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Vol. 1 Issue 185

Hunting 2008



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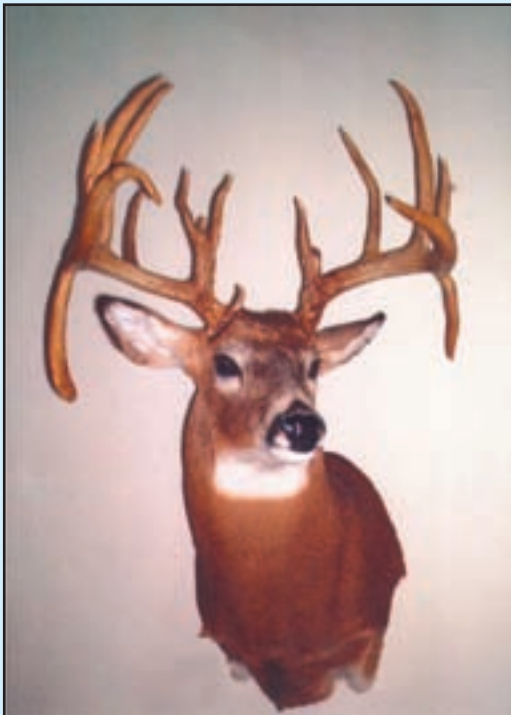
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Cover Photo

Fishing at Stonewall Jackson Lake in November, Andy Godwin, from Burnsville, hooked this real nice largemouth bass. After catching this fish, it was released.

Gun season is starting in West Virginia. Hunt safely and remember to be courteous to land owners and other hunters. Send in your big buck photos. This magazine is on line www.wvasportsman.net Photo courtesy of Mid-State Marina in Sutton.

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Last Minute Whitetails

Another deer season is nearing the end. There are only a few days of archery season left in which to bag deer. It can be tougher at this time of year, but hunters can still find success by changing tactics and adapting to varying conditions.

Many things change during the late season and hunters must change too in order to be successful. The breeding season has wound down, foliage and cover has diminished, and food sources are much more limited. There has also been a lot of hunting pressure on whitetails for the past several weeks. All of these factors affect where the deer will be and when they will move.

Each of these factors can have a good side and bad for hunters. Knowing how these changes affect the deer helps hunters understand how to locate and hunt deer in the late season. Here is a look at some

of the changes and how to use them as an advantage to up the odds for success.

Food Sources

The late season is a difficult time for whitetails. Their bodies are stressed from breeding activity and food sources are becoming much more limited. Staples such as agricultural crops and acorns are mostly gone. Now, they must locate alternative sources to carry them over until spring green-up.

Finding these late season food sources will enable the hunter to find the deer as well. Deer will key on these winter foods and often concentrate in larger numbers than earlier in the year. Sometimes late season deer can be so concentrated

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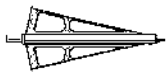
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they can be difficult to find.

Deer will utilize any standing crops remaining in the fields, green fields with winter wheat, and any areas where acorns might still be left to find. Other sources such as honeysuckle and good browse areas are heavily used. Winter food plots planted by hunters are an excellent draw for late season whitetails.

continue to the next page

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**Game
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Chad Staats brought in a wide-racked bow buck. *Photo courtesy of Crossroads General Store near Newark.*

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Security Areas

Another key to remember is finding bedding and resting areas. Deer may be bedding in the same locations they were earlier in the season. However, chances are that they have moved. Hunting pressure, foliage die-out, and diminished food supplies will more than likely have forced deer into new areas.

It's very important hunters find at least the general area in which whitetails are bedding. One must know the travel routes between bedding and feeding to be successful. Hunting directly on a food source may only bring limited success. Whitetails may often move less during the daylight hours if they have been greatly pressured during hunting season.

Deer will look for the heaviest available cover possible. It must



Young John Jarrell used a bow for this deer. *Photo courtesy of Bowlistic Archery in Chelyan.*

provide a feeling of security, but must also provide some protection from the elements. Look for thick tangles of scrub brush, pine thickets, downed trees and pilings from logging, or other areas that offer security and protection. Hillsides that offer a windbreak and a good view of approaching danger are prime spots to seek.

Hunt Closer

Depending on the hunting pressure and other factors in a particular area, deer may become mostly nocturnal during the late season. They may stay in heavy cover during much of the daylight hours and only venture out during late evening and early morning hours. This may make it difficult for hunters to intercept them on travel paths without changing hunting tactics.

Often times it will be necessary to hunt very close to the bedding areas in order to catch whitetails as they leave the secure areas just before dark. It is very important to slip into these close range areas extremely quiet and wary of prevailing wind conditions.

If hunting near bedding

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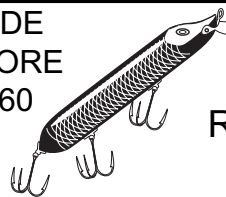
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areas on a morning hunt, hunters need to be prepared to stay in the stand all day or leave room to exit the stand and hunting area without being detected. It does no good to scout an area, hunt it, and then bump the deer from their security area when exiting the woods.

continue to the next page

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Hunt Longer

Deer movement can be really strange during the late season. Different areas and conditions can see totally different movement patterns. One area may see deer almost totally nocturnal if there has been a lot of hunting pressure. Another area may have deer moving on more normal patterns or even moving during midday. The hunter must really do the homework to find these patterns to be successful.

Sometimes this requires staying longer in the stand. It's quite simple to realize that in order to take a late season deer; the hunter must actually be in the woods and not home on the couch. By staying longer on hunting trips, the hunter can maximize each outing to ensure the best possible chance of intercepting deer on the move.

Stay Warm

One of the biggest problems with



Tom Berga recently landed this huge flathead catfish while bass fishing. Photo courtesy of Backwater Bait in Newport, Ohio.

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late season hunting is staying warm and still. Getting cold on stand leads to more movement and eventually forces the hunter from the woods. Proper clothing will help keep the hunter in the woods longer.

Everyone hears that the best defense against cold is layering. This is entirely true. Multiple layers of

continue to the next page

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clothing will protect much greater against the cold than just one heavy layer. Air is trapped between each layer which adds space and insulation.

The choice of clothing types is very important and varies depending on conditions. The hunter must capture as much body warmth as possible, but cannot wear materials that will produce a sweat and then subsequent cold. Outer clothing for bowhunters must be waterproof on occasion, windproof at times, but must at all times be quiet.

Concealment

Another element of success is concealment. Colors and conditions in the woods have changed dramatically since the season opener in early fall. Camo patterns which worked when everything was green may not be the best choice for a January hunt. Hunters should try to match their surroundings as much as possible. Although whitetails don't see colors very well, turkeys do and being spotted by a flock of winter turkeys can ruin an otherwise good hunt.

For tree stand hunters, it may also be necessary to hunt higher or in different types of trees. Deer can see much farther with all the leaves gone, so hunters must be very conscious of their outline be-

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ing silhouetted and visible from afar. Trees with concealing branches or a backdrop of limbs will help breakup the hunter's shape.

Conclusion

These are but a few leads toward a late-season mindset. Every hunting location and situation has its variables. Hunters must evaluate their own particular situation and

analyze how things have changed during the season. Proper scouting, stand placement, timing, and cooperation from the elements may help bring success during the final days of the season.



Cameron Haynes went to Colorado for this huge elk. Photo courtesy of Outdoor Specialties in Winfield.



Frank Lieghte will be eating fresh trout from this pay lake. Photo courtesy of Catfish Cove in Hurricane.

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But your firearm requires protection even when it in storage as a case or cabinet is not sufficient protection for your shotgun or rifle. Corrosion can destroy your firearm if it's not properly stored.

It is critical to always clean your firearm's bore prior to long-term storage. Next up, be sure to scrub the action with a good lubricant-cleaner using a soft bristled brush like an old toothbrush.

Once the action is thoroughly cleaned, it is wise to degreasing it with a high-quality degreaser. Follow that up with a light coating of high quality gun grease in all wear areas.

Your next step is to spray the action with a dust coating of a quality water displacement product.

When remove your firearm from storage, simply run a wet patch down the bore. Follow that up with a dry patch. Lastly, wipe it off.



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Ervin Taylor is shown with a nice deer. Photo courtesy of Reese's Country Store in Deerwalk.



Morgan Long took this archery deer. Photo courtesy of Cardinal Pawnbrokers in Beckley.

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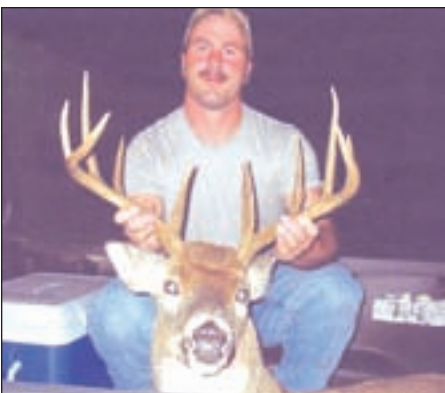
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Kevin Guiler went to Ohio for this bow buck. Photo courtesy of Starcher's Sport Shop in Lubeck.



Dana Bush reeled in a 25 3/4 pound catfish. Photo courtesy River-Side Bait in Hockingsport, Ohio.



Mike Parsons bagged a 10 point with a bow. Photo courtesy of Reeses's Country Store in Deerwalk.

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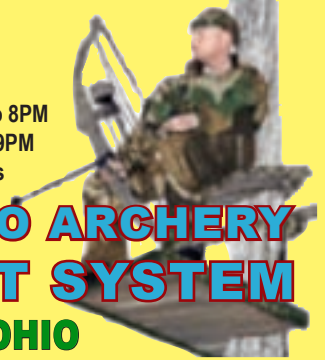
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Katie Richardson shot her first wild turkey. Her father, Clarence called it in . Photo courtesy of Team Buckhorn in Princeton.

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Hunting in Indiana, Cory Boothe used a bow to bag this trophy whitetail. Photo courtesy of Cardinal Pawnbrokers in Beckley.

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Debra Stephenson used a bow for this nice Ohio 8 pt. Photo courtesy of Backwater Bait in Newport, Ohio.



Jason Arthur landed this paddlefish at the Belleville Dam on the river.



Andy Godwin hooked and released a big Stonewall Jackson bass. Photo courtesy of Mid-State Marina in Sutton.

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Nysha Ball took an 8 point on her 1st bow hunt. Photo courtesy of Jarrett's Bait in Elizabeth.

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2008 Deer Season

- The West Virginia buck season is November 24 – December 6. It is open in all counties except Logan, Mingo, McDowell and Wyoming.
- Approximately 320,000 licensed hunters will be in West Virginia's woods during this season.
- Hunters should review the 2008-2009 Hunting and Trapping Regulations Summary for detailed instructions concerning bag limits and season dates. The regulations are online at www.wvdnr.gov
- A list of deer checking stations in West Virginia can be found online at www.wvdnr.gov/hunting/check_stations.asp
- The bag limit during the two week buck season is two (one on the base license and one on an RG [resident] or RRG [nonresident] stamp). A hunter may take no more than three antlered deer per calen-



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Adam Camp has an 8 point bow buck. Photo courtesy of Boone's Bow Shop in Parkersburg.

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tions of 44 counties on private land only during the entire two-week buck season and beginning November 26 through the remainder of the buck season on specified public land. This is not a "hunter's choice" season, because hunters must have purchased the proper antlerless deer license (Class N for residents and Class NN for nonresidents) to participate. Hunters may take only one deer per day; therefore, a buck and an antlerless deer may not be taken on the same day. Class N and Class NN antlerless stamps are no longer county specific. See the 2008-2009 Hunting and Trapping Regulations Summary for county and public lands specific regulations.

- All deer must be field tagged and checked in within 72 hours of the time of kill or within 24 hours of the close of the season, whichever comes first. Additional deer may not be taken until all previously taken deer have been checked. Only one deer may be taken per day during the buck season.
- Deer hunting in West Virginia generates a total annual economic impact of \$233 million, much of it in the rural areas of the state that depend upon the deer seasons for a large portion of their annual income.
- In 2007, deer hunters in West Virginia harvested 67,213 bucks during the two-week buck season, an

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increase of 1.7 percent from the previous year.

- Based upon scouting reports and mast production, DNR is looking for the buck kill to be slightly higher than last year. Poor weather conditions last year during the first week of buck season resulted in a large number of antlered deer carrying over to this hunting period, meaning more and bigger bucks will be harvested. Hunters who have done their pre-season scouting and have located food sources for deer will have the best chance of success.

continue to the next page



Cody Griffin took a big Ohio 8 point with a bow. *Photo courtesy of Boone's Bow Shop in Parkersburg.*



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- Sunday hunting is legal in the following 14 counties on private land only: Boone, Brooke, Clay, Hancock, Jefferson, Lincoln, Logan, McDowell, Marshall, Mingo, Ohio, Wayne, Wetzel and Wyoming. The only Sunday that is open in these counties during the buck season is November 30. Hunters are reminded that deer gun seasons are closed in Logan, Mingo, McDowell and Wyoming counties.

- Hunters are required to wear at least 400 square inches of blaze orange (about the size of a vest) as an outer garment for visibility and safety. Blaze orange camouflage patterns are legal as long as 400 square inches of blaze orange are displayed on the garment. A blaze orange hat is not required, but the hunter must have blaze orange visible from both the front and the back.

- Hunting licenses may be purchased online at any time and printed out on a home computer printer. Go to the goWILD! Web site at www.wvhunt.com, fill out the application, and purchase it over a secure server with a credit card.

- Hunters who wish to donate deer meat or dollars to the Hunters Helping the Hungry program, which distributes deer meat through the Mountaineer Food Bank and the Huntington Food Bank, should call (304) 558-2771 or visit the DNR Web site at www.wvdnr.gov to find a participating meat processor. Good luck and hunt safely.

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Attract Deer To Your Stand

Today I am going to talk about how to attract more deer and bigger deer to your deer hunting tree stand or deer hunting blind.

Marty Prokop asks, "How Many Times Has This Happened to You?"

You are sitting in your deer hunting tree stand or deer hunting blind. You see a big buck walking in front

By Marty Prokop

of you, just out of range.

Suddenly, the big buck stops and begins to circle your tree stand or blind location. As you sit in your deer hunting tree stand or deer hunting blind watching the buck, you notice the wind direction has changed slightly and is now blowing your human odor in the direction of the big buck.

No worries, you figure, he will keep coming towards you, because you have sprayed cover scent all over your deer hunting gear and deer hunting clothing.

Then it happens.

The buck stops in his tracks, throws his head into the air and snorts loudly as he catches your

continue to the next page



Randy Dornan, from Williamstown, brought in a nice bow buck.

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human odor. The big buck turns and runs deeper into the woods, not once offering you a clean shot.

Your deer hunt doesn't have to end this way.

In order to attract more deer and big bucks for a clean shot from your deer hunting tree stand or deer hunting blind, you must keep your human odor as minimal as possible.

Marty Prokop Reveals Using Deer Attractant Scents to Lure Deer Closer

In addition to my cover scent, I hang multiple scent wicks around my deer hunting tree stand or deer hunting blind location.

During the pre-rut, I used doe urine and buck urine scents. During the rut, I use doe estrus and dominate buck scents.

Here is how I make handling these scent wicks less messy to make and quicker to hang in the field.

The scent wicks I hang in the field around my deer hunting tree stand or deer hunting blind are saturated with the same scents as my drag lines. (We talked about this in a prior newsletter and blog post.)

The day before I go deer hunting, while preparing my deer scent drag lines, I saturate six additional scent wicks and place them into the zip-top bags with the drag lines.

One bag contains three additional scent wicks saturated with buck urine during the pre-rut and dominant buck scent during the rut.

The second bag contains three additional scent wicks saturated with doe urine during the pre-rut and doe estrus during the rut.

In The Field with Marty Prokop

In a shooting lane directly in front of my deer hunting tree stand or deer hunting blind, about 20 yards out, I hang one doe-based attractant scent wick and one buck-based at-

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Gene and Roseanna Hines

tractant scent wick. I make sure all scent wicks are four to five feet off the ground so wind can help disperse the deer scent.

Then, I walk twenty yards to the right of my deer hunting tree stand

continue to the next page

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or deer hunting blind and hang the remaining buck and doe scent wicks.

What is the purpose of hanging the scent wicks to either side of your deer hunting tree stand or deer hunting blind?

It is to help cover your human odor if the wind currents change and to stop deer from catching human odor and bolting when they circle behind you or are down wind of you.

I've had big bucks circle to the side of my deer hunting tree stand, catch the smell of the scent wick and turn back towards my tree stand. This allowed me good shots before I was winded by the deer.

The next time you head into the

deer hunting woods let deer attractant scents and the wind currents do some of the work for you. Place your scent wicks in front and to the left and right of your deer hunting tree stand or deer hunting blind.

Do this and you could attract more deer to you, without them knowing you are even there.

Good Luck and Great Hunting.

Marty Prokop

About Marty Prokop

Deer hunting expert Marty Prokop reveals closely guarded deer hunting secrets on how to get deer every time. Get his Free Deer Hunting Tips Newsletter, free deer videos and free online deer hunting game at FreeDeerHuntingTips.com

Marty Prokop has 24-years experience deer hunting, processing deer for deer hunters and venison sausage making. Marty Prokop teaches deer hunting, hunter safety, deer processing and deer sausage making classes. Marty Prokop has processed 7,805 deer, field dressed 422 deer and made over 991,990 pounds of sausage, smoked meats and jerky. Marty Prokop worked

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with Minnesota DNR programs. His deer hunting videos are used in statewide advanced hunter education classes. Marty Prokop is a successful speaker, outdoor writer and published author.



Jeff Miller used an arrow on this nice 9 point. *Photo courtesy of Jarrett's Bait in Elizabeth.*

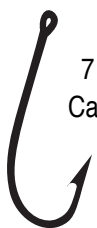
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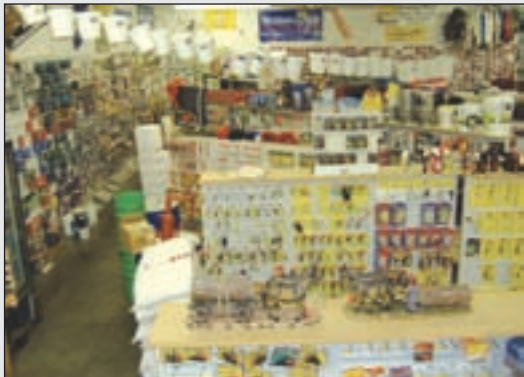
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Josh Murray had archery success with this black bear. Photo courtesy of Starcher's Sport Shop in Lubeck.



Chris Pauley got an archery 9point buck. Photo courtesy of Jarrett's Bait in Elizabeth.

Mail In Your **BIG FISH** Pictures
From The **2008 Season.**
Form Is On Page 38



Rodney Starcher used his bow for this black bear. Photo courtesy of Starcher's Sport Shop in Lubeck.

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Information is on Page 17.**

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Randy Hoover used a bow for this 10 point buck. Photo courtesy of Jarrett's Bait in Elizabeth.



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Aaron Morris trapped a 40 pound beaver. Photo courtesy of Jarrett's Bait in Elizabeth,



Phil Dawson caught an 8.66 pound largemouth at Mountwood Park. Photo courtesy of Reese's Country Store in Deerwalk.



Wesley Adkins used a bow for this deer. Photo courtesy Bowlistic Archer in Chelyan.

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Spotlight Survey Results

The Wildlife Resources Section of the West Virginia Division of Natural Resources conducted annual spotlight-distance surveys during the month of September in several eastern panhandle counties to estimate deer population levels. The surveys this year were expanded to include Hampshire, Berkeley and Pendleton counties. By doing so, wildlife biologists are able to compare results among three different regions of the panhandle. The results show high populations in some areas, and low populations in others.

“These spotlight-distance surveys are conducted to determine relative

abundance of deer in these counties,” noted District Wildlife Biologist Rich Rogers. “This information, when added to other data sources collected throughout the year, helps to better manage county deer herds.”

This year’s surveys showed deer densities of 50 deer per square mile in Berkeley County, 80 deer per square mile in eastern Pendleton County, 30 deer per square mile in the Slanesville area of Hampshire County, and 22 deer per square mile between Augusta and Kirby in Hampshire County.

It appears that reduced antlerless deer harvests in both Berkeley and Pendleton counties have resulted in higher deer densities over the past couple of years. By contrast, increased antlerless deer harvests in Hampshire County have kept densities lower. Rich Rogers said he found it interesting that deer densities actually seem to be higher in the Slanesville area of Hampshire County, where DNR has been in-

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tensively collecting deer in the spring for chronic wasting disease (CWD) monitoring. He also said that the deer herd displays a younger age structure and is producing more fawns.

“This is good news and is the first
continue to the next page



Chris White, from Hico, got a huge Colorado elk..



Orville Graham used an arrow on this buck. Photo courtesy of Starcher's Sport Shop in Lubeck.

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evidence that our Chronic Wasting Disease Response Plan is, at least in part, achieving its goal of maintaining a younger deer population in the area where the disease is found in Hampshire County," noted Rogers. It is thought that younger deer are less prone to spreading the disease, since it takes over a year for most deer to begin shedding infectious material.

Deer densities in surveyed sections of both Berkeley and Pendleton counties are much higher than desired and above their management objectives. It is hoped that with increased antlerless deer harvests, these deer densities will decrease to more appropriate levels, herds will remain healthy, and crop damage will decrease.

Wildlife managers and biologists distributed flyers describing the survey along the routes and talked to as many landowners as possible in the week prior to conducting the survey. "We really don't want to disturb people while conducting the surveys, and if people ask us to leave, we do," said Rogers. He also noted that it was important for people to realize they were only looking and not shooting any deer for survey collections.

The survey involves driving along predetermined routes and spot-

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lighting deer to count by age and sex when possible. Distances to the deer, as well as compass angle, and distance traveled, are noted and submitted for statistical analysis. A computer program then calculates the total area surveyed and the number of deer per square mile that were present. Al Niederberger, Assistant District Wildlife Biologist, noted that the survey provides a conservative estimate of deer abundance. Wildlife biologists also take into account food availability, time of year, and other factors that may affect their interpretation of the results obtained.



Kennoth Hughes used a bow for this turkey. *Photo courtesy of Boone's Bow Shop in Parkersburg.*

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PHOTOS FOR 2008

Form Is On
Page 13

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"This is a cooperative program between the U.S. Forest Service and the West Virginia Division of Natural Resources, providing access to suitable hunting areas for sportsmen who possess a Class Q/QQ permit. These Class Q/QQ roads have been well received by physically challenged hunters," Taylor said.

Both resident and nonresident hunters who qualify and obtain a West Virginia Class Q/QQ permit may now participate in special

Class Q/QQ hunts (see 2008-2009 Hunting Regulations Summary or visit the DNR Web site at www.wvdnr.gov) and use designated Class Q/QQ hunter access roads. Nonresidents must have an applicable nonresident annual hunting license and Conservation Stamp in addition to the Class QQ permit. Resident hunters must possess a Class A and Conservation Stamp or a Class X, XL, A-L or AB-L license in addition to the Class Q permit.

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continue to the next page



Mike Murray and Billy Booth trapped several animals. *Photo courtesy of Murrays Lures in Walker.*



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ate WVDNR District Office. Hunters applying by mail must include a copy of their Class Q/QQ permit. Approved hunters will be issued a letter of authorization, which must be in possession while hunting.

The Class Q/QQ permit holder may be accompanied by no more than one assistant, at least 16 years of age, when hunting within a designated area. Assistants may change from one trip to the next, but all assistants must be listed on the letter of authorization. The assistant may hunt with the Class Q/QQ permit holder, but must be



Chris McCormick took this bull elk at "DD" Ranch in Ohio. *Photo courtesy of Holbert's Store in Big Bend.*

out of the vehicle while hunting, and possess appropriate hunting licenses as required by state law. A hunting license is not required for the assistant if he is not hunting.

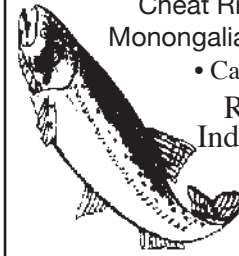
All state hunting regulations are to be observed while hunting these designated areas. Authorized hunters will have access to specific gates via a special lock, for which the hunter will be issued a key. While behind the gate, hunters must observe all National Forest and state Wildlife Management Area regulations. All off-road driving is prohibited.

For specific information about applying for a key to access National Forest Class Q/QQ roads, including location and road length, contact the respective National Forest Ranger District. For information on State Wildlife Management Area Class Q/QQ roads, call the Division of Natural Resources office in Elkins at 304-637-0245 or visit the DNR Web site at www.wvdnr.gov.

Class Q/QQ Roads Available on
continue to the next page

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Alexis Hefner, from Wavery, land a 5 1/4 pound largemouth at Mountwood Park Lake.

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Deer rubs are created when a male deer rubs his forehead and antlers against the base of a tree. In late summer and early fall rubs are usually made by bucks rubbing the velvet off their newly acquired antlers. During the rut and late season, rubs can be made by aggressive bucks strengthening their neck muscles or bucks just marking out their home territory. A bucks forehead gland will leave a scent to let other deer know who made the rub. Bucks sometimes use the same tree to rub but, as often as not, rubs are made at random before and during the rut. It will be easy to tell a tree that has been visited and rubbed multiple times from a tree that's just been rubbed once. The trees can vary in size from just a little sapling to a mature tree 4 to 8 inches wide. Bucks usually prefer a soft tree such as a cedar or a pine. Most experienced hunters say that the bigger the rub the bigger the deer. A spike does not have the spread between his antlers that it would need to rub a tree that a mature deer can get his horns around. Now that does not mean big bucks rub only big trees. Remember big bucks can also rub thick bushes to remove velvet from its antlers.



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Rubs are fairly easy to spot in the woods. They are also a definite sign that a buck has been through the area. I look for a fresh rub line or a heavy concentration of fresh rubs when looking for stand placement. More often than not, you can pin point a bucks home territory by the rub lines that surround it. When scouting for rubs you should never touch them or spread too much human scent around the area. If you find several big fresh rubs with deep gouges and pieces of bark

laying around it. Hang your stand or make a mental note of the area and get out. Chances are you have a wall-hanger frequenting the area.



A November New River walleye was caught by Brain Ward. *Photo courtesy of Three Rivers Edge in Hinton.*

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These guys caught a lot of trout at this pay lake. *Photo courtesy of Catfish Cove in Hurricane.*



Charlie McCann hooked a big Northern Pike in Kingston, Ontario. *Photo courtesy of Johnny's Otdoors in Boaz.*

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Rick Brookover, from New Martinsville, went to Shavers Fork to catch this nearly seven pound brown trout.

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James Smallwood used a bow for this nice Raleigh County black bear. Photo courtesy of Cardinal Pawnbrokers in Beckley.

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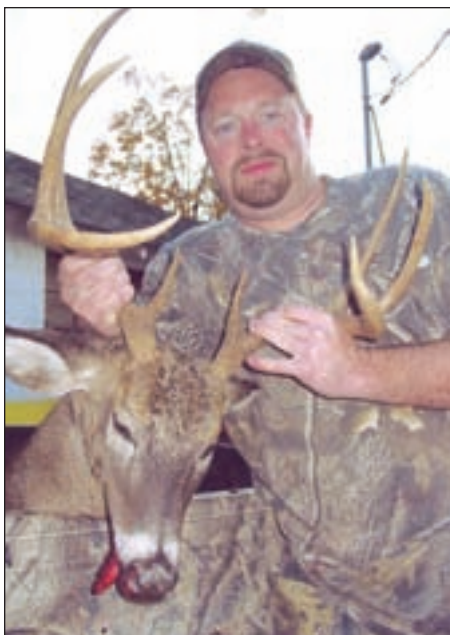
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Scott Hickman went to Ritchie County for this archery 8 point buck. *Photo courtesy of Reese's Country Store near Mountwood Park.*



Harold Lockhart Jr. arrowed a nice 10 point. *Photo courtesy of Bogg's in Elizabeth.*

**Mail In Your
 BIG GAME
 PHOTOS
 Form Is On
 Page 13**



Mark Morris used his Matthews on this nice 10 point form Raleigh County. *Photo courtesy of Cardinal Pawnbrokers in Beckley.*



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Gary Young went to Colorado for this mountain goat. *Photo courtesy of Outdoor Specialties in Winfield.*



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Harlon Bowser used his bow for this nice 10 point buck. *Photo courtesy of Reese's Country Store near Mountwood Park.*



Troy Beeler is shown with a big 10 point taken with a bow at Mountwood Park. *Photo courtesy of Starcher's Sport Shop in Lubeck.*



This hunter went to Ohio for this big buck. *Photo courtesy of Boone's Bow Shop in Parkersburg.*

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Deer Scrapes

Scrapes are areas on the ground where bucks paw the soil away with their hooves. They can vary in size from as small as a foot and a half wide to sometimes seven or eight feet. They are most often made and maintained prior to the rut. Deer make and maintain scrapes as a way to communicate with other deer. They leave their scent by urinating over their back legs onto the tarsal glands. Then they rub their tarsal glands together and squeeze urine over the scrape. This leaves a strong distinct smell of that buck in the scrape.

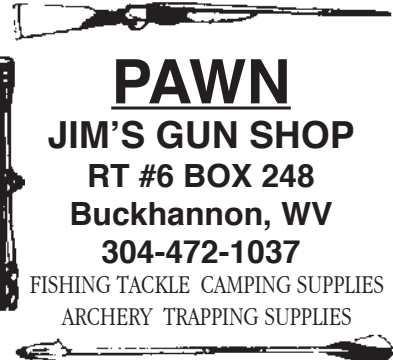
Most scrapes also have a low hanging branch that the deer lick and rub their head on to leave additional scent. A scrape may be used only the first time it was made or visited numerous times by many different deer. A scrape is not always used by just one buck. I've seen numerous trail cam photos of different aged bucks working one single scrape. From what I've observed most scrapes are maintained under the cover of darkness. I believe when scrapes are checked in the daylight hours they are done so from a location downwind of the scrape. From a distance a deer can smell what kind of activity the scrape has seen since it last vis-



Rex Cyphens bagged a nice 11 point archery buck. *Photo courtesy of the Three Rivers Edge in Hinton.*

ited. When you're hunting around the rutting time of year you should notice scrapes in your area. Generally bucks like to make scrapes between their favorite feeding and bedding areas.

We will probably never know all the benefits a scrape can provide to whitetail deer. Research on the subject has changed dramatically over the years. Twenty years ago research claimed that scrapes were used for bucks to be able to find out when a doe was in estrous or getting close to estrous. Recent research that I have studied claims that this is not the case at all. No matter what research you agree with or what your thoughts on the subject are there is one thing for certain: if you find scrapes, you've found bucks.



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8 year old Trenton Begley got his 1st deer. *Photo courtesy of Cardinal Pawnbrokers in Beckley.*

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WV State Park Gift Cards

West Virginia State Park Gift Cards purchased online or by telephone in November or December will have 12 "Something Extra" cards included for each \$100 dollars purchased, according to West Virginia State Parks Chief Ken Caplinger. These Something Extra cards include discounts and encourage participation in parks activities

West Virginia State Park gift cards are popular for special occasions, birthdays and anniversaries, holidays, and for corporate incentive or employee reward programs.

"The Something Extra is 12 cards with 12 different offers at popular parks," says Carol Stewart of West Virginia State Parks' Charleston Office. Every year around Christmas and the other holidays, Stewart and co-workers prepare park information packets and folders that include brochures, discount packages, and this year, Something Extra bonus cards.

Each 12-pack includes: free dessert at North Bend, outdoor day pass to swim at North Bend and Chief Logan, a free book at Blackwater, 18-hole greens fee at Twin

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Falls Resort, sled rental at Pipestem Resort, a tram ride at Hawks Nest, or \$10 off on a Friday or Saturday at Chief Logan Lodge, and several others. "It may not seem like a lot of money, but anyone visiting parks in 2009 will recognize the value," Stewart says. The Something Extra value for each packet exceeds \$100, depending upon when the cards are redeemed. This value does not reflect the free cabin night offer at Lost River State Park.

"Our gift card program continues to be popular with West Virginians, including both current and former residents with their hearts still in our state," says Caplinger. "Calls

we receive for gift cards and park information are often from family members sending cards to use as a gift or to encourage a reunion or vacation."

Accommodations, activities and amenities in state parks remain affordable and offer a broad range of rates and fees. "Our parks and forests vary so much that anyone can find a budget niche and a place to visit for the day or overnight," Ca-
continue to the next page



Robert Hypes is holding Amy Hypes catch. Photo courtesy of Holne's Marker in Moundsville.



Adam Forshey hunted with a bow in Wood County. Photo courtesy of Reese's Country Store in Deerwalk.

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plinger explains. As an additional savings, West Virginia state parks and forests do not charge an entrance fee.

“The great thing about receiving Something Extra cards is that you can include them with the gift card as part of a gift, give them to someone else, or keep them as a little something for yourself,” Stewart said. She also explains that using the “Extras” doesn’t have to be in conjunction with gift card use. “The only time we include a little Something Extra is with gift card sales in November and December 2008. We are very pleased to incorporate these budget stretchers in our gift card program to encourage state park visitation in the New Year.”

Unlike the West Virginia State Park Gift Card, which has no expiration date, the Something Extra



Daniel Lamp hooked a big large-mouth bass. *Photo courtesy of Johnny's Outdoors in Boaz.*

cards have no cash value and may only be redeemed during valid use dates.

State park gift cards are accepted at all state parks and forests for lodge room and cabin rentals, restaurant, golf play, wobble clay range at Cacapon, spa treatments at Berkeley Springs, gift shops and camping.

Many of the individual parks and forests sell gift cards, but will not have the Something Extra cards to distribute. The Something Extra gift card promotion only applies to West Virginia State Park gift cards purchased online at www.wvstateparks.com or by phoning (304) 558-2764 from November 1 – December 15. The Something Extra promotion does not apply to previous card purchases or redemptions.

For more information go online, www.wvstateparks.com or call (304) 558 2764.



Paul Griffin checked in the first archery buck at this store. *Photo courtesy of Bowlistic Archery in Chelyan.*

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Deer Blinds Or Ladder Stands

By Marty Prokop

There are many brands of ladder tree stand available for deer hunting.

You can choose a single-person ladder tree stand, two-man ladder tree stand, tripod ladder tree stands, four-legged ladder tree stands and even fully enclosed shooting house ladder tree stands.

I prefer the larger platform, shooting and side rails and overall comfort of the two-man ladder tree stand. Personally, I feel safer using a two-man tree stand even though I deer hunt with one person in the tree stand.

A ladder tree stand is a little harder to conceal than a portable deer hunting tree stand. Try to place your deer hunting tree stand at least one month or longer, if you are able, prior to when you plan to deer hunt

continue to the next page

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ing tree stand at least one month or longer, if you are able, prior to when you plan to deer hunt from it. Always check your state and local deer hunting regulations prior to placing any tree stands in your deer hunting area.

Place your ladder tree stand so the ladder and tree stand platform are concealed by brush or small saplings but will still allow you to access the ladder safely.

I find a tree that is strong enough for my deer hunting tree stand with smaller trees clustered around it. I secure my deer hunting tree stand platform to the large tree in the center of the tree cluster. I position it so the smaller trees camouflage — or break up the visual pattern of — my deer hunting tree stand.

Use camouflage burlap or other camouflage material to drape your deer hunting platform. I actually



Susan McKinney, from Craigs-ville, shot this 20 pound gobbler this spring..

make “walls” of camouflage material. My tree stand looks like it is a camouflage house without a roof.

The camouflaged walls help conceal movements when you are sitting in your tree stand and will provide a wind break. Make sure the material does not affect your ability to climb into your deer hunting tree stand safely.

If there are no tree clusters available, then I choose a tree with low hanging branches the tree stand platform can sit above. Having the platform of your ladder tree stand above some branches will help break up the outline of the platform when a deer looks up at the tree. Drape the shooting platform and the shooting rest with camouflage burlap for added concealment.

Ladder tree stands set up properly will allow you to sit longer and more comfortably, which could help you bag a big buck.

Deer hunting blinds can be very effective tools in helping you tag a deer. Always consult your state and local hunting regulations to see if deer hunting from a deer blind is legal for your area.

In prior deer hunting seasons I

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constructed ground deer hunting blinds from vegetation and downed trees. Deer moved in fairly close to the blinds made of natural items found in the deer hunting woods. As a result, many deer were tagged from these homemade blinds.

During the most recent deer hunting season, I opted to try one of the pop-up style deer hunting blinds.

One nice feature about most pop-up deer hunting blinds is being totally sheltered from the elements. You can sit in rain, snow and windy conditions and stay warm and dry. The longer you are able to comfortably sit in one place, the more likely you are to tag a big buck deer.

There are many styles of pop-up deer hunting blinds on the market today.

Look for a deer hunting blind with a dark interior and scent-block-

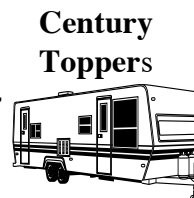
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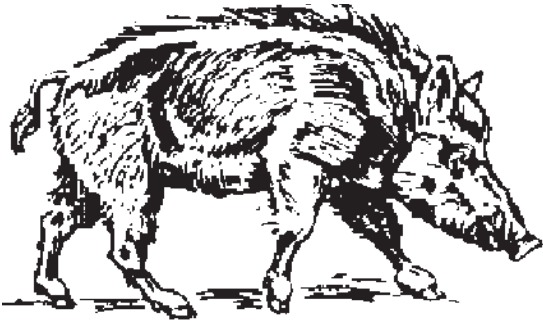
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ing liner. The dark interior helps shadow a hunter while sitting in the blind. The scent-blocking liner will help, but not totally prevent, human odor from contaminating the deer hunting area.

Choose a pop-up blind that has large, shoot-thru camouflage mesh windows. This will let you see deer as they approach and help conceal your movements inside the blind.

Whether using a portable deer hunting blind or building one from natural materials you find on your deer hunting land, always set up your deer hunting blind at least two months before deer hunting season begins. This allows deer in the area to become accustomed to it, and they move about in more normal patterns providing you a chance at a perfect shot.

Most pop-up deer hunting blinds

I have researched give the option of using the shoot-through mesh to cover the window opening or having an open window.

This past deer hunting season I used both options. On certain days I would unzip the window and not place the camouflage mesh over



Connie Jones, from Parkersburg, used her bow for this 10 point.

the opening. On other days I would open the windows and cover them with the camouflage mesh.

Deer were spooked by the large black hole created by having the window open without the camouflage mesh. When the window openings were covered with the camouflage shoot-through mesh, I saw more deer at closer ranges.

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PHOTOS
Form On Page 13**



WORD SEARCH

Remington • Thompson • Mossberg • Hoof • Rifle • Browning
 Taurus • Benelli • Winchester • Encore • Drag • Weatherby
 Meat • Bersa • Bang • Buck • Troll • Savage • Bull • Caliber • Rut
 Trigger • Rossi • Franchi • Gut • Mast • Liberty • Draw • Boar
 Deer • Rossi • Scope • Bleat • Marlin • Smith • Bullet • Trail
 Wesson • Kimber • Skin • Fawn • Rack • Gun • Shot
Look Up - Down - Across - Diagonally

GAS
FOOD
AMMO

Reese's Country Store

Breakfast - Lunch - Deli Items

HUNTING SUPPLIES

GAME CHECKING

MUSKY PLUGS

304-679-3502

Just Off U.S. Rt. 50
Near Mountwood Park
Deerwalk, WV



It's Always
Hunting Season
☆☆☆ At ☆☆☆

DALE RAY
HUNTING PRESERVE

WILD BOAR



Exotic Sheep * Goats
Sika Deer * Fallow Deer

Mule Deer/Antelope In Wyoming

Whitetail Hunts In
Season With Bow Or Gun

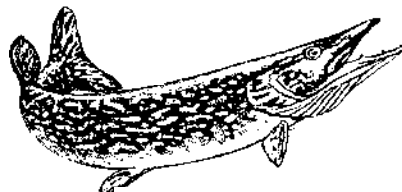
Tom Belville
2228 Co Rd 66
Proctorville, OH
45669
(740) 886-7060

Large Fish Pictures Wanted

Clip Out

Name _____
 Address _____
 City _____
 State _____ Zip _____
 Fish _____ Pound _____ Oz _____

We are looking for citation fish
pictures caught in 2008.



Photos Will Be Returned

Send Photo To:
WVS
P.O. Box 5521
Vienna, WV
26105

E-mail wvsport.@wirefire.com

All Sporting Clay Equipment LIQUIDATION SALE

- Trap Stalls - 19 Each
(includes stall/wood benches)
(gun stands/trappers screen)
- Trius Double Traps - 22 each
(with metal bases/concrete)
- Lincoln Infinity Series Model A Wobble Trap
- (9) Bird Boxes (6) Feeders (5) Waterers
- Cash Register / Credit card machine
- Signs 3 large (4x8), 4 (12x18), 19 (12x16)
19 (16x24)

- Western white flyer trap
 - (39) Chairs and (4) Tables
 - Dog Pen Panels (6x10) - 13 each
- Many miscellaneous pieces you would have to see...too numerous to list

Entire package price will be given when buyer comes to look at equipment with owner.

Terms and Conditions

Items sold are for pick up only... No shipping

Cash, cashier check, money order or credit card accepted at the time of pick up. Personal or company checks will only be accepted when time is given for check to clear the bank before pick up.

All sales are final - If you have any questions regarding the equipment - please be sure to ask before purchasing.

Located off exit 115 of I-79, Route 20 south 2 miles
Please call (304)623-6194, Monday to Friday 8am -4pm
with any questions



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- Mountain Majic
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- Extreme Reptiles
- Indoor Video Gun
- Hunt & Fish Seminars

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Fireplace,
Homestyle Restaurant!

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Log Cabins*



*Honeymoon
Log Cabins*
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Harrisonburg, VA	1.5 hrs.
Morgantown, WV	2 hrs.
Canaan Valley, WV	30 min.
Parkersburg, WV	3 hrs.
Columbus, OH	5 hrs.
Harrisburg, PA	4 hrs.
Charleston, WV	0.5 hrs.



Nearby Adventures!

- Seneca Rocks/Spruce Knob
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- Blackwater Falls • Dolly Sods Wilderness
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