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Vol. 1 Issue 175

Hunting 2007



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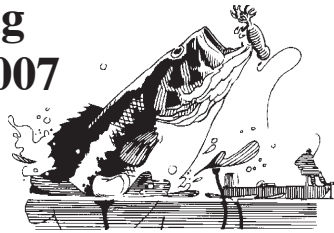
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Cover Photo

A giant McDowell County black bear was taken with a bow by Donald Farmer, from Anawalt. His huge bear weighed 500 pounds. Bear archery season is now open in all 55 counties.

Look for this magazine online each month towards the middle of the month. Keep up to date on West Virginia hunting & fishing news. It's FREE.

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Photo courtesy of Team Buckhorn in Princeton.

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Hunters Helping The Hungry

The Division of Natural Resources (DNR) invites churches around West Virginia to participate this weekend in the Share the Harvest Sunday, according to Jerry Westfall, DNR Coordinator for the Hunters Helping the Hungry (HHH) Program.

Since 1999, the West Virginia Council of Churches and the DNR have sponsored the Share the Harvest Sunday to raise funds for the HHH Program. This year, on Sunday, November 4, approximately 3,000 churches will be asking members of their congregation to contribute \$1 to the HHH Program.

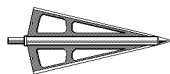
“WVDNR’s HHH Program, which began in 1992, has allowed hunters to donate venison to needy West Virginians by dropping-off excess, harvested deer at participating meat processors,” said Westfall. “Al-

though DNR receives donated venison from generous hunters, there are still processing and distribution costs associated with providing the needy venison. Share the Harvest Sunday allows church members to donate to HHH to offset these costs, ensuring needy West Virginians receive these highly nutritious meals. Share the Harvest Sunday makes an extremely valuable contribution to the HHH Program. Simply, the HHH Program could not operate without Share the Harvest Sunday!”

Some churches participating in Share the Harvest Sunday may opt to collect money on a Sunday other than November 4. For instance, a

few churches decide to take up donations the Sunday preceding Thanksgiving, and the start of West Virginia’s buck season, as this is the time many students and former West Virginians return to their home state. Church members or other individuals wanting to make donations to HHH Program outside of the Share the Harvest Sunday can also do this at any time. The choice of when to participate in Share the Harvest Sunday is up to the church
continue to the next page

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Game Check



Brad Berga landed 5 late season bass *Photo courtesy of Backwater Bait in Newport, Ohio.*

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(and the individual), but the result is the same – West Virginia church members making a real contribution to the HHH Program and to feeding needy West Virginians!

For more information about the HHH Program, click the HHH link on the www.wvdnr.gov Web site, or contact Jerry Westfall at (304) 558-2771; jerrywestfall@wvdnr.gov.

BOW Deer Hunt

The Wildlife Resources Section of the West Virginia Division of Natural Resources is sponsoring a Beyond BOW Women's Deer Hunt, December 1-3, 2007 in Lewis County. The registration fee is \$50. Lodging will be provided in Vandalia, West Virginia.

Participants will receive instruction on basic firearms safety, deer hunting techniques and field dressing. There will be a trip to the rifle range to sight in your firearm and for target practice. To participate in this antlerless deer hunt, you must be at least 18 years old and preference will be given to those who have attended a BOW workshop, a BOW hunter safety class, and those who have not attended a previous BOW hunt. Participants will need a valid hunting license and a Class N stamp. All participants will need



Paul McDowell got a bobcat. *Photo courtesy of Sun Valley in Speedway.*

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to bring their own firearms and ammunition.

Applications are now available, but space is very limited. For more information, please contact Billie Shearer at 304-558-2771 or billieshearer@wvdnr.gov or download the application form at <http://www.wvdnr.gov/hunting/bow.shtm>.

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Deer Rut Phases

Early Season - Early season is when most archery seasons are in. You will see buck in bachelor groups feeding and traveling together. Buck pay little attention to doe. The doe will still be with their fawns. Deer are feeding heavily getting ready for the rut.

Pre Rut - Pre Rut is when you start seeing scrapes underneath over hanging branches or a buck scent checking a doe to see if she is in estrus. You may also see buck sparring with each other. Buck rubs will start to appear.

Rut - The Rut is when a buck no longer tends his scrapes and you start to see leaves in the scrapes, the buck is now out chasing doe. In different regions of the country most doe in the area will all come into estrus around the same time. This is best described as the Peak of the Rut. You will see bucks chasing does, you could even see more than one buck chasing a doe. You will see bucks doing things they would not normally do like crossing a wide open field in the middle of the day.

Post Rut - Post Rut is when the Rut is over and most of the does have been bred. At this time bucks will go back feeding hard to build their body fat back up to get ready for the up coming winter. This time period is also a time of rest because



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bucks have been not eating, chasing doe and fighting with other buck for weeks. They are just plum worn out.

Estrous Cycle - This may vary in days but it is usually around 27 to 28 days.

Estrous Period - This may vary in hours but it is usually around a 24 hour period when a doe is receptive and will stand for a buck to breed her.



David Lambert won the annual big catfish tournament with this 46 pounder. Photo courtesy of Riverside Bait in Hockingport, OH.

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PHOTOS
Form is on Page 13**

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Large Print Option

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

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

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



Larry Murray used a crossbow in Canada for this bear. *Photo courtesy of Crossroads General Store near Newark.*

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which is available for free downloading, or printed out for convenient reading while enjoying the photography in the regular issue.

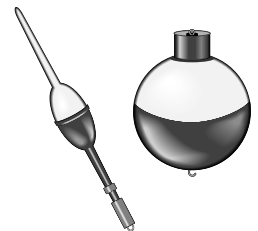
Wonderful West Virginia magazine, the state's premier full-color magazine of outdoor fun and history, is published monthly by the West Virginia Division of Natural Resources. It is available at newsstands for \$2.50 per copy, or by subscription by calling 1-800-CALL-WVA or on the Internet at

www.wonderfulwv.com. Subscriptions are available for one year for \$17 or two years for \$34.



Greg Harper caught a 16" crappie - 1 of 8,884 for the year. *Photo courtesy of Starcher's Sport Shop in Lubeck.*

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Fishing at Stephens Lake, Jonathan Hatcher caught a big largemouth. Photo courtesy of Cardinal Pawnbrokers in Beckley.



Dan Shank took a 9 point with a bow.. Photo courtesy of Boone's Bow Shop in Parkersburg.



Chip VanAlsborg, from Charleston, caught a nice largemouth. Photo courtesy of Broken Wheel Campground in Weston.

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Kerry Hatcher landed a big catfish and walleye. Photo courtesy of Cardinal Pawnbrokers in Beckley.

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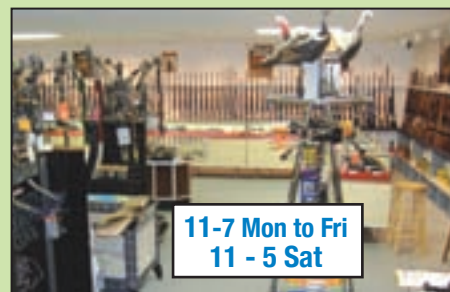
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Chris Meeks, from Parkersburg, took his 1st bear in Webster Co.



A rare silver fox was trapped by Richie Fought. Photo courtesy of Jarrett's Bait in Elizabeth.



Joshua Martin brought in a nice 12 point bow buck. Photo courtesy of Waterfront Sporting Goods in Alderson.

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Billy Kester hooked a rare 30" striper in the Ohio River. *Photo courtesy of Backwater Bait in Newport, OH.*



Glynn Goodwin landed a musky. *Photo courtesy of Johnny's Outdoors in Boaz.*



Brain Ayers caught a 40" musky. *Photo courtesy of Crossroads General Store near Newark.*

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2008 WV Wildlife Calendars Available

“The 2008 West Virginia Wildlife Calendars are now available for everyone to enjoy,” according to Curtis I. Taylor, Chief of the Wildlife Resources Section of the Division of Natural Resources.

The cover of this beautiful wall calendar features an outstanding painting of a black bear yearling lumbering over a log. This highly-detailed painting is only one of the 12 beautiful paintings in this year’s calendar, which also includes wild turkeys, a red fox, several birds and a picturesque vista of Dolly Sods. The calendar also contains important hunting, trapping, fishing and wildlife viewing information, lists regulations, and includes feature articles on public shooting ranges located throughout the state and current fish research involving tagged trout.

“The calendar is full of interesting daily facts and its \$8 price tag makes it a terrific bargain and a great holiday gift. Everyone who enjoys and ventures into the out-

doors will want to own one,” Taylor said.

The 2008 West Virginia Wildlife Calendar is available at WVDNR District Offices, department stores, newsstands, convenience marts and food stores throughout the state or through the West Virginia Division of Natural Resources, P.O. Box 67, Elkins, WV 26241, phone (304) 637-0245. Make checks payable to WVDNR in the amount of \$9 for

each calendar, which includes shipping and handling (WV residents add \$0.48 for tax; VISA, MasterCard, Discover and American Express are accepted). Organizations, clubs and civic groups can also profit by selling the Wildlife Calendar as part of their fund-raising activities. Interested organizations should contact the WVDNR at the above address for more information.



A Fayette Co. black bear was taken by Tom Payton, from Belleville.



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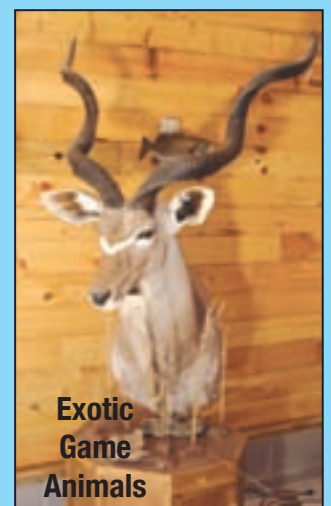
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Field Dressing Your Deer

The wind was light, but the air was cold as I walked from my tree stand to where I had hit the big buck with an arrow. I saw the arrow go through the animal's body and knew it was a good solid hit the minute I released. Most bow hunters have the feel of a good shot or of a bad one, you just know if the arrow was released properly and you know if your form was good as well. In this case, I knew I would soon have meat on the table.

I had stayed in my stand for about thirty minutes after making my shot to allow the animal to bleed a bit and to stiffen up. I knew from experience the animal would not go very far, unless pursued. I had learned a long time ago that a hurt animal would, in most cases, simply find a place to bed down, so I had relaxed and waited. I have seen many hunters pursue deer for miles and wonder how the animal could keep moving, but never underestimate the power of adrenaline.

My arrow was found near the spot where the deer had been standing when I released it. It had passed through the deer and was stuck in the ground. The shaft was covered in blood and there was a blood trail, as well as clear tracks, leading toward a cluster of trees about fifty yards away. I notched another arrow and slowly followed the tracks and blood trail. I didn't have to go very far into the trees when I saw the deer lying near a large pine. I approached the downed animal from the rear and was ready to take another shot if need be (even an injured deer can be dangerous to an unprepared hunter). Never assume your deer, even if it is down and on the ground, is safe to approach.

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If you approach from the rear the deer will hear you and if possible it will raise its head to look in your direction, it may even attempt to stand. In either case, you will have enough time to place another arrow or bullet into the animal for safeties sake. The deer I had hit on this hunt was dead.

I quickly prepared the deer tag as required by my state and placed it
continue to the next page



Bill Tillman used a bow for this nice 10 point. *Photo courtesy of Boone's Bow Shop in Parkersburg.*

WANTED

Game Photos From 2007

Send In Your Photo Of Deer, Bear or Other Game Animals Taken During The 2007 Season.



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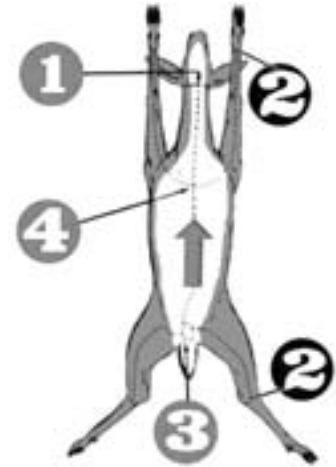


on the bucks rack. I tied in on the lower part of the rack so it would not slide off when I transported the deer back to camp. The exciting part of the hunt was over, now came the work. I moved the deer so its head was uphill slightly and then cut its throat, see illustration step 1. (I have heard different arguments about the importance or need of this step, both pro and con, but old habits are hard to break).

Before I started field dressing

the animal, I removed one of my one quart canteens (I always carry two) and unscrewed the lid. I also pulled an old bath towel from my fanny pack and placed it down beside my water. Reaching deeper in my back I pulled out a poncho and some nylon cord (550 cord from a parachute is what I usually carry). I made sure all of my gear was out and ready for use before I did anything else. I hate to look for some-

continue to the next page



ATTENTION WV HUNTERS

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

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thing in my pack when my hands are covered with blood. Some folks may want to use patient examination gloves like a doctor uses, but I don't. There are also latex gloves that can be used (they don't leave a residue on the meat) or the surgical gloves. Rubber gloves are strongly recommended by the Center for Disease Control in areas with endemic chronic wasting disease (CWD). I don't like the feel of gloves when I field dress game (and CWD is not a hazard in my area), so I prefer not to wear them. If you are unsure if CWD is a problem in your area, contact your local fish and game agency. Just be sure to follow any safety suggestions from your state agency to avoid illness.

If the weather had been very cold I would have made a fire and got comfortable as I field dressed the animal, but there was no need that morning. I have found in cold weather the animal is harder to work because it starts to first stiffen and then freeze in the cold. And, I usually do my field dressing with a very small skinning knife. Those "Rambo" blades may look good, but they are hardly practical for field dressing large game. I want to be able to "feel the blade" as I use it and know I am not cutting a major organ or contaminating the meat. A small knife works just fine for me. And, keep the knife sharp.

I started by making a circular cut

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completely around an area just above four knee joints, see illustration step 2. Then, at the sex organs, I circled them with the knife blade and removed them, see illustration step 3. While I was in that area of the buck, I also made a deep circular cut around the rectum (using caution not to cut through the intestines or making any punctures of the rectum). I pulled, and many of you may disagree with this step, the rectum out and tied it tightly closed with a piece of my nylon cord. I think this step prevents leakage or making a nasty mess where I am working dressing my game.

continue to the next page

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James Curry used a bow for this 10 point. *Photo courtesy of Jarrett's Bait in Elizabeth.*



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Human Scents And Hunting

Here we go delving into a richly and hotly debated topic that has been written about more times than the proverbial "Stand Placement for Whitetails". Our intention is not to offend any company, manufacturer or professional hunter that has a stake in this field but rather to point out the science and facts of what makes up human scent and odor and what can be done to control them.

As avid worldwide hunters of many diverse game animals, there have been many occasions that the intended prey got away because they picked up our presence simply by their extraordinary sense of smell. Be it whitetails, elk, bear (Black, Grizzly and Brown), cape buffalo or the bison to a whole myriad of game in between from all around the globe, we have been flat busted and many more times than we like to admit. As a matter of fact, one of us single handedly disbanded a herd of 70 plus Persian Ibex without them ever seeing me. But as we write this, we like to think that it happens to everyone else just as frequently and it is not



Tommy & Dean Wyman caught 2 catfish and 1 musky. *Photo courtesy of Jarrett's Bait in Elizabeth.*

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something blatantly wrong with us in particular. Most of the time, we blame it on the wind. Those darn mid-day shifting breezes give our presence away to our intended prey. Sometimes they just bolt and others act as if they just got a whiff of something funny but not enough to convince them to leave. Usually though, the game is up in a matter in seconds after that.

All hunts are different. Some adventures allow us to return to a dwelling for daily showers and requisite laundry duties to keep our "stink" down to a minimum. While other pleasurable endeavors that we willingly put ourselves through dic-

tate the same clothes and no bath-
continue to the next page



Jeremiah Voithoffer used a bow for this big Ohio buck. *Photo courtesy of Johnny's Outdoors in Boaz.*

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ing for weeks on end despite daily vigorous physical activity. That scenario makes for a truly memorable olfactory experience. Now on some hunts, scent and odor control are not nearly as crucial as others, especially for the firearm hunter but it is usually very important for the archer. So let's look at the science behind us smelly humans.

First of all let's get rid of the easy part of this, the aspect of SCENT. All species have a unique scent to them, humans included and that is why you know a horse is around without seeing it. Dogs smell like dogs and not elephants. Deer smell like deer and not pigs and so on. This unique scent is really not an odor, it is what we as a species emanate. This is our natural smell and at this point can not be eliminated via present day technology.



David Lockhart killed a Wirt County bear. Photo courtesy of Jarrett's Bait in Elizabeth.

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It can be covered up, absorbed and masked but not stopped. Even with our pitiful human nose one can easily confirm that a particular piece of clothing from your spouse is his or hers simply by the smell. As mentioned above, all species have

a unique smell to them but it goes further then that. All individuals of a species have their own unique smell within that species.

So what can we do about our human scent? Yes, we can take show-

continue to the next page



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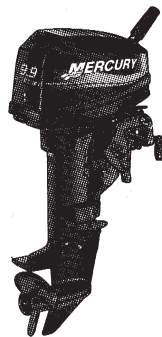
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ers with anti-bacterial soap, millions of bacteria still remain (instead of the billions that were there). Simple math will show you how quickly they regain their numbers in a short period of time.

What that leads us to is the fact that if you sweat to any moderate degree and can not bathe to reduce your bacterial load; you will in fact smell terribly in a very short period of time. So Option One and the best option, if you are on an extended hunt in which odor control is vital you really need to be able to bathe even if it means a cold quick dip in a lake or river. And mind you waiting till all your outer clothes smell as badly as you do does no good unless you can wash them too. Scent Blocker has a line of easy to carry, sealed anti-bacterial wet towels that can eliminate the need to "go jump in a lake". Option Two which is a commonly available product that we have used numerous times and have been very successful with is Neosporin. Unfortunately, we can not recommend this off label use of a FDA approved over the counter medication. The reason for that is

the fear that if it was used continually for say more then two to three weeks you would begin to see the emergence of Neosporin resistant bacteria which could lead to difficulty in treating future potential skin infections. . So the fact is that a very small amount of this ointment rubbed into your armpits and groin after a good bathing every third or fourth day will effectively prevent your normal bacteria from multiplying and actually will kill the bacteria there and will do so for the next few days. By eliminating the bacteria you eliminate body odor period.



Brad Moore got an 8 point with his bow. *Photo courtesy of Starcher's Sport Shop in Lubeck.*

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Mitch Casey took a 13 point Pocahontas County buck with a bow. Photo courtesy of Jerry's Sporting Goods in Horner.



Michael Gibbs is leading their bow contest with this buck so far. Photo courtesy of J & R Spring Goods in Shinnston.

**Mail In Your BIG FISH Pictures
From The 2007 Season.
Form Is On Page 37**

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Kate McCoy, from Charleston, caught a big crappie. Photo courtesy of Broken Wheel Campground in Weston.

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Joe Beasley took an 8 point bow buck. Photo courtesy Dee's Sporting Goods in Hamlin.



Dave Mercer got a 10 point with his bow. Photo courtesy of J & R Sporting Goods in Shinnston.



Justin Beeler brought in a bow bear. Photo courtesy of Stacher's Sport Shop in Lubeck.

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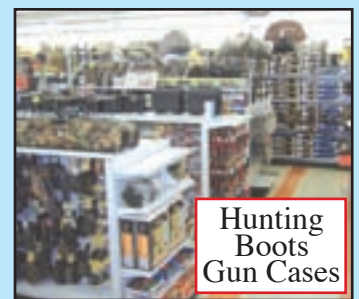
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WV DNR Announces Awards

The Sportsman of the Year and Sportsmen's Organization of the Year for 2007 were announced by West Virginia Division of Natural Resources (DNR) Director Frank Jezioro during the recent West Virginia Celebration of National Hunting and Fishing Days at Stonewall Resort State Park.

Because of the extraordinary contributions of two individuals to West Virginia natural resources and the sporting public, the Director decided to award two separate 2007 Sportsman of the Year Awards.

The first award was given to Joe Crowder of Elkview, who is currently the stocking coordinator for the Kanawha Valley Chapter of Trout Unlimited (KVCTU). He has planned, supervised and participated in numerous stocking efforts over the years with KVCTU, contributing not only his time but also his personal gear, gasoline and vehicle wear and tear. In 2006 alone, he contributed to the stocking of 80,000 brown trout fingerlings in 18 streams – 3 of which were devoid of trout. Also, in April 2006, he presided over KVCTU's stocking of its one millionth fingerling.

He is head of KVCTU's Stream

Chemistry Program, Save-Our-Streams Program and outreach programs. He has collected data on more than 130 streams, contributing significantly to regional stream monitoring efforts. He has assisted watershed associations monitor water quality, complete stream bank restoration and develop a community park. "His positive interactions with landowners have opened previously closed streams to the fishing public. He has a great rapport with kids, teaching them not only how to fish and tie spinners, but also how to understand, appreciate and respect the natural world," said Frank Jezioro.

The second 2007 Sportsman of the Year Award was given to Randy Benear of Cross Lanes, who has been a member of DNR's Physically Challenged Advisory Board

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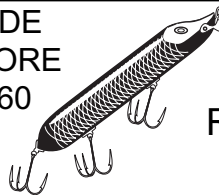
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Matt Dooley had an 8 point archery buck. Photo courtesy of Jarrett's Bait in Elizabeth.

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since its inception in 1999. He has not allowed his physical handicap to deter his active involvement with sportsmen's groups and in outdoor pursuits. He is an avid hunter and angler, and a member of the West Virginia Bowhunters Association, the National Wild Turkey Federation, and the West Virginia Hunters Education Association. He has shown leadership ability in these organizations and his community, and he continues to promote, and encourage participation in, the time-honored West Virginia tradi-

tions of fishing, hunting and trapping.

He is a recognized outdoor writer, contributing several articles for the 'Wheelin' Sportsmen magazine. "But possibly exceeding his writing skills and leadership with sportsmen's groups in importance has been his involvement with young people and the physically challenged," noted DNR Director Frank Jezioro. Benear is a DNR Certified Hunter Education Instructor, an active volunteer in the West Virginia Archery in the Schools Program, and has assisted the DNR with two state archery tournaments. He is a mentor to many physically challenged youth who wish to participate in outdoor activities, and has assisted several youth hunts for the physically challenged.

The 2007 Sportsmen's Organization of the Year Award went to the West Virginia Chapter 09 Muskies, continue to the next page



Dan Swiger caught another crap-pie. Photo courtesy of Starcher's Sport Shop in Lubeck.

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Kyle Hess got his 1st bow buck. Photo courtesy of Boone's Bow Shop in Parkersburg.

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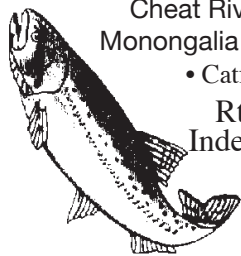
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"DNR would not be able to per-

form as well as it does without the remarkable support of individuals and organizations such as these," said Frank Jezioro. "Our agency thanks this year's winners and all the other organizations and citizens who work so hard to improve our environment and quality of outdoor recreation."



Brock Pribble caught a musky.
*Photo courtesy of Starcher's Sport Shop
in Lubeck.*



Sammy Wiley got an 8 point bow buck.
*Photo courtesy of Sun Valley Store
in Speedway*

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Scent Tips From Tink's®

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When bowhunting and using deer lure always place your lure in an area that you can shoot and at a shot distance that is comfortable to you.

When hunting a deer trail place the scent on the up-wind side of the deer trail. Scent must blow across the trail so deer can smell it.

Deer lure will be good from one year to the next, just make sure the cap or lid is on snug. Keep in mind that air breaks down urine, so the more you open it the faster it will break down

When using a natural cover scent make sure it is natural to the area you are hunting. You would not use a pine cover around an oak ridge.

If you see deer going down wind of you're hunting location start misting a deer lure with the wind. You want the lure to mix with your scent; hopefully this will confuse the deer enough not to spook.

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using cover scents and deer lures. Scent Bombs can be hung up to get more scent into the air and bow-hunters can use the orange container as a yardage marker.

In windy, cold or wet weather try using a gel lure like Tink's® # 69 DOE IN RUT Gel. Gel works better under these conditions. Wind does not dry out the gel as fast, does not freeze as fast and with gel it will last longer in the rain.

Remember a deer's nose is their #1 defense. You can have the best lure in the world even a real doe but if he smells you he's gone. Deer lures can and do work but please keep in

mind they are not magic; nothing beats good old fashion scouting.

Always use an odor eliminator like Tink's® Odor Lock to help reduce human and unnatural odors. Use before and during your hunt, just mist clothing and also the inside and outside of your hunting hat.

To see more deer and to reduce un-natural odors try storing your food like fruit, candy, gum or anything that might give off a un natural odor in a zip-loc. bag.

When using a grunt call or rattling horns always use Tink's® Trophy Buck Urine. Most of the time a buck will circle down wind of the calling or rattling to confirm with their nose what they are hearing.



Bill Mitchell harvested this 8 point with a bow. *Photo courtesy of Water-front Sporting Goods in Alderson.*



Malick Friend, from Albright, caught a 5 pound channel catfish.

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Deer Hunting Strategy

The best deer hunting tips are the ones that you figure out for yourself and can offer to others. After all, few things feel better than finding the way that works for you. Of course, until you reach that point, here are some deer hunting tips to help you get there.

Deer Hunting Tips:

- Deer are generally crepuscular: they are often active at dawn and dusk and sleep during the middle of the day and night.
- This does not, however, mean that you will not see them feeding during the middle of the day.
- Bucks are more often during hunting seas
- Go scouting. Do this during early to late summer. When you scout, be as careful as if you are actually hunting. Stay quite and do not leave much scent.
- Find the food source that the deer will be eating during the hunting season.
- Look for trees that will have the

most acorns.

- Look for areas with greens like clover or rye covering the ground.
- Look for deer trail routes. The ones with the freshest tracks are the best.
- If you are going to set up any sort of hunting stand, be sure to set it up pre-season, before the deer start feeding in that area. Otherwise, you can scare them off.

- Mark your "hot spots" on a GPS.
- Also be sure to take lots of notes. Do not expect to simply remember everything. You want to write down everything that you find.
- You can find where the bucks are if you scout during the pre-season, right after the bucks have rubbed the velvet from their antlers. During this time, the rut (mating sea-

continue to the next page



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



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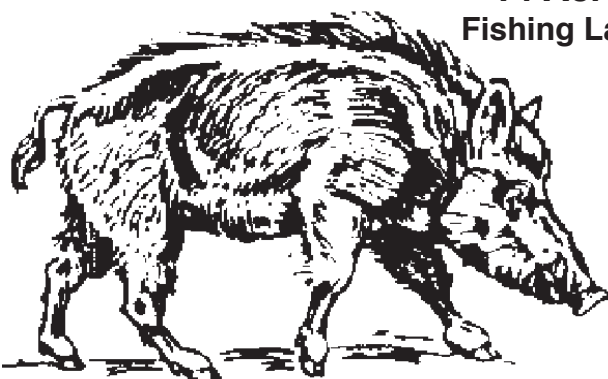


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on) a buck is going to leave more markings on trees than he will afterward.

- Look for areas with thick and dense brush. It is in areas like this that deer like to sleep. You can set up on the outskirts of such an area... somewhere where you will be able to see better.

- Remain still! Do not move unless absolutely necessary!

- Do not fall asleep! This can be tricky when you remain so still, but falling asleep not only will lose you your deer, but it can also be quite dangerous if you are up in a tree stand.

- Use special products to mask your scent. Deer have an excellent sense of smell.

- Keep the wind direction in mind. Stay downwind of whatever feeding or sleeping spot, etc. you are

“staking out.” Constantly check for changes in the wind.

- Wear a harness if using a tree stand.

- Move the site of your tree stand around. You do not want your deer to start associating deer stands with humans!

- Try to avoid walking a long a deer trail or even walk parallel to one. Take the back route... walk up streams, etc.

- Be sure to always be ready. Make sure that you have checked your equipment right when you get to

the stand, not once a deer is already out!

- The majority of deer are shot downwind from a food source.



David Brown, from Weston, caught a nice brook trout..



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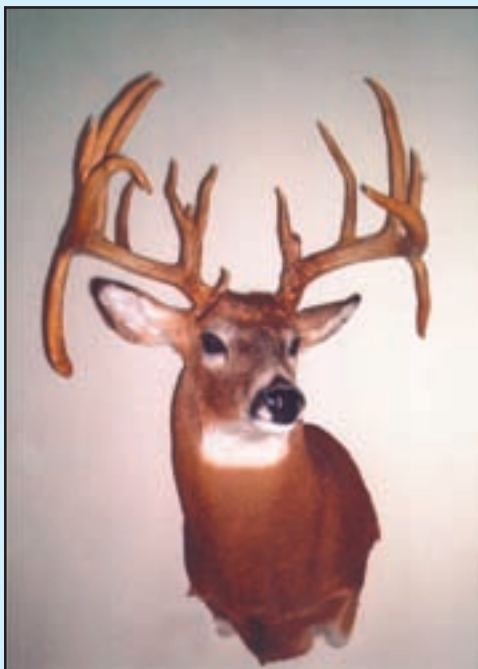
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Josh Murray hunted with a bow in southern WV for this bear. Photo courtesy of Starcher's Sport Shop in Lu-beck.



Mike Qualls landed a 7 pound rainbow trout. Photo courtesy of Three Rivers Edge in Hinton.



Justin Allen used a bow for this nice buck. Photo courtesy of Boone's Bow Shop in Parkersburg.

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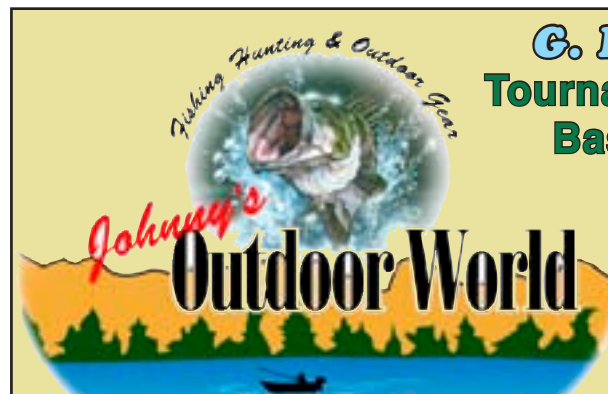
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A recent law change now requires bobcat hunters and trappers to field tag each bobcat before moving the animal from the location where it was killed. The field tag must remain on the carcass until it is re-tagged with an official game checking tag at an official game checking station. Hunters and trappers are to

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garding season length, opening and closing dates, and bag limits are reliant upon accurate data obtained from these tags. Recent improvements in international fur markets have resulted in increased harvests of furbearers.

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Cody Griffin used his Mathews to bag this huge 12 point Ohio buck. Photo courtesy of Boone's Bow Shop in Parkersburg.



Danny Frazier caught a 5 pound smallmouth. Photo courtesy of Three Rivers Edge in Hinton.



Shanna Hatcher caught a big Stephens Lake crappie. Photo courtesy of Cardinal Pawnbrokers in Beckley.

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Reel Chat With Steve Clapper

Welcome to FLW Live Reel Chat. We're joined by FLW Tour pro Steve Clapper of Lima, Ohio. As a longtime Lake Erie fishing expert, Clapper has raked in honor after honor in Stren Series and BFL competition over the years, winning seven events and logging an astounding 31 top-10 finishes in FLW Outdoors related events over the course of his career.

Clapper's crowning achievement came July 15 when he won the Chevy Open at the Detroit River/Lake Erie, adding yet another win and top-10 appearance to his resume. Not only did he win the first FLW Tour event he ever entered, but he managed to nearly triple his career earnings with FLW Outdoors after taking home the \$200,000 first-place prize from the Chevy Open. Steve Clapper is here to take questions from you, the fans. Let's get started.

Q: First off, congrats on the win! What a thrill! When searching for new spots on Erie, how do you

go about finding them -- looking at maps and finding breaklines or just time on the water cruising and looking at your electronics? Thank you!

-- Justin Miller (Marshall, Mich.)

A: Really, when you go looking, it helps to have a calm day when you're not in 4- or 5-footers, where you can read the bottom effectively. I usually pick a spawning area, and you know that after they spawn they're going to move to deeper water. Every year I just keep following them out further and further. On big lakes like Erie, you're catching fish in over 30 feet of water in the summer. Years back in a Stren event in Buffalo, N.Y., I was catching bass in 43 feet of water. In that case, there was a shoal, and we kept moving out and moving out, and we just kept finding fish. The mapping GPS systems we have today are unbelievable, so electronics really help as well.


Q: First off, great job on your first FLW victory last week! Drop-shot-

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ting is big on Erie. Can you explain how you used this technique in deep, rough waters like you fished last week? Thank you.

-- Brian Threet (Ann Arbor, Mich.)

A: That's a good question, because it's tough to drop-shot in rough water. I was marking my rock piles with a buoy. I just make little

continue to the next page



Jim Neal, from St. Marys, landed a 43 pound catfish.

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itches, no more than a 45-degree angle. As it got rougher, especially on the third day of the tourney, where we had 7-footers, I picked up a tube with a 3/4-ounce head, and that seemed to be the ticket - - much more so than the drop-shot. That was probably my biggest asset that day -- that tube. It was just so much easier to work with that heavier head and cast away from the boat. I just had more flexibility with the tube in the wind. However, it seems like when fish move into summer haunts, the drop-shot is king, in my estimation.

Q: When using the drop-shot, how do you select which bait you will use?

-- Seth (Wixom, Mich.)

A: Well, there are like three baits I like: a Poor Boy's goby, Berkley Gulp baits and Roboworms. But the goby and the Gulp have been my two favorite baits for drop-shotting. Also, I have to say, the way the scent works on those Berk-

ley Gulp baits is amazing -- I can't tell you how much of a difference they have made on the fishing the last couple of years, especially on Lake Erie. Overall, I had four drop-shot rods rigged up during my last FLW tourney, with a different bait on each one. I also made up about 10 special leaders ahead of time for my drop-shot hook, because it's not something you want to waste your time with during tournament hours.

Q: Steve, congrats on the FLW Lake Erie win; no one that fishes Erie deserves it more than you. I am newer to running a bass boat on Lake Erie, and I was curious about how you run the bigger waves - 5 to 7-plus feet - with a bass boat. I never know when you are supposed to quarter them, run the troughs, or go against them or with them. Also, what do you suggest for a newer



A Northern Pike was hooked by Kenneth Meador. *Photo courtesy of Three Rivers Edge in Hinton.*

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boater to have as far as a setup for Lake Erie (prop, tie-down equipment, etc.)? Thanks, and congrats again.

-- Travis (Harrod, Ohio)

A: As far as equipment goes, a good five-blade prop is very important. They have adapter kits for them as well, to customize them to your own boat. If you notice on Lake Erie, most of the guys run a five-blade prop. You also need straps that go around the trolling motor bracket that go right around the shaft and Velcro down. On the bracket, where it meets the furthest point back in the boat, I attach a ram mount. In bad weather, it really holds it secure. It's critical.

continue to the next page

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I've seen too many new fishermen who run too hard and break all of their equipment. I also like to carry a VHF radio and a cell phone for safety purposes. As far as boat control goes, in high waves, I want to keep the nose of my boat in the air and just meander along. You don't want to be in a hurry, because that will get you in trouble in high waves. The main thing for a newcomer is to go out at first with somebody who has experience, because you might not encounter any rough water your first trip or two. I've seen a lot of people out there who really didn't know what they're getting into. Start out close, know your boat well and gain experience. Because when that wind kicks up, most people have never seen anything like it before.

Q: What fish-finder unit are you using? Have you seen Hummingbird's 987c side finder, and if so,

what do think of its technology?

-- Brian Feutz (Ada, Mich.)

A: I use a Lowrance 104c on the console, and I have an X15 MT on the front of my boat. Both units are equipped with their own GPS module. The new technology that Hummingbird has come out with is supposed to be phenomenal as well. Personally, I haven't seen it yet myself, but from what I've been told, the new technology sounds interesting.

Q: How big of an impact has the population explosion of gobies had on Lake Erie fishing? Have you retooled your approach at all in response to the presence of that baitfish?

-- Jon Tourant (Sandusky, Ohio)

A: The introduction of the goby has been monumental in the whole life cycle, I believe, of smallmouth bass. Once they were introduced, they grew immensely throughout the lake. But it's actually turned out to be an unbelievable forage fish for smallmouth, and as such, smallmouth bass have gotten a lot bigger. They've also drawn the smallmouth into deeper water, as gobies will be at a lot of different and deeper depths than most other

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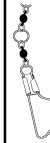
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baitfish. Also, with the introduction of zebra mussels, a lot of the crayfish population has disappeared off of the shallow rocks because the mussels are covering everything. I think this has also pushed the smallmouth into deeper water.

Q: Do you think Lake Erie can
continue to the next page

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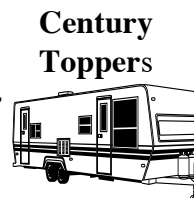
Mike Kerns took an 8 point bow buck. Photo courtesy of Crossroads General Store near Newark.

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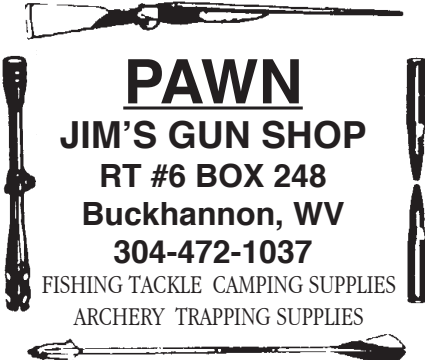
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ustain the level of quality smallmouths with the amount of tournaments being held on its waters?

-- Duane Bethke (Pinckney, Mich.)

A: That's a good question. I guess the short answer is, I hope so. The anglers are taking a lot better care of their fish, and there's just been a higher level of special care, especially with the new equipment, holding tanks, etc.

Q: Steve, great job in Detroit. What would be the first area you would look for on the Detroit River to find fish if you were unable to fish the lake?

-- Mike (Cleveland, Ohio)

A: The first area I'd look for is the area as close to the lake as I could get. I'm not really good on the river, but there is great fishing on the river. One of the things I'd look for is where the current is running up hard against a bulkhead or a dock. Those are prime feeding spots for

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smallmouths. I'd also look for flats and the eddies. If I'm forced to fish the river, I'm definitely looking for that current up against those bulkheads.

Q: Do you prefer different colors (baits) for different water conditions or water clarity?

-- Joe (Grand Rapids, Mich.)

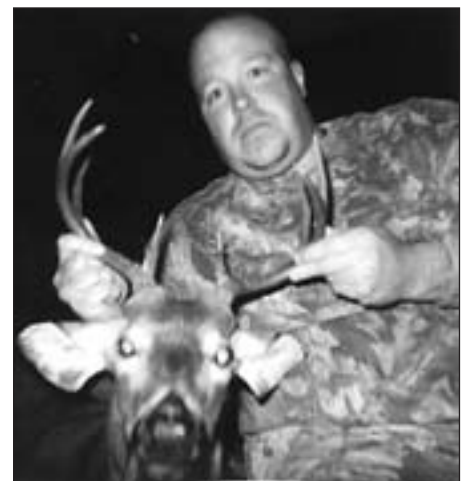
A: That's a real good question. As far as the drop-shot, I've found that a green-pumpkin goby with black and purple fleck is the first bait I'll put on in stained water. For clear water, I'll go more toward a lighter, natural goby color. And I'd do the same, pretty much, for a tube bait. You can't go wrong on Lake Erie with a watermelon color of some sort.

Q: Steve, congratulations on the win! I hope you don't spend the money too fast! Anyway, do you treat Lake Erie as one big lake, or do you treat it as several different lakes in one and just concentrate on one area, breaking it down like you would a normal-size lake?

-- Jonathan (Charlotte, N.C.)

A: I guess I just treat it as one big area. If I go there and start practicing, I kind of have a circuit I need to go check. When I make the rounds on a practice day, I'll probably run 120 miles, making a loop, checking spots. It's as simple as seeing who is home and who is not. Understanding how the the currents work in the lake is important as well, which

continue to the next page



Scott Graham bagged an 8 point with a bow. *Photo courtesy of Crossroads General Store in Newark.*

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s mostly determined by the wind. I really like to bring my bait in the same direction as it would naturally flow with the current. During this past tournament, the fish were in transition. So we'd pull up on those summertime haunts and catch one good fish, maybe two. That was the norm. I realized the fish had just not migrated yet. Once you get into the August, deep-water structure fishing on Erie, it can be the highlight of the summer.

Q: Congrats on your win. I was hoping a local guy would take the trophy. I was wondering if you had a special way of fishing on a dead flat day. Are there certain retrieves or lures that are more effective in these conditions? Catching fish on Erie is more difficult for me when it is supercalm.

-- Ryan Miller

A: That's a great question. The last day of the FLW Tour event on Lake Erie, the day went flat and I wasn't getting any bites. When we started out in the morning, we had a nice little chop and it was pretty good fishing. But when it's calm, it can be tough fishing on Erie -- you hear it all the time. When it is flat, I like to put a 3/4-ounce Big Dude made by Bite Me Jigs. By having



Jennifer Mayer, from Shinnston, used a bow for this black bear. Photo courtesy of The Bow Shop in Hepzibah.

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the heavy weight in there, your bait falls like a rock. What I do is make a long cast, let the bait fall all the way to the bottom and then snap it horizontally -- in an erratic manner -- about three times. Usually I can get a reaction bite out of that. On that final day on Lake Erie, I made

three casts and landed a 4-pounder right away. I hooked two fish in about 20 minutes that way. The finesse techniques had worn off, and had I not had that technique at my disposal -- triggering a fish into biting -- I wouldn't have been as successful.

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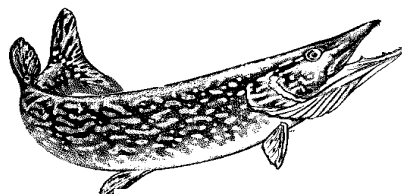
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