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Vol. 1 Issue 164

Hunting 2006



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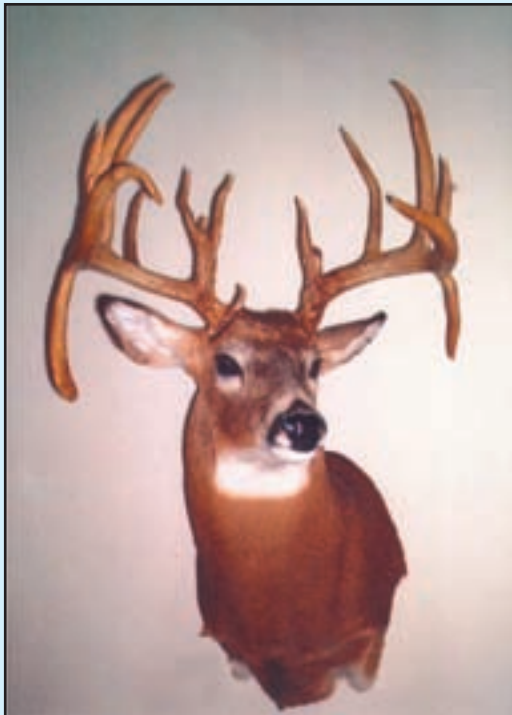
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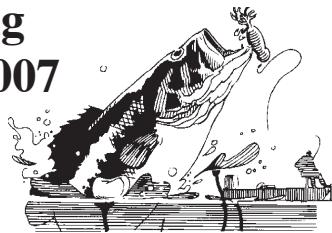
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Cover Photo

Fishing at East Lynn Lake in a bass tournament, Everett Chapman, from Milton, landed this state record saugeye. His fish broke the existing weight and length records. It weighed 8.78 pounds and measured 27.68 inches. The record fish was picked up by Cabella's and is now in their large fish tank, alive and on display in Wheeling. He was using a crank bait and Triple Fish fluorocarbon line. *Photo courtesy of Justin's Hunting in*

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Making A Mock Scrape

Creating mock scrapes is a tactic that is highly under-stated and under-used in the majority of the hunting community. Although this tends to work best during pre-rut situations, it can provide results right through the rut as bucks travel in search of receptive does and work scrapes along the way.

Scrapes vs. Rubs

The first consideration is of course whether or not your hunting area holds any sizable bucks to begin with. By sizable we don't mean large antlers. Simply put we mean anything you would shoot that meets your own standards according to your own personal code of ethics. For some a forkhorn is a true trophy. For others nothing less than a record book is suitable. You hunt according to your ability and the deer in your hunting area harvesting those which you consider

sizable or suitable for shooting.

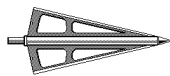
Scrapes will work on all deer but predominantly work better on larger class older deer that have laid claim to one particular area. A scrape is considered a calling card much like a rub on a tree but is a bit more in-depth once you take a closer look. When a buck works the ground he is leaving a visual sign that he considers this area his, much like a rub. You also find that they leave their scent in the scrape as they do when making a rub via their pre-orbital glands. So how do scrapes and rubs differ? For one it is seldom that rub will be worked again later in the year. A certain tree may be rubbed in consecutive years but seldom is it ever worked again during that same year. Not so when speaking in terms of scrapes. Although not all scrapes are re-worked, a percentage of them are visited throughout the season and freshened when needed. You will also find a licking branch above a scrape where the deer has chewed the end of a small branch and worked his pre-orbital glands as well as the glands found around his tear ducts to leave an added scent. This is where scrapes and rubs differ the most besides the fact of re-visitation on occasion.

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Hunt Safely This Season

Hunting 2006 ~ Page 4

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A big archery Ohio buck was taken by Scott Ruppenthal. Photo courtesy of Boone's Bow Shop in Parkersburg.

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Finding A Scrape

Scouting and finding a scrape or scrape line is a definite plus. I would much rather find a scrape or two than a rubline. Many times you find that rubs were a relief for pent up aggression due to growing testosterone in the buck while the scrapes are a definite sign that a buck likes what he has seen in the area. Scrapes are normally found on higher ground that is dry enough to hold scent and wont be washed out in the even it rains heavily. Areas that repeatedly encounter boggy or swamp-like conditions hold less scrapes than the edges of that same area where the ground is slightly elevated. Any edge of a field, especially those that contain row crops



A nice Ohio 9 point was bagged by Josh Schultheis. Photo courtesy of Johnny's Outdoor World in Boaz.

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or food plots are high percentage areas to find scrapes. Main trails entering swamps are also likely places for a scrape or scrape-line. But is finding a scrape a call to set up your equipment and start hunting? Not exactly. The percentage of scrapes that actually get re-worked is low in most places but there are a few tactics for increasing the odds

and finding out just what scrapes are still active.

Activity

One method for revealing an active scrape is to cover it with leaves and re-check it again in a few days. This is the most basic approach in finding out whether the buck is still in the area and visiting his scrapes

continue to the next page

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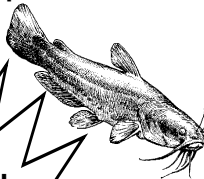
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but we'll look at more indepth techniques in a moment. If you find the scrape has been freshened upon returning you might want to set up and have a look at what class of buck you're dealing with. It's not unheard of for a smaller, or larger, deer to come by and leave his own stamp directly over another bucks scrape. Set up downwind of the scrape as most bucks wont approach directly and prefer to use the wind to check their scrape.

The main objective here isn't so much the visibility of any scrape but the scent that's contained within. If you objectively look at a scrape on the ground, it isn't going to draw much attention visually, as a rub does. The secret to the scrape lies within the earth itself discern-

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able mainly through scent. That's how you concentrate your efforts when creating a mock scrape.

The Mock Scrape

You've found an active scrape but hunting the area has proved fruitless. Chances are that the buck is checking them during hours of darkness. So how the heck do I lure the buck out without alerting him?

There are a number of ways to tackle this situation. First you want to make the buck believe that another buck has taken over his area. You can do this by either working his active scrape or creating a mock scrape. Both can be perceived as the same technique but when creating a mock scrape you start from

continue to the next page



Hunting in the Special Youth Season, Gage Gould harvested a deer. *Photo courtesy of Justin's Hunting & Fishing in Huntington.*



David Heeter bagged a big Canadian elk. *Photo courtesy of Mountain State Wildlife in Newark.*



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scratch, just as the deer did. We'll discuss that first.

To create a mock scrape you need to be very careful about leaving any human scent. Rubber boots and gloves are not an option. They are a necessity! Begin with choosing an area similar to the scrapes you've found. Be sure there is a licking branch located roughly 40 inches above the area to be worked. Start out by working the ground with the heel of your boot to reveal some fresh dirt. Typically this would be done is a somewhat circular or oval pattern. This does not have to be a hole in the ground! Simply removing the top layer of grasses or moss will work fine. Because a buck urinates in his scrape you will need some scent. Code Blue provides a whitetail buck urine formula in both a liquid and a gel. I recommend the liquid formula for this application.

Vigorously douse the fresh dirt you opened up with the urine. No need to mix it in the dirt. Just let it soak naturally as the buck would. Alternatively you can use a commercial product called Primetime Magic Scrape. This is advertised as weatherproof scent dispersing soil. Personally I have never used it but others who have claim great results with less hassle.

Next you need to work the licking branch. Just gnarl the end of the branch by twisting the limb in all directions until you can remove a small portion. A manufacturers preorbital gland scent can then be applied to the end of the branch to complete the scenario. Some hunters prefer to use a drip bag or other means to ensure the scrape

remains fresh with their scent but that is a personal preference. I prefer to create the scrape as described
continue to the next page



A nice 9 point bow buck was made by Leonard Dumbar. *Photo courtesy of Waterfront Sporting Goods in Alderson.*

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then walk away. Check the scrape every few days for activity. If you find that a buck has come by and worked the mock scrape, freshen it and hang your stand. Chances are you might get a look at the buck if he's actively patrolling the area.

Drive 'Em Wild

To really set a buck into a frenzy you have a number of options but here's my favorite. If you've done any scouting throughout the year chances are you have a few places to set up and hunt from for various weather conditions. Hopefully those places also contain a high volume of deer sign including some scrapes. If so, here's an extreme trick to really throw a dominant buck into hyperdrive. Take two different scrapes from different areas preferably a minimum of 1 mile apart or more to avoid the possibility of using the same bucks scent from his home-range.

With your scent-free gear and a hand trowel or small shovel dig up the dirt from the first scrape down



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to a depth of at least 6 inches and put it directly into a plastic bag. A small trash bag works well in most cases. Return to your other hunting area with the dirt you've just dug up and do the same. Pour the dirt from the first scrape into the second scrape and pat down to a fairly firm consistency. Now re-visit the first scrape and fill in the hole with the dirt from the other scrape in the same manner. Because you should be well out of any overlapping home-range of either buck, they will perceive this as an intrusion. This should bring at least one of the bucks back to actively begin working that scrape again. Keep in mind that unless the 2 bucks are fairly

evenly matched, you will probably chase the smaller one away, which in this extreme case, you want to know which is the bigger or dominant buck to begin with.

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A 13 point Ohio bow buck was bagged by Allen McPhilben. *Photo courtesy of Starcer's Sport Shop in Lubbeck.*

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During a calendar year a hunter may purchase only one Class RG or Class RRG stamp for taking a second antlered deer with a firearm. A hunter may begin hunting an additional antlered deer with the Class RG or Class RRG stamp the day after legally checking the

first deer in the buck firearms season. Hunters must possess a Class A, A-L, AB-L, X, XJ, E, XXJ or free license to purchase the additional stamp. Resident landowners or their resident children or their resident parents are not required to purchase the Class RG stamp

when hunting on their own land. For complete information, hunters should consult the 2006-2007 West Virginia Hunting and Trapping Regulations Summary available at any DNR Office, license agent, or by visiting the DNR web site at www.wvdnr.gov.

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A massive Raleigh County 18 point was taken with a bow by Billy Worley. Photo courtesy of Cardinal Pawnbrokers in Beckley.



Seven year old Mason Estep got his first squirrels. Photo courtesy of Justin's Hunting & Fishing in Huntington.



A quality 8 point Ritchie County bow buck was harvested by Ed Bailey. Photo courtesy of Crossroads General Store near Newark.



A New River 38" musky was caught by Phillip Daniel, from Beaver.



A nice musky was hooked by Shawna Pritt, from Orlando..

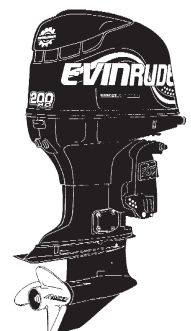
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An 8 point bow kill was made by Seth Gower. Photo courtesy of Flintlock's in Kingwood.



Danny Frazier landed a nice late season musky. Photo courtesy of Three Rivers Edge in Hinton.



Ron Moreland used a bow for this dandy 10 point. Photo courtesy of Reese's Country Store in Deerwalk.

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An unusual 10 point bow kill was made by William Talbert. Notice the point at the side of the head. Photo courtesy of Jason's Store near Twin Falls Park.



Jim Harrah bagged a 148 class 9 point in Fayette County.



Ryan Boley and Justin O'Brien caught 94 pounds of catfish in Middle Island Creek. Photo courtesy of Backwater Bait in Newport, Ohio.

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Even with a broken arm, Tristan Brown managed to catch this 23 1/2 pound flathead at Burnsville Lake.



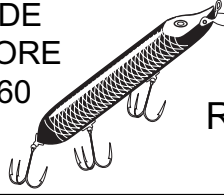
Bruce Bowyer shot a coyote. *Photo courtesy of Waterfront Sporting Goods in Alderson.*



Eric Gilbert caught a big catfish. *Photo courtesy of Boone's Bow Shop in Parkersburg.*

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

In Search Of Old Lures

By Galen Ash

The celebration of National Hunting and Fishing days is history. The annual event held at Stonewall Jackson State Park was again a huge success. With thousands of people attending the show again this year, everyone had a good time. You could say there's something for everyone, young and old. Dozens and dozens of vendors from all over the state participate. You can look at an endless supply of sporting equipment, rifles, shotguns, pistols, shells, bows, camouflage, archery equipment, rods, reels, lures, hunting boots, hunting socks, mounted deer and fish, etc., as well as many other booths of interest.

There are events all day long, such as bow shoots, rifle shoots, pistol shoots, clay pigeon shoots, for youth and adults. People on hand show how to fillet fish and skin deer (they kill a live one). You don't have to look very hard to find something to do.

If you've never had the opportunity to attend, you need to make plans now to go next September. It's always the last full weekend. Check



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to be sure.

I have participated the last ten years by displaying my old fishing lures. Most people love to look at old lures, the beautiful paint, unique styles, large size, rare lures made only for a short time. I advertise free appraisal of old lures and encourage people to bring them in for me to look at. I can tell you how old your lures are as well as how long they were made and what they might be

continue to the next page



A Canadian 4 1/2 pound small-mouth was landed by Dave Leasure. *Photo courtesy of Johnny's Outdoor World in Boaz.*

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worth. Value, as in all antiques, is based mainly on condition. I have a twenty-book library of lure books, an endless supply of lure information.

Several people brought in lures for me to appraise — nothing of any significance. I bought a few, passed on a few, and some were not for sale. I was able to purchase an old glass minnow trap. That's right, a glass minnow trap. They were made in the 20's and 30's by many companies. The one I bought was an Orvis. I don't know a lot about them, but I always thought they were neat and always wanted one. When I had the opportunity to purchase one, I jumped on it. I don't buy lures or fishing items to sell on E-bay. I purchase them for my personal collection of old fishing items. I have never sold anything on E-bay! That's right, *never* sold anything on E-bay.

I will be at the new Central WV Hunting and Fishing Show at the Days Inn in Flatwoods on January 20th and 21st. This is only the second year for this show. Come out and support this new outdoors show and break up the cabin fever.

If you would like to see some of my lure collection, take note of these dates. I am scheduled to be at the Washington Crown Center Mall February 8th - 11th. This is a nice winter outdoor show hosted by the Washington County Sports-

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man's Club. They have all kinds of sports equipment to look at, such as trucks, boats, 4-wheelers, as well as all kinds of fishing equipment. The show runs Thursday - Sunday. Next, I'm going to be at the WV Fishing Hunting & Outdoor Show in Morgantown on March 3rd and 4th. It is being held this year at Mylan Park, Exit 155 (turn left if you're Northbound and go 1 1/2 miles). You can't miss it.

Plan on coming out to one or all of these shows and look over the newest equipment and some neat

old lures.

If I can help with questions on lures, please call me at 304-782-2324. If you have lures you want identified, bring them out for me to look at. Hope to see you at the show.

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Young Daniel McAfee used a bow to take this nice 10 point. *Photo courtesy of Jarrett's Bait in Elizabeth.*



Fishing at Bluestone Lake, James Tabor caught and released this big largemouth bass.

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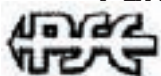
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Finding Game Birds To Hunt

By Ralph Russell

If you have your own bird dogs, you could have a hunt anywhere with friends and family. All you need is to find some wild game birds. However, the chance of finding or even flushing a wild bird can be difficult and time consuming at best. One of the best places to hunt game birds is at a place that specializes in bird hunts ... a hunting preserve.

At a hunting preserve, you know there will be a lot of birds, as many as you want to shoot. Some people think the price is too high to hunt at

a hunting preserve, but they need to add up all the money they have spent on gas and food, plus time spent on looking for wild birds. They could probably buy enough birds to hunt at a bird hunting preserve to fill up their freezer and have money left over as well. Birds at a hunting preserve can be hard to tell apart from wild birds, if they are raised in large flight pens and in isolation. The only difference in pen-raised game birds and wild birds is that pen-raised game birds are raised in a protective environment. Game birds are raised in large flight pens made of wire mesh, with bird net-

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ting on the top. The sides are six-foot tall and there's an electric wire around the bottom of the pen, to keep predators out. Birds raised in pens like these are well protected from predators and have the ability to reach their full potential as adult birds. Pen-raised game birds have a
 continue to the next page



A 34" Pure Mouflan was taken. Photo courtesy of Double "DD" Ranch in McArthur, Ohio.



The 1st archery bear harvest recorded in Harrison County was made by Bill Bartley with this big bear. Photo courtesy of J&R Sport Shop in Shinnston.

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higher body weight than wild birds, as the result of daily feed placed in their pens.

Most wild birds do not make it to maturity, because of lack of food and the danger of predators. This means fewer birds to hunt. Also, heavy hunting pressure can quickly reduce a wild bird population and make the birds harder to find.

Probably the best way of making sure you have birds to hunt is to stock birds yourself from a game bird farm, or go to a hunting preserve. Most hunting preserves will make available whatever kind of



Two musky were landed within 30 minutes by Chris Phillips, from Reedy.

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upland game birds you wish to hunt. You can hunt ringneck pheasants only or add in some bobwhite quail and chukars. By hunting a few of each, you get the full experience of an upland game bird hunt. Some of the wildest birds I have seen are at a local hunting preserve located in Upshur County, W. Va. Mountain State Guides and Outfitters have some of the wildest, fast-flying game birds you will ever find. (website: www.mtgo.com) Phone: 304-630-2011.

Remember ... at a hunting preserve, everybody gets a bird and goes home happy!

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Jack Ratliffe, from Princeton, caught a big carp at Bluestone Lake.



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Steve Trippett trapped a Wirt County bobcat. *Photo courtesy of Crossroads General Store near Newark.*

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The Special Youth Deer Hunting season in WV offers youngsters an opportunity to hunt before the regular season. Brooke Osburn, 8 years old, got a deer. *Photo courtesy of Justin's Hunting & Fishing in Huntington*



Hunting in Canada, Greg Surber, shot a 550 pound black bear. It was the largest ever at the guide service. Greg lives in Barboursville.



Nathan Owens got an 8 point bow buck. *Photo courtesy of Reese's Country Store in Deerwalk.*

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Special "Older Age" Deer Hunting Areas

Hunters are reminded that six state wildlife management areas and one state forest will have special buck hunting restrictions during West Virginia's 2006 deer seasons. Antlered deer taken on Burnsville Lake, Bluestone Lake, Beech Fork Lake and McClintic wildlife management areas and Coopers Rock State Forest must have a minimum outside antler spread of 14 inches, according to Curtis Taylor, Chief of the DNR Wildlife Resources Section. The bag limit is one antlered deer for all archery and firearms seasons combined on these areas.

The purpose of these restrictions is to provide for an older-aged antlered deer population on these areas. "In the past, hunters were taking a high percentage of the 11/2-year-old deer during the buck season," Taylor said. "By restricting the number of bucks taken and protecting the 11/2-year-age class, more bucks will reach an older age class before being harvested."

Successful hunters are requested to submit a lower jaw in envelopes available at the wildlife management area. Data collected from jaw bones will be used to determine the effectiveness of the harvest restriction.

The bag limit is one antlered deer for all archery and firearms seasons combined on Hillcrest Wildlife Management Area in the northern

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panhandle and the Wilson Cove Deer Study Area on the George Washington National Forest in Hardy County. The 14-inch outside antler spread does not apply to these two areas.

Hunters wishing to hunt on these areas should consult the 2006-2007 Hunting and Trapping Regulations that are available from license agents, DNR offices and on the DNR website at www.wvdnr.gov.

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A massive 9 point bow harvest was made by Marlene Griffith. *Photo courtesy of Jason's Store near Twin Falls Park.*



Bowhunting in Ohio, John Bryant took a nice 10 point. *Photo courtesy of Boone's Bow Shop in Parkersburg.*



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A citation smallmouth was caught in the New River.. *Photo courtesy of Three Rivers Edge in Hinton.*



Jack Rowe landed another nice smallmouth bass. *Photo courtesy of Richmond's Store in Sandstone.*



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WV Schools For The Deaf And Blind Host Archery Program

The West Virginia Schools for the Deaf and Blind will host training for the West Virginia Division of Natural Resources Archery in the Schools Program on January 9 and 10, 2007, according to DNR's Scott Warner, who coordinates the program.

"The WV Schools for the Deaf and Blind have done a tremendous job in getting their students involved in this program," Warner said. "I have had the pleasure of personally

meeting with their students, have seen the excitement and their success at the State Archery Tournament, and can honestly say that they have become a model school for this program. Allowing us to host one of our trainings on their campus in Romney demonstrates not only their commitment to their students but also for the other schools in the eastern panhandle. I hope the schools in that area take advantage

continue to page 37



John Sams trapped a two big beavers. Photo courtesy of Crossroads General Store near Newark.



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Mark Jones trapped a nice bobcat. Photo courtesy of Crossroads General Store near Newark.

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Chronicle Of An Elk Hunt

By Bob Hein

After waiting a year to return and much practice I was finally on my way to another elk hunt to try and get an elk with my bow. The following chronicles the hunt.

Friday Sept. 22nd-

I arrived after driving thru some beautiful country covered with 8 in. of pure white snow. I am surprised to find Tony coming out of his house to greet me, he should still have been up in his spike camp. I find out that he brought his other hunters out to hunt lower due to the snowfall up in the higher mountains. After unpacking some of my hunting gear I went to town for lunch with Tony & Trisha Carricato who own Battle Pass Outfitting of Saratoga Wyoming. After eating we see two big Buck Mule deer bedded next to a house watching

traffic go by just one block off the main drag which was on the way to picking up my conservation tag and archery tag. We then head back to the ranch discussing tomorrow's hunt which will be in the Snowy Pass range of the Medicine Bow National Forest. That night we hear that the mountains are expecting

12" to 18" of snow by noon which means that we can count on at least 8" here at the ranch which has an elevation of about 7500'.

Saturday Sept. 23rd-

I was awakened by Tony at 6am with the news that it was snowing

continue to the next page



Bob Hein has success with his bow on this nice elk.



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and we had about 4" so far. We ate breakfast and got into his truck to head to the Snowy Range for our first day of hunting. Unfortunately due to the snow, we encountered little activity (only one set of cow elk tracks and three doe mule deer ventured out while it snowed) therefore we decided on an early lunch to wait out the storm. Finally at about 2pm we could see the clouds breaking and we headed back up the mountain which ad received 8"to12" of snow. As we rode along the top at about 9000' we spotted a large bull about 400 yards away. We immediately exited the truck and ran back to some as-

pens halfway towards the bull. I set up under a ponderosa pine while Tony got into cover about 25 yards to my right and started calling. On the second call he got a response so he continued calling which brought a cow in on a dead run just 10 yards in front of me. With the bull still calling Tony called again, but now the cow winded me and started to run away which brought the bull in on a run. The bull now saw the cow leaving and ran away with her. Sunday Sept 24th-

We went back to the same area to see what other elk were around. We found last nights bull tracks in the snow and followed them for about 1/2 mile to a large sagebrush hillside tucked between dark timber with aspen laced sides. There were hundreds of elk tracks here. We de-

continue to the next page

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A bow bear was tagged by Tommy Hes. Photo courtesy of Three Rivers Edge in Hinton.



Jim Ayers caught a 4 pound sauger. Photo courtesy of Mountain State Wildlife in Newark.

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cided to go uphill and come down into the timber on the far side. We found more tracks and they led to a larger sage brush hillside again flanked by pines and aspen. There were elk tracks everywhere. Since it was getting warmer and the mid-day sun was melting the snow in the sage brush where it was exposed and we weren't getting any responses to our calling we decided to come down for lunch and come back later. We looked for a better (shorter, less steep) way to access

this area but resigned ourselves to coming in the same way. On our way back to the truck we found a large area where two bulls had fought the night before, I could not wait to get back for this evenings hunt.

After a good lunch we were back and figured we should hang out until about 6pm to start calling as it was very hot in the sun. At six Tony started to call and in minutes had a response. Finally we saw a bull and cow coming toward us and ran to a rock outcropping for cover. I set up with Tony behind me and we both looked toward the timber for a bull to appear. At last a nice 5X5 came out cautiously followed by a 4X4 bull. Both were suspicious at not finding another elk and would not come any closer than about 80 yards. We played with them for awhile and they finally retreated back to the woods. Tony suggested I get into a patch of Aspens near



Tom Berga reeled in a 6 pound hybrid. *Photo courtesy of Backwater Bait in Newport, Ohio.*

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where they went into the timber. After reaching the aspens Tony started calling and was getting responses from a bull higher in the dark timber which we assumed was the herd bull. The bull was calling like crazy but not getting any closer. At that time I spotted another 5X5 walking directly toward me, raking trees and not making any calling sounds. I stepped to my left to gain cover and watched as he ever so slowly came forward. He was

continue to the next page

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approximately 60 yards away but not close enough for a good shot. All I could think of was for Tony to keep calling (he couldn't see me or the elk) and for the elk to 'keep on coming.' I could now see the bull was not interested in the calling, but hungry for food and he turned to my right at about 55 yards. I needed to move to my right to get a shot, so each time he put his head down to feed I took a step to my right. On the third step I noticed something to my right, and about 30 yards away were two spike elk feeding between Tony and I.



An Aoudad ram was taken at this game preserve. *Photo courtesy of Double "DD" Ranch in McArthur, Ohio.*

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Now I felt like I could be busted at any time and much to my amazement here comes another spike elk from the woods to join in the feeding. The 5X5 continues to my right and turns uphill presenting me with a broadside shot. I figured it was 50 yards and was now or never with all these "eyes" in front of me. I

drew back, anchored, picked my spot and released. To my shock the arrow flew over the elks back and into the grass below him. I quickly knocked another arrow as all the elk were looking away and as I released the arrow as the bull started walking uphill to my right. I heard a dull thud but due

continue to the next page





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to the brush around the bull I did not see my arrow and thought I missed again. Now I am nervously trying to knock another arrow while cursing myself. I hear Tony start calling again and the spike elk started walking into the timber. But wait, the 5X5 is coming back toward me at what I thought was 30 yards. I release again a see the arrow miss high by about two inches. I can't believe I missed again and in disgust watch the bull go back to the woods so I walk towards Tony. He is jubilantly telling me that he saw my arrow sticking out both sides of the elk but back probably into the liver. I told him I thought I had missed him but now I was starting to get excited. He said that the all of the elk were only 10 yards away from his hiding spot and for the longest time he just laid down out of site. We waited a short time but due to it being late started to follow the trail and had to quit because of poor light. It was going to be a tough sleep night thinking about the elk. And due to the darkness we now came straight down the sagebrush hillside to a park (meadow) below us which would put us onto the road (4 wheeler trail) and about 2 miles from the truck. We made it to the truck at about 8:30 in pitch darkness as this was the dark of the moon.


Monday Sept 25th-

I was up before the breakfast call and sat with Tony & Trisha discussing how we should go into the area where the elk should be. We decided to take the 4-wheeler to the same park we exited last night and walk straight up the sagebrush to where I shot and go into the timber at that point. After about a 45 minute climb we were in the woods and on the trail. There was

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still plenty of snow which made the tracking easier but due to the arrow plugging both entrance and exit holes there was only a few drops of blood every 10 to 20 feet. On top of that there were lots of other elk tracks going the same direction. We finally found where he bedded

and pushed the arrow into his body. There was blood now continuously and, finally, there he was down in between a large expanse of lodge pole pines. I finally achieved my dream to get an elk with a bow and arrow and was very happy, proud and thankful.




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Many women would like to deer hunt, but don't know how to go about it. Thanks to a program being offered by the West Virginia Division of Natural Resources, they can get a good start toward an exciting adventure in the woods this fall.

The Wildlife Section of DNR is sponsoring a Beyond BOW Women's Deer Hunt, December 2 - 4, 2006, in Lewis County. The registration fee is \$130 which includes two nights lodging at a cabin at Stonewall Resort, Saturday dinner, Sunday breakfast and lunch, Mon-



A 28" channel catfish was caught on a spinner bait at Crystal Lake by Kevin Anderson.

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Mr. Tilley took a nice buck with a bow. Photo courtesy of Jason's Store near Twin Falls Park.

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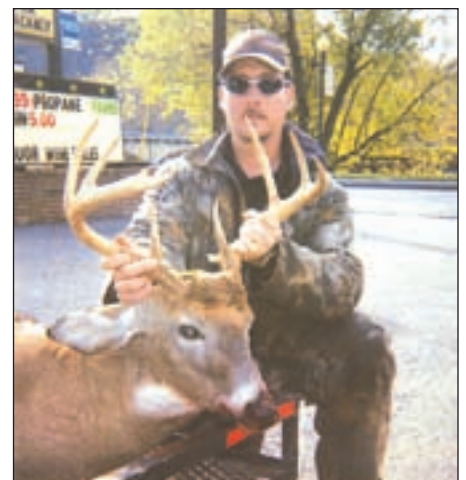
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Alex Kocher used a crossbow for this quality 9 point Ohio buck.



A canadian musky was caught by Warren Robinson. Photo courtesy of J&R Sporting Goods in Shinnston..



Greg Holliday bagged a nice 9 point. Photo courtesy of Waterfront Sporting Goods in Alderson.

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Charles Moore is leading the bow contest with this 13 point. Photo courtesy of J&R Sporting Goods in Shinnston.



Steven Snyder caught a 20" rainbow. Photo courtesy of Flintlock's in Kingwood.



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Mallory Goots caught a big crappie. Photo courtesy of Johnny's Outdoor World in Boaz.



Rich Wynn hunted out West for this cougar. Photo courtesy of Mountain State Wildlife in Newark.



Bobby Lockhart took a nice 8 point. Photo courtesy of Jarrett's Bait in Elizabeth.

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Jimmy Gainer, from Grantsville, got a 9 point in Ritchie County.



Chris Morris, from Burnsville, hooked a 43" musky.

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BFL Bass Tournaments

BENTON, Ky. FLW Outdoors announced Monday that competitors in the Wal-Mart Bass Fishing League (BFL) will compete for \$8.8 million in 2007 and the opportunity to participate in three no-entry-fee championships with total payouts exceeding \$3 million. Also announced was the introduc-

tion of a new Volunteer Division for anglers in eastern Tennessee.

The BFL, the nation's most affordable, close-to-home weekend tournaments for bass anglers, is made up of 28 divisions, each with four \$45,000 one-day qualifying tournaments and one \$67,500 two-day Super Tournament. In the \$45,000 qualifying tournaments next season, the winning boater will earn as much as \$6,000 in cash, including \$5,100 plus a \$900 bonus if the win-

ner is the registered original owner of a Ranger boat. First-place co-anglers will earn as much as \$3,000 in cash. Top boater payouts in the \$67,500 Super Tournaments will be \$9,000, which includes \$7,650 plus a \$1,350 Ranger bonus, while top co-anglers will earn as much as \$4,500.

Ranger Boats will award an additional \$1,000 to winning boaters if they participate in the Ranger Cup

continue to the next page



Jeff McLaughlin took an 8 point bow buck in Wood County. *Photo courtesy of Reese's Country Store in Deerwalk.*



Christina Tuppert bagged an 8 point. *Photo courtesy of Jarrett's Bait in Elizabeth.*

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incentive program, or \$500 to the highest-finishing Ranger Cup participant, at each qualifier and Super Tournament in 2007. If Powered by Yamaha guidelines are met, Yamaha will award an additional 50 percent of Ranger Cup winnings. The highest-finishing Ranger Cup co-angler in each regular-season tournament will receive a custom Ranger jacket. Bombardier will also award a \$1,000 bonus to the winning boater in each regular-season tournament if the winner's boat is equipped with an Evinrude E-TEC or Direct Injection outboard that was purchased new from an authorized dealer after Dec. 31, 2005. These bonuses boost the potential top boater award to \$7,500 in qualifiers and \$10,500 in Super Tournaments.

After four one-day qualifiers and a two-day Super Tournament in a division are complete, the top 40 boaters and 40 co-anglers from the division will advance to a three-day no-entry-fee Regional Championship. Here boaters will compete for a Ranger 519VX powered by Evinrude or Yamaha and a Chevy truck, and co-anglers will compete

for a Ranger 519VX powered by Evinrude or Yamaha. The top six boaters and six co-anglers in each of seven Regional Championships will also advance to the \$1 million no-entry-fee 2008 All-American championship presented by Chevy. Anglers who enter all five tournaments within a division but do not advance to a Regional Championship will be eligible to fish a Chevy Wild Card regional, which will also send six boaters and six co-anglers to the All-American.

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Danny Peyton, from Charleston, traveled to Stonewall Jackson Lake for this 23 1/2" largemouth bass.

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million All-American will fish for as much as \$140,000 in the Boater Division and \$70,000 in the Co-angler Division. Additionally, the winning boater and co-angler from

continue to the next page



Josh Owens used a bow for this nice 9 point. *Photo courtesy of Reese's Country Store in Deerwalk.*

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from the All-American will advance to the \$2 million no-entry-fee Forrest Wood Cup presented by Castrol. The Forrest Wood Cup will feature pros/boaters competing against top anglers from the Wal-Mart FLW Tour, Wal-Mart FLW Series, Stren Series, Wal-Mart Bass Fishing League, TBF (The Bass Federation) and Ranger owners' tournaments for a \$1 million first place prize "the biggest award in the history of competitive bass fishing."

"Our company was founded on providing affordable, close-to-home weekend tournaments for bass anglers," said Charlie Evans, president and CEO of FLW Outdoors. "These anglers are the heart and soul of FLW Outdoors, and we take great pride in providing them with the best possible tournament options as well as a clear pathway

for advancement to the sport's highest levels "namely the Stren Series, Wal-Mart FLW Series and Wal-Mart FLW Tour. Nowhere else do anglers have the opportunity to fish five close-to-home tournaments with a shot at advancing to not just one, but three no-entry-fee championships, including the sport's biggest championship where they could win \$1 million cash."

The top 40 boaters and 40 co-anglers from every BFL division in 2007 may also advance to the Stren Series in 2008. All-American champions are eligible to advance directly to the FLW Tour for

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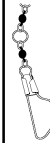
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a shot at top awards of \$125,000 to \$200,000 in every tournament. Each season the top 10 pros and 10 co-anglers from each Stren Series division are eligible to advance to the FLW Series for a shot at top
 continue to the next page

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Gene and Roseanna Hines



Cameron Roberts caught a New River walleye. *Photo courtesy of Three Rivers Edge in Hinton.*



6 year old Logan Richards, from Big Springs, landed a 4 pound largemouth bass.

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In the BFL's boater and co-angler format, the boater supplies the boat, controls boat movement and competes against other boaters. Co-anglers fish from the back deck against other co-anglers.

Field sizes will remain the same for 2007, with 200 boaters and 200 co-anglers comprising a full BFL field. Entry fees also remain the same, with boater entry fees of \$200 for qualifiers and \$300 for Super Tournaments. Co-angler entry fees are \$100 for qualifiers and \$150 for Super Tournaments. Pretournament meetings for each tournament will be held at the local Wal-Mart store hosting the event.

The complete BFL schedule is posted at FLWOutdoors.com. Anglers fishing the Bulldog, Dixie, Everglades, Louisiana, Savannah River, South Carolina and Volunteer divisions may register Dec. 18. Anglers fishing the Bama, Choo Choo, Cowboy, Gator, Mississippi, Music City and Okie divisions may

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A nice bow buck was taken by Brandon Lilly. Photo courtesy of Cardinal Pawnbrokers in Beckley.



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register Dec. 19. Angler fishing the Arkie, Empire, LBL, Mountain, Ozark, Piedmont and Shenandoah divisions may register Dec. 20. Anglers fishing the Buckeye, Great Lakes, Hoosier, Illini, Michigan, North Carolina and Northeast divisions may register Dec. 21. Registration may be made online at FLWOutdoors.com or by calling (270) 252-1000. Phones are open 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. Central time Monday through Friday.



Stephanie Wilson, from Big Springs, got her first archery bear.

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f this training and get involved in a program that has already reached thousands of kids.”

DNR personnel implemented this program in the fall of 2004 in 19 schools as part of its pilot program to introduce physical education students to an activity that teaches a life skill. In two years there has been a phenomenal amount of interest; and after the next training, which is scheduled in Logan County (November 28 th and 29 th) DNR will have trained more than 180 physical education instructors from more than 115 schools. However, this will be the first training offered in the eastern panhandle and DNR officials encourage schools interested in participating in this program to have their teachers receive the free training. Teachers interested in attending the training at the West Virginia Schools for the Deaf and Blind located in Romney have until December 15 th to sign up.

“Due to the type of training and

amount of time needed for hands-on-instructions, classroom size will be limited,” Warner said. “Teachers interested in attending this training are encouraged to contact the DNR early since most of our classes are typically filled within weeks of the deadline.”

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




Michelle Weekley hunted in Canada for this 350 pound bear. Photo courtesy of Crossroads General Store near Newark.

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Additional Buck Stamps

Hunters are reminded that the additional deer gun stamp (Class RG-Resident Gun or RRG-Nonresident Gun) for taking an additional deer only during the buck firearms season must be purchased prior to November 20, according to Curt is I. Taylor, Chief of the Wildlife Resources Section of the West Virginia Division of Natural Resources. It is important for hunters to note that the privilege to use an unfilled RG or RRG stamp for an additional deer during the antlerless or muzzleloader seasons does not apply during the 2006 deer seasons.

During a calendar year a hunter may purchase only one Class RG or Class RRG stamp for taking a second antlered deer with a firearm. A hunter may begin hunting



Mark Harper took a nice bow buck. Photo courtesy of J&R Sporting Goods in Shinnston.

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an additional antlered deer with the Class RG or Class RRG stamp the day after legally checking the first deer in the buck firearms season. Hunters must possess a Class A, A-L, AB-L, X, XJ, E, XXJ or free license to purchase the additional stamp. Resident landowners or their resident children or their resident parents are not required

to purchase the Class RG stamp when hunting on their own land. For complete information, hunters should consult the 2006-2007 West Virginia Hunting and Trapping Regulations Summary available at any DNR Office, license agent, or by visiting the DNR web site at www.wvdnr.gov.



Shawn Ramme hooked a 38" musky in the Little Kanwha River. Photo courtesy of Jarrett's Bait in Elizabeth.



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