visualize how the bullet would enter the top of the deer and

exit through the bottom.

The elevated shot angle results in a smaller portion of the vital area being exposed to a bow hunter. The vital organs are more protected by the back bone and shoulder blade. To avoid the shoulder blade when shooting from an elevated stand, aim farther behind the shoulder. Shooting from elevated stands makes it more difficult to achieve a double lung hit.

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CREP Program

By Keith Krantz

I am the DNR representative for the US Department of Agriculture Farm Service Agencies "Conservation Reserve Enhancement Program" (CREP). The purpose of this Farm Bill program is to assist WV landowners in protecting highly erodible cropland and marginal pastureland. There are numerous "Conservation Practices" (CP) within this program with only a few applying to WV. The bulk of this program is designed to benefit mid-west producers and landowners. The technical committee guiding this program is in the process of evaluating CPs that might apply to WV landowners and one that I am very interested in is CP12. CP12 (Wildlife Foodplots) currently applies only to cropland and not marginal pastureland. We West Virginians have lots of marginal pastureland, but very little cropland, therefore very little acreage that could be enrolled in this conservation practice. If we could get the FSA State Committee to ask our representatives in Washington, D.C. to change this designation for WV, we could then help pay for the establishment of foodplots, up to 5 acres in size, on marginal pastureland. Another plus for this recommendation is that the new acres enrolled in CP12 would come out of the already budgeted but under utilized CREP acreage allocation for WV. Thus we might actually be able to use the 9,160 CREP acres assigned to us. This change would then allow numerous landowners to conserve their erodible bottomlands and hillsides by putting them into foodplots that the DNR, Natural Resource Conservation Service and Division of Forestry could help

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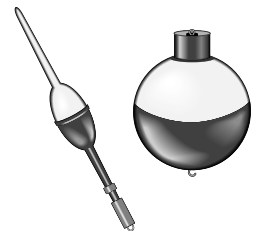
devise.

As you know, wildlife management is a growing interest of many landowners and these foodplots could be used to produce and improve the quality and quantity of numerous wildlife species. This change, if enacted, would not take any CREP acreage away from any other state; only allow us to use more of our allotment. If this change should interest you I would ask you to write the WV FSA State

Committee or e-mail Kevin Hinkle (Kevin.Hinkle@wv.usda.gov) and ask them to include marginal pastureland to the designation of this conservation practice in WV so that West Virginians could better manage their erodible acreage. Keep in mind that the squeaky wheel gets the grease and the more letters we can get mailed to the State Committee or e-mailed to Kevin the better.

Your help will be appreciated.

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Tyler Bedford, 14 years old, landed a nice farm pond largemouth.



Danny Frazier brought in a nice musky. *Photo courtesy of hree River's Edge in Hinton.*



Janet Beveridge, from Rivesville, caught a 26" channel catfish.

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Scott & Jami Wicker landed two nice catfish. Photo courtesy of Starcher's Sport Shop in Lubeck.

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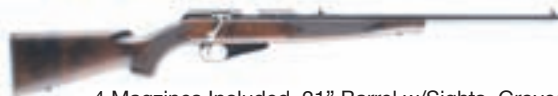
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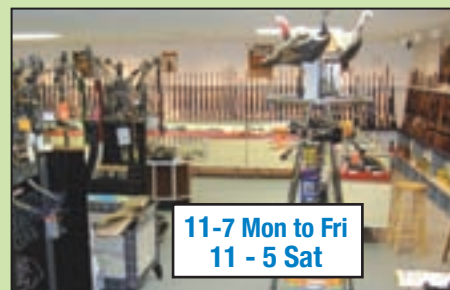
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Rick Greathouse landed a 7 pound, 2 oz. largemouth.



Jason Axley took two coyotes. Photo courtesy of Jarrett's Bait in Elizabeth.



Andy Lyons caught a nice smallmouth. Photo courtesy of Grandpa's General Store in Hinton.

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Jason Carr reeled in a nice flathead.
Photo courtesy of Grandpa's General Store in Hinton.



Sherri Sizemore caught a 20" large-mouth. Photo courtesy of Three River's Edge in Hinton.



Mike Wilburn hooked a 21" drum. Photo courtesy of Jarrett's Bait in Elizabeth.

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Big Buck Contest Begins With Bow Season

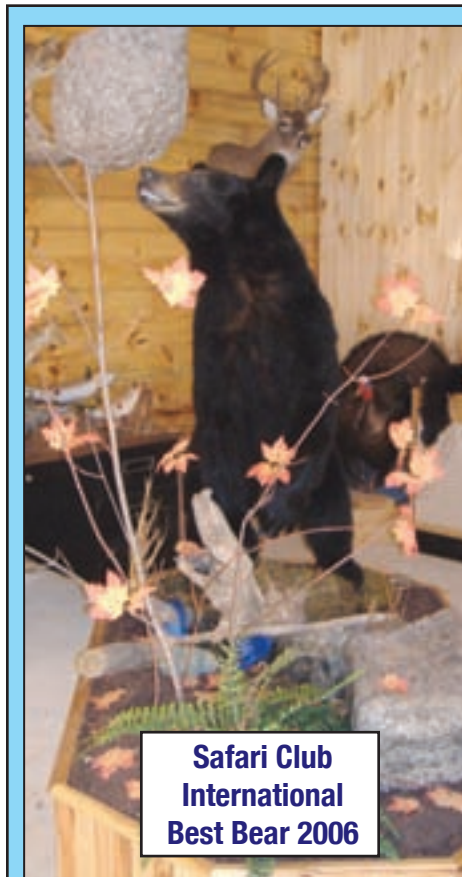
The West Virginia Division of Natural Resources, the West Virginia Izaak Walton League, and the West Virginia Bowhunters Association are again sponsoring the Big Buck Contest for deer taken between October 13 and December 31, 2007. During this time, any hunter who bags a deer in West Virginia with antlers having eight or more points, a 26-inch beam length, and points that are more than eight inches long may have a winning buck. Antlers will be measured according to the official scoring system for North American big game animals, established by the Boone and Crockett Club for gun hunters, and the Pope and Young Club for bowhunters.

Plaques will be awarded to four overall first place winners in gun typical and non-typical and bow typical and non-typical classes at the National Hunting and Fishing Day Celebration held at Stonewall Resort State Park on the last weekend in September 2008. Gun hunters whose bucks score more than 140 points typical or 165 non-typical will receive certificates commemorating the entry of their buck into the WV Big Buck Contest Record Keeping Program. Bowhunters whose bucks score more than 125 points typical or 155 non-typical will also receive certificates. There were 62 new entries into the Big Buck Records last year that were taken during the 2006 season. The season total showed 11 taken by gun hunters and 51 by bowhunters. Bucks taken in previous years

may still be scored for a certificate (if it meets the minimum score) and entry into the records.

Hunters wishing to have their deer scored for this contest should contact the closest Official Measurer through any DNR Wildlife District Office. Phone numbers and addresses are listed in the "2007-2008 West Virginia Hunting and Trapping Regulations Summary."

Appointments must be made for scoring trophies. Many hunters have their deer scored by Official Measurers during the WV Hunting and Fishing Show, held at the Charleston Civic Center in late January. Hunters will be required to read and sign a Fair Chase Affidavit. The hunter must bring the official Game Check Tag with the antlers to be measured.

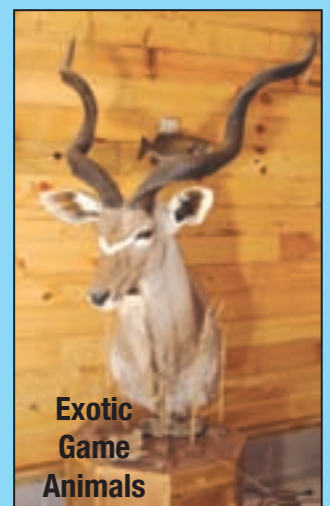


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Epizootic Disease Diagnosed In Deer

Beginning in late August and continuing through September of this year, portions of West Virginia have experienced an outbreak of Epizootic Hemorrhagic Disease in its white-tailed deer herd, according to West Virginia Division of Natural Resources Director Frank Jezioro. Dead deer have been reported in small areas from several locations, and the Epizootic Hemorrhagic Disease, virus serotype 2 (EHDV-2) has been isolated from deer in Hancock, Harrison, Marion, Monongalia and Wayne counties so far this fall.

“Wildlife biologists, managers and conservation officers within WVDNR have received and are investigating reports of local deer mortalities in nine additional counties,” Jezioro said. “Most of these mortalities have occurred in counties adjacent to the Ohio River and north-central counties. EHDV-2 has also been confirmed in deer herds in Pennsylvania, Virginia, Ohio and Kentucky.”

Veterinarians and other wildlife disease diagnosticians working at the Southeastern Cooperative Wildlife Disease Study, located at the University of Georgia’s College of Veterinary Medicine, have confirmed the virus isolates of EHDV-2.

Although Epizootic Hemorrhagic Disease usually does not have a major impact on deer populations, WVDNR is currently surveying the extent of the disease outbreak in the state. EHDV-2 may cause local reductions in the deer herd of usually 20 percent or less. The disease disappears with the first frost, because



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the spread of the virus is dependent on small, biting midges in the genus *Culicoides*, which are killed by cold temperatures. EHDV-2 does not occur in West Virginia every year, and the last outbreaks of this disease in West Virginia occurred in 1996 and 2002.

Epizootic Hemorrhagic Disease does not persist in deer that survive infection, and the disease is not

infectious for humans. Although hunters should never consume an obviously sick deer, the current disease outbreak should not concern people interested in hunting and consuming their deer this fall, according to WVDNR Director Jezioro, who also noted, “Epizootic Hemorrhagic Disease is not related to Chronic Wasting Disease which occurs in a small region of Hampshire County.”

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Mathew Blake hooked a nice catfish. *Photo courtesy Crossroads General Store near Newark.*



Jeryl Gant caught a citation smallmouth in the New River. *Photo courtesy Three Rivers Edge in Hinton.*



Cody Morrow & Wyatt Snider bagged some early squirrels. *Photo courtesy Jarrett's Bait in Elizabeth.*

ATTENTION WV HUNTERS

While Gov. Manchin has created the "Open for Business" slogan for WV, The West Virginia Dept of Natural Resources is allowing the sale of Whitetail Deer Urine in the state from unknown sources outside of WV. This increases the potential spread of Chronic Wasting Disease according to Frank Jezioro (WV State DNR Director). Anderson's Whitetail's is a locally owned and operated Whitetail and Scent business in which the WVDNR has wrongfully stopped the sale of local in-state scent products with over a 3 year CWD testing record. "Open for Business" is "Closed to In-state Business Owners".

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Average Guy Fisherman

Let me offer some ideas and suggestions for you, the Average Guy. You know who you are: You enjoy fishing, but you don't get out as much as you'd like to. Most years you fish a few local tournaments, a pro-am event once in a while, and maybe you belong to a club within The Bass Federation. But your first priorities are your family and your job.

You know you're never going to fish the FLW Tour or the PWT, and it's even unlikely that you'll wind up in the BFL circuit. Sure, the competition is fun, but you want to go to Johnny's soccer games, and for sure you're going to help coach Missy's basketball team; you're not giving all that up just to be a tournament-fishing maniac.

Still, you'd like to improve, and at one level this Performance Psychology and Tournament Fishing stuff makes sense. It's just that it seems really complicated and pretty involved, and it sure takes a lot of time to do all those visualization and commitment and goal-setting exercises. Isn't there something an Average Guy could do that's a little bit simpler and easier to understand, but could still help Git-R-Done, you ask? Well, sure there is! Check this out.

Average Guy Technique No. 1:

Goal-setting

So you have probably heard stuff about goal-setting and how it's useful, but to you it seems like doing all that turns fishing into work. Besides, who has the time to write down long-term goals and then short-term goals and then daily or weekly goals?

OK, forget about the whole goal-setting system, but do this instead: Think about one of your regular, or yearly, fishing trips. Maybe you go to Canada in the summer with a group of guys, or maybe you just go up north to the lake for a week with the family. Either way, spend some time talking about this trip

with one of the people you like to
continue to the next page



Brian Rose caught a nice large-mouth bass.

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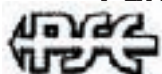
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fish with, and talk about what went right last year and also what didn't. Then, pick out just two things that went wrong last year, and make a decision to not let those things happen on the 2007 trip.

There, you've done it! You went and used goal-setting. But then contact me after the trip, and tell me if it worked, OK?

Average Guy Technique No. 2: Visualization and mental rehearsal

There was an article in Performance Psychology and Tournament Fishing on visualization and mental rehearsal. That seems way out there to Average Guys, I know, so here is a shortcut I think you'll like. You've got a camera in your cell phone these days, right? So, get one of your kids to show you how to use it, and then this summer, take a picture every time you go fishing.

What you will wind up with is a series of visual images of both your successful and unsuccessful fishing trips. At the end of the summer, delete the pictures from the lousy trips and keep the good ones. Then during the winter, you can look at those pictures, and it will be just like doing visualization exercises. You'll remind yourself of your good days on the water, and that will help you feel more confident. When you see the pictures, you'll also remember what you did that
continue to the next page

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Deer Behavior

Before we can answer the question of when to hunt, we need to go over a few things about deer. Deer are nocturnal animals. Nocturnal means that deer can see at night, which is one of the reasons they are more active at night. Deer have more light-detecting cells in their eyes than humans, which aids their nocturnal vision. However, a deer's nocturnal vision is not perfect on a very dark night. A deer will spend more time looking for food and less time eating food on a dark night, than they would on a clear night with a full moon. Deer tend to be the least active on days following a clear night, because their stomachs are usually fuller and they are content to stay near their bedding area until sundown. As sundown approaches the deer will start the feeding cycle all over again.

Deer travel to their feeding area from their bedding area in the last



Brenda Stier landed a 7 pound Atlantic Ocean bluefish. *Courtesy of Old & New Sports in Ravenswood.*

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minutes of daylight. On the reverse trip they travel from their feeding area to their bedding area in the first minutes of daylight. In most areas you are allowed to hunt from 30 minutes before sunrise until 30 minutes after sunset. This one hour

time period is usually the most productive time of day to hunt. Many hunters seem to avoid this hour of daylight, I guess it is just not convenient for them. If a hunter is going to waste an hour of their hunt-

continue to the next page



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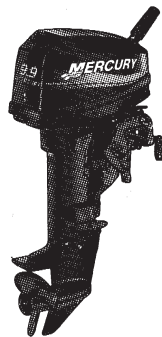
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ing day, they should choose one at mid-day when deer are less active.

A deer's behavior is not set in stone. Their behavior is easily altered by several factors. The most common of these factors are precipitation, wind, hunting pressure and the rut. Deer will usually stay in their bedding area during times of heavy rain or snow. When the storm stops, deer will start moving for a couple of reasons:

- The trees and brush are usually dripping with rain or snow and this noise will make the deer nervous, so they will move about.
- They will also start moving if the storm lasted through their feeding period. They will be hungry and out looking for food.

When the wind blows it becomes noisy in the woods and the deer can't hear approaching danger, so they get nervous and start moving. Windy days in the woods can be very dangerous for hunters. The wind can cause tree limbs to fall and even trees can topple over. If you choose to hunt on windy days use extra caution.

Deer hunters roaming through

the woods will cause deer to move from their bedding area. If other hunters are in your hunting area, this might be a good time to stake out a deer trail or crossing and let the other hunters chase the deer to you.

The rut is the period of time when bucks mate with does. The rut usually lasts about a month. In most parts of the country the rut occurs in November, although this varies depending on geographic location. During the rut all deer are more active, especially the bucks. It is not unusual to see a buck chasing a doe during the middle of the day, when they are normally resting. It can be said that the rut clouds a buck's judgment as they are often seen doing things they wouldn't normally do. I have observed a similar behavior in other animals, down at the bar on Friday night!

One last factor that seems to have an affect on deer movement is the position of the moon. Most of you have probably heard that the position of the moon plays a big part in the activity of fish. The moon also seems to have an effect on deer.

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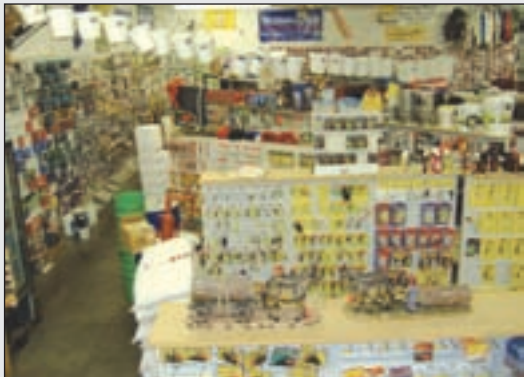
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Harold Dean took a big 5X5 Colorado elk. Photo courtesy of Stracher's Sport Shop in Lubeck.



Victoria Hensley caught an 8 pound bluefish at Orcacoke. Photo courtesy of Old and New Sports in Ravenswood.



A real nice flathead catfish was hooked by Katie Goodwin. Photo courtesy of Johnny's Outdoors in Boaz.

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Ken Doland landed a 15 pound New River carp. *Photo courtesy of Three Rivers Edge in Hinton.*



Brad Berga caught and released a nice largemouth. *Photo courtesy of Backwater Bait in Newport, Ohio.*



John Goots bagged this nice 4X4 mule deer in Wyoming on his 50th birthday. *Photo courtesy of Johnny's Outdoors in Boaz.*



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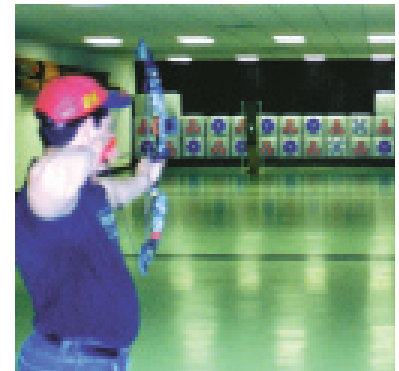
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This angler landed a nice flathead catfish. *Photo courtesy Grandpa's General Store in Hinton.*



Chris Hall hooked a 20 pound catfish. *Photo courtesy of Jarrett's Bait in Elizabeth.*



Mike Kehl caught a 40" flathead. *Photo courtesy of Backwater Bait in Newport, Ohio.*

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Deer Hunting Basics

Before we can answer the question of when to hunt, we need to go over a few things about deer. Deer are nocturnal animals. Nocturnal means that deer can see at night, which is one of the reasons they are more active at night. Deer have more light-detecting cells in their eyes than humans, which aids their nocturnal vision. However, a deer's nocturnal vision is not perfect on a very dark night. A deer will spend more time looking for food and less time eating food on a dark night, than they would on a clear night with a full moon. Deer tend to be the least active on days following a clear night, because their stomachs are usually fuller and they are content to stay near their bedding area until sundown. As sundown approaches the deer will start the feeding cycle all over again.

Deer travel to their feeding area from their bedding area in the last minutes of daylight. On the reverse trip they travel from their feeding area to their bedding area in the first minutes of daylight. In most areas you are allowed to hunt from 30 minutes before sunrise until 30 minutes after sunset. This one hour time period is usually the most pro-

ductive time of day to hunt. Many hunters seem to avoid this hour of daylight, I guess it is just not convenient for them. If a hunter is going to waste an hour of their hunting day, they should choose one at mid-day when deer are less active.

A deer's behavior is not set in stone. Their behavior is easily altered by several factors. The most common of these factors are precipitation, wind, hunting pressure and the rut. Deer will usually stay in their bedding area during times of heavy rain or snow. When the storm stops, deer will start moving for a couple of reasons:

- The trees and brush are usually dripping with rain or snow and this noise will make the deer nervous, so they will move about.
- They will also start moving if the storm lasted through their feeding

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A smallmouth was landed by this young fellow. Photo courtesy of Grampa's General Store in Hinton.

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Don't Feed The Bears

The Division of Natural Resources cautions all West Virginia residents that feeding black bears is a violation of state law, as well as a misguided disservice to our state animal, according to Christopher Ryan, black bear project leader for the DNR Wildlife Resources Section.

"It is understandable that some people will illegally set out food to get a glimpse of this magnificent animal," Ryan says. "However, too often these actions regrettably result in the death of the bear. Bears that wander near residential areas in search of food are less likely to stay if they do not find anything to eat."

Capturing and moving bears that have become accustomed to humans is a costly and sometimes ineffective way of addressing the problem, especially when faced with the possibility of merely moving a problem bear from one area to another. That is why wildlife agencies around the country tell people

that a "fed bear is a dead bear."

Bear populations have increased and expanded across the state in the past 10 years. "We have been receiving numerous calls concerning bear sightings from areas that have not had bears in the recent past," Ryan says. "Bears have been reported in all 55 counties and we have received many reports of sows with cubs in the northern and western portion of the state."

Bears have long breeding seasons that may last from May through September. However, the peak of breeding season is late June through July. Adult male bears may cover large tracts of land in search of females. In addition, this is the time of the year when adult female bears will chase off their yearlings so that they may breed again. These youngsters are often on their own

continue to the next page



Alexis Jones caught her 1st. Photo courtesy of Jarrett's Bait in Elizabeth

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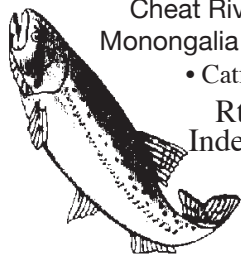
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The Division of Natural Resources cautions all West Virginia residents that feeding black bears is a violation of state law, as well as a misguided disservice to our state animal, according to Christopher Ryan, black bear project leader for the DNR Wildlife Resources Section.

“It is understandable that some people will illegally set out food to get a glimpse of this magnificent animal,” Ryan says. “However, too often these actions regrettably result in the death of the bear. Bears that wander near residential areas in search of food are less likely to stay if they do not find anything to eat.”

Capturing and moving bears that have become accustomed to humans is a costly and sometimes ineffective way of addressing the problem, especially when faced with the possibility of merely mov-

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ing a problem bear from one area to another. That is why wildlife agencies around the country tell people that a “fed bear is a dead bear.”

Bear populations have increased and expanded across the state in the past 10 years. “We have been receiving numerous calls concerning bear sightings from areas that have not had bears in the recent past,” Ryan says. “Bears have been reported in all 55 counties and we have received many reports of sows with cubs in the northern and western portion of the state.”

Bears have long breeding seasons that may last from May through September. However, the peak of breeding season is late June through July. Adult male bears may

cover large tracts of land in search of females. In addition, this is the time of the year when adult female bears will chase off their yearlings so that they may breed again. These youngsters are often on their own for the first time and will be looking for easy food sources. Bears will continue on their way if they do not find food sources to attract them.

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Bow Tuning

A bow must be tuned with "matched" arrows to achieve consistent shots and good arrow flight. However, tuning techniques vary slightly by bow type, and depending on who you ask. For more information see [TB Magazine Jun/Jul 1993, pp. 20-26], [Fred Asbell, 1988, pp. 59-67], or [Ferguson].

- 1 Some people recommend shooting bare shaft to get initial adjustments then fine tuning with fletched arrows

- 2 Set the brace height according to the manufacturer (if known)
 - For longbows usually in the range of 5.0 - 6.75 inches
 - Shoot 10 paces; for aluminum shafts start long (e.g. 31 in for 28 inch draw) and the recommended spine (64# 2216)
 - You can use tape or thread on the bowstring as a nocking point as you adjust the brace height
 - Adjusted by lengthening or shortening the string; Flemish strings can be shortened or lengthened by twisting or untwisting the string
 - You will want the lowest brace height that the bow will perform properly, so you may want to start low enough that you get noise

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and bad arrow flight and then loosen until it clears up

-If hit target with nock left of arrow point then shorten the bow string in 1/4 inch increments (i.e., increase the brace height)

3 Adjust nocking point

- Start at 1/8" above 90 degrees (using a bow square)

- Placing the nock locator above the arrow works well, it keeps an arrow with a broadhead from flipping off the string (some recommend a nock locator on either side)

- Shoot from 10 paces

- Check for porpoising (up and down motion).

- The arrow should stick reasonably straight, maybe a little tail high (less than 1.5 inches), definitely not below horizontal.

- If the arrow is leaving the bow tail low, nocking point is too low.

- Move the nocking point up in 1/8 increments to see if arrow flight improves (then move it above that point to see if it improves more or gets worse).

- Pick the nocking point that gives the best flight.

4 Super fine tuning (shoot fletched

shaft from greater than 20 paces)
- Recheck the brace height
- weak spine (strike right of center)

Alternative Delivery Hunter Education

The Law Enforcement Section of the Division of Natural Resources announces that beginning August 1, 2007, Alternative Delivery Hunter Education Courses will be offered to any person eligible to take the "traditional" course to earn a permanent Hunter Education Card.

Those interested must first register at one of the six Law Enforcement District Offices listed on the DNR Web site (www.wvdnr.gov) or the Hunting/Fishing regulation booklet.

Upon registration, you will be given a choice of completing a study workbook or taking an on-line course at www.ihea.com. After completing that stage of the course, you will be required to attend practical exercises and take a written exam.

For more information, contact your closest DNR District Office

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Deer Tracks Determine Size

The size of a deer track will help you to determine the size of the deer. As a deer grows, their feet will grow accordingly. Big mature bucks will leave big and deep tracks. In soft ground the dew claws will show on both bucks and does. Rounded tips on hoofs are a result of hoof wear usually due to rocky or other abrasive surfaces and has little to do with weather the deer is a buck or a doe.

When analyzing deer tracks in shallow snow, look to see which deer are dragging their feet. It is believed that bucks drag their feet to conserve energy. In deeper snow all deer will drag their feet. Another trick for snow tracking is to watch for antler impressions in the snow. When a large buck is checking the trail for a doe in estrus, his horns will sometimes leave an impression in the snow. This will also show you how wide his antler spread is.

Once you have found a good track in the snow, you can follow it to continue to the next page



Josh Murray landed a nice king salmon on the Niagara River. *Photo courtesy of Starcher's Sport Shop in Lubeck.*



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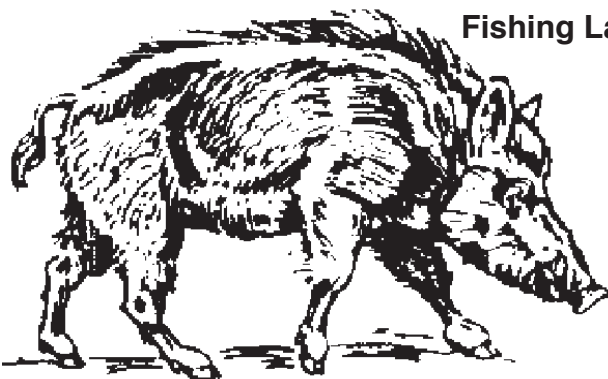


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When a deer walks, they will place their back hoof in the track of their front hoof. If the second track falls slightly to the outside of the first, it is probably a doe because a doe's hind quarters are wider than her chest. The wider hind quarters of a doe are required for giving birth. If the second track falls slightly to the inside and short of the first track, then it is probably a buck track since a buck's chest is wider than his hind quarters and his body is longer.

The chart following is a size comparison for the front hoof of a deer. The size of deer and their tracks will vary from region to region. The deer tracks in your region may vary from the following chart.

Good luck hunting this season.

Deer Tracks

Use Deer Tracks to Determine
What Type of Deer You are Tracking



Janet Beveridge, from Rivesville caught a 29 1/2" flathead.



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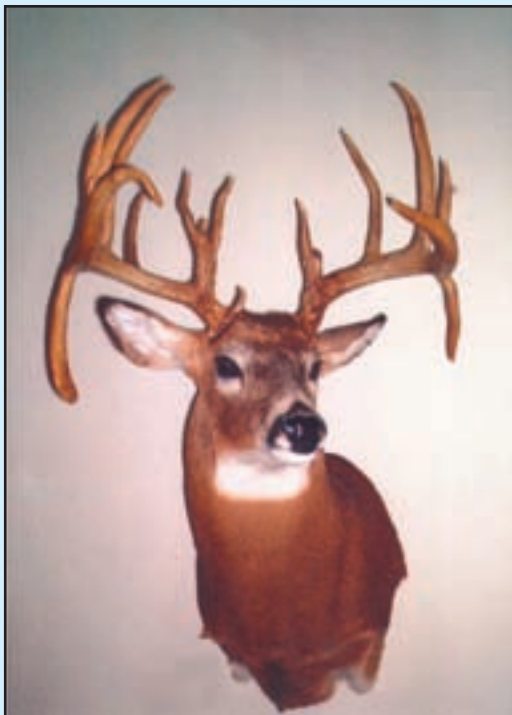
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Lynn Moles, form Elkview, landed a 6 pound smallmouth on the Elk River. His friend, Reggie Robertson, guided him to the spot.



Richard Bradford hooked a 4 1/2 pound smallmouth. Photo courtesy of Three Rivers Edge in Hinton.



Linda Brown caught a nice catfish. Photo courtesy of Crossroads General Store near Newark

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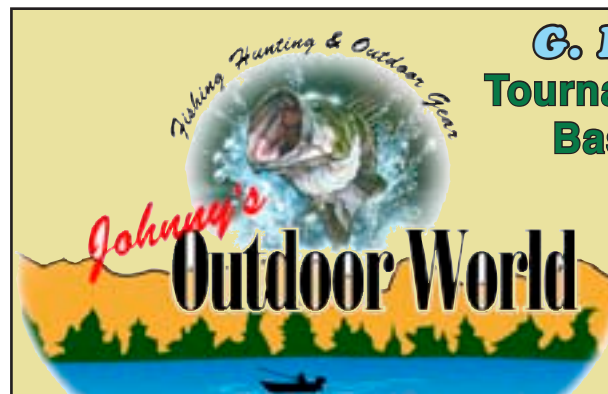
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Women's Squirrel And Deer Hunt

The Division of Natural Resources Wildlife Resources Section is sponsoring two Beyond BOW (Becoming an Outdoors-Woman) hunts. To participate in either of these hunts you must be 18 years and older.

A Women's Squirrel and Archery Deer Hunt will be held October 18-20, 2007, in Wetzel County. Participants will need a valid hunting license. The registration fee is \$30 plus meals. Lodging will be at a farmhouse owned and operated by Wheeling Jesuit University which adjoins Lewis Wetzel Wildlife Management Area. Anyone who wishes to take part in the archery hunt must be an experienced archer with your own equipment and be able to show proficiency with a bow. You do not need to have hunted deer before but should have the equipment to do so. If you choose to take part in the squirrel hunt you

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must bring your own .22 caliber rifle or shotgun with appropriate ammunition. Blaze orange is not required, but recommended.

The Women's Antlerless Deer Hunt is scheduled for December 1-3, 2007. Participants will meet at 1 p.m. on Saturday, December 1, at the public shooting range at Stonewall Jackson Wildlife Management Area, located in Lewis County just off U.S. Route 19 east of Interstate 79 from exit 91. The shooting range is just past the State Park entrance

on your left. The registration fee is \$50. Lodging will be at a WVDNR Wildlife Personnel Station in Vandalia, WV. Participants will need a valid hunting license and a Class N stamp. All participants will need to bring their own firearms and ammunition.

For more information or to register for the hunts, please contact BOW at 304-558-2771 ext. 206 or billieshearer@wvdnr.gov.



Brain Rose landed a nice North Bend Lake largemouth.

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Sale Of Live Foxes Permitted

West Virginia trappers will be allowed to sell live foxes to hound coursing pens in West Virginia during the 2007-2008 trapping season, according to Curtis I. Taylor, Chief of the West Virginia Division of Natural Resources' Wildlife Resources Section. All foxes used in hound coursing pens must be live-trapped in the county in which the pen is located.

"This action will help to avoid any additional westward spread of rabies and reduce the possibility of moving diseased animals across the state," Taylor said. "In addition, since raccoons are the primary carriers of the raccoon strain of rabies, the sale of live raccoons remains suspended for the 2007-2008 trapping season."

Hound coursing pens are licensed in West Virginia and regulated by best management standards which are designed to promote humane treatment of the wild animals being pursued. Trappers are urged to use extreme care when handling live animals due to the dangers of exposure to rabies and other diseases.

Please contact your local wildlife biologist for more information about the sale of live foxes. Division of Natural Resources offices are located in Farmington (304-825-6787), Romney (304-822-3551), French Creek (304-924-6211), Beckley (304-256-6947), Point Pleasant (304-675-0871) and Parkersburg (304-420-4550).

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Sutton Lake Deep Water Fishing

A recent late September bass fishing trip with Andy Godwin yielded new techniques on angling for me. Andy, sales manager on new boats at Mid-State Marina in Sutton, showed me new methods on catching late season bass. He is a noted angler on all bodies of water in West Virginia. He also has professional experience having fished around the country in big money events.

We put in at Sutton Lake early in the morning. We fished out of a Ranger Comanche boat from their dealership. With a 225 horsepower motor, we had plenty of boat for the lake.

He was going to demonstrate drop shot fishing and also showed me methods of using big jerk baits on suspended deep water bass. Being an Ohio River fisherman myself, I'm used to fishing closer to the bank. As we call it in my area "bank slapping" is the usual method for catching stubborn Ohio River

By Mark Goudy

bass. As it turned out that day, we were never closer than fifty yards or so from the shoreline.

He is on the professional staff of Lucky Craft lures and tied on a Sammy for me. Andy was throwing a Gofish out in deeper water. Schooling fish were popping at the surface. He tossed out his bait and hooked one right off the bat. I had some good swirls on my bait as well and finally hooked a nice spotted bass. He landed several nice fish in the first spot and we moved on to another area. The fish that we landed were in at least in 15 feet deep water. I was surprised to catch fish in that depth on surface plugs.

We moved on to another area and caught more fish out in deeper water. There were some sunken Christmas trees planted by the DNR in the area. The fish were coming up from the trees and were slamming into the surface plugs. I

had switched to a Gofish lure too. It's kind of a "walk-the-dog style of lure. It wiggles back and forth on the surface. This is not a normal style of fishing for myself but I'm impressed now with this method.

Another company that Andy represents is Kistler rods. The Kistler family was originally with Allstar rods and then the Castaway rod
continue to the next page



Andy Godwin landed a nice Sutton Lake bass on a Lucky Craft lure.

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company. Andy explained the benefits of these rods that we had been using.

If your searching for a high end rod that is designed for the angler who is serious about his sport? Try out one of the their innovative "Technique Specific" MAGNESIUM rods and you will find what you are looking for. Super light and genuinely designed for the guy who wants more performance in a rod without the big price tag.

With the fusion of their patented Helium and Magnesium graphite fibers, the angler will certainly detect every single bump, tick or gulp that takes place beneath the water surface.

The nicest feature is the "split-grip" handle design. By removing the middle section of the cork handle, you will notice the added vibrations through the blank and lightened weight of the rod itself. The lighter the rod is, the more you feel the fish.

They have used their new "Smart Touch" reel seats which have been coated with a soft texture for you to gain even more grip on the rod during all weather conditions. Remember to take advantage of the no fore grip design where they have removed the cork to increase vibrations so you can detect those subtle strikes when placing your index finger right on graphite itself.

As always, included on every rod they make, is the Kistler "hook hanger"; known to those who already have a Kistler Rod as the smartest idea for a hook keeper ever invented.

New and improved stainless steel guides with pressed in frames surrounding the hardened ceramic ring inserts. Even the rod tip-top is enhanced with their exclusive flanged ring insert which eliminates any accidental knockouts.

Andy especially likes the lightness of these rods. Over a long day, he explained, an angler is less weary from fishing. In addition, he catches more fish by being able to

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JANE LEW, WV
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detect more bites.

We also used their high end Helium LTA rods. It's ultralight design amplifies the sensitivity to unparalleled levels. When combined with the lightness of the rod, you get more accurate casts when targeting spooky fish without sacrificing the extreme backbone needed to muscle them out from their home. More information on these excellent rods can be obtained on their website. Go to www.kistlerrods.com

We ran on down the lake, at a great speed I might add. The big Ranger boat ran very smoothly. We stopped by some bridge piers and stopped to try some drop shot
continue to the next page

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Kistler rods were used on our Sutton Lake adventure. Note their innovative handle design.

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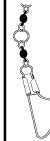
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rigs.

This was a new technique for myself and it took me a while to catch on. Basically it's similar to Carolina rig style fishing. A small circle style hook is tied onto the line. Then you leave about a foot of line extended after you tie on the hook. Next you tie on a small cylinder weight to the line. The hook looks a bit strange tied directly on the line.

When you cast out, the weight settles on the bottom with the hook suspended on the line directly above it. Andy likes to use a small hand-poured worm style lure on the hook. He calls them a drop worm and obtains them from a fellow in Nitro, WV. They can be found online at www.nitrobait.com

These baits come in numerous colors and some are laminated two color worms. The worm is around 4" long and is very soft. Other

style baits can also be used on drop shot rigs.

I assumed that the lure would be dropped down to the bottom and it would be jigged up and down. That method can work but Andy likes to cast out away from the boat and gently reels in the bait along the bottom.

He landed numerous fish using this method. I wasn't quite as proficient but managed to catch a few as well. He also uses this technique fishing large bodies of water like



A nearly two pound Sutton Lake spotted bass was landed by Andy Godwin. He was using a drop shot rig for this impressive spot.

the Ohio River. It's a slow method of fishing but yields numerous fish. His Kistler rods aided in feeling the subtle bites. We were using medium action rods which helped obtain a more sensitive feel.

After several hours of fishing, we went back to the ramp. Several tournament length fish were caught by us and I learned a great deal from Andy Godwin.



Andy Godwin's style of drop shot rigging is shown.

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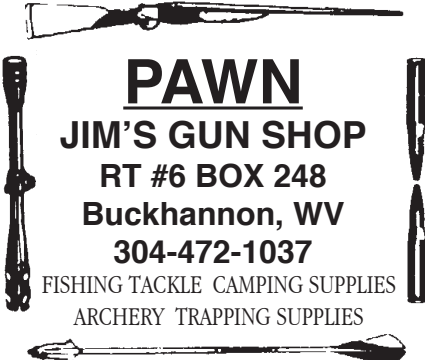
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Subscribers to Wonderful West Virginia magazine who have difficulty reading the articles because of vision problems now have the option of receiving the articles in a large-print format, according to the magazine's publisher, Harry Price.

"Wonderful West Virginia has always had standard size type for magazines of its kind, but we've found that as our readership ages, many have difficulty reading the stories that go with the beautiful photography," Price explained. "This new option allows our older readers and others with vision difficulties to receive the articles in a bigger print format by e-mail at the same time as they receive their issues in the mail."

Paid subscribers to the magazine may go to the Wonderful West Virginia Web site at www.wonderfulwv.com, click the "Large Print Request" option on the left side of the page, and fill out the subscription information requested, using the subscription ID number found on the mailing label on one of their recent issues. Beginning immediately, they will receive a monthly e-mail containing a large-text version of the magazine's articles in PDF format. It can be read on the computer screen using Adobe Reader, which is available for free downloading, or printed out for convenient reading while enjoying the photography in the regular issue.

Wonderful West Virginia magazine, the state's premier full-color magazine of outdoor fun and history, is published monthly by the West Virginia Division of Natural Resources. It is available at newsstands for \$2.50 per copy, or by subscription by calling 1-800-CALL-WVA or on the Internet at www.wonderfulwv.com. Subscriptions are available for one year for \$17 or two years for \$34.

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This angler hooked a musky. *Photo courtesy of Grandpa's General Store in Hinton.*



Lamont Smith caught a big brown trout. *Photo courtesy of Three Rivers Edge in Hinton.*

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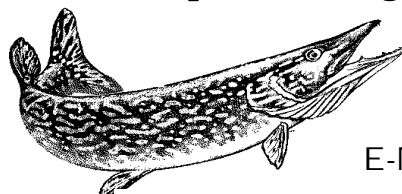
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Oct. 21

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