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Vol. 1 Issue 187

Spring 2009



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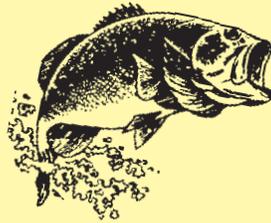
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Cover Photo

An unusual pie bald buck was taken by Paul McDowell. Bucks like this one don't usually last very long in the woods due to their vivid color pattern.

This magazine has been delayed because of two sport shows conducted by this magazine in March. One show was in Beckley and the other one was in Parkersburg. Thanks for your patience. Look for a regular schedule. *Photo courtesy of H&S Sporting Goods in Princeton.*

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Gobblers By Bow

Spring turkey season opens soon and there is no better time than now to begin a quest to bag a gobbler with a bow. Although bowhunting for turkey is difficult and can be very frustrating at times, it is highly exciting and very rewarding when successful.

Bowhunting turkeys, as with most all types of hunting, is a lifelong learning experience. There are so many nuances and variables; one can only continue to learn through experience and tenure in the pursuit. Here is a look at three of the key elements to consider when bowhunting spring gobblers
Method

Bowhunters have basically the same two options of methods as do gun hunters. They are call and move or ambush. Either technique will work, although the latter method requires much more patience.

By Paul E. Morris

However, the ambush method is much less strenuous for the elderly and those who may be mobility impaired.

The ambush method basically revolves around good pre-hunt scouting. The hunter must know the area being hunted and the habits of the local birds. The scouting information must be current. Knowing where the birds were and what they were doing three weeks before the hunt may be of little use after such a lapse of time.

After scouting and locating a pattern of area birds, the hunter erects a well-hidden blind alongside a travel path, feeding location, or strutting zone. Then the wait be-

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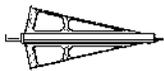
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Olin Neil, from Hurricane, used a bow for this Braxton black bear.

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John Murray used a bow for this 9 point. Photo courtesy of Starcher's Sport Shop in Lubeck.

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gins. Some hunters will patiently spend entire days in the field awaiting their chance at a passing gobbler.

Comfort in the blind is essential if one is to spend much time there. A good seat and plenty of room to move and draw the bow is needed. Bringing along something to eat and drink can also help one remain in place longer.

The more traditional method of turkey hunting, which is calling and moving to locate a gobbler, is an exciting way to bowhunt. The hunter uses all the same tactics as would a shotgun hunter, but must pack along a blind or camouflaging material which is light enough to carry and quick to erect.

The hunter moves and calls until a gobbler is located. Once located, the bowhunter must move

as close as possible and try to call the bird in for a shot. However, depending on the type of blind being used, bowhunters may not be able to move in as close on the bird as can gun hunters.

The bowhunter must take the time it takes to erect the blind into consideration. Hunters must think quickly and logically to choose the best spot to be both concealed and have an opportunity for a shot at the approaching tom.

Concealment

Any turkey hunter knows that being well-hidden is of utmost importance to be successful. This is exponentially true for bowhunters because of so much more movement being required to draw the bow. The hardest part of bowhunting turkeys is not the shot, but getting drawn to even attempt a shot.

It is almost a necessity to have some type of blind or camouflage netting to conceal the bowhunter from the keen eyesight of the quarry. It's not impossible to hide amongst the natural foliage and still pull off a shot, but the odds are much more

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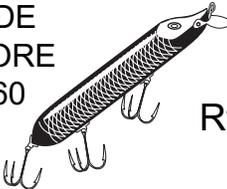
Shirley Foutty shot a nice buck. Photo courtesy of Starcher's Sport Shop in Lubeck.



Larry Edwards caught a bass. Photo courtesy of Mad Sporting Goods in Boaz.

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favorable with some type of blind. Pop-up types of blinds have become very popular during the last few years. Advances in materials and technology now allows bowhunters to carry a blind which is lightweight, quick to erect, and offers great concealment. However, not all blinds are created equally. Bowhunters need to actually "test-drive" a blind before purchase. Acquiring one through mail order without ever seeing it up close could be a costly mistake. Hunters need to actually get inside of a blind and inspect it for comfort and usability based on their physical size and shooting method. Not all hunters are the same physical size and some blinds will be more accommodating than others. Set-up



8 Year old Jared Martin bagged his first bear in Randolph County.



Jason Allen hooked a 44" musky at Wells Locks. Photo courtesy of Jarrett's Bait in ELizabeth.

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The moving bowhunter must be able to think and make decisions very quickly. Once getting within range of an active gobbler, the bowhunter must rapidly choose the spot to erect the blind. Done so properly, the hunter will be well-concealed and the position will offer a shooting opportunity when the

continue to the next page

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tom arrives. Improper placement will result in a very unsatisfactory experience.

Hunters have to take many things into consideration when picking the spot for the blind. Will the blind blend with the surrounding foliage or appear unnatural and suspicious? What are all the possible travel routes the turkey may take when approaching? Are there enough clear shooting lanes? All this information must be processed quickly and correctly.

Choosing the set-up for an ambush type of hunt is not as stressful, but no less important. The bowhunter still must take all the same criteria into consideration. Concealment, blending, approach paths, and shooting lanes are all still factors to consider. However, the ambush hunter has more time to select a location and manipulate the surrounding brush and foliage to better conceal the blind.

Summary

Spring bowhunting for turkeys can sometimes consist of a lot of trial and error. Nonetheless, it is a very exciting and rewarding experience for bowhunters. A bow-bagged spring gobbler is a true trophy for any arrow-slinger.

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Waylon Kincaid shot a 6 point and Charles Kincaid, both from Drennen, bagged a 9 point while hunting in Gilmer County.



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Sierra McCormick shot her 1st buck - a nice 8 point. *Photo courtesy of Holbert's Store in Big Bend.*



Shirley Meadows took an 8 point. *Photo courtesy of Old & New Sports in Ravenswood.*



Jesse Harvey used a bow for this piebald 8 point. *Photo courtesy of Jesses' Deer Head Taxidermy in Scarbro.*

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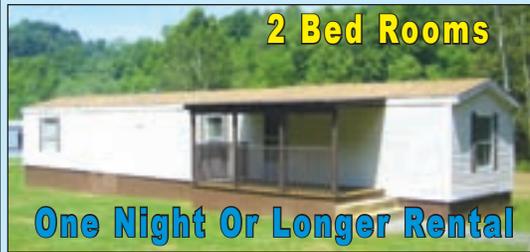
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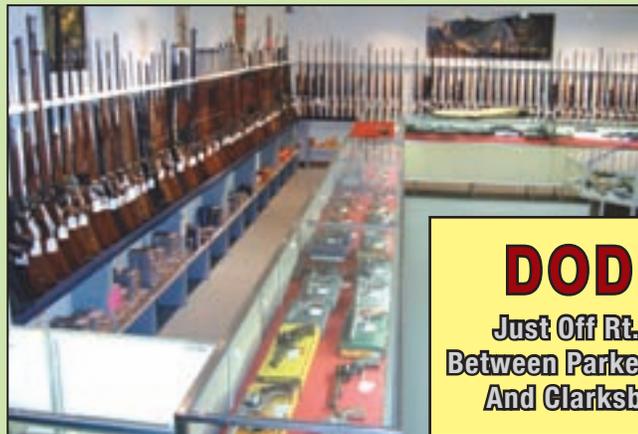
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Brian Artrip & Dale McGlone bagged an albino coon. *Photo courtesy of Justin's Hunting & Fishing in Huntington..*



John Lowther landed several crappie recently. *Photo courtesy of Jerry's Sporting Goods in Horner.*



Zach Ellison caught a 22" walleye. *Photo courtesy of Jarrett's Bait in Elizabeth.*

Archer's Paradise

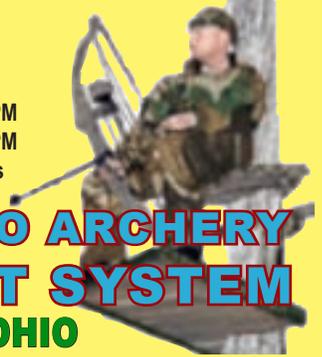
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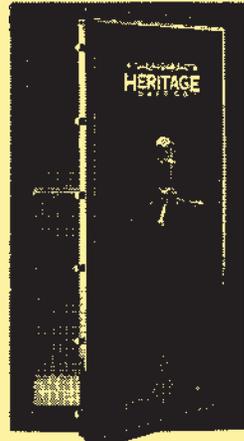
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Mike Westenhaver shot a 9 point buck. Photo courtesy of Old & New Sports in Ravenswood.



Ada Depoy, age 63 and from Walkersville, took these two 8 point on different days this season.

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Spring Has Sprung

By Mark A. Garner

By all accounts, we have made it out of the other side. To clarify that last statement, I believe that now we can safely say that spring is here, and not a day too soon! Just last weekend, I heard the “peepers” singing as I drove by a swampy area, and coincidentally, robins are arriving daily to confirm that spring is here. Sure, by the calendar, we are still technically in winter, however, mother nature is turning up the heat with that, both hunters and fishermen alike are eagerly getting ready for the spring seasons!

When I think of spring, I think of trout fishing, bass fishing, ramp digging, camping, bicycling, nature walks and most importantly.... turkey hunting! I love everything associated with spring,



Chris Phillips, from Reedy, was fishing from the bank when he caught this 46” - 33 pound musky. He was using an A.C. Shiner and reported that this was his biggest musky ever.

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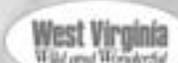


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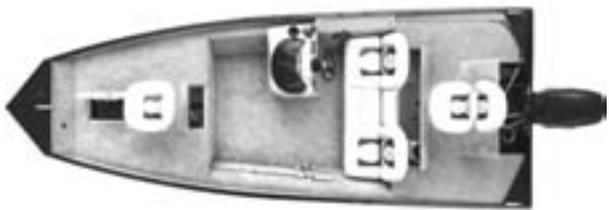
and in viewing the extended forecast, this spring should develop gradually and all of the seasons should be right on schedule. I have already heard numerous reports from trout fisherman who state that the ice is already mostly gone in the high mountain streams, and the trout stocking programs is already in high gear. Just last weekend, I drove through the mountains

around Glady Creek and witness firsthand the number of trout fishermen who were out in force in pursuit the rainbows, browns and brook trout freshly stocked in the streams. In addition to the trout fishermen, dozens of folks were out walking the trails, or bicycling around the campground, which appeared to be full of tent campers.

continue to the next page



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As we drove around Sully Road, and down to the lower Dry Fork, we witnessed the same amount of activity there as well.

On another note, the gobblers have started gobbling already. Even though we are still over a month away from the start of the spring gobbler season, the turkeys are in spring mode as well. In the few times that I have been out in the woods, turkey sign seemed to be pretty common, so it appears that the winter was not too hard on the turkey population. I'm sure that they are plenty of two, and three year old birds out there to test the calling skills of the turkey hunters come April.

On another of my outdoor excursions, I found myself on the Tygart River at Arden, and decided go down by the stream to test the waters' temperature. I was surprised to see my thermometer read 51 degrees! I had expected to see water in the 40's, but no, it was already warmed to the point that spring spawn is just around the corner for the Tygart smallmouths. Typically, river fish spawn when the temperature gets into the upper 50's, and will aggressively take baits during the prespawn mode. By my records, they should be in that mode now! With that type of condition in the river, Tygart Lake will also be in the 50's, and should be ripe
 continue to the next page

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Chelsea Moore landed a big Ohio River largemouth.



Lucas Young shot a large 10 point - his best ever. Photo courtesy of Old & New Sports in Ravenswood.

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Details On Page 3

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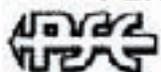
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for the picking in the next several weeks. In other areas of the state, fishermen are already reporting bass being caught at Stonewall Jackson, Sutton and Burnsville lakes. Just last weekend, a tournament was held on Sutton, and most teams caught limits of bass, with the winning team boasting over 8 pounds to claim the first tournament win of 2009. In the next several weeks, the major tournament trails in the state will begin their buddy trails on the states lakes and rivers. The BassFederationNation (B.A.S.S.) season opener is being held at Sutton on the 28th, and is an open tournament, so anyone with a valid liesense, and a insured boat is welcome to participate. For more



Cathy Miller, from Sistersville, shot this nice 9 point Tyler County buck.

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information, on the bass fishing format in West Virginia, contact a WVBFN , or TBF member, or go to their websites to tournament dates and times.

As I said, spring is here, and along with living in a state with abundant outdoor activities, I sure you will find an activity to enjoy in our great outdoors. MAG



Jason Wilson, from Troy, bagged an 8 point Lewis County deer.

Hunters Helping The Hungry Donations

The Division of Natural Resources (DNR) recently announced hunters donated 1,149 deer to the Hunters Helping the Hungry (HHH) Program during the 2008 hunting season – very close to last season's donation total (1,224).

"Thanks to generous West Virginia hunters who donated deer to the HHH Program, many needy West Virginians will receive highly nutritious meals this year," noted Program Coordinator Jerry Westfall. "The DNR, along with their partners Mountaineer Food Bank and Huntington Area Food Bank, truly appreciate the generosity shown by these hunters. Without their help, this program could not exist."

continue to the next page

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Venison is collected and distributed by Mountaineer Food Bank (Gassaway) and Huntington Area Food Bank. Two-pound packages of ground venison are distributed to participating distribution centers such as food pantries, soup kitchens, senior centers, community centers, churches, orphanages and other institutions, throughout the state. Although it is too late for non-enrolled centers to receive venison this season, those interested are encouraged to enroll now so they may receive venison during next season. Contact Mountaineer Food Bank at (304) 364-5518 to discuss the application process needed to participate.

“Although the DNR is very grateful for hunter-donated deer, the HHH Program still requires monetary donations to offset processing and distribution costs,” said Westfall. The DNR is restricted from using sportsmen’s license dollars to fund this program, and is completely dependent upon donations by concerned individuals, businesses, conservation organizations, foundations, and churches. “Without this donated funding, we simply could not continue the HHH Program,” said Westfall.

The DNR accepts monetary donations to the HHH Program year-round. Anyone wishing to make a donation to the HHH Program, or

wishing more information, should go to the HHH Web page at: www.wvdnr.gov/Hunting/HHH.shtm, or contact Jerry Westfall at (304) 558-2771; jerrywestfall@wvdnr.gov.



Waylon Kincaid, from Drennen, trapped 2 bobcats.



Charles Kincaid, from Drennen, trapped a large coyote.

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Gene and Roseanna Hines

Disease In WV Bats

The U.S. Geological Survey National Wildlife Health Laboratory in Madison, Wisconsin, has confirmed that bats from two Pendleton County caves submitted for testing by Division of Natural Resources wildlife biologists have the condition known as White-nose Syndrome (WNS). This condition has killed thousands of cave bats in the Northeast, and the affected sites in West Virginia are currently the southernmost sites where WNS has been observed.

White-nose Syndrome is named for the white fungus which is of-

continue to the next page

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ten observed on the muzzles, wings and ears of affected bats. Although there may be several factors contributing to the condition known as White-nose Syndrome, the invasion of skin cells by a specific fungus is a consistent observation in all cases. The fungus, a member of the genus *Geomyces*, was cultured from the West Virginia bats. Genetic data indicate the fungus is identical to that cultured for other WNS-positive bats. Microscopic examination of the bats' skin provided evidence that the fungi had invaded the cells of the skin in all three species submitted: little brown bats, eastern pipistrelles, and northern long-eared bats.

"This winter, DNR biologists have conducted bat surveys in Grant, Hardy, Randolph and Tucker counties as well as Pendleton County," said DNR biologist Craig Stihler. "To date, WNS has only been observed in Pendleton County. However, only a small number of caves have been visited in each county."

It seems likely that the most common way this condition is spread is from bat to bat. However, because

the fungus associated with WNS can live in cave soils, it may be possible for cavers to spread WNS in cave dirt on their clothing and gear. DNR Wildlife Resources biologists ask cavers to clean and disinfect all gear between caving trips both within the state and between states. Guidelines for disinfecting gear and additional information on white-nose syndrome can be found on the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service Web site www.fws.gov/northeast/white_nose.html. Cavers are also asked to avoid entering some



Robert Anthony, from Hurricane, landed a 6 pound golden trout.

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of the most important bat caves in the state to minimize the introduction to these sites. A list of closed caves is available at www.VAR-caves.us.

"Scientists at several laboratories across the country are looking for ways to fight WNS. This research will take time," Stihler said. "Our best conservation strategy is to do whatever we can to slow the spread of WNS until a better solution is



Jeff Stephenson, from Belleville, went to Alaska for this big deer.

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Rick Hutchinson had success with this 19 point Ohio buck. *Photo courtesy of Starcher's Sport Shop in Lubeck.*



Duke Waddell, from Beckley, landed a 4 1/2 pound smallmouth.



Rodney Starcher used a bow for this 8 point buck. *Photo courtesy of Starcher's Sport Shop in Lubeck.*

**Mail In Your BIG FISH Pictures
From The 2009 Season.
Form Is On Page 38**

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Jerrod Branham, from Waterford, used a bow in Washington County in Ohio. It scored 146 4/8.



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Bill Fore shot a nice 8 point in Wood County. Photo courtesy of Crossroads General Store near Newark.



Reggie Adkins shot a nice buck. Photo courtesy of Sears Grocery in Stumptown.



Dirk Williams bagged a 9 point. Photo courtesy of Crossroads general Store near Newark.

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Hunters Record For Black Bear

West Virginia hunters harvested a record 2,064 black bears during the combined 2008 archery and firearms seasons, according to Chris Ryan, Black Bear Project Leader for the West Virginia Division of Natural Resources. The preliminary harvest data for the combined seasons in 2008 was 14 percent higher than the previous record of 1,804 established in 2007.

“Numerous factors contributed to this record bear harvest,” said Ryan. “West Virginia has a tremendous bear population that allows for a variety of different hunting opportunities. The expansion and increase in the bear population has led to the extension of hunting seasons designed to keep counties in line with their management objectives. With the cooperation of hunters, wildlife managers can maintain and/or adjust bear populations to desired management levels by implementing appropriate hunting regulations.”

Hunters took 477 bears during the 2008 archery season. The top five counties were Randolph (56), Nicholas (37), Preston (36), Webster (32), and McDowell (24).

Firearms hunters took a record

harvest of 1,587 bears during 2008. Hunters took 670 bears during the September season. Top five counties were Pendleton (72), Randolph (66), Hardy (62), Pocahontas (60) and Greenbrier (52). Hunters took 109 bears during the concurrent buck gun season. Top five counties were Kanawha (32), Raleigh (27), Boone (25), Fayette (24) and Monongalia (1). Hunters took 808 during the traditional December season. The top five counties were Pocahontas (128), Greenbrier (105), Pendleton (102), Randolph (76), and Webster (68).



Justin Boover got his 1st bear. *Photo courtesy of Holbert's Store in Big Bend.*

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Marc Hescht, from Parkersburg, took a bear in Fayette County.

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Interactive Trout Stream Map

Trout anglers now have a new interactive tool at their fingertips to help them locate a stream stocked with trout, according to West Virginia Division of Natural Resources Director Frank Jezioro. An avid trout angler himself, Jezioro says this program provides all the information needed to plan a fishing trip.

The information can be found by going to the DNR home page at www.wvdnr.gov, then looking under the "Fishing" heading and clicking on "Trout Stream Map."

Once on the Web site, you can search the state by specific stream or lake, by county, or by city. You can narrow down the search if you just want to find catch-and-release or fly-fishing-only areas. Once you locate the stream you will find information on stocking frequency, description of the stocked section

of stream, and driving directions from major highways. Using the state map on the Web site, you can zoom in or out to access a more detailed map which uses aerial photography. You can also move easily from one section to adjacent areas using the panning tool. In addition, the map identifies public fishing access sites.

The map opens a new window to allow you to easily go back to the DNR home page. You can also use the links at the top of the map page to quickly access the daily trout stocking report, fishing regulations, or buy a fishing license.

"This online map demonstrates the capabilities of our staff," Jezioro said. "We have very talented folks who work hard to provide the public with useful information that allows them to take advantage of the abundant natural resources our



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state has to offer."

This Web mapping application was developed and maintained in cooperation with the West Virginia State GIS Technical Center wvgis.wvu.edu.



Adam Elmore shot a 7 point buck.



John Epperly, from Charleston, bagged a fall gobbler.

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Spinner Bait Basics

Spinnerbaits are often referred to as "the most versatile" lure because they can be fished in nearly any condition, year 'round. They can be fished in winter, summer, fall, spring, hot water, cold water, muddy water and even clear water; from just under the surface to as deep as you want to fish it. It also is the type of lure that can be fished in, over, through and around many forms of cover.

Spinnerbaits used to be called "safety-pin" lures, because their shape resembles that of an open safety pin. A lead head of varying weight is combined with a wire framework, sharp hook and one or more flashing spinner blades. A soft-rubber, plastic, silicone or "lumaflex" skirt is added to cover the hook. The spinnerbait has a smooth, flowing action that mimics a swimming baitfish. The blades vibrate and flash, attracting the attention of bass. You can use spinnerbaits in most bass-fishing situations, but they are especially suited to fishing shallow cover. The most popular sizes range between 1/4-ounce and 3/4-ounce.

Spinnerbait Designs

Short-arm:

The length of the top wire arm is shortened. Can be fished anywhere but is especially suitable to dropping or "helicoptering" off ledges.

Long-arm:

The length of the top wire arm

is lengthened. Can be fished anywhere but is especially suitable to grass or brushy cover.

Twinspins:

Work best on the bottom or as a drop-bait.

Techniques

Spinnerbaits work best as a "contact lure", one that is bumped
continue to the next page



A large black bear was taken with a bow in Clay County by Charles Kincaid in the 2008 season. All 55 counties in West Virginia are now open to black bear hunting with bows.

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against structure. They usually should be fished at a slow to medium retrieve. Use 14 pound test line or better on a baitcasting reel and medium action rod. A heavy, worm-type rod often causes you to overreact when a strike occurs pulling the lure from the mouth of the bass. After the lure enters the water, give it a little "pop" to get the blades moving. Always fish the spinnerbait near the surface (close enough so you can see it). If you have to catch fish with it out of site, there's a better bait to use (such as a worm). Note what you were doing when a bass hits - then try to duplicate it. A fast retrieve, in which the lure remains high and in sight in



Shawn Martin & Casey Miller brought in a couple of bobcats. Photo courtesy of Jarret's Bait in Elizabeth.

murky water, often produces well on feeding fish.

The best advice for fishing with spinnerbaits is to experiment with many different styles of retrieve. No single method works all of the time. On any given day, you should switch around with your retrieve until you find something that works. Stick with it until it ceases to work, and then go on to another method.

Experiment with these different retrieves:

Contact Wake Buzz Helicopter Slow-Roll

Blades

Not sure which blades to use? Use these guidelines:

Single Blade:

Single blade designs often produce better in deeper, clearer water, or when fish aren't actively feeding. In cold water, use blades that create the most water resistance because this allows a slower presentation. For low light conditions, and in heavily stained water, use single blades for more vibration. In real muddy water, use a 1/2 ounce bait with a big blade.

Tandem Blade:

Tandem blade spinnerbaits often work best in murky water or when fishing grass or thick cover. For more flash, use tandem blades (use two different colored blades). In visibility of 2 feet or more, use a 1/4 ounce bait with tandem willow-leaf blades.

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Use Colorado blades for bass in early prespawn, for pressured bass, and for sluggish bass in shallow water. They produce the most vibration making them ideal for fishing deep, in murky water, or at night.

Indiana:

Looking much like a pear, these blades fall between Colorado and willowleaf blades. This shape adds flash and decreases vibration. They continue to the next page



Young Marc Ekers, from Huntington, brought in a Wayne County 10 point buck.

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can be fished faster than Colorado blades, making them better suited for active bass in stained to clear water.

Willowleaf:

For vegetation, willow blades are best. Their long, thin profile makes them snag-resistant and weed-resistant. They create a lot of flash,



Randy Redman, from Moundsville, caught a 4 pound largemouth.

which imitates a baitfish. If everybody is using willowleaf blades, use a different blade to give the fish a different look.

Blade Colors:

Most fishermen begin with silver blades in clear water and gold or copper blades in murky water. Clear water and shallow fish may require a switch to white blades to reduce flash. Or try plastic blades with a hint of metal flake. Use colored blades for smallmouths, especially chartreuse or white - even in crystal clear water.

You can use large blades with a small (1/4 ounce) bait and small blades with large (1/2 ounce or larger) baits. For example: In windy conditions when the forage is small baitfish, use a 1/2 ounce bait (to throw against the wind) with small blades (to match the forage). Use large blades on small baits to give it a slow fall.

The blades should run directly above the hook. If they're not, bend

the wire until they do.

Tips

- Always cast underhand for the best presentation.
- Spinnerbaits should be among the first baits you use in the spring. They are especially well-suited to cold water. They also work well in warm, murky water.
- A little red somewhere on the spinnerbait usually is an asset.
- Spinnerbaits are excellent night-fishing lures. Use a contrasting dark-colored skirt at night such as black and purple, red and black, etc.
- For daytime fishing, light colors such as white and chartreuse often work best.
- Add a trailer of plastic or pork to a spinnerbait for more appeal, more buoyancy, and greater lift.

continue to the next page

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- Add a trailer hook to the spinnerbait's hook to catch short-striking fish.
- If the terrain will permit, reverse the trailer hook for an even better strike-catch ratio.
- Get spare spinnerbait skirts and blades and experiment with various colors, sizes and blade shapes without having to buy many different lures.
- Experiment with bright, gaudy colors. Sometimes bass will annihilate them.
- Whenever you detect a pause in the beat of a blade, set the hook.
- Don't scrimp on spinnerbaits. Buy the best you can. Quality spinnerbaits use ball bearing swivels and high quality hooks.
- Try casting onto the shore and gently pulling the lure into the water for a quieter presentation.
- When on the hunt for tackle do not forget your local bait shops. Often times they will stock items more suited for the surrounding waterways. Larger chain stores often have a selection that is not matched for local waters but for ease of restocking multiple stores. Tackle shop owners have a better working knowledge of the area and a desire to stock and sell items that work. They also help to ensure a strong fishing community by spon-

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soring/organizing tournaments and clubs. Another important point is that most chain stores do not offer live bait. If you go to Wal-Mart every time you need some tackle then the next time you head to your bait shop it may not be there. Do not underestimate how important your business is to these local shop owners. -

- When fishing in a small river that is shallow, use a 1/4-ounce, white Rooster Tail near brush piles. Let the bait fall close to the rocks and retrieve slowly. This is a good hint for catching big smallmouth bass.



Aaron Lynch, from Walker, used a bow for this Wood County buck.



Hunter Ankrom bagged a nice 8 point. *Photo courtesy of Holmes Market in Moundsville.*



Eathan Waggoner shot a nice 8 point. *Photo courtesy of Crossroads General Store near Newark.*

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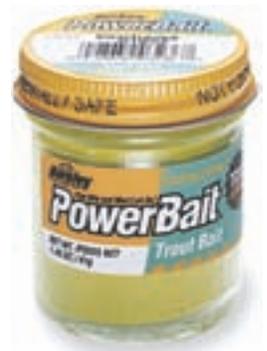
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Young Zack shot a nice 7 point buck. Photo courtesy of Old & New Sports in Ravenswood.



Justen Bunner took a nice 10 point buck. Photo courtesy of Jarrett's Bait in Elizabeth.



Johnny Green used a bow for this Wyoming County buck. Photo courtesy of Cardinal Pawnbrokers in Beckley.

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Mike Mace caught a 47" Little Kanawha River musky. *Photo courtesy of Jarrett's Bait in Elizabeth.*

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 PHOTOS
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 Page 13**



Danny Edwards landed a big bass at the strip mines in Ohio. *Photo courtesy of Mad Sporting Goods in Boaz.*



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Cody Carver used a gun for this nice buckt. *Photo courtesy of Bow-Listic Archery in Chelyan.*



Joe Hall, from Spencer, shot a nice 11 point in Roane County.



Gary Bragg caught a 40" musky. *Photo courtesy of Waterfront Sporting Goods in Alderson.*

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John Lowther was fly fishing in New York for this 14 pound brown trout. *Photo courtesy of Jerry's Sporting Goods in Horner.*

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NWTF Gives Awards To DNR

Three staff members of the West Virginia Division of Natural Resources (DNR) were honored at the annual banquet of the West Virginia Chapter of the National Wild Turkey Federation (NWTF), held Jan. 10 in Flatwoods.

Robert Cutright, who is stationed at the Otter Creek and Beaver Dam Wildlife Management areas on the Monongahela National Forest, was named "Outstanding Wildlife Manager of the Year" for his work with the management of wild turkeys in the state.

Recently-retired Wildlife Biologist James Evans of Fairmont was presented the "Lifetime Achievement Award" in recognition of his 38 years of service and for his efforts with the research and reintroduction of wild turkeys.

Conservation Officer Kevin Bingham, who is stationed in Braxton County, received the NWTF "Sharp Spur Award" in recognition of his work to improve hunter safety, especially among area youth, and for his law enforcement efforts to prevent turkey poaching.

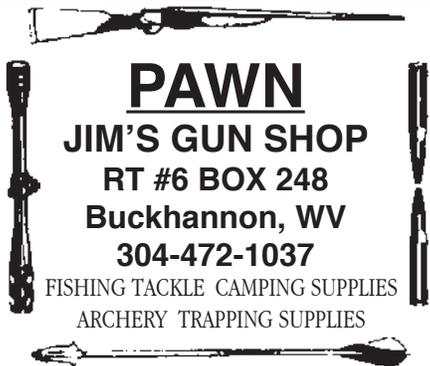


Mike Murray brought in a coyote. Photo courtesy of the Crossroads General Store near Newark.

The West Virginia State Chapter of the NWTF is one of the state's largest and most active sportsmen's organizations. Its primary goal is to support and promote the sound management and use of the state's wild turkey resource. The NWTF is also committed to delivering conservation education and outdoor skills training to women and children throughout the country.

Robert (Bobby) E. Cutright, DNR Wildlife Manager, received the prestigious Outstanding Wildlife Manager of the Year Award from the West Virginia State Chapter of NWTF. This award is presented annually by the NWTF to recognize and honor a wildlife manager in West Virginia who has demonstrated outstanding efforts in the

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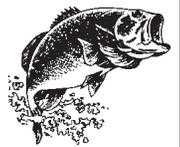
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Gary Brooks, from MacArthur, used a bow in Wyoming county.

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management and conservation of the wild turkey and other wildlife resources of the state.

In presenting this year's award, NWTf Regional Director Bob Farkasovsky congratulated Cutright for his many years of service to the sportsmen and women of West Virginia. "The National Wild Turkey Federation is proud of the work accomplished by Wildlife Managers throughout the country," said Farkasovsky. "Here in West Virginia, our hunters are most appreciative of the dedication and hard work that Bobby and many other wildlife managers demonstrate every day."

Serving as a Wildlife Manager on the Monongahela National Forest's Otter Creek and Beaver Dam Wildlife Management areas, Bobby Cutright has been active in the management of the wild turkey while serving the citizens of West Virginia. These efforts include major contributions to the state's Wild Turkey Restoration Program, Wild Turkey Population Dynamics Study and Wildlife Management Area Program. Throughout his career, Cutright has trapped numerous turkeys for both restocking efforts and wildlife research purposes. These research and management efforts,

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which have been funded in large part by the NWTf, have allowed the DNR to establish and maintain one of the strongest wild turkey programs in the mid-Appalachian region of the United States.

In addition to his work with wild turkeys, Bobby has been very involved with the recently completed Appalachian Cooperative Grouse Research Project and the ongoing Black Bear Research and Monitoring Program.

"Bobby Cutright has made notable contributions to the state's wildlife management program and the sportsmen and women that

enjoy these abundant wildlife resources," said Curtis Taylor, Chief of the Wildlife Resources Section of DNR. "In addition to his numerous professional accomplishments, Bobby has been extremely active in a wide range of conservation education activities such as providing

continue to the next page



Adam Cheeseman shot a good buck. *Photo courtesy of Crossroads General Store near Newark.*



Kathie Starcher, from Mt. Alto, used a gun for this 8 point.

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wildlife programs to local schools, Glenville State College and West Virginia University. Bobby has also been actively involved in the Outdoor Youth Challenge associated with the National Hunting and Fishing Days Celebration.”

James Evans of Fairmont was honored by the West Virginia State Chapter of NWTf with its prestigious Lifetime Achievement Award. Chapter President Charlie Nichols and NWTf Senior Regional Director Bob Farkasovsky recognized Evans for his 38 years of distinguished service to the sportsmen and women of West Virginia and for his 26 years of service on West Virginia’s Wild Turkey Technical Committee. This is only the

fourth time in the history of the organization that the prestigious award has been presented by the West Virginia State Chapter of the NWTf. Previous recipients of this award include retired DNR Wild Turkey Biologist Wayne Bailey, retired DNR Wild Turkey Biologist Jim Pack, and renowned wildlife photographer and motivational speaker Glenn “Tink” Smith.

Evans retired from the DNR Wildlife Resources Section on October 31, 2008. He received the first Masters Degree in Wildlife Management awarded from West Virginia University in 1968. He began his professional career as District Game Biologist in Fairmont and led that District’s game management efforts for 30 years. In 2000, Evans was promoted to the position of Supervisor of Game Management Services, where he led the DNR’s wildlife research efforts for the remainder of his long and productive career.

Curtis Taylor, Chief of the Wildlife Resources Section, lauded Jim’s career and accomplishments. “Jim’s knowledge, dedication and commitment to West Virginia’s

wildlife programs will certainly be missed by our agency and the citizens of West Virginia,” said Taylor. “His professionalism, sound judgment and effective leadership will serve as an excellent role model for those biologists who follow in his footsteps.”

Senior Conservation Officer Kevin Bingaman, who is stationed in Braxton County, was presented with the “Silver Spur Award” by the West Virginia Chapter of NWTf for his wildlife law enforcement activities during the year.

“Officer Bingaman has worked Braxton County for several years and, through his efforts, the citizens and other law enforcement agencies have come to know and trust him,” said Lt. James Vance of the DNR Law Enforcement Section. “He is very level headed and

continue to the next page



Steven Butcher, from Walkersville, shot an 8 point in Braxton County.

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and uses patience and tact when dealing with any situation.

Bingaman is especially active with young people in the Hunter Education Program, teaching about safe and ethical turkey hunting. He also participates in youth fishing events, 4-H Camps teaching boating safety, and JAKES (Juniors Acquiring Knowledge, Ethics and Sportsmanship) Day.

Officer Bingaman also is very active scouting for pre-season turkey hunters, locating illegal bait sites, collecting information on illegal hunters, and making arrests. His efforts helped in the apprehension of two adults who thought they would take advantage of the one-day youth turkey hunting season without taking any youth with them, and also illegally killing a hen turkey.



Chris Messenger, from Lost Creek, hunted a 9 point in Lewis County.

Time To Put Up Hummingbird Feeders

The return of spring also means the return of the ruby-throated hummingbird to West Virginia and time to put up your hummingbird feeders, according to Rob Tallman of the West Virginia Division of Natural Resources' Wildlife Resources Section.

The ruby-throated hummingbird is the only hummingbird to breed east of the Mississippi River, although rarely, other species are seen in the Mountain State. This bird occurs throughout the state in mixed woodlands, orchards and backyard habitats with much open land and blooming flowers nearby.

"Hummingbirds feed on nectar with a long, brush-like tongue. They also consume tiny insects and spiders. Because of the hummingbirds' fondness for nectar, they can easily be attracted to your backyard by feeders or plantings of flowers," Tallman says.

Many styles of commercial hummingbird feeders are available. The feeders most attractive have some red color located on them and incorporate perches. Although you can buy nectar, a much cheaper and equally nutritious mixture can be made by mixing one part white table sugar with four parts boiling water. Make sure all of the sugar is

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continue to the next page



Gary Thompson, from Belington, shot a Randolph County buck.

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annies. Be sure to rinse thoroughly.

Hummingbirds are highly protective of their territories surrounding feeders and will actively chase away other hummers. Their aerial antics and chases are always amazing to watch.

So put up a feeder. You will be rewarded with a summer full of active, delightful hummingbirds. For more information contact the West Virginia Wildlife Resources Section, P.O. Box 67, Elkins, WV 26241 or call (304)-637-0245.

Speed & Depth Determine Selections

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spinner baits become good choices when it's windy. There are also times when fish activity is more related to the tops of structure, or to the bottom, this has a big effect on what you might use to fish that day. It might also affect the weight of your bait and whether you fish

deep or shallow or use a big trailer on a jig or a small one. Whether you might chose a fast dropping bait or a slow one, or a deep running crank bait or not. These factors all give you keys to the selection process and tell you what baits you need to be fishing with.factors in mind.



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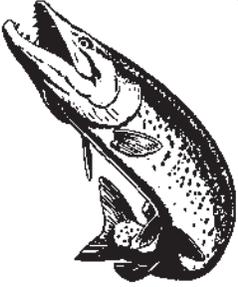
Whitetail Hunts In
Season With Bow Or Gun

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 large fish pictures caught in 2009.

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

E-mail wvsport.@wirefire.com

Photos Will Be Returned

8th Annual SUMMER BASH 2009

Held at the Legendary *Pennsboro Speedway* in *Pennsboro, West Virginia!*
 Drawings held on *Saturday, July 25, 2009* - Gates open on *Tuesday, July 21, 2009*

SPONSORED BY & PROFITS TO BENEFIT THE:

Ellenboro Volunteer Fire Department

\$100.00 Per Ticket - Prizes Valued at \$650,000.00



TIME PRIZE

- NOON - \$10,000.00
- 12:05 - \$3,000.00
- 12:10 - Ruger Red Label
- 12:15 - \$1,500.00
- 12:20 - Browning X-Bolt Medallion
- 12:25 - \$2,000.00
- 12:30 - 2009 Harley Davidson
- 12:35 - Remington 700 CDL SF
- 12:40 - \$2,500.00
- 12:45 - \$2,000.00
- 12:50 - Tikka T-3 Hunter
- 12:55 - \$1,500.00
- 1:00 - 2009 Mercedes Benz GLK
- 1:05 - Weatherby MARK V Sporter
- 1:10 - Ruger Hawkeye
- 1:15 - 2009 Camper
- 1:20 - Browning X-Bolt Medallion
- 1:25 - \$2,000.00
- 1:30 - 2009 Yamaha Rhino 4 x 4
- 1:35 - Weatherby Orion D'Italia I
- 1:40 - Remington 700 CDL
- 1:45 - \$2,000.00
- 1:50 - Ruger Red Label
- 1:55 - \$2,500.00
- 2:00 - 2009 Lincoln MKX AWD
- 2:05 - Ruger #1 RSI
- 2:10 - \$1,500.00
- 2:15 - \$2,000.00
- 2:20 - Browning X-Bolt Medallion
- 2:25 - \$2,500.00
- 2:30 - 2009 Polaris Sportsman 300 4 x 4
- 2:35 - Weatherby MARK V Sporter
- 2:40 - Remington 11-87 Premier Sup
- 2:45 - \$2,000.00
- 2:50 - Thompson Center Encore Shotgun 12 ga
- 2:55 - Ruger #1 B
- 3:00 - 2009 Toyota Tundra 4 x 4
- 3:05 - Remington 700 CDL SF
- 3:10 - Weatherby MARK V Sporter
- 3:15 - \$2,000.00
- 3:20 - Tikka T-3 Hunter
- 3:25 - Remington Seven CDL
- 3:30 - 2009 G-3 Pontoon Boat
- 3:35 - \$2,500.00
- 3:40 - Ruger Hawkeye



**Grand Prize
\$100,000.00**

BOATS

VEHICLES

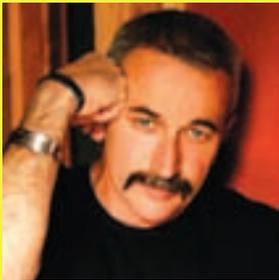
Great Food & Drinks served from Noon thru 5 PM on Saturday, July 25, 2009 at no charge to Ticket Holder & **One** Paid Guest. Guests not eligible to attend Friday entertainment.

Visit www.ellenborowv.com for downloadable flyers with complete rules & order forms...and more. Or call to request a flyer by mail.
(304) 869-3244

Make checks payable to **EVFD** and send to:
Ellenboro VFD
P O Box 244
Ellenboro, WV 26346

EARLY BIRD 1:
 20 Additional Chances of \$500.00 for 2009 Summer Bash **ORIGINAL** ticket stubs returned to the Ellenboro VFD by Noon on Saturday, March 28, 2009

EARLY BIRD 2:
 16 Additional Chances of \$500.00 & 2 Chances of \$1,000.00 for 2009 Summer Bash **ORIGINAL** ticket stubs returned to the Ellenboro VFD by Noon on Saturday, May 30, 2009



Featuring **AARON TIPPIN** on Friday, July 24, 2009 at 9 PM. See our flyer for complete details.

TIME PRIZE

- 3:45 - \$1,500.00
- 3:50 - Ruger Red Label
- 3:55 - Browning X-Bolt Medallion
- 4:00 - 2009 GMC Acadia AWD
- 4:05 - Remington 700 BDL
- 4:10 - Remington Sendero SFII
- 4:15 - \$2,000.00
- 4:20 - Weatherby Orion D'Italia I
- 4:25 - \$2,000.00
- 4:30 - 2009 Ranger Bass 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 - 2009 Dodge Challenger SRT 8
- 5:05 - Remington 700 CDL
- 5:10 - Remington 870 12 ga
- 5:15 - \$2,500.00
- 5:20 - Browning X-Bolt Medallion
- 5:25 - \$1,500.00
- 5:30 - 2009 Harley Davidson Softail
- 5:35 - \$2,000.00
- 5:40 - Remington Seven CDL
- 5:45 - \$2,000.00
- 5:50 - Ruger Hawkeye
- 5:55 - Remington 700 CDL
- 6:00 - 2010 Chevy Camaro
- 6:05 - Browning X-Bolt Medallion
- 6:10 - Weatherby MARK V Sporter
- 6:15 - \$2,500.00
- 6:20 - Remington 700 CDL
- 6:25 - \$1,500.00
- 6:30 - \$5,000.00
- 6:35 - \$2,500.00
- 6:40 - \$3,000.00
- 6:45 - \$3,500.00
- 6:50 - \$2,500.00 Cabelas Gift Certificate
- 6:55 - \$4,500.00
- 7:00 - 10-\$1,000.00 Winners (Match WV Daily 3 - Last 3 Numbers)
- 7:00 - \$100,000.00 (Match WV Daily 4 Exactly)

GUNS



CASH

& MORE

Ticket #s 0000-1111-2222-3333-4444-5555-6666-7777-8888-9999 Are Instant Winners Of \$1,000.00

GUN WINNERS May Elect To Receive Cash Of Equal Value! - UNLIMITED CHANCES TO WIN ON EACH TICKET!

SMOKE HOLE

SENECA ROCKS

RESORT

WEST VIRGINIA

LODGING

Kitchen, Pool, Sleeps 6,
Color TV, Free HBO, Phone,
Fireplace,
Homestyle Restaurant!

*Family
Log Cabins*



*Honeymoon
Log Cabins*
With Jacuzzis



CAVERNS

WORLD'S LARGEST
RIBBON STALACTITE!

OPEN YEAR-ROUND!

TOURS DAILY!

Washington DC	3 Hrs.
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
National Recreation Areas
- Blackwater Falls • Dolly Sods Wilderness
- Canaan Valley & Timberline Resorts

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