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Issue 212

Fall 2011



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Magazine

Volume 1 Issue 212

Publisher and Editor
Mark A. Goudy

Contributing Editors
West Virginia Division Of
Natural Resources

No Subscriptions Offered

W.Va. Sportsman is a monthly publication.

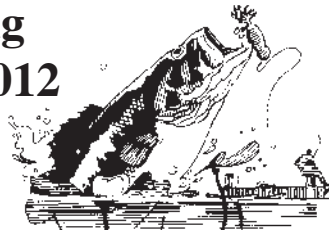
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Cover Photo

Josh Sears had archery success in Raleigh County. His big 12 point will score around 165 P&Y.

The early archery season seems to be a bit slow. Warmer weather and lots of leaves still on the trees may have been a factor.

Mail or email your buck pics.

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Photo courtesy of PC Bait & Tackle in Hinton.

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Big Buck Contest Begins

SOUTH CHARLESTON, W.Va. – The West Virginia Division of Natural Resources (DNR), Izaak Walton League of West Virginia, West Virginia Bowhunters Association, West Virginia Muzzleloaders Association, West Virginia Physically Challenged Advisory Board, and Toyota are again sponsoring the West Virginia Big Buck Contest for deer taken between Oct. 1 and Dec.31, 2011, according to Gene Thorn, Chairman of the West Virginia Big Buck Contest Review Committee.

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.

Plaques will be awarded to eight overall first-place winners for typical and non-typical bucks in gun, bow, muzzleloader, and crossbow (physically challenged) categories continue to the next page



Greg Nahodil reeled in a big New River smallmouth.

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Lee Rogers used a bow in Ohio for this quality buck. Photo courtesy of Boone's Bow Shop in Parkersburg.

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KAWASAKI TERYX

at the National Hunting and Fishing Days Celebration held at Stonewall Jackson State Park on the fourth weekend in September 2012.

Gun and muzzleloader hunters whose bucks score more than 140 points typical or 165 non-typical will receive certificates commemorating the entry

of their buck into the West Virginia Big Buck Contest and Records Keeping Program. Bowhunters or physically-challenged crossbow hunters whose bucks score more than 125 points typical or 155 non-typical will also receive certificates.

There were 66 new entries into the Big Buck Records last year that

were taken during the 2010 season. The season total showed 11 bucks taken by gun hunters, one by muzzleloader, 52 by bowhunters, and two by crossbow. Bucks taken in previous years may still be scored for a certificate and entry into the records, if they meet the minimum score.

continue to the next page

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Hunters wishing to have their deer scored should contact the closest official scorer by checking the DNR's website www.wvdnr.gov/hunting/BigBuckContest.shtm where there is a list of Official Measurers or through any DNR Wildlife District Office. Phone numbers and addresses are listed in the 2011-2012 West Virginia Hunting and Trapping Regulations Summary. Appointments must be made for scoring trophies. Many hunters have their deer scored by a team of official measurers during the West Virginia Hunting and Fishing Show, held in late January at the Charleston Civic Center. Hunters will be required to read and sign a Fair Chase Affidavit and must bring their official Game Check Tag with the antlers to be measured.

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Grouse & Raccoon Prospects

SOUTH CHARLESTON, W.Va. – Better hunting for both raccoons and ruffed grouse is forecast by the West Virginia Division of Natural Resource's Wildlife Resources Section (WRS). Abundant wild food conditions in 2010 should have resulted in a good carryover of raccoons through the winter into spring.

Hunting season for raccoons opens Oct. 15 at 6 p.m. and continues through Feb. 29. The daily bag limit is four. The ruffed grouse season opens Oct. 15 and closes Feb. 29, also with a daily bag limit of four.

"Excellent winter survival usu-

ally means higher production and survival of young," said Paul Johansen, Assistant Chief in Charge
continue to the next page



Craig Kirkham caught a nice New River walleye.

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of Game Management. "Poor mast conditions this year, especially black cherry output and spotty acorn crops, will tend to concentrate the 'masked bandits' in areas where food is available, including beech groves, ridge tops where red oak appears to have 'hit' better than lowland areas, and thornapple/cra-bapple thickets."

Brood counts for grouse this year are currently running more than 60 percent higher than 2010 tallies. Chick and poult survival also appears to be good as WRS personnel report some late year broods with six to 10 young per hen.

"Although some soft mast such as thornapple and dogwood may have birds scattered, we are still expecting higher quality hunts and a good grouse harvest because of the higher number of birds available," said Johansen. "Hunters in October and November will find grouse in and

around thornapple, dogwood, and thick beech clumps. January-February hunting may be rewarding in grape clumps or greenbrier thickets that have produced fruits."

The WRS conducts very important hunter surveys of both raccoon and ruffed grouse hunters. These crucial data gathered during the surveys help biologists to track populations and monitor species through hunter's observations and efforts. Hunters wishing to participate in these species cooperator surveys should contact Rich Rogers (304-822-3551, Rich.E.Rogers@wv.gov) for raccoon, and Tammie Thompson (304-637-0245, Tammie.E.Thompson@wv.gov) for ruffed grouse. Each cooperator is supplied with a complete report prior to the next hunting season.

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Jeremy Simon shot a deer and a couple of minutes later this coyote

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Wildlife Management Areas Opportunities

SOUTH CHARLESTON, W.Va. – The West Virginia Division of Natural Resources' Wildlife Management Area (WMA) program is designed to conserve and manage high quality habitats for a variety of wildlife on 1.4 million acres of public lands, including State WMAs, State Forests, National Forest lands and U.S. Army Corps of Engineer projects. In addition to conserving and managing wildlife habitat, development projects aimed at improving public access and recreational opportunities are an important component of the state's WMA program.

"Using hunting and fishing license monies, the DNR continues to expand and develop WMAs throughout the state," said District Wildlife Biologist Rob Silvester, who is based in the DNR District 3 office in French Creek. "These land acquisition efforts have greatly enhanced our ability to provide wildlife-associated recreation opportunities to the citizens of West Virginia. These areas are used by outdoor enthusiasts for fishing, hunting, boating, hiking, trapping, birding, or just a relaxing evening walk."

WMAs support and offer a variety of development projects, including access roads and trails, parking areas, boat launch ramps, courtesy

docks, public shooting ranges and campgrounds. Many areas have ponds stocked with fish, and some offer fishing piers and/or trails that provide access for physically-challenged sportsmen and women. In addition, WMAs provide a diversity of wildlife habitat and associated hunting opportunities.

"These areas are for your use and enjoyment, but please respect oth-

ers and use them wisely," said Silvester.

For more information concerning West Virginia's WMAs, obtain a copy of Wildlife Management Areas -- A Guide to Their Facilities, Fish and Wildlife available at all WVDNR district offices, or visit the West Virginia Division of Natural Resources' website at www.wvdnr.gov.

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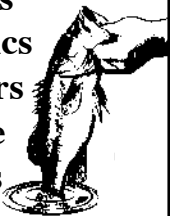
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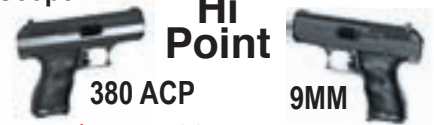
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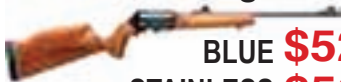


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Robin Sears took this bow buck in Wyoming County. Photo courtesy of Cardinal Pawnbrokers in Beckley.

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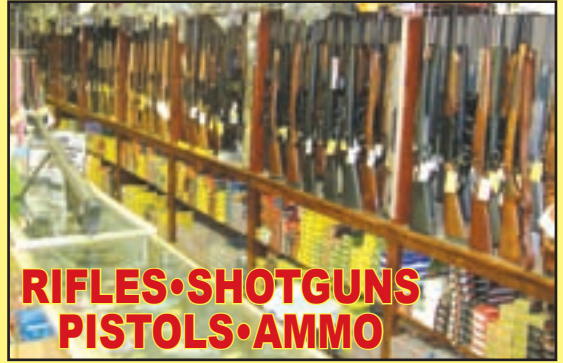
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Philip Wilson used a bow for an 8 point. Photo courtesy of Willie's Sport Shop in Glenville.

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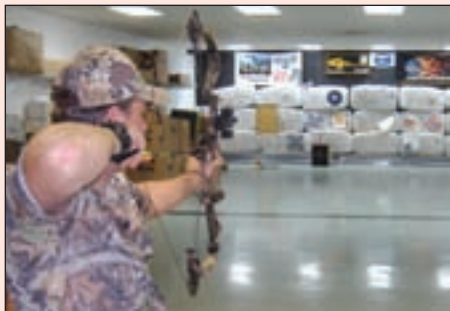
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Buzzbaits For Fall Fishing

By KVD

The leaves are changing rapidly here in Michigan and the nights are drawing cooler. That gets me revved up for buzzbait fishing.

There's nothing more exciting than having a big bass blow up on a buzzbait and now is when it can happen a lot. The bass are moving into the shallows to feed up and that will continue into late fall.

The buzzbait fits my style because it's a bait that covers a lot of water. Bass often are scattered over flats in the fall, so you need to keep moving until you find them. It's also a bait that draws active fish from a long ways.


The lure gets stereotyped as being primarily effective over shallow grass, logs or stumps and stained water, but I've found it to be far more versatile than that. Some of my best days with a buzzbait have come when I was going down a bank casting the lure at no specific target.

You don't want a bait that is too visible for the situation. You want fish to see it but you don't want them to get a good look at it.

Blade color and skirts can make a



Larry Bradley caught a whopper 4 3/4 pound smallmouth. *Photo courtesy of PC Bait & Tackle in Hinton.*



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difference. If you have a little chop on the water, it doesn't matter as much. The perfect day would be one in which it was cloudy, misting rain and breezy.

However, for low light conditions, I like black with a gold blade. If the water is clear, I like the bluegill-col-

ored skirt that Strike King offers, with either a silver or gold blade. I like shad-colored skirts when fishing around shad and white or white/chartreuse in stained water. Generally, I prefer gold blades for low light days.

continue to the next page

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If I'm around a lot of big fish, I will go with the 3/8 ounce and a bigger blade. If it's tougher conditions and calmer water, I'll use the 1/4 ounce so that the sound and action is a little subdued. And if it's real slick and sunny but the fish are still chasing shad, I will go to a 1/8 ounce.

Speed is critical. To be honest, most people fish a buzzbait too fast; you should fish it just fast enough to keep it on top of the water. I always add a trailer hook for short strikes, but if the bass are still hitting and missing the bait, slow it down even more.

To increase noise and slow the bait down, crimp the rivet behind the blade so it can't spin on the shaft. That allows the blade to squeak against the rivet and that drives bass crazy.

I also like to pull about 1/3 of the strands out of the skirt to reduce bulk and enable the head to ride a little deeper in the water. That also will get you more hookups.

Throw it on monofilament, not fluorocarbon, because it helps keep the bait on top.

While the buzzbait catches all sizes of fish, it's the big ones that can't resist it. And nothing gets an angler's motor running faster than a big bass smashing a buzzbait!

Enjoy fishing with a buzzbait the next time you are out on the water this fall. Remember, it's all about the attitude!

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Adam Camp used a bow for this 10 point with an 18" spread and a small drop tine. Photo courtesy of Reese's Country Store in Deerwalk.

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Fall Trout Stocking Beginning

SOUTH CHARLESTON, W.Va. – The 2011 fall trout stocking will take place during the weeks of October 11 and 17, according to Curtis I. Taylor, Chief of the Wildlife Resources Section of the West Virginia Division of Natural Resources. Approximately 35,000 pounds of trout will be stocked during the two-week period in 25 streams and nine lakes as indicated in the 2011 Fishing Regulations booklet. Brood trout will make up about 20 percent of the total poundage.

“Stream flows in most areas of the state are much better than last year at this time, so we should be able to get the trout spread out more evenly,” said Taylor. All waters will be stocked each week during the two-week period, with two exceptions:

Forest Route 54 from US Rt. 250 to Buffalo Fork Lake is currently closed for culvert replacement and

road repairs. Work is anticipated to be completed by Oct. 15, at which time the road will reopen and the lake can be stocked the following week.

Forest Route 44, that parallels the West Fork of the Greenbrier River from Durbin to Wildell, has also been closed from FR 17 at

Little River to Wildell for culvert replacement and road repairs. It also is expected to be reopened Oct. 15, and if possible, trout will be stocked from the railroad grade, downstream of the confluence of West Fork and Little River.

“Without additional rainfall over
continue to the next page



Mike Mueller hooked a 5 pound, 14 oz. rainbow trout.

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the next couple weeks, flows may once again become low and clear, and anglers may have to use their best angling skills to be successful,” Taylor said.

Anglers can call the Fishing Hotline at 304-558-3399 or visit the WVDNR trout stocking website at www.wvdnr.gov to find out which streams and lakes have been stocked each day.

Blackwater Falls Opens New Cabins

DAVIS, W.Va. – Thirteen additional vacation cabins will open Oct. 1 at Blackwater Falls State Park. There now will be two distinct cabin areas at the park, with 26 original cabins toward the Balanced Rock and Lindy Point area, and the new cabin area located in the Pendleton Point Overlook area. The total cabin inventory at Blackwater Falls is now 39.

“The units blend the tradition of West Virginia’s state park cabin hominess, warmth and appeal with modern conveniences and comfort,” said Robert Gilligan, park superintendent. “The cabins will become popular with visitors as



Young Garrett Huffman hooked a nice bluegill. *Photo courtesy of PC Bait & Tackle in Hinton.*

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word spreads they are completed and open.”

Blackwater Falls, near Davis in Tucker County, opened to the public as a state park in 1937 and has been one of the state’s main tourist attractions ever since. The park continues to grow with updated or added facilities and services. The 13 new cabins were built with \$4.5 million dollars of Lottery funds earmarked for park system capital improvements.

The new cabins have four bedrooms with a total of six beds – two rooms with a queen bed and two rooms with two single beds. Fea-

tures include gas fireplaces, washer/drier combos, fully equipped kitchens including dishwasher, range, phones, wireless Internet, refrigerator and microwave oven. Flat screen televisions will be installed later this year. The new cabins are no-pet and no-smoking units.

“These units have all the comforts of home,” according to Paul Redford, a district administrator with West Virginia’s state parks. “The interiors are nicely appointed and have contemporary furnishings. It’s a good investment for the future of tourism in West Virginia. Black-

continue to the next page

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water Falls is one of those special places that spans generations of visitors. The cabins will add to the park's popularity."

"The cabins face into the forest," Gilligan said. "When guests sit a spell on their cabin front porch, they'll not see other guests or vehicles." Parking is behind the units where the road flanks the cabin area. The park website, www.blackwaterfalls.com, includes an updated map locating the cabins, lodge, campground, hiking trails and other park facilities.

"West Virginia's parks remain open while many states' parks are closed or reducing operations," said Brad Leslie, who oversees engineering projects for the parks system, including the new cabins. "We can build it, and people will visit the park, but we also look to the future and upkeep what we have so our park system can continue to serve the general public and residents of the state proudly."

Blackwater Falls State Park is open year-round and is considered a four-season tourist destination.



Mike Clayton hooked a 5.67 pound largemouth. Photo courtesy of Reese's Country Store in Deerwalk.

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elevation and tree species.

For more information about Blackwater Falls State Park, the cabin project, or to make reservations, visit www.blackwaterfalls.com or call 304-259-5216. Reservations for the new cabins begin at 8 a.m. on Oct. 1, 2011.

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Check In Your Game Harvest

SOUTH CHARLESTON, W.Va. – With the opening of a variety of hunting seasons quickly approaching, the West Virginia Division of Natural Resources would like to remind big game hunters that successful hunters must field tag and transport their deer, bear, turkey or boar to a Natural Resources Police Officer or official game checking station for checking. This must be completed by the hunters themselves and is required of all hunters, including landowners. A summary of the checking requirements follows, but hunters should check

the game regulations for complete details:

Deer: The unskinned carcass or the fresh skin and head must be checked before it is transported beyond the county adjacent to the county in which it was killed within 72 hours from when it was killed or 24 hours from the close of the respective season, whichever comes first. In Logan, McDowell, Mingo or Wyoming counties, however, the deer must be checked in the four-county area within 24 hours of the time of kill. Deer killed outside these four counties cannot be checked within these counties.

Bear: The unskinned carcass or fresh skin must be checked within 24 hours after kill and before any part of the bear is transported more than 75 miles from the point of kill.

Turkey: The unskinned carcass must be checked before it is transported beyond the county adjacent to the county in which it was killed within 72 hours from when it was killed or 24 hours from the close of the respective season, whichever comes first.

Boar: The unskinned carcass must be checked in the county of kill within 24 hours after kill.

For a complete list of checking requirements, visit www.wvdnr.gov.

Have a safe hunting season.

Mail or Email
BIG GAME PICS
 •Form On Page 38



Chris Jenks had archery success this year. *Photo courtesy of Crooked Creek Archery in Williamstown,*

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A 52 pound flathead was reeled in by Bob Gander, with Kalyb McQueary. Photo courtesy of Backwater Bait in Newport.

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A 9.04 largemouth bass - 25 3/4" - was hooked by Dave Brinkerhoff. Photo courtesy of Burnsville Docks on the lake.

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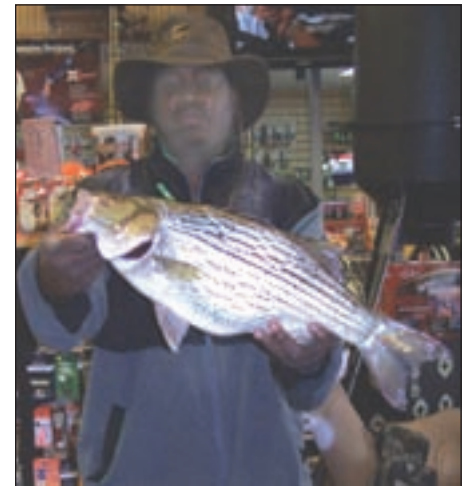
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Jim Thomas, from Cleveland, hooked and released a 51" musky from Stonewall Jackson lake. Photo courtesy of Husky Musky Guide in Jane Lew.



Ted Anderson caught a nice hybrid bass. Photo courtesy of PC Bait & Tackle in Hinton.



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Brad Biehl went west for a huge bull elk. Photo courtesy of Crooked Creek Archery in Williamstown.



Chad Metz, from Jane Lew, caught a 6 pound, 2 oz. largemouth bass.


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Isaac Cooley, from Lost Creek, hooked a 32 1/2" citation carp.

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Preparation

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Once you have chosen your bow, arrows, sites, clothing and target, it's important to make sure you practice before each new season, and every hunt, with a well made compound bow to hone your shooting skills.

Good practices of hunting start by learning how to shoot properly, making a clean kill so that you do not leave wounded deer in the

woods to die. Understanding the kill point or 'boiler room' is important so that you do not have to go very far looking for your deer once it has been struck. The kill point or 'boiler room' is located just behind the shoulder and about a third of the way up on the chest. The intention is to hit the heart, which is just below the lungs of a deer. The entry point for the broad head tip will vary slightly depending on the angle of the arrow as it enters due to where the hunter is standing (which is usually on a stand up a tree - using a safety harness!). The best angle to hit a deer is broadside (directly from a side angle).

continue to the next page

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Mansford Priddy hooked a 19" Pucio in the Kanawha Photo courtesy of Outdoor Specialties in Winfield.

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Also, before ever entering the woods it's important to keep your body and all your clothing free from contaminants. Make sure you don't introduce gasoline on your hunting boots or clothing by filling up on your way to your blind or hunting spot. Keep your entire body clean of contaminants too by washing with unscented soaps and shampoos. Also, don't enter a room or brush up against clothing or people with perfumes, etc.

Hunting is generally done in the wee hours of the morning or evening, the time when the deer are moving the most. Otherwise deer typically stay bedded down until the next wee hour of the day in order not to be seen so unless you do a 'drive' of the deer you are likely not to see many, if any at all, during the daytime hours. This mostly holds true for the Midwest area except during the rut season.

Once you have scouted the area for deer, practiced your shooting skills, and properly prepared yourself for entering the woods, you can now carefully walk to your blind or hunting spot, moving in downwind. If you are hunting in the evening hour of the day be sure to go 2 hours prior to sundown and sit quietly. If hunting in the morn-

ing hour of the day, be sure to be there 1 hour before sunrise.

Unless you are hunting on a game reserve during the daytime where the deer move a little more often, you will likely be bow hunting in the compromised light of the day, and since your arrow will lose its power and trajectory angle once it reaches about 20 - 25 yards away, this will be the distance you will be shooting for hitting a deer.

You can 'call' a deer in by making a 'grunting' or 'rattling' sound. The grunt sound is done with the mouth or a grunt tube, and the rattle sound is done with a set of antlers. It is illegal to bait deer so using corn or feed is not allowed.

Once your deer moves in, waiting for the right moment to shoot is the final key. Since it's important to have an unobstructed path for the arrow to move through, create or have a clear pathway for shooting otherwise your arrow may deflect if it hits a branch. Also, since your best shot will be done with a still or non-moving target, you will want to wait for the deer to stop briefly as it moves through the woods. You can make a quick 'bleating' sound to stop the deer in its tracks in order

continue to the next page

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Dennis Hicks used a bow for this nice 10 point. Photo courtesy of Reese's Country Store in Deerwalk.

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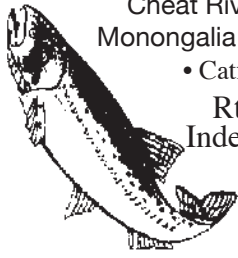
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to get it to stop in a strategic spot for shooting. (A bleat is one short, quick sound that a goat makes).

Make sure to give yourself a moment before climbing down out of your tree stand or leaving your blind after shooting your deer and watch to see where your deer heads. You may have to wait for light if it goes very far. A blood trail, broken branches and hoof prints will guide you to it's location.

Tagging and Dressing Your Deer

It is best to tag and dress your deer where it lays (the wild animals will eat the entrails) because it will be easier to drag out of the woods and there will be no question as to where or when it was shot. Know and understand how to properly dress your deer or you will contaminate the meat, making it unfit for consumption. Hang your deer in a cool place for a day or two before processing to let the meat tender-

ize.

When processing your own meat be sure to remove as much sinew as possible to avoid the ‘wild, gamey’ taste, producing good flavored venison. Otherwise, be sure to find someone who does a fine job of processing deer meat.

For public land call or google your state's conservation department and get a map of public hunting land.

For private land go out months before the season and knock on doors where you'd like to hunt. The best way to get accepted to hunt on someone else's land is by dressing nice and asking politely, telling them who you are and what your desire is. It's also best to offer to help them with some odd jobs like chopping wood, mending fences, or bailing hay in exchange. Be sincere.

For public or private land (once accepted) always be RESPECTFUL and gracious to your host and

their land. Ask them where they'd like for you to park, don't litter, understand property boundaries, don't damage crops or trees, don't bring in other hunters with you (unless you have permission to do so), etc.

Also, ask if there are any other hunters in the area where you desire to hunt (public or private) so that you are aware of other hunters and don't crowd them. Always show respect to other hunters, especially if they had permission to hunt there prior to you.



Landon Harrington caught a 29" citation channel catfish.

Mail Pics - Form On Page 38

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Sen Joe Manchin Sportsman Of The Year

ROANOKE, W.Va. – Because of his outstanding support of hunting and fishing initiatives in the state during his time as governor, and because of his continuing support of those initiatives in the U.S. Senate, Sen. Joe Manchin recently was named West Virginia Sportsman of the Year by the West Virginia Division of Natural Resources and the West Virginia Wildlife Federation. The award was presented by DNR Director Frank Jezioro during West Virginia's Celebration of National Hunting and Fishing Day, held Sept. 24 and 25 at Stonewall Resort State Park in Lewis County.

“As an avid hunter and angler, Joe has always looked for ways to improve and expand hunting and fishing opportunities in our state,” Jezioro said. “During his time as governor, any time I went to him with an idea or a proposal, his first question was always, ‘Is it good for our people?’ If the answer was yes, the rest was easy.”

Some of Sen. Manchin's accomplishments include:



Logan Bracovich, from Robson, received a citation for this 26" wall-eye - from the Kanawha River.

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Added 10,000 more acres of land open to the public for hunting and fishing, including 6,200 acres in Fayette County along the New River Gorge added to Beury Mountain Wildlife Management Area, in partnership with The Nature Conservancy

Built the shooting ranges at Chief Logan State Park and Kumbrabow State Forest, and built the Clay Target Shooting Facility at Cacapon State Park

Approved legislation providing for Hunter Education classes to be taught in the public schools as an elective

Expanded the Archery in the Schools program to 248 schools

Assisted DNR in acquiring a piece of property on the headwaters of the Elk River which guarantees public access to one of the best trout streams in the East

Began development of two of DNR's largest public fishing and boating access facilities, one at Fort Martin near Morgantown and the

continue to the next page

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Senator Manchin receives award from DNR director Jezioro.

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other at Nitro in Kanawha County Started the very successful annual Governors One Shot event which raised \$177,000 during its first four years to benefit the Hunter's Helping the Hungry program

"Since his election to the U.S. Senate, Joe has continued to serve the interests of the state's and the nation's hunters, anglers and trappers as a member of the Congressional Sportsman's Caucus," Jezioro said. "He recently signed on to a bill that would make hunting a priority on federally owned lands, opening additional opportunities for outdoors sportsmen and women."

"I thank Director Jezioro, the staff at the West Virginia DNR and the folks at the West Virginia Wildlife Federation for selecting me for the honor of Sportsman of the Year," U.S. Sen. Joe Manchin said. "As a lifelong and avid outdoor enthusiast, I always enjoy hunting for a buck or testing my skills at fly fishing. West Virginia has outdoor treasures for all ages to enjoy, and I was so pleased to work with the folks at DNR while I was governor and now as U.S. Senator to preserve and promote our state's wilderness for future generations to enjoy."

The West Virginia Sportsman of the Year Award is presented to a person who has exhibited outstanding service to improving the environment and outdoor recreational opportunities in the state.

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Hunter's Helping Hungry

SOUTH CHARLESTON, W.Va. – The West Virginia Division of Natural Resources (DNR) encourages hunters to donate legally harvested white-tailed deer taken during the various fall hunting seasons to the Hunters Helping the Hungry (HHH) Program.

"We are very pleased to note that the HHH Program has provided more than one million venison meals to needy West Virginians since it began back in 1992," noted Gene Thorn, HHH Program Coordinator. "Thanks to generous West Virginia hunters who donated deer to the HHH Program over the

years, many needy West Virginians have received highly nutritious continue to the next page



Mike Brown bowed an 8 point. Photo courtesy of PC Bait & Tackle in Hinton.



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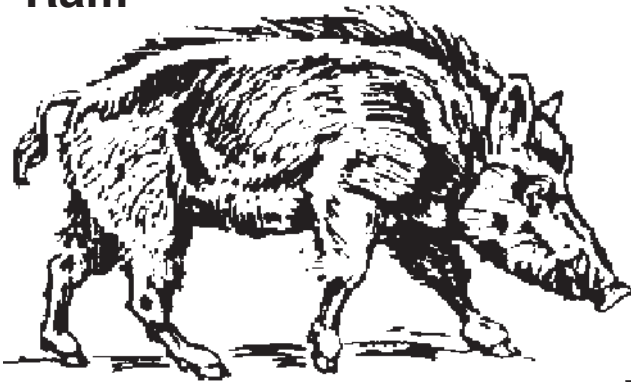
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meals. The DNR, along with its partners – Mountaineer Food Bank and Huntington Area Food Bank – truly appreciate the generosity shown by these hunters and acknowledge that without their help, this program could not exist.”

Under the HHH Program, two-pound packages of ground venison are collected from participating certified processors by the Mountaineer Food Bank, located in Gasaway, and the Huntington Area Food Bank. These food banks then distribute the packaged ground venison to participating statewide distribution centers such as food pantries, soup kitchens, senior centers, community centers, churches, orphanages and other institutions that provide the needy with highly nutritious venison meals. Although it may be too late for non-enrolled distribution centers to receive

venison in 2011 (because of the minimum 60-day application review process), those interested are encouraged to enroll now so they may receive venison starting in the winter 2012. Contact Mountaineer Food Bank at 304-364-5518 to discuss the application process needed to receive venison.

“Although DNR is very grateful for hunter-donated deer, the HHH Program still requires monetary donations to offset processing and distribution costs,” said Thorn. DNR is restricted from using sportsmen’s license dollars to fund this program and is completely dependent upon monetary donations by concerned individuals, businesses, conservation organizations, foundations, churches, and fund-raising events such as the Governor’s One Shot Hunt. “Without monetary donations, we simply

could not continue the HHH Program,” said Thorn.

Hunters also can consult the website or pick up an HHH brochure at DNR offices to locate participating meat processors around the state. For HHH Program general information, consult the website at www.wvdnr.gov or contact Program Coordinator Gene Thorn at 304-924-6211; Eugene.R.Thorn@wv.gov.



Young Dylan Hunter hooked a bluegill at Bluestone Lake.



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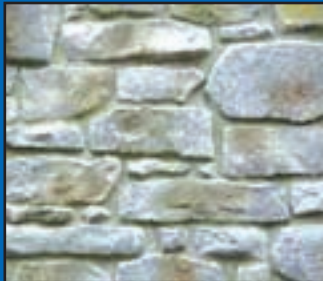
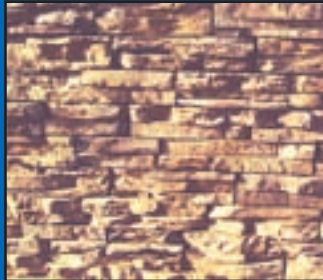


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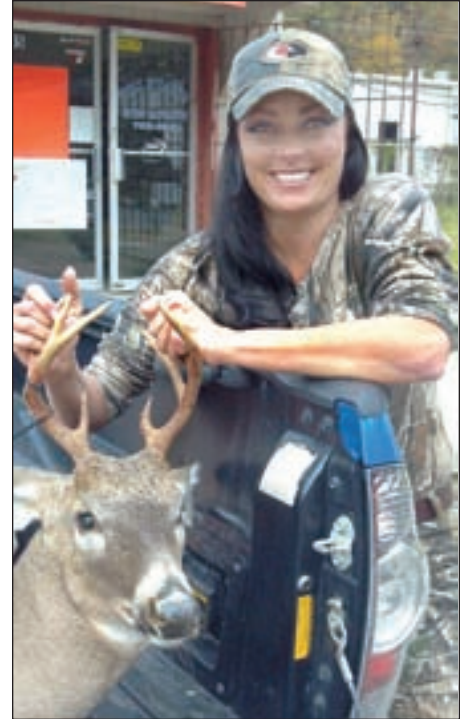
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Chris Taylor hooked a 40 pound bluecat in Virginia. *Photo courtesy of Vinatage Stone in Nimitz.*



Bridget Hobrook got her 1st bow buck. *Photo courtesy of Tri-State Gun & Pawn in Logan.*

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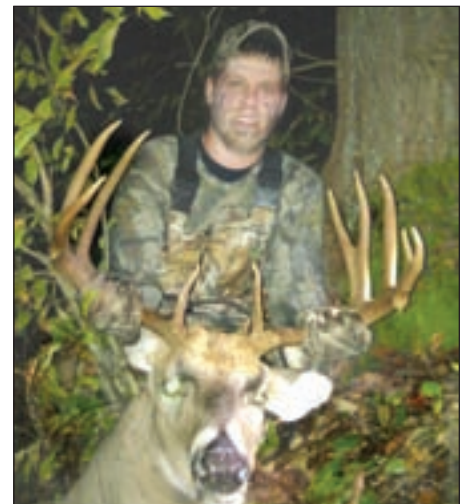
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Another view of the cover shot deer of Josh Sears. *Photo courtesy of PC Bait & Tackle in Hinton.*

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Young Logan is going to be a hunter for sure. He has his hands full of squirrels already. *Photo courtesy of Jerry's Sporting Goods in Horner.*

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Christopher Burford, from Ansted, caught a 45" citation musky out of the Gauley River.



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Keith Snider bowed a 185 class Ohio buck. *Photo courtesy of Crooked Creek Archery in Williamstown.*



Young Devin Casto caught his first catfish. *Photo courtesy of Jackson County Pawn in Ravenswood.*

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SOUTH CHARLESTON, W.Va.
– Physically challenged hunters who have obtained a Class Q/QQ hunting permit may hunt on designated roads within certain national forests in West Virginia and on selected wildlife management areas, according to Curtis I. Taylor, Chief of the Wildlife Resources Section of the West Virginia Division of Natural Resources (DNR).

“The designation of these Class Q/QQ roads on National Forest lands in West Virginia is a cooperative effort between the U.S. Forest Service and the DNR,” said Taylor. “This highly successful program provides hunting access for physically challenged sportsmen and women. For the past 20 years these areas have been well received by hunters.”

To participate in this program, physically challenged hunters must possess either a Class Q (resident) or Class QQ (nonresident) permit issued by the DNR. Applications for these permits may be obtained at any DNR office or hunting and fishing license agent. In addition to the Class Q/QQ hunting permit, both resident and nonresident hunters must possess all applicable hunting licenses and stamps. Non-residents hunting on National Forest lands must also possess a Na-

tional Forest Stamp (Class I).

Physically challenged hunters with a Class Q/QQ permit must apply in person at the appropriate National Forest district office or DNR district office and receive a letter of authorization, which must be in the hunter’s possession while hunting on the designated areas in the program.

The Class Q/QQ permit holders may be accompanied by no more than one assistant, at least 16 years of age, when hunting within a designated area. Class Q/QQ permit holders are required to furnish information on their assistant such as name, address, phone number and driver’s license. Because the assistant cannot hunt while accompanying the Class Q/QQ permit holder, he or she is not required to have a hunting license.

continue to the next page

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Tank Priddy hooked a big small-mouth. *Photo courtesy of Outdoor Specialties in Winfield.*

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Authorized physically challenged hunters will have access to specific gates via a special lock. While behind the gate, hunters must observe all national forest and/or state wildlife management area regulations, and all state hunting regulations. It is illegal to bait or feed any wildlife on public land between Sept. 1 and Dec. 31 and during the spring gobbler season.

In addition to the special access areas, Class Q/QQ permit holders may participate in special Class Q/QQ deer hunts on Oct. 29 and Dec. 26-27, 2011. These special deer hunts will take place on designated wildlife management areas and state forests as outlined on pages 29-30 of the 2011-2012 West Virginia Hunting and Trapping Regulations Summary.

The U.S. Forest Service and DNR are committed to providing quality hunting opportunities for physically-challenged hunters and welcome comments and suggestions from participating hunters. For more information concerning access to national forest or wildlife management area Class Q/QQ roads, contact the U.S. Forest Service (304-636-1800) or DNR (304-637-0245). Information is also

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Donnie Martin caught a large snapping turtle. *Photo courtesy of Reese's Country Store in Deerwalk.*



DJ & Daddy Justin, from Brohard, brought in a 20 pound catfish.

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available on the DNR's website
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Cheat/Potomac Ranger District,
Parsons, WV (304-478-3251)

Goodwin Run (Forest Road #933)
Tucker County

Bonifield Run (Forest Road #929)
Tucker County

Five Lick (Forest Road #153/153A)
Randolph County

Back Ridge (Forest Road #814)
Pendleton County

Greenbrier Ranger District, Bar-
tow, WV (304-456-3335)

Little Beech Mountain (Forest Road
#385, 183A) Randolph County

Span oak (Forest Road #224) Poca-
hontas County

Gauley Ranger District, Richwood,
WV (304-846-2695)

Left Branch (Frosty Gap) (Forest
Road #731) Pocahontas County

Spice Run (Forest Road #787)
Webster County

Marlinton/White Sulphur Ranger
District, Marlinton, WV (304-799-

4334)

Crooked Fork (Forest Road #251)
Pocahontas County

Marlin Mountain (Forest Road
#300) Pocahontas County

Panther Ridge (Forest Road #298)
Greenbrier County

Bear Track (Forest Road #882)
Greenbrier County

North River Ranger District,
Bridgewater, VA (540-432-0187)

Dry River Hollow Road (Forest
Road #151H) Pendleton County

State Wildlife Management Areas
with Available Roads:

Bluestone WMA, Burnsville Lake
WMA, Elk River WMA, Hillcrest

WMA, Hughes River WMA, Lew-
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A nice 8 1/2 pound channel cat was
hooked. *Photo courtesy of Three Rivers
Edge in Hinton.*

Fall.2011 ~ Page 35

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the following tips on how to keep your day job and consistently go deep into the Federation Nation postseason.

#1 Juggle your schedule.

Jessop, a member of the Texas B.A.S.S. Federation Nation, is a self-employed cattle buyer and runner who does some of his work on the evenings of the tournaments. "I do a lot of my business over the phone on-site," said Jessop. "When I get done with a tournament, though, I am completely exhausted because I am trying to keep up with what is going on at work."

Jessop will get to experience that exhaustion again next month during the 2011 Bassmaster Federation Nation Championship presented by Yamaha and Skeeter. There, he'll compete against eight other anglers in his division for a spot in the 2012 Bassmaster Classic on the Red River.

Like Jessop, New York B.A.S.S. Federation Nation member Joe Matt also has to plan ahead to allow for his part-time fishing career. As a funeral director, Matt can

build up some comp time that he saves for Federation Nation post-season events. "I do have a little bit of a flexible schedule, but it is not as easy as it looks," he said. "I put in tons and tons of hours when I am not fishing, especially in the wintertime when I cover the business pretty much 24/7."

#2 Gain family support.

"Having your wife's support is the No. 1 thing," said Matt. "I try to incorporate some of the tournaments such as the championship as a vacation for my family. It's a nice reward for them. I will also go up ahead of time at the divisional and take one of my sons with me to practice."

Serving as finance director for Franklin County, N.C., has allowed North Carolina B.A.S.S. Federation Nation member Chuck Murray to build up five weeks of vacation. "Four of those are spent fishing, and my wife is very supportive of this," said Murray, who does work out a compromise with his vacation time. "One week I definitely have to spend at the beach."

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Murray won the North Carolina B.A.S.S. Federation Nation Eastern Regional/State Championship in spring 2011, qualifying him for the 2012 Bassmaster Federation Nation Southern Divisional presented by Yamaha and Skeeter. That means at least one week of next year's vacation will go toward competitive fishing, and if he does well there, he'll need another week for the Federation Nation Championship. His wife may need to consider booking the family's time

continue to the next page



Tommy Mays, from Ravena, hooked a 40 1/2" citation musky.

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at the beach now to block out that time on Murray's calendar!

#3 Do your homework.

After working as an AT&T design engineer by day, Brian Maloney spends his free time in the evenings searching the Internet, reading maps and consulting his diary to gather as much information as he can about his next tournament destination. "You can eliminate so much more by the time you get there," said the Missouri B.A.S.S.

www.wvasportsman.net



Bill Looney, from Amma, hooked a 22" citation largemouth on a musky plug.



Jeremy Phares used a bow for this buck. Photo courtesy of Willie's Sport Shop in Glenville.

Federation Nation member.

Maloney said he also avoids listening to dock talk and advice from local experts on what they would do. "That is what they would do," he said. "My success in divisionals has been fishing my strengths and not getting wrapped up in having to

throw this type of bait or work that type of area." Researching fisheries also gives Jessop a head start for his postseason practices. "I read a lot on anything that I can find out about a lake, its past history and tournaments and what part of the lake is usually best," said Jessop.



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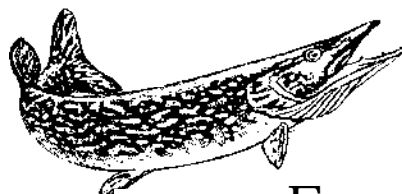
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