



FREE

"The where to and how to magazine for the outdoor enthusiast."

Vol. 1 Issue 179

May 2008



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**RAINY
Turkeys**

**FLW
News**

**DNR
Updates**

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7th Annual Summer Bash 2008

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Ellenboro Volunteer Fire Department

Held at the Legendary Pennsboro Speedway in Pennsboro, West Virginia!

Great Food & Drinks provided at Noon on **Saturday**, July 26, 2008 at no charge to Ticket Holder & **One** Paid Guest - See Rules for Details.

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EARLY BIRD 1: 20 Additional Chances of \$500.00 for 2008 Summer Bash stubs returned to the Ellenboro VFD by Noon on March 29th, 2008

EARLY BIRD 2: 16 Additional Chances of \$500.00 & 2 Chances of \$1,000.00 for 2008 Summer Bash stubs returned to the Ellenboro VFD by Noon on May 31st, 2008

Featuring **JOE DIFFIE** on Friday, July 25, 2008 at 9 PM. You must be a \$100.00 – 2008 Summer Bash ticket holder in order to attend. Joe Diffie's performance will be followed by fireworks, weather permitting. Ticket guest payment **ONLY** applies to Saturday's Summer Bash...**Not Friday's** performance. See Rules for Details. There will be entertainment on Saturday beginning at 9 PM.



You must be at least 18 years of age to be in the campground or on the drawing grounds **at any time. No Exceptions!**

JOE DIFFIE Summer Bash
Friday **Saturday**
July 25, 2008 **July 26, 2008**

Credit Card orders **ONLY** on our website through **PayPal** until sold out **or** Saturday, July 12, 2008 at 5 p.m. (whichever comes first). You **Do Not** have to be a member of PayPal in order to purchase our tickets through them. No Telephone Orders!

TIME PRIZE

- 3:45 - \$2,500.00
- 3:50 - Ruger Red Label
- 3:55 - Browning A-Bolt Medallion
- 4:00 - 2008 Ford Sport Trac 4x4
- 4:05 - Remington 870 12 ga
- 4:10 - Remington 700 CDL
- 4:15 - \$2,500.00
- 4:20 - Weatherby Orion Upland
- 4:25 - \$2,000.00
- 4:30 - 2008 G-3 188 Pontoon Boat
- 4:35 - Ruger Hawkeye
- 4:40 - Tikka T-3 Hunter
- 4:45 - \$1,500.00
- 4:50 - Weatherby MARK V Sporter
- 4:55 - \$2,000.00
- 5:00 - 2008 Lincoln MKX AWD
- 5:05 - Remington 700 CDL
- 5:10 - Remington 870 12 ga
- 5:15 - \$2,000.00
- 5:20 - Browning A-Bolt Medallion
- 5:25 - \$1,500.00
- 5:30 - 2008 Harley-Davidson Fatboy
- 5:35 - \$2,000.00
- 5:40 - Weatherby Seven CDL
- 5:45 - \$1,500.00
- 5:50 - Ruger Hawkeye
- 5:55 - Remington 700 CDL
- 6:00 - 2008 Mercedes-Benz SLK 280
- 6:05 - Browning A-Bolt Micro Hunter
- 6:10 - Weatherby MARK V Sporter
- 6:15 - \$2,000.00
- 6:20 - Remington 700 CDL
- 6:25 - \$1,500.00
- 6:30 - 2008 Glastron MX 175 Pleasure Boat
- 6:35 - \$1,500.00
- 6:40 - \$2,000.00
- 6:45 - \$1,500.00
- 6:50 - Cabelas Hunting Trip
- 6:55 - \$3,000.00
- 7:00 - 10-\$1,000.00 Winners
(Match WV Daily 3 Last Numbers)
- 7:00 - \$100,000.00 (Match WV Daily 4 Exactly)

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TIME PRIZE

- NOON - 2008 Silverado Crew Cab 4x4
- 12:05 - \$2,000.00
- 12:10 - Ruger Red Label
- 12:15 - \$2,000.00
- 12:20 - Browning A-Bolt Medallion
- 12:25 - \$1,500.00
- 12:30 - 2008 Yamaha Grizzly 4x4
- 12:35 - Remington 700 CDL
- 12:40 - \$2,500.00
- 12:45 - \$2,500.00 LeRoy's Shopping Spree
- 12:50 - Tikka T-3 Laminated
- 12:55 - \$1,500.00
- 1:00 - 2008 Pontiac Solstice Conv
- 1:05 - Weatherby MARK V Sporter
- 1:10 - Ruger Hawkeye
- 1:15 - 2008 Camper
- 1:20 - Browning A-Bolt Medallion
- 1:25 - \$2,000.00
- 1:30 - 2008 Ranger 170 VX Bass Boat
- 1:35 - Weatherby Orion Upland
- 1:40 - Remington 700 CDL
- 1:45 - \$1,500.00
- 1:50 - Ruger Red Label
- 1:55 - \$2,500.00
- 2:00 - 2008 Toyota Tundra 4x4
- 2:05 - Tikka T-3 Laminated
- 2:10 - \$1,500.00
- 2:15 - \$2,000.00
- 2:20 - Browning A-Bolt Medallion
- 2:25 - \$2,500.00
- 2:30 - 2008 Harley-Davidson Softail Heritage
- 2:35 - Weatherby MARK V Sporter
- 2:40 - Remington 11-87 Prem Super Mag 12 ga
- 2:45 - 2008 Polaris 300 4 x 4
- 2:50 - Thompson/Center Encore Shotgun 12 ga
- 2:55 - Ruger Hawkeye
- 3:00 - 2008 GMC Acadia AWD
- 3:05 - Remington 700 CDL
- 3:10 - Weatherby MARK V Sporter
- 3:15 - \$2,000.00
- 3:20 - Tikka T-3 Laminated
- 3:25 - Remington Seven CDL
- 3:30 - 2008 Yamaha Rhino 450 4x4
- 3:35 - \$2,000.00
- 3:40 - Ruger Hawkeye

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Magazine

Volume 1 Issue 179

Publisher and Editor
Mark A. Goudy

Contributing Editors
West Virginia Division Of
Natural Resources

No Subscriptions Offered

W.Va. Sportsman is a monthly publication.

W.Va. Sportsman

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Cover Photo

The big bass were biting at Burnsville Lake on March 28. Dave Waldron landed this 8 pound, 4 ounce largemouth. His fishing group also caught another 8 pounder and a seven pound bass. They were hitting crankbaits.

Burnsville Lake is noted for large bass and musky.

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Photo courtesy of Burnsville Docks in Burnsville.

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Rainy Day Turkey Hunting

Why do you turkey hunt in the rain? I've had many people question my sanity when I insist on hunting even when the rain is falling. The truth of the matter is, as a turkey hunter, you only have a limited amount of hunting time available to you each spring. If you only hunted during perfect weather days, you would be severely limiting your time afield. That's especially true during a hunting trip out-of-state where you may be limited to just a few days of hunting anyway. If you are like me, you are going to spend every minute of that out hunting.

Rainy days do put a damper on a hunter's spirit but the birds are still out there just being turkeys. They are just a little harder to find and call in. Now, if it comes a hard downpour with wind and it sticks around all day, even I do not like

to be out hunting. But the spring is full of those days where there is intermittent rain or times where there is a light drizzle all day. It's those type of days I actually look forward to.

One of the biggest advantages of hunting in the rain is simply your ability to see turkeys. Nothing will make a turkey more visible than rain since they like to get out of the woods and go out in the fields and short pastures where you can spot them. Turkeys cannot hear very well during a rain storm so they will move out in the open where

continue to the next page



Rick Jenkins took a 22 /12 pound gobbler with a 12" beard. *Photo courtesy of Jarrett's Bait in Elizabeth.*

May 2008 ~ Page 4

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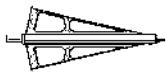
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Braxton Chase, age 6, used a bow for this boar. *Photo courtesy of Bowlstic Archery in Chelyan.*

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they can depend on their eyesight more for protection. Almost any experienced turkey hunter will tell you to head to the fields when the rain is coming down.

I used this to my advantage one year when I took the old gobbler shown here. I knew of a particular little field that was just a magnet for turkeys when it rained. During one especially rainy day one spring, I made a decision to go turkey hunting a little after noon and try to be there later that afternoon or evening when the birds hit the field. This field was really out in the open so my best chance would be to set up along the turkeys path coming into the field. I did just this setting up along a fenceline of a pasture that led down to the open field.

After, I got setup I did some calling on a glass friction call and almost immediately got a gobble response. I called once more and he gobbled right back. I then shut up and waited for awhile since the bird sounded like he was about 300 yards away up in the pasture. After about 15 minutes I called again with no response this time. I was disappointed but not really worried since I was in the perfect spot between him and the field which now had a small bunch of hens feeding



John Murray landed some trout. Photo courtesy of Starcher's Sport Shop in Lubeck.

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in it.

I waited a little longer and sent out a soft series of yelps. I heard a very distinctive gobbler cluck off to my right. I still could not see the bird but I knew he was probably within 50 yards or so behind a small bunch of cedars. I then let loose a couple of cluck and purrs and laid
 continue to the next page

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my call down. About a minute later a very wet and bedraggled old gobbler came wandering around the cedar. He was not strutting and if I had to describe his walk, I would say he was skulking; like a rooster pheasant does when he is running through cover trying to stay hidden. He was a pretty sorry looking bird but there was nothing sorry about the beard hanging down from his chest. I shifted the aim on my gun and pulled the trigger.

This was not one of those classic video hunts where the bird comes in gobbling and strutting all of the way. This was a 2 gobbler and one cluck hunt from an old and wise bird who as far as I know never strutted once on the way in.. He looked like a half-drowned turkey vulture when he came around that cedar but he was responding to calls in a fairly steady rain. This hunt proved to me that even when they are soaked, gobblers still are thinking about hens.

Tips to remember for rainy day gobblers -

- Hunt the fields , open pastures and old roadbeds. Turkeys like to get out in the open when it rains.
- Switch to friction calls rather than use mouth calls. You can hear a friction call at a much greater distance, especially in the rain. Carbon and acrylic strikers for your friction calls can help when it's raining.
- Use a plastic bread bag or some-

thing similar to cover your box call or friction call. You can effectively run a box call in the rain as long as it stays dry inside a plastic bag.

- Be prepared for silence. Rainy days are not comfortable days for turkeys either and they will mostly be quiet. Think about what mood you would be in if you were wet and cold. The turkeys, like most everything else, are not in a good mood and will not be gobbling near as much.. They're cold and hungry and will be found near a food
- continue to the next page



Janie Gowans caught a 19 pound catfish. Photo courtesy of Family Fishing in Grafton.

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Brianna Owens, from Clarksburg, shot a rabbit.

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source or out in the open.

• Carry and use a good pair of binoculars. You will have to depend more on your sight than your hearing to find gobblers. The turkeys will be more visible during the rain since they cannot hear as well so they like to get out in the open in fields and pastures or roads so they can use their eyesight to spot approaching danger.

• Cover the hunting ground slowly and methodically. Turkeys will most likely be out in the open so you'll have to patiently look for your turkeys where you think they may be visible. You probably won't be able to call to find them because the birds won't gobble back as much in the rain.

• Stay comfortable by dressing for the weather. If it's raining, wear rain gear so you can stay out in the woods. If it's cold, make sure you've got proper gear to stay out and keep warm. You can't expect a turkey to show up right away. You've got to be patient and weath-



Tom Bonnett, from Clarksburg, took a Lewis County bow bear.. *Photo courtesy of Broken Wheel Campground in Weston.*

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er the storm. To do that, you've got to have the right clothes. For me, the vinyl style ponchos work great in the rain. I know there is a lot of high-tech clothing available now but none of them seem to work as well as the old fashioned vinyl or rubber ponchos or rain suits.

• Use the rain to your advantage. You can move in closer to turkeys when rain is falling because they can't see or hear you as well as they can on a sunny day.

• Go scouting. Rainy days are also good days to scout prior to the turkey hunt. If you learn where the turkeys are in the rain, you can use that knowledge to your advantage later.



Jerry Weaver landed a 62 pound flathead. *Photo courtesy of Family Fishing in Grafton.*

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Danny Ball, from Buckhannon, shot a large buck..



Mike VanRipper landed a 40 pound grouper. Photo courtesy of Cheat Trips in Independence.



Kevin Lambert, from Elkins, caught a big catfish.

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Caleb landed this 41" musky in the Little Kanawha River.



Jonathan Wells, from White Oak, caught a 7 pound largemouth.

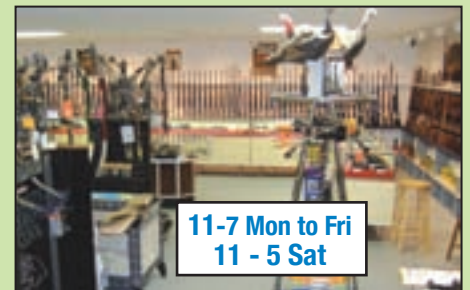


Charles Cottrill, from Harrisville, reeled in a 44" Hughes River

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This hunter shot a massive buck.



Tom Blankenship, from Bastian & only 5 years old, caught a trout.



Rob Ciarapica, from Leanon, caught a largemouth bass.



Roger Gump landed a 46 pound catfish. Photo courtesy of Family Fishing in Grafton.



Justin Beeler caught a nice 20" brown trout. Photo courtesy of Stacher;s Sport Shop in Lubeck.

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Larry Kerns caught a 42 pound Ohio River catfish *Photo courtesy of Crossroads General Store near Newark.*



Josh Sommerville hooked a small-mouth. *Photo courtesy of Starcher's Sport Shop in Lubeck.*



Eric Taylor landed a big catfish. *Photo courtesy of Family Fishing in Graf-ton.*

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Baiting Turkeys Illegal

Citations for illegal baiting for turkeys before and during the annual spring gobbler season may be on the increase this year, according to Col. David Murphy, Law Enforcement Section Chief of the West Virginia Division of Natural Resources.

“We receive numerous reports of baited areas just prior to and during the early days of the spring gobbler season. For the past few years, it seems to be more widespread,” Col. Murphy said. “We urge anyone who has any information about turkey hunting over bait to report it by calling the West Virginia DNR Law Enforcement Section’s hotline number at 1-800- 638-4263 or a local district office. Illegal activity can also be reported to the Law Enforcement Section’s e-mail address: Law@wvdnr.gov .”

West Virginia law prohibits hunt-



Shawn Stidman, from Redhouse, got a 48 pound female coyote.

Daiwa Shimano Bandit

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The penalty for conviction of illegal baiting of wild turkey is a \$20 - \$300 fine and/or 10 - 100 days in jail, plus \$160.50 court cost.

The West Virginia spring gobbler

season is April 28 – May 24, 2008, in all counties. Hunting regulations are available at all hunting license agents or online at www.wvdnr.gov.



James Workman caught a 20 pound catfish. *Photo courtesy of Family Fishing in Grafton.*



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Making Sense Of Carp

Like any good hunter the angler should have a basic working knowledge of their prey. Understanding how a fish uses its senses to feed and evade danger is, of course, vital if we are to understand just why it is they will or won't pick up our baited hooks. In this short introduction I won't be drawing any conclusions on how exactly this knowledge will put more fish on the bank for you – the implications are too many and varied on the issues regarding how carp feed, especially regarding how carp react to different coloured baits and flavours, to cover in one whole edition of a magazine let alone a short article. Instead let's just have a look at how a carp's senses work.

Smell

A carp's sense of smell comes through a set of nostrils (called 'Nares') located just in front of the eye on either side of the head. The water is channelled through the nostrils by a raised flap of skin in the middle of each Nare and down through a set of thousands of miniscule hairs which can distinguish between sweet, sour, savoury and saline substances. These sensory cells are extremely sensitive, giving



Jarves Byrge caught a 21 pound carp. Photo courtesy of Three Rivers Edge in Hinton.

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ing the fish a far more acute sense of smell than a human. The fish is trying to detect low levels of chemicals (such as amino acids) that its natural prey such as bloodworm,

crustaceans etc. emit into the water. When you consider the carp can detect bloodworm in several inches of silt you can see just how acute

continue to the next page

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it's sense of smell is. Smell is used by the carp essentially as a long range detection mechanism. As the fish comes closer to the source of the smell the taste buds kick in to action.

Taste

Just like humans carp have a sense of taste via a set of taste buds. However this is where the similarity ends. Like its sense of smell, the carp also have a highly developed sense of taste. In the first place it is important to remember the old maxim that 'carp don't have hands' therefore the carp acts almost like a vacuum cleaner when feeding, using its sense of taste to reject items that it does not want to eat. Furthermore a carp's taste buds are not just located inside the mouth; carp have



Gary Dorsey caught 2 nice bass. Photo courtesy of Jarrett's Bait in Elizabeth.

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taste buds on its barbules, pectoral and pelvic fins, underneath the head and even have a small number of taste buds located along the side of the body. These external sensors allow the carp to more accurately pinpoint the sources of food. Thus the carp smells the bloodworm in a silt bed, swims over the silt and then pinpoints the area within the silt that holds the bloodworm. This silt, along with other detritus, is sucked into the mouth. At this stage the main taste organ on the top of its mouth, the 'Palatal Organ', comes into play and traps the food against

continue to the next page



Allen Ayers, age 14, had success with this 20 pound gobbler with a 10 1/2" beard in Ritchie County.

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the bottom of the mouth, with waste such as silt and sand being blown out through the gills. Larger waste items are spat out through the mouth. All this happens in seconds, and it's estimated that about 97% of what the fish takes into its mouth is ejected. Carp will also clean food items by spitting them out to rinse them and taking it back in. Accepted food items are then passed back to be crushed by the set of pad like teeth at the back of the mouth (the 'Pharyngeal Teeth.')

Sight

While we can never quite be sure exactly what a carp sees, its eyes are able to operate in much lower light levels than our own and can also detect a wide spectrum of colours. The position of the eyes on both sides of the head give them a good sideways field of vision, in fact almost 360 degrees (apart from near the tail). Above the wa-



Travis Lammon caught a 9 pound walleye. Photo courtesy of Three Rivers Edge in Hinton.

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ter their forward vision is quite sensitive to changes in light and movement, so when stalking carp use slow movements, avoid standing out on the skyline and try to blend in with your surroundings (hence the use of camo clothing!) Better still approach them from behind. Research has suggested that carp



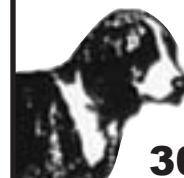
Chase Minnite shot a 22 pound turkey. Photo courtesy of Johnny's Outdoors in Boaz.

have a total circular window of vision above them of around 97.6 degrees (48.8 degrees on either side of the body from a line drawn vertically through the fish). Outside of this window it's suggested the carp sees reflections of the bottom of the lake with the water surface acting as a mirror. The eye position also has implications for feeding since carp cannot see items immediately in front of and below their mouths, when it relies on the barbuls' sense of touch and taste to detect items. A few inches and beyond in front of the mouth however is where the carp's sense of sight is most acute since it can focus on items using both eyes. Each individual eye can also see reasonably well on both sides of its body round to a few inches either side of the tail.

continue to the next page

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Hearing

Carp do not have a visible set of ears; rather they are inside of the carp's body on either side of the head just above the gills. These ears, located at the rear of the brain, consist basically of a fluid filled sac that contains set of tiny hairs on an ear bone (the 'Otolith') which detect vibrations in the water outside. The ears are also connected via a set of bones to the swim bladder, which acts as an amplifier, so all in all the carp has a highly effective aural detection system capable of detecting frequencies from 60 to 6,000 Hz.

Lateral line

Like all fish the carp has a pair of lateral lines the run down the sides of its body. The lateral line is a canal filled with fluid dotted along its length with miniscule openings. Inside this canal are sensory cells called 'Cupula', which are jelly like structures with fine hairs branching out of them. These allow the carp to detect water flow direction, vibrations and changes in pressure.

Clearly then a carp has a highly developed set of tools that allow it to survive and flourish. The one conclusion I will draw is that obvi-

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ously we need to be well aware of just how sensitive a carp is to noise and vibration. I'm forever amazed here when I see anglers using mallets to bang in tent pegs and bank sticks, though less amazed when they complain about how badly the place is fishing! Sound travels alarmingly well under water, so keeping noise and vibrations to a minimum is going to help.



Caleb Schoolcraft, from Big Bend, shot a 10 point in Calhoun County.

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Details On Page 3**

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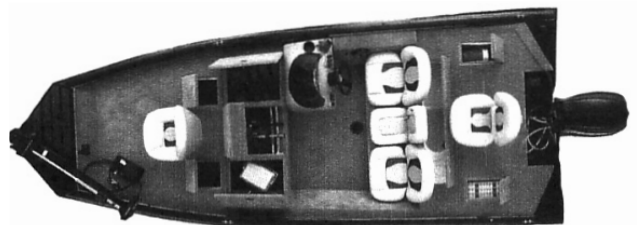


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Knot Knowledge For Fishing

Practice. Take a length of fishing line, a hook with the point cut off or buried into a cork, and practice. Practice until you can tie each knot correctly.

Always wet your knots with saliva as you pull them tight. This prevents damage to the line and allows the knot to pull tight.

Trim knots closely with a nail clipper. A good knot, pulled tight, will not come loose. Close trimming prevents the knot from catching snags or weeds. Do not burn the tag end—heat damages the line and knot.

When you're learning knots, the "tag end" (sometimes called the "working end") is the end of the line used to tie the knot. The "standing end" is that part of the line coming from your fishing reel.

Line is cheap. Always leave a foot or more of the tag end for tying knots so that you can tie them properly.

Pull up all ends when tightening the knot. With some knots this will be only the standing end and tag end; with other knots it might be

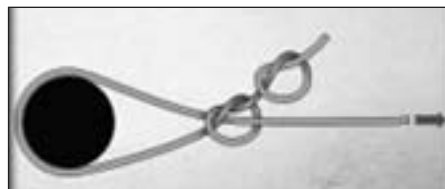
three or four ends.

Once you find a rig that's working (a combination of weights, hooks, swivels or floats used for a particular type of fishing) don't lose it. Replace the line and retie your rigs at least every year.

Your First Knot: The Arbor Knot

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Run the line around the spool hub (arbor), then take the tag end around the standing part of the line and tie an ordinary, everyday, overhand knot. Tie a second overhand knot in the tag end as close as possible to the first one. Pull on the standing part of the line and jam the two knots together against the spool of your reel.



Luke Rager, from Buckhannon, trapped a 40 pound beaver.

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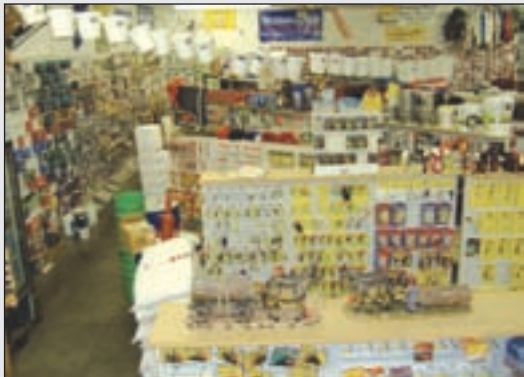
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Brian Trunk landed a 7 pound, 6 oz. Wolf Run largemouth. *Photo courtesy of Backwater Bait in Newport, Ohio.*



Julie Jeffrey caught a 6 pound, 14 oz. brown trout.. *Photo courtesy of Johnny's Outdoors in Boaz.*

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

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Jamie Hill hooked a 42" Ohio River catfish. *Photo courtesy of Starcher's Sport Shop in Lubeck.*

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Waylon Kincaid, from Drennen, with a 31" Gauley River walleye.



Jon Hagley, from Huntington, shot a big Cabell County 12 point.



Jr. Rooker hooked a 25 pound 5 oz. New River musky on a 4" glitter tail worm. Photo courtesy of Waterfront Sporting Goods in Alderson.



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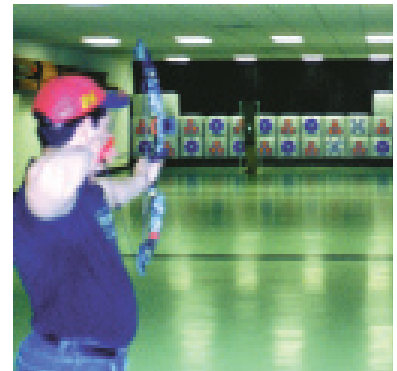
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Cam West caught two nice Ohio River bass. *Photo courtesy Backwater Bait in Newport, Ohio.*



Larry Murphy had two citation smallmouth bass. *Photo courtesy Three Rivers Edge in Hinton.*



Darrell Brown caught a 7 pound, 4 oz. Burnsville Lake bass. *Photo courtesy Burnsville Dock's in Burnsville.*

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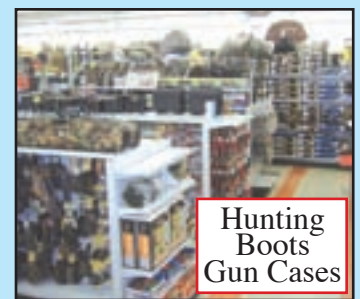


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Stop Turkey Poachers

The 2008 West Virginia spring gobbler turkey season runs from April 28 through May 24, and shooting hours are between one-half hour before sunrise to 1 p.m. Unfortunately, some people try to get an early start on the season or take a bird outside the legal hours. They should be aware that conservation officers from the Division of Natural Resources are on the job, and that they often receive help from the public in finding and apprehending these individuals who

do not respect the state's hunting laws.

"The vast majority of West Virginia hunters are ethical hunters and they don't like to see the state's wild turkey resource plundered by a few outlaws any more than we do," says Col. David Murphy, Chief of DNR Law Enforcement. "We request that anyone witnessing violations of the state's game laws to call our toll free hotline at 1-800-NET-GAME and provide us with information to help with our investigations. All information received will be kept in confidence"

In addition, the West Virginia Chapter of the National Wild Turkey Federation offers rewards for information leading to the arrest and conviction of anyone found guilty of illegally killing a turkey (\$200), hunting turkey over bait (\$100), or willfully destroying a turkey nest or eggs (\$100).

Here are some ways turkey hunters can help conservation officers apprehend poachers:

- Time is of the essence. The quicker a violation is reported to DNR, the more likely the outlaw is likely to be caught. Cell phones can be

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extremely useful, although they don't function in some isolated areas. Make a note of the exact time you saw the violation.

- Take pen and paper with you
- continue to the next page



Russell Rutledge caught two big catfish. Photo courtesy of Three Rivers Edge in Hinton.



Josh Murray landed an Ohio River catfish in Belleville. Photo courtesy of Starcher's Sport Shop in Lubeck.

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while hunting. You'll need them to fill out a field tag if you get a turkey. Just a single sheet of folded paper will be plenty for recording information on a violation.

• Get a vehicle license number. This is the quickest means for an officer to trace a suspect. Binoculars in

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Tom Boyce, from Huntington, shot a 9 point Cabell County buck.

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• Notice and jot down details of the vehicle - make, color, type (two doors, four doors), anything unusual about it.

• Provide an accurate location. If you have a GPS (global positioning system) unit, take a reading. All DNR Conservation officers are equipped with these and are trained to use them.

• Describe the person or persons. A physical description is more vital than what clothing they are wearing, although a description of the type of clothing and headwear being worn can help. Names are very good, if you know the person or persons.

• Do not confront or try to apprehend a violator and hold him or her for an officer to arrive. That's not your duty as a citizen, and it can be extremely dangerous. These out-

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laws are almost always carrying weapons.

• Gather your information from a hidden position or from a distance. No wildlife violation, no matter how serious, is worth getting hurt or killed for.

• Write down the WV DNR toll-free hotline number and keep it with you, or memorize it: 1-800-638-4263 or 1-800 NET-GAME. Calls to this number are more efficient than a call to a local conservation officer's home or office.

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Reel Chat

• Sean Hoernke

Welcome to FLW Live Reel Chat. Today we're joined by FLW Tour pro Sean Hoernke of Magnolia, Texas. As the winner of the recent 2008 FLW Tour event at Lake Norman, Hoernke boasts nearly \$500,000 in winnings at FLW Outdoors events over the course of his career. With four FLW Outdoors tourney wins under his belt (this year's Lake Norman event, a 2006 FLW Series on Lewis Smith Lake, a 2003 Stren Series Central win on the Red River and a 1998 BFL victory on Sam Rayburn), Hoernke is also credited with an additional 16 top-10 finishes in FLW Outdoors-related events over his career.

Q: Was your recent FLW Tour victory the best win of your career? If so, why?

-- Richard Roosen (Yakima, Wash.)

A: That win was very special, but the most fulfilling win was my very first win on the Red River during a Stren Series event in 2003, mostly because I was really struggling with my career at the time. And it was that tournament that gave me the confidence to continue fishing. I finally felt like I was good enough to compete. The FLW Tour victory was great, don't get me wrong. But



This angler hooked a 5 pound bass. Photo courtesy of Grandpa's General Store in Hinton.

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my first win will always be very special.

Q: Sean, congrats on your most recent win at Lake Norman. How does it feel to have your first FLW Tour victory finally under your belt?

-- Jon Stebbins (San Diego, Calif.)

A: Fulfilling, for sure. The most gratifying part of the FLW win was that I'm now the only person to win on all four tours - the BFL, the Stren Series, the FLW Series and the FLW Tour. So that will always be something I can look back on

and be proud of.

Q: Sean, you said you woke up each
continue to the next page



Don Salisbury caught a musky. Photo courtesy of Crossroads General Store near Newark.

	
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morning during the Lake Norman event having no idea where you were going to fish each day. How did you end up with enough quality keepers to win your first FLW Tour event with that approach?

-- Thomas Suk (Minneapolis, Minn.)

A: A lot of times when you get into a sight-fishing tournament, the best thing that can happen to you is to not have a specific place to fish. To me, I really prefer what I call fishing fresh in a sight-fishing tournament. You can have a lot of fish the first day, but then you burn through them and have nothing later on. So, it's important to find a pattern. In a sight-fishing tourney, you can get so locked down on those specific fish on your GPS that you waste a lot of time trying to just catch those fish. In practice, I looked for areas that were holding better quality fish. The hard part is to keep your confidence when you go through a slow period, because there is a real tendency to abandon your spots. During the event, I knew what I was doing was the right thing to win. So I just stuck with that game plan and kept with it. I kept covering water and kept moving until I found the right fish to win.

Q: Sean, when everybody is catching 2-pound bass, how do you separate yourself from the pack?

arate yourself from the pack?

-- Matt Gaines (Harrison, Ark.)

A: A lot of times, people in those types of tournaments think they need to gamble and catch one big bite. But if you don't catch that fish with that strategy, then you're in trouble. And that's what I realized early on. In my case, I was trying to find areas of the lake where there were better quality fish - and when I say better quality, I mean 2 1/2-pounders and maybe 3-pounders. And that's what I did all week - just tried to have a little bit better stringer than everyone else each day.

Q: Sean, you've now won on every level of FLW competition - BFL, Stren, FLW Series and FLW Tour. You said that was your goal. But now that you've achieved that, what are your new goals going forward?

-- Grant Murray (Vancouver, Canada)

A: I think the natural progression was to win on those levels. Now, the natural progression is to focus

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Young Justin Lovell, age 7, hooked a nice smallmouth. *Photo courtesy of Cardinal Pawwnbrkers in Beckley.*

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on a Forrest Wood Cup victory. That would be the pinnacle moment of my career. I've qualified for a few of those events in the past, but this year, if I qualify, I'm going to put forth the extra effort to try and win it all.

Q: What was the deciding factor for you throwing a white jig around the boat docks to get your early limits?

-- Keith Ludwick (Rockwell, N.C.)

A: The white jig resembles the shad. The whole key to the dock pattern I had was the shad spawn. When the shad spawn, they spawn at night and into the first few hours of the morning. When the sun came up, they were done. The white jig actually resembles the shad, and you can keep it up on the upper water column. I was swimming it and keeping it 6 to 8 inches below the water.

Q: Once you got the lead on day two of the Lake Norman event, how difficult was it to stay atop the leaderboard for another two days with the level of competition that the FLW Tour dishes out?



2 nice Hughes River smallmouth. Photo courtesy of Crossroads General Store near Newark.

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-- Jon Pageler (Napa, Calif.)

A: That was probably my biggest concern. Traditionally, it's really hard for one person to lead for three whole days of a four-day tournament. So I went into it knowing I had to fish different places every day. Probably the most special part of this win was pulling off a victory given those factors. It was pretty difficult finding new places with fish every day. I covered a lot of water. The key for me was figuring out a strong pattern that held up. So



Larry Rhodes, from Parkersburg, went to Ohio for this 11 point muzzleloader buck



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I basically had to go out each day and duplicate the areas I thought would produce like the day before.

Q: Sean, why do you always seem to do well in scratch-and-claw tournaments? Do you prefer low-weight events?

-- Nick S. (Concord, N.C.)

A: That's a great question. I've always loved low-weight events because those are the thinking man's tournaments. I seem to do better in these events than slugfests. I'm a very analytical person, so the low-weight events play to my strengths. I'm not simply just sitting on a hole

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Q: Why did you struggle so much at Smith Lake this year? I picked you for FLW Fantasy Fishing, thinking you would do well again.

-- Pat Teebin (Madison, Ala.)

A: It was basically a series of factors. I had some bad luck and bad timing. I had sight-fish lined up but had a bad boat draw, and some anglers had already locked down on my spots. So my two primary areas weren't really fishable, and the wheels came off from there. I felt like, the whole tournament, I was always one step behind.

Q: Should I pick you for Beaver Lake (in FLW Fantasy Fishing)? What about the other lakes?

-- Ryan Walden (Eden Prairie, Minn.)

A: Beaver might actually be a good lake for me this year. I love flipping, and I really am a good power fisherman. With the flooded con-

ditions, I'm pretty excited to fish Beaver this year. Anything that has to do with flipping and shallow cranking, I like.

Q: Sean, what are your favorite techniques/baits to fish?

-- Pat Zak (Oakland, Calif.)

A: The main things I really love to do are flipping and shallow cranking. Those are the two things I feel I'm really good at. I've adapted to finesse fishing pretty well - it's not my favorite way to fish - but I'm getting better and better at it. With shallow cranking, I make quite a few of my own baits - I make them from scratch. Any type of square-bill fishing, I'm comfortable with. I like dirty river systems - if it has the word river in it, I usually do pretty well.

Q: With weights relatively low throughout the Lake Norman tournament, how were you able to pull off a 4 1/2-pound margin of vic-

tory?

-- Sophie Salisbury (Engelwood, N.J.)

A: Simply put: You had to have the confidence to pass over those 2-pounders. I knew that if I fished all day long, if I covered enough water, I could get five quality bites over 2 pounds. That way I wouldn't waste 30 minutes of my time trying.



Christy Peters caught three nice rainbow trout.



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Derrick Dillon hooked a 5 pound, 1 oz. smallmouth Photo courtesy of Three Rivers Edge in Hinton.



Fred Lynch caught a 7 pounder. Photo courtesy of Hess Fish and Tackle in Ellenboro.



Jamie Lilly harvested a wide racked buck. Photo courtesy of Cardinal Pawn-brokers in Beckley.



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John Goots caught this 41" musky in the Tygart River. He was bass fishing at the time with 8 pound test line and was using a sinker. Photo courtesy of Johnny's Outdoors in Boaz.



TC Freeman caught a 5 1/2 pound smallmouth. Photo courtesy of Water-front Sporting Goods in Alderson.



This hunter bagged a wide racked buck. Photo courtesy of Richmond's Store in Sandstone.

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Steve Mullenex, from Harrisville, caught a 9 pound, 14 oz walleye.



Gary Bragg hooked a 25 1/2 pound catfish.

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John Linkous bagged a nice buck. Photo courtesy of Cardinal Pawnbrokers in Beckley.



Daniel McFee brought in a nice musky. Photo courtesy of Jarrett's Bait in Elizabeth.



This hunter took a nice buck. Photo courtesy of Middle Mountain Sporting Goods in Elkins.

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Brandon and Jamie Lilly had a successful deer hunting trip. Photo courtesy of Cardinal Pawnbrokers in Beckley.

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disturb."

Picking up baby wildlife or getting too close and disturbing the family unit greatly increases the chance that the offspring may become part of Mother Nature's food chain. If you come across young wildlife in your outdoor travels, do not touch or disturb them. If you want to watch, do so from a safe distance with the aid of binoculars.

If you find young wildlife that are alone and you think they may have been abandoned, please remember that the mother is probably out gathering food. It takes a lot of en-



Danny Frazier caught two citation smallmouth bass. Photo courtesy of Three Rivers Edge in Hinton.

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ergy to raise offspring, so the mother must leave to get enough food for her and the babies. This could take a few hours or all day, but the continue to the next page



Jimmy Foster, from Lizemore, used a gun for this 11 point buck.



Tiin Boyce, from Huntington, bagged a nine point in Cabell.

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ergy to raise offspring, so the mother must leave to get enough food for her and the babies. This could take a few hours or all day, but the mother knows where her young are and she will always come back. Humans are poor substitute parents for wild animals. Young wildlife has special diets and they need to learn survival skills from their mothers, things people cannot duplicate. By observing wildlife at a safe distance with binoculars, you can learn how wild animals care for their young in a natural environment without compromising the animals' safety.

The DNR receives more calls about abandoned fawns than any other wildlife. Unfortunately, many people often mistake a bedded fawn, with no mother in sight, as abandoned. Remember, not moving is an important defense tactic of fawns. Their spot pattern, coloration and lack of scent make the fawn difficult for predators to detect. If a predator comes by, the fawn will freeze until the threat has passed, or it will wait until the very last moment to flee to safety if spotted. Fawns should always be left undisturbed. If you are certain that the fawn's mother is unable to care for it or has been killed, call your local DNR office, conservation officer, or wildlife manager.

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Middie Groves, age 9, went hunting on youth day for this nice 20 pound gopher with a 10 1/2" beard.

can cause blindness, paralysis, and even death in humans.

As a final incentive, please remember that state laws and regulations prohibit possession of wild animals without a permit. Fines for illegal possession of a fawn deer, black bear cub, baby raccoon, squirrel, or any other species taken or possessed during the closed season, range from \$20 up to a maximum of \$1,000 and/or up to 100 days in jail.

The Division of Natural Resources wants you to enjoy nature's bounty of beautiful and exciting wildlife in West Virginia. However, for your own health and safety and for the animals' welfare, please remember that young wild animals should stay wild.

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New State Park Chief Named

Ken Caplinger has been named Chief of the Parks and Recreation Section of the West Virginia Division of Natural Resources, according to WVDNR Director Frank Jezioro. Caplinger, 51, has been with the State Parks System for nearly 30 years and has served as acting parks chief for the past two years.

“Ken Caplinger brings an extensive background in both parks management and effective marketing to the job,” said Jezioro. “Ken has grown up in the state park system, and knows its operations and history better than anyone. As acting chief for the past two years he has demonstrated that he has the ability to work effectively with many different audiences interested in the parks. I’m confident that our state’s park system will continue to grow and improve, and to become an even bigger part of West Virginia’s overall tourism plan.”

Caplinger is a native and life-long West Virginian. He graduated from Mountaineer High School in Davis, West Virginia, and from West Virginia University with a BS degree in Parks and Recreation, Wildlands Administration. His parks career began when he was hired as assistant superintendent of Watoga State Park from 1979 to 1984, and then transferred to become assistant superintendent and later, superintendent of Pipestem Resort State Park from 1984 to 1992. He became deputy chief of parks in Charleston in 1992 and assumed additional responsibilities as chief of operations in 1994. He has served two stints as acting chief in recent years, the first from late 2000 to early 2001, and the second from January 2006 to now.

“I am honored by the confidence shown in me and feel privileged to work within such a great park system with the finest group of state parks employees in the nation,” Caplinger said upon accepting the new position.

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Bait

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tem includes 35 state parks, recreational facilities on nine state forests and four wildlife management areas, the Greenbrier River Trail, and the North Bend Rail Trail. An economic impact study conducted by the Marshall University Center for Business and Economic Research concluded that the West Vir-



Kyle Smith, age 15, shot a wild boar. Photo courtesy of Bowlistic Archery in Chelyan.



Brad Berga landed a nice bass in the Ohio River. Photo courtesy of Backwater Bait in Newport, Ohio.

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**12,000 Lb. Hitches
As Low As \$99**



**Sandpiper
Wildwood
Rockwood**



**West Virginia Bowhunters Association
2008 3D Shoot Schedule
EVERYONE WELCOME!**



JUNE

- Saturday, June 14 1 Day Shoot hosted by Baileysville Sportsman’s Club, Wyoming County
Contact: Chris Lester 304-294-4227
- Saturday, June 28 Summer Rendezvous hosted by Appalachian Bowhunters, Buckhannon, WV
Contact: Louise Dowell 304-472-8513 or Harold Shepard 304-636-7803
- Sunday, June 29 Summer Rendezvous hosted by Appalachian Bowhunters, Buckhannon, WV
Contact: Louise Dowell 304-472-8513 or Harold Shepard 304-636-7803

JULY

- Saturday July 19 1 Day Shoot hosted by Elk River Bowhunters Association, Elkview, WV
Contact: Loretta Gandee 304-548-4071 or Ed McMinn 304-746-0750
- July 25 – 27 Family Fun Days and Archery Expo hosted by Almost Heaven Archers, Ripley, WV
Contact: Bob Barnette 304-586-1496 or Bryan Sweeney 304-549-9812

AUGUST

- Saturday August 9 1 Day Shoot hosted by Mid State Archers, Flatwoods, WV
Contact: Virgil Mayse 304-364-4110 or Ed McMinn 304-746-0750
- Saturday August 16 1 Day Shoot hosted by Stateline Hunt Club, Morgantown, WV
Contact: Justin Hettick 304-599-1504 or Marc Fox 304-449-1732

SEPTEMBER

- Sunday Sept. 7 1 Day Shoot hosted by High Feather Archery Club, New Milton, WV
Contact: Rick Coffman 304-873-1333 or Tim Ross 304-372-7011
- Saturday Sept. 13 1 Day Shoot hosted by So. Roane County Sportsman’s Assoc., Amma, WV
Contact: Jackie Strickland 304-565-4613 or Ed McMinn 304-746-0750
- September 27-28 WV DNR National Hunting & Fishing Days, Stonewall Jackson State Park, Weston, WV
Contact: Ed McMinn 304-746-0750 or George Coleman 304-574-0335

OCTOBER

- October 4-5 **FALL RENDEZVOUS – Fayette County Park, Fayetteville, WV**
Contact: George Coleman 304-574-0335

Membership Application (check payable to WVBA) – HELP Protect Bowhunting in WV!

Name _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

County _____

Phone _____ E-mail _____

1 yr member \$15
 1 yr family member \$22
 3 yr member \$39
 3 yr family member \$54
 1 yr youth \$9 (15 and under)
 1 yr dealer member \$20
 Lifetime member \$200

Mail to: WVBA - P.O. Box 175 - Fayetteville, WV 25840

G	T	M	O	L	I	A	T	N	I	P	S	N	M	T	S	E	N	K	B
Z	O	U	W	O	R	C	K	W	B	L	A	A	E	R	S	N	S	L	C
L	W	O	O	D	C	O	C	K	S	K	L	B	B	T	N	N	U	B	H
I	R	E	S	K	U	K	E	A	M	L	R	K	V	I	L	E	L	U	U
A	K	T	R	E	E	C	N	R	A	T	C	E	W	N	J	A	R	L	M
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B	L	A	N	I	D	R	A	C	E	W	I	N	G	A	R	G	Y	V	C

WORD SEARCH

Cardinal • Blackbird • Eggs • Feather • Drake • Nest • Swallow
 Eagle • Pintail • Mallard • Falcon • Osprey • Migratory • Duck
 Loon • Woodcock • Bluejay • Hawk • Crow • Buzzard • Tree
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Look Up - Down - Across - Diagonally

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